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# 吾命騎士

The Legend of Sun Knight

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# The Legend of Sun Knight

(吾命騎士)

Volume 04

To Slay a Dragon

Yu Wo

(御我)

## Story Description:

The Sun Knight is a man who has shining golden hair, sky blue eyes, a compassionate nature, and a brilliant smile. He is the spokesperson for the God of Light, the captain of the Twelve Holy Knights, and (some say) the man closest to perfection. Beneath the veneer of the Sun Knight, however, lies a very different sort of character...

Original Story can be found here: [Link](#)

# Volume 4: To Slay a Dragon

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I am a knight. To be precise, I am the Church of the God of Light's Sun Knight.

To be the Sun Knight is to have shining golden hair, sky blue eyes, a compassionate nature, and a brilliant smile.

To forever wear a smile as he says, "The benevolent God of Light will forgive your sins" – that is the life a Sun Knight.



But what do the above strings of words have to do with me?

What on earth is a Sun Knight? What the heck is the God of Light?

And the most important question is...who exactly am I?

What? The benevolent god of Light will guide me, this lost lamb?

But are you sure...that I really am a lamb?

# Prologue: The Divine Sword that has Lost its Owner

“Knight-Captain Judgment!”

Jesus stopped in his tracks and turned his head. Behind him stood someone whose skin-tight black leotard made it practically impossible for anyone to not recognize him. In the entire Holy Temple, only the Hell Knight would have such a unique way of dressing. However, the person who should have been with Roland Hell was currently not with him.

Jesus wrinkled his brow. He asked, “Knight-Captain Hell, weren’t you supposed to be following after Knight-Captain Sun?”

At these words, a look of shame immediately spread over Roland’s face.

“You’ve lost his trail again?”

Jesus couldn’t help feeling a little amused and mirthful. It seemed that ever since he had assigned Knight-Captain Hell to tail Sun, he had yet to see them walk alongside each other even once. But still, after a moment of thought, he couldn’t find it in his heart to blame Hell, because even he wasn’t certain he wouldn’t be shaken off whenever Sun intended to run away.

“Forget it. You don’t have to follow him anymore.” He shook his head, having finally thought things through. He sighed, “I should have realized long before. It’s not like we can have someone follow Sun forever.”

Having heard this, Roland couldn’t help but worry instead. “But Sun can no longer see with his eyes... If he were to meet with danger, what would we do then?”

“If he can even throw you off, I don’t think there’s any problem.”

“I suppose that’s true.” Roland couldn’t help but acknowledge this fact, but afterward, he sighed, “I just can’t understand why Sun can escape from my pursuit. His strength has never been that great...”

Jesus smiled faintly as he spoke, “If that’s what you actually think, then

I'm afraid you are greatly looking down on our Knight-Captain Sun."

"But isn't his swordsmanship terrible?" Roland asked, slightly puzzled.

"Sun's swordsmanship is indeed terrible," Lesus had no choice but to admit.

As a matter of fact, speaking of his swordsmanship in this way was quite courteous already. To have been taught by "the Strongest Sun Knight in History" for eight years, yet have his skill with the sword remain at a standard too tragic to even look at, the word "terrible" would certainly not be enough to fully express this.

"Although it is true that Sun's swordsmanship is terrible," Lesus said insipidly, "if you were to ask me who in this world I wish least to go against, my answer would definitely be Knight-Captain Sun."

Even more confused, Roland said hesitantly, "But Grisia, he's..."

"Knight-Captain Judgment!"

Lesus and Roland were both startled. It didn't matter to the latter, but the former's face promptly darkened and switched to a frown, displaying the Judgment Knight's renowned "I'm in a bad mood even when no one is causing me trouble" expression.

However, the person who had come was a member of the Judgment Knight Platoon. This made Lesus frown not only on the surface, but also on the inside.

Judgment knew the members of his platoon all too well. Their pattern of behavior greatly resembled his own: always calm, disciplined, and strict. Now, a member of his platoon was actually running toward him frantically—obviously, something had gone wrong.

The Judgment Knight Platoon member gasped for air twice. Afterward, he immediately saluted, "Captain Judgment, Knight-Captain Hell."

"What is the matter?" Lesus asked with his brows furrowed.

"There was a huge explosion nearby due to causes unknown. No deaths or injuries were reported, but the clerics said that a very strong dark

element has aggregated there. It's possible that a necromancer cast a spell there."

Upon hearing this, Lesus' expression darkened. Just which necromancer actually had the guts to do such a thing in Leaf Bud City, the region under the jurisdiction of the God of Light?

Whoever he is, it is completely unforgivable that he is causing disturbances in my city!

Lesus' expression darkened further as he gave orders in a low voice, "Assemble all members of the Judgment Knight Platoon. Hell, you're coming along as well."

"Understood."

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When he arrived at the scene, Lesus immediately understood why his platoon member had been so distressed.

To think that the explosion actually left a hole in the ground about ten meters in diameter...

Not to mention the rubble from toppled buildings nearby, the scorched floor, and the bits of rocks scattered about the entire area... Thankfully, this area is an old execution ground so few people come here. If the explosion had happened in the bustling city plaza, the results would be simply unthinkable.

"Judgment Knight, Hell Knight..."

The clerics at the scene were about to salute, but Lesus promptly raised his hand to stop them. Straightaway, he ordered, "Report the current situation."

"Yes."

The clerics revealed worried expressions as they started their reports. "Other than discovering the presence of the dark element, the area also seems to have a great amount of the holy element. We fear that someone from the Church might have gotten into a battle with a necromancer, so we are currently searching the vicinity for...for..."

For a dead body.

Before they had even finished their sentence, Lesus had already grasped the situation. By the look of things, the battle was likely to have been very intense. If that someone from the Church of the God of Light had won, then that person would have long since reported back to the Church. Even if his injuries were so severe that he couldn't walk back to the Church and fainted halfway, he should have at least been found by one of the patrolling holy knights or royal knights.

However, so far, no one has heard of any such news. So now the only possibility left is that that person was either taken away by the necromancer or is already dead. If so, it's very likely that he's buried underneath these collapsed buildings.

Lesus frowned as he examined the surrounding collapsed buildings. Although the number of buildings here were not as great as in the inner city, there were still about ten buildings. They would probably not be able to finish cleaning up the mess in a short amount of time. This also made him hesitant on what to do. Should I lead my men to search for the necromancer first, or do I continue waiting here, to check if the person being excavated is still alive and ask him for the truth instead?

At this moment, Roland walked over to Lesus. He pointed beneath the collapsed buildings further in the distance and said, "Knight-Captain Judgment, there is a strong presence of holy element in that area."

"Holy element?"

Hearing these words, Lesus creased his brow. Even if he's a holy knight or a cleric, after death, the dark element would still corrode him. But since Hell said that he sensed holy element there... Could that person still be alive?

He immediately gave orders to everyone in the search party. "Go to the area pointed out by Knight-Captain Hell at once. Be careful, there may be a person beneath there, and he may still be alive!"

"Understood!"

Every holy knight immediately started moving rocks aside. With the ample strength of the knights and their quick excavation speed, it did not take long for them to clean out more than half of the collapsed buildings. There were already knights carefully using shovels to dig into the ground as well.

“Roland!”

Roland was surprised for a moment. He turned his head to see a row of knights wearing the vermilion uniform of the royal knights. The one at the very front was the most familiar. That one was Elijah, who often asked Roland to spar with him.

Elijah commanded the royal knights to stop. He walked forward to Roland by himself. While looking at the huge hole in the ground in front of him, he frowned as he asked Roland, “What on earth happened here?”

Roland shook his head. He explained, “We are also unsure of what exactly happened, but what we do know is that there is a large amount of dark element and holy element congregated in the area.”

As Elijah wrinkled his brow, pondering over what Roland had said, Judgment Knight Lesus, who happened to be beside them, began to speak. “Knight Elijah, could you perhaps request for your men to help dig as well? We suspect that there is either a cleric or a holy knight underneath the buildings and that he is likely to still be alive.”

Elijah was surprised for a moment, but he immediately replied in agreement, “Of course.”

He turned around, gesturing for the knights under his command to come forward and help out.

Lesus wrinkled his brow while watching the excavation. Come to think of it, I don't seem to be able to help out here for now. Maybe I should go back to search for the whereabouts of the necromancer if he's still nearby ... But suddenly it came to him that finding the necromancer did not fall under the duties he was responsible for.

He turned around and asked his vice-captain, “Did anyone send a

notification to Knight-Captain Sun?”

His vice-captain immediately replied, “Captain, I cannot locate Knight-Captain Sun, but I have already notified Vice-Captain Adair of the Sun Knight Platoon. He said that he would immediately arrange for the Sun Knight Platoon to split up and search the city. If there is any unusual gathering of the dark element, he will immediately bring people there to investigate.”

Upon hearing this, Lesus nodded his head. It’s good as long as Adair was notified. But where has Sun run off to again?

“Oh right, hasn’t Knight-Captain Sun come?” Elijah opened his mouth and asked.

“Elijah, by any chance did you see Sun on your way here?” Roland turned and asked as well.

Their eyes met, and they laughed heartily before shaking their heads in unison.

Upon witnessing this, Judgment smiled inwardly as well.

It seems that it’s always been like this, ever since long ago. Despite his terrible swordsmanship, Grisia is somehow always acquainted with people who are greatly skilled with the sword... No! It’s not just those who are master swordsmen. Perhaps he has already become acquainted with every single strong person in Leaf Bud City?

Of course, we have the Twelve Holy Knights of the Church of the God of Light, and one of them is even a death lord. Then we have the princess’ beloved royal knight lover, and even the proclaimed ‘the Strongest Sun Knight in History’ who is revered by many, not to mention a necromancer who’s likely incredibly strong but whose name is not well known.

Also, other than knowing all of the strong people out there, is Grisia really as weak as the Hell Knight assumes he is?

After pondering up to this point, Lesus was truly a little flustered. Perhaps only the Pope, the former Sun Knight, and I know just how strong a person Grisia Sun actually is... No! Perhaps even I don’t truly understand his

strength.

Lesus could not help but mutter, “Grisia, you always say that I’m like a tapeworm living in your stomach since you can never hide anything from me, but I’ve never really completely understood what you’re capable of... Or maybe it’d be better to say that even you don’t understand your true capabilities?”

Roland and Elijah seemed to have heard some of Lesus’ murmurs. The two of them turned to ask curiously, “What did...”

“We’ve found it!”

Hearing the shouts of the holy knights, the spirits of the three lifted immediately and they moved forward in unison. They soon saw many people crowding around the hole to behold what was inside. Yet, no injured person was being lifted out. The three of them had a very uniform reaction—a frown appeared on each of their faces at the same time.

Lesus was the first one to lower his tone as he spoke ominously, “What are you clerics doing? Shouldn’t you be quicker in helping that person?”

The clerics received a huge fright from this. After seeing Judgment Knight’s cold expression, their faces paled even more. They explained frantically, “It... It’s not a person!”

Upon hearing this, Lesus creased his brow once again. He simply walked forward to see for himself just what it was. Indeed, what was in the hole was not a person, but rather a sword that was just quietly lying amongst the dust. Given what it actually was, it really should not have to suffer such treatment.

“Why is the Divine Sun Sword here?”

Lesus recognized at one glance that it was the Divine Sun Sword lying at the bottom of the hole. This is Grisia’s most treasured possession... although he doesn’t use it too often.

He actually rarely brings his sword out of the Holy Temple, but when he does, it never leaves his side.

But right now, the Divine Sun Sword is here, yet its master is not present...

Suddenly, Lesus noticed that the sword was stained with something... He immediately jumped into the hole and picked up the sword to see.

It really is a bloodstain!

His face changed almost immediately. He hurriedly shouted at the knights around the area, "Quickly! Continue digging! But be careful while doing so. Sun- Whoever's underneath might still be alive!"

At this moment, Roland also jumped down. He knelt down to touch the ground with his hand; his eyes never left the Divine Sun Sword that Lesus was holding.

Following this, he stood up and spoke in a low voice to Lesus, "There isn't any more holy element underneath here. I'm sure the holy element that I had felt before was from the Divine Sun Sword... C-Could it be that Grisia... he..."

"No!"

Lesus adamantly interrupted Roland's speech. He leaped back to the surface, allowing the holy knights to continue digging. At the same time, Roland followed suit.

In examination, Lesus circled the old execution ground that was in ruins. He then firmly proclaimed, "Impossible! Such a place... would definitely not be the place where Sun is buried!"

In that case...

Grisia, just where the heck are you?

# Chapter 1: The First Tactic of Slaying a Dragon: “Still an Adventurer Team”

Grisia! You can never escape, never...

I awoke in fright.

I hurriedly opened my eyes. However, the minute I opened them, I felt that there was something wrong, but I couldn't say what was wrong...

Normally, after opening one's eyes, should there only be darkness?

Then there is absolutely no difference between opening and closing one's eyes! Since there's no difference, why should I open my eyes? Or could it be that I... I can't see anything?

No! I could “see” clearly; in fact, everything was becoming more and more well-defined. It was as if my surroundings were originally covered by some thick, heavy cloth, and someone was now unwrapping it layer by layer. The darkness slowly faded, and the scenes became clearer and clearer.

I “saw” myself lying on top of a bed. The bed's wood element was very noticeable, so it should be made out of wood. My body was also covered by a thick cotton blanket. There was a chair beside the bed, and a table further away. There were four chairs around the table and some water element on top of the table... It was a pot of water.

I even knew that the water only filled a fifth of the pot.

However, I did not even need to turn around and open my eyes to “see” those items. The images automatically appeared in my mind. I tried closing my eyes and opening them again... The images in my mind didn't change at all!

So, what on earth are eyes used for? Aren't they used to “see?” Also, the definition of the word “see” is... I was confusing myself. Am I seeing right now? I think I am, but at the same time, I think I'm not.

Something still didn't feel right, something even more important than

whether my eyes could see or not... Someone's coming!

I swiveled my head toward the door, but flinched suddenly. Why did I turn my head? I don't need to turn my head to see the door!

I still felt that these things called eyes were very strange, but I immediately banished the thought to the back of my mind and focused on the person who was coming in. The person's wind element was very high, but it was not as high as that of a mage's... Oh! Given his appearance, he should have a profession that focuses on agility, like that of a rogue or an archer... Oh, my mistake, it should be "her" appearance.

Not to mention, "her" figure was great. Even though I really had no idea whether or not she was pretty, there was absolutely no connection between being pretty and having a great figure. As long as she had these three things: a large chest, a slim waist and long legs, it was enough to say that she had "a great figure."

"Ah! You're awake?" she cried in surprise the moment she walked in.

Hearing this voice, I knew she should be a rather young woman. Being able to meet a young woman with a great figure immediately after waking up really makes one excited.

"I... Yeah, I'm awake." I struggled to get up and then nodded at her.

She hurriedly walked over and said, "Don't get up! You were very seriously wounded... Ah! But you seem to have more or less recovered, how unbelievable! Yuna clearly said that you would need a full month to recover from your wounds before you could get up and walk about, but your injuries have healed almost completely in just three days! Yuna almost mistook you for an undead creature!"

"Yuna?" I asked in some confusion.

The girl placed whatever she was holding onto the table, and then she poured a cup of water. She walked over to the bed while explaining, "Oh, Yuna is the cleric in our squad. She went out with Igor, our warrior, to buy some stuff. We also have a druid, Woodrow. Last but not least, I am Sybil, an archer! Here, you're thirsty right? Have a drink."

When she said this, I really did feel that my throat and mouth were very dry. I quickly took the water and, after saying “thanks,” started gulping it down.

Sybil asked me in a curious tone, “What about you? What’s your name?”

I kept on drinking until the entire cup was empty, and only after satisfying my thirst did her words really register in my mind.

“What’s my name...”

“Hm?”

Sybil leaned even closer. I could already “see” her features clearly. Her eyes were slender and long, her facial features deeply carved, her lips slightly full. Although I couldn’t tell whether or not she was pretty, based on her ample bosom that was almost pressed up against my chest, I could definitely admit that she was a beauty!

“Are you going to tell me your name or not?” Sybil asked, puzzled.

I instantly regained my senses and swiftly replied, “My name is, my name is...”

Halfway through my answer, I fell back into silence.

Very good, now I know what was wrong...

Who am I?

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Four people sat in front of me. From left to right: Igor, the warrior as robust as a mountain; Woodrow, the druid as slim as a bamboo pole; Yuna, the cleric with a bad figure; and Sybil, the archer with a great figure. Apparently, there was still a rogue named Iacchi who had yet to return.

Judging only by their professions, this is a rather good squad... My mind automatically jumped to this conclusion. It seems that although I have lost my memories, I haven’t lost my general knowledge!

“You’ve lost your memories? That’s hard to believe,” Woodrow mumbled to himself and then sunk into his own thoughts once again.

“That’s right! It really is hard to believe.” Sybil immediately interrupted and said, “When he had been seriously hurt, I had already felt that it was unbelievable! How could that have happened?”

Yuna nodded her head.

“That’s right, that’s right,” Igor said in complete agreement.

“Please, please hold on a minute.” I was slightly confused, so I asked, “Why should it be so unbelievable for me to get injured? All humans can get hurt, right... Hm? That should be correct, right?”

I wasn’t really confident about this. I couldn’t even remember my name, so it was really hard to determine whether the “general knowledge” in my head was authentic or not.

The four people in front of me turned around to look at me and said in unison, “It’s unbelievable because you’re very strong!”

“I’m very strong?” I reflexively asked, “Am I a warrior?”

“No, you’re a cleric,” Yuna immediately rebuked my guess.

Cleric?

I am a cleric, but I am very strong? Then why is my general knowledge telling me that the profession of a cleric is known for being weak? It seems that my general knowledge is not too reliable after all.

Yuna thought for a bit before saying, “It’s not you who’s strong, although it is true that you are a powerful cleric. The people we’re referring to as strong are actually your companions.”

My companions... Puzzled, I asked, “Aren’t you my companions?”

Sybil rolled her eyes and said, “If we were your companions, why would I ask for your name?”

That’s true.

I absentmindedly touched the hair that fell onto my chest and asked, very puzzled, “All of you know that I am a cleric, and you also know that my companions are strong, but you don’t know my name? Do you actually

know me or not?”

Hearing this, the four of them glanced at each other. Finally, Woodrow, who had been deep in thought, answered, “We don’t know you personally, but we were once saved by you and your companions, so we have met you before. At that time, we saw you using holy light, so we know that you are a cleric. We also saw your companions fight. Although there were only three people in your squad, you guys were very powerful.”

Companions? I was not surprised to hear that I had companions. In fact, when I heard the word “companions,” quite a few silhouettes automatically surfaced in my mind, and the number of silhouettes was even higher than what Woodrow had mentioned. Therefore, although I couldn’t remember the true appearances of the silhouettes, I knew that I definitely had companions, and they weren’t few in number either.

After realizing this fact, I felt much more relieved, but I couldn’t help asking in curiosity, “What sort of people were my companions?”

“There was a holy knight, and also, also...”

Woodrow stopped speaking. I noticed that he had furrowed his brows... This probably indicated that he was very “hesitant.” Why was he hesitating? Could it be that my companion’s identity was too difficult to speak of?

Igor suddenly leaned close to me and said softly, “He was a dark elf.”

“A dark elf?” I was somewhat at a loss. If my general knowledge was not wrong, dark elves should be a race that had dark skin, white hair, and a reputation that was not too good. However, I couldn’t recall anything more detailed than that.

At this, Yuna hurriedly said, “Maybe you and that holy knight had captured that dark elf.”

“That’s right, that’s right!” Igor backed her up, “A holy knight and a cleric would definitely not go around with a dark elf for no reason. After all, it is a creature of darkness! Everyone knows that the people of the Church of the God of Light detest creatures of darkness the most.”

“Church of the God of Light? Am I someone from the Church of the God of Light?”

I mumbled the phrase “Church of the God of Light.” The more I said it the more I believed it was possible, because the phrases “Church of the God of Light” and “holy knight” both sounded very familiar.

Yuna nodded her head and explained, “Your holy light is very strong. Only a cleric of the God of Light could have such strong holy light, so you definitely are not a cleric of any other Church. You can only be a cleric of the God of Light. We have no idea why you are here though.”

“Here?” I asked, puzzled. “Where is here?”

Sybil interrupted, “This is the Kingdom of Kissinger. It is the territory of the Cathedral of the Shadow God! The Church of the God of Light which is situated in the Kingdom of Forgotten Sound is rather far away from here. We would need to head north for five days before we could enter the boundary of the Kingdom of Forgotten Sound!”

I nodded my head as though as I had understood. “Kissinger” sounded very unfamiliar, so I shouldn’t be local, right? The “Cathedral of the Shadow God” also sounded fairly unfamiliar. In comparison, the Church of the God of Light still sounded more pleasing to my ears.

I looked toward Yuna and asked, “Then Yuna, are you a cleric of the Cathedral of the Shadow God?”

“Of course not, I’m a warpriest.” Yuna crossly replied, “If I were a shadowpriest, then we wouldn’t have needed your help that first time.”

What does that mean?

I fell silent, but I didn’t really want to ask again. Even if Yuna replied, my questions would only increase in number. Not to mention, I actually did not care about what sort of cleric Yuna was.

The only thing I want to know is who the heck am I?

Even just knowing my name would be good enough!

Grisia, you can never escape, never...

I was momentarily stunned. When I initially awoke in fright, I had clearly heard this sentence. The “Grisia” at the start of the sentence sounded like a name... Is that my name?

At this moment, Yuna apologized, “I’m sorry, I forgot that you don’t remember anything. I shouldn’t have spoken to you in such a tone.”

“That’s alright.”

I returned to my senses after hearing Yuna’s words. I looked at them and said, “Since I have companions, then everything’s alright. After all, they will eventually come and find me, right?”

The four of them glanced at each other. Yuna replied in an even more apologetic tone, “I don’t think so. Ten days have already passed yet no one has come looking for you.”

“Ten days?” I was startled. Then, I looked toward the archer and asked, “Sybil, didn’t you say that my wounds were healed in three days’ time?”

“That’s right!” Sybil shrugged her shoulders and said, “But after your wounds healed, you slept for another seven days! We had no idea what to do! You weren’t waking up, and we couldn’t just leave you here. However, most of our money had already been used up for your medical bills, so if we don’t go on missions, we really will be in trouble...”

“Sybil!” Yuna interrupted, stopping her from saying anything else.

However, Sybil wasn’t willing to stop and she impulsively yelled back, “We have no choice but to tell him! If we explain our situation clearly, he can help us out with missions! Or else, if we keep on going the way we are now, we really will starve to death!”

“Sybil!” Woodrow called out in a low voice with a scolding tone, and only then did Sybil stop talking. After that, he turned to me and apologized, “Please don’t take offense over what Sybil said. Saving you is definitely something we should have done. Before, if not for you and your companions, we would have already turned into rotten bones in that cave.”

“That’s right, so don’t worry a single bit about what Sybil said, she was

just exaggerating,” Yuna said while casting an admonishing glance at Sybil. The latter not-too-willingly lowered her head.

“Grisia.”

“What?” The four of them were stunned.

I started explaining, “You can call me Grisia. I think it’s my name... Probably!”

Everyone nodded their heads. Sybil even mumbled my name and then grumbled in an undertone over how hard it was to pronounce.

After that, I continued speaking, “Since you said that I saved you before, and now you have saved me, let’s call it even. We don’t owe each other anything anymore.”

As I said this, everyone nodded their heads. Igor yelled out loud, “Great! Grisia, I really like straight-forward people like you!”

I smiled and said, “As for your suggestion that I help you out in your missions, I’m not against it, but I want to split the reward money. If I only cast Moderate Heal, then one-tenth of the reward money is enough. If I use Advanced Heal, then I want two tenths, and if I need to perform more holy spells, then add another tenth to that for a total of three tenths.”

“...”

Sybil couldn’t help shouting, “Are you really a cleric of the God of Light? I heard that they were very altruistic people.”

I shrugged my shoulders and said, “Who knows? I currently have amnesia and cannot recall anything. For all I know, I might even be a shadowpriest. Not to mention, you reminded me that I am currently in the situation of having no memories and no way of finding my companions, so I have to earn my keep. Since I have to earn money, earning a little more is always better than earning a little less, right?”

Hearing this, the three people in the squad immediately glared at their archer all at the same time. Sybil’s change of expression was... Yup, she wants to cry but no tears are coming out.

After being glared at, Sybil complained while feeling greatly grieved, “You aren’t as elegant as you appear at all!”

My appearance? I asked curiously, “What do I look like?”

At this, Sybil suddenly leaned into my face and said seriously, “You have shining blond hair, azure eyes, and even your skin is very fair and smooth to the touch...”

Very fair? What does she mean by fair... Wait a minute! Smooth to the touch? I immediately said, “Hold on! How would you know my skin is smooth to the touch? Could you have touched me before?”

“...Ah!”

Sybil first widened her eyes, and only after blanking out for some time did she return to her senses and hurriedly explain, “Only when I was changing your medication did I touch you by accident. Also, I had to touch you when I helped you change your clothes. I definitely had to touch you while bathing you, and I had to touch you when I helped you turn your body. Furthermore...”

Furthermore? Why don’t you just list the times when you did not touch me, wouldn’t that be faster?

Dammit! I actually feel as if I have been bullied by this woman and taken advantage of, how could I have let this happen? I can take anything, except for being taken advantage of!

I immediately told Sybil, “Then to be fair, you should let me touch you.”

“Okay...”

Sybil was half-way through agreeing before Yuna yelled, “Sybil, what are you saying?”

Sybil immediately changed her reply and said, “No! I was saying, no, it’s not okay, you pervert!”

What a shame... I regretted it immensely. I should have demanded her to take responsibility when no one was around. Looking at her reaction, she obviously wanted me to touch her as well!

Seeing her squad's utterly disbelieving looks, Sybil lowered her head and mumbled, "It's his fault for being so handsome. He made me agree to it unknowingly."

Yuna reminded her, "Think of the holy knight in his squad, then you won't feel that he's that handsome."

At this, Sybil suddenly looked up at the ceiling. Although there was nothing up there, her entire face was filled with, with... A nicer way of saying it would be "longing," but a more apt description for the expression would be "starry-eyed infatuation."

After a while, she lowered her head and looked at me, nodding and agreeing, "That's true, you're not actually that handsome after all!"

...I suddenly didn't want to rejoin my holy knight companion anymore.

"That's right! That holy knight was very gallant." This wasn't said by Sybil, but Yuna. She was completely unlike her calm self from earlier. With abnormal excitement, she continued, "He was handsome and strong, and looked very gentle and considerate. What's more, the way he talked was so mature. He was so nice that he didn't take any credit for saving us, even apologizing to us for snatching our monster. Not only that, he wanted to give us the loot! Last but not least, he reminded us to hurry up and leave that dangerous place... Oh! He really is too amazing!"

This time, Yuna was the one to fall into a state of longing, or starry-eyed infatuation.

"He was also very elegant! Really elegant." Sybil stared at me and then purposely shook her head, saying, "Not like you, you only have an elegant appearance."

Hearing this, I angrily said, "Who knows, maybe only his appearance is mature and elegant, but actually he's an arrogant and stubborn guy!"

"Impossible!" Yuna, Sybil and even Igor opposed me in unison.

I was rendered speechless. If even Igor, a guy, agreed, then could it be that my holy knight companion was not just a pretty face, but was also handsome, mature, elegant, and a good person through and through like

what they said?

I really can't believe that there is someone like that in the world!

At this, Woodrow belatedly said, "Although now that I think about it, that holy knight really seemed too good to be true."

I immediately felt a miraculous comradeship with Woodrow.

"Hey! What sort of expression is that?" Sybil said crossly, "The person we're talking about is your companion! You couldn't be wishing that your companion is not a good guy but rather a bad guy, could you?"

I thought about it. That's true as well. If my companion is a nice person, he would be easier to bully ... Wait a minute! What sort of thought was that? I actually wanted to bully someone else? Could it be that... I'm the one who's not a good person?

I couldn't help muttering, "That could be true. If not, why would I keep on thinking of money, beauties, breasts and not wanting to be taken advantage of?"

"What?" Sybil asked with a curious expression.

"Nothing, I suddenly felt a bit worried." I raised my head and looked at the squad before me and said cautiously, "How would I know whether you're good people or not?"

"What did you say?!"

Sybil immediately said furiously, "Of course we're good guys! If not, why would we have saved you, and why would we have been unable to go out on missions because you weren't waking up?! If we were bad guys, we would have just left you to die!"

"That's true."

I let out a brilliant smile. The smile's effect was definitely not bad. Even Sybil, who had earlier stated that I only had an elegant appearance, and Yuna both descended into a starry-eyed infatuated state and could only stare at me.

Seeing this, I smiled, satisfied. "You really are all good people, that's

great, hehehe.....”

“Why do I suddenly have a bad feeling?”

Woodrow mumbled to himself, but was interrupted when Igor hit him on the shoulders, hard. Igor laughed and said, “Woodrow, you worry too much! Weren’t you the one who always said that we should look for a cleric of the God of Light? Now we have a super powerful cleric with us, isn’t that just nice?”

Hearing Woodrow and Igor’s conversation, I turned around and smiled at Woodrow to calm him down. I didn’t think that he would flinch instead and motion for everyone else to keep quiet before tiptoeing to stand before me. Then, raising his left hand, he waved it before my eyes slowly...

I caught his hand and asked, bewildered, “What are you doing?”

Woodrow kept quiet for a while before stammering, “I only felt that something was off, your eyes...”

“My eyes?”

“No, it’s nothing. I must be thinking too much.” Woodrow mumbled, “I keep on feeling that you’re not really looking at me.”

“I am looking at you.” I really was looking at Woodrow, and not only at the tiny movements of his facial muscles, but even at the blood flowing in his body and the regular beating of his heart. I could see them all clearly.

“I must have been thinking too much.”

After that, Woodrow didn’t bring up the issue about my eyes again, and only discussed with me an even more pressing problem – how to split up the reward.

He haggled, “There’s no need for holy spells. Yuna is a warpriest, so her holy spells will definitely be more powerful than yours. Your only useful area would be in healing spells, so two tenths is too much. Our squad splits the reward by first taking away two tenths as squad fees and then splitting the rest evenly amongst the rest of the squad.”

“The squad has six people; after taking away two tenths and dividing the

rest equally amongst six people, that's... Not even one and a half tenths!"

How can that be! I immediately rebuked him, "Two-tenths is not a lot! I remember that the clerics of the God of Light rarely leave the Church to go adventuring, so they're in great demand!"

"... Have you really lost your memories?"

"If you don't want it, then forget it!"

"Alright, alright! Two-tenths then, two-tenths." Woodrow looked slightly vexed, but he immediately perked up and haggled again, "However, you must perform the holy spell 'Light Shield' as well!"

Light Shield? Do I know how to cast that? I thought about it for a while. These words sound familiar, so I'll assume that I know it! After all, even if I really don't know it, Woodrow and the rest won't go as far as chasing me off, would they?

"Okay..."

Halfway through my reply, I saw that there was someone outside the door and asked, "Your rogue Iacchi, does he have a ponytail?"

"Yes, have you remembered?!" Woodrow asked in surprise.

Before I could answer, the guy standing outside the door yelled out "Woodrow" and then kicked the door open.

"Woodrow! Great news, there's a big mission in the city... Eh? He's up already?"

The person who had walked in had long hair, which was tied in a high ponytail at the back of his head. He was slim and short, probably only up to my shoulders in height. He was even shorter than Sybil, and was about Yuna's height, but his voice was the exact opposite of his size. It was as loud and clear as if someone were striking a gong by my ears.

This should be the squad's rogue Iacchi!

After Iacchi noticed that I was awake, he wasn't as hurried anymore. He calmed down and muttered, "Oh! You're awake? That's great. Now we can finally get out of this city and start completing missions! However, this

news that I worked so hard to come by will be wasted...”

“What happened?” Woodrow asked again.

Iacchi shrugged his shoulders and said, “There’s a big mission in the city that we can do without even leaving the city. The amount of reward money is quite large, so I was planning to hurry and tell everyone.”

I quickly asked, “A large reward? What sort of mission is it?”

Iacchi blinked and then stared at me with a strange expression before turning around to look at the rest of the squad.

Woodrow gave a cough and then introduced, “This is our new teammate Grisia. He is a cleric of the God of Light and he will be with us until his companions come and look for him.”

Hearing this, Iacchi gave an “oh” and simply told me “welcome” before he started explaining the contents of the mission in excitement. “You know about the unicorn that has come to the city, right?”

Everyone nodded their heads. Only I asked, puzzled, “A unicorn?”

“Oh, that’s right. You were sleeping, so you don’t know about this.” Sybil cut in and said, “A few days ago, a squad in the city captured a unicorn! After they sent the unicorn to the Adventurers’ Guild, they immediately turned from nobodies into super famous people!”

Unicorn? This word sounded unfamiliar. My questions really were only increasing in number. I asked right away, “First, tell me, what is a unicorn?”

“How could you not know?”

Iacchi jumped up in surprise and even shouted out in his gong-like voice. The sound was so loud that I immediately felt a ringing in my ears, and I even felt a slight pain in my head... How can the rest of them stand this noise?

I turned my head around and looked. All of them had a normal look on their faces and were not panicking like me. They really were part of Iacchi’s squad... They had all used both of their hands to cover their ears.

Woodrow lowered his hands and said calmly, "Grisia has lost his memories."

"Ah?" Iacchi looked like he had just stepped on dragon dung.

Woodrow turned to me and explained, "A unicorn is a rarely seen magical beast. Its appearance is like that of a small white horse, just that in the middle of its head, it has a white horn. That horn is the medium the unicorn uses to perform magic. Apparently its lightning magic is very strong."

Magic? I hesitated. Although I can't say what magic is, it sounds as familiar to me as Light Shield, so maybe I know it too?

When I told everyone this possibility, they laughed.

Sybil's laughter was especially loud, "That's impossible. You're a cleric, not a mage."

Is that so? I was still a bit doubtful. Do I really not know any magic? But "magic" sounds very familiar to me.

"Stop laughing at him, he's lost his memories! All of you are so impolite."

