

神達に拾われた男

1

The man picked up
by the gods

Roy

ILL. りりんら



The Man Picked Up By the Gods (Reboot)

– Kamitachi ni Hirowareta Otoko –

- Volume 1 -

**-Author-
Roy**

**-Artist-
Ririnra**

[Neo Translations]

- STORY -

Takebayashi Ryouma, a 39 years old man with hidden past, found himself in a strange white room. The gods tell him that he has died and that they are sending his soul to a different world, a world where magic exists. After living alone for 3 years, his gamer soul loses its common sense and starts along crazy routes.

「時間だよ」

「どうやら準備が整ったようじゃ」

「元気で、楽しくやっていくのよ?」

「ああ、わかった……
本当に、本当に
ありがとうございました!!」

竜馬の体を光の粒子が包み始めた。
光は徐々に強くなり、
竜馬の視界が遮られていく。

神達に拾われた男 1



たけぼやし りよう まし
竹林 竜馬

転生者。元は日本の
中年サラリーマン。
神々の加護を受け、異世界
で第二の人生を始める。
趣味は自己鍛錬と使役
したスライムの研究。

**エリーゼ・
ジャミール**

ラインハルトの妻である
公爵夫人。
複雑な生い立ちの竜馬に
対して、何かと
親身に接する。

**ラインハルト・
ジャミール**

ジャミール公爵家の
現当主。
森で竜馬に助けられた
ことをきっかけに、
交流を持つようになる。

**ラインバツハ・
ジャミール**

ジャミール公爵家の
先代当主。
森でひっそりと暮らして
いた竜馬を旅に誘う。

**エリアリア・
ジャミール**

ラインハルトの娘で
公爵令嬢。
明るく素直な性格で、
年の近い竜馬に対して
好意的に接する。
生まれつき魔力量が
とても多い。

竜馬の見つけた新種のスライム

その素晴らしい能力に
お嬢様もメイドも大興奮!?



Prologue 1

A lone man stood dazed in an empty room. Signs of fatigue could be seen on his face and gray streaks could be seen on his hair; he was most likely in his latter 40s, though his figure seemed to deny that.

The man was dressed for sleep, wearing only a simple shirt and a pair of shorts, making it easy to see his figure. Contrary to his aged look, his body was tempered, overflowing with muscles and vigor.

“Huh...? Where is this?” [???

When the man uttered those words, three people appeared before him.

“Have you come to?” [Old Man]

“Is your mind clear now?” [Boy]

“You know it would be nice if you said something.” [Woman]

“Umm... Yes. I’m alright now. You suddenly came out of nowhere, so I was taken back a bit. My apologies. Let me introduce myself. I am Ryouma Takebayashi.”

“There’s no need to be so formal. Let’s talk over tea.” [Old Man]

The old man waved his hand, and all of the sudden, a tea table appeared, atop which were cups filled with tea and pillows to sit on along the sides.

“Come, take a seat.” [Woman]

“Thank you.” [Ryouma]

The young woman smiled and implored Ryouma to take a seat, which Ryouma promptly took. The others took their seats as well; the woman sat on the right, while the boy sat on the left, and the old man sat opposite Ryouma.

When they had all taken their seats, everyone, including Ryouma, took a sip of their tea.

“I hope you won’t mind if I ask some questions.” [Ryouma]

“Of course not. That’s exactly what we’re here for. But I already have an idea what is

you want to ask, so how about listening to our story first?" [Old Man]

"Well, alright." [Ryouma]

After Ryouma nodded to show his agreement, the old man began.

"We are what you would call 'gods'. I am Gayn, the God of Creation. The woman to your right is Rurutia, the Goddess of Love, and the boy to your left is the God of Life, Kufo. We are gods of a different world.

You might not know this, but last night, you died. When your soul left your body, we took it and brought it here to the divine realm." [Gayn]

"I see. So that's what happened." [Ryouma]

Ryouma matter-of-factly accepted Gayn's explanation as he sipped his tea. The three gods were bewildered at his reaction, especially the youngest-looking of them all, Kufo.

"Umm, wait, is that it!? Shouldn't you be panicking a bit more and going 'No way!' 'That can't be!' 'Why did I die?' or something?" [Kufo]

"You know... the others before you were all flustered when we talked to them." [Gayn]

"Oh, don't get me wrong, I am surprised, though I do admit that none of this feels real to me right now. Besides, if all this is nothing more than a dream, then I would eventually wake up, but even if it's not, well... everyone will pass away anyway.

And I've already expected this to some extent. My work, you see, is really taxing. So taxing that many of my coworkers have had to retire early because their body broke down. Because of that I've always believed I would die an early death. Being able to live up to 39 or 40, depending which way you count, is more than plenty, all things considered.

Not to mention, as embarrassing as it is to admit considering my age, I'm a huge otaku of games and manga, so I'm quite fond of stories like this. I don't have any family or relatives anyway, so this turn of events is a lot better than just burning away." [Ryouma]

Ryouma was truly satisfied from the bottom of his heart, but that only caused the gods even more confusion.

"R-Really? Do humans really think like that? Hasn't anyone ever told you your way of

thinking is odd?" [Kufo]

"I don't think it's got anything to do with your hobbies either. There were plenty of people with similar hobbies as you, and they were all really flustered. So flustered, in fact, that some of them wouldn't even listen. Just meeting someone who wasn't gloomy was a feat in and of itself." [Rurutia]

"Well, in any case, this makes things easier for us. Though this also leaves us with too much time on hand. Is there anything else you want to know?" [Gayn]

Ryouma became thoughtful for a moment before speaking.

"How did I die?" [Ryouma]

"Hmm? You're starting there?" [Gayn]

"Yes. I don't think there's anything odd about my question though. After all, I don't have any memory of dying." [Ryouma]

"Well, you did die like that, so of course you don't remember." [Rurutia]

"You died from brain hemorrhage after hitting your head." [Kufo]

"Huh!? Wasn't I just sleeping in my room?" [Ryouma]

"Yep, you sure were. But then you sneezed while you were sleeping... A lot, in fact." [Rurutia]

"You sneezed four times. Each time your pillow slipped and your head slammed into the ground. Unfortunately, your futon was the cheap sort, so it was too thin to cushion your head." [Gayn]

"The impact wasn't enough to wake you up though, so the internal bleeding just kept on going, and when dawn came, you passed." [Kufo]

When he heard that, Ryouma's eyes fell to the ground and he mumbled to himself, then suddenly, he bitterly cried out.

"I can't accept it... Why? Why of all things did I die from a sneeze!?" [Ryouma]

"Huh?" [Kufo, Gayn, Rurutia]

"I've survived the beer bottles of my boss, the iron pipes of middle-aged men, and even the countless abuse under my dad, and yet after all that, the one thing to actually take my life is a sneeze!?" [Ryouma]

Filled with grief, Ryouma lost sight of his surroundings as mumbled to himself.

"Ah, he's depressed." [Kufo]

"Even though he was perfectly fine after being told he was dead, what an odd kid." [Rurutia]

“It seems he’s quite proud of his body. Well, he was forcefully trained by his father from a young age and driven right at the edge of death day after day. Hmm... Kufo, Rurutia.” [Gayn]

“What?” [Rurutia]

“Is something the matter?” [Kufo]

“There’s something about this kid bothering me. Come help me out while we wait for him to calm down.” [Gayn]

Gayn’s expression quickly turned solemn as he spoke, while the other two gods, sensing that something was amiss, answered back in words that couldn’t be heard by a human. Perhaps their efforts were wasted, however, as Ryouma was so depressed he couldn’t hear anything.



“Ah, sorry... I lost myself for a moment there.” [Ryouma]

When Ryouma recovered himself and lifted up his face, the gods were still there drinking tea as calm as ever.

“It’s fine. We’re usually free, and we properly scheduled our time with you, so there’s no rush. Moreover, we’re already used to people losing their minds after dying.

After all, human souls are connected to their bodies, so when you cut that connection off, a little bit of instability is to be expected. That instability usually results in one’s emotions going wild.

Anyway, the point is we really don’t mind, so don’t sweat it.” [Gayn]

“Time flows differently here in the divine realm and souls don’t starve. Having to wait four years before a human regains his sanity is pretty normal.” [Kufo]

“4 years!?” [Ryouma]

Ryouma was shocked.

“We can’t interfere carelessly when humans are panicking, or they might just needlessly put their guards up. Some humans also go crazy while we’re talking, but regardless, we usually just wait until they’re able to calm themselves down. Waiting up to four years is normal, so you’re still alright, Ryouma-kun.

Anyway, since you're back, I hope you won't mind if we continue." [Gayn]

"Of course." [Ryouma]

Gayn nodded.

