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The Elf Is a Freeloader

Arc 2

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Chapter 9: Is Sleeping Alone Scary?

Nisshin City, Aichi Prefecture.

Total population is approximately 80,000; Households are approximately 32,000.

Adjacent to it are Nagoya City at the west, and Toyota City at the east. It's area is approximately 34 square kilometers. A naturally abundant town formed by hilly land that's 50 to 160 meters above sea level, and Nisshin City Hall at it's center, elevated at 37 meters.

It's famous for the "Battle of Iwasaki Castle" where Tokugawa and Toyotomi had a deciding battle which greatly impacted the "Battle of Komaki and Nagakute" in Tensho 12 (1584) during the Warring States period. In Meiji 22 (1889), 14 villages were consolidated by the Municipal System, and 3 villages, "Kaguyama Village""Hakusan Village" and "Iwasaki Village", were born. After 39 years, these three villages were merged into "Nisshin Village", and the current city limits were formed.[\[1\]](#)

Furthermore, it became "Nisshin Town" by the enforcement of the town administration in Showa 33 (1958) and since it was adjacent to the large city, Nagoya, in around 40 years, housing developments progressed rapidly, universities and vocational schools were aplenty, the residential town had a comfortable environment, and at present, continues to develop as a university town.

It was a relatively new town where the population exceeded 50,000 in the 1990 census, and on the 1st of October 1994, by the enforcement of the Municipal System, it became "Nisshin City".

The current mayor of Nisshin City, Hagino Kouichi, is a veteran who's been mayor for 3 consecutive terms despite his young age at 48 years old.

The future of Nisshin city is Mayor Hagino's daily worry.



"Something..... Isn't there anything? A material that we could expect would

raise the economy and boost the name of our Nisshin City on a national scale."

With a height of 183cm and weighing 70kg, he is a middle-aged man with a slender physique and exceedingly well-featured who is very popular with the housewives of the public.

Neatly styled dark brown hair. Black eyes that give the impression of a no-nonsense intellectual. Born in a distinguished family related to the ancient Owari Clan[2], he is locally known for being wealthy.

Mayor Hagino is in one of the conference rooms of Nisshin City Hall, and is discussing the future of Nisshin City with the council members.

"Even with that said..... There is nothing famous worth mentioning in our town."

"And yet the adjacent cities Nagoya and Toyota, are known nationwide....."

If you are Japanese, you might have heard of the towns "Nagoya" and "Toyota" at least once.

Nagoya City is one of the largest cities in the country. It is the historic town of the ancient Owari Clan which was counted as one of the Tokugawa Gosanke.

Toyota City is the town where the headquarters of "Toyota", the world-famous automobile manufacturer that Japan is proud of, is located.

This meant that those who have not heard of Nagoya and Toyota are few and far in between.

However, aside from it's people, very few people know that Nagoya and Toyota belong to the "Aichi Prefecture".

"Taking advantage of the yurukyara[3] craze did not raise the popularity very much either."

One of the council members in the conference room grumbled.

There has been a "Yurukyara" boom recently, but even though Nisshin City invented it's own unique yurikyara, it didn't popularize as much as expected.

The yurukyara "Nisshi—" , the personification of the dragon that lives upstream of the Tenpaku river that flows through Nisshin City , did not garner

as much revenue as the armor-wearing cat and the red bear with black cheeks did.

"Can't something from somewhere suddenly appear? An existence that would be famous instantly and become the saviour of our Nisshin City..... But, if something really were to appear, a cute girl would be nice. That would be received well in various ways."

While saying that, Mayor Hagino gazed at the townscape of Nisshin City that spread outside the window of the conference room.

This was an exchange that happened a day before a visitor from a different dimension drifted into Nisshin City.



Takashi and Aoi left Yasutaka's house at the evening of the next day, Sunday. Tomorrow is Monday, and they, as students, naturally have school. If this was during a long break such as summer vacation, they would have stayed over at Yasutaka's house for 2 or 3 days more.

After Aoi and Takashi went back home, Yasutaka decided that he would do some light cleaning before preparing for dinner.

The four partied for more than a day so the living room had various pieces of trash strewn about.

When Yasutaka took the vacuum cleaner from the storage space under the stairs and brought it back to the living room, Eru immediately approached him with an immensely curious gaze.

"*Yasutaka-san!* That's another *home appliance*, isn't it!?"

It seems she likes the home appliances of this world a lot.

The other world had things such as magic items.

Eru has always had a keen interest in magic items, and the reason she became an adventurer was so she could come in contact with and acquire various magic items.

For Eru, this was a dreamlike world filled with magic items.

"Please give me a moment. I will guess what kind of *appliance* this is..... You

can't say it."

Eru stared at the vacuum cleaner intently. While watching her, Yasutaka thought of a reason for what Eru said.

If there were people from the Edo period in this era, they would find most of the electric appliances to be mysterious and incomprehensible.

In Eru's case, there isn't much difference between magic items and electric appliances. Then, the only difference is whether it is electricity or magic power that would be consumed.

"I've got it! I believe this is most likely something close to a [Water Spirit's vessel[4]!"

"[Water Spirit's vessel[?]"

"Yes. When the section that intakes water is left submerged at water source[5], it becomes a magic tool that supplies water infinitely. That is to say, this is a structure that has already been submerged at some water source so the water has been accumulated in this thick section, and then would flow out through this elongated portion, is it not?"

Eru says this while tilting the vacuum nozzle downwards.

"Are? Water isn't coming out....."

While peeking into the nozzle, Eru tilted her head in wonder.

Finding Eru charming, Yasutaka pulled the electric cord from the vacuum and plugged it into the outlet.

"Water has nothing to do with this. In the first place, Eru, what did you think I was going to use the water for?"

"Because you said you will clean, I thought that you would surely mop hence the need for water..... ah, c, come to think of it, didn't this room already has a magic item called water supply....."

The living room of the Akatsuka house is opposite of the kitchen, so naturally there is a water supply. Therefore, expressly bringing water into the living room is not necessary.

"I believe there are very few places in Japanese households where you can

mop though? This is a vacuum cleaner. You use it like this."

Yasutaka switched on the vacuum cleaner. The moment the noise of the vacuum cleaner started, Eru, who was close by, jumped in surprise from the sound.

"Wh, what is that!? Such a dreadful noise all of a sudden.....!?"

Even while in shock, Eru's eyes never left the vacuum cleaner. That's right, as she herself had declared, she certainly has an extreme fondness for magic items.

"This guy's motor rotates the fan so trash and dust sucked in."

Yasutaka operated the vacuum cleaner, and showed trash that fell on the floor being sucked in.

"O, oooh. I see! It wasn't a water magic item but rather a wind magic item!"

(Well, what Eru said was not necessarily wrong. That's because it was certainly the power of wind that the vacuum uses to suck the trash and dust.)

Towards Eru who was still very interested in the vacuum cleaner, Yasutaka had a wry smile and asked her,

"If you don't mind, can I ask you to clean the living room? I'll prepare dinner while Eru cleans."

"Eh? Is it alright to use this magic item... i mean, this *appliance*?"

Eru had a gleeful expression upon receiving the vacuum and was cleaning the floor of the living room just like Yasutaka taught.

As for Yasutaka, he began preparing for dinner while pleasantly watching over Eru.



Having finished dinner, Yasutaka and Eru took baths one after the other.

The two sat on the sofa in the living room, cooling down by drinking cold tea while enjoying a talk about Eru's life in the other world.

Needless to say, having never seen cold tea before, Eru was surprised when it was brought out.

Although Yasutaka avoided fantasy till now, he grew interested in it while listening to the stories of Eru who actually came from another world.

It's the same when, for instance, one hear stories about a foreign country and grow interested, one would want to visit and see it.

Moreover, the topics Eru speaks of are at a level where the worlds are different. Many things Yasutaka could not have imagined were common in Eru's stories.

An especially surprising story was one where fish were flying in the sky. It's utterly inconceivable in this world's ecosystem. That is, without a doubt, fantasy.

Occasionally, stories about the childhood friends would be mixed in and they were having an enjoyable time. And in doing so, midnight had passed unnoticed.

"Oh man, it's already this late. I've got school tomorrow so we should sleep soon."

"Since the room is bright, it's quite easy to forget that it is night at the moment, isn't it."

The two got up from the sofa and left the living room together.

The light in the hallway was turned on and the living room, off. Yasutaka's bedroom is on the second floor and beside it is his older sister's former room which Eru would use.

Yasutaka's older sister married and left the house about a year ago. She now lives in a prefecture far away, only coming home for Obon[\[6\]](#) and New Years.

Speaking of which, when Takashi and Aoi stayed over last night, Aoi and Eru slept in his older sister's room while Takashi and Yasutaka stayed in his room. It had long been established where they would stay, the boys in one, Aoi in the other.

"Well then, good night."

"Good night to you, too."

The two exchanged greetings in front of their rooms.

Eru waved her hand and entered her room, and Yasutaka, after confirming this, turned off the light in the hallway and entered his own.



It didn't take long for him to fall asleep after entering his bed.

Though, for some reason or another, Yasutaka woke up so he verified the time on the alarm clock beside his bed.

The digital display of the clock showed that it was a little past 3 o'clock. Two hours had passed since he fell asleep.

(There's still plenty of time before I have to wake up at 6 o'clock, I'll sleep for 3 more hours.)

Having thought so, Yasutaka turned in bed and was about to close his eyes again when...

He vaguely perceived some sort of presence in his room.

".....?"

Half asleep, he surveyed the inside of the room. With light from a slightly distanced street light streaming through the window, he could see inside of the room to a certain extent.

And then, Yasutaka's eyes caught a thing crouching in a corner of the room.

"_____!!"

Yasutaka screamed soundlessly. All traces of his drowsiness was blown away in an instant.

The thing that was crouching noticed that Yasutaka had woken up, it's body shook and quivered as it approached Yasutaka.

Little

by

little.