Yuna was the only one who didn't laugh. She even scolded the rest of them. Because of that, my opinion of her vastly improved. Maybe the shortcoming of not having a good figure was not that important after all.

She very gently explained to me, "We have never seen a unicorn before either. We've only heard a few rumors. Whether or not unicorns really know lightning magic is not something we know either."

Iacchi scrambled to say, "Also, everyone knows... No! It's just rumors, rumors! Yuna, stop glaring at me! That's what people say after all! A unicorn is only willing to approach pure, unsullied female virgins."

It likes virgins? That's so like me... No! No, the unicorn is really such a perverted animal, no wonder that it was caught!

At this, Iacchi, as well as all the other guys in the squad, glanced at the only two squad members who could possibly be "female virgins."

Sybil immediately said crossly, “Don’t bother looking at me! Do you people honestly believe I am one?”

Everyone...including me, immediately shook our heads, and then glanced at the other person, Yuna.

Yuna immediately blushed, lowered her head and then shook her head slightly.

Even Yuna isn’t one!

After I got over my shock, I noticed that all of the other guys’ jaws had dropped open in shock too, and they looked even more surprised than I did. Especially Igor, his facial expression looked as if the world had ended before his eyes... It seemed that he was somewhat interested in Yuna. No! He wasn’t just somewhat interested—he was super interested because even the rims of his eyes had reddened.

However, the rest of his teammates seemed to have already known that Igor was interested in Yuna. Except for me, no one else was surprised over Igor’s uncharacteristic depression. Even Yuna didn’t look the least bit surprised. Only I walked up and patted Igor on the shoulder out of sympathy. He gratefully looked at me and almost flung himself onto me to cry bitterly... Luckily I dodged him quickly!

Off to the side, Iacchi sighed despairingly, “Ah! That’s too bad, after the unicorn escaped yesterday night, the Adventurers’ Guild offered five hundred gold ducats as a reward!”

I started, rushed forward in large strides, caught Iacchi’s collar and yelled, “What did you say?!”

Iacchi jumped in shock and stammered, “That’s, that’s too bad...”

“The next line!”

He continued saying, “The unicorn escaped yesterday night!”

He flinched. It wasn’t until I lifted his entire body and let both of his feet dangle off the floor did he return to his senses and say quickly, “The reward for recapturing the unicorn is five hundred gold ducats!”

Five hundred gold ducats!

I put Iacchi down and started calculating immediately. Two tenths of five hundred gold ducats is...one hundred gold ducats! As long as I can capture that damned perverted horse, then I can gain one hundred gold ducats!

I immediately roared at everyone, "Okay! We're taking this mission!"

Everyone stared at me with their mouths wide open. After quite some time, Woodrow cautiously said, "But, but we don't have any virgins..."

I sneered and slowly dragged out each word, "No? Then why don't we just go and capture one?"

## Chapter 2: Second Tactic of Slaying a Dragon: “A Powerful Steed”

Iacchi said that after the unicorn freed itself, the entire city went into lockdown mode with only a few small passageways for human entry, so the unicorn had definitely not escaped out of the city yet. However, for some reason, even though searches were conducted meticulously throughout the night, the unicorn still hadn't been found.

To prevent the situation from dragging on for too long, which might lead to the escape of the unicorn or the capture of the unicorn by someone else who might smuggle it out of the country, the Adventurers' Guild had decided to offer five hundred gold ducats as an award to whoever managed to capture the unicorn. The only restrictions were that the unicorn could not be killed or allowed to come to serious harm.

I started contemplating Iacchi's information, but no matter how much I thought about it, I could only conclude that the first thing I needed to do was catch the unicorn before anyone else.

Time is of the essence! I immediately asked the others, “Where is my equipment?”

Hearing my words, Sybil and Yuna exchanged glances with each other. The former then very reluctantly removed a badge, gazing longingly at it for quite some time before placing it in my hand.

I looked at the badge in my hand. It was about the size of my palm and was made of metal, but a very strong dark element shrouded it. I had to make quite an effort to distinguish the metal element characteristic of metals from the enveloping dark element to make out the actual shape of the badge.

The badge had a motif embossed on it, simple lines forming a very imposing-looking... animal.

For a moment, I couldn't remember what kind of animal it was. I probably hadn't encountered it very often before. Still, the badge looked

very familiar, so it should be mine.

I waited a bit, but neither of them made a move to give me any other items. Surprised, I asked, “That’s all? I don’t even have a sword? Where are my clothes?!”

Although I was wearing clothes right now, they consisted only of a simple white shirt and brown pants. My instincts told me that these were not my clothes, and that I needed to get back my original clothes no matter what happened... Those weren’t cheap knock-offs!

“You’re a cleric. Clerics only use staves, not swords.”

Yuna gave a detailed explanation. “Your old clothes can’t be worn anymore either. We found you in the forest, and at that time, you were surrounded by burnt trees and grass. Your entire body was burnt, your clothes blackened and ripped, and your staff... Sorry, but I think that it must have been consumed by the fire.”

Consumed by the fire... Why don’t I feel even a little sad over that fact?

This doesn’t seem quite right, since that should be something very important to me, right? Yet I don’t feel even a little sad over it. If I think about it, maybe it’s actually not something that can be consumed by a fire?

Guess I can leave that to the side for now. I continued asking. “Is there really nothing else?”

Yuna and Sybil both shook their heads.

Really? I touched the area in front of my chest. I still feel as though I should have something else with me... Oh well!

“Alright! Now, the first step is to capture a female virgin...”

“You really want to capture a virgin?” Igor blurted out, shocked. He then glanced at Yuna miserably again before turning to me. “You can’t tell who’s a virgin, so how are you going to catch one?”

I answered matter-of-factly, “How about catching a little girl? After all, when we’re done luring out the unicorn, we can just drop her back at her

home!”

“Capturing a little girl? That doesn’t sound very good...” Woodrow replied, somewhat troubled.

“Of course it’s not good! We absolutely cannot do that!” Yuna stared at me very angrily. “We can’t ever do that, or else you’ll definitely regret it. You’re a cleric of the God of Light. Everyone knows that the clerics of the God of Light are the most kind-hearted people around. If you regain your memories after going through with this, you’ll definitely be remorseful for the rest of your life!”

Remorseful for the rest of my life? I froze. Am I...such a nice person?

“Why are you so anxious?” Iacchi snickered. “We don’t need to capture a little girl; we can just hire one!”

He nodded his head, and knowingly said, “We can look for a poor family’s young daughter. For ten copper ducats we can hire her for an entire day. But we must be sure to look for one that’s young enough, or else she might not be a virgin anymore. There’s no helping that, since we’re talking about a poor family’s daughter after all! Ten copper ducats are enough to hire her for an entire day, no matter what you want her to do for you, hehe...”

“Iacchi!” Yuna scolded loudly.

Iacchi shrugged his shoulders, and stopped talking.

I fell silent. After listening to Iacchi talk, I felt a little uncomfortable... Maybe Yuna is right, and I might not actually be a bad guy. If I captured a little girl, I might truly feel remorseful for my entire life... But! Since we can hire one, it should be fine.

No need to capture a little girl, yet the mission is still open to us – I can face my own conscience as well as my love for money this way. It’s really the best of both worlds! I definitely have a lot to learn from Iacchi in the future!

After making up my mind, I smiled at Iacchi. However, for some reason, he only gave me a very sly smirk in return.

“I understand, you can go hire a girl,” Iacchi said. He shook his head, first giving me a look that seemed to say that I was hopeless, then giving me a sly look as he winked his eyes at me. Finally, he muttered, “Bro, aren’t I so nice to you? Whenever you heal me, be sure to put in more effort!”

...Maybe I should not learn from him after all.

“No way!” Yuna immediately opposed that suggestion and decisively said, “Sybil and I will go hire the little girl.”

“Alright then!”

Woodrow immediately agreed and proceeded to split the tasks. “Yuna and Sybil will hire the girl; Iacchi, you’ll continue gathering information. I will go and prepare some equipment for catching the unicorn. Igor, you and Grisia can go off and start the search.”

I looked at Igor and politely said, “Lead the way.”

“No problem, comrade!”

Igor slapped me hard on the shoulder, and then with three parts gallantness and two parts solemnity, said, “Come join me in sending my sword and leather armor off for repair, then we can go have a drink!”

“Huh?” I stopped and asked uneasily, “But the search...”

I looked toward our other teammates, but they had all left one after another, presumably to fulfill their own assigned task.

Igor matter-of-factly answered, “We can always look on the road. A tavern’s also a great place to gather information!”

I stopped short, turning to look at Woodrow who had already walked to the door. Woodrow also turned around and smiled at me, explaining, “Don’t be so nervous. Gathering information isn’t a warrior’s responsibility. I just want him to keep an eye and ear open. I don’t really mean for him to gather information. Also, gathering information isn’t a cleric’s responsibility either. Since you’re accompanying Igor to the tavern, go ahead and get a meal! You slept for such a long time, and even though

we fed you syrup, you should be quite hungry, right?”

Clerics are supposed to stay at the back and enjoy the cool air... The sentence suddenly flashed through my mind, although I kind of doubted if this was also “general knowledge.”

“Let’s go! Grisia, join me for a drink...” Igor stopped speaking, looking at me doubtfully before he asked in hesitation, “If we drink a cup or two, you won’t fall drunk, right? You don’t look as if you can hold your liquor.”

Woodrow, who had already walked out of the room, stuck his head in through the doorway again and warned, “Igor, if Grisia can’t hold his liquor, don’t force him to drink. Being a little tipsy is fine, but you can’t get him outright drunk. You know the rules.”

“Fine, how disappointing...” Igor murmured discontentedly.

Wine!

After I heard this, I could not help licking my lips... Maybe I wasn’t someone who couldn’t hold his liquor well after all.

\*

Igor and I walked out into the streets. Even though it was nighttime, the city was still bustling with activity, and throngs of people were moving about. Both sides of the streets were crowded with stalls, and there were various types of items being sold. Different elements of all types merged together, so I had a hard time piecing everything together. However, when I did manage to piece something together, I felt a great sense of accomplishment.

“Grisia!” Igor yelled suddenly.

Bam!

The scene before my eyes turn dark, my forehead hurting so badly that I could only squat down and hold my head with both of my hands...

“My god! Such a big pillar, and you can still slam into it without blinking an eye?” Igor said, stunned. “What the heck are you using your large eyes for?”

So I hit a pillar, no wonder it hurts so badly... I growled furiously, "There's too much stuff here, so I couldn't piece things together in time!"

"Piece what together?" Igor asked blankly.

"Ow, it hurts a lot, ow..." I cradled my head and whimpered. This hit really felt as though it had split my head open.

"You hit the pillar hard enough that the pillar even cracked. There'd be something funny going on if it didn't hurt." Igor chided me, "You're a cleric, heal yourself, and when you're done let's hurry up and leave. Everyone's already staring at us."

Heal myself... After waking up, even though I knew I was a cleric, I had yet to use a healing spell. I wonder what the first step is?

"Minor Heal!"

I blanked out, but holy element had already surrounded me, and then it transformed into a different element before all of it burrowed into my forehead; the more it burrowed, the more the pain lessened.

Oh,so this is the way to perform a healing spell!

An unfamiliar voice started guffawing, saying, "Haha! Igor, I thought you were already very stupid. I can't believe your friend is even more of an idiot. He even managed to crack a pillar."

"What? I'm not stupid enough to run right into a pillar... Also, Grisia isn't stupid!" Igor roared. Halfway through, he noticed his mistake and hurriedly turned his head and explained to me, "Really, you're not stupid. It's just that your heavy injuries are barely healed, so your reaction is a bit slow. That's why you didn't even notice the pillar, and ran into it just like that."

...If you hadn't explained, I might not have even cared, but once you did, all I want to do is grab your head and ram it into the pillar!

"Are you alright? Did the healing spell just now completely heal your injuries?" A rather gentle voice sounded, but unfortunately, it was a guy's voice.

Before I had the chance to answer, the unfamiliar voice that had called me stupid before started up again.

“Kylie, why do you want to waste another healing spell?” He snappily said, “Even though it’s just a Minor Heal, you can only cast it up to five times a day.”

The man who had such a gentle voice that it could give people goose bumps, Kylie, spoke again. “It shouldn’t be a problem. For the next few days, we won’t be going out of the city, so there’s no need to use Heal.”

I stood up, examining the others. Even though only two people spoke, in actuality there were four people in the group; they looked like a team. The person who had first started talking with Igor seemed to be a warrior, as his wind element was rather high, probably because he focused on speed. The person who had healed me, needless to say, was of course a cleric. His body, naturally emitted the holy element, though it wasn’t as strong as mine.

Does this mean I’m stronger than him?

The guy was facing me, but he questioned Igor instead, “Igor, he isn’t one of your teammates right?”

“Of course he is; he just joined us. Grisia is a cleric.”

“Cleric?” He sounded a little surprised, confusedly asking, “Don’t you guys already have Yuna, a warpriest?”

Igor bragged to him, “Grisia is a cleric of the God of Light, just like the sissy from your team.”

Who’s just like a sissy...

The sissy Kylie gasped, “So you’re actually a comrade from the Church of the God of Light?”

“A cleric from the Church of the God of Light? You’re not pulling our legs?”

Igor immediately said, “Of course he is, and Grisia’s healing spells are even very powerful!”

“Really?” Kylie sounded somewhat pleasantly surprised as he said, “You look very young! Being so powerful when you’re this young, that’s really an accomplishment. What level are you at?”

Level? I felt lost. I had absolutely no idea what level I was as a cleric. That I am a cleric was even something others had to tell me, and the fact that clerics have different levels was something that I had heard of only now.

“Grisia doesn’t need to say any incantations to cast Heal!” Igor curiously asked, “Sissy, what level do you think he’s at, huh?”

“Doesn’t need to say any incantations?!”

Kylie shrieked with a resounding voice, making everyone around him jump.

After some time, he finally stuttered out, “This, this... Normally incantations are needed, but if it’s Minor Heal, if it has been used often, maybe the incantations might not be needed! The Cardinals might be able to do it...”

“Cardinals?” I asked. “What are those?”

Kylie fell into silence, barely able to say, “The Cardinals are the four bishops just beneath His Holiness the Pope in rank... You... are you really a cleric?”

“I don’t know either,” I honestly replied.

“You don’t know?” The four people of the other team all widened their eyes.

Igor hurriedly added, “That’s because Grisia lost his memories.”

“Lost his memories?”

They all had a stunned look on their faces. Their reactions were exactly like Woodrow’s and the rest of the team’s when they had first heard this.

After quite a while, the sissy doubtfully said, “Grisia? I don’t think I’ve ever heard of a cleric by the name of Grisia!”

Hearing this, I really felt a little disappointed. If there were someone who knew me, then I should be able to find my teammates even faster. But I still politely answered, "It's alright."

"I'm very sorry I couldn't be of any help." Kylie gave me a very apologetic look, and said, "Maybe you ought to try to go to the Church. For someone who stands out as much as you, there will definitely be a lot of people who know you. However, the Kingdom of Kissinger doesn't have a branch of the Church of the God of Light, so I'm afraid that you'll have to head back to the Kingdom of Forgotten Sound, or maybe the Kingdom of Moon Orchid that you'd need to pass through might have a few branches of the Church."

I nodded and said, "Thank you for the information."

\*

I lifted my head, pouring an entire bottle of wine down my throat before I was satisfied enough to wipe my mouth.

Beside me, Igor stared at me in astonishment and yelled, "Grisia, stop drinking! You've already drunk three bottles! Damn, damn! If Woodrow finds out that I let you get drunk, he'll kill me for sure..."

I swiveled my head to look at him, and articulately said, "[A peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked](#) ...Who's drunk again?"

"Alright...You're not drunk."

Igor scratched his head, stood up and said, "Continue drinking then, but don't you dare to get drunk! I'll head over first with my sword to the weapons shop next door. Also, I'll help you pay for your drinks for now, but afterward when we finish our missions and you get your share, you'll have to repay me!"

"If so, then I'm not going to drink anymore!" I shouted aloud with surprise.

"..."

After walking out of the tavern, I indignantly grumbled, "Can't you even

pay for just a little wine?”

“You’ve already drunk three bottles, that wasn’t just a little wine! The wine you ordered costs a silver ducat each...”

Even though I wanted to say that it was just three silver ducats, I couldn’t so much as speak the words out loud. A bottle of wine actually costs a silver ducat! I had just downed three silver ducats... I hadn’t even received my share of the mission’s rewards, yet I had already incurred a debt of three silver ducats!

Unicorn, where are you?

My hundred gold ducats, where are you?

At this time, Igor started laughing loudly before saying, “However, I really didn’t expect to see you hold your liquor so well! Since we have a mission to complete at the moment, I can’t join you for a round, but some other day when we have no missions, let us men drink to our hearts’ content!”

“You’re paying?” I eagerly asked.

“...You really aren’t a normal miser. You love money even more than Iacchi, and he’s a rogue!” Igor finished mumbling, and then said boisterously, “The one who gets drunk first pays, how about that?”

“No problem!”

As I had lost my memories, I had no idea exactly how much wine I’m able to drink, but I had a strange sense of self-confidence... If it’s a drinking competition, I definitely won’t lose to anyone!

“Here we are.” Igor stopped in his tracks and turned his head around, telling me, “You have no interest in weapons, right? If you feel bored, the street opposite this one sells staves; you can go ahead and choose a new one. The team will pay for it first from our team fund, although in the future we’ll deduct it from your rewards... Geez! Your expression is saying, if you have to pay for it out of your own pocket, you won’t buy it?”

I vigorously nodded my head.

Dumbfounded, Igor said, “The cleric of a team can’t go around without a staff. Forget it! Join me here first, and later we’ll go to the staff shop together. You don’t have your memories right now, so I’m afraid that the owner there will cheat you... eh! Even though that’s not really likely, since you love money so much... So much that it’s as if you can even forget that you had lost your memories.”

“What! I really did lose my memories,” I grandly proclaimed.

“I really can’t tell. You don’t even seem to be worried at all!” Igor chatted with me with his head turned while stepping into the weapons shop.

I shrugged my shoulders and answered, “I just feel that there’s nothing to worry about, and that my comrades will most definitely come and look for me.”

“Guess so...”

The minute we stepped into the weapons shop, the owner immediately stepped forward to greet us, his eyes sweeping in both me and Igor. Immediately, he started attending to Igor, completely ignoring me. Should I say that he has an eye for money-grubbing or a good eye for warriors? With merely one look, he immediately determined that I wasn’t someone who uses a sword in his profession, thus he didn’t even bother to greet me.

Seeing that Igor was talking enthusiastically with the owner, I could only walk around the weapons shop on my own. As far as I could see, the shop’s weapons were still skewed toward swords and knives. Weapons like swords sounded very familiar to me, but staves sounded completely foreign... Do I really use a staff?

Unable to stop myself, I picked up a sword and skillfully waved it around. It feels familiar; maybe I really do use swords... Eh! Where’s the sword?

Confused, I stared at my empty hands. Wasn’t I holding a sword in my hands just now? How could it have disappeared after I merely waved it around twice?

“Ah!” Igor suddenly shouted aloud, and then there was a clanging sound

of metal hitting the floor.

I looked back. Oh! So the sword had flown out of my hands, and had squarely hit the back of Igor's head... Luckily it's the handle that hit him!

"Grisia, what did you throw at me... Damn it!"

Igor painfully rubbed his head, turned around, stared at the sword on the floor, and then looked at me disbelievingly. I immediately made the world's most innocent expression to face him, and then I used my most sorrowful tone and repented, "I'm sorry, my hand momentarily slipped."

"Your slip-up almost took my life... Cleric! You're not allowed to touch any swords." Igor unhappily warned me, and then he turned his head back to continue his bargaining with the shop owner.

I walked over, lifted up the sword and put it back at its original place. After that I didn't dare touch a single weapon... Maybe my weapon really is a staff after all!

At least, if a staff slips out of my hand and hits someone, it won't cause someone's death.

Not being able to touch anything really bored me. Looking at Igor who was still in a heated debate with the shop owner, I thought they would probably still have to haggle about the price for a long time. So I yelled, "Igor, I'm going to head over and look at the staves first."

"Okay, but don't buy any yet!" Igor didn't even look at me when he replied.

"Alright."

After I promised him that, I walked out of the weapons shop and did a search. Immediately, I discovered that opposite the weapons shop was another shop that had a fake wooden staff hanging on each side of its door. That should be the shop that Igor had mentioned earlier.

I started crossing the street, but suddenly, I felt my sleeve being tugged... Who is it!?

It really shocked me that someone could suddenly appear close to me... I

could see in all directions, so no one should be able to come so close yet be unnoticed!

I turned around and faced the person, but because of that I could no longer keep my guard up. The person who had tugged on my sleeve only reached my chest in height, had a round face, had hair reaching the waist, and wore a long skirt... It's obviously a little girl!

Maybe I had been too fixated on searching for the staff shop opposite the street, so that was why I hadn't noticed her!

I lowered my head to look at her, and in a gentle voice asked, "Hello, what's your name?"

The little girl shyly replied, "[Scarlet](#)."

Scarlet? What a strange name. I continued asking, "Did you want big brother to do something for you, Scarlet?"

"Big brother... Come with me!"

Scarlet suddenly stopped tugging on my sleeve, instead using both hands to pull my right hand, and just like that she began dragging me off with her forcefully. I quickly explained to her, "Wait, wait a minute, I'm waiting for my comrade, so I can't just go off with you."

Yet Scarlet didn't give up, and wholeheartedly pulled me along. At the same time, she continued exclaiming, "Come with me, come with me..."

Of course I couldn't just be dragged along by a little girl; even though I may be a weak cleric, I'd never allow it! However, Scarlet was very determined, so the two of us were stuck in this stalemate for quite some time. Finally, Scarlet's eyes that were brimming with the water element managed to defeat me successfully.

I could only bring her along to the weapons shop. I poked my head in. Igor was still bargaining with the shop owner, and it looked as though that wouldn't end for quite a while. I yelled to him, "Igor, I'm going off first. Let's meet later at the staff shop, alright?"

"That's fine." Igor again didn't even bother turning his head around to

reply, and continued arguing with the shop owner.

After getting his agreement, I hugged my chest with both arms, looked down toward Scarlet and said brusquely, "Alright then! Now I'm yours, so you can take me to wherever it is you wanted to take me, happy?"

Scarlet immediately smiled, and the water element in her eyes also vanished without a trace.

I was dragged along the entire way by Scarlet, and we turned at a countless number of street corners. Luckily, I noticed that my memory seemed to be quite good. Even when we turned left three times, turned right five times, and then walked through a five-way intersection's third street from the left, I could still remember the entire way.

Even though I remember the path, it won't do if I walk too far, as I still have to look for the unicorn... No, I mean I have to look for Igor!

I curiously asked, "Scarlet, where are you taking me to?"

Scarlet let out a tinkling laugh like silver bells and pulled me along to turn into another alley, before finally stopping and pointing to the front. She said softly, "See for yourself, big brother!"

I turned to "look" toward where Scarlet pointed... Even though there was still some distance between us, I saw what Scarlet wanted to show me clearly. Although I had lost my memories and had no idea whether I had ever seen such a thing before, when I looked at it I almost immediately knew what it was...

It was a unicorn.

It was just in the basement of a house, and the holy element radiating off of it was so strong it was startling. Even though there were a lot of different elements separating us, I could still clearly see its form. Its shape indeed looked like a horse, but it was somewhat finer and more elegant than a normal horse.

The most obvious difference between it and a regular horse was the horn on its head. The holy element from the horn was so strong that I had a feeling that I couldn't "look" at it for long periods of time, and the shape

was also a bit blurry.

Then, it suddenly lifted its head and looked in my direction... No! It is looking at “me.”

It looked at me, just like how I was looking at it.

After quite some time, I finally recovered from the shock of seeing a unicorn for the first time. I lowered my head and said, “Did it want you to look for me? Scarlet... Scarlet?”

There was no one beside me.

I blanked out, but I didn't feel particularly surprised. After all, I was currently someone without memories. There were too many things that I didn't understand. Maybe being able to conjure a little girl is actually a special ability of unicorns.

I walked toward where the unicorn was and stepped into a house. The interior was quite ruined, with debris everywhere and cobwebs on almost everything. The floor was also covered in a thick layer of dust, as if no one had come here for a few hundred years. No wonder no one had thought of coming here to look for the unicorn, but... How had the unicorn gotten down into the basement?

As I could already “see” it, I knew it was originally sitting on the floor. But the moment it noticed me walking toward it, it stood up and kept walking around in circles in the basement, looking as if it was very excited.

I quickened my steps even more, found the stairs leading to the basement, and ran toward where the unicorn was in one dash.

It's just in front of me, just five steps away... No, it stepped closer by two steps again.

Although I couldn't even determine whether Sybil was pretty or not, I knew that this unicorn before my eyes was definitely extraordinarily beautiful, and that it should definitely be a snow-white animal of elegance.

Wait a minute, snow-white? I still have some memory of snow – it should be something formed from the condensation of water – but what is

“white?”

At this moment, the unicorn suddenly stepped forward again, standing before me, even nudging its head against me.

“You like me, don’t you?”

I smiled at it, and even stretched out my hand to stroke the side of its neck. It arched its neck, looking as if it was enjoying it a lot, and then it even lowered its head to lick my hand...

“That tickles, don’t do that, hahaha! Don’t you only like virgins? I’m not a...” I stopped short. Wait a minute...

Could it be that, I am a pure, innocent... virgin?!

The unicorn then even more intimately started rubbing its head against my chest, its entire head nestled against me.

“Stupid horse, go away! I’m not a virgin!”

The unicorn however, started licking my face... Bastard, am I so pure that you’re willing to lick me?!

“I know! Maybe I’m only eighteen.”

I suddenly thought of this and mumbled to myself, “If so, then it wouldn’t be surprising if I am a virgin... That’s it! Definitely, I’m only eighteen, no! I might only be sixteen even!”

# Chapter 3: Third Tactic of Slaying a Dragon: “Raise Funds for the Journey”

When I went back to the weapons shop, Igor was long gone. He probably got impatient and just couldn't wait anymore, right? I hurriedly rushed back to the inn. As I thought, everyone was already there the moment I opened the door, including Igor, who had stood me up.

“Where did you run off to?” Igor asked disinterestedly the moment he saw me.

I ignored him. When I thought about it, I felt that women should be more perceptive and better at deducing age than men. I turned toward Sybil and asked, “Sybil, how old do I look?”

Sybil, who had been cleaning up her rope net, lasso, and other things, froze for a bit. Even the others stopped what they had been doing and raised their heads to look at me.

I looked at Sybil in complete seriousness for a while. Then, she also started to stare at my face seriously, closely examining it. Finally, with a look of confidence, she guessed, “Around twenty-three, or twenty-four. At most, twenty-five, you can't be any older than that.”

No way... I continued inquiring further, “Is it possible for me to actually be eighteen?”

“Impossible!” Sybil rejected the possibility immediately.

How can it be impossible... I turned around, asking Yuna, my last hope, “Yuna, what do you think?”

Yuna a bit inexplicably said, “I think what Sybil said is right! You should be around the age of twenty-three or twenty-four.”

I fell silent.

So, I am a twenty-three or twenty-four, maybe even twenty-five year old virgin.... This is even harder to accept than the idea of me being a villain!

“Grisia?” Yuna gently asked, “Do you think your age is much younger

than what we say? Don't worry! There's bound to be people who look more mature than their age. However, eighteen years old seems too far-fetched, maybe twenty years old..."

"Ah!" Sybil suddenly exclaimed, looking toward the doorway.

It turned out that the unicorn that I had hidden outside the door couldn't wait anymore, and had run inside. It even trotted all the way to my side. It seemed to move rather stiffly, and kept a wary eye on my teammates who were surrounding me.

"How did you find it?" Everyone was extremely surprised, although their delight overshadowed that.

I, however, was not delighted at all. I downheartedly replied, "I didn't find it. It found me."

After I spoke, Sybil and Yuna walked up in front of it. They couldn't help but reach their hands out to try to touch the unicorn. However, it dodged out of their way and hid beside me. It desperately used its head to rub against me, probably because Sybil and Yuna's actions made it feel uncomfortable and unsafe. It repeatedly stomped its hooves on the floor, and snorted heavily through its nose. Seeing this situation, I could only rub its head absentmindedly to appease it.

I rubbed...and rubbed... Why has everyone frozen..?

Igor asked, dumbfounded, "Don't unicorns only touch female virgins?"

I became rigid. I immediately tried to deny it. "I'm not a male virgin! ... Ah!"

I'm finished!

They all became stunned. They turned their heads to look at me and then looked back at the unicorn.

Since the unicorn wasn't being comforted with the rub of my hand, it became unhappy immediately. It discontentedly rubbed its head desperately against my arm. I tried my best to push it away, but in the end a human's strength can't overpower the strength of a horse. Its head

wouldn't stop rubbing my waist... Stupid horse!

At this point, Sybil was the first to chortle and then break out into laughter.

Igor didn't even stop to think about my feelings, and was already holding his stomach, roaring with laughter.

Woodrow tried very hard to stop himself from laughing, repressing it to the point that his whole face distorted. However, in the end he still broke out into laughter.

Iacchi showed a face filled with feelings of sympathy. He patted me on the shoulder, trying to comfort me. "Maybe losing your memory is a good thing after all, comrade. Hahaha! A twenty-five year old virgin.... Hahahahahahaha!"

But after comforting me, his explosion of laughter sounded like a hundred gongs ringing loudly at the same time... Fortunately, this time I was prepared; I covered my ears prior to his laughter. However, due to the fact that the others were in the midst of laughing, they didn't react fast enough, leaving them unable to cover their ears in time. Each person was shaken to the point that they had splitting headaches, and looked as if their heads were about to explode.

Hmph! Serves them right!

After Iacchi finally finished laughing, I immediately retorted, "What 'twenty-five years old!' According to Sybil's guess, there is a possibility that I am only twenty-three years old! Yuna even said that I could even possibly be twenty years old! That's right! I'm definitely twenty years old!"

At this moment, the unicorn suddenly started licking my hand... I instantly withdrew my hand and slapped its head. Even though Sybil and Yuna were still recovering from their headaches, they were both surprised at my sudden action. However, this stupid horse wasn't hurt or fazed at all! In addition, it continued nudging my waist... Unbelievable!

Stupid horse that only loves virgins! Get away from me!

I'm definitely not a virgin!

“Since Grisia has already brought back the unicorn... Pfft! Hahahahaha!”

Sybil tried to begin talking seriously, only to fail in the middle and burst out laughing. She was laughing so much, tears came out of her eyes until it was impossible for her to talk anymore. This led to restarting Igor’s laughing fit, and I readily covered my ears... In the end, Iacchi actually didn’t burst out laughing; instead he gave a very lewd smile. He put his arm around my shoulder and said, “Don’t say I haven’t been taking care of you! Next time, I’ll take you to experience the real deal so you can be removed from the label of being a virgin, hehehehe!”

“I’m not a virgin!” I protested vehemently.

After he heard my denial, Iacchi only smiled, letting out a “hehehe” and not saying anything else. Bastard!

Woodrow continued with our conversation, “Now that we have the unicorn, let’s go get the reward! We shouldn’t waste any time, otherwise if any other teams try to forcefully steal it we’ll be in trouble.”

“Get what reward?! I reject this proposition!” I replied snappily.

“Don’t be angry, Grisia.” Woodrow smiled a forced smile, “We didn’t laugh at you on purpose; we were only joking around.”

“I’m not angry.” I smiled a little, explaining, “I really don’t agree with going to get the reward.”

Sybil’s laughter suddenly stopped, Woodrow went silent, Igor scratched his head and Yuna was utterly confused.

“You’re...not thinking of saving it for yourself to ride, right?” Igor asked cautiously.

As Igor was asking me, he positioned himself as if he were about to start running toward me to firmly grab a hold of the unicorn, just in case I tried to monopolize it. However, the unicorn stuck tightly by me. Whenever someone else other than me tried to approach it, the horn on its head which was originally already brimming with holy light would release even

stronger light.

So even though Igor had already positioned himself, he didn't dare move any closer.

"I'm a cleric and not a knight, so why would I suddenly keep a horse for no reason?"

I rolled my eyes at Igor and then explained myself to everyone. "Listen well. Since the Adventurers' Guild is willing to issue five hundred gold ducats as the reward for this unicorn, what do you think that means?"

"The worth of the unicorn is much higher than five hundred gold ducats..."

After Woodrow replied, he hesitated for a moment, and then continued saying, "We understand that, but no normal team would try to sneakily slip the unicorn outside the city because there are people from the Adventurers' Guild guarding every gate. In addition, whether we are successful or not, we will then be prohibited from interacting with the guild in the future, and we may even possibly be wanted for arrest!"

"Then as long as we don't let the guild find out that it's us, it'll be all right, won't it?" I asked naturally.

"How is it possible for us not to be found out?" Yuna angrily shouted, "Grisia, you're fooling around again."

Fooling around? I was taken aback for a moment. Why does this sound so familiar...? There can't be someone else that always tells me to stop fooling around, right?

"Wait, it could be possible!" Iacchi shouted, interrupting the conversation and saying, "We can mask ourselves to do it."

"Mask ourselves?" Woodrow murmured.

Mask ourselves? I was stunned for a moment. Is he referring to using other elements to conceal our appearances? Even though what I meant was something like that too, I really didn't know that that was called "masking ourselves."

“We can’t!” Yuna strongly disagreed, glaring at me and frankly shouting, “We can’t do bad deeds. Grisia, you’re a cleric of the God of Light.”

Indecision warred in Sybil’s eyes, but when she sneaked a peek at Yuna and saw that her face was filled with anger, she could only hesitatingly say, “Yeah... That doesn’t really seem quite right...”

Woodrow likewise sneaked a peek at Yuna, then shook his head and said, “We can’t. We just can’t.”

I didn’t care that everyone was speaking against me. I turned toward Iacchi, bluntly asking, “Iacchi, how much is the unicorn worth?”

Iacchi hesitated for a moment. He dawdled, saying, “It is said that the Adventurers’ Guild wants to give the unicorn to the Cathedral of the Shadow God’s [Dark Eagle](#). They are not planning to sell it. However, if it was to be sold off, according to some information from a few black market auctions, it’s at least...at least...”