"Right, well let me explain why we called your soul. If I were to sum up the reason in one word, it would be: Cliche. Do you understand?" [Gayn]

"Cliche? Ah... I believe I do. You wish for me to live in another world, yes? If so, will I be reincarnated or merely transmigrated?"

"You really are quick to pick up." [Rurutia]

Rurutia was shocked to see Ryouma so easily understand what was going on, but Gayn ignored her and continued.

"You'll be transmigrated, in a sense. I will be creating a new body for you to inhabit in our world, so you won't have any parents." [Gayn]

"Your new body will be much younger, so you could say it's like being reincarnated. If you have any requests, I could alter your body as you please." [Kufo]

"Exactly what age will my new body be?" [Ryouma]

"You'll be less than 10 years old. At that age, you should be fine even if you get lost in a forest. You'll look like a child to others, so they won't be as suspicious and you'll be able to safely go into a city. Of course, we'll have some insurance too to ensure everything goes well.

Since you're going to be an orphan in the otherworld, we'll be sending you to a country that's relatively tolerant of social statuses. With that there shouldn't be any issues for you to live a normal life." [Gayn]

"Thank you. For my appearance, just don't make it weird. Is there anything in particular I need to do in your world? A mission of some sort?" [Ryouma]

"Nope. If there's any, well, you've pretty much accomplished it the moment you're transmigrated, so there's technically none. You going to the otherworld is your only mission." [Rurutia]

"Our goal is to transfer mana from your world into our world, which is currently very low on mana." [Kufo]

Ryouma nodded upon understanding, but then it occurred to him.

"Can't you just transfer mana by itself?" [Ryouma]

"No. Putting it simply, there are walls between different worlds. Normally, mana can't

go past these ‘walls’, so we have to create a hole first. The problem is that opening the hole and maintaining it both require energy, so if just do it normally, we’ll run out of strength.

Fortunately, we have you! You’ll be unconscious during the process, but by stuffing your soul – reinforced by our power – in between the hole, we can keep it from closing while we transfer mana from earth to our world.” [Kufo]

“Our world relies on magic. If mana dries up, the daily life of the people will be affected, the monsters who feed on magic will die out, and the ecosystem will be destroyed.

Earth, on the other hand, does not use magic. They don’t have monsters either. Since they’re not using it, we figured we’d take some of it.” [Rurutia]

“If there’s no particular reason for mana to dry out, then could it be that the rate production of mana can’t keep up with its usage?” [Ryouma]

“Yes, exactly. There are a lot of reasons for it, but humans, in particular, find it very convenient to rely on magic. Because of that magic has experienced a lot of development, and gradually, the consumption of mana is getting bigger and bigger.” [Kufo]

“It’s not easy to reduce the consumption of mana. Moreover, if you use too much internal mana, your body will fall apart. So in the end it’s a lot easier to use mana from your surroundings. It’s truly a sad thing.” [Gayn]

As the gods grumbled about the humans, Ryouma alone became excited.

“Umm... Can I also use magic?” [Ryouma]

“Of course.” [Gayn]

“You bet.” [Kufo]

“You can.” [Rurutia]

“Really! Ah, sorry.” [Ryouma]

“It’s fine, it’s fine. When you’re transmigrated, you will have the same body as the native humans, so you’ll also be able to use magic. Of course, everything will depend on your training.” [Gayn]

“Also, as I mentioned awhile ago, we’ll be reinforcing your soul to keep the hole open, so as a result, some of that power will become a part of you. Even without any talent, you’ll be able to use magic. I’m not sure about becoming the best mage in the world though.” [Kufo]

Ryouma felt his face grow hot as the gods looked at him with amused expressions, but regardless, he was happy to find that he would be able to use magic.

“As for what magic you’ll be able to use... Let’s give you access to all the elemental magic.” [Gayn]

“Umm... Wouldn’t that be a bit too conspicuous?” [Ryouma]

The three gods laughed when he said that.

“Heh, the humans who come here say that a lot. Especially, the ones who read a lot of light novels.” [Kufo]

“But the thing is, while it’s not that common, it’s also not that amazing.” [Rurutia]

“Really?” [Ryouma]

“Yes. The people born with the talent aren’t few, and with enough effort, anyone can become proficient in all elements. In fact, there are about 10 to 20 people in any country’s knight order born with the skill.

There’s also the fact that while you might have a lot of elements that you can use, unless you train them all, you’re not going to get good at them. If you do train them all, the progress is pretty slow. Between someone who can cast elementary spells of all elements and someone who can cast advanced spells of a single element, which one do you think is more valued? The latter.” [Gayn]

“In other words, a jack of all trades and a master of none.” [Ryouma]

“Precisely.” [Gayn]

“Since there are no downsides to it, don’t you think it’s a perfect fit for you who wants to play with magic?” [Rurutia]

“Then in that case, I’ll take it.” [Ryouma]

After that Ryouma and the gods continued discussing about his would-be abilities.

“—Good, with this we’re done. But are you really sure you’re alright with all your bonuses being magic-related? We can also give you some close-combat skills if you want. Being able to use a lot of magic is nice and all, but consequently, you won’t be able to use strong magic right off the bat.” [Gayn]

“As long as I won’t have any problems living, I’m perfectly happy with what we’ve discussed.” [Ryouma]

“Alright. The most important thing is that you’re satisfied. Let’s move on to the last part.” [Gayn]

Sensing Ryouma's resolve, Gayn took out a wooden plank on top of which were a sheet of paper and a feather pen and handed it to Ryouma. On the sheet of paper were everything they've discussed, and on the bottom-right was a blank space for Ryouma's name.

"Signing a contract after you die is a bit..." [Ryouma]

"Oh, you don't like it?" [Rurutia]

"Not that I don't like it. It just feels a bit... odd." [Ryouma]

"Well, we can just do away with the contract if you want." [Kufo]

"Huh?" [Ryouma]

Ryouma's hand paused when he heard Rurutia and Kufo's remarks.

"Actually, we're just making sure that you're fine with everything we've discussed and that you understand everything perfectly clear. The sign is just one method. If you don't want to sign, we can just do it orally." [Gayn]

"Really?" [Ryouma]

"We adjust our methods depending on the person. Oral is usually for little kids, as it's easier." [Rurutia]

After being told that, Ryouma read the contract carefully, and when he was sure everything was ok, he signed.

—The moment he did, a faint light suddenly wrapped around him.

"!?" [Ryouma]

"Calm down. That's just a sign that it's starting. You won't get hurt." [Rurutia]

"Unfortunately, these are the rules. After everything's been decided, you won't be able to stay long here." [Kufo]

"Sigh... I wonder why the annoying ones stick around so long, but the nice ones always leave so quick." [Gayn]

Hearing that, Ryouma understood that the time for farewells had come.

"I see... That's unfortunate. But regardless, I won't forget this act of kindness for the rest of my life." [Ryouma]

"Don't sweat it. It's your life, so just live as you please. We'll do our best to send you to a safe forest, so rest assured." [Gayn]

“We’ll always be watching over you. And you know... This is the last time, so you can be a bit more selfish. We won’t mind.” [Rurutia]

“You really don’t have to be so formal with your speech.” [Kufo]

“Won’t you show us your real self?” [Gayn]

“...Right. Thanks for everything. I guess it really wasn’t hard to see through someone when he’s only going through the form.” [Ryouma]

“We are gods. Of course, we’d notice. And there were times when you stumbled on your speech.” [Gayn]

“You could have just spoken informally from the start.” [Rurutia]

“I didn’t think it would be polite to speak causally to gods.” [Ryouma]

“Of course, too much is bad, but you’re alright. Besides, my heart is big. I’m a goddess, after all.” [Rurutia]

“Right.” [Ryouma]

“Any plans once you arrive at our world?” [Gayn]

“If there’s anything worrying you, just say it.” [Rurutia]

“We’ll listen.” [Kufo]

Ryouma appeared thoughtful for a moment, but not a lot of time passed before he naturally said.

“Actually... I’m not good with people. I lived for 39 years, but I never got along well with others. Even if I go to the other world, I’ll still be me. I don’t really think that part of me would change after going to another world. Honestly, I find human relations are exhausting. Maybe I’ll just live alone by myself.” [Ryouma]

“You can do that too if you want. That’s life.” [Gayn]

“I also think it would be a waste though. I mean it is an otherworld. It would a pity not to travel.” [Ryouma]

“Then why don’t you live alone for a while, and then when you feel like it, travel?” [Kufo]

Ryouma asked if that was really alright.