As if to instill more fear into Yasutaka, it crawled ever so slowly towards the bed. and upon closing in, it immediately leapt onto Yasutaka.

Partway through, as if were shedding, a petite figure emerged from within it.

".....Yasutaka-san....."

"Eh..... Eru.....?"

Her slender body was trembling and her feeble voice had a tinge of depression. Even though it was dim, her off-gold hair [\[Z\]](#) glistened.

Understanding that it was Eru who leapt at him, Yasutaka let slip a sigh of relief.

"W, why are you in my room?"

".....Th, that is..... Being alone in a dark room made me remember of that incident..... A, and then I was immediately frightened."

What Eru was talking about was undoubtedly *that*. The incident where her comrades were massacred.

Since being teleported to another world all of a sudden till yesterday, being with Yasutaka, Aoi and Takashi and having fun made her forget it temporarily. However, it seemed that when she was by herself on a quiet night, she had flashbacks of the horror of that time.

".....And so you came to my room covered in the comforter on..... It would have been better if you woke me up though."

Being gently admonished like a child by Yasutaka, Eru who buried herself in his chest, finally raised her head.

In the dim light, Yasutaka could see Eru's tearstained cheeks.

"That's.....because I would feel bad waking up a sleeping Yasutaka-san..... Also, you mentioned that you had to go somewhere early tomorrow....."

"How stupid."

Yasutaka smiled as he pat Eru's head. The feel of her fine supple hair on his palm was pleasant.

"If it got out that I neglected a crying Eru, Aoi would get mad at me."

".....Yasutaka-san....."

As Eru was looking up at Yasutaka, a smile slowly surfaced on her face.

"It's okay, you're with me so you can sleep with ease."

"..... Okay."

Eru changed her position as she clung to Yasutaka, and then closed her eyes when she was satisfied.

Before long, her breathing grew tranquil. Confirming that she was asleep, Yasutaka breathed a large sigh.

".....There's no way I can sleep like this....."

Yasutaka was currently sitting upright on the bed. His posture was just right for giving a lap pillow to Eru who was now sleeping peacefully.

The softness of her body could be felt through their pajamas, and a sweet fragrance wafted from her pajamas, hair and skin.

And above all, the fact that Yasutaka was alone with a girl of the similar age in the dark had taken all of his sleepiness away.

Footnotes:

1. Explanations would take too long. If you want more information on this, please use google-sensei. Wikipedia articles are in English.[]
2. The Owari Clan・Owari House of Tokugawa (尾張徳川家) is one of the three honorable houses of the Tokugawa, known as the Gosanke which was formed after the war to unify Japan.[]
3. Yurukyara is the Japanese term for a category of mascot characters. They are usually created for promoting regions, events, businesses. I'm not well versed in this so I apologize if I missed any references.[]
4. [水霊 (read すいれい) の水瓶[]
5. 水源・Suigen – The water source that she meant here is like the start of a river.[]
6. Obon is a 3 day holiday to honor of the spirits of ancestors. Families would usually have reunions and visit their ancestral graves.[]
7. I mistranslated this in a previous chapter. Her hair is “オフゴールド”・”Off-gold”, not pale gold. Sorry.[]

Chapter 10: School?

The next morning.

Yasutaka looked sleepy, and Eru, lively.

They had breakfast while facing each other in the living room.

Since Yasutaka is on the Japanese cuisine faction^[1], the breakfast menu was centered around rice and miso soup. coupled with grilled salmon and nori, sliced ham and the like. Naturally, Eru who couldn't use chopsticks used a spoon and fork to break apart the salmon, and was smiling as she ate.

Although the breakfast menu — an Aoi – Yasutaka collaboration — of the morning after Aoi and Takashi stayed over was similar, it seemed that Eru had taken quite a liking to Japanese food.

"Which reminds me, *Yasutaka-san*. You mentioned you had somewhere to go to this morning. yes? Where are you going?"

"Yeah, school. Aoi and Takashi are to the same school and, incidentally, we're in the same class."

"*School.....?*"

With the fork still in her mouth, Eru tilted her head in wonder.

It would seem that there was no "School" in Eru's world.

"In this country, from 7 years old till 15 years old, children must go to school and study. It's compulsory education because that is what the country has decided."

"F-from 7 up to 15 years old!? All the children in the country have to study!?"

In Eru's world, a 7 year old was already a considerable addition to manpower. Especially in farming villages far from the more urban areas, it was common for children to help their parents with work at an early age.

Furthermore, though it varies from country to country, a person at the age of 15 is generally considered an adult and is marriageable.

Most of those who could enter and study in school were the rich and privileged nobles in her world. That is because one must hire a private tutor to learn.

For occupation such as merchanting where arithmetic, reading and writing of characters were necessary, it is acquired while learning the job.

"Eh? But didn't you mention you were already 16 years old, *Yasutaka-san*?"

"Yeah. That's because I was born in April. What about me already being 16 years old?"

"You mentioned *school* was until 15 years old, correct? Then, why are you who is 16 years old still attending school?"

"I go to senior high..... it's called senior high school. Although it's true that until you're 15, elementary and junior high school are compulsory, high school and above are optional. That having been said, there's hardly anyone who doesn't go to high school in Japan now."

"Hee....."

Gaping, Eru looked at Yasutaka,

(After the 9 years of compulsory education that this country has established, there's even more school one could attend.

Although Yasutaka-san said he was commoner, he has been attending school ever since he was a child, perhaps he would be a person who's to be appointed an important job in national politics in the future.)

While thinking so, with hidden admiration in her gaze, Eru dazedly watched Yasutaka who had already finished eating breakfast and was preparing for school.



"Then, I'll be off."

"Yes, please take care."

Yasutaka and Eru's exchange resembled that of a newly-wed's.

"I've made sandwiches for lunch so eat them when you get hungry. I'll give

you a spare key for the house later. Taking a stroll around the neighbourhood is fine but keep your ears hidden, alright?"

"I understand. I'll be okay."

Everyone in this neighbourhood has been an acquaintance since long ago. There would be no problem if he tells them that Eru is a foreigner homestayng. However, it would definitely be bad if a police officer questioned Eru because she does not have any identification right now.

After cautioning Eru about various things, Yasutaka took off and handed over the translation earring. As one would expect, there was no way he could wear the earring to school.

"Well, I'm off."

"Yes, please take care."

Exchanging the same greetings again, Yasutaka did an about-face on Eru as she smiled and waved at him.

He left through the entrance, opened the gate at the corner of the garden and went outside.

Having thought to look back, he saw Eru was still waving her hand. After waving back, Yasutaka let slip a yawn as he slowly walked to school.



Yasutaka entered the classroom at the same time as always.

While greeting his classmates, he headed for his own seat, then Aoi and Takashi immediately came over.

"Good morning, Yasutaka. I've been in your care last weekend."

"Yasutaka, good morning. Is Eru doing ok?"

"Good morning, Takashi, Aoi. Don't worry about last weekend, I had fun and Eru seemed to had fun too. After that, Eru was doing fine but....."

With Yasutaka being non committal, puzzled expressions rose on Aoi and Takashi's faces.

"..... It can't be..... Did something happen to Eru?"

In reality, Aoi wanted to ask if something happened [with] Eru but she did her best to just ask if anything happened [to] Eru.

"Well....."

Yasutaka talked about how Eru was during the night.

"I see..... Something like that happened....."

If Aoi was being honest, her heart could not stay calm knowing that the two were glued together late at night but she couldn't get angry because she understood Eru's mental state.

Even Takashi, upon hearing Yasutaka's story, had a pitiful expression.

"That's why, can you guys come over again this weekend? I think if we have fun like when the two of you stayed over yesterday and the day before, Eru would not recall her scary memories."

"That's right. Also, Eru-chan is a genuine adventurer. It might be different for normal high schoolers like us, but I think she is tough mentally. If we keep having fun, she'll eventually get back on her feet."

"True. I also agree. Then, we'll be intruding again next weekend."

When Yasutaka's childhood friends readily agreed to his request, he thanked them again.

After that, Yasutaka brought out something from his pocket and placed it on his desk.

"These are..... Could these be the silver and copper coins Eru-chan had?"

Right. It's just as Takashi said, it's the silver and copper coins Eru had Yasutaka hold on to.

"Actually, she had asked me to. Eru wanted to convert the silver and copper coins she brought from *there* into money from *here*. But I don't know where I could exchange these. That's why, Takashi, could you ask your dad?"

"My old man? He's definitely well connected, it wouldn't be strange if he knew a guy or two who deals with old coins,"

Since Eru is currently relying on Yasutaka for everything, though it wouldn't

be much but having a bit of this world's money on hand would definitely be reassuring.

There is a chance that those coins could be worth a lot of money in this world.

"I get it. I'll keep the source hidden and ask my old man. Besides, he, personally, collects western antiques as well. There's a chance he might buy them himself."

"Yeah, I'm counting on you. I browsed through the net but, as expected, I couldn't find the value of silver and gold coins from another world."

"Well, yeah. But even if it's worthless as coins, it's still silver and copper so, at the worst case, we can sell it as that."

Receiving the coins from Yasutaka, Takashi carefully wrapped them in a handkerchief and kept it in his pocket.

However.

These coins veered the childhood friends and Eru's futures greatly but, since they weren't gods, they didn't know that.



After eating the ham sandwiches that Yasutaka prepared, Eru decided to take a walk around Yasutaka's neighborhood.

Yasutaka-san said it was fine to take a short stroll around his neighborhood, and above all, the weather today is great.

It's really nice and warm, and walking on the road in front of this house would lead to the an area filled shallow swamps called "paddy fields". The breeze passing through would feel really great and refreshing.

Putting on her knitted hat with ear flaps and slipping into her sandals at the entryway, Eru then went outside.

After she locked the front door just like she was told, she pushed open the gate and set out.

There is a narrow roadway that passes in front of the Akatsuka house and cars would would occasionally come and go.

While sending off a relatively slow car that was moving away with an intrigued gaze, Eru started walking along the road leisurely.