Everyone strained their ears to hear the rest. I purposely raised the sound of the last word, asking, “At leeeast?”

“At least five thousand gold ducats as the starting bid.”

I spun around in a flash, latching onto Iacchi’s collar, yelling in alarm, “FIVE THOUSAND GOLD DUCATS?!?!”

Iacchi was taken by surprise and asked in return, “I thought you knew?”

How could I have known!

I only guessed that this stupid horse would definitely be worth a good price, but who knew that it would be valuable to such an extent? Five thousand gold ducats! It’s more than ten times that of the reward put forth by the Adventurers’ Guild! Not to mention, this price is only “at least!”

“Five thousand gold ducats...”

I tried really hard to imagine how five thousand gold ducats would look like, only to realize that I had no concept of this amount of gold ducats... Don’t even mention five thousand gold ducats; I couldn’t even imagine

how one hundred gold ducats would look like!

Could it be...? Could it be that I was extremely poor in the past?

“F-f-five thousand gold ducats... That’s so much money!” Sybil squealed.

“Five thousand... Even the God of War’s Staff of Radiance that I’ve always dreamed of is only three hundred gold ducats,” Yuna muttered to herself.

After that, everyone indecisively looked toward the actual leader of the team, Woodrow. It could be seen from his face that he was greatly hesitant himself. Seeing that everyone was staring at him, he quickly said, “Don’t look at me... I wasn’t the one who suggested this... if you need to look, look at Grisia!”

United, everyone turned their heads and looked at me. First, I revealed a warm smile to settle them down from their anxiousness and unease, and then I slowly opened my mouth to say, “To the unicorn, it shouldn’t really matter who it is sold to, since it’s all the same, right? In addition, look everyone, it likes me so much, it would definitely rather stay by my side than go the Adventurers’ Guild, right? If we take it away with us, it would unquestionably be happier being able to stay with me longer. With regards to the unicorn, aren’t we doing a good thing for it as well?”

I rubbed the unicorn’s head, bending down while smiling, and saying to it, “Aren’t I right? Cute unicorn.”

The stupid horse started to persistently lick my face without holding back, leaving my whole face covered with saliva... I wonder if a unicorn’s saliva is worth any money... Based on its value of five thousand gold ducats, it may be possible that even its saliva could be sold for one gold ducat!

“That is true. The unicorn really seems to like you,” Woodrow said while nodding his head.

Yuna vehemently glared at him and unhappily said, “Woodrow, don’t listen to Grisia’s nonsense!”

Iacchi had already started calculating, “Five hundred becoming five

thousand... Then that means each person will get five hundred gold ducats...”

“Do you even know how to calculate?” I said impatiently, “When you take away 20% from five thousand gold ducats for my share, and then take away 20% of the remainder for the team’s spending before evenly dividing the rest among the five of you, that should come out to be six hundred and forty gold ducats each. If you really want to give me an extra one hundred gold ducats, I don’t really mind.”

“You’ve already taken one thousand gold ducats for yourself! And you still want to cheat my money?” Iacchi heartbrokenly said, “You’re even more suitable to be a rogue than me!”

“Six hundred and forty gold ducats!” Sybil’s face already shone in complete agreement.

On the other hand, Yuna revealed an expression of dizziness. She kept muttering, “The God of War’s Staff of Radiance... I can’t do bad things... The God of War’s Staff....”

Seeing that everyone was wavering quite a bit, I pushed it a little further, saying, “Since the unicorn will be happy, and I will be happy, and you guys will be happy, this makes everyone happy. Why shouldn’t we do it?”

As for the Adventurers’ Guild and the Silent Eagle that should have received the unicorn... I guess they won’t be happy, huh? However, that doesn’t concern me, since it’s not like I know them.

Everyone looked at me. Although their expressions showed how much their hearts were wavering, they also knew that this was wrong, making them struggle internally. Yuna especially kept muttering to herself about the God of War’s Staff of Radiance and bad things... In the end, her muttering only contained the God of War’s Staff of Radiance. Who knew where the two words “bad things” were thrown out to...

In the end, whilst shaking she said, “Grisia, you... you are definitely not a cleric from the Church of the God of Light... you’re definitely a devil!”

“Why do you say that?”

I unleashed my most radiant smile, and used my most innocent tone to say, “See? Even the unicorn loves me! To it, I really am the most compassionate and loving cleric of the God of Light!”

“We are definitely seeing a devil...”

On the side, Woodrow was muttering to himself, “The level of this devil is so high that even the unicorn can’t help but wag its tail and grovel to him.”

I automatically ignored Woodrow’s words and faced everyone, demanding, “If everyone is not as interested in five hundred gold ducats as five thousand gold ducats, then we should begin discussing strategies. After all, the unicorn can’t be hidden here forever without being found out by others.”

Everyone fell silent. However, they did not oppose what I said. It seems like they are already resigned to the appeal of five thousand gold ducats.

I raised my index finger and continued. “First, the problem all of you need to think about is how to smuggle out the unicorn.”

“Wait! Wait! What do you mean the problem ‘all of you’ need to think about?” Sybil questioned immediately, dissatisfied, “If we’re thinking, then what are you responsible for?”

I helplessly spread my arms out in front of me, saying, “After all, I am an amnesiac. From the moment I woke up to the present, I have not used any of the skills of a cleric. I want to test my abilities first, just in case I’m unable to be of help at the most crucial time, and might even possibly hold everyone back.”

Hearing this, Sybil gave a kind of unwilling “oh” sound. Everyone else also nodded in agreement.

“Grisia, try and see if you can cast the Wings of God spell. It’s for increasing speed; it should be quite useful for when we’re smuggling the unicorn out of the city,” Yuna instructed me. “Light Shield and the Wings of God spells each have their different effects and uses. The first is for defending against physical attacks and the latter increases speed.

Warpriests, who specialize in boosting combat abilities, are a bit lacking in this department. However, the Wings of God spell is rather difficult holy magic. Besides the use of the holy element, it requires you to use the wind element as well. Therefore, not every cleric is able to use the spell. So, it's okay if you are unable to cast it."

I shrugged my shoulders and then said, "I'll do my best to try it out."

"First, try to gather the holy element!" Yuna instructed.

This was no problem for me, since the holy element always gathered around me in large quantities. I only needed to move my hand and the holy element would be continuously drawn to it.

At this moment, no one was discussing how to escape from the city anymore. On the contrary, they were all looking at my hand, stunned. I looked left and right, and decided to choose to release this on Igor who dared to stand me up, whilst shouting, "Light Shield!"

Yuna sighed, saying, "It's not like that Grisia, you have to recite the incantations first...."

After the aura of light surrounded Igor, I started thinking. If we're using this for defensive purposes, then the holy element should be more tightly bound together...? Therefore, I layered the aura of light layer upon layer before I compressed it into one large, thin sheet. After that, I used this large, thin sheet to "wrap" Igor. It was exactly like having him wear a layer of armor that was as thin as paper.

Yuna suddenly gasped, "Oh my god..."

"What? What happened?!" Igor cried in distress. He shouted extremely nervously, "Yuna? It couldn't be that he has done it wrong? Grisia! What have you done this time?!"

I was shocked as well. I couldn't have really done it wrong, could I..?But, looking at Igor, it doesn't seem like there's anything wrong with him, right?

Yuna didn't answer Igor and instead suddenly cried out, "Iacchi!"

“Yes?” The rogue yelped, shocked as much as the others.

Then, just like a leader, Yuna commanded, “Attack Igor.”

“Huh?” Iacchi was stunned. In fact, everyone was stunned.

“Hurry up!”

Iacchi’s entire face showed how baffled and confused he was, but under Yuna’s continuous urging, he decided to listen to her. As he was just about to release a punch against Igor who had already submitted himself to his fate of being beaten, Yuna suddenly shouted again, “Don’t use your fists! Use weapons to attack!”

“Yuna...” Igor whined, about to cry.

Iacchi finally started to hesitate. He lowered his fists, showing a face that said “I don’t dare to.”

At this moment, Woodrow suddenly looked up at the sky and roared. And then... and then... he actually began changing... His body began growing fur, his hands changed into humongous meaty paws and the five black claws on his hand made even my scalp begin to feel numb. If I were to be hit by that hand, I would definitely spit out quite a lot of things...

In the end, Woodrow completely transformed into a bear... He was a big black bear that stood upright, with a splash of white fur in the shape of a “V” across his chest.

I was dumbstruck. What is going on? Is Woodrow a human? Or a bear?

“Woodrow?”

Igor exclaimed in shock as his face completely changed in color. However, Woodrow, who had transformed into a bear, had already smacked him down with one paw, making him unable to resist. At once, Igor landed on the floor on his side. In spite of this, Woodrow still didn’t stop attacking him, and used his foot to heavily stomp on his head...

My mouth was agape in the form of an “O.” What exactly is happening right now?

“What are all of you doing?”

Even though Sybil was a bit worried, she was even more curious. She looked at Woodrow, who was slowly changing back into his human form, and at the warrior who was slowly standing up. Finally, she asked quite worriedly, "Igor, are you all right?"

Igor reached out to rub his head a bit with a face filled with confusion. After he heard Sybil's question, he scratched his head and said, "I'm all right. That's strange... It doesn't hurt at all."

"Really? But Woodrow is extremely powerful!" After Sybil cried out in surprise, she immediately and excitedly turned her head toward me and said, "Grisia, I want it too."

Seeing that Igor could still rub his head and laugh stupidly, I was finally at ease. After listening to Sybil's words, I easily gathered the holy element once again, compressing it into a thin layer, and then I wrapped Sybil with it as well.

"Hurry, hurry!" After Sybil had been covered, she immediately called out in excitement, "Iacchi, hurry up and hit me... Uh! Use your fists to hit me first!"

With Igor having demonstrated already, Iacchi didn't hesitate this time. He didn't even care or hesitate about the fact that she was a girl, immediately landing a punch on her. Although Sybil knew that she probably wouldn't be hurt, she couldn't stop herself from closing her eyes. One second... Two seconds...

She opened her eyes and saw Iacchi using all of his strength to consistently punch her. She excitedly cried out, "It doesn't hurt! It really doesn't hurt!"

"Of course it doesn't hurt."

Yuna explained with a tone that said this was a given, "With such a thick amount of the holy element, I'm afraid that only 'battle aura' could break it. This is unbelievable, if Grisia can cast Light Shield on everyone, then we don't even need to think of a plan. We can directly break out of the city. There shouldn't be many high level warriors who know how to use battle aura in town."

Woodrow shook his head, saying, "It's not that simple, Yuna. I'm sure you can also feel how extremely powerful and demanding using Light Shield is, right? If we want Grisia to gather that much of the holy element, I'm afraid that's impossible..."

Iacchi, Yuna, Woodrow and last of all, myself... Everyone is done! Everyone has Light Shield on them now. Next should be the Wings of God spell... From what I remember Yuna saying, I think it requires the holy element in combination with the wind element. Yup! I wonder how much of the wind element is needed for it to be enough?

"..."

I "kneaded" the holy element and wind element together. However, this action made Yuna start screaming. She immediately warned, "Be careful, Grisia. Mixing different elements together is a very dangerous move. If you mix it wrong, it could explode!"

Hearing this, everyone suddenly piled into the doorway. On one hand, they wanted to get out of the door and leave as soon as possible, but on the other hand, they were really curious and wanted to watch.

Finished kneading! I looked at everyone. The one who's furthest out the door is Iacchi! He practically has half of his body outside of the room already.

Very good! The next test experiment shall be him!

I threw that ball of light combined with the wind element onto Iacchi and made a few adjustments, gathering most of the aura onto his hands and legs. In the meantime, Iacchi's hands and legs shook as if he was having a spasm. After having finished making adjustments, I opened my mouth and said, "Iacchi, try running."

Iacchi nodded his head and then I heard him say, "Please protect me, God of War," as he got into the stance to start running. Then, he took a step...

Bang!

The moment he started running, he disappeared. It wasn't until we

heard a noise that didn't lose to the loudness of his shouts did we find a big, human-shaped hole in the wall of the room.

Igor's and Sybil's mouths opened to the form of an "O."

I looked at the human shaped hole, expressionless. Light Shield is the God of Light's holy magic yet you pray to the God of War that has always been on bad terms with the God of Light...Are you asking for death?

"Iacchi, are you all right?" Sybil exclaimed.

"I'm all right...."

Iacchi poked his head out from the hole of the broken wall. He smiled gleefully as he replied, "It doesn't hurt at all."

Seeing this, everyone breathed a sigh of relief. At this moment, Yuna turned around and advised me, "It seems like you used too much of the wind element."

I nodded.

It seems like because there was too large of an amount of the wind element, it caused the speed to be too great. Therefore, I think it would work much more effectively if I reduced the amount of the wind element in it. However...I don't know why, but I have this feeling that putting this amount of the wind element isn't incorrect at all. It's just that Iacchi cannot handle such a fast speed, that's all.

If someone is able to handle this kind of speed, then I'm sure they can become as fast as the wind. Someone as fast as the wind... For that person's enemy, this type of opponent would definitely be worse than facing off against a storm!

After I adjusted the wind element a few times, I tried to find out the suitable amount of wind element for each person. Iacchi and Sybil are originally of agility-type professions, so I can put a bit more of the wind element in theirs. For Igor, Yuna and Woodrow, I'll have to put a little less. As for myself...I'm around the same as the latter group.

It seems like clerics of the God of Light are not of the agility type after

all.

Iacchi, Sybil and Igor ran around the room swiftly, playing to their hearts' content.

Yuna said, "You have just cast Light Shield and the Wings of God spell on all of us. Your ability to gather elements is too strong... No! You were trying to adjust the amount of wind element and so you even repeatedly cast the Wings of God spell a great number of times, right?"

I laughed a bit, proudly stating, "There would be no problem even if there were twelve people!"

Hearing this number, Yuna was shocked for a bit and then mumbled, "I really don't dare to say it's impossible anymore. Who exactly are you, Grisia?"

"A cleric of the God of Light," I answered, halting for a moment afterwards and then asking her in return, "Isn't that what you said?"

Yuna muttered to herself quietly, "Really? I really don't dare to say that I'm really sure about that anymore..."

"Let's not worry about who I am, for now," I said to Yuna and Woodrow. "First, we should hurry up and think of a plan to escape from this city, right?"

"Sigh!"

Woodrow sighed while looking at the three playing to their hearts' content, and sincerely said, "There is no need to think about any plan. With this speed and the ability to nullify physical attacks, as long as we don't run into classes that are Master or above, who could possibly hinder us?"

"What if we really do run into Master class professions?" I couldn't let go of this sense of insecurity and continued asking, "After all, this is five thousand gold ducats, isn't it possible that the Adventurers' Guild might find Master class professions to guard the city gates?"

Woodrow and Yuna looked at me strangely. Woodrow shook his head

and said, “How could it be possible for Master class professions to guard the city gates when each one of them could become the commander of this city? Have you ever seen a commander guard the city gates?”

I was speechless. Master class professions are that incredible?

Around this time, I don't know when, but Iacchi had already stopped frolicking around, and had run over to interrupt the conversation. “I know! I know! This city only has one Master class rogue; there isn't a single one in any of the other professions.”

“A rogue, huh?”

Woodrow and Yuna looked at each other. The former smiled and said, “That is really wonderful! Even if they are a Master class, a rogue isn't a profession that can block others directly. Therefore, let's directly rush out of the city!”

“Okay!” I nodded my head. When I turned around and saw the unicorn, I suddenly had this feeling of insecurity inside of my heart, making me hurriedly ask, “Then, who is in charge of following alongside the unicorn?”

Woodrow and Yuna said at the same time, “Of course it has to be you!”

“What? I'm a cleric!” I naturally objected in a strong voice, “A cleric should be at the back, enjoying the breeze!”

“Have you really lost your memory...?” Woodrow began muttering to himself again.

“Yeah, usually it's like that,” Iacchi patted my shoulder and then said with a face of helplessness, “But! Grisia, you have to know, the only person in the team that still has their chastity is you! Look, the unicorn won't allow impure people like us to approach it. That's why, only the pure and innocent you can take it outside of the city,”

With no expression on my face, I said, “Believe me when I say that in the next second I'm going to send you to see the God of Light and allow him to sterilize you into a pure and virtuous person.”

Iacchi suddenly exploded into laughter, but that wasn't as bad as the fact

that his laughter shook my ears until they were about to burst. My head felt like it was just about to split open, but what was worse was that I also heard him laugh loudly and say, “Grisia, remember that you’re a cleric! Clerics have no attack power. Therefore, your threat isn’t scary at all.”

...Maybe I should try and see if I really do know magic.

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As all of us crept out, continually concealing ourselves with much difficulty, we finally made it to an alleyway near the city gates with the unicorn without anyone noticing. Thus began the last minute preparations before our escape.

For escaping, Yuna and Igor’s speeds were not fast enough, so, after Yuna helped everyone by casting holy magic on them, the two of them joined in with the parties that were lining up to leave through the city gates. This only left Sybil, Iacchi and Woodrow to accompany me. Normally, Woodrow’s speed wouldn’t be fast enough either. However, after he transforms into a panther, his speed is actually even faster than Iacchi’s, who normally possesses the fastest speed in the group.

“How many animals can you transform into, exactly?” I asked out of curiosity, lowering my head to look down at the panther. However, he just looked at me and didn’t reply.

“Woodrow can’t speak after he transforms into a panther!” Sybil said while smiling, “He can only transform into a bear and a panther. When he transforms into a bear he gains a great amount of strength, and when he transforms into a panther his speed will significantly increase.”

“Well then, Woodrow is in charge of creating a disturbance for everyone. Iacchi and Sybil are in charge of opening up a path, and I will directly rush straight out. If we are separated, then use all your strength to run to where Woodrow told us to meet.”

Two people and a panther nodded their heads toward my direction. After that, all of us wore the masks we had prepared earlier. Iacchi was the one who had prepared them; he said that if we were to do bad things, we had to wear these... So, it seems like concealing faces is a form of tradition?

I seemed to understand without true comprehension as I wore the mask. I also took the opportunity to envelop everyone's faces with a thin layer of the holy element. This way, everyone's appearances would no longer be visible.

Naturally, Woodrow, who had transformed into a panther, didn't need it.

I pulled the unicorn toward me. It looked at me. I looked back at it. At this moment, I suddenly had this feeling of unease... Do I know how to ride a horse?

Looking at the unicorn's flawlessly white back, I had no feeling in my heart that would render me in appreciation of this. I only had a sense of anxiousness, that if I fell off the back of the horse...

I showed a pained expression and asked, "What happens if I fall off?"

"Fall off?" Sybil said, puzzled, "It doesn't really matter if you fall, right? You are a cleric of the God of Light! You can just heal yourself and everything will be okay!"

Is that all? But, why do I have this feeling that if I fall off the horse, there will be very, very dire consequences?

Probably because they saw me hesitating to get on the horse, Iacchi furrowed his eyebrows and said, "Grisia, it seems like you've never ridden a horse before."

"I'm a cleric, not a knight. It's normal even if I don't know how to ride a horse!"

Hearing this, Iacchi scratched his head, unable to refute my words. "You're right. But, if you can't ride a horse, how are you going to ride the unicorn?"

"Well, as long as I hold onto it tightly and don't fall off the unicorn, then it should be all right," I said, trying to convince myself.

Sybil couldn't stand it, and said, "What 'as long as you hold onto it tightly!' Are you even sure that the unicorn knows where it should be going?"

“Unicorn!” I turned around to the unicorn and ordered, “After this, no matter what happens, rush out of the city gates, understand?”

The unicorn nodded.

“It actually understands human language? This is unbelievable... Could it be... That this unicorn is actually a druid as well?” Iacchi muttered, causing the real druid Woodrow to lightly bump him.

I took a deep breath and then jumped with all my strength, landing on the horse’s back with absolute accuracy. At this moment, Iacchi suddenly whistled, “Your posture is not bad! It’s possible that you may know how to ride a horse!”

Really? Suddenly, I felt a surge of confidence. With my foot, I kicked the horse’s abdomen, and the unicorn also coolly neighed in response. And then, in a flash it began racing off...

“Ahaha!”

Sybil laughed loudly and turned around asking, “Iacchi, how is it possible for a horse rider to fall from the back of the horse and even land with all four limbs pointing toward the sky?”

I lifted myself up from the ground and indignantly said, “I just wasn’t holding on properly for a moment!”

After I stood up, I smacked the unicorn’s head hard, condemning it. “What are you rushing off so fast for? Are you trying to make me fall off and die?”

The unicorn nickered quietly with a face filled with grievance.

“Okay, okay!” Seeing that its face was filled with such grievance, my heart softened. In return, I just warned it, “From now on, just be a little more careful.”

The unicorn then happily licked me again. Only the God of Light knows why this horse loves licking me so much!

Afterward, once I mounted the horse, the transformed panther Woodrow rushed out first. As he raced out, his appearance indeed raised quite a

disturbance in the people who were lining up to leave the city gates. There were constant gasps from everyone that had seen him, and some even began screaming.

“Where did this panther come from?”

The guards at the city gates shouted to no avail. Then, ten people gathered into the formation of a fan and carefully raised their spears, aiming all of the spearheads at Woodrow.

“Go now!”

When I turned my head, Sybil and Iacchi had already finished quietly shouting those words. The two of them immediately rushed out. Following that, I kicked the horse’s abdomen, making the unicorn follow behind them and rush out.... This time, it didn’t dare to use all of its strength to rush out; it even ran at a completely safe and stable pace. A light breeze blew by, and it felt so comfortable that I thought I might like riding on horses from now on.

I sighed, “This is much more comfortable than riding on a person’s back.”

After I said that, I felt a little strange. How would I know that riding a horse is much more comfortable than riding a person? It can’t be that I’ve ridden a person before... How could that be possible!

Regardless, this wasn’t the time to examine whether riding a person or a horse was better. Sybil and Iacchi had already knocked down a group of people out in front, helping me by opening a pathway out. I hurriedly held onto the unicorn tightly and then said into its ear, “A bit faster!”

The unicorn immediately added more speed whilst the sound of the wind against my ears became louder and louder. I wasn’t too far away from the city gates anymore, yet at this time, the thing attracting everyone’s attention had already drifted from Woodrow, Iacchi and Sybil to the unicorn and I.

“It’s the unicorn!” A person shouted.

At first, everyone was dumbstruck, only able to hold their mouths agape.

However, immediately afterwards they braced themselves and gave chase. Even the passersby who had been screaming and telling everyone to avoid the panther widened their eyes and then began raising various weapons to approach us. There were even a couple of them holding brooms!

The guards instantly gave up on the panther and turned around to block the unicorn and my path out. However, Sybil, Iacchi and Woodrow began attacking them from the rear. Even though they were up against spears, knives, swords and more weapons, they were not afraid at all to use their bodies to ram aside spears. This action naturally caused those who had impulsively come up to begin to doubt whether they should continue.

Especially when the three of them were jabbed by spears and yet only the spears became crooked and broken whilst they still stood up perfectly fine, completely uninjured, did everyone's footsteps stop in unification. Their eyes widened even more than when they had just seen the unicorn.

This is the perfect opportunity to break through and escape... I excitedly shouted, "Faster! Unicorn! Go faster!"

The unicorn immediately accelerated in speed. The exhilarating sound of the wind was constantly being blown against my ears. The small door was right in front of me; the unicorn and I nearly rushed out, ready to take command. In addition, no one was guarding by the door, so no one could stop us!

However, the elating sound of the wind was suddenly interrupted by a loud noise.

Not far off into the distance in front of the unicorn and I, an enormous wall suddenly rose from the ground. The unicorn's heartbeat suddenly skipped loudly and then it seemed like it wanted to stop. However, because the strength put into its dash before had been too much, it was really unable to immediately stop. Its hooves continuously scraped against the ground, but we still slid unceasingly forward.

The only reason I had not fallen off the unicorn's body was because I had stuck my whole body onto the unicorn's neck and had desperately grabbed onto its mane.

In the end, the unicorn still crashed into the wall. Luckily, the impact from the crash wasn't too strong. It staggered a bit and then stabilized its body.

My heartbeat rapidly sped up. That was far too close. If the unicorn hadn't immediately noticed the wall and stopped, the strength of the impact from that kind of speed would definitely have caused me to fall unconscious. After falling unconscious, the next time I wake up, I might already be in jail.

After I sighed in relief, I analyzed the wall that had suddenly come out of nowhere. This wall was actually composed entirely of the ice element... This is an ice wall!

"What happened?"

Sybil, Iacchi and Woodrow rushed toward me and looked at the wall of ice, dumbstruck.

"Break this wall!" I shouted angrily.

"Use what to break it? We're just an archer and a rogue!" Sybil and Iacchi shouted.

Who was depending on you guys? I rolled my eyes at each of them.

At this moment, the unicorn's horn exploded with a great amount of the holy element. A mass of light streaked toward the ice wall.

"Charge!"

However, the unicorn started bellowing loudly. It seemed like it was extremely unhappy. It was only in the next second that I realized why it was unhappy. It was because a huge amount of the ice element had gathered once again, creating another gigantic ice wall. I could feel it; this ice wall was much thicker and solidier than the first one. I was afraid the unicorn could not immediately release another attack to break it like before.

If it isn't possible to break it in one hit, then it won't be possible to escape the attacks from the person behind us... The one that created the

ice wall!

I patted the side of the unicorn's neck and gently called out, "Turn around."

By this time, everyone else had long since turned to look behind. Sybil even screamed, "How could this be possible? They're... they're holy knights from the Church of the God of Light?"

"Not only that..." Iacchi's voice was frantically shaking, "The one at the front, his symbol is of... the Twelve Holy Knights."

"It's the Ice Knight!" said Yuna, crying out. Her voice seemed as if she was about to faint.

Ice Knight?

Why does this sound so familiar? My attention and concentration shifted to the person in front, from his body filled with ice and holy elements to his individual appearance. His expression was as frigid as ice; his limbs were as stiff as ice and his hands were actually holding a popsicle!

As expected of the "Ice" Knight.... Is that popsicle for him to eat along on the road?

The Ice Knight raised his popsicle and directed it toward us. His voice coldly said, "Stand still."

"Who are you trying to threaten by holding a popsicle?" I retorted back with a cold voice that I had purposely lowered in order to avoid him recognizing me in the future.

Ice Knight didn't say anything. In response to such a provocation, he didn't even change his expression. It made me begin to wonder. Has this guy's facial muscles frozen?

On the other hand, everyone else present responded extremely violently. This included my teammates who gasped and held their breaths. The knights beside the Ice Knight practically exploded with anger. They all shouted, "Shut up! Insolent heretics, how dare you insult our leader's

Divine Ice Sword!"

Divine sword? No matter how you look at it, it looks like a popsicle... At most, you can call it...a divine stick?

"Grisia," Iacchi grew flustered, and began speaking incoherently, "I-Ice Knight is much stronger than Ma-Master class professions. It's impossible to beat him; he's part of the Twelve Holy Knights. What should we do now? What should we do!?"

I quietly said, "Don't be anxious. We don't need to win; we only need to escape."

Iacchi cried out in distress, "It's impossible even if it's only escaping. Grisia, you, you have amnesia, that's why you don't know how formidable the Twelve Holy Knights are. They're like... like as formidable as the gods!"

"Stop speaking so much nonsense." I rolled my eyes at him and commanded, "I don't care if he is a god or a devil, block him and allow the unicorn to have time to gather elements in order to break the ice wall."

Hearing this, Iacchi's face looked even worse. Despite that, Sybil and he, along with Woodrow, stood between the unicorn and the holy knights. Then, they adopted a stance ready to attack. Seeing this, the holy knights on the other side seemed to be quite surprised with the exception of the Ice Knight. His facial muscles didn't even move one bit.

"Defend," said Ice Knight monotonously.

The holy knights instantly brought forth their shields in unison, forming a wall of shields. Then, between the gaps of the shields, they extended their long swords.

More than ten holy knights have formed a defensive front against the four of us? Are they not intending to pursue us?

At this moment, a gap suddenly opened in the wall of shields. The Ice Knight came out from behind the formation and then slowly walked toward us. He was the only one who walked toward us.

At this moment, the unicorn's horn released a large amount of the

lightning element. Suddenly, lightning descended from the sky and accurately hit the ice wall behind us. However, I wasn't happy at all because the ice element had not disappeared.

Ice Knight who was in front of me was releasing an extremely strong ice element toward the ice wall. If we don't defeat him, there will be no end to breaking these ice walls, and no point in breaking them either, since he can continuously create ice walls until either he or the unicorn can no longer gather any elements.

The unicorn roared angrily toward the sky; it even began incessantly scraping its hooves against the ground. It probably wanted to rush toward the Ice Knight to have an earth shattering battle.

"Be good," I rapped its head severely.

The unicorn cried out sadly and then lowered its head. It even let out noises as if it were crying, making it seem like it was laboring under an extreme injustice.

At this time, Ice Knight was practically no more than ten steps away from us... A wall of ice suddenly sprang up from the ground, blocking his path.

Then lightning fell down behind us again, identical to the one the unicorn had used before.

"Hurry up and run!" I shouted.

At first, the three of them at the front were stunned. The first one to react was Iacchi. Without saying anything further he immediately turned around and slipped past the unicorn and I; he was as fast as a gust of wind. His actions caused Sybil and Woodrow to regain their composes and turn around and start running away in succession.

When Sybil ran past me, I kicked the horse's side. The unicorn instantly followed my orders and turned around and ran quickly.

In the midst of fleeing, I felt the ice wall behind me had already been broken. But not to worry, I had already prepared a few lightning strikes to impede the Ice Knight's pursuit.

In the end, we finally escaped from the city.

# Chapter 4: Fourth Tactic of Slaying a Dragon: “Recruit Powerful Assistants”

Earlier, when the unicorn and Ice Knight had both simultaneously used their magic, I had had a faint feeling... that I would be able to perform those magic spells too. Regardless of whether it was Ice Wall or Lightning, I felt I could cast all of them as well. If so, of course I should take the opportunity, while Ice Knight was still walking in slow motion, to quickly and stealthily gather the elements and blast him so that he would be unable to react!

I burst through the small door and yelled to the three people in front of me, “Don’t use that road, and don’t follow me!”

Hearing this, the three of them stopped dead in their tracks and swiveled their heads around to look at me.

I didn’t let the unicorn stop, only roaring again while passing by them, “Hurry up and run!”

“You didn’t even stop!” Sybil grumbled loudly, “To think that I had actually felt momentarily touched when I heard that you wanted to go off alone!”

I turned my head and bellowed, “If I stopped, I might as well run straight into prison! Also, if all of you don’t start running, you guys might as well just walk straight into prison with your own feet!”

After I finished speaking, the three of them immediately separated and ran off in different directions.

The minute the three of them separated, Ice Knight appeared behind me. There was not a single scratch on him, and not even a speck of dust could be seen. However, this wasn’t particularly strange, as I had not aimed for him from the start; rather, I aimed at the holy knights who had formed a protective barrier like a metal wall behind him... As they stood there without moving, they became as easy of targets as what walls would be.

Ice Knight barely stopped for a moment, and then he ignored the three

others and started chasing me.

Seeing this, I belted out, “Unicorn, run! Run as fast as you can!”

The unicorn neighed aloud, sounding very excited. It ran faster and faster, so fast that I could barely open my eyes. Still, that didn’t matter – I could just close my eyes. After all, I still hadn’t figured out any differences between keeping my eyes opened or closed.

I felt relieved instead of bothered by the unicorn’s high speed because a person definitely couldn’t outrun such a fast horse... Unless a lot of icicles kept appearing before the horse.

An icicle had suddenly burst out from the ground. However, the unicorn’s reflexes were nothing to scoff at. It made a sudden, forced turn about two meters away from the icicle and evaded it. Yet, barely a few strides after that, another icicle appeared before us again. The unicorn still refused to stop, and dodged once more around the icicle.

It seemed as if the unicorn was prepared to go against Ice Knight. The unicorn’s evasive skills were indeed very good. We might have even managed to successfully escape... If I hadn’t fallen off of the unicorn.

“Stupid horse!” I roared while using a holy spell on my poor backside, which had almost been split in half. “Did you think that I was glued to your back?”

The unicorn stopped dead in its tracks. It turned and watched me with a timid look on its face, but it wasn’t willing to walk over. It actually stared at me for a bit, and then turned to stare at Ice Knight, as though it was very troubled and wanted to swap the person riding it... You stupid horse!

I had just finished healing my backside and was about to stand and beat the horse when a shadow fell upon me. I tilted my head up and saw Ice Knight’s face with its dead facial muscles directly above me. He ripped the mask from my face.

This is the end!

I blanched, but I discovered that Ice Knight’s expression had also changed... Oh? So his facial muscles aren’t dead?

This was the first time an expression had actually crossed Ice Knight's face. He stared at me with a very surprised expression... An opportunity!

Attack! Regardless of what attack I'm capable of using, I must hurry up and perform it!

"How can you be here, S..." Ice Knight seemed to hesitate while saying this, but halfway through with his words, he suddenly stopped and stared wide-eyed at me.

With sudden inspiration, I held both of my hands out toward him and roared, "Chains of Darkness, seal my enemy!"

A large amount of the dark element pulsed out of my hands and scores of black chains suddenly writhed upon the ground. Those chains were compressed with layers upon layers of vast amounts of dark element.

Looking at the chains, I wondered whether Ice Knight had ever seen these before, for there was a mystified expression on his face.

It doesn't matter, his reflexes can only be described as slow, so now is exactly the best time to overpower him!

A countless number of chains wrapped around Ice Knight from head to toe, tightening securely around his whole body and even his mouth. I had no wish of him yelling to attract the attention of the other knights chasing after us.

After that, he finally reacted. With his Divine Stick, he started breaking the Chains of Darkness.

Do you really think it'll be that easy? I gave a cold laugh and called, "Unicorn, now... If you dare to disobey me and not attack him, I'll tie you up as well!"

The unicorn immediately rushed forward, the single horn on its head shining with a far more concentrated amount of holy element than ever before, and crashed into Ice Knight. However, this attack only stopped Ice Knight from breaking apart the chains. He didn't even look as though he had been hurt much at all.