“No matter what, the first place you’ll arrive in is a forest. If we just summoned you in the middle of a city, it would cause a huge commotion. So what you can do is to first live in the forest, and then afterwards go to the city. Besides, I’m sure you want to mess around with your magic, right?” [Kufo]

“Ah, now that you mention it.” [Ryouma]

“Just take it slow. You look like the type to diligently go through all the paths laid out before you, but this time, try going through them one at a time. And if in the end, you

don't go through them all, that's fine." [Rurutia]

You've already died once, so in one sense, you can really be reborn. You can live a life different from the life you lived on Earth. Especially since you'll be a child in our world. Aside from things you need to do to protect yourself, you can just play and have fun." [Rurutia]

"Oh, and let's not forget that you'll most likely be fine even if you come across some bandits with your skills." [Gayn]

"Just live as I please and go on my own pace, huh. Then in that case, I guess I'll stay in the forest for a while, and when I'm feeling like it, go out. Thanks." [Ryouma]

"If you do go to a city, make sure to visit the church. We won't be able to meet, but if you get the Oracle skill, we'll at least be able to talk for a short while. The higher the level, the longer and more frequent." [kufo]

"Got it. I'll definitely drop by when I go to town. I don't know when, but I promise it." [Ryouma]

"Good, we'll be waiting. When you drop by, we'll talk lots." [Rurutia]

"We have a lot of free time, after all. Ho Ho ho!" [Gayn]

When Gayn laughed the light on Ryouma began expanding.

"...It's time." [Kufo]

The light gradually grew stronger until it covered Ryouma's vision.

"...Everything's ready, it seems." [Gayn]

"Farewell and live happily, alright?" [Rurutia]

"I will... Thank you... Thank you so much!!" [Ryouma]

"Now go! We can't keep the door open forever!" [Gayn]

"Our blessings are with you." [Rurutia]

"May light illuminate your path!" [Kufo]

"Enjoy your new life!" [Gayn, Kufo, Rurutia]

「時間だよ」

「どうやら準備が整ったようじゃ」

「元気で、楽しくやっていくのよ?」

「ああ、わかった……
本当に、本当に
ありがとうございました!!」

竜馬の体を光の粒子が包み始めた。
光は徐々に強くなり、
竜馬の視界が遮られていく。

神達に拾われた男 1

After that the light swallowed Ryouma.

When the light vanished, Ryouma was gone, and so were the gods.

Prologue 2

“Work... Tabuchi-kun, the report is underway...” [Ryouma]

Ryouma woke up under the shade of the trees, deep inside the forest. Just as the gods told him, his body had returned to his tens. When he woke up, he was leaning on a tree with a set of hemp clothes on.

Ryouma woke up muttering. As he did, he looked around him, still half-dazed.

“A forest? It wasn’t a dream, I see...” [Ryouma]

As the scent of the earth and the wind wafted to Ryouma’s nose, he gradually remembered why he was here.

“Oh, right... I’m in another world. Hmm?” [Ryouma]

Ryouma noticed a leather bag and a book the size of a notebook placed in front of him. When he looked at the cover of the book, on it were words from a language clearly not Japanese. It read: Letter. The sender seemed to be the three gods who invited him to this world.

“Gayn, Kufo, Rurutia...” [Ryouma]

As Ryouma read out the names written down, he recalled the gods he met.

(They already explained things to me before sending me off. They even gave me knowledge and power. Yet they still went the extra mile and left me this letter. I guess it’s a lot closer to a manual than a letter, though...)

Turning the book, he saw three things written on the first page.

The first thing written was about the world.

This world is known as Seiruforu. There is a place known as Gana Forest in the Riforu Kingdom. Monsters are relatively rare here, making it a safer place compared to other

forests.

The second thing written was about Ryouma's current situation. Though the forest was safe, it wasn't perfectly safe, so the gods suggested that Ryouma go to a livable place as soon as possible. The gods included a small map.

The last page was bound tight, and on it read: "Read the next page only once you've arrived at the designated area."

Ryouma smiled at the gods' graciousness, then Ryouma stood up. When he did, he felt an odd sensation attack him.

"My body really has turned into that of a kid's... Ryouma Takebayashi, 39-years-old, single, occupation: systems engineer. The only thing I have left is my memory. Reminds me of a certain detective."

Ryouma might have heard the gods inform him of what will happen beforehand, but he still couldn't help be shocked when he actually saw his body back to that of a kid's. When he was sure nothing was off, he started moving his body.

Ryouma slowly moved his body, starting with the simple opening and closing of his hands and the bending of his legs, then he started stretching. Gradually, he made more complex movements. When he was finally able to perform the martial feats his father had taught him in his past life, he stopped.

Ryouma turned toward a nearby tree, then as his eyes narrowed, he sent a sharp kick toward its trunk.

"PI!"

"Chi chi!"



An explosive sound resounded throughout the forest as the tree Ryouma kicked easily broke, causing the birds resting on the nearby trees to flee. In the ensuing panic, some of the birds even fell. Meanwhile, Ryouma calmly pondered on what had just happened.

(Strange... My current strength is either equal or greater than it once was. It doesn't make any sense, but for some reason my body moves a lot easier. Of course, the reach has significantly been reduced, but... In any case, it seems the only thing I'll have to get used to is the reach problem. Walking or running doesn't seem like it'll be any trouble, but as for the rest, I'll have to catch up with my new body first.)

With that, Ryouma went back to the tree beneath which he had been sleeping and took a good look at the map. On the map were two locations pinned. One indicated where he currently was, while the other indicated his destination. After gauging the distance, he stored the map into the bag. At the same time, he noticed there was a knife left for him, so he placed it by his waist for easy access, then he walked to the place the gods told him to go.



2 hours later.

Along the way, Ryouma came across some “monsters”, living organisms that didn't exist on Earth, but they were all weak and ran away on their own, so Ryouma just ignored them.

With his small legs, it would take him a considerable amount of time to traverse the distance he needed, but thanks to the knowledge the gods had given him, he was able to identify the herbal and edible plants along the way, making things that much more convenient for him.

After walking through the dimly lit forest, Ryouma finally arrived at its depths. As the trees opened up and bare rocks were revealed, Ryouma was greeted by a cliff. When he was certain that he was safe, he put down his belongings and did as the letter instructed him.

“Oh? There's a river nearby? This should be a good place to settle down.”

Ryouma would mutter to himself from time to time as he read his letter. He wasn't

even thinking of going out of the forest, as he was intending to live in the forest first just as he had discussed with the gods.

“There seems to be a tent provided, but I think a cave would be better considering there are monsters and all.”

With a tent, even a big animal would be enough to cause Ryouma trouble, so he approached the cliff and placed his index finger on the surface of the rock while he read the letter. On the page of the letter were instructions regarding the usage of “magic”.

“The first step is to calm down, then one is to gather inside his body... Like this?... My body fills like it’s being filled with water like a balloon or something, ugh...”

Though Ryouma complained with his mouth, he was still somewhat happy and excited, so he couldn’t help but smile.

However, while he might have indulged himself with otaku hobbies like light novels and games, and while he might have imagined himself using magic countless times during break, Ryouma has never actually used magic.

“Umm... After sensing magic in the body, I am to... move it by imagining it moving, and I am supposed to direct it outside. There.”

Ryouma read the instructions aloud as he tried to follow them, giving off an atmosphere akin to that of an old man struggling with technology. As he imagined magic flowing out of his fingertips, magic power began to flow out.

Magic has 12 elements. They are:

Neutral, Fire, Water, Wind, Earth.

Ice, Electricity, Wood, Poison.

Light, Darkness, Space.

Mages are able to change the element of their magic power according to the image within their mind, and then invoke a spell with a chant.

When Ryouma read that part, he chose the earth spell out of the many spells listed in the letter.

“Magic power shall flow into the cliff and the crumbling rocks shall... ‘Break Rock.’”

With a clear image, Ryouma chanted those last two words, and suddenly, though only a little, a small hole was hollowed in the part of the cliff he was touching. It was only small enough for about three index fingers to fit in, making it more like a dent than an actual hole, but when Ryouma saw the spell take effect, he couldn’t help but laugh to himself.

(How long has it been since I last enjoyed myself? I was always pulling all-nighters and overtimes and accompanying my boss to drink... It’s not like I never had any time for leisure, but... Yeah, it’s been awhile, hasn’t it? Since I last felt like this.)

Though Ryouma kept a tight watch on his surroundings, he casted Break Rock after Break Rock with a foolish expression on his face.



After casting spell after spell for a while, Ryouma muttered to himself.

“This isn’t very efficient.” [Ryouma]

(I’ve finally started to get the hang of it, but at this rate, I won’t finish before the sun sets. Besides, there should be a limit to the number of times I can use magic.)

As Ryouma thought that, he decided to take a break and draw water from the river. When he came back, he opened the letter again.

(It would be great if there’s something I can use, but in the worst case, I’ll just have to use that tent. I’ve slept some in one back on Earth, so it should be no problem... Ah.)