"I experienced a little bit of it when I came to this world but the country of Japan is really prosperous."

She looked at her surroundings while mumbled to no one in particular.

All the roads were neatly paved and there was almost no trash in sight.

Prius, where Eru was based in, was a large town but food scraps were thrown in the corners of the main street, and the dark alleyways of the town were littered with corpses and excrements of small animals that have nested in it, and even human excrements were scattered about nonchalantly.

Furthermore, street corners and alleyways were filled with vagrants just sitting around, but nothing like that could be seen in this town.

The poor could sell any amount of children into slavery in Eru's world but she heard that human trafficking is illegal in this country. On the contrary, all children in this country are given education and except for some actual expenses, the cost of it is close to nothing.

The most shocking of them all was that no matter how poor or jobless you are, you are guaranteed the minimum needed to live.

If the country was not wealthy, it could not spend such money for its people. No matter how Eru looks at it, everything was just unbelievable.



Farmers doing their work curiously looked at Eru who was walking leisurely on the farm road in between paddy fields, but no one called out to her.

She looked like a foreigner. There aren't many Japanese who would call out to people because they don't know if their words could get through or not.

From things like tadpoles swimming in paddy field ditches to like blooming dandelions on it's ridges, Eru's eyes sparkled as she observed the plants and animals she's seeing for the first time.

Curiosity and being inquisitive about anything unusual is one of the driving forces of an adventurer.

"Now that I think about it, a different world is not a place I thought I could go to even if I thought about it, isn't it?"

There was definitely some uneasiness in coming to a different world.

The method to go back home is unknown and not knowing it's language is inconvenient. But even with all of that, she was still curious about this world.

Her being able to think positively is, of course, thanks to Yasutaka and his friends. Yasutaka in particular, he took care of a stranger who had no money, letting her stay in his house free of charge, and provided food and clothes.

"I must thank *Yasutaka-san* someday."

While planning so, Eru thought about what she could do for him.

She can help with food preparations and cleaning.

Even though she hasn't seen most of the food from here, she was sure she could do it if she is taught how to cook it.

She was a bit confident at washing, in particular. Even among spirit users, her affinity with water spirits is high and she was a being called a "Water User". For that reason, she could support Yasutaka especially when water-related.

Fortunately, this country seems to have plenty of water.

Eru thought such as she looked at the water-filled rice paddies that stretched out around her.

However, something bothered her.

For Eru, this world had unbelievably sparse mana.

When "Magicians" like her cast magic, mana is used as compensation. Though anywhere in Eru's world is full of it, there's barely any here.

She hasn't tried yet but it seems she can't use much magic in this world. She was sure that even if she could use magic, it's power would be greatly reduced and it's duration halved.

Furthermore, she could not feel the power of the spirits at all in this world. There's also the possibility that spirits do not exist here.

"If spirits don't exist, I think it would be better if I, as a spirit user, don't

expect I could use magic....."

Then, aside from magic, what else can I do?

Thinking about this and that, she tilted her head as she walked.

Taking things into consideration, as expected it would be more practical for her to join the workforce. But the thought of working somewhere but not being able to speak is inconvenient so it's impossible.

The only thing Eru could think of was service using her body.

With that, she suddenly stopped walking.

"U, using..... my body.....?"

What she instinctively imagined was, of course, "Night Service[2]".

Yasutaka is 16 years old and a healthy male. He naturally has such desires. Speaking of 16 year olds, in Eru's world, at this age it was normal for them to be married and some already have children.

"I, i-i-i-i-t's different!! *Yasutaka-san* wouldn't do such a thing....."

Surely, Yasutaka wouldn't force Eru to do "Night Service". If he wanted to do it, then he would have done so when they were together in bed last night.

".....B, but..... If he were to want for such a thing....."

If ever Yasutaka wanted that from Eru,

At that time, would she accept or reject him?

Eru could not decide exactly on what she would do.



Meanwhile.

The people working on the farms were looking strangely at the foreigner who suddenly stopped, turned bright red, and was shaking her head.

Footnotes:

1. There's two kinds of breakfast for them, japanese breakfast which is just like the above, while the other is the western style which centers around bread.[]
2. It actually says 夜の肉体奉仕 but I couldn't think of a better word for it. We all probably know what it implies anyway.[]
3. TRPG is Tabletop Role Playing Game. I'm not sure which game the Author is talking about in particular though.[]

Chapter 11: Only Humans?

More than a week had passed since Eru came to this world.

For Yasutaka, it seemed that Eru was getting quite used to this world in those few days.

These days, Eru has been exerting most of her effort into learning Japanese so Yasutaka guided her by buying children's hiragana and katakana alphabet books for her and teaching her single-character words in his free time.

Eru also seemed to find it fun to learn Japanese by frequently asking Yasutaka "What is this?" and "What is that?" while looking at pictures and illustrations, and mimicking how Yasutaka pronounces Japanese.

Even right now, Eru could be heard practicing her pronunciations of "a" "i" "u" "e" "o" [\[1\]](#) while looking at the hiragana poster stuck on the bathroom wall as she bathes.

Also, Eru seems to like baths, enjoying it slowly while practicing her Japanese daily.

While thinking that Eru's awkward Japanese was charming, Yasutaka studied for the incoming midterm exams in his living room.

As expected, it's a student's duty to study. For the sake of going to the same school as Aoi and Takashi, he unreasonably asked his parents to let him stay here, so he must be able to present good grades to his parents.

To begin with, Yasutaka's grades were by no means bad. Although his grades were certainly lower than Takashi and Aoi's, if viewed from the entire year's standings, his was still above average.

Also, his childhood friends would come over during the weekend under the pretense of group studying. They would definitely study but, aside from this, they must also have fun.

Still, it seemed Eru hasn't been waking up from flashbacks in the middle of the night and has been sleeping well.

As he was thinking about such things during his study break, Eru who had just stepped out of the bath entered the living room while drying her wet hair with a bath towel.

"Haa~ The hot water was pleasant. The bath felt good too."

Maybe because she just finished her bath, Eru's cheeks were flush as she smiled. Maybe because she was in a good mood, her ears were flittering.

Seeing Eru like that, Yasutaka's heart was shocked and noticeably throbbing. The post-bath appearance of a girl his age — or so he thinks — made his heart race intensely.

The smell of shampoo wafted from her wet hair. Suspending on the pastel yellow pajamas are a pair of, although not large, soft-looking mounds on her chest. The white skin peeking through from her neck and feet are slightly tinged with red.

Yasutaka has seen Aoi's post-bath appearance many times when Takashi and Aoi stay over but in some respects, Eru's post-bath appearance was different from Aoi's.

If he was asked where, he would be stumped for an answer but there was definitely something about Eru that was different from Aoi.

Having thought about it, Yasutaka recalled that a few days ago, something must have happened since Eru was acting strangely distant.

Did something happened while I was at school? Any instance our eyes met, Eru's face would turn bright red and she would blatantly avert her gaze. But then, Eru went back to normal the next day so maybe it wasn't that big a deal.

"? Is something the matter?"

"N, no, it's nothing, u, un."

Yasutaka who was captivated by Eru, reflexively answered, frantically dodging the truth.

"Is that so? Your face looks a bit red though..... Ah! That's right, *Yasutaka-san!*

Please look at this!"

What Eru happily wanted to show Yasutaka was the bathroom-use hiragana poster she was studying while taking a bath.

"The words here..... I can already read the Japanese characters perfectly!!"

With an *ehhen*[\[2\]](#), Eru puffed her chest proudly.

Then, while pointing at the hiragana written on the poster one by one, she read aloud "a""i""u""e""o", hiragana sequence.

"Ooh, that was great. You were able to master hiragana in just a week. And? How about writing?"

The instant she heard about writing, Eru who looked proud turned despondent.

"U, umm..... M, my writing is still a bit bad....."

Ehehe, Eru grinned, embarrassed.

While Eru smiled sheepishly, Yasutaka decided to have her advance to the next step.

"Well, since you can now read hiragana, next lesson is memorizing katakana."

Yasutaka took Eru's hiragana poster, flipped it over, then returned it to Eru. Written on the opposite side of the poster is the Katakana syllabary, and seeing it caused to Eru blink in surprise.

"U, um..... What is this? I think it certainly resembles the table of characters on the other side but....."

"As I've said, this is Katakana. Written on the chart was Hiragana. Both of them are Japanese characters."

"Wai, please wait a moment!! Why are there 2 sets of alphabet for one language!?"

The languages Eru had studied until now never had more than one kind of alphabet, and now there were two.

Even on earth, most of the languages that exist only have one kind of alphabet and those with two alphabets are the minority.

"Japanese uses different alphabets to suit different purposes. Apart from Hiragana and Katakana, the largest obstacle would be Kanji."

When studying Japanese, learning Kanji would undoubtedly bring tears to anyone's eyes.

The number of Kanji learned through compulsory education is at two thousand characters even though these are only the commonly used ones. The fourth level of JIS Kanji has more than ten thousand characters. It's said that the total exceeds fifty thousand character when the Kanji mentioned in the Chinese-Japanese dictionaries are included.

Yasutaka was struck with the idea to show some of the kanji written on the notebook beside him.

"T..... it looks somewhat complicated and peculiar but..... are these really characters?"

"That's right. For example....."

Yasutaka pointed at the character "人" written on his notebook.

"This character is "Person (人)"..... In short, this stands for "Human (人間)". Besides this....."

As he pointed at some kanji, Yasutaka taught her the pronunciation and meaning of each one.

"I see. Each and every character has its own meaning. Incidentally, if this "人" character represents humans (人間), then how is "Elf" written in kanji?"

"No no. The kanji for elf doesn't exist."

"Eeeh!? There's a kanji to represent humans, so then why isn't there a character to represent elves!?"

"Well, you see, it's because there aren't any elves in this world."

"Eh.....? There are no elves in this world.....?"

It's true that up till now, Eru has not seen any other race other than humans in this world.