“Stupid horse!” I roared, “Don’t you see that his whole body is full of ‘light?’ Yet you want to use the holy element to attack him – are you helping him scratch an itch? Use other elements to attack him!”

The unicorn neighed to the heavens and the sky was suddenly filled with a lot of clouds that crackled with thunder. As the lightning bolts started to strike in succession, Ice Knight didn’t have any more time to break the chains. He hurriedly gathered the ice element again and again to form an ice wall above his head to block the numerous lightning strikes aimed at him.

I dispersed the ice wall he formed, and as he was unable to react instantly, he got hit by one of the lightning bolts.

One strike, two strikes... Ice Knight didn’t fall or faint. He only faced me, seemingly staring at me, yet still not giving up on solidifying the ice element.

However, his ability to gather could not even compare to my speed at dispersing the ice element. Unable to form an ice wall, he finally could only rely on the thing surrounding his body... That thing called... “Battle aura!” I finally remembered the name.

The unicorn continued to strike with lightning bolts until it finally stopped and stared at me.

“You can’t do it anymore?” I rolled my eyes at it and grumpily said, “You really are useless. Are you really a horse worth 5000 gold ducats?”

After saying this, I turned my head around and faced Ice Knight. The sky was already filled with even more of the lightning element that was even stronger than before. However, the lightning element had not been gathered by the unicorn. It had been gathered by me.

There’s no time left. The holy knights at the back will catch up anytime now. I have to use my quickest speed to strike him down!

The lightning crashed down.

Ice Knight raised his head upwards and stared at the sky, and then for some reason, dispersed the battle aura surrounding him... The lightning

bolt struck him squarely. He stood for only a second before simply falling to the side.

I jumped back in shock. Luckily, his heart was still beating. He must have simply fainted when he was hit by the lightning bolt.

I walked over, first picking up the popsicle, then kicking its owner lightly. Seeing that he did not react to the kick, I wiped the cold sweat off my face.

I had thought that even if I joined forces with the unicorn, I still might have been unable to defeat this guy. Fortunately, we managed to beat him.

Still, I couldn't let my guard down. I wrapped him up using numerous Chains of Darkness. Only when he looked like a ginormous black cocoon did I stop, satisfied with my handiwork.

Once I stopped, I heard heavy footsteps. I hurriedly looked for my mask and put it back on. At this time, the knights thundering toward us were only a mere hundred meters away from me.

I sneered, slowly placing the popsicle against its owner's neck, although at first I couldn't find where his neck was... I had really wrapped too many chains around him.

I yelled out to the holy knights, "If you don't value his life, then go ahead and rush forward!"

Seeing this, all the holy knights stopped dead in their tracks. Their eyes widened until they were as big as a horse's eyes.

The most important fact though, was that not a single one of them dared to move, just like I had expected.

"If you dare to chase after us, I won't guarantee Ice Knight's life!"

After laying down these threats, I dragged the giant cocoon onto the horse, and under the gaze of the audience, I calmly led the cocoon and the unicorn away from the area.

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When I brought the cocoon and the unicorn to the appointed gathering

spot, everyone's jaws dropped straight to their chests.

"You, you really know how to use magic?" Iacchi was the first to gulp and ask me with some fright.

Yuna followed with a shriek, "How is that possible! How can a cleric of the God of Light know how to use magic that requires dark element?"

How should I know? Even if you ask me, I can't give you an answer! All that matters is that I do know how to use it.

"Grisia! What did you do?" Woodrow really was the leader of the group. He was the first person to get to the main issue at hand.

"What are you yelling so loudly for?" The situation had truly gone a bit off course, so I could not afford to lose my cool. I assumed a calm manner and said, "Didn't I just lead the unicorn out of the city so that we could sell it later and split the money?"

"Then what is that?" Woodrow gestured toward the cocoon on the ground and yelled, "Sneaking out the unicorn and selling it is one thing, but kidnapping the Ice Knight is another matter altogether!"

"My god! We are making an enemy out of the entire Church of the God of Light..." Yuna mumbled off to the side.

"Let him go immediately!" Woodrow roared.

"Let him go?" I sneered, "If we let him go now, what will we do if he brings back the others to pursue us? As long as he is in our hands, the holy knights, hot on our heels, won't rush up and slice us into pieces!"

Hearing this, Woodrow flinched. His mouth opened, as though he still wanted to argue, but in the end, he closed it and didn't say anything else.

Seeing this, I comforted them by saying, "Don't panic, as long as we get to a distance where the holy knights will be unable to follow us, we can immediately release him and bring the unicorn to wherever we want. Nothing will happen to any of us."

At this, everyone's expressions lightened up. However, Woodrow seemed to be struggling with himself for a while before mumbling, "I'm very sorry."

After we split the money, we may have to go our separate ways.”

My heart jumped. I looked at the rest of them. Even though they all wore uneasy expressions on their faces, none of them spoke up... I dropped my smile and said indifferently, “That’s alright. As long as I get my share of the money, I’m fine with it.”

“Of course,” Woodrow nodded his head as a gesture of confirmation.

I nodded my head as well and told everyone, “Why don’t we take a break? We can continue the discussion about where we should go tomorrow morning.”

“Okay.” Woodrow nodded and then said, “Now let’s arrange the guards for tonight.”

“There’s no need for that, let me act as the guard for the whole night!” I smiled and said, “After all, as you all know, I have already slept for ten days! If you want me to sleep now, it might even be harder than kidnapping the Ice Knight!”

Everyone laughed. Woodrow politely replied, “We’ll have to trouble you with this then.”

I nodded.

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“So I have been abandoned...” I used a rock as my pillow and looked up toward the sky. The unicorn was sleeping on my left, while the gigantic cocoon was sound asleep at my right. Everyone else was also sleeping close by. Their breaths were slow and even, as if they were all sleeping very soundly.

Although they have already planned to abandon me, they have yet to raise their guard against me.

I slowly stood up and walked toward where everyone else was sleeping. These people are really naïve! If I can force Ice Knight into submission, can’t I just beat them into submission as well?

First of all, a single person escaping always attracts less attention than a

group. Second, this way the amount I would obtain would not be 1,000 gold ducats, but rather 25,000 gold ducats!

I walked over to Sybil, slowly leaned down and...lightly tucked her in with the cloak that she was using as a blanket.

Really! At this age and she's still kicking aside her blanket!

I shook my head in frustration and decided to walk back to my place and continue lying down. However, when I turned around, I was shocked to see a person standing not far off from where we were.

That's...

"Scarlet?" I gasped in surprise.

But the unicorn is still asleep in its original spot! Yet Scarlet appeared too. Wasn't she fabricated by the unicorn? Or does Scarlet only appear when the unicorn is asleep? Or maybe there is actually no connection at all between Scarlet and the unicorn...

While I was still thinking, Scarlet had already skipped to my side, and then, holding something with both of her hands as if she were giving me a priceless treasure, she said, "Big brother dropped this."

It was a book.

"I dropped this?" I flipped open the book and reflexively lowered my head to use my eyes to face it... This was yet another action that I could not understand. Eyes couldn't help me "see" anything on the book.

I could sense the elements; the book had the wood element, and on top of the wood element, there was a very thin layer of the stone element. The stone element drew out "words," but such little stone element caused me to have a hard time differentiating it. Still, I managed to figure out the words in the end.

"A Complete Guide to Necromancy Spells" was written on the book's cover.

"There's still something else!" Scarlet let out a tinkling, silver-belled laugh, and innocently said, "However, it's not here. Head northeast, and

you will find it there.”

“What is it?”

Scarlet tilted her head to the side and said, “Try touching your chest.”

Hearing this, I patted my chest. Instantly, an uneasy feeling enveloped me... Was it originally empty here?

With a heart full of doubt, I lifted my head up and asked, “Scarlet, you have my book, and you also know where my belongings are. Does that mean you know who I am... Scarlet?”

I stopped in surprise – I couldn’t feel Scarlet anymore. Has she disappeared again? What in the world is going on?

I abruptly opened my mouth and asked, “You’re awake?”

This had nothing to do with Scarlet. Rather, Ice Knight, who was lying close by, had opened his eyes and was staring straight at me.

I believed that if his mouth hadn’t been gagged by the Chains of Darkness, he would certainly have already started yelling at me in rage, wouldn’t he? I didn’t need my memories to know this; there weren’t many people in this world who would like to be bound up like a cocoon.

I walked back to my original place and sat down. Mischievously, I patted his head and said, “Don’t panic, when we reach somewhere far enough that your holy knights can no longer catch up with us, we’ll let you go, so don’t bother struggling so hard.”

After a pause, I changed my tone and coldly said, “This way, I won’t need to waste any energy to beat you up.”

Ice Knight only blinked his eyes in reply. After that, he really didn’t move a muscle and merely continued staring at me.

I flipped through “A Complete Guide to Necromancy Spells” the entire night. Then, I conveniently used the readily available guinea pig next to me, Ice Knight, to experiment spells on.

“ ... ”

The ice element surrounding Ice Knight had always tended to gather around him. Luckily, the rate of gathering still wasn't as quick as my ability to disperse it.

\*

Later on, we started on our journey to escape the pursuers. The first major problem we encountered was: how were we supposed to transport a cocoon that was as big as a human?

Sybil was the first to come up with a suggestion. "Let Yuna cast a strength enhancing spell on me. I'll carry him on my back!"

I supposed Ice Knight's appearance must be pretty good. Even Sybil was drooling over him.

"How long do you plan to carry him on your back?" I grumpily asked, "A day, three days, or five days? Or do you plan on using 'weeks' to measure the amount of time?"

"This..." Sybil doubtfully replied, "Three... No! Five days!"

Hm! It seems that Ice Knight's good looks are at the level of "people are willing to carry him for five days straight."

I suddenly felt very curious and asked, "Sybil, if you were to carry me, how many days would you be willing to carry me?"

Sybil looked at my face solemnly and said, "Based on just appearance, I would be willing to carry you for a week, but after getting acquainted with your personality..."

"Don't tell me it has dropped down to a day?" I asked a little uneasily.

"No." Sybil shrugged and said, "I only want to get as far away from you as possible."

"..."

At least my appearance is good enough that "people are willing to carry me for seven days straight." After comforting myself, I looked at the unicorn and then looked at Ice Knight before I asked the latter, "Hey! Are you a virgin?"

Everyone's jaws dropped to their chests again.

Ice Knight simply glared at me, not even deigning to give a single word of reply. How dare he look upon me with so much disdain... Ah! His mouth is still being covered by the Chains of Darkness!

I quickly undid the chains and asked again, "You can talk now. So, hurry up and answer me, are you a virgin?"

He continued glaring at me without saying a single word.

"Even if he was, he would never admit to that, would he? Something so embarrassing... Er! Grisia, I'm not saying that your being a virgin is very embarrassing!" Igor hurriedly explained.

I glared at Igor before pulling out the popsicle that hung at my waist. Holding it against Ice Knight's neck, I roared, "Are you a virgin or not? Answer me!"

Even when he was facing imminent death, Ice Knight still maintained his icy silence. This is bad. It's not like I can actually kill him, can I?

Maybe I should torture him and force the answer out of him? I wondered for a moment, a little distressed. After a while, I started to smile instead.

I placed the popsicle back at my waist, hauled up Ice Knight and threw him toward the unicorn... The unicorn had no intention of even evading the ginormous cocoon.

"...Damn!"

Everyone sucked in a deep breath. Iacchi even spat out an expletive. Finally Igor mumbled, "Since when did this world have so many old virgins past the age of twenty?"

"I'm not a virgin!" I vigorously denied right away.

Iacchi shrugged his shoulders, and Igor smiled pacifyingly while saying, "Yes, yes! If you say you aren't then you aren't."

After resolving the transport problem, we didn't have any more time to waste. We immediately started on our journey of escaping. To me, it would

also be known as a boring riding journey.

As I had to match everyone's speed of walking, the unicorn had to trot along very slowly. I felt immensely bored and started a one-sided conversation with the cocoon. "Is your real name really Ice?"

Ice Knight shook his head.

At this, my curiosity spiked and I asked, "It's not? Then what's your name?"

He stared at me for quite some time before replying slowly, "Ecilan Ice."

"That's so hard to pronounce." I frowned. Ecilan? What sort of person would give someone a name like that?

"I've never hoped that you would pronounce my name correctly," he blandly said.

I was surprised, "What did you say?"

He was silent for a while, and if I didn't mistake it, he seemed to have peeked at the others out of the corner of his eyes before turning his attention back on me and shaking his head, "Nothing."

"Alright then, Ecilan, are there any other members of the Twelve Holy Knights close by?"

Although I asked him this, I didn't really expect that he would tell me the truth. However, even if he lied to me, it would be fine as well. Of course I would be able to determine if he was lying to me or not, and from there I could get the answer I wanted!

"Yes, there is. Knight-Captain Blaze is close by." He nodded his head.

I was stunned for a moment. Ecilan's heartbeat didn't speed up at all... He didn't lie! He actually told me that a member of the Twelve Holy Knights was close by, and he even told me who it was!

"Will he chase after us?" I asked a little nervously.

Ecilan nodded his head and answered without the slightest hesitation, "He will."

This is bad. I frowned, “What if I used your life to threaten him?”

Ecilan knitted his eyebrows together. He looked as though he was thinking this through. After a while, he explained in detail, “He will back down, but he won’t give up. He will never give up.”

Hearing this, I said with a smile, “How naïve, do you really believe that your comrades will never abandon you?”

Ecilan nodded his head and said, “The Twelve Holy Knights will never abandon the Twelve Holy Knights.”

“Is that so?” My tone turned low and I coldly said, “If there’s a chance, let’s try it out. When he’s on the brink of death, we’ll see whether or not he’ll abandon you.”

“He won’t.” Ecilan looked at me and repeated in an extremely firm tone, “The Twelve Holy Knights will never abandon the Twelve Holy Knights.”

I gave a cold snort. To think that a guy with such a cold and expressionless face could be such a naïve idiot!

After that, we reached a fork in the road. Everyone stopped dead in their tracks and turned to look at Woodrow.

Woodrow read the signboard and said, “If we follow the path on the right we will be heading northeast toward the Kingdom of Moon Orchid. If we head left we will be entering the border of the Kingdom of Forgotten Sound. Although there are two roads, I don’t think we have a choice.”

He flicked his eyes toward Ecilan, sighed, and said, “Kidnapping the Ice Knight and stepping into the Kingdom of Forgotten Sound with him? I’m afraid that the minute we step into a city will be the time we’ll know what that city’s prisons look like.”

“That’s a given!” Yuna glared at me and coldly said, “The Kingdom of Forgotten Sound is the base of the Church of the God of Light. Everyone there knows the Twelve Holy Knights...”

“Especially the leader of the Twelve Holy Knights, the Sun Knight!”

Sybil interrupted suddenly. When she finished speaking, she revealed a

face full of adoration, and in a dreamy tone she said, “The rumors say that the Sun Knight has bright, golden hair, sky blue eyes and skin as white and smooth as milk...”

After saying this, Sybil suddenly stopped to stare at me. She couldn't have used me as her “base model” to dream up her Sun Knight, could she?

I couldn't help but say in a sour voice, “Is the Sun Knight a girl? Your entire description seems to be describing a gorgeous beauty!”

“He's handsome!” Sybil immediately snapped back to her senses and forcefully countered, “What's more, he's a truly elegant and handsome guy, unlike you! Even though you have the same golden hair, blue eyes and pale skin, you have absolutely no class!”

“An elegant, handsome guy?”

I patted Ecilan's head and intentionally messed up his hair before saying with satisfaction, “Isn't this guy one of the elegant members of the Twelve Holy Knights as well? Look at him now – how in the world does he look elegant when he is wrapped up like a cocoon? Your Sun Knight is probably exactly like him!”

“Stop bullying him!” Sybil shrieked and rushed forward to tidy up Ecilan's hair, and at the same time sneakily touch his face a few times before she was willing to raise her head up and answer me, “Not to mention, Ice Knight doesn't need to be elegant. He is the cold and handsome type! In addition, Blaze Knight, who was mentioned yesterday, is the wild spitfire type!”

“What, does the Church of the God of Light choose its knights based on looks?” I rolled my eyes, unhappily retorting, “Why are they all handsome guys?”

“It's not like that.” Yuna shook her head, face tinged with slight helplessness, “All of that is what girls imagine them to be like. It's possible that not everyone in the Twelve Holy Knights is good-looking.”

“But Ice Knight is really handsome! The rumors aren't necessarily wrong!” The moment Sybil finished yelling, she hurriedly lowered her head

down and asked Ecilan, "Right, right? At least the Sun Knight should be a super handsome guy right?"

Ecilan indifferently said, "I do not know what your standard is."

Sybil swiftly asked, "He should at least be more handsome than Grisia, right?"

He was silent for quite some time. Under Sybil's relentless barrage of questions, he finally replied, "Should be around the same."

This made Sybil frown, and I gloated, "See! Why yearn for the Sun Knight? Just looking at me is enough."

"He definitely has a lot more class than you!" Sybil said indignantly.

At this moment, Woodrow walked past Sybil and me, who were still arguing heatedly, and approached Ecilan, asking with deadly seriousness, "Why have the Twelve Holy Knights come to such a remote area? This place is already part of the Shadow God's territory."

Ecilan gave a simple reply, "To look for someone."

"Who are you looking for?" Woodrow asked in surprise.

He looked indifferently at Woodrow but didn't dignify his question with a reply.

However, Woodrow didn't dare press him any further. When he saw that Ecilan wasn't going to answer, Woodrow walked away of his own accord.

From then on, we naturally continued on our journey. The only difference was that we no longer maintained our silence along the way. Not only did I argue with Sybil throughout the journey, Iacchi would also slink up and touch... Of course he wasn't touching me! He would touch the popsicle hanging by the side of my waist.

As for Igor, he kept on yelling for me to remember whether or not I knew any other interesting spells.

I thought for a while before getting off the unicorn and squatting down. I touched the earth's surface and searched beneath its crust.

Hm! It doesn't seem like there are any human skeletons... Ah! Found something!

Once I moved my hand away from the earth, a bunch of ashen things surfaced on top of the dirt.

"Bones?" Sybil looked at the pile of things in confusion.

I carefully manipulated them, injecting the dark element into the bones and then approximately piecing them together one-by-one, hoping I wasn't getting it wrong... It was a pity that there were no human skeletons beneath the earth, for there were a lot of living people's skeletal frameworks present here that I could use as reference to piece together a dead person's bones.

After I finished piecing everything together, I mended the joints between the bones with a thick layer of dark element, using it to replace the rotted joints. To increase its cuteness I used the dark element to replace its flesh and long ears... Finally, a black rabbit started to jump around on the ground.

"Ne...Necromancer!"

Yuna weakly said, "I really have no idea why, but I can't even summon up the energy to shriek now. Grisia, you are really more and more unlikely to be a cleric from the Church of the God of Light."

While the three men were still staring wide-eyed with fear at the rabbit, Sybil was the one who was the least afraid of it. She actually ran over and picked up the skeletal rabbit, beaming as she said, "It's so cute! Grisia, don't let it disappear!"

I shrugged my shoulders and replied, "Okay."

After seeing Sybil's actions, everyone looked at the rabbit. Igor was so excited that he even came up with a suggestion. "Grisia, since you can make a rabbit, it must mean that you can also make a horse, right? If we have horses, then we can travel faster."

"I can, as long as there are horse skeletons around."

“Where am I supposed to get a horse’s skeleton for you...” Igor replied, crestfallen.

I shrugged my shoulders. If there weren’t any bones, then I couldn’t do anything either. Eight to nine out of ten necromancy spells required bones.

“Then why don’t you make a bone dagger for me to play with?” Igor excitedly said, “In all those old legends, the warriors who successfully slay a dragon always use one of the dragon’s bones to make a blade.”

“If you draw me a design, then I’ll make it for you.”

Iacchi butted in with an insult, “This uncouth fellow? The fact that he knows how to write is already a miracle in itself! As if he’d be able to draw a design...”

“Stop fooling around! We should continue on our journey,” Woodrow suddenly shouted, his tone of voice grim. Everyone immediately remembered that we were supposed to be escaping. We squelched our fooling around and hastened on with our journey. Naturally, I once again rode the unicorn, and we continued on our silent trek on both foot and horse.

“You shouldn’t have used necromancy before them.”

“What?” I lowered my head downwards and stared at Ecilan, who was lying horizontally before me. He was the one who had spoken just now, even though his voice had been barely above a whisper.

“What did you say?”

However, Ecilan just stared at me and maintained his silence.

Seeing this, I pretended that I had not heard him at all. I fished out the book on necromancy spells from my possessions and continued to study other spells. I also conveniently experimented on the guy closest to me. Of course, that guy was Ecilan, who was separated from me only by the Chains of Darkness.

“ ... ”

You really can't blame me for liking to use him as a guinea pig. It's not my fault that he's so suitable to be one.

No matter how much I experimented on him, he always maintained his usual frostiness, not letting out a sound and not even having a change in facial expression. Besides that cold look in his eyes, he never made a single move in protest. He really was the model guinea pig of guinea pigs for experiments!

I happily continued with my experiments until Sybil noticed it. She was so angry, as if her husband had just been toyed with, and together with an equally furious Yuna, the two of them yanked each side of my face and gave me a serious warning to stop bullying the Ice Knight. Having had my facial skin almost torn off, I could only give up on experimenting on my perfect guinea pig. Instead, I practiced some necromancy spells that did not require a guinea pig.

**Spell of Bone-Searching:** Can be used to search for bones beneath the earth's surface.

**Bone Prison:** A defensive spell that grants the ability to use bones to create a wall.

**Bone Piercer:** From beneath the ground, a thorn created from bones will rush up and pierce the enemy.

No matter how many I read, they're all about using the dark element to manipulate bones!

I simply flipped to the last few pages of the book to see if there were any different spells. As I expected, some interesting spells started showing up, like *Encroaching Death*. It was a large-scale offensive spell. Its advantages were that it was hard to defend against and escape from because the affected area was very large. However, its shortcoming was that the opponent's speed of dying was very slow, so there was even the chance of the spell caster being unable to sustain the spell long enough for the enemy to die.

However, it could at least make the opposition lose their offensive power. Hence, when facing a large group of enemies, it is a very useful

spell. At least, that was what the book said.

Ooohhh! I should hurry up and learn this spell. After all, I did kidnap the Ice Knight, and it's possible that an entire swarm of holy knights might be pursuing me.

"Stop reading that. You shouldn't learn any of that," Ecilan suddenly opened his mouth and said.

"Oh?" I asked him while reading, "Then what is it that I should learn?"

Ecilan, however, went back to being silent again. He really is a strange guy!

Since he "had no other comments," I continued flipping through the book.

Summoning a death knight...

# Chapter 5: Fifth Tactic of Slaying a Dragon: “Overcome Various Obstacles of the Journey”

After being on the run for several days, everyone felt fairly satisfied living the life of a fugitive. Even Ecilan, our hostage whom we had seized, was living a life of pleasure... How should I explain this?

On the very first night, he swore to the God of Light that he would never escape or harm us. He wanted me to dispel the Chains of Darkness wrapped around his chest so that he could... cook for everyone!

You really couldn't judge a book by its cover. Although he was one of the exalted Twelve Holy Knights, his cooking skills were even better than Yuna and Sybil's put together! Once we ate dinner prepared by him, the following morning, no one wanted to eat meals prepared by Yuna or Sybil anymore, not even themselves.

I have a horse to ride and someone to experiment my necromancy on. After tiring of that, I even have delicious meals waiting for me. What in the world can be more comfortable than this?

“Can you not play around with bones while using holy light?”

This wasn't the first time Yuna had protested, saying things like, “This violates normalcy. You keep breaking the fundamental principle of how holy and dark elements are polar opposites and cannot coexist. You're completely violating the rules.”

I retorted, “Do you mean that when those pursuers catch up with us, I'm not allowed to use necromancy to obstruct the enemy while using holy light to help heal Igor and the others?”

After hearing what I said, the facial expressions of those in the team whose professions required going into battle changed greatly. They hurriedly refuted Yuna's words, and then they pacified me in passing.

Hmph, I'm going to say it again! I have a horse to ride and someone to

experiment my necromancy on. After tiring of that, I even have delicious meals waiting for me, and even when I get scolded for violating the rules, I have a bunch of people who will scold that person back for me, and then they'll console me agreeably... Even if I was the Sun Knight, my life probably wouldn't be as comfortable as this!

Regrettably, our days of pleasure ended in merely three days.

I often blessed Woodrow with the Wings of God spell so that he could scout behind us. Today, when he returned to our campsite and transformed back into human form, he solemnly said, "Blaze Knight has caught up with us. I saw them when I was on the mountains. They number around ten, and are no more than a day away from us by foot."

"Do they have clerics among them?" I inquired in detail.

Woodrow shook his head and replied, "No."

"Why didn't they bring along any clerics?" I asked in some confusion. "Couldn't clerics help by casting the Wings of God spell? That should be very helpful for hastening their journey, right?"

At this point, Ecilan coolly explained, "A single cleric is not capable of casting the Wings of God spell over ten people for a long duration of time. They would need to bring along at least two, and they must bring an advanced or higher leveled cleric. Even so, clerics themselves are a kind of burden. Their stamina is too poor, so they cannot continue the journey without stopping like holy knights."

Having heard this, I suddenly felt that Woodrow's estimation might not be accurate. Hurriedly, I asked, "How long will it take them to reach us?"

"The coming party is Blaze Knight and his platoon." Ecilan actually answered me, "If he said that it'll take them a day, then at most it'll only take them five hours."

Everyone's eyes widened at his words.

Iacchi shouted, "That quick? Are they rogues or are they holy knights?"

"Why are you being so forthright?"

I was more suspicious about something else. Even though Ecilan was a hostage, he didn't scream or make a scene. He even cooked meals for us, and now he was going as far as revealing information about people on his side to his kidnappers. How in the world can there be such a good hostage? He might as well join our team!

"Because there's no way you guys can escape. That time when I said that Blaze was nearby, do you know where he was?" He paused for a bit before slowly declaring the answer, "Leaf Edge City."

Once he said that, everyone became stunned. I was the only one who asked in confusion, "So what if he was in Leaf Edge City?"

Woodrow breathed in deeply and said, "Leaf Edge City is on the border of the Kingdom of Forgotten Sound, but it is still quite a distance from the Kingdom of Kissinger. For normal people, traveling from there to here would take around six... No! They'd have to pass through forests, and they might even run into bandits and wild beasts on their way. I'm afraid that an accurate estimate would be ten days."

I exclaimed, "Yet they only spent three days? Did they not rest at all, and kept traveling... How can they even be considered normal humans?"

"None of us are normal humans."

Ecilan spoke all of a sudden. He turned to me and unhurriedly said, "None of us have ever been normal humans."

I was stunned for a bit. I turned my head to ask everyone, "Do you believe Ecilan's words? According to him, Blaze Knight will be able to catch up with us within five hours, and we wouldn't be able to escape at all."

Immediately, Yuna said severely, "Of course. He's a believer of the God of Light, and he's even one of the Twelve Holy Knights who are the highest-ranked of the Church of the God of Light. Everyone knows that they never ever lie!"

"He has no need to lie to us. It's not like we can escape anyway."

After Woodrow chipped in these words, I finally accepted this. Even

though I had lost my memories, I still did not believe that there were people in this world who never told lies.

“Since we can’t escape, then we can only take the initiative and go on the offensive.” I serenely said, “Let’s retaliate and attack them instead.”

“You want to go against Blaze Knight?” Igor immediately yelled in a loud voice, “Are you crazy?”

Everyone else’s surprised reactions were half a step slower. It wasn’t until after Igor shouted that everyone woke up from their stupor, each of their faces full of horror.

I carefully explained to everyone, “They only have ten people. We have six people, and we even have a hostage. As long as we set up traps, our chance of winning is very high...”

“Our chance of winning is very high? Only ten people?” Iacchi’s eyes were wide as he said, “Do you even understand just what kind of people the Twelve Holy Knights are? The God of Light has the Twelve Holy Knights, the God of War has the Son of the God of War, and [the Cathedral of the Confounded God has the Dark Eagle](#). They are like characters from legends, yet they exist in reality. Compared to the God of Light or the God of War or whatever, it’s much easier to believe that these people exist... They are pretty much living gods walking among us in this world!”

At this point, everyone looked at me, and they were even nodding one-by-one in agreement with Iacchi.

That powerful? I thought it over, and then I used my hand to pat Ecilan’s head. I asked, “You mean this thing is a god who’s walking among us in this world?”

“...”

“Grisia, in many ways, you’re also not a normal human!” Woodrow muttered in a low voice.

Yuna shook her head and sighed, “The fact that the dark element and the holy element coexist within you already makes you an abnormal person. On top of that, you can also use both holy magic and

necromancy... my god! I honestly don't know who in the world you really are.”

I tilted my head to the side to think before I said, “You mentioned before that my companions were a holy knight and a dark elf. I wonder if that has anything to do with it? Maybe the two of them weren't my companions, but rather my teachers?”

After everyone heard this, they revealed expressions of sudden realization one after another.

Just as I wanted to continue and tell everyone about Scarlet, Ecilan suddenly spoke up, “If you don't start setting your traps, I'm afraid you won't make it in time. The traps must be completely flawless, or else they will not trick Blaze Knight and his platoon.”

Listen to him. What in the world is he saying? I'm really suspicious about whether or not he holds a grudge against Blaze Knight! Wait, Blaze and... Ice? Maybe they really are like “fire and ice.” Come to think of it, [maybe Ecilan wants to get someone else to do his dirty work](#)? “I won't be killing him, but it's no biggie if I help you mess with him a little!”

After I understood the situation, I patted his head and said quite amicably, “Don't even mention it. You've been so accommodating, and even cooked meals for us, and now you're telling us so much information. Helping you out with a small favor is a given.”

Hearing this, Ecilan stared at me blankly.

I figured, He's probably embarrassed that I saw through his inner thoughts?

“Alright everyone, gather here and hear me out on the arrangement of the traps...”

Iacchi immediately protested, “Hey, you even know how to set traps? Aren't you stealing the jobs of rogues?”

“He has already taken my job, so why should he hold back for you?” Yuna answered coldly.

“Thankfully, I’m safe.” Igor gloated, “Not only can Grisia not use a sword, he can’t even hold it properly.”

I rolled my eyes and said, “I’m a cleric... and at most I’m also a necromancer. It’s not like my profession is one that requires the use of a sword!”

After I said this, I found that Ecilan had opened his eyes wide to stare at me.

I lowered my head and moodily said to him, “What’re you looking at! I’m not a knight like you, so it shouldn’t be strange if I don’t know how to use a sword!”

Hearing this, Ecilan stopped staring, but his expression was still quite strange...

Freak!

I hid at the top of a small hill with the unicorn next to me. Ecilan was still loaded on the unicorn’s back. The only difference was, during the day, he was merely bundled up and then “placed” on top, but now he was completely bound to the unicorn’s back.

This way, even if Blaze Knight subdued all of us, the unicorn could still run away with him. I believed that Blaze Knight would not kill us before finding Ecilan, so this action was our last trick, a guarantee that even if our operation failed and everyone got captured, we would still be able to keep our lives.

After that, I let the scene in my head expand farther and farther, spreading out wider and wider like a fan... Sure enough, I discovered Blaze Knight in this manner.

Blaze Knight’s fire and holy elements were so abundant that it was scary. It would be hard to miss him. However, I also discovered that Woodrow’s calculations were somewhat wrong. The opponent didn’t have ten people. They only had eight.

“Grisia, Grisia!”

“What?” My attention was still focused on Blaze Knight, so I answered

Ecilan off-handedly, but then I started to become curious. “Oh, by the way, what’s Blaze Knight’s name?”

Ecilan fell silent for a bit before he yelled lowly, “You, have you really forgotten? Blaze’s name is Chikus, and his full name is Chikus Blaze, while your full name is Grisia Sun!”

Stunned, I immediately diverted my attention from Blaze Knight back to Ecilan. I asked him confusedly, “What nonsense are you spouting? What do you mean by that?”

Ecilan used a fierce tone that I had never heard from him before to roar lowly, “Grisia Sun! You are the Sun Knight of the Church of the God of Light. You are the leader of the Twelve Holy Knights!”

I’m the Sun Knight? I’m the leader of the Twelve Holy Knights?

I fell silent for a good while before I smiled and shook my head. “I was almost tricked by you. You must have spun this tall tale to prevent me from harming your companion, Blaze!”

“I haven’t lied to you!”

Ecilan hurriedly said, “Since the day you disappeared, Judgment has sent eight groups of people to search for you. Earth and Stone went to the Kingdom of Moon Orchid, while Blaze and I came to Kissinger. The others are searching everywhere within the kingdom for you.”

“Nonsense!” I lashed out.

But Ecilan refused to give up and continued to say, “Sun, you must believe me. Hurry and return to the Holy Temple. Judgment is furious. He says if you return safely, he’s going to kill you, and if you return with injuries, he’s going to make you feel you wished you had died.”

I blurted out, “Then I think it’s better if I don’t return...” After I said this, my heart filled with puzzlement. Who’s Judgment?

“Lesus Judgment, this is Knight-Captain Judgment’s full name.” Ecilan’s tone sounded sympathetic as he said, “Trust me, Sun, you don’t want to anger Judgment. He is the only person you are afraid of.”

Why should I be afraid of him? I snorted coldly and said, “Your lie has a very obvious flaw in it!”

“Flaw?”

“That’s right.” I smiled as I said, “Perhaps you have forgotten? Igor just said... I can’t even hold a sword properly! So how could I possibly be a knight? Your lie is too obvious!”

“ ... ”

Like I thought, Ecilan was speechless. I laughed derisively and then immediately noticed that Blaze Knight and company had almost reached the location where the first trap had been set. Seeing this, I hurriedly gave instructions to my teammates who would be involved in the first trap.

Ecilan suddenly said, “Don’t harm Blaze, or else you will regret it your entire life.”

“I won’t kill him. I have no intention of being a fugitive by the Church.”

I gave out my instructions while answering him. After that, he said no more.