While Ryouma was looking for a solution to his predicament, he came across a page that showed his status.

(Status, huh. Well, this should be convenient. At the very least, I’ll be able to understand exactly what I can and can’t do.)

When he looked at the page again, it read:

Name: Ryouma Takebayashi

Gender: Male

Age: 8

Race: Human

(My name and gender is the same as in my past life. I don't really remember what sort of kid I was back then though. All I remember is that my dad beat everything into me. Anyway, moving on...)

HP: 10,486

MP: 102,300

Note: For an average person, their HP would normally be around 1000, while an adventurer, a soldier, or a trained person would normally have theirs between 2,000 to 3,000.

“What kind of freak am I supposed to be then?” [Ryouma]

(I mean, sure, I might have worked out a bit more than most young people or those bigwigs with their bulging stomachs, but I don't think that's enough to make such a big difference. The magic power makes sense since the gods said my magic power would naturally increase as a side effect of their procedure, but that shouldn't apply to HP.)

MP had a note under it just like HP. Normal people had 100 MP. Warriors that bolstered their fighting abilities with magic ranged from 500 – 700 MP. A normal mage ranged from 1,000 – 5,000 MP, and a royal court magician ranged from 10,000 to 50,000.

(Well, more won't hurt. Now about those skills...)

Domestic Skills

Domestic Chores LV10

Etiquette LV7

Musical Instrument LV3

Singing LV3

Calculation LV5

Battle Skills

Close-Combat Mastery LV7

Sword Mastery LV7

Knife Mastery LV6

Hidden Weapons Mastery LV7

Spear Mastery LV4

Bow Mastery LV6

Staff Mastery LV6

Weight Control LV4

Throwing Weapons Mastery LV7

Stealth Mastery LV7

Traps LV6

Body Control LV6

Spirit Cultivation LV5

Magic Skills

Familiar Magic LV1

Barrier Magic LV1

Healing Magic LV1

Alchemy LV1

Fire Magic LV1

Water Magic LV1

Wind Magic LV1

Earth Magic LV1

Neutral Magic LV1

Electric Magic LV1

Ice Magic LV1

Poison Magic LV1

Wood Magic LV1

Light Magic LV1

Dark Magic LV1

Space Magic LV1

Magic Perception LV1

Magic Manipulation LV1

Increased MP Recovery LV1

Production Skills

Pharmacy LV6

Smithing LV1

Architecture LV2
Woodworking LV2
Molding LV4
Drawing LV4

Resistance Skills

Physical Pain Resistance LV8
Mental Resistance LV9
Health LV7

Special Skills

Survival Skills LV3
Focused Mind LV5
Greater Vitality LV3
Greater Stamina LV6
Greater Regeneration LV3

Titles

Usurper
One Who has Lived Through Misfortune
Favored Child of the Gods
Disciple of the Sage
Disciple of the Martial God

Blessings

Blessing of Gayn, the God of Creation
Blessing of Kufo, the God of Life
Blessing of Rurutia, the God of Love

(Regarding skills, a level 1 means that one has learned the basics. A level 2 indicates that one is an apprentice, while a level 3 indicates that one is learned. 4 indicates proficiency, while a 5 means first-class. From 6 beyond is the mark of an expert.

I guess the 39 years I spent wasn't for nothing. A lot of the skills seem to have taken inspiration from the things I learned in work and school. Stuff like programming which isn't relevant to this world aren't written, though.

Titles and blessings don't really seem like they'll be much use right now. Now, what to do?)

Ryouma turned to the next page and read the explanations written about various skills. 10 minutes later, one skill caught his eyes.

Spirit Cultivation, a skill that strengthens one's life force.

By sensing one's ki beneath the stomach and by letting it flow throughout the body like one does with magic, one's physical faculties are heightened. By allowing the ki to course through one's weapons, the sharpness of the weapon increases, making it much more powerful. The use of Spirit Cultivation can become second-nature after regular use, so there are cases when its practitioners use it unaware.

(This is probably the reason why I moved so much awhile ago. I should be able to use it well once I understand it. Now, where is that earth spell... Ah, found it.)

The elementary earth spell, Rock. A spell that hardens soil and transforms it into either rock or stone. The shape can be molded according to the will of the mage.

“Rock” [Ryouma]

As Ryouma used the spell on the crumbled parts of the cliff, the earth and sand quickly turned into stones.

“Good. ‘Rock’. ‘Rock’. —” [Ryouma]

Using the same spell several times, Ryouma created a short stone rod. Using Break Rock, Ryouma thinned its end, creating a shape akin to that of a beast's fang. After completion, Ryouma held his newly made rod with a backhand grip as he walked toward the cliff.

Ryouma took a deep breath as he circulated ki from his right arm to his rod, then he slammed it down onto the cliff.

“Ha!” [Ryouma]

Ryouma's hardened rod slammed into the cliff, boring a hole deep enough for half his finger to enter.

When Ryouma saw his rod take effect, he slammed the cliff again, boring holes faster

than when he just chanted spells.

“Tch! It broke! ‘Rock’” [Ryouma]

Whenever Ryouma’s rod broke, he would fix it and begin digging again. By the time the sun had set, Ryouma had only managed to dig out a hole big enough for him to store his belongings. Despite that, because Ryouma had to use Spirit Cultivation and Magic, which he was unfamiliar with, a wave of exhaustion hit him.

(This is it for the day, I suppose.)

When Ryouma walked away from the cliff to get the food and water he’d gathered, he suddenly found himself staring at the scenery.

“Amazing...” [Ryouma]

Before Ryouma knew it, the world outside had been dyed in the color of the setting sun. The trees and the leaves reflected the red of the sun onto the leaves and plants outside of its reach. Ryouma was speechless at the beauty of that sight.

As the red sky began to fade, a resplendent starry sky filled its place.

(There’s so many stars. How beautiful. How long has it been since I last saw so many stars? In fact, how long has it been since I last had the opportunity to take in my surroundings?)

No one answered Ryouma’s questions, but regardless, Ryouma was satisfied. And with a face full of satisfaction, he took his belongings and carried them into his cave.

Ryouma took a blanket from his bag and spread it over the ground, creating a place for him to rest, then as he leaned onto the wall, he took a mouthful of food. He’d only gathered fruits and herbs he could eat raw, so there weren’t much, but he was still able to fill his belly, while still leaving about half of everything he’d gathered.

(I’ll eat the rest tomorrow. I should sleep now. I have to gather ingredients and things I can use in my day-to-day life tomorrow. There’s a lot to do, but there’s also a lot to gain.)

After eating his fill, Ryouma blocked the entrance of his cave.

“Gayn, Kufo, Rurutia, from the bottom of my heart, thank you for your kindness...”
[Ryouma]

Ryouma’s busy legs finally stopped, taking refuge in the embrace of the soft blanket around him. As his words vanished into the dark of the cave, the sound of snoring could be heard not long after.



Meanwhile, in the divine realm, three gods were peeping at Ryouma. These gods were – of course – none other than Gayn, Kufo, and Rurutia, the gods who sent Ryouma to Seiruforu.

“Everything seems to be going well.” [Gayn]

“Yes, we have also managed to bestow him power without any difficulties.” [Rurutia]

“He’s managed to find a place to live in as well. It should be smooth sailing from here.”
[Kufo]

The three gods expressed their relief in the blank white space.

“Indeed, but let’s keep watching him for now. We might have made a deal with him, but it would ache my heart to see him happen into some unfortunate accident. And besides, he’s piqued my interest.” [Gayn]

“Sure, Gayn.” [Kufo]

“I agree, let’s keep watching. That aside, just what on Earth is the earth god thinking? I can’t believe he actually meddled with the destiny of a living person.” [Rurutia]

After showing their approval to Gayn’s proposal, Rurutia suddenly spat her disgust for the Earth God.

“Calm down, Rurutia. Grumbling here won’t do any of us any good.” [Gayn]

“But I’m concerned. You are too, right, Gayn?” [Rurutia]

“Well, yes. Even if it’s not always with malicious intention, there aren’t a lot of people whose destiny has been tampered with. To begin with, the fact that gods aren’t supposed to so easily tamper with a person’s destiny is common sense. And stealing a person’s fortune is just incorrigible.” [Gayn]

“He even went as far as to use ‘Trials’. I can’t believe he would actually have some reason behind all this.” [Rurutia]

Trials are a kind of opportunity the gods can give to the people living in the mortal world to help them; usually it is given when a great danger is looming over a great multitude, though ultimately, when it is given is completely up to the gods' discretion.

When a trial is passed, the people who have undertaken the trial are given great power as reward.