However, she thought that the majority of the inhabitants in this town were

human, and that the Fairy species such as Elves and Dwarves, and Demi-human species such as Beastkin were just fewer in number.

In Eru's world, humans were the most numerous and still the most prosperous of the races, nearly all towns and villages were inhabited mostly by humans. Towns with only Elves and Dwarves exist, however, they are exceedingly fewer when compared to the human towns.

Furthermore, there are some humans that discriminate and ostracize Fairy and Demi-human species, treating them as inferior species. Villages and towns with only those kinds of people exist.

"The, then, how about dwarves? Mermaids? They're our enemies but, how about ghosts, goblins and ogres?"

"I heard a little bit from Takashi and Aoi but Eru's world really does have many intelligent creatures. However, humans are the only intelligent creatures in this world."

"O, only humans....."

A world with nothing but humans.

For Eru who has lived in a world with a diversity of races, it was unimaginable.



Having become aware that there were only humans in this world, somehow shocked Eru.

Though, since it didn't seem to be too serious, after handing Eru a glass of cold tea, Yasutaka decided it was now time for him to take his bath.

Having arrived at the dressing room, he took his clothes off.

He placed the clothes he took off into the washing machine. Since Eru had learnt how to use the washing machine recently, she's been doing the laundry while Yasutaka is at school.

Frankly, Yasutaka was grateful for that.

After washing, it's only natural to dry the laundry afterwards. Some among the laundry are, of course, Eru's clothes. Her underwear included as well.

The day after Eru first stayed at his house, Yasutaka washed the clothes Eru wore when she arrived, and hung them in the garden. Among those were her underwear.

Underwear of a girl of the same generation certainly made him nervous but, he was still able to handle it directly and hang it.

The underwear at that time was one from Eru's world so, taking into consideration Yasutaka's strong image of this world's underwear, he couldn't think of them as underwear because of the feel and design. For that reason, he was able to hang them relatively calmly.

However.

However, now is different.

Now, she wears underwear from this world. Naturally, Yasutaka was very conscious — through the persistence of the likes of TV commercials and scattered advertisements — that it was underwear, something that Eru had been wearing for virtually the whole day.

There was no way Yasutaka could handle them himself.

Therefore, Eru's role of hanging and bringing in the laundry was how it would naturally turn out.

Although Yasutaka's underwear was included in the laundry, it seems that his underwear isn't like the other world's underwear, so Eru doesn't consider that underwear as underwear. It was washed, hung, brought in, and neatly folded everyday.

"It was really great that the first thing I taught Eru was how to use the washing machine....."

Yasutaka honestly thought so.

Having removed all his clothes, he put his underwear in its dedicated net. When he did, he caught a glimpse of the underwear that Eru had placed inside a while ago, his face reflexively blushed.

".....From now on, I'll take a bath first....."

He muttered such while grabbing the door handle to the bathroom.

At that moment, he noticed something unfamiliar on top of the washbasin across the bathroom.

"What's this.....?"

Yasutaka examined the thing he picked up.

It's around 30 cm in size. It was some kind of tube that seems to be made out of leather and sloshed like water when it was lifted up.

Upon closer inspection, the top part was thinner and bound with a leather strap.

Yasutaka didn't know this but it was called tool called a water sack, an item used as a water bottle in Eru's world.

There were natural water bottles made of bamboo used by Japan and China in ancient times. For that reason, he was not familiar with the water sack, however, in places in this world where bamboo does not grow, such as Europe, who actually use the tool called a canteen, were.

A typical water sack in Eru's world is made from the bladders of certain magic beasts and animals then reinforced with leather. Since bladders were originally organs that held liquids, it was the most suitable for water sacks. Of course, the bladder is cleaned thoroughly as it's being processed into a water sack.

Driven by curiosity, Yasutaka unfastened the leather strap.

And the moment he peeked inside, something from inside jumped out and clung onto his face, causing Yasutaka to reflexively scream.



In the living room where Eru was looking at her new task, katakana, Yasutaka's voice suddenly resounded.

That scream came from the direction of the bathroom! Eru ran through the hallway with all her might and leapt into the bathroom without hesitation.

"What's wrong!? What ha.....ppe.....ned.....?"

Eru saw something when she leapt into the dressing room. There was a transparent liquid that clung onto the face of Yasutaka who was collapsed on the floor.

Naked.

"E..... a..... u..... oo.....?"

Having seen Yasutaka's immodest appearance, Eru's face was dyed red in an instant.

She reflexively covered her eyes with both her hands, and through the gaps of her fingers, caught a glimpse of Yasutaka's entirety.

"Kyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!"

Eru who had, in various ways, reached her limit, screamed louder than Yasutaka did, and noisily rushed out of the dressing room.

Yasutaka could do nothing but silently watch Eru run away.

On the face of such a Yasutaka, shook and jiggled a transparent liquid.



From dashing out of the bathroom, Eru who was red from her face to her chest burst into her room just as she was, dove into her bed and pulled the futon over her head.

"I, s-s-s-saw it..... *Yasutaka-san's*..... I saw it....."

Within the darkness of the futon lied a figure of an eternally red face Elf-san who was muttering something spell-like.

Footnotes:

1. A, I, U, E, O is the vowel order in Hiragana.[]
2. I have no idea how to say Ehen in English. Ahem is wrong (for me). But anyway it's just a sound she made since she's proud.[]

Chapter 12: Spirits?

"....."

"....."

Currently, the living room of the Akatsuka house is encompassed by an extremely awkward silence.



After Eru noisily rushed out of the dressing room mid-panic. The "Something" that clung onto Yasutaka's face chased after Eru who rushed out of the dressing room, bouncing and jiggling on his way out.

It was evident that "Something" was from Eru's world and came here together with her. It seems to be a creature that moves autonomously, but at any rate, it came from a fantasy world. What kind of absurd existence it is, is unknown.

There was a concern where, at worst, it would affect the ecosystem of this world.

Yasutaka hurriedly tried to chase after that "Something" but he remembered he was naked, so he hastily wore clothes and left the bathroom.

By the time Yasutaka reached the hallway, "Something" could no longer be found.

Nevertheless, Yasutaka had a hunch that "Something" was chasing after Eru, so he decided to go to Eru first.

He knew from the sound of footsteps that she went up to the second floor. That would mean that she's probably in her own room.

Immediately after such an incident, it would be lie if he wasn't particularly reluctant in meeting Eru but even so, there was no way he could leave that "Something" alone.

Moreover, there was a possibility that Eru knows something.

While thinking so, Yasutaka went upstairs. Still being vigilant since that

"Something" might be around, he arrived in front of Eru's room.

".....Eru..... you there? It's me..... Can I have a minute.....?"

"Ya..... *Yasutaka*.....san.....?"

After calling out while knocking, a muffled voice could be heard from somewhere on the other side of the door.

"There are some..... u, umm, things that happened that I want to ask about so can we talk about..... it? Y, you don't have to mind about that thing a while ago....."

The moment Yasutaka mentioned "that thing a while ago", there was signs of movement and a small shriek from the other side of the door.

It would seem that Eru recalled the scene from not long ago. Yasutaka understood that too, making it awkward.

"Th, then, I'll be waiting in the living room..... Could you come over once you've calmed down.....?"

"Ye, yesh!! I, I will be there in a s-soon, so p-please wait for a little while.....!!"

While still sensing that there was some movement inside the room, Yasutaka temporarily returned to the living room.

There, he waited for her for a little while. Although Eru's face was bright red, she nervously entered the living room.

And so, the scene leads back to the beginning.



Frankly, Eru was wondering why she acted that way.

Eru and Yasutaka sat facing each other at the dining table. Eru who couldn't look at Yasutaka who was directly in front of her, was desperately thinking about the cause.

Eru is an adventurer. She's been on adventures in a party of two male and two female members repeatedly til now.

Although it was a party consisting of men and women, there was no romance between the members, no physical connections. Naturally, they had feelings of

camaraderie and solidarity as companions, and had trust.

When repeatedly going on adventuring with comrades like that, there are instances where they had to camp out or stay in a single large room in the inn together.

At those times, there are instances where a companion is seen naked. When camping or staying in the same large room, everyone changes clothes in front of their companions. In the first place, when camping, going alone to change clothes in private is nothing but dangerous.

Naturally, Eru has seen her male companions change in front of her, and everyone would occasionally bathe together in the river.

Of course, it wasn't that she liked exposing her skin, it was just something that every adventurer had to do.

In other words, Eru is used to seeing men naked. And yet, when she saw Yasutaka naked, her mind went blank.

She didn't know what she should do, so the result was her screaming and escaping.

She had an idea of what was stuck on Yasutaka's face, it was by no means dangerous.

If it were a dangerous thing, she was sure she would surely have moved to protect Yasutaka.

She was confident that she could judge to that extent.

Then, why did I instinctively run away?

And so, Eru's thoughts kept circling round, over and over again.

At that time, she did not realize.

The reason she panicked was not because "She saw a man naked" but rather "She saw Yasutaka naked"

It would be a bit longer before she realizes this.



Just how long were they going to stay silent?

I have snap out of it and talk about something, thought Yasutaka, he then looked at Eru.

Finally, he noticed that there was something transparent and jiggling on top of her shoulder. It seems that because it was transparent and colorless, he didn't notice it until now.

He unintentionally stared at Eru's shoulder fixedly.

There's no doubt about it. That was the "Something" that was stuck on my face at that time.

Observing carefully, it's approximately the size of a clenched fist. It's a bit squashed teardrop shaped.

It's something that even Yasutaka who has no interest in fantasy or games, knows — having often seen it on TV commercials — it would be easier to imagine if he said it's like the sticky blue clump that's a standard monster in the beginning of a certain famous RPG^[1]. The difference of the "Something" that's here is that, it doesn't have the molding of the eyes and mouth of that standard monster.

"H, hey, Eru? That thing on your shoulder..... what the heck is that?"

When Yasutaka pointed at "Something", it quivered in response.

"Eh? H, huh? Piicho-kun, since when have you been on my shoulder?"