Let the series of traps begin!

Stage one: the beauty trap.

Sybil and Yuna were to lie collapsed by the roadside. According to them, holy knights would never leave women who had collapsed by the roadside, so Blaze Knight would have to bring them along. This would give those two the chance to infiltrate the troops!

“This trick might work with other people.”

Ecilan suddenly spoke up, “But Blaze has always been inattentive, and it goes without saying that among the Twelve Holy Knights, the Blaze Knight is the most uncouth. He doesn’t know how and doesn’t need to empathize with females.”

“...Why didn’t you mention this earlier?” I yelled a little resentfully.

“I don’t think I’m obligated to help you guys,” Ecilan answered flatly.

Oh! I truly can't refute this declaration of his, since he's a hostage and not a comrade.

"But can't you cooperate one more time?"

He-he actually turned his head away, as if he didn't want to pay me any attention! What, what kind of attitude is this? Is he the hostage, or am I? Faraway, the Blaze Knight really did ignore Sybil and Yuna and passed by them to continue their journey. I was even able to "see" the awkward expressions on Yuna and Sybil's faces. When they had first heard the plan, that they were responsible for infiltrating the ranks of the holy knights, they had been so happy...

Who knew that our first step would already be a failure? I hatefully said, "What kind of Blaze Knight is he! He's just a heartless bastard!"

Right after I said this, Ecilan actually sternly yelled at me all of a sudden, "He's not heartless. He has too much heart, Sun! When you went missing, Blaze pretty much rushed out immediately to look for you. The scope of his search is the largest. To cover that magnitude of range, he and his platoon pretty much have to push themselves to their limits. He is heartless toward them for your sake! It's fine if you forget everything! But you cannot ever forget that Blaze is forever the person who supports you the most."

After hearing Ecilan's agitated tone, I had no choice but to start considering his words. I stayed silent for some time before I couldn't help but ask him, "If I am the Sun Knight, yet I don't know how to use a sword, my mind is full of thoughts of money and beautiful women, and on top of that, I even know how to use necromancy... Oh my God of Light! What kind of messed up Sun Knight am I?"

Basically, I am someone who is the exact opposite of the "Sun Knight" that Sybil kept talking about to my ear!

Ecilan fell silent for some time before he quietly said, "We do not perfectly fit into the molds created by the imaginations of the common people, but we strive for that so as not to disappoint them." He paused for a bit and then said, "If you hadn't used necromancy in front of this team,

destroying the image of the Sun Knight, I would have told you right when I was first able to speak that you are the Sun Knight.”

I see. No wonder he often looked like he wanted to say something but couldn't.

“Ecilan.”

I called out to him. He merely looked at me silently. Very apologetically, I said, “I really don't remember you or Blaze Knight, so it doesn't matter if you're telling the truth or if you're spouting lies. My current companions are Woodrow and the others. That's why, I just want to do my best not to disappoint them, but I promise you, unless absolutely necessary, I won't harm any holy knights rashly.”

Hearing this, Ecilan only replied with an “oh” but then he immediately seemed to remember something else. He added, “Sun, don't trust that strange girl. She's very suspicious.”

“You saw Scarlet?”

Hearing Ecilan's words, I smiled weakly and said, “To an amnesic person, everyone's very suspicious.”

Ecilan said frankly, “Then don't trust anyone, no matter if it's Scarlet or Woodrow, or even me and Blaze.”

Stunned, I nodded. “Okay.”

When I directed my attention back to the distance again, I also threw a lightning bolt in that direction. However, my target was not Blaze Knight and company, but rather Yuna and Sybil... I could almost hear the scream from their widened mouths.

“If two ladies get attacked, and their lives are in danger, can he still abandon and ignore them?”

I smiled lightly and said, “If he could, I would really like to recalculate if five thousand gold ducats is worth fighting this kind of... guy.”

After halting, I still got rid of the word “heartless.” Even though I didn't completely trust Ecilan's words, just like my situation with Scarlet, there's

still a fifty percent chance that what he said could be true, so I didn't want to insult Blaze Knight.

I could only half trust both Ecilan and Scarlet. As for Woodrow and the others... Frankly speaking, they couldn't harm me at all, so I didn't have to worry about them hurting me.

Yet, because of this, they were currently the people I trusted the most.

After that lightning attack, the holy knights finally stopped their steps. Hesitantly, they turned around to look before they simultaneously glanced toward their commander, Blaze Knight.

Blaze Knight hesitated but still returned to save them. He cast Heal on the two of them, asked simple questions, and searched around the area but didn't find anything out of place. Two holy knights, one of them was even Blaze Knight himself, then carried Yuna and Sybil on their backs, and they continued on the road without wasting any more time.

Next up was my task. I climbed on the unicorn, bringing Ecilan along with me to proceed with my primary task—leading Blaze Knight on a stroll all over the place—so that Woodrow and the others could have more time to prepare.

At first, I thought this would be an easy job that was not very different from escaping like I had done before. Wasn't I merely riding a horse both times?

I was!

But this time I had to press on regardless of the time of day. Once my feet touched the ground, and I let my butt rest, I was only able to take two bites out of my rations before I had to immediately jump back onto my horse as if my butt was on fire to ride through the day and night.

It's like those holy knights don't need to rest! They keep pursuing right behind me!

Once I reached the road, they conjured horses out of nowhere, forcing me to take the unicorn back into the forest. We bounced up and down on the bumpy path, so I had to keep casting Heal on my butt, otherwise if I continued to ride this way, my butt would split in two in the end.

When I entered the forest, they got off their horses and continued to chase after me on foot.

Although the unicorn moved with ease in the forest, unlike a normal horse which couldn't even step inside, it was also carrying two people plus a lot of luggage on its back. Not only did it carry a lot of extra weight, it also couldn't jolt us too hard, so its speed was actually not any faster than the holy knights who were traveling by foot.

Ecilan said indifferently, "This is the border between the Kingdom of Forgotten Sound and the Kingdom of Moon Orchid. The Church of the God of Light still has a lot of influence here, so for one of the Twelve Holy Knights, whether it be seeking information or enlisting a few horses from the local farmers, both can be easily accomplished."

Damn it! I hadn't thought of this. In the beginning, when we were still a distance from them, we should have immediately started running away instead of worrying about whether or not they would catch up. We even purposely stopped to wait for them.

However, didn't I force them to bring along Yuna and Sybil? Can it be that they haven't been able to slow them down... Or is this speed of theirs already the result of being slowed down?

No matter what, if things continue like this, I will eventually be caught. If they catch up with me before I escape to my destination, then things will definitely turn ugly... If this is the case, then I should take the initiative and attack!

"Hmph! Chikus Blaze is one of the gods walking among us in this world?"

I coldly snorted and said, "I'm going to meet you and see for myself. I don't believe you are really that divine!"

Even though I didn't know whether a holy knight's strength differed during the day and at night, their god is called the "God of Light," so I thought it would be best not to attack them when the sun was still hanging high up in the air. Besides, the night has always been the best time for sneaking around, and it was also more advantageous to me for gathering the dark element.

I just spouted a bunch of stuff, but basically, I planned on a nighttime sneak attack. I wanted to wound at least a few people so that I could slow down their crazy traveling speed.

According to Iacchi's theory, when doing evil deeds, one must wear something on one's face.

That was why I took Iacchi's small knife and flattened it to make an iron mask that was twisted out of shape. I threaded a rope through it and tied it to my face. Then, I donned Yuna's cleric robes and covered the robes with the dark element. Finally, I picked up a very deformed branch from the roadside to use as a magic staff.

The last touch was covering my face with a layer of dark element. Huge success!

After I took care of everything, I was eighty percent sure of my disguise when I turned to ask, "Do I look like a necromancer?"

"No."

Ecilan shook his head and said, "Necromancers don't wear the color white. Besides that, Blaze will be able to recognize you just by seeing the color of your hair and your lower face."

I blanked out and asked him, "What do you mean? [I already shrouded my face with the dark element](#), so how can you still see my lower face? And what in the world is 'the color white?'"

"..." This time, it was Ecilan's turn to fall silent. After awhile, he finally spoke again, "So that's why Leaf said you became blind. So it's true?"

"Leaf? I'm blind?" Puzzled, I said, "I can see you."

"Really?" Ecilan's tone seemed angry as he shouted lowly, "Then tell me, what color is my hair?"

"Color?" I was completely confused. Why is he so angry? Unable to figure anything out, I asked again, "What's color?"

Ecilan fell silent. In the end, he sighed, "Forget it. Just change that mask on your face into one that conceals your entire face, and then cover your

hair and robes with thick enough dark element to be seen by the naked eye.”

“Thick enough to be seen?” Even a tiny amount of elements can be seen, right?

“Just make it really thick!”

Ecilan seemed extremely persistent about this. He kept saying that if I didn't do this, then I would definitely be recognized. He didn't want Blaze to discover that I was the one to attack him. This would sadden Blaze, and so forth...

In order not to be recognized...or maybe this was for shutting Ecilan up, I had no choice but to flatten another small knife and convert my mask from one that concealed half the face into one that concealed the entire face. After that, I covered my hair densely with the dark element. If I could still be recognized this way, then I, I... decided I would never listen to Ecilan's words again.

Ecilan was finally satisfied with my efforts this time, and he also finally shut his mouth. This relieved me greatly. Whenever no one else was around, this guy would keep talking nonstop, appearing completely different from that cold and ruthless image he had shown in front of other people. He is noisy enough to wake the dead!

After I finished my preparations, I patted the side of the unicorn's neck and instructed, “Unicorn, wait here with him to provide support for me. Do not run off. If you dare to run off, you better look out!”

The unicorn nodded and also licked my hand. Since it had to provide support for me later, I decided to let the licking go this time.

I casually wiped my saliva-coated hand on the unicorn's mane, and then immediately began my night-attack trip.

God of Light! You better protect me, and see to it that my surprise attack succeeds... Ah, even though the one being attacked is Your very own holy knight, You better not be biased!

# Chapter 6: Sixth Tactic of Slaying a Dragon: “Defeat Enemies Along the Way”

After applying the Wings of God spell onto myself, I pushed myself to sprint for half an hour before I found the rest of the party.

I thought they would be further away, but they were actually surprisingly close by... This nearly made me burst into a cold sweat all over. If I had exchanged words with Ecilan for a second longer, they might have already caught up with me.

However, as I neared their location, I realized that they were taking a break. The campfire looked like it had been burning for quite a while already.

If they've already gotten so close to me, why didn't they continue to chase me?

Although my heart was filled with suspicion, I cast Light Shield over myself, and then I tried to stay vigilant so that I could prepare to run at any moment.

Contrary to my expectations, no one was anything like the “graceful, handsome, and formidable holy knights” from Sybil's continuous chants. Instead, all of them were lying around on the ground in a disorderly fashion; leaning on branches, directly sleeping on the dirt, or simply using one of their companion's calves as a pillow. Still, I guess anyone can tell from their postures that... they're extremely tired.

All of the holy knights looked identical: dirty, tired, and sleeping like dead pigs. I couldn't even tell apart Blaze Knight from the rest of them!

Also, they haven't even assigned a single holy knight to keep watch during the night!

Only Yuna and Sybil were still awake. The two of them sat in the center, amongst the holy knights who lay scattered like leaves on the ground. They did look slightly fatigued themselves, but when compared to the knights next to them, they appeared the most energetic.

Still, regardless of how energetic they may appear, it can't be that the holy knights assigned two outsiders to be the lookouts while they sleep? The scene before me had me in utter disbelief. If not for my concern for Sybil's and Yuna's lives, I would have just gathered a large amount of lightning element, sending down a few strikes of lightning. Even "a god walking on this earth" might ascend to heaven from such an act.

Upon walking a few steps closer, I noticed a thick stench of sweat drifting toward me. It was terribly sour and smelly, very similar to the smell of decaying food. It's a wonder how Sybil and Yuna can still sit right in the middle of them like that.

At this moment, Sybil seemed to have noticed me. She looked bewildered and uncertain as she turned her head toward me, appearing hesitant about whether or not to make a sound. Despite her reaction, not a single person from the floor of holy knights noticed at all. On top of that, not one of them moved an inch.

As I walked out from under the tree, Sybil's eyes widened. I quickly gestured with my hand to tell her to stay quiet, and I even dispelled the holy element shrouding my face. However, she continued frowning while looking at me, as if she didn't recognize who I was. But why not? Clearly I've already dispelled the element covering my face... All of a sudden, it came to me that Ecilan had persisted in making me put on a mask covering my whole face. Don't tell me...

I removed the mask.

Sybil's eyes suddenly widened again, and she let out a sigh of relief. She tugged at Yuna, who was sitting next to her, hinting at her to look in my direction. Yuna turned her gaze away from the fire. Once she faced me, she almost let out a shriek, even putting her hands over her mouth to cover the sound.

I can't help but notice that when people look at me, they always turn their face toward me... No, that's wrong! They use their "eyes" to look at me before they are able to notice me. Why is it different from what I do? I don't need to face anything at all, or

even use my eyes, before I can see everything around me.

Is that why Ecilan said that I'm blind... I could not help but touch the area around my eyes. Is it true that I can't "see" the things around me?

Nevertheless, I am indeed able to see objects. It's just that the method that I use is different from everyone else's. It's different from everyone else's... So, who exactly am I?

I hesitated, but I still retied the mask around my face. At the very least, it makes me feel at ease when nobody can see my face.

"Grisia."

Sybil ran to my side and spoke softly, "What did you come here for?"

"Their pace in traveling is far too fast. They have almost caught up with me. Why haven't you two delayed them?" I questioned her in return in the same low volume.

Sybil rolled her eyes and continued speaking softly, "You don't know how fierce the Blaze Knight has been. When we said a bit more than we should have, he shouted that he would abandon Yuna and me by the road, but we persistently begged him not to leave us behind. Even the excuse that a necromancer was after our lives was of no use..."

"So did he abandon you two?"

Sybil stared with wide eyes after hearing what I said. She responded matter-of-factly, "Of course not."

I let out a snort and said, "If he had wanted to abandon you, he would have long done so. Why even shout that? Basically, his tongue is sharp but his heart is soft..."

"What would you know?" Sybil unhappily retorted, "He really might have abandoned us! You didn't see what he was like when he was shouting at us. He was really very vicious! It goes without saying that the Blaze Knight is the fiercest of all the Twelve Holy Knights."

"I..."

I wanted to say that of course I knew, but I abruptly stopped speaking. Perhaps I am not that sure of it? I don't know the Blaze Knight in the first

place, so I wouldn't know whether or not he would abandon the two of them. After all, he didn't want to bring the two of them along in the first place, did he?

“So, you've finally taken the bait?”

I was taken aback. The moment I heard these words, the earth around me suddenly exploded, and a person emerged from the ground. The person's fire and holy elements were much greater than that of all of the holy knights on the floor combined. I can't believe I didn't notice him... Ecilan's store of holy element is alarmingly high; it's a given that Blaze, who is also one of the Twelve Holy Knights just like him, would definitely possess a high amount of holy element unlike an ordinary holy knight!

And then I realized something else. The pile of knights scattered about the floor... there are only seven people!

The Blaze Knight held his giant sword against my neck, yet I ignored it completely as I faced Sybil and Yuna. Trying hard to suppress my trembling voice, I pretended to be calm and asked, “Why did you trick me?”

The two of them stared at me and began stuttering so much, they couldn't even complete half a sentence properly.

They couldn't possibly have been unaware of the Blaze Knight's absence from the pile of knights on the ground... And yet they didn't bother to warn me! They even played along with him!

Suddenly, the Blaze Knight let out a loud laugh and said, “Excellent, excellent! This is the first time someone has dared to completely ignore me! To express my respect for you, I'll make sure that your trip to hell is painless.”

Upon hearing this, I turned my attention to the Blaze Knight and replied indifferently, “Sure, as long as you don't mind the seven holy knights on the ground following me down as well.”

The Blaze Knight looked stunned for a moment from what I said. Then, he hurriedly screamed in response, “What did you say?!”

“Although they are pretending to sleep, the fatigue they’re feeling is indeed real and not faked.” I laughed coldly and said, “They’re so tired that they would only become aware of my presence after I’ve finished binding them with my chains of darkness, after I’ve directed the bones underground to pierce through their hearts!”

The Blaze Knight quickly turned around to look. Every single one of his holy knights was struggling incessantly on the ground, yet seemed unable to move or get up at all.

However, not even a hint of anxiousness appeared on his face. Instead, with rage spreading over every inch of his face, he bellowed at his own knights, “Hurry up and break free of those things! What do you think you’re doing? To actually be taken hostage... do you even know the meaning of the word ‘shame’?!”

One of the knights shouted back, “W-We’ve tried, but we can’t break free, Captain!”

Upon hearing this answer, the Blaze Knight stood in shock. At this moment, I slowly asked, “So, Chikus, how about letting me go now?”

He immediately turned his head to face me, asking in disbelief, “What did you call me?”

“Chains of Darkness!”

I roared these words. Densely packed black chains rapidly emerged around the Blaze Knight. They abruptly shrunk, forming the second human cocoon after the one I had made of Ecilan.

However, the Blaze Knight remained calm and composed, as if he wasn’t wrapped around by chains into a giant cocoon. He merely sneered and then taunted me, “Using dark magic to deal with one of the Twelve Holy Knights? You might as well use a torch to try and evaporate all of the water in the river!”

“Electrify!” I shouted as I executed the unique lightning magic of a unicorn. The lightning followed the densely packed chains of darkness in encircling the Blaze Knight.

“... Ugh!”

A strong and deadly electric current ran through the chains, but the Blaze Knight only let out a muffled groan, and subsequently emitted holy light in an attempt to melt away the dark element of the chains. However, as he tried to melt it, I would swiftly bind him with a new chain and give him a complimentary flow of strong electricity... After a few tries, he actually opened his mouth to speak. I suddenly felt like approving the phrase “a god walking on this earth” to describe him. This guy was not even close to being a normal human.

In a doubtful tone, he asked, “Such a strong dark element... Just who are you?!”

I couldn't help but be affected by the question. I want to know the answer to that question more than anyone else!

However, I pretended to be at ease and asked, “Ecilan said that I'm the Sun Knight. Do you believe that?”

The Blaze Knight suddenly let out a violent burst of holy element. At once, the dark element I had been gathering was completely expelled. Fortunately, the chains tied around the other holy knights had not been dispelled. I still had hostages in my hands to threaten him with.

“Hmph!” He coldly replied, “Do you intend to spew another load of nonsense to divert my attention? Trying to subdue me, eh?”

Having said what he wanted, he suddenly bolted toward me. I stared blankly before I was able to react. When I wanted to use the hostages to threaten him, he had already stopped in his tracks, but was also already less than a meter away from me.

Startled, I quickly said, “Wait a second and don't be rash! Don't tell me you don't care about your holy knights...”

“If you have the guts to do it, then kill them off!”

While roaring these words, he reached out his hand, forcefully grabbing my collar, and pulled my face to less than ten centimeters away from his. He spoke ferociously, “I don't know how you subdued Ice, but it must have

been with some kind of underhanded trick! If you think that I'm going to fight honorably like Ice does, giving you the chance to use underhanded tricks, you've got another thing coming! As long as I clobber you into pulp, damn it, I don't care about anything else! You're such a hindrance!"

Hindrance? I was confused for a bit before I blurted, "Oh right, aren't you looking for the Sun Knight? But you see, Ecilan really did say that I'm the Sun Knight..."

"Shut up!" Blaze Knight looked like he was using all his might to shout. "You cannot possibly be Sun! It's definitely not possible!"

Definitely not possible? So that's how it is ... I asked expressionlessly, "Okay, so if it's definitely impossible for me to be the Sun Knight, is Ecilan lying to me?"

The Blaze Knight roared in rage, "You're not allowed to defile Sun's name any longer! Sun is definitely not a pile of trash like you! Never in his life would he hurt another holy knight! Never!"

After shouting, he raised his broadsword and slashed at me. A chain of darkness immediately wrapped around his hand, preventing him from laying down a slash. But with just a flash of holy light, the chain dissipated once more. Even so, this short delay gave me enough time to escape from his grasp.

I retreated several steps back again and again before shouting out, "Bone Prison!"

Ghastly white bones emerged from the ground, stacking up layer by layer into white walls constructed by bones. However, Blaze Knight looked as if he didn't even care about these walls. With a wave of the sword in his hands, the bones were cut down just as easily as paper.

Bone Prison! I immediately replenished the wall of bones with more layers.

"Don't move! Don't come any closer," I said to him in a low tone, "unless you want to see your holy knights die before your eyes!"

I tightened the chains around the seven holy knights, but they only let

out a single cry before they no longer made any more sounds. However, just one cry was enough. As expected, the Blaze Knight stopped in his attempts to attack me. His expression looked as if he was about to blow up, but he did not continue his pursuit.

Even though this guy keeps daring me to kill them, it really is only his mouth that is sharp – his heart is soft. After hearing the wailing of his holy knights... No! That doesn't even count as a wail. It was only a stifled cry, but that was enough to stop him. He no longer dares to lay a finger on me.

Since I'm not the Sun Knight, if I hurt the holy knights, and even kill the Blaze Knight, it wouldn't matter, right?

Feeling cheeky, I told the Blaze Knight, "You, stab yourself with your sword!"

When the Blaze Knight heard this, his eyes widened so much that it was as if they were about to split open.

Yuna shrieked, "Grisia, don't act like this! They just want the Ice Knight back!"

"So you really believe his words?" I answered in a ridiculing manner. At the same time, just to be safe, I made several swords out of bones, suspending all of them above those holy knights.

"Stop-!"

The Blaze Knight raised his Great Flames Sword once more, but his actions and his roars both disappeared simultaneously when I went through with holding a bone sword over one of the holy knight's neck.

Although he lowered his blade, his voice was shaking with anger as he growled, "No one is allowed to prop a blade above the neck of my vice-captain!"

As expected, I picked the right person! I smirked. From the beginning, this holy knight had been in charge of relaying Blaze Knight's questions. I could feel that he was a little different from the rest of the holy knights. "Grisia, don't be like this!" Yuna sounded so anxious that she seemed to be on the verge of tears. She sobbed, "Let them go! Blaze Knight is one of the

Twelve Holy Knights! They never tell a lie, and he really only wanted to save Ice Knight...”

Yuna’s voice suddenly vanished.

Ugh!

I suddenly felt a sharp surge of pain in my back. Only then did I notice that an arrow was sticking out of my body; Sybil stood not far from me with her bow raised...

The Blaze Knight took this opportunity to slash at me. I barely managed to retreat a few steps back, but the broadsword still managed to slice into my left shoulder down to my chest, producing a large, gaping wound.

It ended with a blow to my stomach; I was kicked down onto the ground by the Blaze Knight. My body was sprawled across the floor as the Blaze Knight pressed his knee against my abdomen to restrain me. He then pressed his Great Flames Sword against my neck once again.

But this is completely unnecessary. If I could, I would assure him that I’m in so much pain that I can’t even get up. Gathering the dark element is even more impossible. But alas, I’m in so much pain that I can’t even open my mouth to assure him of this.

“Grisia!”

Sybil and Yuna ran over. Even though Sybil was the one who had shot me with an arrow earlier, she was now anxiously speaking to the Blaze Knight, “Blaze Knight! You said you wouldn’t kill him!”

“That’s why he’s still alive.” He didn’t even turn as he coldly answered them.

I laughed bitterly. And I thought it was thanks to myself, for retreating that one step, that I’m still alive... But what? This was all the result of the Blaze Knight feeling like he should show some compassion?

“But, but...” Sybil stammered anxiously, unable to complete even half a sentence. All she could manage was to quickly turn to me to say, “I’m sorry, Grisia. Don’t move recklessly. The Blaze Knight won’t hurt you.”

Oh? Short of killing me, I don’t believe he can hurt me any more than he

already has.

The Blaze Knight yelled, "Time for me to take a look at your damn appearance," as he stretched out his hand to grab my mask.

At this point, I suddenly lost all my desire to struggle. I might as well let him look at my face. I might even be able to find out whether or not I really am the Sun Knight. Whatever the outcome, even if I'm not the Sun Knight, or even if my face will end up on wanted posters because of this, nothing matters anymore.

Tell me! Am I, or am I not? Is Ecilan really lying to me? The Blaze Knight widened his eyes, and exclaimed out loud.

"You... "

"You"?

Are "you" really the Sun Knight?

Or is it, so "you" are actually just some random, wanted necromancer?

What exactly comes after the word "you"?

I didn't know; the Blaze Knight was long gone from my field of vision. I covered both of my eyes, even though this motion wouldn't stop me from seeing...

I screamed out loud, "Why?! Why have you taken me away at such a time?"

"Scarlet!"

I crawled up and turned to face the little girl as I shouted at her. After doing so, for some reason I spit out an arrow of blood. My consciousness suddenly started fading away. As a shroud of darkness fell upon me, I heard the gentle sound of a girl's voice. It carried a bit of compassion and a bit of pity...

"Because they are trying to trick you, Grisia. They are lying to you."  
Oh? So other than Ecilan, Sybil and Yuna, even the Blaze Knight is lying to me?

Then, isn't that as good as everybody out there lying to me?

# Chapter 7: Seventh Tactic of Slaying a Dragon: “Choose Your Companions for Slaying a Dragon”

As I gradually regained consciousness, I thought of opening my eyes, but I immediately stopped myself.

Why should I? I’m blind; there is no point in physically opening my eyes.

The images in my mind gradually became clearer... However, all of a sudden they stopped becoming clearer. My sight was still very blurry, not at all like how clear it had been before.

I opened my eyes thinking that they might actually be of some use, but even after doing so the images around me were still blurry and unchanged.

I was startled, slightly confused as to why this was happening, until I realized that the dark element in my vicinity was interfering with my ability to sense other elements, causing the blurriness of the images in my mind. When I strengthened my sensing ability, the images returned to their usual clarity.

This has absolutely nothing to do with opening my eyes!

I ripped a strip of cloth from my robes and started winding it around my eyes.

After that, I stood up and roared to my surroundings, “Scarlet, where are you? Don’t keep on hiding. I don’t trust you, I don’t trust Ecilan, and I don’t trust Sybil. I don’t trust anyone!”

“That’s very good!”

This time I wasn’t taken by surprise. I actually thought of slowly turning around and facing the little girl behind my back, but I stopped again. The movement would have been as meaningless as opening my eyes.

I had already “seen” her, so I had no need to face her. She looked exactly the same as before, like a little girl, although I now highly doubted that

she really was one.

“You are becoming more and more like how you should be. Have you started regaining your memories?” Scarlet asked teasingly.

I flinched and reflexively turned around, blurting out, “What do you mean?”

“Ah! Seems like there’s still a little ways to go.” Scarlet, however, smiled and said, “You don’t actually need to turn around to see me, isn’t that so?”

Hearing this, my fury welled up again and I could not help roaring, “Don’t change the subject! Scarlet, what on earth do you mean? Don’t play riddles with me, and don’t disappear again!”

“I can’t help that. They destroyed my body and now I have no form, so I had to wait a really long time before I could appear before you!”

What? Stunned, I asked in confusion, “Who are ‘they’?”

“Who else?” Scarlet sneered. “Who else but the people who had just tried to lie to you?”

“Blaze Knight?” I asked, then stayed silent for a moment before answering in full confidence, “No, you mean the Church of the God of Light, don’t you?”

“Bingo!” Scarlet nodded her head, satisfied, and said with a smile, “However, to be more exact it’s the Sun Knight.”

The Sun Knight wants to deceive me? I hesitated, yet I still could not stop myself from saying, “But, Ecilan said that I am the Sun Knight...”

Scarlet suddenly snorted and laughed. The tinkling, silver-bell-like laughter of hers rang for quite some time until she shook her head and said, “Grisia, you actually believe him? You are full of the dark element, you use necromancy, you don’t know how to use a sword, and you’re not good at horseback-riding... Even if you have lost your memories, you can’t really think that you’re the Sun Knight, can you? You don’t even meet the simplest of requirements for being a knight!”

“I...” I was dumbstruck. That’s right! What on earth was I expecting?

Scarlet suddenly gave a cry, “Oh no, my time is up again. Grisia, remember, don’t trust anyone. Use them, but don’t trust them.”

My heart lurched, and I asked sharply, “Including you?”

“Yes, including me.”

Scarlet nodded her head, then said, “Decide for yourself whether or not you want to follow my instructions. Now, I’m telling you, you have already arrived at your desired destination, the entrance to the Kingdom of Moon Orchid’s largest land of darkness, the Valley of Trizer. The item you’ve lost is in the deepest part of the valley. Go and get it. After that, you will know the entire truth.”

Valley of Trizer ... That was indeed my desired destination. I had originally planned to lure Blaze Knight here, but it had never crossed my mind that the “item” I had lost would be here as well.

Even though I had intentionally followed Scarlet’s instructions to head northeast, I didn’t think I would make such an accurate choice and actually find the exact place Scarlet had talked about.

Although my mind was still full of questions that I wanted to ask, Scarlet’s figure was already fading away. Seeing this, I hurriedly asked, “You’re not coming along with me? Then at least tell me, what did I lose?”

“You will know... when you see it, because it is something that originally belonged to you.”

As Scarlet’s figure slowly faded, her voice also became fainter and fainter, as if it were floating away like the wind...

“Just like how you knew that that unicorn belongs to you too.”

Before disappearing, she stretched out her hand and pointed to a corner. I extended my sensing ability to the spot and unsurprisingly discovered that the previously vacant space was suddenly occupied by the unicorn. Even Ecilan was still tied on top of it, but both of his eyes were tightly closed. He didn’t seem conscious.

Even after Scarlet’s figure had completely disappeared, I blankly stood where I was for a while until I remembered that I had been cut by a sword.

If I don't hurry up and heal myself, I might die from excessive blood loss...  
Eh!

Where's my wound?

There was not a single scratch on my chest, or even any bloodstains. If not for the fact that my shirt had such a gaping tear in it, I might have even doubted whether I had really been injured.

Was it Scarlet who healed me? If so, then following Scarlet's instructions shouldn't be a mistake, right?

My mind was in a muddle. I had absolutely no idea who was lying to me and who wasn't, but at least, up until now, Scarlet had never hurt me. She brought me to the unicorn, gave me *A Complete Guide to Necromancy Spells*, saved me from the hands of Chikus Blaze, and even healed me; furthermore, she brought the unicorn and my hostage back to me as well.

With my hand, I beckoned the unicorn who immediately hurried over happily and started licking me. I gave a back-handed smack to its head.

"You like licking me so much, do you think I'm food..."

Wait a minute!

Speaking of which, what does a unicorn eat to sustain itself? How come I don't think I have ever seen it eat anything? I stared doubtfully at the unicorn. It still persisted on sticking close to my hand, continuously licking it to show its affection.

It doesn't feed on humans, does it?

When I immediately retracted my hands, the unicorn started whinnying in displeasure. I hit it on its head again. After the unicorn gave a cry of dismay, it lowered its head until it was almost touching the ground.

Seeing this, my heart softened. After all, it had been very obedient all this time. Letting it lick my hand a bit was not a problem... as long as it didn't eat me.

"But still, you always lick me. You have never bitten me, so you probably don't eat humans, right?"

I hesitantly extended my hand. The horse immediately lifted its head and started licking my hand. What on earth is on my hand that is so nice to lick?

Even if it is eating “sweat,” after two licks all my sweat would be gone. Other than the horse’s saliva, there was absolutely nothing else on my hand... Hang on!

It couldn’t be... I doubtfully gathered some holy element onto my hand. My body naturally attracts a small amount of the holy element. If there is anything on my hand, it should only be this.

After I finished gathering it, I started to observe the unicorn’s movements. The horse was actually so excited that it snorted and stomped its hooves, both eyes shining with greed... What? I can’t see color, so how can I see that its eyes are shining with greed?

If a horse has opened its eyes even wider than peaches and saliva is drooling down the length of its face, then I don’t need to be able to see color to know that its eyes must be shining even brighter than my holy light.

Following that, I extended a hand, rested my chin on the other, and sat on the ground, grudgingly letting the horse eat its “meal.”

“So you really have been treating me as your food all this time. No wonder you like to lick me so much, you gluttonous horse.”

Although I said this, I gathered even more of the holy element, letting the unicorn lick to its heart’s content.

After all, this perverted and gluttonous horse was my only companion now. I forced a smile, looked at the unicorn, and muttered, “Say, I really should give you a name, since you’re my companion.”

Hearing this, the unicorn actually stopped licking its food, lifted its head, and neighed urgently.

“You actually want a name so badly? Alright, let me think. What I should call you?” I frowned and started thinking.

At this, the unicorn used its head to nudge me, and it gently bit my hand. It kept on repeating the nudging and hand-biting actions.

“Hand?” I asked in confusion.

It shook its head vigorously, stopped for a while, and then switched to gathering a massive amount of holy light onto its body.

Somewhat understanding, I asked, “Light?”

The unicorn nodded its long neck energetically. It then used the horn on its head to touch me gently, and then it kept on repeating the action.

“Horn?” I hesitantly said.

The unicorn nodded its head vigorously. After nodding, it stared at me with much anticipation. Don't question me any more than this why I am blind yet can still see something like anticipation.

If there was a horse who was continuously braying at a pitch eight times higher than normal, had eyes which were wider than peaches and hooves that were rearing restlessly towards one's body, only someone who was blind, deaf, and had lost all sense of touch would not know how strongly this horse was anticipating my answer.

I felt sorry for Ecilan, who was still on top of its back. He definitely had to be sleeping very precariously.

“Don't rush. Let me think, light and horn... Light and horn!”

A thought flashed through my mind and I cried out, “I get it, so you are...”

The unicorn stopped all of its movements and stared at me with wide eyes, not daring to even breathe loudly.

“Whitey!”

“...”

This is the first time I've ever seen a unicorn fall down.

“Aren't both light and horns white? They should be white, right? At least that's what my general knowledge is telling me. Since you pointed to light and horn, and both of these are white-colored things, your name must be

Whitey. What on earth are you making a ruckus for?”

I unhappily smacked Whitey’s head and reprimanded, “Even if you have a name, there’s no need to jump around so happily. Keep up the noise and you won’t have any dinner tonight!”