“That god might have intended to hurt him, but in the end, a trial is a trial. If you can live through it, you can gain power.” [Rurutia]

“And though the trials were suppressed to little misfortunes in his everyday life, after so many, the effect is bound to accumulate.” [Gayn]

“Even a little trash here and there can one day form a mountain, in other words. Though the power he gained never benefited him in his work or luck, his body ended up becoming freakishly strong. It's fortunate though, because otherwise...” [Rurutia]

“It's because of that that we noticed. And from looking at his memories, it seems even his father—” [Kufo]

While Ryouma slept, the gods chattered among themselves about matters he did not understand.

Chapter 1

Three Years Later

Ryouma Takebayashi isolated himself within the Forest of Gana, training in the arts of both magic and close combat. Three years later, it was time to—

—Eat.

Leaving the forest was the last thing in his mind.

“Today’s breakfast is really delicious...” [Ryouma]

Ryouma’s once shabby cave was now bigger and safer. By using earth magic, he was able to make more space within the cave, and by setting up a barrier by the entrance, Ryouma was able to make the cave much safer. The cave was also now furnished with furniture made from earth magic.

As for food, Ryouma got it from the forest. Thanks to the knowledge the gods had given him and the neutral magic, ‘Identify’, Ryouma could easily pick out what was edible and what was not.

Yet despite living such an uncomfortable lifestyle out here in the middle of nowhere, where one had to hunt or forage to procure food and none of the convenience of a functioning society was present, Ryouma had never once thought of leaving the forest; instead, he spent his days doing hobbies that he had no time for back in his previous life.

One particular hobby Ryouma had grown fond of was ‘Slime’ research.

At first, Ryouma just wanted to try out the branch of magic known as Familiar Magic, so he caught a slime from the forest. For half a year, he raised it as a pet, then suddenly, on one fine morning, he woke up to see that the slime had changed colors. At first, he thought it was sick, but after using ‘Monster Identify’, one of the spells under the

branch of Familiar Magic, he found out that the slime had evolved into a sticky slime.

From then on, Ryouma became deeply interested in why the slime evolved, so he spent his days observing the slimes. The first thing Ryouma understood was that the wild slimes were at the bottom of the food chain.

The slimes had no power to prey on other creatures, so they had no choice but to live like a pauper and get by what little they had. Ryouma's own slime, however, lived like a king, as he would feed it green caterpillars everyday, ensuring that it was always full.

Incidentally, the green caterpillars themselves had the ability to spit out sticky threads made from their own bodily fluids. Because of that Ryouma hypothesized that a green caterpillar diet might have caused the evolution. To test his hypothesis, Ryouma caught a new batch of slimes and fed them green caterpillars everyday.

2 months later, the slimes all evolved into sticky slimes; however, it still wasn't clear whether it was simple nourishment or the green caterpillar diet that caused the sticky slime evolution, so to clarify things, Ryouma caught a new batch of slimes and fed them something different. In the end, the second batch of slimes all evolved into a different slime.

From here on, Ryouma's interest in the slimes grew deeper and deeper, until eventually, Ryouma had a staggering number of slimes. After catching and trying out various diets on the slimes, Ryouma's current ooze of slimes had turned into this:

Slime x13

A monster that can be found anywhere. It is considered the weakest monster. It is omnivorous and its body has an average diameter of 20 centimeters. Its jelly-like body houses a nucleus, which when destroyed, kills the slime. Upon death, the slime's body vanishes into nothingness. It is a mysterious creature, to say the least.

Skills:

Digest Lv2

Absorb Lv3

Split Lv1

Sticky Slime x153

Physically, the sticky slime is no bigger than a normal slime, but it is able to produce a highly adhesive liquid within its body. It can spit out this liquid or use it to trap other

beasts to prey on them.

Skills:

Sticky Liquid Lv4

Hardening Liquid Lv1

String Shot Lv1

Digest Lv3

Absorb Lv3

Split Lv3

At fist, sticky slime only knew Sticky Liquid, Digest, Absorb, and Split. It wasn't until later that it learned Hardening Liquid and Jump. Because of that Ryouma learned that monsters were able to acquire skills through maturity or training.

As for String Shot, when Ryouma found out through his experiments that he could mix hardening liquid and sticky liquid together, he had the slimes mix them within their body. When they succeeded, they learned the skill, String Shot.

Acid Slime x100

An evolution resulting from the need to digest food that is difficult to digest, such as the bones of beasts. This slime variation has a powerful digestive system. Their current numbers are a byproduct of Ryouma's research and reproduction through Split.

Skills:

Produce Acid Lv3

Acid Resistance Lv3

Jump Lv1

Digest Lv4

Absorb Lv3

Split Lv2

Poison Slime x188

An evolution resulting from the constant consumption of poisonous herbs. A lot of slimes die during the process, but those that survive, evolve to become poison slimes. Their current numbers are a result of Split.

Skills:

Produce Poison Lv3

Poison Resistance Lv3

Produce Paralyzing Agent Lv3

Jump Lv1

Digest Lv3

Absorb Lv3

Split Lv3

Cleaner Slime x11

Slimes frequently drink water, but there are some who prefer to drink the water from Ryouma's bath. Thinking it wouldn't harm them, Ryouma allowed these slimes to drink as they pleased. In the end, they evolved into cleaner slimes.

Skills:

Clean Lv4

Deodorize Lv6

Deodorizing Liquid Lv4

Disease Resistance Lv5

Poison Resistance Lv5

Jump Lv1

Digest Lv3

Absorb Lv3

Split Lv1

Scavenger Slimes x457

Ryouma wasn't happy with the fumes coming out from the toilet and the garbage inside the cave, so when he remembered how some slimes showed interest toward rotting corpses, he caught a new batch of slimes and threw them at the toilet and the garbage. As a result, the slimes evolved into scavenger slimes. These slimes eat garbage and turn them into fertilizer. A special trait of this variation is that they are able to reproduce more rapidly compared to other variants.

Skills:

Disease Resistance Lv5

Poison Resistance Lv5

Lead Belly Lv5

Clean Lv6

Deodorize Lv6

Deodorizing Liquid Lv4

Stench Lv4

Produce Fertilizer Lv3

Jump Lv1

Digest Lv6

Absorb Lv3

Split Lv6

As Ryouma was getting into his slime research, he decided to put an emphasis on properly rearing the slimes, causing him to only have so many variations, but as a result, their total numbers broke past 900. Ryouma had always been good at simple but repetitive tasks, so with no one to stop him, Ryouma just kept on going and going, and in the end, the slimes ended up where they are today.

That kind of lifestyle had a healing effect on Ryouma's tired soul, and despite sometimes happening upon some bandit or large beast, which Ryouma promptly took care of with his own strength and his staggering ooze of slimes, Ryouma was able to live happily.

It was in this way that Ryouma passed his days, forever and ever...



Or at least Ryouma might have had if not for a change that occurred one day. While hunting in the forest, Ryouma came across five people dressed in armor.

(That's a rare sight... Their equipment are all the same, so they're probably not bandits... I think this is my first time seeing people other than bandit. It seems like someone is hurt.)

As Ryouma watched the group of men from the thickets, he noted that one of the five men had bandages on and was being carried.

"U, Uu..." [???

"Stay with me, Hyuzu!" [???

"Camil, how's your magic?" [???

"Sorry, it hasn't recovered yet..." [Camil]

(They seem to be in pretty bad shape... They don't look like bandits. I should at least

give them a place to rest. Even if they do turn out to be the bandits, I think I'll be fine.)

Ryouma stood up from the thickets and was about to call out to them when it suddenly occurred to him.

(How am I suppose to call out to them? Good day? No, that kind of cheerful greeting doesn't fit the situation. Hey, you bastards!... No, that would just make them wary. What am I going to do!?)

Ryouma thought of helping, but after three years with no human contact, Ryouma was at a lost what to say, and he found himself standing still. Because of that the group of men noticed him before he could say anything.

“Who goes there!?” [???

“Wait. [???



The man at the forefront of the group immediately pointed his sword at Ryouma, but the man behind him stopped him and stepped forward.

“Sorry for suddenly pointing a sword at you. By the way... what is a child like you doing out here? This isn’t a place for children. Are you lost?” [???

The man asked, but Ryouma couldn’t respond well.

“I was, hunting.” [Ryouma]

“Hunting? You?” [Important-looking Man man]

Ryouma nodded faster than he could speak.

“I think this forest is a bit too dangerous, but... Was there something you wanted with us?” [Important-looking Man man]

Ryouma pointed to the injured person.

“There’s someone, injured” [Ryouma]

And then he offered his leather bag with one of his hands. Unfortunately, the other man was wary of Ryouma, and he stepped out to protect the man Ryouma was talking to.

Ryouma finally realized his blunder. Keeping his leather bag by his waist much like the knife by his waist must have alerted the man, so Ryouma jumped back to get some distance and took out a medicine to show that he had no ill will.