"Pi. Piicho.....kun.....?"

When Eru held out her hand to her shoulder, the strange life-form called Piicho-kun hopped onto her hand.

"Yes. This child is the water spirit I am contracted with, Piicho-kun."

"Water..... spirit.....? I, it's a living thing.....?"

"Hmm..... strictly speaking, it is not a living thing. A clump of water that has its own will..... might be the most correct representation for it?"

The world Eru was originally in was overflowing with the power of the spirits that were everywhere.

Aside from the four famous spirits — Fire, Water, Earth, and Wind, there are

spirits such as those of trees and shrubs, Light, and Dark, the power of all spirits reach everywhere.

Utilizing the power of such spirits, spirit users like Eru are able to use spirit magic.

However, spirit power is not completely ubiquitous. For example, at the bottom of the sea, the power of water spirits are strong, while fire and wind's would be nearly incomparable. Inside a cave, the power of earth and darkness are strong, while wind would amount to nearly nothing. In the desert, the power of fire and wind would be strong, while water and earth would be near unattainable, and so on and so forth.

In places where a specific spirit's power is weak, that spirit's power can't be borrowed for spirit magic.

For that reason, spirit users make a contract with specific spirits, and carry those spirits around with them. In doing so, even in places where that contracted spirit's power is weak, spirit magic can be used.

Eru's contracted spirit is a water spirit. But then, with Eru's capabilities right now, she can only make a contract with one spirit at best.

When spirits that usually don't have a body make a contract with a spirit user, they collect their element and form a temporary body.

Currently, even Eru's water spirit named Piicho-kun uses a temporary body made of collected water.

"In comparison to mine, this world has very little spirit power which is why Piicho-kun is very weak..... And so, I placed him and some clean water into the water sack so he could recover his power."

Recently, during daytime, she would replace the water in the water sack while Yasutaka is at school, and it seems that she had forgotten it at the wash basin today.

"T, then, that's a water spirit.....right? It looks weak though, is it alright now?"

"Yes!! He has gotten a bit smaller but he looks alright. Still, since the water from the **faucet[2]** was quite pure, I thought he would recover faster but....."

Puzzled, Eru tilted her head.

Although the water that came from the faucet may look pure, there are various things like chlorine for disinfection added into it. Of course, the amount used is harmless to the body, but that may not be true for a water spirit.

While Yasutaka thought of such a vague matter, Eru started talking about fantasy stuff again.

"With this, even in this world, it may be limited to water but I can use magic!!"

"Ma, magic.....?"

"Yes!! No matter what, I am a spirit user..... and a water user at that!!"

Proudly declaring so, Eru placed a glass of water from the faucet onto the table.

"Please observe. Ready? Piicho-kun!"

In response to Eru's will, the water spirit jiggled and shook on her shoulder.

The water in the glass started getting excited and floated gently in midair. Then it swayed like a bubble underwater and slowly changed while circling around Yasutaka and Eru.

The clump of water divided into a number of water droplets, drifting through the living room. The water spectacle conducted by Eru was simply magical.

Yasutaka was fascinated and unintentionally let out a "Hooo~"

Before long, the water gathered into one again and plopped back into the glass.

"Fuuu. As I thought, magic power is lowered here. I used more magic power than I thought I would."

This was something she had previously anticipated. In this world, there is hardly any mana which is the source of magic. For that reason, the water spirit's power was dampened, so Eru's magic was also largely weakened.

However, Yasutaka barely heard what Eru said.

What a fantastic sight that was just now. It was etched into his mind.

Countless droplets sparkled under the fluorescent lights. Those droplets

colored the girl manipulating them, making her exceedingly radiant and dazzling.

Yasutaka was stupefied until Eru who was feeling wary shook his shoulder.



While Hagino Takashi was doing his daily routine of reading reading fantasy genre web novels, he suddenly heard his little sister's voice from the outside his room.

"Oooy, Aniki. Otousan[3] was calling for you? He said to come to his study."

"Oou. I'll be there soon."

He confirmed the time on the clock, it was past midnight. He took a bath shortly after having dinner then studied for the midterm exams and finished at around 10 pm.

After that, like always, he went to his computer, connected to the net, and read the fantasy novels that he loves for over two hours.

When he left his room, he saw his little sister who was about to enter her own room.

"You gonna sleep soon?"

"Un. Going to sleep. Good night."

After exchanging greetings and seeing his sister off to her room, he headed for his father's study.

His father has strangely busy with work these days, aside from his usual work, he has meetings here and there, has consultations, and only comes home when the date has changed.

"It seems Oyaji came home a bit earlier today."

It was past midnight when Takashi was called which meant that he was home before midnight.

Takashi and his father's— No, the relationship of everyone in the family is good. Although he has light squabbles and unending quarrels with his older and younger sister, Takashi considers his family as precious.

He who was thinking of his father's health was happy that his father who was always busy came home a bit early.

Takashi's lineage was quite remarkable. It was a lineage of a noble family that continued since the olden days of Nisshin City, and they were well-known for being wealthy.

After walking the long hallways for a while, he arrived at his father's study.

He lightly knocked on the stately door of the study, and before long, his father's voice could be heard from inside.

"Takashi? Come in."

In response to his father's voice, Takashi opened the door of the study.

Large bookshelves were set up left and right in his father's study. The contents of the bookshelves are absolutely unorganized, there were work related technical books and, for some reason, there were some manga mixed in.

When Takashi entered the room, his father had his back turned and was on the desk in the study, tapping away at his computer.

"Welcome home, Tousan. Also, did you need something?"

"Ahh. It's about the coins you entrusted to me before."

His father looked back over his shoulder then spread out several familiar coins onto the desk.

They were the coins from another world that Yasutaka — more precisely, Eru through Yasutaka — requested to have his father appraise the value of.

"Oh? By any chance, do you know it's value?"

Even if just a bit, in his heart, Takashi hoped that for Eru's sake, it was worth a large sum.

"No. If I had to say, the result is that I don't know it's value. However..... these coins. These are essentially items that don't exist in this world..... isn't that so, Takashi?"

The father turned his chair, facing his son.

The father's gaze on his son was not a warm gaze for family, but rather, a sharp gaze suited for a business rival.

Hagino Kouichi, the current mayor of Nisshin City, pointed such a gaze at his son.

Footnotes:

1. This RPG is most likely Dragon Quest and it's iconic blue slime.[]
2. This was actually supposed to be water supply (水道), however I changed it to faucet (蛇口) since it sounds weird using water supply all the time.[]
3. Aniki is a way of saying older brother. Otousan *Tousan* Oyaji are all ways of saying father. Oyaji is a lot more informal than the others, kinda like saying old man.[]
4. [Arunai] is the shortened form of 我輩は神である。名前はまだない。It's another series that MukuBunchou-sensei wrote.[]

Chapter 13: Is It Not Possible?

There were several coins casually placed on the desk.

Takashi's gaze went to and fro between the coins and his father multiple times.

"These coins..... I have requested all my acquaintances who deal in old coins to examine these, and yet no one knew it's value, and I have never heard them say they've never seen anything like it before when I bring them coins."

Well, yeah. thought Takashi.

These coins were brought by Eru, an otherworlder. It doesn't seem likely that there would be humans from this world that know about these coins.

"Old coins such as antiquated gold and silver coins..... Naturally, including the ones issued by Japan in the past, the value of such old coins are determined by its rarity."

"How many of old coins were issued in the past?" and "How many of these remain at this point in time?" These largely determine how much an old coin is worth.

For example, assuming you have a 100 yen coin without a single scratch or mark, it's value is still 100 yen.

Conversely, if you have a copper coin from a thousand years ago, no matter how battered it is, it's value would be more than 100 yen.

"For that reason, specialists who deal with old coins are well informed about the coins that have been issued up until present times. Of course, not everything is committed to memory but they have some documents with information about old coins. Those people..... they are specialists who deal in old coins, and yet they all said that they don't know about these coins that you brought. If it was only one or two people then it could have just been a coincidence but every single specialist I asked said that they have never seen anything like these coins. Having come this far, there would be no problem concluding this to be an abnormality, wouldn't you agree?"

The father gazed at his son. The sharpness of that gaze was increasing.

Being exposed to that gaze, Takashi was overpowered completely. Though he is the son who inherited the qualities of a mayor who's has taken on sly politicians and how many hundreds of voters, he is only a high school student and still doesn't stand a chance.

Did he see through the turmoil in his son's mind? The father's gaze moved from his son to the coins on his desk.

"Next, what largely determines the value of the coin is it's condition. It's reasonable that value of something pristine would be worth more than one that is scratched up and rusted..... that is easy to understand, is it not?"

Kouichi picked up a silver coin from the desk and held it against the light.

"These coins are by no means new but, having said that, they aren't old either. Until just recently, these coins were being spent ordinarily, says the old coin specialists. In other words, they are like the 100 yen coin and 10 yen coin being used in Japan today. And that leads to a question."

With his thumb, Kouichi flicked the silver coin towards his son.

Takashi caught it easily with one hand, letting his gaze fall onto the silver coin in his hand.

"I had a certain acquaintance of mine analyze the components of the silver and copper coins. The result was..... he was able to ascertain that these coins used silver and copper of high purity with almost no impurities mixed into it. Do you understand what that means?"

Despite asking Takashi a question, Kouichi continued talking without waiting for a reply.

"At present, apart for some, nearly all countries are dependent on the usage of money^[1]. You are aware of the dependency on money, right?"

"Y, yeah. Money itself is just a representation and has no actual worth, it's worth is guaranteed by the government..... is what it was, right?"

For example, everyone knows that the Japanese 10,000 yen note is an authentic Japanese banknote since the Japanese government guarantees that

that banknote is worth is worth 10,000 yen.

Not just with notes, coins are also the same. A 500 yen coin is not actually worth five hundred yen, it's because the Japanese government guarantees that it's worth is 500 yen.