Whitey didn’t dare to jump around anymore, but it started making whimpering sounds. This time though, I didn’t stop it. Since the entrance to the valley was so eerily quiet, a little bit of noise was alright.

After naming Whitey, I observed my surroundings. To both my left and right were cliffs; only to my immediate front was some blurry flat land, the reason for the blurriness being the super dense dark element there.

In front of me should be the Valley of Trizer. Should I head in? Or should I leave, taking Whitey and Ice Knight along and continue being chased by people?

I forced a smile.

Actually, I don’t have any other choice.

Unless I was willing to continue living as a person without memories, on the run from people out to kill me, I had absolutely no choice but to follow Scarlet’s words...

“Grisia!”

Startled, I reached out with my sensing ability and noticed that it was Woodrow and the others who had arrived earlier than me. They jogged out from the valley, naturally running toward where I was.

Iacchi was the fastest. He was the first to reach my side and immediately slapped my back, hard. As I painfully turned to face him, he suddenly burst out with a gong-like cry, “Grisia, what happened to your eyes?”

When both Igor and Woodrow reached me, they also stared at my eyes in surprise.

I then remembered that my eyes were still bound by a strip of cloth. I immediately took it off and told them, “Nothing, my eyes had just hurt a little, so I covered them for the time being.”

“They have already healed completely, right? Don’t scare us.” Igor grabbed my head with his hands and stared at my eyes relentlessly, as if he would find some sort of incurable disease in them.

Woodrow worriedly asked, “Do you want to go find someone to heal them first? You might have fallen sick.”

“No way, can’t your healing spells do the trick?” Iacchi let loose an incredulous expression.

“A cleric’s healing spells aren’t all encompassing. If it’s a normal illness, a healing spell’s effect won’t help much.” Woodrow explained thoroughly and then turned to me and asked, “Grisia, you must have tried a healing spell to heal it, then noticed that there was little effect, right?”

I ... I could only nod my head.

“Oh no, you might really have fallen ill,” Woodrow said with concern while placing a hand on my forehead.

“How is he? There’s nothing wrong with Grisia, is there?” Igor asked anxiously.

“I don’t think he has a fever.”

I carefully sensed their expressions. All of them seemed to have a look of concern, and none of them bore any atypical looks.

“We should leave and bring Grisia for a checkup...”

How can I let that happen? I still have to find the item I’ve lost! I hurriedly said, “No, don’t. Blaze Knight might catch up soon, and I really am alright now.”

“Really?” Woodrow asked me doubtfully.

“If you aren’t alright, don’t push yourself,” Igor loudly muttered.

Don’t trust anyone.

My heart suddenly prickled painfully, and I forced myself to say, “There really is nothing wrong.”

Iacchi clapped my back and said, “Then that’s alright. It would be

terrible if we finished this at the expense of your eyesight. That wouldn't be worthwhile at all."

"That's right, I forgot to say, you did well!" Woodrow patted my shoulder. His pat was definitely a lot gentler than Iacchi's. He softly said, "Good work."

Igor said in a loud voice, "I admire you, Grisia. You actually escaped from Blaze Knight. You really are talented..."

Sybil and Yuna betrayed me.

"What's wrong? Why aren't you saying anything?" Iacchi asked, puzzled.

"Could it be that your eyes are hurting again?"

"Do they still hurt?" Igor asked, worried, "Then we should follow what Woodrow said and go heal them."

Sybil even shot an arrow at me.

"Grisia?"

"Nothing... I'm really alright..." I gave a brilliant smile and said, "I just feel a little tired. As long as we move slowly, I'll be fine. Let's move out. It'd be bad if Blaze Knight caught up with us."

Everyone nodded their heads.

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Along the way, Igor and Iacchi were warned in advance by Woodrow not to goof off, otherwise they might disrupt my rest, so both of them were very obedient. Then, while walking Woodrow told me about the Valley of Trizer's current state, even lowering his voice, treating me as though I were sleepwalking, and he was afraid to wake me up!

"Ever since we've reached the Valley of Trizer we've been following your plan, first setting up at the borders of the valley, but we found something strange."

"What's strange?" Listening to his soft voice had made me feel drowsy. Finally something has caught my attention.

Unsettled, Woodrow furrowed his brows and said, “The Valley of Trizer has always been one of the three largest lands of darkness in the Kingdom of Moon Orchid. It should be filled with undead creatures and dark demon beasts, but we found an area with absolutely no undead creatures.”

Iacchi, who must have been bored out of his mind, immediately cut in, “While waiting for you, we thought about going in to take a look, but... Hehe, even though there weren’t any undead creatures, there were still ferocious beasts! So we didn’t actually go in.”

Absolutely no trace of undead creatures... This abnormality gave me a familiar feeling. It might have had something to do with the item Scarlet spoke of. I couldn’t help voicing my suggestion, “Let’s go take a look!”

Stunned, Woodrow said hesitantly, “But we still have an unconscious Ice Knight on our hands. Isn’t this a bad idea?”

“Don’t worry, he won’t wake up for a while.” I said with indifference, “Just treat him as Whitey’s saddle.”

“...Whitey? Who is Whitey?” Woodrow, Iacchi, and Igor all had startled looks on their faces. They seemed not to understand who Whitey was.

I replied crossly, “Besides the unicorn, who else here can wear a saddle?”

Everyone’s eyes widened, and after a while Iacchi cried out, “You named a unicorn Whitey?”

I immediately denied it. “No, the unicorn wanted that name.”

The unicorn immediately started whinnying loudly and stomping its hooves, occasionally even rearing up... Poor Ecilan! He definitely could only be having nightmares.

“... Are you sure?”

I nodded my head. “Yes, it signed it out for me.”

“Since when did it have hands...” Igor said, dazed.

“It pointed at my hand and brandished its horn.” I said confidently, “Think about it! The holy light on my hand is white, right? The unicorn’s horn is also white, right?”

All three of them nodded their heads. I felt happy. Luckily, I hadn't guessed wrong.

"So there's nothing wrong with calling it Whitey, right?"

"That's true when you put it that way! So it really is named Whitey."

Igor was the first one to nod his head and agree with me. Iacchi shrugged his shoulders, and seemed not to care about what the unicorn's name was. Woodrow, however, hesitated for a while before nodding his head.

The unicorn whinnied even louder... It really is very excited! Is having a name so delightful?

Just then, Woodrow couldn't help whispering, "But don't you think it might also be referring to 'Holy Lighthorn' or something of the sort?"

The unicorn suddenly started neighing brazenly and stomping its hooves.

"You really are noisy! If you make any more noise, you won't get any dinner!" I roared at Whitey, then turned my head and said, "Don't you find it strange for a horse to have such a sophisticated vocabulary? Not to mention how 'Holy Lighthorn' is such a mouthful. Isn't Whitey easier and more understandable?"

Woodrow couldn't help agreeing, "That... that's true. It must be Whitey then."

I nodded my head matter-of-factly.

At this, the unicorn dropped its head. Igor stretched out a hand to pat its head and said, "The name Whitey really isn't too bad. It's definitely much easier to pronounce than Holy Lighthorn... Ah! You bit me, let go! It hurts!"

"Alright, let's get a move on! Whitey, let go of Igor's palm... I mean, let go of his entire arm."

Afterward, we moved deeper and deeper into the valley and finally stopped having an easy time. A few types of creatures of darkness,

especially undead creatures, became as numerous as weeds on a grass plain. Two steps in and a crowd would surge forward. At first, Igor and Iacchi attacked the low-level undead creatures as if playing a game, even competing over the number of undead creatures they finished off.

However, as we headed deeper, all of us started noticing something strange. No matter how many we'd beaten, the number of undead creatures wasn't being reduced but was increasing instead. Even some of the low-level undead creatures that should have run off after one beating rushed and attacked us from the back.

Finally, in comparison to the five people and one horse on our side, the undead creatures opposite of us seemed like an army.

"Hurry, hurry up and fall back!" Iacchi shrieked.

"What's going on?" Woodrow gaped and gasped uncharacteristically, "When we came earlier, there weren't that many undead creatures!"

Immediately, Igor the warrior dutifully lifted up his sword... Although the tip of the sword was trembling enough to look like a V.

"Probably because Whitey, Ecilan and I are all here," I realized.

"Our bodies are filled with holy light. In the eyes of those undead creatures filled with the dark element, we're probably as bright as a bonfire. Although undead creatures should be afraid of the holy element, this is their base camp. There's a high chance that their fury has already overpowered their fear, so they're all grouping together to attack us."

"N-now what are we supposed to do?" Standing at the forefront, the warrior Igor's voice was trembling so much that he sounded like he was about to burst into tears.

"Don't worry." I smiled lightly and said, "As long as we turn into them, there won't be any problems. Undead creatures won't attack their brethren."

"Turn into undead creatures?" Iacchi immediately cried out in a strange tone, "Who wants to change into them! Better to die than to cling onto an unnatural life! I don't want to die so young!"

“Don’t panic so much,” I said crossly. “You don’t want to die. Do you think I want to either?”

“Then what are you planning to do...”

“No matter what your plan is, hurry up! They’re rushing toward us already!”

Iacchi hadn’t even finished his question when Igor cut him off. Hearing Igor, Iacchi and Woodrow immediately assumed a fighting stance. Iacchi drew out a dagger and stood behind Igor. Woodrow, on the other hand, changed into a panther, and stood next to the warrior.

This surprised me. They’re facing so many undead creatures, yet they still have the will to fight? Maybe I really have been belittling Woodrow and the rest of them.

However, even so, I had no wish to fight against an entire army.

I dispersed more than half of the holy light surrounding my body and started gathering the dark element. This was even easier than gathering holy light. The dark element here was so thick that my surroundings had been misty and blurred to me all along. I simply stretched out my hands; immediately, my hands filled with a large ball of dark element that was thick enough to be kicked around.

After that, I shrouded everyone in the dark element I had gathered.

Under the shroud of dark element, the undead creatures immediately ceased rushing forward. They acted as if they had lost their target. After staring stupidly for a moment, they started searching but couldn’t detect anything. After a while, they started dispersing. Some even floated past us, but none bothered to give us a single glance.

Seeing this, the originally terrified trio calmed down and sheathed their weapons. Even Woodrow changed back to human form.

“So that’s what you meant. You should have said so earlier!” Iacchi loudly proclaimed, “Explain things better! Changing into them... Did you want to scare us to death?!”

“Grisia, I want to punch you dead!”

True to his words, after sheathing his sword Igor rushed over and caught me, wedged my head in his arms, and raised his fist... I actually worried for a bit, thinking he really was going to punch me, but in the end he placed his fist on top of my head and then twisted his fist back and forth incessantly.

“Hahaha! That tickles!” I was itching and laughing as I strongly objected, “It’s your own fault for misunderstanding. It had nothing to do with me!”

“You little...” Hearing my words, Iacchi also joined in rubbing his fist into my head.

Off to the side, Woodrow shook his head with a completely helpless expression on his face as he watched our childish antics.

After playing about for a while, I suddenly shrugged off Igor and said indifferently, “You’re awake, Ice Knight?”

Everyone stopped their games and swiveled their heads to look at Whitey’s back. Ecilan really had opened his eyes. He stayed silent for a while; only his pupils moved from left to right, as if observing his surroundings. Finally, he murmured quietly, “How could I have fainted...”

It was probably Scarlet’s fault, I think? However, I thought Scarlet would have made it so that he would remain in a comatose state until the end, just in case he started lying to me again. I had never thought that Scarlet would leave him be.

Ecilan turned to look at me and asked in a quiet voice, “Is Blaze alright?”

“Yes,” I sneered and couldn’t help mocking, “He’s in such perfect health that he almost cut me in half.”

Hearing this, Ecilan said, startled, “He didn’t know that the person he was attacking was you, did he?”

“He knew,” I said coolly. “He also said that I’m definitely not the Sun Knight.”

Ecilan blinked, confusion on his face.

Woodrow asked acutely, “What Sun Knight?”

I hesitated, but still explained, “Nothing. To escape, Ecilan lied to me and said that I’m the Sun Knight. He wanted me to leave with him.”

“You’re the Sun Knight?” Iacchi opened his mouth wide.

The three of us plugged our ears in unison.

“How can that be~~ HAHAHA! That’s so funny that it’s giving me a stomachache!” Iacchi laughed while saying, “If Grisia is the Sun Knight, then I am the Pope!”

Poor Ecilan... Because he was tied up, he had no way to cover his ears and could only suffer through Iacchi’s explosive laughter. Unfortunately, all three of us only had two hands each. Although we sympathized with him, we didn’t have any extra hands to help him block the noise.

Finally, Iacchi’s loud laughter stopped, and only then did the three of us drop our hands. I sympathetically cast two healing spells on Ecilan’s ears. The latter’s expression showed that he was probably about to faint again.

Woodrow murmured quietly, “Luckily an undead creature’s hearing isn’t particularly good. If not, all of the undead creatures in the valley would have been drawn out by that.”

“Poor you!” I sympathetically rubbed Ecilan’s head, and at the same time mussed up his hair to prevent him from being too good-looking.

Ecilan stared at me coldly.

I don’t know why, but after being glared at by him, I suddenly felt that something was not quite right. I immediately changed the subject. “Ecilan, since you’ve said you know me, look carefully at me. Do you feel as if there is something missing from me?”

Unexpectedly, he replied without any hesitation, “A lot of things are missing.”

“I mean, are there any very important items gone?” I thoroughly explained, “Anything that I always keep by my side, never removing it, but is now gone?”

Ecilan stared seriously at me. After quite some time, he nodded and said, "There really is something missing."

"What's missing?" I asked in agitation. Finally, finally I will know what it is that I have lost.

"You're missing..."

All of us listened attentively to the answer.

Ecilan replied in complete seriousness, "You're missing a little pouch with a sun-shaped symbol embroidered on it, the one that I gave you for you to stuff in your sweets. You never take it off your body."

"..."

If the item Scarlet wants me to find is a pouch used for storing candy, I will definitely mince her and make sweets out of her!

Then, Ecilan suddenly added, "There also seems to be a necklace, but that was something you only started wearing about a month ago."

I started. A month ago? "What did that necklace look like?"

Blanking out, Ecilan shook his head and said, "I've never paid much attention. I've only heard from Metal who said that he saw you wearing a large jewel. He wondered where you'd snatched it from, and wanted to inform the Pope that you'd stolen it..."

"...What is Metal Knight's name?"

"Laica Metal."

I viciously said, "I'll remember him!"

"Is that so?" Ecilan murmured in a low voice, "Then he'll definitely be very touched. Besides Knight-Captain Judgment, you'll actually also remember his name correctly. Before, whenever you called him by his name, you would call him Lime, or Slime."

"Sl-Slime? Ha..." Iacchi wanted to laugh again. Fortunately, Igor managed to cover his mouth in time.

"I called him Slime?" I asked curiously, "Then what did I call you?"

“ ... ”

“Hey! Talk!” I nagged him, “Unless you are lying to me again! If not, tell me! What did I call you?”

“ ... ”

# Chapter 8: Eighth Tactic of Slaying a Dragon: “Take the Wrong Fork in the Road”

We continued heading further into the valley with Woodrow leading the way. As we walked, I discovered that things were as they had claimed. There were fewer and fewer undead creatures. Eventually, there were practically none at all.

However, the others didn't notice that the dark element was also becoming thinner and thinner and that the water element was taking its place.

The reason there were fewer and fewer undead creatures was now obvious; the dark element had thinned out so much that it was no longer able to sustain them.

But why would there suddenly be a spot of land permeated with the water element in this valley overflowing with the dark element? As I pondered this, Ecilan interrupted my thinking with a precise and simple question, “Where to?”

I hesitated and then told him, “I'm searching for something...”

“So you wanted to search for something?” Ahead, Woodrow suddenly asked, “You think that an area bereft of undead creatures has something of yours?”

“Yeah.” I nodded.

“What is it?” Iacchi interrupted excitedly. “Is it treasure?”

I shrugged and said, “I don't remember either, just that I think I lost something and I must find it.”

If I don't find it, I will meet a frightening end... Even though Scarlet had never mentioned any of this, my “general knowledge” told me that if I wasn't able to find that thing, I would definitely meet a fate worse than becoming an undead creature.

“This is bad.” Woodrow, who was walking out in front, suddenly turned his head and asked, “Grisia, which path?”

I blanked out before I noticed that not too far ahead of us the path was no longer a single path; it had now split in two. A wide expanse of shrubbery, full of brambles, as well as bones, divided the paths... It didn't look like we would be able to traverse through the middle.

I didn't know right away which path we should take. It wasn't exactly possible for us to divide into two teams. Woodrow and the other two's strengths weren't enough to form a team on their own...

“Okay, we'll take the left. Whitey and Ecilan will take the right.” I patted Whitey's neck and said, “If you find anything strange, then come and look for me. I'll reward you with some holy element!”

Whitey nodded happily with large motions while Ecilan merely glared at me icily from the horse's back.

I completely ignored his gaze and instructed Whitey, “Go!”

“Hey! Isn't this a bit too cruel of you?” Igor opened his eyes wide in incredulity.

“At least untie one of his hands!” Iacchi shouted, “What if he runs into danger?”

“It is somewhat cruel,” Woodrow said a little hesitantly.

With my face expressionless, I countered, “If the three of you together can defeat one of his hands, then I'll untie his hand. So, want to try it out right now?”

The three of them only took one second to consider this before they decided unanimously, “Let's not untie him after all.”

I rolled my eyes at them and then patted Whitey's butt to signal that it could leave. Whitey took the path to the left without any apparent apprehension, and like usual, Ecilan seldom spoke whenever there were other people around, so he didn't protest either. He was quietly carried away by Whitey.

Afterward, we headed toward the path on the right. Our team was much noisier than Ecilan, who didn't wish to talk, and the unicorn, who didn't know how to talk. Iacchi kept pestering me, trying to force me to recall what I was trying to find.

"It might be some kind of gemstone," I finally made up. I'm only saying "it might be," which actually might be true!

"A gemstone! How large?" After hearing my words, Iacchi's eyes immediately became huge.

Unimpressed, I said, "Probably as large as your eyes are right now!"

Straightaway, Iacchi's eyes grew even larger... Hey hey! Do you think doing that will make the gemstone even larger?

"Grisia."

Suddenly, Woodrow slowed down and slowly backed up to my side before addressing me.

"What?"

I turned my head, looking at Woodrow. Even though turning my head to look at someone wasn't necessary, I still needed to put on a show in order to avoid Woodrow discovering that something was wrong with my eyes.

"I keep feeling that Ice Knight is acting a little strange," he brought up somewhat hesitantly.

When I heard his words, I said moodily, "He's always been a strange guy, have you forgotten? He's even claimed that I'm the Sun Knight!"

"No! That's not what's strange!"

Woodrow immediately shook his head, and he continued to explain in detail. "I keep feeling that since he's one of the Twelve Holy Knights, he shouldn't be this weak. I've even heard that the swordsmanship of this generation's Ice Knight is fairly good. So, really, we shouldn't have been able to catch him like this, and he shouldn't have been unable to escape... though actually, I feel like he simply doesn't want to escape."

I stopped in my tracks, asking in puzzlement, "He's not the weakest

among the Twelve Holy Knights?”

Woodrow, and even Iacchi and Igor, shook their heads vehemently.

I fell silent for a good while and then asked, “Compared with Blaze Knight, who’s stronger?”

This time, it was Iacchi who answered. “It should be Ice Knight! Ice Knight’s swordsmanship is quite famous, but I don’t think I’ve heard about Blaze Knight’s swordsmanship.”

Yet Blaze Knight is very strong. I almost couldn’t subdue him with my dark element. So, how could I manage to subdue the even stronger Ice Knight?

“Does this mean he purposely lost from the beginning?” I mumbled. When I discovered everyone’s puzzled expressions, I hurriedly added, “Let’s forget about him for now. He’s already been taken away by the unicorn, so he won’t hinder our business.”

Hesitantly, Woodrow said, “Then our original plan...”

“Of course we’re still following our original plan.” I coldly said, “Even if my dark element can’t subdue him, I naturally have other means.”

“Alright! I’ll believe you.” The three of them all nodded.

“Good.” I nodded, and then I asked curiously, “Then may I ask now if those three things in front of us are actually undead creatures too?”

I gestured with my hand a short distance ahead of us. I had discovered the presence of these strange beings a while ago. Although their bodies had the dark element, it wasn’t very abundant. Rather, the metal element was far more abundant, making me extremely curious. I truly had never seen any creatures that had more metal element than anything else.

Their appearances were also very foreign. I have never seen anything like them... Ah! I mean, “never” since I woke up, at least.

They were quite large, probably around one and a half times the height of an adult male, and their shape was fairly “square.” Even though they had the basic appearance of a human with a face, body, and four assorted

limbs, they were fairly crude. Their heads were cubes, while their two arms weren't even the same lengths. Really, they were quite like wooden puppets that had been put together incorrectly, except they were made out of metal instead of wood.

Although there were three altogether, all three had somewhat different appearances... More accurately, they were bent out of shape to different degrees.

Woodrow and the others looked in the direction I had gestured and froze in unison.

Don't tell me they don't know what they are either? I scratched my head.

The three of them suddenly screamed together, "Enchanted puppets!"

At first, I wanted to ask what "enchanted puppets" were, but when I turned my head I saw that my three companions, who had been next to me, had all disappeared without a trace... They actually ran at the sight of them!

At least Woodrow had some morals. He turned his head and shouted, "Grisia, hurry up and run! Enchanted puppets are creatures made by alchemists. Their power is inexhaustible, and their speed is nothing to laugh at, either. No matter how you strike at them, they won't tire... In short, hurry up and run!"

Hurriedly, I ran and cast the Wings of God spell on myself. It didn't take me long to catch up with Igor, who was at the back of the group.

"G-Grisia, I, I want the Wings of God spell too...!" he shouted while running. He sent me an imploring expression.

Hmph! You dared to run away without me!  
Seeing his remorseful expression, I generously cast the Wings of God spell on him.

After that, the two of us easily caught up to Woodrow and Iacchi's side. I waited for them to show repentance toward me.

Woodrow turned to look at us, and then behind us... He didn't show any

repentance, but rather revealed a hopelessly desolate expression; one used for facing down death.

I could understand why as I had also heard them. Behind us, the noise produced by the three enchanted puppets was already closing in... In passing, I tossed the Wings of God spell over the last two people, and then I began running with everything I had.

However, the three things behind us were even faster. At that moment, I finally noticed that they didn't even have feet—they were rolling along on wheels!

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If we're able to outrun them, then I will change professions and become a vehicle instead of a human!

We can't keep going on like this. I tossed one magic attack after another behind me.

“Bone Prison!”

They crashed directly into my Bone Prison and shattered it. It was as if they hadn't felt like they had run into any obstruction at all.

“Chains of Darkness!”

They carried a bunch of chains, their speed unrelenting as they continued to plow forward.

“Lightning Magic!”

T-They... Why does it seem like they're even faster now?

Could it be that they run on electricity, and I actually helped them power up?

As Woodrow ran, he turned his head and said, “Grisia, they have a very strong immunity against magic. It's useless!”

“Then what should I do?” I wanted to cry but had no tears.

Among the four of us, Igor and I were probably the slowest runners. Igor was at least a warrior, while I was a cleric-slash-necromancer. If I got caught by those three huge monsters behind us, I would definitely be

smashed into smithereens.

Iacchi yelled loudly, “Haven’t we said this from the start? Hurry and run!”

You sure are relaxed! They’re already... at my back!  
As I turned around, I pulled the Divine Ice Sword from my side just in time to see an enchanted puppet strike at me with a huge palm. The palm was even larger than my head. If I had actually gotten struck, my head would have probably turned into a tomato crushed by a chariot.

Without any choice, I randomly brandished the sword above my head to block... Clang!

So unexpected! This thing above my head that looks like a popsicle was actually able to block that blow without shattering into ice splinters... Truly excellent! From now on, I will definitely respectfully call you “Divine Stick!”

At that moment, the enchanted puppet suddenly attacked from the side, squarely hitting the edge of the Divine Stick. However, the Divine Stick truly proved to be the Divine Stick—the blade naturally did not snap... although I rather wished it had.

If it had snapped, at least I would have had half of the stick left. Getting it knocked away meant I didn’t even have half of it left to defend with.

“ ... ”

I looked at my empty hands. I’d lost the Divine Stick, yet three enchanted puppets, who weren’t afraid of magic and who had fists larger than my head, stood in front of me... This time I’m definitely done for! Now faced with the enormous hands that the enchanted puppets used to strike, I could only dodge to the side and rely on my increased speed from the Wings of God spell. I barely managed to dodge the first few strikes. On top of that, the three enchanted puppets seemed to have basic intelligence. They formed a triangle to surround me, slowly trapping me inside, leaving me without any gaps to escape through...

“Groawrr!”

The roar of a bear was so loud that my ears hurt. A gap appeared in the surrounding enclosure and Igor singlehandedly pulled me out from inside the confinement.

“You guys...”

I was extremely, extremely astonished. Before me, Woodrow had transformed into a bear and was currently fighting with two of the enchanted puppets, all while Iacchi drew away the third one. Finally, Igor raised his sword to help Woodrow deal with one of the enchanted puppets.

I never thought the three of them would actually come back to save me... Hadn't they decided to abandon me ever since they saw me kidnap the Ice Knight? Didn't they say that we would go our separate ways after we divided the money from selling the unicorn?

Then why come back to save me?

“Grisia, strengthen the protective effect of Light Shield just a bit more!” yelled Igor loudly.

“Me too! Make my Wings of God spell a little faster!” Iacchi's voice drifted over, his shouts seemingly coming from all directions as he quickly ran around.

Their voices brought me out of the suspicions that plagued my mind. I stood up and began gathering holy and wind elements...

“Grisia, careful!”

“Light Shield!”

I had strengthened the Light Shield on everyone's bodies right before I heard Iacchi's warning. Suddenly, I felt something was off... Why is there a shadow above my head? Once I used my sensing ability, I sucked in my breath. I didn't think there would be a fourth enchanted puppet!

It used a huge palm to strike at me... Bam!

I flew off to the side but luckily did not receive much damage. I hadn't been sent flying by the attack—I had been rammed off to the side, but it wasn't because of the enchanted puppet. It was actually Whitey the unicorn! It actually returned!

“Thanks.”

After dropping to a sitting position on the ground I managed to thank it shakily. It didn't have time to spare me an answer, though, as it was currently engaged in battle with an opponent, using its horn to keep the fourth enchanted puppet at bay.

Seeing the situation, I quickly reminded it, “Whitey, don't use lightning magic. It'll become even stronger!”

When I heard Whitey's answering whinny, I quickly cast Light Shield and the Wings of God spell over it. Once all this was done, I finally had some spare time to check out the other people's situations. However, I didn't expect that I could only helplessly look on while they got hit by the enchanted puppets several times. Thankfully, Light Shield did provide protection for them. It didn't seem like anyone had suffered any serious injuries.

However, with each blow they took, the thickness of their Light Shields thinned. I could only continue to help them by patching up their Light Shields. Even though they did not suffer serious injuries, they looked like they were growing more and more exhausted, especially Iacchi. His strength wasn't all that great, and his poison-coated throwing weapons were completely ineffective against enemies made out of metal. He wasn't able to cause any damage to the enchanted puppets and could only run back and forth, leading the puppets in circles.

What should I do now? Woodrow and the others won't be able to hold on forever, and Whitey's fight looks strenuous as well, especially since it can't use lightning magic.

While I was worrying over this, Iacchi made a blunder. He very nearly stumbled over the stones on the ground. Following that, an enchanted puppet ruthlessly sent him flying until his entire body smacked against a wall. For a moment, he could not stand up and it looked like the collision had disoriented him.

However, the enchanted puppet that he had been fighting seemed to have lost interest in him and was now rushing in my direction.

This is bad... With my magic ineffective, I no longer knew what I could do. Other than magic, what else do I know?

“Sun, quick, release me!” Ecilan yelled loudly.

I was stunned for a moment as I finally remembered that we still had this helper. I hurriedly backed up and dodged the attacks from the enchanted puppet, dissolving the Chains of Darkness from Ecilan’s body at the same time. However, I fell as the result of dividing my attention. My left knee came into direct contact with the ground, and my right knee squarely hit a rock. I heard a splitting sound right then and there...

I was half sprawled on the ground and in so much pain that I hugged my knee to myself, momentarily unable to pull myself back up.

Amidst my acute pain, I cast a Heal on my knee. After I finally cured my injury, I got back up to continue running. However, a shadow suddenly shrouded me from above my head once again. The enchanted puppet behind me had already caught up to me... Eh, when I was casting Light Shield on everyone, did I forget to do so for myself?

Why can’t I remember how to do anything besides magic and healing spells when the situation is already this dire... Ecilan! You dare to call me Sun! If I really am the Sun Knight, why is it that I still can’t recall any knight techniques in the face of death?!

“Grisia!” Iacchi cried out in alarm.

I hugged my head, prepared to welcome either sharp pain... or eternal darkness.

Clang!

Ecilan rushed over without any decrease in speed as he stooped to pick up the Divine Stick. He accurately blocked the blow, thereby saving my worthless life.

As he wielded his sword and fought with the enchanted puppet, he yelled, “Cast support magic for me!”

I blanked out before I promptly blessed him with a Light Shield. While casting the Wings of God spell, I momentarily hesitated. I don’t know how

much wind element I should use...

“Sun, the Wings of God spell!”

Ecilan yelled at me while he drew away all of the enchanted puppets. This allowed Woodrow and the others to stop battling and catch their breaths. Because the number of enchanted puppets had increased, Ecilan’s situation was beginning to look more and more critical as time went on.

Whatever! I’ll bless him first. If he falls, then... then I can perform a Heal on him!

“Wings of God!” I used the same amount of wind element I had used when I first cast the Wings of God spell. It was the amount that had given Iacchi a speed that allowed him to smash the walls into pieces. This was really somewhat dangerous. It would be terrible if Ecilan tripped because he was moving too fast; however, I couldn’t help but want to try it out. There has to be someone who can withstand this kind of speed, or else I would not have used such a large amount of wind element so naturally in the first place, right?

“This is too quick!” Iacchi screeched loudly. “Grisia, did you make a mistake?”

I didn’t answer Iacchi and merely looked at Ecilan, who didn’t trip at all. Instead, his speed was as quick as the wind. Once he led all four enchanted puppets to one place, he started dealing with them.

At that moment—no matter if it was Woodrow, Iacchi, or Igor—everyone stood with me and stared at Ecilan in worship. I also finally began to understand why everyone looked up to the Twelve Holy Knights so much.

Even I, who didn’t understand swordsmanship, could tell from Ecilan’s overall stance that his swordsmanship was very good.

That silver white Divine Stick turned into a clean and nimble curve in his hands, flowing so smoothly that no one could find anything but beauty in its lines. With the addition of Ecilan’s agile and free motions, his fighting was as beautiful as a dance... I even felt that there could be no better background music than the crisp clanging sounds from the collisions between the Divine Stick and the enchanted puppets.

However, none of that was the main point. The main point was that he was fighting solo against four, yet he very obviously had the upper hand. In no more than ten minutes, the four enchanted puppets were beaten and battered down.

Once the enchanted puppets looked like broken toys and could no longer locate their enemies, only capable of lashing out every which way while rooted to the spot, Ecilan jumped away. He used several gigantic icicles to smash all of the enchanted puppets that couldn't dodge into a bunch of parts.

When I saw this, I let out a lengthy breath and said, "Y-Your speed is so quick, just like the wind."

"Wind?"

Ecilan put away his sword unhurriedly and shook his head. "I'm not that fast. Storm is the one who is as quick as the wind."

"Storm?" I blinked.

This time, I didn't have to ask. Ecilan started explaining without my prompting. "Ceo Storm, one of the Twelve Holy Knights. He's also your capable assistant. All of your work is done by him and your vice captain."

"... Then what do I do?"

Ecilan fell silent for a while before he said, "You do what you're doing right now."

"What am I doing right now?" Confused, I said, "I'm not doing anything right now... Wait! Where are you going? You're our hostage..."

Ecilan had suddenly turned around, his pace neither quick nor slow.

"Are you sure?" interrupted Iacchi mockingly. "Someone who isn't fettered, who's wielding a Divine Sword, and who even has support magic boosting him, is a hostage?"

I was speechless.

With a gloomy face, Igor shouted, "Just now, we couldn't even fight against those metal monsters one-on-one, yet he could fight solo against

four!”

Woodrow muttered, “Maybe we should even consider ourselves to be the hostages now.”

I swallowed, somewhat agreeing with Woodrow’s words. But, but I can’t let Ecilan go just like this! If he leaves, what will happen to my plan? I quickly jogged after him. When I walked up to Ecilan’s side, he maintained his leisurely pace. Nervously, I asked, “Hey, hey! Do you plan on escaping?”

Behind me, Iacchi said in a low voice, “I actually think we’re the ones who should escape...”

“No!” Ecilan answered simply and clearly.

I released a sigh of relief, though I was also confused. I asked again, “Then, then... are you tired from being bound, so you decided to take a stroll, and will return to the unicorn’s back later?”

“No!”

I stopped in my steps, somewhat frustrated. I yelled, “Then what do you want to do? Spit it out! It’s not like we can win against you, so if you want to kill us or disfigure us, it’s all up to you!”

When he heard this, he finally stopped walking and turned his head to speak to me. “Didn’t you say you’re looking for something? I’ll help you look. Once we find it, you’re returning with me.”

I blanked out momentarily after hearing his words before my mind started quickly calculating. Who knows what we’ll run into next during our journey. If we have Ecilan’s help, we’ll definitely be able to get through everything easily. This can only be beneficial with no negatives... But in the end, will I really have to return with him to the Holy Temple? I started smiling. What harm is there in promising this to him? In any case, my general knowledge tells me that there is such a thing called “renege” in this world.

“Okay.”

Ecilan nodded his head.

Woodrow and the others rushed forward. Once they heard me agree, their expressions looked like they had lost all their tension. It was obvious that they were fairly happy that they could work peacefully with the Ice Knight.

I suddenly remembered the question I had earlier. I asked curiously, “Oh, right, about what you were saying earlier, what exactly am I doing right now?”