“...Is that medicine?” [Swordsman]

The sword-wielding man asked, to which Ryouma nodded.

“Medicine, for... the injured.” [Ryouma]

“You’d let us use that?” [Swordsman]

“Hurry.” [Ryouma]

The group of men looked at each other for a moment, then the man named Camil cautiously accepted Ryouma’s medicine. When they noted that the injured person’s countenance had turned for the better, their caution toward Ryouma finally lessened.

“Thank you. This should keep Hyuzu up for a while longer.” [Important-looking Man]

“How about, rest, resting, at my house? (This is pathetic.)” [Ryouma]

Though it took awhile, Ryouma successfully managed to say the words and invite the people to his house. It would take them quite a while to reach Ryouma’s place, however, due to the injured person with the group of armored men.

“Why is a child like that in a place like this?” [Important-looking Man]

“He’s obviously still very young...” [Swordsman]

(Well, I am an 11 year-old child. It’s only natural for people to be suspicious to see a child out here deep in the forest. It’s not a good feeling though. I’d appreciate it if they could stop being so suspicious already. Hmm... How about I try talking with them a bit?

On second thought, I probably shouldn’t. I have the background the gods gave me, but with my poor speaking skills, I might end up just digging my own grave.)

“Is there really somewhere we can rest out here?” [Swordsman]

“I don’t know, but the potion he gave did work, so at the very least, he doesn’t seem to be hostile.” [Important-looking Man]

“Hunters are known to make a safe place for themselves in the forest. There might be a camp out here or something.” [???

(Exactly. As long as you don’t attack me first, I won’t hurt you. Speaking of which, how about collecting the spoils from the traps along the way? That way I’ll also be able to feed that injured person. If I do that much, a decent person would surely not attack me, right?)

Ryouma suddenly stopped and called his sticky slimes over through the familiar contract. The people following him was alerted at that, however, and they asked.

“What’s wrong?” [Important-looking Man]

“Trap... Caught some prey... Will come soon.” [Ryouma]

Ryouma nonchalantly said as he looked at the man that asked that question.

(This person is probably the most important one. Everyone else seems to listen to him and the other people look like guards.)

As Ryouma was thinking that, the grasses shook, and then a sticky slime came out with a dead horn rabbit. Unfortunately, the people with him didn't know that it was Ryouma's slime, and the important-looking man drew his sword.

(Stop!)

Immediately, Ryouma jumped in front of the man and picked up the slime and the dead rabbit.

"...Is that slime your familiar?" [Important-looking Man]

The important-looking man seems to have picked up that the slime was Ryouma's familiar. Ryouma vehemently nodded at the man, and the man sheathed his sword.

"Sorry, I didn't know it was your familiar."

(As long as we've cleared it up, it's all good. I should have been more specific.)

Slimes were monsters, after all, so it was only natural that they would be wary when they saw one out here in the forest. Ryouma hid the slime and the dead rabbit in his bag, and then they started moving again.

"This sure brings me back. My first familiar was also a slime." [Important-looking Man]

"...Tamer?" [Ryouma]

"Former tamer. After my monster stopped being able to fight, I haven't formed a new contract since. I had a red horse and a blizzard ape." [Important-looking Man]

"...Strong?... (I'm asking because I have no idea what those are...)" [Ryouma]

"I come from a long line of tamers, so I've been taught from a young age. Unfortunately, I'm not that good at magic. I'm quite confident in my sword arm, though." [Important-looking Man]

(A family of tamers and a group of armed men for escorts, he must be a noble. If not, then at least someone influential with plenty of money or someone similar. Calm down, me. This country is supposed to be relatively lenient when it comes to the difference between noble and commoner. The gods specifically picked this country out for me, after all.)

And they also haven't reacted negatively to my behavior so far, so it should be fine. Right, I should just treat him like I did my bosses during parties when they would tell me not to mind rank... I still feel nervous, though.)

Though somewhat panicking, Ryouma continued along, picking up the captured prey as they made their way, until eventually, Ryouma and the group of men finally arrived at his cave.

Chapter 2

A Mysterious Boy

“Please wait for a moment.” [Boy]

The boy said when we reached the cliff.

There wasn't anything around, so I thought he was waiting for another of his slimes, but to my surprise, the boy instead used 'Break Rock' on the cliff up ahead to open a path.

“Here...” [Boy]

So this is the home the boy was talking about. It is indeed a sturdy cave that could shelter against beasts and monsters.

When we entered the cave, the boy put up a barrier behind us, making the cave even safer.

I didn't think he'd know barrier magic. It's useful but it's not something just anyone could use. In fact, Camil himself pointed that out.

“Is that barrier magic? You sure know some strange magic, boy. The effect of this barrier is concealment, right?” [Camil]

“Don't worry... You'll be able to... run anytime.” [Boy]

“I see... Thanks.” [Camil]

The boy nodded curtly, then he passed us and went deep into the cave.

“He's pretty considerate.” [Reinhart]

“Indeed, Master Reinhart.” [Jill]

“Hey, you're going to get left behind.” [Zeff]

“Ahh, we're going, we're going.” [Jill]

When we entered the cave, we immediately noted that the walls and the floor had been

properly leveled. The whole place was even furnished with furniture made of stone and wood, while magic stones set onto the walls illuminated the area.

“Wow...” [Jill]

“This is more homely than I thought.” [Reinhart]

“The wounded, lay him down, here...” [Boy]

“Sorry, Hyuzu. We’re gonna have to put you down for a bit.” [Reinhart]

“R... Right...” [Hyuzu]

“Wait... I’ll bring... potion...” [Boy]

After laying Hyuzu on the bed, I watched the boy as he went deeper into the cave.

“Well, in any case, with this we can finally relax a bit.” [Reinhart]

“The place is a lot better than expected. Hyuzu should be able to rest well.” [Jill]

“We owe him one.” [Reinhart]

“...” [Zeff]

Zeff had a grim look on his face as he examined the surroundings. Zeff was the most knowledgeable among the escorts when it came to stealth and traps, so he’s been assigned as the scout. The fact that he was making a grim face could only mean...

“Zeff, is something wrong?” [Reinhart]

“Don’t you think there’s something odd about this place? I’m not talking about traps. I’m saying it feels like someone has been living in this place for a long time despite there only being enough furniture for one person.” [Zeff]

It was normal for a camp to have little furnishing, but a map could be seen laid out on one of the walls here. There were even drawings of the different animals and a musical instrument at the corner of the room.

Although the room looked dreary, it felt just like a kid’s room. Moreover, just as Zeff had mentioned, there’s only enough furnishing for one person. It’s strange indeed.

“Is that boy living here all by himself?” [Reinhart]

“No way. Sure, I was surprised to see him use familiar magic, barrier magic, and even earth magic, but no child could normally live by himself out here in a forest like this. There’s probably someone else here.” [Camil]

“Or he could be older than he looks. For example, if he were an elf...” [Jill]

As Camil and Jill conversed, the boy came back with a slime carrying a lot of potions.

“Potions.” [Boy]

“Thank you. I’ll definitely repay this debt one day.” [Reinhart]

“Don’t mind... I can make them, so... Take as much... as you need.” [Boy]

When the boy said that, we all looked at each other in silent shock. The first to exclaim out loud was Camil.

“You made these!?” [Camil]

The boy flinched for a moment at Camil’s sudden outburst, but he quickly nodded his head to answer. Camil’s reaction was a bit over the top, but the boy’s potion was indeed comparable to the ones sold in the stores. This boy is getting more mysterious by the second.

“Water.” [Boy]

While I was thinking to myself, the boy offered me a stone cup. It was filled with water generated through magic. It was chilled just right.

“Thanks.” [Reinhart]

“Thank you.” [Jill]

“Thanks, boy.” [Camil]

“Thank you.” [Zeff]

“Oh...” [Boy]

“Hmm? Something wrong?” [Reinhart]

“Name... Ryouma...” [Boy]

Oh, right. We haven’t introduced ourselves yet.

“So your name is Ryouma. Please excuse my belated introduction, I am Reinhart Jamil, the feudal lord of the Ducal Household of Jamil. I thank you for aiding me during my subordinate’s difficult period.” [Reinhart]

“Duca-!? Please excuse my manners!” [Ryouma]

I tried to speak as gently as possible to avoid scaring him, but the moment I named myself, he stiffened up and bowed deeply. What was surprising was that his movements were much more refined despite his difficulty in talking.

“Please stand up. You are my benefactor. You don’t have to be formal with me.”
[Reinhart]

It seems he didn’t know I was from a duke’s household. He lifted up his face just as I asked him, but unfortunately, he stopped talking.

I don’t really mind, though; good grief...