"That's correct. That is to say, there is no need to use silver with high purity for a silver coin. It was enough for a country to guarantee that those silver coins — silver *colored* coins have some worth. However, these silver coins were different. There's evidence that in transactions, the value of these gold and silver[2] coins are worth the same as amount of gold and silver that they have on them have. Such coins were used long before the dependence on money became a mainstream for today's society..... it is a story of the age before modern times. Now, a contradiction arises from this, don't you think?"

Within Takashi's hand is a silver coin. It was by no means old and until just recently, was something that was being used day-to-day, say the old coin dealers.

That is why the composition of these coins prove that these are not from modern times. That is why Kouichi pointed out that there is a contradiction.

"Certainly, there are still pure gold and pure silver coins being produced even now. However, much of those cases are used as a commemoration of some sort, not something that would be used on a daily basis. No one amongst the professional coin dealers know why a [modern] coin of high purity is being used at modern times which is dependent on money. From those results, I have concluded that these silver and bronze coins are not originally from this world. Of course, this is just my conclusion, there isn't any kind of evidence. Well then, Takashi"

Kouichi shot a pointed gaze at his son once again.

"Where and how did you get these coins? I do not believe that you stole these coins from somewhere. Yes, I might be a bit biased since I am your father, but that is because I do not remember raising you to be that kind of person. So, right here, won't you answer me honestly?"

With everything that had been said, deception is no longer viable, Takashi resigned himself. While apologizing to Yasutaka and Eru in his heart, he

explained the coin's origin to his father in detail.



Kouichi's expression passed from one of bewilderment and morphed into one of surprise as he listened to his son's story.

It was awfully similar to that time when Takashi met Yasutaka unexpectedly and heard about Eru.

And Kouichi's next reaction was, too.

"MAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAARVELOUS!!"

With a large thud, Kouichi knocked over his char as he stood up, and pumped both his fists high up.

"A visitor from another world!! A beautiful elf to boot!! Here in Nisshin City!! What is this if not a miracle!?"

"O, oi, Tousan! Calm down first!! It's already past midnight!"

Admonished by his son, Kouichi returned to his senses, propped up his char and sat down, ashamed.

"M, my, that was inexcusable. I ended up getting too excited."

He and his son were very much alike in this way.

"So the elf girl that came from another world is now at Yasutaka's house, correct?"

"Ah? Y, yeah, I guess that's right? Listen, Tousan. Could you please not get Yasutaka and Eru-chan involved in anything weird?"

"Yes, I understand. I've known Yasutaka since you were kids, and I have no intention of doing anything inhumane such as giving our guest from another world to a ridiculous facility that would dissect and experiment on her like some ingredient."

Despite saying so, the dark smile on his father's face unintentionally made Takashi back away.

"Now then, Takashi. Could you make an appointment with the elf girl as soon as possible?"



Physical education at the fourth period is quite rough. It's the time just before lunch and you'd have to move your body at your hungriest. Even more so for the boys and girls who are still in their growth period.

While trying to pacify her stomach that demanded for something be put in fast, Aoi went to the dressing room to change from her track suit to her school uniform.

At the Prefectural Oritozaka High School they go to, the boys have a dark blue school uniform, and the girls have a blazer uniform of the same color.

Taking off the top of her track suit, Aoi exposed her body whose proportions were rumored to be in the top 5 in school.

Although there were only girls around, no, precisely because there were only girls around, her proportions that stood above the rest were conspicuous.

"Oooh. As always you've got some great thiiings."

"Hyaaaaaaaaaaa!!!"

Suddenly from behind, somebody cheeky — but also polite, slipped her hands past the underwear — cupped her abundant breasts, making Aoi scream unintentionally.

"W, wait, Megumi!! What are you doing all of a sudden!?"

The one moving her fingers weirdly from behind Aoi is her classmate, Sawamura Megumi. Excluding Yasutaka and Takashi, she is Aoi's closest friend. Short black hair that doesn't reach her shoulders and rimless glasses are Megumi's trademark.

"Well, if you keep showing that ample chest of yours, I can't help but want to massage themmm. Could they possibly have grown bigger again?"

Being told so, Aoi guarded herself by wrapping both her arms around her chest. She didn't notice that her soft flesh was spilling out from her dislodged underwear, making it even more seductive.

By the way, this didn't mean that Aoi is especially busty. However, her slender

physique and excellent natural posture made her figure look all the more pleasing.

While her hands made groping movements like always, Megumi's eyes shone behind her glasses.

"..... Could it be..... they got bigger because that guy has been massaging them recently..... or something like that?"

"T, t-t-t-t-t, that guy, who!?"

One boy's face popped up in Aoi's mind.

However, that face easily dispersed when her girl classmates suddenly made an uproar.

It would seem that the girls were secretly listening in on Aoi and Megumi.

Megumi's suggestive statement popped up, what they were holding in poured out.

"Eeeh!? So Aoi and Hagino-kun really are going out!?"

"Where and how did you get to the conclusion that Takashi and I are going out!?"

It's true that until now, there have been rumors about Takashi and one thing or another. Aoi has instructed how the three, Yasutaka included, of them should act numerous times. There were some scenarios where Takashi and her become a couple, and, that having been said, there was also a scenario where it was just Yasutaka and him.

The reason there are no rumors about Yasutaka and her is because Takashi looks far better.

Aoi unintentionally thinking about such a thing caused her classmates' misunderstanding that she and Takashi were dating, to increase.

"That's because some time ago, it was pretty late at night..... around 9 maybe? I saw Aoi and Hagino-kun walking together at that time, and also, on Aoi's wrist....."

That classmate pointed at the item that the four bought together at that time, the bracelet that was sparkling on Aoi's right wrist.

"I, I saw Hagino-kun had a bracelet of the same design, it was a different color but....."

I see. It seems my sharp-eyed classmate saw the bracelets without me noticing.

Aoi knew that Takashi also wears the bracelet to school. It seems that the diligent Yasutaka doesn't when he comes, and that disappointed Aoi a bit.

"Takashi isn't the only one who has the same bracelet, you know? Yasutaka has it too, and one more, a girl I became friends with recently has it too. Also, the night Takashi and I were walking together, maybe that was the day we went home after partying at Yasutaka's house? That was the time we were walking together after leaving Yasutaka's house, Takashi's was on the way so he saw me off at my house."

"That's it? The three of you were together as usual?"

Megumi muttered, looking bored.

Aoi, Yasutaka, Takashi's group of three is plenty famous. However, people's eyes tend to be drawn to Aoi and Takashi who look good no matter how you look at them, and Yasutaka would occasionally get overlooked.

"Come to think of it, are you talking about Akatsuka-kun?"

Suddenly, another classmate who thought of something started talking.

"Recently, at the supermarket near the Sakae Minami intersection, I saw him buying groceries with this suuuuuuuuuuuuper cute foreign girl but..... who was that?"

"Hou. That Akatsuka who doesn't interact with girls apart from Aoi, was together with a beautiful foreign girl? Now this is really very interesting."

Megumi who had a very interested look in her eye turned to Aoi.

"Aoi. You know anything about that?"

"Yeah. The one together with Yasutaka is Eru, she's a homestay[3] at Yasutaka's house right now. I don't know the exact details but he said that it was a request from his relatives. By the way, the girl I said I became recently became friends with, is her."

Aoi explained to Megumi while showing her bracelet. And she added that in commemoration of becoming friends with Eru, the four of them bought bracelets of the same design.

"Hou, a homestay, huh. Well, I don't know much about homestay in and of itself, but what her purpose is for coming to a near rural town?"

"Who knows? I don't know that much and it's not good to get too involved."

The truth is that she knew very well why Eru was in this town but there was no way she could talk about that much. So, even though she knew to a certain extent by hearing it from Yasutaka, she took the stance of not knowing very much. By doing just this much, it wouldn't look suspicious.

Afterwards, having finished changing their clothes peacefully, Aoi and Megumi left the dressing room together. Even girls look forward to lunch, after all.

This Oritozaka High School Yasutaka and his friends go to, is public school so it doesn't have anything like a school cafeteria. The school store sells bread but the variety and quantity are limited. Therefore, the majority of students bring their own bento.

After returning to the classroom, Aoi planned to have lunch together with Megumi and the other girls. She usually does many things with Yasutaka and Takashi but that didn't mean that they were always together.

However, she noticed that her two childhood friends were at a corner of the classroom, and they look like they're discussing something in hushed voices. The two having serious looks bothered Aoi, so she excused herself from eating with Megumi and the others, got her bento and carried it with her as she headed towards Yasutaka and Takashi.

"What happened?"

Calling out to them, Yasutaka and Takashi shook from surprise for an instant, then they turned towards Aoi in a hurry.

"W, what, it's just Aoi..... fuu. I thought someone heard us."

"What? Were you conspiring something that would trouble you if heard?"

"It's not like that. In some ways, it might be worse than a conspiracy."

Since Yasutaka's expression was surprisingly serious, Aoi borrowed a vacant chair near them and sat down in order to compose herself.

"The truth is,..... it seems that Takashi's father found out about Eru."

"Eh?"

This is definitely a serious problem.

Footnotes:

1. Money by definition is a current medium of exchange in the form of coins and banknotes; coins and banknotes collectively.[]
2. The coins Eru had were silver and copper coins but raw says gold and silver. But I think the author meant the coins from her world in general. Just in case someone says it's a typo or something.[]
3. Homestay is when a foreigner wants to immerse in the daily life of the locals. The foreigner would live in a local's house for an extended period of time. The locals (usually a family) would teach customs and Japanese, and can practice their English in turn. This is very common in Japan, maybe in other countries too.[]
4. The fictional school's location is the same as its real life counterpart, Aichi Kenritsu Togo High School. The author had to put ○ since he can't say it outright but hints at it. Anyways, this is just in case you want to stalk check it out.[]

Chapter 14: Do you wish to meet?

"Sorry! Yasutaka!"

With his hands together and head lowered, Takashi apologized to Yasutaka.