“Running around wildly,” answered Ecilan without even turning his head.

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With Ecilan present, the ensuing journey was indeed easy and pleasant. It was as if we were on a tour, responsible for crying out in alarm whenever we saw demon beasts. Ecilan would then rush forward with a “swoosh,” sending demon beasts of all kinds flying into the horizon.

“Whoa, that one flew so far, I can’t even see it anymore! Maybe it flew directly into the mouth of the valley,” said Iacchi while clicking his tongue in surprise.

“Are you in a hurry?” I asked blankly. “Why are you being so cruel toward animals?”

Because he was an animal, the unicorn Whitey had already hidden behind my back, deeply afraid that it would accidentally get mistaken for a demon beast and get sent flying with one strike.

As Ecilan sent a strange creature with a cow’s head, a human’s body, and a horse’s legs flying, he answered with a simple and concise, “Yes.”

“What are you in a hurry for?”

“I’m in a hurry to return to find Blaze.” Ecilan paused momentarily and even glanced at the others. Although his expression was hesitant, he continued to explain. “Blaze knows that the one he injured was you. He must feel terrible. I must bring you back quickly to see him.”

When I heard this, I was stunned. Stubbornly, I said, “But he said that

I'm definitely not the Sun Knight!"

Ecilan answered without the slightest hesitation. "There must be a misunderstanding."

... Alright! I admit it. He claimed that I definitely could not be the Sun Knight before he saw my face, and once he saw my face, he only had time to say the word "you." It was possible that following the word "you" he wanted to say something like "you are the Sun Knight!"

However... if Ecilan hasn't tricked me, then that means Scarlet is deceiving me? I still have no clue about who's tricking me. This is confusing me more and more. But asking Ecilan about this is no use. He definitely wouldn't say that he's the one lying.

I asked with some puzzlement, "I thought you and Blaze don't get along with each other?"

Ecilan glanced at me. This time, it was his turn to be puzzled. "No."

"Then you get along very well?" This was completely out of my expectations. Didn't Ecilan want to take the chance to get back at him earlier?

"Not particularly well."

"Oh?" A little curious, I asked, "Then which of the Twelve Holy Knights do you get along with the best?"

Ecilan considered this quite seriously before he answered, "You."

"Me?" I pointed to myself. Ecilan nodded, confirming what he had said.

At this point, the three people who had elongated their ears to listen all widened their eyes one after another, vigorously shouting, "How can that be! Everyone knows that the Ice Knight is a subordinate of the Judgment Knight and is completely at odds with the Sun Knight's faction!"

I had also heard Sybil tout this matter, something about how the Sun Knight is the most benevolent person in the entire world while the Judgment Knight is cruel and heartless, so they don't get along with each other and such. I gave Ecilan an extremely suspicious stare, asking, "Why do you get along with me so well?"

Ecilan reflexively blurted out, "Because you like to eat sweets."

... But these two statements, "I like to eat sweets" and "I get along with him," sound like they have no connection at all?

I darted a glance at the others' expressions. As expected, they were puzzled too. So I'm not the only one who doesn't understand what he just said.

"I like to eat sweets and..." What connection does that have with us getting along with each other?

Before I could finish speaking, Ecilan immediately nodded and spoke up, "That's right, especially blueberry-flavored desserts, and they must be super sweet. At first, that complicated things for me because your sweets always had to be extremely sweet. No one else shared the same taste in dessert, so I always had to make them separately. Now however, we have the addition of Knight-Captain Hell, whose tastes are also super heavy, and he told me that he doesn't mind always having blueberry-flavored desserts. Now I can make your desserts together, making things much simpler... Ah!"

He had probably seen our dazed expressions. He abruptly stopped his lengthy dissertation on desserts, looking at me somewhat helplessly.

At seeing Ecilan's helpless expression, Woodrow and the others became even more surprised. Igor's mouth even fell open, his jaw looking as if it were about to fall off.

I actually wasn't very surprised. I already knew that as long as no one was around, Ecilan would turn into a talkative guy who wouldn't shut up. He had now merely turned into an "even if there are other people around, he will still be endlessly talkative" kind of guy.

Ecilan didn't seem to know what he should do. He shrunk behind my back, his entire body almost completely hidden behind me. Seeing this, I just shrugged my shoulders and told the others, "Alright, alright! It doesn't matter whether he's reticent or talkative. Just stop giving him a hard time. Pretend like you haven't heard anything!"

Woodrow and the others were quite tactful. Even though it was a little

difficult, they tried their best to school their shocked expressions, only using the corners of their eyes to sneak glances at Ecilan. Meanwhile, Ecilan had long since lowered his head, not even daring to look us in the eye.

“So even the cold Ice Knight knows how to blush?” Iacchi laughed quietly.

“Don’t bring it up, you’ve caused his face to redden even more,” Woodrow immediately reprimanded in a quiet voice.

He’s blushing? I looked up and down at Ecilan, who had lowered his head even further... Ah... I can’t distinguish colors! Damn it! I’ve never ever wanted to see “color” this badly.

Ice is actually blushing! If I told Judgment, he’d just smile and definitely wouldn’t believe me... I stilled.

Sun, Ice gave me a bag of honey-flavored candy. I don’t like sweets. You can have them!

If you’re not going to eat them, then don’t accept them!

If I don’t accept them, he’ll be upset...

Everyone stopped with me. Each of them gazed at me in puzzlement, one after another. I turned my head to ask Ecilan, “Judgment Knight doesn’t like to eat sweets, right?”

Ecilan jerked his head up. He hurriedly asked, “Sun, you’ve remembered?”

“No, just that...” I hesitated. The conversation that had suddenly appeared in my mind felt extremely familiar, but in the end, I still answered, “No, I was just making a random guess.”

“You still haven’t remembered?” Ecilan’s tone sounded somewhat crestfallen, but he still endured his disappointment and explained. “Knight-Captain Judgment indeed does not like to eat sweets, but when I bring some to him, he would always at least eat a few bites in front of me.”

“He sounds like a good guy.” I looked suspiciously toward Woodrow and

the others. Didn't they claim that Judgment Knight is super cruel and heartless?

However, their expressions were even more confused than mine. It looked like the majority of what they had said about the Twelve Holy Knights could not be believed!

I sighed before I stopped in front of a mountain wall. Knocking on the mountain wall, I said, "Ecilan, break this wall!"

"Why break a wall..."

The words had barely left Iacchi's mouth when Ecilan had already acted on my instructions. He gathered a large amount of ice element, made an icicle, and then slowly backed away from the wall. Without the slightest hesitation, he sent the icicle hurtling toward the mountain wall, smashing against it.

The tremendous sound from the collision caused everyone to cover their ears. The falling rubble stirred up a large quantity of dust, causing everyone to back up one after another. Iacchi loudly protested, "Grisia, have you gone crazy? Why did you tell Ice Knight to break that wall out of the blue...?"

"Because the thing I'm searching for is inside here."

The rubble from the wall was still falling. The air was filled with the earth element. I guessed that Woodrow and the others probably couldn't see anything at the moment, but I could clearly see the thing that was in the back. It had such a strong water element that even the thickest mountain walls could not block me from "seeing" it. It seemed that it was the reason why this valley had an area that had become bereft of the dark element, permeated instead by the water element.

"What is it?" Ecilan was the first to ask.

I hadn't had time to answer him before Igor had already started loudly shouting, "Whoa! There's actually a huge cave back here!"

"Gemstone!" Iacchi suddenly burst out with a frightening shriek.

That's... a gemstone? I could only see a gathering of very, very strong

water element in a certain location. Because the water element was so thick, I couldn't sense a definite shape. So it is a gemstone.

This gemstone is actually brimming with a fantastically strong water element. I haven't ever seen anything with such a pure consistency of elements. It only has one type of element, without any impurities...

Inconceivably beautiful!

This was the first time that I had ever felt something was very "beautiful." I was unable to help myself and took a step into the cave, wanting to get closer to that gemstone.

Ecilan furrowed his brows and spoke to stop me. "Sun, don't go inside. I feel like something's off about this place..."

I turned my head and retorted, "Don't call me Sun! I'm Grisia. Also, if I don't head inside, how am I going to retrieve my item?"

Ecilan blinked before he looked at me solemnly. Then he made a compromise. "Alright, Grisia, go and retrieve your item. After that, you're coming with me to see Blaze."

I stumbled into the cave, the thickness of the water element too thick, making it a little hard for me to sense the shape of the ground. I had to strengthen my sensing ability before I could walk with more success. After doing so, the closer I approached the gemstone, the more familiar I felt it was. Such a strong water element—I had come into contact with it before.

Severe Warning: DO NOT SELL THE GEM! I will look for you when I need it. If it is lost, you are dead.

This gem is indeed mine... I've finally retrieved it!  
I walked up to the stone platform that the gem was placed on, reaching my hand out to grab it without any hesitation. Other than feeling the moistness of the gem when my hand touched it, I also felt a great sense of relief inside my heart at the same time. Finally, I won't have to die!  
"Sun! Hurry and come out!"

At that moment, Ecilan suddenly yelled, "Under your feet...!"

Under my feet... I didn't have to lower my head to find out that a complicated circle had appeared underneath my feet. It was outlined with

the water element, and the source seemed to be the gem in my hands.

Hehehe, so you've finally gotten hold of the Eternal Tranquility?

When I heard this voice, I paused before I asked lightly, "Scarlet? What did you do?"

Scarlet laughed, her peals of laughter sounding like silver bells echoing within the entire mountain cave.

Ecilan rushed into the mountain cave.

Although I felt something was off, I still did not let go of what was in my hands... the Eternal Tranquility.

"Once you pick up the Eternal Tranquility, the magic circle on the ground will activate. Combined with the 'Eternal Tranquility,' the magic circle will seal all of the dark element of the Valley of Trizer into your body. After that... you will no longer be the Sun Knight!"

... No longer?

So, that means I am the Sun Knight?

"Sun!"

Why does... Ecilan's shout sound so far away?

# Chapter 9: Ninth Tactic of Slaying a Dragon : “Do As You Please”

A large amount of dark element rushed continuously into my body, even forming a current like a tornado around me, blocking Ecilan and everyone else off. Woodrow and the others hadn't come inside the cave in the first place. Now, they even backed up several steps. Only Ecilan was still desperately struggling, wanting to rush inside.

Following the onrush of dark element, the holy element that originally overflowed from my body was slowly pushed out. However, this process wasn't painful at all. On the contrary, it had a comfortably carefree feel to it; I even wanted a little more of the dark element... The more the better!

“This is too wonderful!”

Finally, after I absorbed almost all the dark element in the valley, I gave a satisfied sigh. I had never felt so good before, and it was almost as if my entire being was filled with power, almost as if... There is nothing in the world that is worthy of my fear!

Just then, Scarlet's small figure slowly began to surface. She skipped toward me, tilted her head up to stare at me and said, giggling, “Grisia, how do you feel?”

“I feel... that you are very annoying!”

A gigantic hand suddenly shot out from the side, grasping Scarlet tightly, like one would grasp a tiny rat. However, this was nothing to be surprised about because I was the one who had used dark element to create such a massive hand; the hand was under my complete control.

The gigantic hand brought Scarlet before me. I stretched one of my own hands, lightly patted her cheek, and said, smiling, “Therefore, you should disappear, alright?”

Just then, a strange grin surfaced on Scarlet's face. There was no trace of hate; contrary to that, Scarlet happily said, “[It seems that you have finally returned!](#)”

Hearing this, fury burned in my heart. I roared at her, “Stop saying things that I don’t understand! You really are very annoying. Disappear forever from my sight!”

The gigantic hand abruptly dragged her away from me into the sky, and then squeezed tightly... I had originally been expecting to hear her cry and scream, but sharp and mad laughter took the place of the screams that should have occurred. In the midst of what could have been either loud laughter or a scream, the gigantic hand strongly squeezed and her entire being blasted apart.

“Sun! Why did you kill a little girl...?”

Ecilan rushed forward. Halfway through his question, he said with greater surprise, “Sun! Y-Your hair has changed color! It’s turned black!”

“Has it?” I touched my hair, not even bothering to turn around to reply, “I can’t see colors, so even if you say that it has turned black now, I have no idea what color it used to be.”

“It was golden!” Ecilan immediately answered.

Then, he walked up to me and stared at my face in slight worry. However, after a glance he loosened up and merely asked, puzzled, “Your face hasn’t changed, but why do you have your eyes closed?”

I laughingly asked in reply, “Why should I open my eyes?”

Ecilan was rendered speechless, and said with hesitation, “You don’t need to open them, but I want to see whether your eyes have also changed color...”

GRROOOAAAAARRRR!

I started. Ecilan whipped out his Divine Stick, vigilantly facing the target while crying out in alarm, “What was that noise?”

“A dragon... I can’t believe there’s really a dragon!”

After Iacchi shrieked aloud, the three of them ran to my side in surprise and fear, literally using me as their bodyguard.

I said crossly, “What? Now you’re willing to come over? Weren’t you all

staring at me in fear just a little while ago?”

Hearing this, all three showed an expression of embarrassment. Igor stammered out hurriedly, “B-But, your hair suddenly turned black and you look like a completely different person. You look as if you’d take a knife and slash at us at any moment. Of course we’d be terrified!”

Woodrow doubtfully said, “Also, didn’t you have your back toward us the entire time? How could you see our expressions?”

I shrugged my shoulders and said, “I can see everything as long as I spread my sensing ability far enough. I can even see that dragon. Such a beautiful dragon of the dark element, though it’s not as beautiful as my Eternal Tranquility, as it still has some impurities. It appears very furious, but that’s not surprising. It must be living here because the valley overflowed with the dark element! However, now the dark element has been completely absorbed by me. Of course it’s furious!”

After the three of them heard the end of my speech, the confusion on their faces didn’t decrease at all. Instead, they looked more stunned than ever.

Although I saw this, I felt too lazy to care about whether or not they understood as I studied the far away dark dragon with my sensing. I laughed lightly. If there really is a dragon, then I can follow my original plan, although there seems to be no need for it now. The plan does seem pretty interesting though, so using it to pass the time might be a good idea.

I casually called out, “Ecilan.”

When he heard me, Ecilan turned around and stared at me in distrust. After I smiled at him, he gasped out quietly, “Sun...?”

He slowly tilted to the side and finally fell onto the floor, unconscious. I corrected him again. “My name is Grisia.”

“Grisia, you caused the Ice Knight to faint?” Woodrow cried out in alarm.

“How did you do that?” Igor asked, stunned.

Iacchi softly squeaked, “You even know how to use the Spell of Paralysis?”

I laughed and said in excitement, “Not only the Spell of Paralysis! Just now, I remembered quite a few useful magic spells!”

Woodrow suspiciously asked, “But why did you cause him to faint?”

“If I didn’t make him lose consciousness, how are we supposed to continue on with the plan?”

Woodrow gaped and asked, “You still plan on continuing with it?”

“Of course,” I answered matter-of-factly.

My original plan could basically be boiled down to a single sentence... Think of a way to seriously injure all of the holy knights, including Blaze Knight and Ice Knight.

These holy knights hadn’t brought along clerics who could heal injuries. Once they sustain any serious injuries, they would definitely need quite some time to heal. Then while they stop to heal those injuries, naturally we would escape to the ends of the earth and sell off the unicorn.

However, the hardest part of the plan was... How are we to seriously injure “a walking god on earth”?

This problem had caused me quite a headache. Luckily, Iacchi had supplied a good “weapon.”

Iacchi had suggested the Valley of Trizer, which had not been far from us. Apparently, a dragon had taken up long-term residency there. According to Iacchi, if we were to toss Ecilan near the dragon’s jaws, Chikus Blaze would have no choice but to rush over to save him. After all, it was Ecilan himself who had said, “The Twelve Holy Knights will never abandon the Twelve Holy Knights.”

When the moment came, we would wake the dragon up... and then we would be able to watch a dragon-human clash on the sidelines.

Between a dragon and two of the Twelve Holy Knights – which is stronger?

No matter which side was stronger, as part of the Twelve Holy Knights, both should be able to escape from the dragon's jaws. Yuna and Sybil both reluctantly agreed to this point, and thus also reluctantly agreed to the plan.

However, after seeing the actual dragon, I realized that two of the Twelve Holy Knights probably wasn't enough to put up a fight against it. The two of them put together aren't even as big as the dragon's claws!

If we left Ecilan by the dragon's side and lured Chikus Blaze over, could the two of them really survive... No matter what, a battle between a dragon and holy knights, ha! That would definitely be interesting.

"You easily subdued Ice Knight." Woodrow said darkly, "There should be no more need to use a dragon to seriously injure him. Why do you still want to go on with the plan?"

"Because it's fun!" I answered simply. I beckoned the unicorn, Whitey, who was off to the side and said, "Whitey, come over and carry Ice Knight."

As Whitey slowly trotted over, Igor suddenly shouted, "Why has Whitey turned black!"

"Turned black?" I was startled, and murmured to myself in slight interest, "So, the dark element is black in color? Then the holy element is white? Or is it gold?"

When Whitey trotted over, I suddenly remembered that it used to eat the "holy" element. But now, I can't gather it anymore. If that's so, will it still listen to me?

However, Whitey had also turned "black." In my eyes, its holy element was no longer present. In fact, it was filled with the dark element... Just like me.

I held out my hand and dispersed a little dark element out of my body. Whitey lowered its head and started to lick the dark element, as though it didn't notice any change in its food. However, it didn't seem as bubbly and annoying as it used to be, as it simply and silently ate the dark element.

This was really a little hard to get used to.

“Does this mean that we have to change its name to Blackie?” Igor stared blankly at Blackie as it ate.

I rolled my eyes at him and said crossly, “I already named it. I don’t want to remember a second name.

“Let’s go!”

When Whitey finished eating, I loaded Ecilan on top of its back, turned my head and said to the rest of them, “Let’s go look for the dragon.”

“But, but Blaze Knight isn’t here yet, is he?” Iacchi shrieked, “You don’t mean to fling Ice Knight to the dragon’s side now, do you? The dragon’s already awake!”

“Blaze Knight has arrived.”

Awhile back, I had already seen him on the other side of the forest: the knight of fire with his sky-high holy and fire elements. I smiled lightly and said, “He also brought along Sybil and Yuna!”

I appeared in mid-air, but I had no intention of descending as I merely floated. Then, I lowered my head and faced the group of holy knights. Blaze Knight was at the front, and at the end of the group was his vice-captain. Sybil and Yuna, on the other hand, were protected amongst them in the middle.

“Hi Chikus!”

Blaze Knight stopped dead in his tracks and stared at me blankly. This time, I no longer wore a mask.

Half a beat later he said, “Your hair... And why are your eyes closed?”

Not waiting for my answer, he kept on questioning, “Are your wounds alright? Didn’t you take Ice along with you? Where is he?”

The tone of his voice is like he’s talking with an old friend, but I don’t know him! I hate the feeling of not knowing anything! I roared, “Shut up, Chikus Blaze, I don’t know you at all!”

“You really lost your memories?” Blaze gaped and mumbled, “Looks like it is true, you’ve never correctly called my name before.”

Startled, I couldn’t help asking, “Then what do I call you?”

Because Ecilan had also said something similar, I was curious. It’s purely curiosity. Regardless of whether or not he’s lying to me, there’s nothing wrong with listening!

Blaze Knight stared at me then lightly said, “You rarely call me by my name, but I rather you didn’t... You always call me Freakus.”

“I must do that on purpose...”

“Everyone thinks so too...” Blaze Knight said, “You get almost everyone’s names wrong, except for Judgment’s.”

“Grisia, you really are the Sun Knight?” Off to the side, Sybil half-shrieked, “There’s no way!”

“Why not?” I coldly stared at her and in a threatening tone said, “Now do you know who you shot an arrow at?”

Sybil drew back, her entire body almost hidden behind the holy knight before her.

Blaze frowned and asked, puzzled, “Sun, there’s something really wrong with you... Where exactly is Ice?”

I uncaringly said, “Somewhere where if you keep on talking with me, he could possibly be eaten till there are no bones left of him.”

Blaze flinched, finally reacting. He sucked in a deep breath. “You couldn’t have...” His entire expression twisted, and he roared in disbelief, “You couldn’t have thrown him to the dragon? Sun!”

“That’s exactly what I did. So now, Chikus, what are you going to do?”

I asked this leisurely, but as soon as I finished he demanded immediately, “Where is Ice?”

“You really plan on going to save him?” Stumped, I asked suspiciously, “Do you know what type of creature a dragon is?”

Blaze Knight didn't answer me and asked again, "Where is Ice, Sun?"

I raised my eyebrow and instantly pointed a direction for him, not believing that he would really rush to the forefront of the dragon without hesitation.

"Take care of the two of them."

Blaze Knight gestured at Sybil and Yuna to me, then waved to his holy knights and immediately moved in the direction I had pointed. What surprised me even more was that the other holy knights followed him without hesitation, as though they were only going to slaughter a normal monster and not a fierce dragon.

Seeing that he and seven holy knights were really going to head over there, I yelled incredulously, "Wait a minute! You really plan on going over to save him? Could you really be following what Ecilan said, 'The Twelve Holy Knights will never abandon the Twelve Holy Knights'? Just because of this phrase, do you really plan on heading toward your death?"

"He said so?" Blaze Knight didn't turn around and only faced me with his back. He swiveled his head a little and asked, "Do you know who the first person to say this phrase was?"

I shrugged my shoulders and gave random guesses, "The God of Light? The Pope?"

"It was you."

I started, but Blaze Knight had already run in large strides toward the direction I had indicated, seemingly unwilling to waste a second more. All I did was stare blankly at his departing back.

"Grisia?" Sybil moved up in slight fear and asked, "Aren't you going to help them?"

I came back to my senses and told her coldly, "Did you forget who threw Ice to the dragon? It's impossible that I would go and save him."

"Y-You really are the Sun Knight?" Yuna asked in disbelief.

Again with this question! I roared angrily, "How would I know? I don't

even know who I am! I don't know whether I'm a good guy or a bad guy, whether I should protect the two of you or take my revenge on you and kill you two liars immediately... I don't know anything!"

When I finished roaring, the two women looked frightened. Both of them had backed up quite a bit, not daring to stay near me in the least!

After quite some time, Sybil gathered up her courage and implored in a soft voice, "Grisia, go over and help Blaze and the rest of them!"

I coldly told her, "You don't have the right to tell me to do anything! Don't forget, you shot me with an arrow! That I'm not thinking of killing you is already a miracle. You actually dare to make a request of me? Who do you think you are?"

Halfway through my words, I saw Sybil with her head drooped, looking as though she felt guilty. However, just when I was thinking of bringing my tirade to an end, she suddenly and fluidly drew the bow and arrows that were slung across her shoulders, and then shot volley after volley of arrows at me while shouting, "Stupid Grisia! What are you being so vicious for!"

"What are you doing?!" I hurriedly used the dark element to forge a shield, blocking the scores of arrows aimed at me.

Sybil didn't stop shooting; she looked as though if she didn't finish using up her entire sheath of arrows on me then she wouldn't be satisfied. As she shot she scolded, "I was just scared that you would really kill them! That time, you actually treated those holy knights like that, even wanting Blaze Knight to cut himself with his sword... You really are too over the top!"

With Sybil as a precedent, Yuna also started speaking out loudly, "That's right! Those holy knights were already very, very tired, and you were obviously taking advantage of that! To look for the Sun Knight, to save Ice Knight, they had already lost track of the meaning of resting! However, even so, they were still willing to carry us and keep on moving forward! Although Blaze Knight kept scolding on and on, he never left us at the wayside... They only wanted to hurry and save Ice Knight, and then

continue looking for Sun Knight. That was all they wanted!”

Sybil used up all of her arrows, but she still held onto her bow. Two lines of the water element flowed down from her eyes and she said, choking, “In the end, the person they were looking for was actually...you, a despicable bastard who almost killed them!”

I was suddenly struck speechless.

Yuna unhappily said, “That day, after you disappeared, Blaze Knight stood rooted to the spot and stared for a long time, and he kept on mumbling...”

“Mumbling ‘How could it have been you’?” I reflexively thought of this answer.

“No!”

Both women glared and yelled at me simultaneously, “He was mumbling ‘I actually cut Sun!’”

“Go and save Blaze Knight!” Sybil yelled.

“And Ice Knight!” Yuna added.

Both of them spoke even more seriously and strictly, “Go and apologize properly to them!”

... I suddenly felt that both women were even scarier than Blaze Knight.

Just then, the dragon’s roar sounded from a distance. Both of them immediately turned pale by a shade and yelled together, “Grisia!”

“Okay, okay! I’ll go over.”

After all, I had originally planned to go over and watch the bout. Might as well conveniently fool them and let them think that I was going over to help.

Following that, I flew toward where the dragon was. While flying, I spread out my sensing ability to find out what had happened.

Although I had brought Woodrow and the rest of them to the cave where the dragon was, I had left them in a passageway that was too small

for a dragon to enter. Thus, the dragon had not even noticed us. I also told Woodrow and the rest to take care of Ecilan and not to do anything before I arrive, didn't I?

So why ...The image I saw was of Ecilan and the rest of them forced into a corner of the cave by the dragon. They were relying on Ecilan's ice wall to defend against the dragon who was relentlessly trying to burrow into the passageway entrance with its head. It even opened its humongous jaw and was spraying corrosive dark element toward the entrance.

What on earth is going on? I really don't understand. I only left for a moment; how could it have turned out like this?

And this Chikus guy. Even I could hear the dragon's frustrated roar, yet he really did lead the holy knights and rush to where the dragon was without a single plan in mind... Dammit! As brash as he is, he shouldn't be this brash!

Dammit!

I hastened my flying speed and rushed toward them.

When I reached them, I saw the seven holy knights protecting Woodrow and the others as they walked out of the dragon's cave. However, Ecilan and Chikus weren't among them.

I suddenly stopped before them and said coldly, "You plan on running away, abandoning the Ice and Blaze Knights?"

"It was Captain who forbade us to reenter and get in the way!"

The vice-captain... No! All seven of the holy knights had their eyes open so wide, it was as though they might crack open. All of them had their hands fisted tightly, as if withstanding something.

"Captain ordered us to immediately evacuate all citizens. The dragon has already been completely enraged; it will definitely kill everything within sight, and definitely chase after us..."

The vice-captain couldn't continue after saying this. I also understood; by the time the dragon started coming after them, their captain would

probably already be in the dragon's stomach.

I turned to Woodrow and the others and scolded viciously, "What were you doing? Didn't I say not to do anything before I arrive?"

Woodrow looked as if he had been scared out of his mind. He stammered, "I-It was a little girl! She suddenly appeared and released the chains you used to bind Ice Knight, threw us all into the dragon's cave, and she even took away Whitey. I-If not for Ice Knight distracting the dragon, we would have all been killed. But his right leg got splashed by some acid that the dragon spat out..."

Was it Scarlet? Didn't I kill her? I really have been too careless.

"All of you leave!" I told everyone, "Go get Sybil and Yuna on the way, and then hurry up and scam out of this valley!"

After hearing my words, the holy knights revealed surprised expressions, but immediately after, hope seemed to burn on their faces. They nodded to me and immediately took Woodrow and the rest of them away.

I breathed in deeply and sensed the situation within the dragon's cave. Ecilan and Chikus had good teamwork; they didn't move together but ran on both sides, splitting the dragon's attention. If one of them were almost caught, the other would purposely fling out spells to irritate the dragon.

However, this move was only used a few times before it stopped working; whether it was Ecilan being unable to keep up the pace any longer, his magic attacks too weak, or the dragon was unwilling to be caught by the same trick anymore – it kept on chasing after Chikus.

Chikus ran with all his might. Luckily, he was really too small a target for the gigantic dragon, so it was really difficult for it to attack him. Although it was dangerous, he didn't get squashed by the dragon's feet either.

He ran and roared out to Ecilan, "Ice! Run!"

Ecilan half-dragged his right leg: his leg had already rotted very severely, but it was still getting worse, as the remaining acid still had some effect. Although he tried his best to avoid showing a pained expression, the

rapidly dripping water element on his face betrayed him. Even so, he tried with all his might to use Ice Bolt to attack the dragon, wanting to draw the dragon's attention again.

He yelled back, "Blaze! You're closer to the entrance, get out first!"

These two... What show are they acting out?

I couldn't listen anymore and flew into the dragon's cave, purposefully flying lower. I held out my hand to Chikus and yelled to him, "Grab my hand!"

"You're not Sun! I don't need the help of some fake like you!"

After seeing me, Chikus flinched and then completely ignored the dragon at his back. He even had the time to roar at me, "Sun would never throw Ice to a dragon!"

He, he even forcefully swatted my hand away... This bastard! I almost exploded in anger.

"Blaze!"

Not far off, Ecilan wanted to walk over. But by this time, his right leg had nearly rotted down to the bone; he could only drag his foot as he moved forward, and it was impossible for him to increase his speed.

I again held out my hand to Chikus and said monotonously, "I'm saying this for the last time. Grab my hand."

The answer Chikus gave me was to swat my hand away again. My face dropped and I immediately flew away. Just then, the dragon used its tail and swept Chikus out. He crashed into the wall heavily with a loud thud.

When he slid down to the floor, his entire body was facing downwards. He didn't even twitch.

However, he coincidentally landed somewhere close to Ecilan.

"Blaze!"

Ecilan rushed forward, held Chikus, and frantically tested for his breathing. When it seemed that he was alive, Ecilan let out a relieved sigh

and hurriedly carried him over to a small hole besides the cave wall.

Just then, I was still floating in mid-air. The dragon opened its mouth and roared at me, but it didn't attack me; it looked as though it was somewhat distraught.

It was most likely confused because the dark element surrounding me was even thicker than that of undead creatures. It looked as though it didn't know whether it should attack me or not.

Finally, the dragon gave up on attacking me, turned its head around, and rushed toward where Ecilan and Chikus were.

Hmph! If Ecilan begs me to help him, then I'll think about it; as for Chikus... I won't even consider it!

"Sun, help..."

Once Ecilan noticed that the dragon was rushing toward them, he immediately cried out loud for help. Satisfied, I was just about to save him until I heard the latter half.

"...save Blaze! His wounds are very serious. Hurry and help him!"

What the hell is with this? Can't these people just think about themselves? I furiously roared, "If it's to save you, I'd think about it, but for him... I won't even consider it!"

Ecilan flinched, but he immediately returned to his senses because the dragon was already crashing into the hole in which he and Chikus were at. He shoved Chikus inside and used his own body to shield him. Then, he continued using Ice Wall to block the rotting gas that the dragon's mouth was breathing out.

Really, enough is enough! I don't want to care about them anymore! Might as well go and look for Woodrow and the rest of them!

I turned around to fly away...

"Sun! Please, you have to at least save Blaze!"

Hearing Ecilan's heart-rending cry, I again stopped flying, and floated about in mid-air... I was the one who decided to abandon them, yet why

am I feeling less and less happy?

Tch! I really understand myself less and less!

“Chains of Darkness!”

I turned around and released a large amount of chains in a breath, almost filling the entire dragon’s cave, binding the dragon securely, finally stopping its movements. It looked very unhappy indeed, aggressively fighting against the chains and roaring.

I floated to the hole where Ecilan was at. He was striving to haul Chikus and drag his rotted leg along. I looked down at him and said disdainfully, “You are really very weak! Can you really be called one of the Twelve Holy Knights?”

Ecilan didn’t pay any attention to my insults. He held Chikus in his arms and said fervently, “Sun, hurry and save Blaze. If you use Ultimate Heal...”

“Kneel down and beg me!”

Hearing this, Ecilan flinched and revealed a disbelieving expression.

“Why are you so surprised?” I laughed and said, “I have no reason to help you without any conditions, do I? I only want you to kneel down and beg me. Just by doing so, you can save two lives. Isn’t that worth it?”

“Of course you have a reason.” Ecilan shouted, “The Twelve Holy Knights will never abandon the Twelve Holy Knights. That’s the reason! Sun, haven’t you remembered?”

“I don’t remember.”

I carelessly said, “However, it’s fine if I can’t remember since I don’t care anymore. Let the past be the past! From now on, I want to travel all around the world and do whatever it is that I want to do!”

“Besides the Holy Temple, you aren’t going anywhere!”

I flinched and unconsciously turned around. Upon seeing the speaker’s figure, I blurted out loud.

“Lesus Judgment.”

# Chapter 10: Tenth Tactic of Slaying a Dragon: “Slay the Dragon”

Jesus Judgment held a sword brimming with holy element in his hand.

As I sensed the sword, it suddenly let out a heavy burst of holy element. Because I was currently filled with dark element, I felt a burning pain, as if flames were licking at me. It was so painful that I almost shrieked aloud.

At the same time, something in my mind collapsed apart with a “crack.” A myriad of images and words surged forward, like a flash flood in the mountains, filling my mind up completely.

I fell to the floor, weak, and squatted down while cradling my head. I could only feebly feel the flood surging and crashing about in my mind...

“The benevolent God of Light will forgive your sins.”

“Grisia, if you aren’t chosen as the Sun Knight, then being a cleric wouldn’t be too bad either! Then you’d be able to help heal my injuries in the future.”

“Carrying out justice is the reason for the Sun Knight’s existence.”

“Sun, you can’t see anymore, right? Don’t lie to me. And don’t chase that dark knight’s group just to let them slash at your eyes so that you can hide that fact. I know what you are thinking. Don’t do that, please...”

“If you dare to hide anything from me again, regardless of how confidential the matter is, I will expose you in front of all the Twelve Holy Knights.”

...

...

“I remember now.”

I slowly stood and raised my head, letting out a bright smile. Just like before, I must always have a smile on my face.

“I am the Sun Knight, Grisia Sun.”

Ice stared. His expression was slightly disbelieving, and he belatedly asked, “You remember now? Then, then... what’s my name?”

Hearing this, I immediately frowned and thought hard before answering, “It seems to be... Stelan?”

Ice Knight stared at me expressionlessly.

“No? Then it must be Wastelan.” This time, I answered with full confidence.

“... It’s Ecilan!” After Ice was done correcting me, he said in surprise, “Sun, have you really recovered your memories?”

I nodded my head.