As I was thinking that, Camil and the others chatted with him.

“Umm... I’m Camil. I’m a magician employed by Master Reinhart to protect him. Nice to meet you. And really, thank you for helping us. I was out of mana and couldn’t heal, so if you hadn’t come then, Hyuzu might have... Ah, Hyuzu is the name of the guy sleeping.

You really don’t have to worry about how you talk. Master Reinhart isn’t someone who’d care about that sort of stuff.” [Camil]

“In fact, he doesn’t even mind people like us. I’m Zeff by the way. I’m the scout of the group. Nice to meet you, kid.” [Zeff]

“I’m Jill. Sorry for pointing my sword at you awhile ago.” [Jill]

“It’s ok... It’s normal... to be on guard.” [Ryouma]

“Thanks for understanding. I’m also a noble, and I don’t think there’s anything wrong with the way you’ve been behaving. Master Reinhart is a generous person, so you can just act normal around him.” [Jill]

“Thank you.” [Ryouma]

Camil, Zeff, and even Jill, who wasn’t used to kids, softened their voices as much as they could to not scare the boy.

The boy thought for a moment, then he spoke.

Though his face was still a little grim, his countenance has improved.

He still talks a bit stiff, but at least he's a lot more relaxed now.

"I'm the one who should be thanking you. After all, you gave us a place to rest and even treated my guard." [Reinhart]

"No problem, but why?" [Ryouma]

Is he asking me why Hyuzu was injured? Or is he asking me why we came to the forest? Come to think of it, I haven't explained anything, have I?

"We were supposed to go to the town of Gaunago, where my house is, but along the way, near this forest, we were attacked by some bandits." [Reinhart]

"Suffered much?" [Ryouma]

"No, there were quite a bit of them, but they weren't particularly strong. They must've thought they could overpower us because of their numbers, but what they didn't know is that my guards weren't pushovers. What did Hyuzu in was a black bear that came out during the battle." [Reinhart]

"Hyuzu's bad luck had him attacked in the middle of a melee." [Jill]

"We managed to defeat it in the end, but the horses ran away. Hyuzu's wounds were also a lot worse than expected, so we tried to get to the village as quickly as possible. Normally, we would go around the forest, but with things as they were, we figured we'd just go through it." [Camil]

Everyone nodded as we explained our predicament. Since the conversation has progressed like this, I think I'll take this opportunity to ask my own questions.

"Speaking of which, what is a boy like you doing living here? I heard you mention that you were hunting, but it seems to me that you've been living in this house for quite a while. Moreover, the fact that you're able to hunt at your age, use various magic, and even make potions is really not normal. Quite frankly, it's shocking." [Reinhart]

"I learned from... grandparents... Former adventurers." [Ryouma]

Oh? So, his grandparents were adventurers.

“They... passed away.” [Ryouma]

“Sorry.” [Reinhart]

“It’s ok. It’s been... 3 years... already.” [Ryouma]

“3 years!?” [Reinhart and Co.]

“How long have you been living here!?” [Reinhart]

“I left... village 3 years ago... I am... an outsider, so they... hated me.” [Ryouma]

Was he at an exclusive village? I know some places can be really cruel, but still...

“Before they died... grandparents told me... to go to another town...” [Ryouma]

Apparently, he wasn’t good at dealing with other people, so he wandered by himself, relying only on the skills he learned from his grandparents, until one day, he happened upon this forest. Since then he hasn’t exited this forest once. Meaning he hasn’t talked to another person for three years.

“I understand the situation now, but I can’t recommend this sort of lifestyle. There are strong beasts and monsters living in the forest. Even if you say you have the ability to survive, it’s too dangerous.” [Reinhart]

“It’s ok. I survived... for 3 years.” [Ryouma]

“But!” [Reinhart]

“I know! Wait just one moment!” [Camil]

Camil suddenly interjected, then he took out a small crystal from his bag.

“Found it! Look!” [Camil]

“What... is that?” [Ryouma]

“This is a small crystal of evaluation! If we use this, we’ll be able to find out your identity and your four highest skills. Moreover, a person who’s committed a crime will make this crystal turn red, otherwise, the crystal will shine a blue light. After the light comes out, the name, race, and the four skills will be shown. If you have a high level combat skill, then I won’t say any more.” [Camil]

I see, so he's going to persuade him by showing him that he's lacking.

"Al... right." [Ryouma]

As he said that, he reached for the crystal ball, but before he could touch it, he suddenly asked.

"I was attacked... by bandits, so... I killed them... is that a crime?" [Ryouma]

"If those were really bandits, then there won't be any problem." [Camil]

At that, the boy finally touched the crystal, and a blue light shone from it.

The crystal wasn't really meant to distinguish between criminals, but seeing that the boy is innocent puts my heart at ease.

As I thought that, I glanced at Camil, but for some reason, his countenance had gone pale.

"W-What is this?" [Camil]

"What's wrong...!?" [Jill]

Jill took a peek at the crystal from behind.

As soon as he did, he gulped.

Curious, me and Zeff took a peek at the crystal ourselves.

The problem was the listed skills.

Shown Skills:

Domestic Chores Lv10

Mental Resistance Lv9

Physical Resistance Lv8

Health Lv7

What's with those levels!? The 'Domestic Chores' skill is ok, since there've been plenty of precedents before this one, but he actually has mental res., physical res., and health, and every one of them is at least Lv7 up? What hell of a life has this boy been living to get these so high? He's 11 years-old, isn't he? That would mean he was 8 years-old when he started living here.

"Something... wrong?" [Ryouma]

"A-Ah... Unfortunately, no combat skill showed up..." [Camil]

Is that the problem!? I thought, almost yelling it out.

When I glanced at Camil, I noticed that the other guards had the same reaction.

A battle of stares commenced between us, but in the end, no one was willing to pursue the subject.

The reason behind our reaction was of course because of the fact that pain resistance was something one could only learn through pain. The fact that his level of resistance was so high meant that he must've suffered through unimaginable pain. I'm sure there are a lot of things he doesn't want to remember. If we broach the subject poorly, we'll just cause the boy more pain.

There are a lot of questions left, but I think we'll stop here for now.

"Sorry, can I borrow your toilet?" [Reinhart]

"I'd like to go too." [Jill]

"Me too." [Zeff]

"The toilet is inside... There are a lot... of slimes... Don't worry... They won't attack..." [Ryouma]

"Don't worry. I'm a former tamer too. I won't hurt your familiars." [Reinhart]

Like this we left Camil to take care of Hyuzu, but who would've thought that by 'slimes' he meant this?

"Wow..." [Zeff]

"You said it... I don't think I've seen so many slimes in one place." [Jill]

Countless slimes crept freely in the hallway. Ryouma had to order them to make way

for us, as otherwise we wouldn't be able to pass without stepping on one.

The number of familiars one could contract varied from person to person. The stronger the monster, the less one could normally control. Slime is the weakest monster, so following that logic, it should stand to reason that one would be able to contract a respectable number of slimes, but this... Did he actually contract all these?

"Ryouma-kun, are all of these slimes your familiars?" [Reinhart]

"Yes. They're... for research." [Ryouma]

"Research?" [Reinhart]

"Slime evolution." [Ryouma]

Come to think of it, the slimes creeping in the area aren't just normal slimes. There are sticky slimes, poison slimes, and those are probably acid slimes... As for those two, I don't even know what kind of slime they are. They must be a higher variation too.

Slimes live everywhere, so I'm sure you could find these variants somewhere, but there has never been any reports of such sightings in this forest.

Just as Jill said, I have also never seen this many slimes in one place.

"Monster evolution is an important topic to conjurers and monster tamers alike, and the fact that you're doing such research at your age is nothing short of extraordinary, but it's a pity that they're all slimes." [Reinhart]

"Are slimes... no good?" [Ryouma]

Personally, I hold his abilities in high esteem. The fact that he was able to gather so many advanced classes and contract them all speaks of his abilities, but unfortunately, the world doesn't look kindly to slimes.

"Frankly speaking, slimes are weak even after evolution. Monster tamers and conjurers mainly use them to study the basic, and aside from that, they don't have any value.

Which is why most monster tamers throw them away after learning the basics. Usually, they would contract a horn rabbit next. At the very least, horn rabbits are cute, so they can at least be treated like a pet." [Reinhart]

"The world is a cruel place..." [Ryouma]

Is that something an 11-year-old would say?

“Of course, not all monster tamers think the same way. At the very least, no one can make light of a poison slime’s poison or an acid slime’s acid. Those are even stronger than a horn rabbit.” [Reinhart]

“Slimes... Convenient... useful...” [Ryouma]

I thought he’d feel down after telling him how little the world thought of slimes, but he doesn’t seem to mind at all. Normally, children his age want to be recognized by others.