"Nah, don't mind it, Takashi. I was the one who asked you to liquidize Eru's silver and bronze coins like she wanted. Also, I forgot about your dad's perceptiveness."

"That's true. If it's Takashi's father, it's no wonder he was able to deduce Eru's matter from such a trivial item, petty deceptions wouldn't have passed."

Since they were kids, both Yasutaka and Aoi knew Takashi's dad, Hagino Kouichi, the current mayor of Nisshin City, very well.

He is kind to the three of them, and in the past, he took them bug catching and fishing, and would often go camping and the like with them. Also, since he had extensive knowledge on various areas, he taught them multitudes of things.

"I appreciate you saying that. And..... my old man said he wanted to meet Eru-chan."

"Your dad does?"

"Why, I wonder?"

Yasutaka and Aoi looked mystified.

The two could not understand Kouichi's reasons for wanting to meet Eru. It couldn't be that his reason is simply because he wanted to meet someone from another world, right?

"I don't understand that much either. But, old man said that he never do anything that would trouble Yasutaka and Eru-chan. How about it? Could you try asking Eru-chan once?"

"Alright. For starters, I'll try asking Eru. But, when Eru and your dad meet, I'll be sitting in."

"I'll be there too. It's not like I doubt Takashi's dad but, I'm still worried for Eru."

"Got it. I'll tell my old man that. Then I'll leave Eru-chan's side to you?"

Yasutaka nodded at Takashi's words.

He trusted Takashi's father but it would be lie if he said did qn't feel any uneasiness. He surely wasn't the only one, Aoi and Takashi were thinking the same as Yasutaka.

In any case, I'll have to talk to Eru first.

Yasutaka decided so.

▪

On top of the table are dozens of randomly arranged large cards with katakana written on them.

And in front of a deck of 10-odd flipped cards, is Eru sitting on a stool. Eru picked up the topmost card from that deck and turned it over. Written on it is the hiragana "つ" .

"[っ[.....huh. Let's see..... The katakana of [っ[is....."

Eru's gaze slid over the katakana cards placed on the table. Before long, her eyes stopped at one card, and she picked it up.

"If I remember correctly, this should be it....."

Muttering so, Eru confirmed the other side of the card she picked up. However, what was written on it was the hiragana character "し".

"Aw..... This isn't [っ[but [し[, huh. I got confused because they looked so similar....."

What she's currently doing is studying katakana. Searching for the hiragana's matching katakana, this method of learning is a bit game-like.

Its designer was Aoi. When Yasutaka and Takashi heard Aoi's idea, they worked together in making it using drawing paper.

After that, Eru repeatedly used it to memorize katakana. Now she's memorized about 80%, once she properly memorizes the rest of the chaacters that look similar like the "っ" and "し" just now, or "っ" and "し" , she'd be able to read katakana perfectly.

However, she's still not very good at writing both hiragana and katakana, so it is vital that she practice it in the future.

Incidentally, she can converse enough for simple greetings.

As she continued studying katakana, Eru's long pointy ears suddenly twitched. Simultaneously, she looked happy as she raised her face from the table.

Shortly after, the lock on the door of the entryway unlocked and the door opened. It seems someone opened the door and entered the house.

Of course, the one who came in was Yasutaka.

Looking happy, Eru went to the entryway to meet Yasutaka.

As Eru ran through the house with a pitter patter put a smile on his face, Yasutaka wore the translation earring he received from Eru who came to greet him.

"Welcome home, *Yasutaka-san*."

"I'm home, Eru."

It really is pleasant having someone say "Welcome home" when he comes home. Yasutaka has been feeling this way again recently.

"Listen, Eru. I've got a bit to discuss with you, is that alright?"

"To discuss?"

Eru looked puzzled as she tilted her head.

"Un. I want to composed when we talk so I'll get changed first. Please wait in the living room."

"Very well. Then, I will prepare some tea."

Eru learned how to use the kitchen gas stove recently, and is now able to make tea and simple dishes.

Even though ingredients such as vegetables are all unknown to her, there seem to be some vegetables that taste the same as those from Eru's world.

Also, it seems that they basically just roast meat and fish then eat it and since the method for roasting doesn't really differ very much, even if the equipment aren't similar, it's still somewhat possible to recreate that world's dishes.

However, a conclusive difference is the seasoning.

This world is far more bountiful in seasonings than Eru's world. Hence, this world's dishes are still impossible for Eru.

Still, even though it's instant, black tea seems to be Eru's favorite, he noticed that she looked very happy when she drinks black tea.

Seeing Eru like that, Yasutaka decided he should bring her to the cafe he worked part-time at and let her drink black tea that isn't instant. The black tea the manager of that cafe brews is quite good and is popular in their neighbourhood.

However, he must talk about Takashi's father right now.

Yasutaka finished changing clothes, and when he entered the living room, Eru garnished the black tea she brewed with a slice of lemon.

"Ehehe. This [Lemon] fruit, if eaten by itself, it's terribly sour but if added to black tea, it becomes extremely delicious, doesn't it?"

Apparently there wasn't any lemon or a similar fruit to it in Eru's world. When Eru brewed black tea before, she ate the slice of lemon that garnished it, it was too sour that she teared up. That memory was fresh in Yasutaka's mind.

Yasutaka, who laughed as he remembered that memory from a little while ago, pulled himself together and approached Eru who seemed to be enjoying the black tea in front of her.

"The mayor of this town would like to.....see me?"

"Yeah. Even if I call him the mayor, he's Takashi's dad."

"Hee, *Takashi-san* was the son of the mayor. So that means that *Takashi-san* will be the future mayor of this town?"

"Hmm, who knows? That guy has the disposition suitable for a politician like his dad, and he said so himself that he wanted to be a politician too but..... even if he says he wants to one doesn't necessarily mean he will become one."

Naturally, there were people who had mayoral positions in Eru's world too.

However, the positions of mayors and village chiefs in her world were almost hereditary. Understandably, there are no concepts of election and the like there.

Yasutaka and Eru's knowledge about that were different yet neither of them realized it at the time.

"Nevertheless, what business could the mayor have with me?"

"It seems that even Takashi doesn't know."

"Ah! Could it be that he has a request for me as an adventurer? Like an infestation of goblins that need extermination somewhere in this town?"

"Goblins.....you say, if I remember correctly, in your world, they were monsters that are hostile to humans, weren't they? No way, that's because there are no goblins in this world."

"Aw..... it was like that....."

In her world, it is often the case that the dispatch requests that come to adventurers are from the person in the position of the mayor or the village chief.

When monsters such as goblins and demons appear in the vicinity of a village, rather than requesting the country to send soldiers, it is much faster to request support from adventurers.

Actually, Eru has experience being requested by a certain village's chief to cross swords with goblins that ravaged their livestock and fields.

"How about it? Want to meet Takashi's dad?"

"Yes. Since it's a request from *Takashi-san's* father, I can't just decline."

"I see. Then, then I'll message Takashi."

Yasutaka promptly took out the smartphone from his pocket, and sent a message to Takashi. Yasutaka and his friends they had an unspoken agreement that, unless it's an emergency, they would always contact each other by mail.

Eru's immensely curious eyes sparkled as she watched Yasutaka's hand manipulate the smartphone he's become familiar with.

"Yasutaka-san! Is this another kind of magic item..... i mean, appliance?"

"Yeah, this is a mobile telephone. It's a device that lets you contact a companion that's far away. This way you can send sentences and talk with your

companion immediately."

"Wow, it's just like a [Talisman of Dialogue]"

The "Talisman of Dialogue" is a magic item from Eru's world, two sheets are paired and then you'd be able to communicate vocally. However, communication is limited only to the pair, so compared to the mobile phone that could connect with anyone, it's far less convenient. Also, it's too expensive and is a magic item primarily used by an officer for military operations. There are some among the adventurers who have this but they are too few, and it isn't a product that a mobile phone where one person could possess one or more.

"Besides that, there's another magic item called [Scroll of Continued Writing], it's a pair of scrolls where you write on one side and it shows up on the other side. The [Scroll of Continued Writing] is also expensive but it's not worth as much as the [Talisman of Dialogue] that is why there are quite a few adventurers who brought this."

"I see. If the [Talisman of Dialogue] is the mobile phone, then the [Scroll of Continued Writing] thing would be mail function. Those tools really are similar."

Having heard Eru's story, he believed that there certainly wasn't much difference between the electric appliances and magic items she mentioned.

What if Yasutaka's current world had not developed through science but rather, with Eru's world's magic.

It would be possible that around this time, instead of cellphones, they would almost certainly be using magic tools with a similar effect.

While thinking that there was no point in it, Yasutaka surprised Eru a lot with the downloaded apps on his smartphone like for pictures, music playback, video recording, video playback and the two laughed freely together.

Incidentally, he secretly set a picture he secretly took of Eru which he especially liked into his smartphone's homescreen

Chapter 15: The Development of the City?

On the Sunday of the week after midterms ended peacefully. A little past 11 in the morning, the doorbell of the Akatsuka residence rang. It's roughly at the promised hour.

Yasutaka who thought it was just in time, walked up to the entryway and pushed the door open.

"Hey Yasutaka-kun. Morning."

"Good morning, Yano-san."

The one who arrived at the Akatsuka residence is a man in his thirties called Yano. Of course, Yasutaka knew that person very well. He is the secretary of Takashi's father, Hagino Kouichi, the mayor of Nisshin City, so they have met a number of times before.

Over Yano's shoulder, one car could be seen past the gate. *"If I'm not mistaken, that's the Toyota Vellfire."* thought Yasutaka as he tried to remember. It's the Hagino family — Takashi's family's private vehicle.

In the passenger seat of that minivan sits Takashi who waved his hand when he noticed Yasutaka. Similarly, in the back seat, Aoi could be seen. It seems that before coming to the Akatsuka residence, they went to Aoi's house to pick her up.

"By the way, Yasutaka-kun. the you-know-who....."