Then, Judgment walked a few steps closer.

I tilted my head to the side and asked, confused, “Judgment, how were you able to come...”

No! It wasn’t just Judgment. Several people slowly materialized out of thin air. Storm, Earth, Cloud, Roland, Metal... Finally and unexpectedly, everyone had arrived.

Including me, all of the Twelve Holy Knights were present!

“So it was a teleportation circle.”

However, we’re in the territory of the Kingdom of Moon Orchid! Who is it that actually has the ability to teleport eleven people over from such a long distance away? Even my current self would probably be unable to do it. After all, I have an abundance of dark element, and such a long distance teleportation circle would need a large amount of wind element instead of dark element.

Judgment turned around and told the others, “Go heal Blaze and Ice first. Heal as much as you are able to.”

“Okay.”

Besides me, the ones who were relatively accomplished in healing spells were Leaf and Earth, who immediately walked over to the comatose

Blaze's side and started casting Heal. However, the most they could cast was Moderate Heal. To the seriously injured Blaze and Ice, it was like trying to stop a forest fire with a bucket of water.

Seeing this, I immediately stepped forward, but I remembered abruptly that my entire body was filled with dark element. Currently, if I were to cast holy element-based healing spells, there would be no way I could do it better than Leaf or Earth.

"Sun, your sword."

I turned my head and saw Judgment holding the Divine Sun Sword before me... The Divine Sun Sword is naturally my sword, but the strong holy element it was currently emitting was making me feel very uncomfortable. Although I couldn't see it, I felt blinded and dazzled by it.

I loathingly said, "I don't want it anymore."

I had a feeling that if I were to take the Divine Sun Sword, I would definitely lose the abundant dark element in my body and once again return... to that Sun Knight who was an incapable sword user and who couldn't even protect himself.

"Why?" Judgment asked calmly.

I fell silent for a while, but eventually said, "Because I don't want to return to that pathetic self! I have power now. I can even chain a dragon and prevent it from harming Ice and Blaze!"

"Is that so?" Judgment said coolly. "Then why is Ice's leg so badly hurt, while Blaze is lying in a coma on the floor?"

"That's because..." I was speechless, but tried to justify, "I'd lost my memories, and that's why I let them get hurt. It won't happen again."

Upon hearing my words, Judgment immediately said sternly, "Then heal both of them. Heal them immediately!"

How is that possible... My body was so entirely full of dark element that I couldn't gather large amounts of holy element anymore. Even if I strained myself to use healing and holy spells, at most I could only cast a moderate

level one. However, the injuries on Blaze and Ice's bodies were so serious that only Ultimate Heal could heal them fully.

The me from before could easily cast Ultimate Heal, but the current me cannot ever do it.

"Take it!" Judgment raised the Divine Sun Sword and stepped closer to me.

I, however, stepped back and said in a loud voice, "I don't want to return to that weak person who couldn't even use a sword! Allowing them to get hurt this time was purely an accident. I'd lost my memories. It won't happen again. I have power now. Not only can I protect myself, I won't ever let any holy knights get injured in the future. I can protect you all..."

"Sun!" Judgment interrupted me sternly again and roared, "Could you have forgotten the things you told us before?"

The things I said before?

Judgment shouted, "When you couldn't pick up any sword skills no matter how hard you tried, when the Church of the God of Light made noise about wanting to replace you, did you forget what you loudly announced before your teacher, before us, to everyone?"

I flinched, for at that time...

What does it matter if I can't learn any sword skills?

Even if I'm not like my teacher, the strongest Sun Knight in history, my Twelve Holy Knights strengthened with my holy spells will become "The Strongest Twelve Holy Knights in history"!

There is nothing in the world that can bypass them to harm me! Even if I can't use a sword, there is nothing worth my fear!

I had said something like that before...

"Take your Divine Sun Sword!"

Judgment held the sword in front of me and returned to his calm manner of speaking. "Sun, we are only the strongest Twelve Holy Knights in history with the aid of your holy spells, so we need your holy spells. We

need your healing spells, not your protection! If you still consider us your teammates, then take the sword and assist us as a teammate. Don't stand alone before us and protect us like a hero!"

Judgment continued to hold the sword aloft, scrutinizing me. Even though I couldn't see, I could imagine how stern his expression was.

He slowly said, "A hero or a teammate. It's your choice."

Teammate, of course... Without hesitation, I reached out my hand, but as I was about to touch the sword, I stopped for a bit and turned to look at the massive and struggling dragon. "I should finish off the dragon first..."

"Take it!" Judgment roared.

I flinched and asked doubtfully, "But can you guys really defeat the dragon? It'd be better to let me kill it first..."

Three arrows suddenly flew past the two sides of my face and the top of my head. I reacted a full count slower, my eyes widening when I realized that the person who had shot the arrows at me was actually Leaf.

Leaf slowly lowered his bow, then smiled at me and said, "If those three arrows had hit their mark, you would have already died, Sun!"

"Sun."

Someone suddenly called me from my side. I jumped in fright and noticed that Storm had soundlessly appeared by my side and had even laid a hand on my shoulder. He lazily said, "Please, Sun. Hurry up and take the sword, then cast holy spells onto us. Let's quickly slaughter the dragon and return to the Church, all right? I already stayed up late to work for more than ten days. I want to go back and sleep so badly... Haaa! I'm so exhausted."

Earth used holy light to solidify an enormous shield, placed it between us and the dragon, and in an "honest and considerate" manner said, "Hurry up and take the sword, Sun. Don't worry, we're all already used to you cooling off and lazing behind us when we battle, so just take your sword without any worries!"

Cloud silently “materialized” from the corner and even swished his sword about like in practice –the shadows were so swift that I could barely see them– then he silently retreated back to the corner. What on earth did you appear for?

Ice was still holding Blaze with one hand, but his other hand was tightly grasping the Divine Stick... I mean, the Divine Ice Sword.

Moon arrogantly raised his head and at the same time removed the whip hanging at his waist, fluidly lashing it a few times. The sharp cracking in the air sounded painful, and his posture was exactly like a queen’s... No! No, it’s like a king’s!

Stone merely drew his weapon... a broadsword that was about as long as a woman’s height, yet with a weight at least three times that of a woman’s.

Roland, in a rare act, actually brought along the wicked sword handed down through his family and at the same time removed the ring that Pink had given him, revealing his appearance as a death lord, complete with a veined pattern of black flames and sharp-clawed wings. His aura did not at all lose out to the dragon’s.

Finally, Metal sneered and sarcastically said, “You really didn’t think that we needed your lousy protection, did you? Just cast the holy spells and then obediently head to the back and enjoy the cool air, cleric!”

Looking at them, I suddenly started doubting. Why did I want to have power?

Something like power... I had long since possessed that already!

I didn’t hesitate any longer, reaching out my hand to take the Divine Sun Sword from Judgment.

\*

The dark element once again returned to the entirety of the Valley of Trizer.

The countless Chains of Darkness in the dragon’s cave also slowly disappeared.

Seeing that it was about to be free of its restraints, the dark dragon roared and slashed out its claws, as if impatient to destroy everything before it. Judgment let go of the Divine Sun Sword, drew out his own Divine Judgment Sword at his waist, and turned around to look at me.

Everyone looked at me. I opened my eyes and let loose a large amount of holy element.

“Ultimate Heal!”

Blaze opened his eyes. Ice stood up again.

“Wings of God!”

“Light Shield!”

When everyone’s bodies were sparkling with the holy spells, I raised my Divine Sun Sword, pointed it at the raging dark dragon, and gave an order to my Twelve Holy Knights.

“Now, Twelve Holy Knights, begin the mission of slaying the dragon!”

Everyone answered in unison.

“Yes!”

\*

Finally, we returned to the Holy Temple.

After reporting to the Pope that we had slaughtered a dragon, we watched him yell out with shining eyes to hurry up and send people out to drag the dragon back. The dragon’s hide could be used to make armor, the dragon’s meat for food, the dragon’s bones for spell-casting, the dragon’s teeth for weapons, and the dragon’s muscles for medicine. Even the dragon’s blood could be sold to those people who believed that drinking a dragon’s blood could make one as strong and sturdy as an oak.

I immediately felt sorry for the dragon.

After finishing our reports, everyone looked exhausted, leaving the Pope’s study one-by-one to return to our own rooms.

“Blaze, Ice!”

At the corridor, I hesitantly called out to them.

The two of them stopped dead in their tracks. The others sneakily eyed us for a bit, elongated their ears, and took their sweet time walking away.

“I, about that, I’m sorry, very sorry...”

Ice nodded his head. His facial expression looked the same as usual. It appeared like he had accepted my apology.

However, Blaze’s face tightened. Seeing this, I suddenly panicked. Could it be that Blaze, who has always supported me, is not willing to forgive me this time?

I stared at Blaze, panicked. After a short while, his face relaxed, and then he furiously yelled, “Don’t ever lose your memories again. Sun, when you lost your memories, you really were a bastard!”

(He normally is one already. Somewhere far away, some unknown person’s muttering sounded.)

Blaze fell silent for a while, then roared again, “When you lost your memories you really were a different type of bastard! The type that makes people want to hit you!”

Hey, hey! You don’t need to purposely correct your words, do you?

(He also normally makes people want to hit him! Isn’t that strange? )

Blaze became quiet again. Ice even comfortingly patted his shoulder.

I turned around, gave a brilliant smile and said, “Sun never thought that after Sun’s brothers had slain the dragon, they would still be full of energy and eagerness. It must be the mercy of the God of Light that has eradicated the exhaustion of Sun’s brothers so as to let them continue on unwaveringly spreading the brightness of the God of Light. Sun feels so moved by this and wishes to aid Sun’s brothers. How about leaving immediately with haste on a tour to sing holy hymns –what do Sun’s brothers think?”

The nearby audience immediately dispersed.

Humph! They’re finally willing to leave. I turned around and once again

put on an innocent expression as if I had learned the errors of my ways, and stared pitifully at Blaze.

Blaze's expression had softened greatly, but he still asked doubtfully, "You won't do something like throwing Ice to a dragon again, will you?"

I confidently swore, "Even if it's Earth, I won't throw him to a dragon, really!"

(To hell with you! )

I swiveled my head around. I think I heard Earth's voice?

Blaze nodded his head, strongly patted my back, and said in a loud voice, "If so, that's great. I'm going to sleep. In order to find you, I haven't slept in days."

I nodded my head and looked at Ice.

Ice just shook his head and said simply, "I don't blame you."

Thank you both.

\*

Only after everyone had finished catching up on their sleep did we start to deal with the aftermath.

The five of them, Woodrow and the others, had followed us back. After they agreed not to reveal my true self, I allowed them to either continue visiting the Holy Temple or leave... Actually, I wasn't too worried that they would reveal anything.

Even if they did, who would believe them?

In total there were thirty-eight generations of the Twelve Holy Knights, and each generation of the Twelve Holy Knights had to keep their true personalities a secret for twenty years. It was upon this which the image of the Twelve Holy Knights had been constructed. Was this something that a five-member adventurers' squad could easily destroy?

I lay on my bed, my whole body covered with a whitening facial mask I had just finished preparing... According to Roland, my current skin color

was only slightly whiter than tiramisu cake made by Ice.

When I heard that, I was so shocked that I almost wanted to hit my own head again and lose my memories forever.

Luckily, after three days of treatment, Roland said that my skin color was about the shade of honey now.

While lathering on the treatment, I thought about the things that had occurred since losing my memories. Why had I gone to the Kingdom of Kissinger? Even though I've regained my memories, I have absolutely no recollection of what had happened. Was it something that Scarlet did? Scarlet's identity, could it be... But why did she want to harm me? Also, what has happened to Whitey, who was taken away by Scarlet?

Knock knock!

... That goddamned curse!

"Which brother is standing outside of Sun's room, here to discuss the path of benevolence with Sun under the reminder of the God of Light?"

"Grisia..."

This voice is... I extended my sensing ability until it reached outside my room. After determining the person's identity, I couldn't avoid flushing away the salary I had applied to my body, and with tears in my eyes I changed my clothes and went to open the door.

"Sybil." When I opened the door, I asked grudgingly, "Do you need something?"

Sybil boldly walked straight into my room, curiously stared at the floor, and asked, "Why is it wet? Were you taking a bath just now? That's great!"

Great for what? I was a bit confused.

Sybil smiled and said, "I came to say goodbye."

"Are you all leaving already?" I asked in confusion, "Why aren't the rest of them with you?"

"The others will be coming by later."

“Later?” I uncomprehendingly scratched my face. Why didn’t they come together?

“You really... are completely different from what I had imagined!” Sybil stepped closer, looked me up and down and said, “Only your appearance is like what they say – golden hair, blue eyes and milky-white skin. Er... You’re darker now, more like honeyed-milk.”

Don’t jab me where it hurts!

“But you really are more like it!”

“Like?” Why is Sybil saying so many strange things today? I asked, confused, “More like what?”

Sybil stepped even closer. I could smell the scent of jasmine on her... Why is she suddenly wearing perfume? She smiled and said, “More like a normal person... Why is there a fragrance on you, did you put on perfume?”

“No.”

I always had a fragrance wafting about me. It couldn’t be helped. After ten years of lathering on treatments, with most of the treatments using lavender as a base, I always had the smell of lavender about me. My teacher Neo didn’t like lavender. He normally used rose-based treatments, so there was always the scent of roses about him.

Sybil tilted her head to the side and asked curiously, “Could this be the fragrance of a virgin?”

“... Of course not!”

“The fragrance isn’t a virgin’s scent?”

“Definitely not!”

“Then what about the person? I almost thought you would loudly proclaim that you weren’t a virgin, like you did before?”

“...”

“Do you want...” Sybil stepped one step closer, her entire person almost

pressed against the front of my body. I could even feel the breath of air she exhaled when she spoke.

“To forever disconnect yourself from the word virgin?”

I started. Could this mean that...

While I was still frozen in shock, Sybil’s face was already coming closer, her lips almost on mine. However, her bust had pressed up against my chest first. The feeling of those two soft mounds on me was really great... Could this be the day that I leave behind my church hermit and virgin days?

My beloved God of Light! I have decided to forever set this day as a day of thanks and grace, and each year on this date, I will go before your statue and thank you...

BAM!

“Aah, I’m really s-sorry. Did I interrupt you two?”

DAMN. YOU. EARTH!

Since you already know that you are interrupting, hurry up and get lost! While Sybil was turning around to look at Earth, I immediately used the scariest look in the world to glare at him, my eyes conveying a burning “Get lost.”

“S-Sun, I have something important to tell you...” Earth let out an apologetic and awkward look at Sybil.

The latter lowered her head. She actually appeared embarrassed and hurriedly said, “That’s, that’s fine. I already said my goodbye, so I should go... Grisia, see you sometime.”

See you sometime? When am I going to see you again? Tonight?

However, before I could ask, Sybil had already run off. Her expression was also one that said she wasn’t going to come back again. My, my day of gratitude...

Earth patted my shoulders and said sincerely, “S-Sun, is this called retribution?”

Hey, hey! You are one of the Twelve Holy Knights of the God of Light! What retribution? Just see if I won't regard you as a double-crosser, tie you up on a stake, and burn you to your death!

I crossly told Earth, "If you're done, get lost!"

"I really did have something to tell you!" Earth shrugged his shoulders and said, "Judgment is looking for you."

"... Judgment is looking for me? Why didn't he come in person?"

"He wants you to go over and attend the meeting."

Earth suddenly smiled. It was still a sincere smile like always, and I had no idea whether it was my own imagination or not, but I felt that his smile was even more despicable than ever before. However, I haven't infuriated him recently, have I? I was gone for so long, so there's no way I could have gotten in the way of him seducing his forty-first or forty-second woman! (Just for clarification, I did not make a counting mistake. It was just that the number of women who enter his room increases that quickly! Dammit!)

... Maybe, because I'm using my sensing ability, I was just mistaken about his expression?

So I was to go and attend a meeting. Just what on earth has happened that is so important that even I have to go and attend?

I was slightly puzzled, but I still nodded my head and answered, "Alright. Let's go!"

Extra: Fourth Shared Rule Of The Twelve Holy Knights: “In theory, never ruffle the sun knight’s feathers. In practice, it is better to ruffle the sun knight’s feathers than to ruffle the judgment knight’s feathers”

In the dark, the Twelve Holy Knights sat quietly around the conference table. Only the Sun Knight had yet to arrive, yet no one was chit-chatting like usual. Rather, everyone remained silent without uttering a single word. They didn’t even give each other as much as a sideways glance, fearing that they would accidentally attract the attention of Judgment Knight, who currently had a cold expression on his face.

Suddenly, the doors of the conference room swung open, momentarily filling the whole room with light, as well as a radiantly smiling face.

“My dear brothers, it has been a long time since we have mutually exchanged the God of Light’s...”

“Sit down,” interrupted Lesus Judgment coldly.

Sun Knight was stunned for a moment, and surveyed the people in the room. He realized that everyone’s sitting posture was extremely proper, and even their backs were perfectly straight... Then, he very obediently sat in his seat, his back as straight as everyone else’s.

Lesus Judgment said with indifference, “Since you have regained your memories now, do explain to everyone as to why you would travel from the Holy Temple to the Kingdom of Moon Orchid’s Valley of Trizer.”

Sun Knight gulped and then timidly opened his mouth to say, “A- Actually, I had first gone to the Kingdom of Kissinger. But, I really don’t remember how I managed to get there...”

Bam! Lesus Judgment severely slammed the table once. Everybody's eyelids twitched vigorously and they became even more afraid to show any kind of expression, not daring to even let a single strand of hair move.

In a short moment, Sun Knight then confessed with his lips trembling, "Lesus, I really, really don't remember. I can swear this by the God of Light a hundred times! I can only remember that I went to sleep the previous night. When I woke up the next day, I was already in Kissinger. It's true, I'm not lying to you this time!"

So, in the past you lied to him pretty often? No one dared to move their gaze, and only retorted inside their hearts silently.

It was unknown whether Lesus Judgment believed it or not, for he only nonchalantly said, "Well then, since you don't remember it, let me tell you."

"Eh?" Sun Knight looked bewildered.

As though he was conducting an interrogation, Lesus Judgment said, "Usually, you don't carry the Divine Sun Sword out, right?"

"Eh... Right."

"The Divine Sun Sword is a treasure that recognizes you as its owner, so there's no possibility that it could have been taken out of the Church by someone else without you realizing it, right?"

"... Yes."

"Thus, on that day, as for the reason why the Divine Sun Sword was outside the Church, it must have been you who brought it out, right?"

"Knight-Captain Hell has always been loyal to his duties. I set an order for him to follow you, but he did not do so. It must have been that you had intentionally shaken him off, right?"

Sun Knight secretly snuck a peek at Roland Hell, and he was forced to admit, "Uh-huh."

Lesus Judgment didn't raise any more questions. He only gave Sun Knight a cold look before he gave his verdict, "Thus, on that day, the

reason as to why you brought out the Divine Sun Sword must have been because you were about to conduct something dangerous. Then, with your personality, you must not have wanted to get Knight-Captain Hell involved in it, and hence you intentionally shook him off before going off by yourself to do something dangerous. In the end, due to certain unknown matters happening, you were sent over to the Kingdom of Kissinger and lost your memories. What happened is as such.”

Hearing the verdict, everyone had an expression of realization on his face, while Sun Knight wore an expression of wanting to cry but not being able to.

In the future, if we were to lose our memories, we won't have to worry; Knight-Captain Judgment would be responsible for judging what I have done or will do in that state, everyone silently thought in their hearts again.

Jesus Judgment slowly stood up, and then from his higher position, he looked down onto the still-seated Sun Knight. Using his extremely low voice, he said, “Last time you made yourself blind. This time you went off to do something dangerous by yourself, resulting in amnesia... If we don't discipline your unruly self, next time I'm not sure what kind of things you're going to do!”

“You want to discipline me?”

Sun Knight looked dumfounded. After seeing Jesus Judgment's icy expression, he finally understood that this time, he meant it for real. He immediately shouted, “Wait a minute, my stomach suddenly hurts and I want to go to the toilet. If there's anything, discuss it after I come back!”

When he finished speaking, he violently stood up and turned around to run toward the door. In this time frame, Jesus did not even move, but only stared at him with a cold gaze.

Sun Knight had only walked two steps when he realized that someone had already blocked the door of the conference room.

“Leaf...”

Leaf Knight stood at the door, showing a gentle smile as he said, “Sun, even when you became blind, you refused to tell me about it, and even deceived me for so long. If your lie had not been exposed this time, how much longer were you planning to deceive me? Hmm? Sun.”

Sun Knight gulped and instantly turned around, wanting to switch to jumping through the window to escape for his life. However, this time, it was Ice Knight who stood at the window.

“Ice...” Sun Knight looked very grieved as he said, “Didn’t you already say that you forgive me?”

Ice Knight nodded his head, and then he said, “I forgive you for throwing me to the dragon.” Afterwards, he silently rubbed Sun Knight’s head, and then returned to the window.

“... You are holding a grudge in this way?”

Ice Knight nodded his head again.

Since that method didn’t work, Sun Knight could only turn around. He aimed a glance at Knight-Captain Hell, who was still seated. In a hurry, he yelled, “Roland, hurry and take me out of here!”

Roland Hell said in a faint voice, “You purposely shook me off and made me fail to carry out my duties. I have always felt very upset that I actually didn’t manage to do my job, and caused everyone so much trouble...”

“...”

Sun Knight took a look to his left, and then to the right. All of the people whom his eyes landed on turned their heads, not even daring to look at him at all.

Upon the realization that there was no help within sight, he made a decision at this critical juncture without any hesitation. He instantly yelled, “Adair, help!”

The conference room’s door was knocked open, and Adair hastily rushed in, shouting, “Captain, what has happened?”

At this moment, Lesus Judgment finally made a move. With a sudden

flicker of his shadow, he jumped in front of Adair. The latter only managed to blurt out in suspicion, “Knight-Captain Judg-Oof!” before a hit landed on his abdomen. Adair slowly collapsed with a stomach full of doubt.

“Vidar,” Lesus Judgment called lightly.

A holy knight, who was wearing the Judgment Knight Platoon’s uniform, walked in through the door and saluted Judgment Knight. In this time frame, although he had tried to keep calm, he could not help but sneak a peek at the unconscious Adair out of the corner of his eye.

Lesus Judgment instructed his vice-captain, “The Sun Knight Platoon’s vice-captain, Adair, is permitted a month’s worth of sick leave because he was ‘injured on duty.’ All of his work will be handled personally by Knight-Captain Sun. You will be responsible for bringing Adair back to his hometown to rest and, at the same time, inform him that during this period of his sick leave, if I see him around the Holy Temple even once, the Sun Knight will have to personally correct documents for another month!”

Sun Knight looked at Vidar dragging away his last savior. With an expression of despair, he looked back at Lesus Judgment, asking, “Lesus, are you for real?”

Lesus Judgment stoically said, “Deceiving others is something that you usually do, but have I done it before?”

Hearing that, Sun Knight was speechless for a while, but he still struggled desperately. Putting up a bold face, he said, “Your reasoning seems to be very rational when you first hear it, but there’s also a possibility that I was only bringing the Divine Sun Sword out to look for Pink to brew tea together, and afterwards for unknown reasons I was set up by her and was sent flying to Kissinger...”

“You’re talking about Pink?”

Roland abruptly started speaking, “She helped out quite a bit. When we received the news that Blaze had sent, we originally had no idea how to go over there in such a short period of time. At that time, she had

coincidentally happened to come over and look for me. Once she heard about this matter, she prepared a teleportation circle, and sent all of us over.”

“... What?” He was flabbergasted. It was Pink who had sent them over? But, but I thought that...

Pink is Scarlet.

Hesitant, he asked, “Is Pink still a little girl?”

“No, she switched to another body.” Roland shook his head, and then explained in detail, “This time, she changed to a woman that looks like she was in her twenties. She is no longer a little girl.”

What? If you say that then... Pink is really not Scarlet?

“Grisia,” Lesus Judgment abruptly shouted.

“What?” Sun Knight turned around to look toward Lesus Judgment. Could it be that he too found Pink a little odd?

Lesus Judgment said indifferently, “Don’t think that changing the topic will be able to help you escape from this. Leaf, Hell, drag Sun to the confinement chamber. Knight-Captain Hell, starting from today, for the whole month, you will be responsible for looking after Sun. Without my permission, no one is allowed to enter that confinement chamber.”

“Yes!”

The two of them supported Sun Knight, one on the left and the other on the right. They started dragging him toward the door of the conference room.

“Wait a minute! Lesus, I won’t dare to act unreasonably again! Help! I don’t want to be shut inside the confinement chamber correcting a month’s worth of documents! You might as well send me to meet the God of Light! Lesus Judgment!”

After Sun Knight was dragged out, the doors of the conference room closed with a loud bang. Lesus Judgment nonchalantly said the word “Dismissed,” and then neatly left the conference room.

After everyone sent Judgment Knight off with their eyes silently, only then at this time did someone dare to open his mouth to ask hesitantly, “In theory, it’s the Sun Knight who is the leader of the Holy Temple and the head of the Twelve Holy Knights, right?”

“Yeah!”

“So, in theory, the Judgment Knight shouldn’t be able to arrest and take away the Sun Knight to be shut away in confinement, right?”

“Even the Pope cannot shut him up in confinement.”

“Then... This doesn’t seem to be quite right?”

“It’s not quite right in theory, but in practice... If you have the guts, you can try to release Sun in front of Judgment’s face!”

“... Actually, I’m not a theory type of person.”

# Epilogue: Character Introductions

Woodrow: Druid.

Yuna: Warpriest.

Igor: Warrior.

Sybil: Archer.

Iacchi: Rogue.

Kylie: Cleric of the Church of the God of Light.

Whitey: Unicorn.

Scarlet: A mysterious little girl.

Vidar: The vice-captain of the Judgment Knight Platoon.

Yu Wo: The author who keeps messing around with the character introductions.

\*

## Epilogue

The focus of *To the Rescue of a Princess* wasn't on the princess, and the focus of *To Slay a Dragon* wasn't on the dragon either. If my Chinese teacher were to see this, I would definitely receive such a comment: off-topic, [delete and retrain](#) ... No! I mean rewrite .

A lot of foreshadowing was buried in this volume, and it will be used to connect with and lead to the actual main plot that starts in the next volume. At the same time, I also let everyone understand the Twelve Holy Knights, the Son of the God of War, and Silent Eagle bit by bit, showing how they generally appear to normal people.

I also brought up each kingdom's ideologies in passing. They're very brief ideologies from each kingdom, but I also don't want to make them too complicated (because the author wouldn't be able to remember them) ...Cough! No, it's because the *Legend of Sun Knight*'s focus isn't on the kingdoms, but rather on the Churches. There's already too much to

remember about the Churches, so I chose to focus less on the ideologies of the kingdoms.

Following this, the ideologies among the gods will be more and more prominent as well.

Also, the names of the knights have increased too.

Here, let me help everyone review the names of the Twelve Holy Knights that have already made an appearance.

“Good, warm-hearted faction”:

Grisia Sun

Elmairy Leaf: Strawberry

Chikus Blaze: Freakus

Ceo Storm : He has for now (in this volume) escaped the horror of getting a nickname. Just how does Sun address Storm? Everyone can try guessing!

“Cruel, cold-hearted faction”:

Lesus Judgment : He’s someone whom even Sun is afraid to give a random nickname to.

Roland Hell : Luckily, he’s someone whom Sun became acquainted with before Sun started randomly giving nicknames.

Ecilan Ice: Wastelan

Laica Metal: Slime

I’ll take this moment to hope that everyone has good memory. (The author silently sticks the names of the Twelve Holy Knights beside her monitor.) By the way, this volume mostly reveals the true fact that holy knights... unless there’s something wrong with their heads, these knights will not go and slay a dragon for no reason. What a poor dragon! It gets attacked even when it’s just lying there! (After the author finished writing, this was the [OS](#) in her heart.) Next, the main point! This volume contains a special project. I believe that everyone must have flipped through it even

before reading this epilogue. That's right, I'm talking about [the designs of the Twelve Holy Knights!](#)

Finally, the appearances of the Twelve Holy Knights have been revealed. I wonder, what does everyone think of them? Who do you like the most?

We also have a [series of short manhua](#). I, Yu Wo, wrote the scripts. When I wrote them, I pretty much considered them as things that actually happened, so everyone can treat them like side stories.

At the time of the writing of this epilogue, I have yet to see the manhua , so I'm also waiting with excitement, hehe! So excited!

By the way, if I have the opportunity in the future, I will post up the original manuscripts for the manhua.

By Yu Wo, Sep. 2008

\*

(Here's the special project that was included at the front of the book)



Sun Knight: The leader of the Twelve Holy Knights and the “good, warm-hearted” faction. He possesses a dazzling smile, a perfect personality, and a benevolent heart that always forgives others.

Real personality: The direct opposite of the above description.



Storm Knight:

One of the Twelve Holy Knights and a member of the “good, warm-hearted” faction. He is a footloose charmer who enjoys freedom, and he always has women by his side.

Real personality: A workaholic, the type that will eventually work himself to death.



### Earth Knight:

One of the Twelve Holy Knights and a member of the “good, warm-hearted” faction. He is honest and loyal, the best friend of the Sun Knight.

Real personality: A bad guy who likes to play around with the feelings of women.



Leaf Knight: One of the Twelve Holy Knights and a member of the “good, warm-hearted” faction. His personality can be summed up in three words: a good guy.

Real personality: Still a good guy.



Blaze Knight:

One of the Twelve Holy Knights and a member of the “good, warm-hearted” faction. He is brash, straightforward, and looks up to the Sun Knight.

Real personality: Exactly the same as he appears and just as brash.



### Cloud Knight:

One of the holy knights of the “good, warm-hearted” faction. He is a drifter, with qualities much like that of a drifting cloud. The easiest place to find him is by the window-side, on top of a roof, or under a banyan tree. Often he drinks or reads alone in such places.

Real personality: A shut-in.



[Lesus Judgment](#): One of the Twelve Holy Knights and the boss of the “cruel, cold-hearted” faction. He is serious, cold, and never forgives criminals.

Real personality: Your next door older brother who is very good at taking care of others.



Ice Knight:

One of the Twelve Holy Knights and a member of the “cruel, cold-hearted” faction. He is cold like ice and never possesses any expression.

Real personality: A good wife and loving mother who is also great at cooking.



Moon Knight: One of the Twelve Holy Knights of the “cruel, cold-hearted” faction. He is very vain, haughty, and does not easily let others close. It always seems like he is looking down on others.

Real personality: His girlfriend is his entire world, and his life goal is to have a relationship.



Stone Knight: One of the Twelve Holy Knights who belongs to the “cruel, cold-hearted” faction. He is known for his stubbornness which is said to be as tough as a rock. It is said that cracking his skull is easy, but to crack his stubbornness, you might as well go and overthrow the Church of the God of Light instead, as that would be easier.

Real personality: Very easy to get along with, and he even gets along with dogs.



Hell Knight: One of the Twelve Holy Knights of the “cruel, cold-hearted” faction and the only one said to have been put in the “cruel, cold-hearted” faction yet doesn’t listen to the orders of the Judgment Knight but instead listens to the Sun Knight. He specifically takes care of missions behind-the-scenes, and some even say that he is the designated assassin of the Twelve Holy Knights. Some rumors also say that during the 1st generation of the Twelve Holy Knights, Hell Knight was not even an actual person. Rather, he was the identity the Sun Knight took on to complete secret missions.

Real personality: A practical person who rigidly follows the way of a



knight

Metal Knight:

He is famous for his poisonous tongue, and his words are said to be poisonous enough to anger people to death. It is said that talking with him for ten minutes can anger you so much that your life would get shortened by a year.

Real personality: An avid fan of the Judgment Knight

# Footnotes

[“A peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked”](#): The original tongue twister here translates to “Eat grapes but don’t spit out the grape skin, don’t eat grapes until spitting out the grape skin.” It is a famous and popular Chinese tongue-twister, but once translated, it’s no longer much of a tongue twister, so an English tongue twister was used here.

[“Scarlet”](#): A direct translation of her name from Chinese is “Red Poem.” We chose to retain the color part of her name but chose a more lyrical translation to capture the fact that her name isn’t just based on color.

[“the Dark Eagle”](#): Iacchi calls the “Silent Eagle” the Dark Eagle. This could be a typo, or it could just be Iacchi’s special way of addressing the Silent Eagle.

[“..the Cathedral of the Confounded God has the Dark Eagle”](#): Iacchi pronounces the name of the Cathedral of the Shadow God a bit differently than usual. He is possibly making a quip on the name. He also calls the Silent Eagle “the Dark Eagle.”

[“...maybe Ecilan wants to get someone else to do his dirty work...”](#): A literal translation of this is “killing with a borrowed knife.” The idea is that you borrow someone else’s hand to perform the deed.

[“...I already shrouded my face with the dark element...”](#): In the original text, Grisia says that he already shrouded his face with the “holy element” here, but we believe that it’s supposed to say “dark element” instead.

[“It seems that you have finally returned!”](#): Scarlet actually addresses Grisia with a respectful form of “you” here which has no equivalent in English. As a compromise, we translated the sentence so that Scarlet would sound more respectful than usual.

[“delete and retrain”](#): This refers to deleting a character from online games and retraining the character from scratch.

[“OS”](#): Oral soliloquy, or internal monologue.

[The designs of the Twelve Holy Knights](#) are included in full color at the

beginning of volume 4. We have included them here as well.

[Volumes 4, 5, and 6 come bundled with short manhua drawn by Ya Sha.](#)

The stories included are: For You All , Truth in Disguise , Facing the Darkness , two pages about Stone visiting the Kingdom of Moon Orchid in his usual outfit, and eight pages about how Ecilan became the Ice Knight. A few of the side stories PR! has released were the script versions that Yu Wo gave to the artist to use in the manhua. Yu Wo eventually posted the manuscripts in her blog, and that's what we translated from.

[Don't ask us why only Lesus is listed as Lesus Judgment](#) instead of Judgment Knight in the original text. We have no idea why either.

# Credits

Translator: [Prince Revolution!](#)

Epub: [Estevam](#) / [dotNOVEL](#)