"Ah, yes. She'll be here soon. Ooy, Eruuu"

"Vāda Yiruu"

When Yasutaka called out into the house, Eru responded. Wearing the translation earring, Yasutaka heard "I will be right there." but it was a cryptic language to Yano.

Eru who appeared is wearing a turquoise blue tank top over an off-white cutsew shirt, and a light blue hemmed capri. And on her head is the usual knitted hat with earflaps. Since the temperature is

almost at its peak, It must be tough having to wear the knit hat all the time.

Seeing Eru's beautiful face emerge from within the house, Yano was entranced, but he came to his senses and hurriedly invited Yasutaka and Eru into the car.

"Th, then, shall we be off? Sensei..... Mayor Hagino is waiting for us in the city hall."

It takes approximately 15 minutes by car to go from the Akatsuka residence to Nisshin City Hall. However, a lot of thing that happened before Yasutaka and his friends arrived at Nisshin City Hall.

It being her first time riding an automobile, Eru nervously boarded the car. Upon boarded the car, she thought "*Woow. There's so many sofas set up..... it's just like a small room!*" as she looked at the interior of the car with great interest.

Now that she's actually experienced riding a car, she was surprised that it was much faster than she had expected.

While moving through the Meitetsu Nisshin Station, Eru saw a train pass by overhead, and she clamored about how a large monster was rushing into the city.

For Yasutaka and the others, Eru's reactions were quite charming, but for the person in question, it was a series of surprises.

Before long, the car they were in pulled up at the parking lot of the City Hall.

"Now then, we have arrived. The Mayor is waiting. This way, please."

The City Hall is closed on Sundays so there are no people. The main entrance is closed so Yano led them through the staff entrance at the side.

Still, even though it was just a staff entrance, it had a guard station across from it, and inside them were some guards.

However, as he is the Mayor's secretary, Yano can enter the City Hall freely. Though Yasutaka and his friends felt uneasy from the guard's scrutinizing stare, they followed after Yano into the City Hall.

Upon entering, some of the staff working on their day off could be seen here and there. They were sending curious gazes at Yasutaka and his friends who

came even though it was a Sunday.

However, realizing that they were being guided by the Mayor's Secretary, Yano, they judged that it was some sort of student event, and went back to doing their respective duties.

Guided by Yano, they walked in the City Hall. Yano led them to a room with a placard that states "Mayor's Room".

"Here we are. The Mayor is waiting inside."

Going through the door Yano opened, a middle aged man was waiting inside. He was tall, medium built, wore an expensive suit, and had a gentlemanly air about him.

"Hello and welcome. It's been a while, Yasutaka-kun, Aoi-chan. You look well. As for....."

The man — the current mayor of Nisshin City, Hagino Kouichi caught sight of Eru, smiled and bowed gracefully.

"Welcome to our Nisshin City. Traveller from a far-off land, on behalf of the citizens, I, the mayor of this city, wholeheartedly welcome you."

Having heard Mayor Hagino's speech, Eru smiled and, although with much difficulty, replied in Japanese.

"It's nise tu meit yuo, Meiyor-san. I em the elf nemd Erulula Zaphyra Fyrasilula. Plis col mi Eru."

"Oooh, your Japanese is quite good. Then, I shall accept your kind offer, Eru-san. To start with, please sit down. If I am not mistaken, my son mentioned that you liked black tea. It will be prepared shortly. What would you three like?"

The three each said their choice of beverages and Yano temporarily left the Mayor's room to prepare them.

A table and sofa for chatting are set up in the Mayor's room. Mayor Hagino took the initiative to sit in one of them.

Eru sat opposite of the Mayor, and beside her, Yasutaka. Aoi and Takashi settled down on the sofa on the left of Yasutaka and Eru's point of view.

"For taking the trouble of coming to the City Hall today, thank you very much.

Although it would have been fine to talk in Yasutaka or my residence, upon taking the future into consideration, I believe that meeting in the City Hall is the most appropriate. Well then, Eru-san. There was no other way to have you come here. I would like for you to assist in the development of my Nisshin City from here on."

Mayor Hagino looked directly on Eru, and began the talk with a serious expression.

At present, Yasutaka is wearing the translation earring.

Since this was originally a talk between Mayor Hagino and Eru, the two should be the ones wearing the translation earrings for a smoother talks, however, if that were the case, then Yasutaka, Aoi, and Takashi would not completely understand the conversation between the two.

Certainly, they would understand the gist of it with only Mayor Hagino's words but they still wouldn't be able to understand it completely.

Thus, Yasutaka took the position of "Interpreter". In doing so, Aoi and Takashi would properly understand Mayor Hagino and Eru's exchange as well. Of course, this was something Mayor Hagino has agreed upon beforehand.

"Yasutaka-kun, Aoi-chan, and Takashi. When you hear [Nisshin City], what is the first thing that you associate it with?"

Suddenly bringing up a topic they weren't expecting, the three unintentionally exchanged glances

"Even you who have been living here since you were kids could not immediately cite anything notable. Well, this is not limited to just you three, but the great majority of the citizens as well."

It's just as the current mayor says, there is nothing famous in Nisshin City.

Since there are four universities and colleges in the city, it's called a university town by it's citizens, however, it isn't rare if looked at from a national standpoint, and though it has some tourist spots such as Iwasaki Castle^[1] and Aichi Farms, it's still hard to say that it has anything major that's at a national level.

There aren't any famous hot springs and the like either, so crowds only tend to

gather for famous professional golfers when the Nagoya Golf Club holds a tournament .

"There is nothing in its industry that stands out either. In the first place, before Nisshin City's developments started when Meitetsu Toyota Line opened around 30 years ago, there were only rice paddies and mountains."

Nisshin City developed as a residential district right after direct access to the Nagoya Metropolis was made possible. Even now, with residential development is still advancing, new houses and apartments are being constructed all around.

"True, it will continue to develop as a commuter town from here. However, for me, something more..... I want to bring forth something nationwide from our city. I have always thought so. For example, in neighboring city, Nagoya, has Nagoya Castle and TV Tower, Nagoya Meshi..... even sports, they have teams like Chunichi Dragons and Nagoya Grampus. There are plenty of things anyone can associate with it in an instant. Something that's only in Nisshin City is what I want to bring forth as it's mayor. And in doing so, I could expect a positive economic effect."

Mayor Hagino let out a feverish speech. However, Yasutaka and his friends could not make out the Mayor's intentions. The city's development and the visitor from another world, Eru. They wondered how these are related.

"Now then, here's another question..... what do you think is the liveliest industry in the country right now?"

Yasutaka and his friends exchanged glances once more. They were high school students but they were aware that the current Japan's economy wasn't that lively.

No matter the industry, performance is unsatisfactory. Only a limited portion of industries and businesses have been able to leave soaring results. But then it's not as great in comparison to the golden age^[2].

"Even under such circumstances, creatures known as man still invest funds into the things they like. I believe the most extreme among those is the so called otaku industry..... the subculture industry."

"Certainly, this industry doesn't have a good reputation right now, but"

Mayor Hagino added

"Even so, this industry has an unfathomable power. That power, for this town's development, I'll use.....err, rather I wish to capitalize on it."

Calmly glossing over his real intentions that leaked out by accident, Mayor Hagino continued again.

"There is an instance where in Chita Peninsula in the Aichi prefecture, there is a personification of the the prefecture, a cute girl..... a so-called moe-kyara caused a large increase in revenue, and there's also a precedent where the earnings of a city that became the stage of a popular anime exceeded a hundred million in the economy."

"Oy, Tousan! You don't plan on displaying Eru-chan, do you!?"

As suspicious ideas crossed Takashi's mind, he interrupting his father's talk.

A rare spectacle with Eru in a cage like an animal in a zoo. A scene that both Aoi and Yasutaka instinctively associated with the thought.

However, the father readily denied his son's censure.

"Naturally. There is no way I could do such an inhumane thing, My plan is something similar to [Gotouchi Idol] or [Local Idol]"[\[3\]](#)

"Ojisan, what on earth do you plan on having Eru cooperate with?"

Unable to follow Mayor Hagino's plans, Aoi asked bluntly. To that question, the mayor smiled a truly refreshing smile.

"My plan is a city renewal."

"City renewal.....? "

"Yes."

Mayor Hagino stood up from the sofa , walked up to the window, and shifted his gaze onto the Nisshin cityscape.

"Let's see..... how about a catchphrase such as this?"

Mayor Hagino looked back at everyone in the room. He appeared confident as he said the catchphrase.

"[Elf dwelling City, Nisshin City]..... How about it? Easy to understand, it's

good, don't you think?"

Footnotes:

1. There's plenty of stuff mentioned that exist IRL. I'll just make one footnote link for them so it isn't too cluttered. Check below the last footnote for details regarding them if you're interested. Totally optional though, I don't think they'd impact the story very much.[]
2. The Golden Age in Japan was in the Edo period, 1603 to 1868.[]
3. To my understanding, Gotouchi is basically the same thing as Local Idol, one is just in kanji and the other is in Katakana[]

Stuff mentioned in the chapter

- [Iwasaki Castle](#) – A castle in Nisshin, mentioned in a previous chapter as well. Links to Wikipedia.
- [Aichi Farms](#) – A farm to interact with animals, great place for a day out with kids. Links to a Japanese site.
- Nagoya Golf Club – The venue where the “International Invitational Golf Chunichi Crowns” or “The Crowns” is held yearly. J PGA Championship held twice here as well.
- Meitetsu Toyota Line – A train line that connects Umetsubo Station in Toyota with Akaike Station in Nisshin.
- [Nagoya Castle](#) – A castle in Nagoya. Links to Wikipedia.
- [Nagoya TV Tower](#) – An observation deck in Nagoya. Fun fact: This tower was destroyed in the Godzilla movies. Twice. Links to Wikipedia
- [Nagoya Meshi](#) – A cultural cuisine unique to Nagoya and Aichi Prefecture. Links to an English site.
- Chunichi Dragons – A professional baseball team in Nagoya.
- Nagoya Grampus – A professional football team in Nagoya.