His lineage is a mystery, but I don’t think he’s dangerous. If anything, he’s a good kid. After all, he helped us in our time of need. He’s definitely not a normal kid, though. But in any case, I want to help him.

Chapter 3

Parting

“U...! Haa, haa...” [Hyuzu]

After Ryouma and the others came back and chatted, Hyuzu’s condition worsened.

“Hyuzu!” [Reinhart]

“Get yourself together!” [Jill]

“The potion and healing magic has stopped the bleeding, but now he has a fever. It’s pretty high too...” [Camil]

“I have, medicine.” [Ryouma]

Hyuzu’s face was red with fever as he groaned and perspired.

When Ryouma heard what Camil said, he immediately ran inside.

“Meeting that kid was really our good fortune, huh, Boss.” [Zeff]

“Yeah, if we hadn’t met him, we definitely wouldn’t be able to save Hyuzu.” [Reinhart]

“Hyuzu isn’t safe yet, but even if we had somehow managed to use healing magic, we still wouldn’t have been able to save him. After all, healing magic doesn’t work on fevers.” [Zeff]

“Well it might work normally, but certainly not when you’ve lost a lot of blood...” [Reinhart]

When they stopped talking about Hyuzu, the topic moved to Ryouma.

“What are we going to do about that kid? We can’t possibly leave him here all by himself.” [Camil]

“He’s been living here for 3 years already. I’m sure he knows how dangerous it is.” [Jill]

“He’s survived all these years and he has those resistance skills... He must have lived a horrible life back at his village. Who knows if we can even convince him that the town is safer. Fortunately, he’s not so far gone so as to lash at people the moment he sees one.” [Zeff]

“Ah, come to think of it, there was that person who made a scene.” [Reinhart]

“Reinhart-sama, as a father of one yourself, don’t you have some idea?” [Zeff]

“You’re the only one with a kid here, Boss. People like us don’t haven’t the slightest clue what to do at times like these.”

“I’m clueless too. We can’t leave him alone, but we can’t force him to go with us either. In any case, we need to go back first. I’ll talk to my dad and Elize about this.” [Reinhart]

After that they ran out of topics to talk about and silence filled the room. A few minutes later, Ryouma came back with a slime carrying a vase full of water and a medicine. Ryouma himself was carrying a monster pelt under his arms.

“Umm, thank you.” [Camil]

“Treatment first.” [Ryouma]

As Ryouma said that he covered Hyuzu with the pelt he brought and Camil poured the water into a cup.

“Incline his head. Make him drink.” [Ryouma]

As Ryouma said that, Camil made Hyuzu drink.

“...He seems to have drank everything.” [Zeff]

When Ryouma heard that he handed the medicine.

“Medicine.” [Ryouma]

“Thank you.” [Reinhart]

As Reinhart said that he made Hyuzu drink the medicine. After one hour, Hyuzu’s condition finally improved. Reinhart and his party heaved a sigh of relief.

It was getting dark, so Ryouma proposed for Reinhart and his party to stay over. Seeing that Ryouma was not hostile and after considering Hyuzu’s situation, Reinhart decided to accept Ryouma’s proposal.

Ryouma showed off his homemade cooking for supper. It was a simple dish, nothing more than stir-fried bean sprouts and rabbit meat soup, but nevertheless, Reinhart and his party were happy.



The next day.

Hyuzu had already recovered and could stand by himself. Reinhart and his party didn't leave immediately, however, and they stayed until the afternoon to ensure Hyuzu was up to health.

"Man, I thought I was a goner for sure. Thanks a lot, kid!" [Hyuzu]

"Are you really... ok?" [Ryouma]

"Why? You worried? I heard you didn't want to go to the village, so I thought you hated people." [Hyuzu]

"...Can at least, worry about the sick..." [Ryouma]

"GAHAHA! I see! I see! Sorry about that! Whoops..." [Hyuzu]

As Hyuzu was laughing, he suddenly tottered. Reinhart and Camil immediately went to support him.

"Hyuzu, you ok?" [Reinhart]

"Y-Yeah... Just a little dizzy, Boss. Nothing to worry about." [Hyuzu]

"You just got better, so please be careful." [Camil]

When Ryouma saw that, he took out the medicine he prepared beforehand.

"Drink." [Ryouma]

"Hmm? What's inside the bottle?" [Hyuzu]

"Medicine for blood. You lack blood." [Ryouma]

"Is that so? Thanks. Then I'll just go and drink— Ughk!? What in the blazes!?" [Hyuzu]

The smell of the combination of herbs and green caterpillars wafted out from the bottle. Hyuzu wasn't the only one to be put off by the smell, even Jill and Zeff couldn't help but grimace at it.

"It stinks, but... I can guarantee, it works." [Ryouma]

"Well, you heard the boy. Bottoms up." [Reinhart]

"W-Wait a moment!" [Hyuzu]

"We'd be troubled if you suddenly fainted along the way." [Jill]

"We're worried too, you know." [Zeff]

Jill and Zeff grabbed Hyuzu by the shoulders, keeping him from running.”

“Forgive me!” [Camil]

Camil took the bottle and emptied its contents into Hyuzu’s mouth.

“%’\$’%\$”!!!!” [Hyuzu]

Incomprehensible mutterings spat out of Hyuzu’s mouth as he convulsed several times. Hyuzu’s pitiful appearance as he leaned onto a wall made it seem like what he drank was not medicine but poison. For the record, that was indeed an effective medicine, it just stank really bad.

“Y-You guys...” [Hyuzu]

“Good medicine tastes bad, Hyuzu.” [Reinhart]

“Don’t worry, this kid’s medicines are effective.” [Jill]

“The potions he used to treat you were high-class stuff too.” [Zeff]

“Damn it. Ahh... I thought I would die... Uppu...” [Hyuzu]

The stench of the medicine wafting from the pith of his stomach made Hyuzu sick. He looked like he was about to throw up, so Ryouma gave him another glass of water.

“Do you have... armor?” [Ryouma]

“Fuu, hmm? Ah, my armor got done in by that bear, so, no, I don’t got any. No weapons too.” [Hyuzu]

“I have some... Wait.” [Ryouma]

“That would help a lot, but you sure you ok giving us your stuff?” [Hyuzu]

“Yes.” [Ryouma]

Ryouma went inside and came back with some slimes carrying five spears and 3 pieces of armor all-in-all.

“Here.” [Ryouma]

“These are some pretty good stuff for bandits. You sure you ok handing them to Hyuzu?” [Jill]

“Weapons are made, to be used... If you don’t take them, no one will use, them...” [Ryouma]

“This spears would go for five small gold coins, you know?” [Hyuzu]

“Take them.” [Ryouma]

When Jill and Hyuzu saw how good the equipments were, they asked Ryouma repeatedly if he was sure about giving them away. In the end, the first to fold was Hyuzu himself.

“...In that case, I’ll happily take them off you. But I can’t stand just taking stuff for free. I don’t have anything to give, but if you’re ever in need, just give me a call and I’ll be there. You can easily contact me by giving the guards at Gaunago Town my name. Don’t hold back, alright?” [Hyuzu]

“Got it.” [Ryouma]

Like this the party of five finished their preparations and departed. After 3 years in the otherworld Ryouma has finally met the people of this world.

Ryouma was exhausted after conversing with someone for the first time in a long while, but regardless, he still hunted as usual.

What Ryouma didn’t know, however, was that this simple meeting would greatly change his life.

Chapter 4

Reunion with the Duke

Two weeks after the duke left, Ryouma has been spending his days hunting and taking care of the slimes. One day, four people suddenly appeared before his house.

“Hey! Ryouma! Open up! It’s me! Hyuzu! We’re not enemies!” [Hyuzu]

Yelling out from in front of Ryouma’s house was none other than the person he took care of. Jill, Camil, and Zeff were with him.

The path to Ryouma’s house was blocked by a boulder, so they had to call out in a loud voice to be heard.

Only, Ryouma was actually in a thicket behind them.

“I’ll, open it, now.” [Ryouma]

“Woah!?! You were outside?” [Hyuzu]

“Went out to, hunt... Why did you, come?” [Ryouma]

“I wanted to thank you again for your help last time. We brought some gifts with us... There’s quite a bit, so we had to store them away via dimension magic. There’s a butler who can use it in the Jamil family. He’s currently waiting for us with two other maids and Reinhart-sama’s family. They have some business in the forest, so we went together. If you’re not busy, I could bring them now.” [Hyuzu]

Ryouma became thoughtful for a moment, and after realizing he didn’t really have any pressing matters to pursue, he decided to let Hyuzu call them over. Besides, he wasn’t really about to chase away some people who went out of their way to visit him.

The four guards left to call Reinhart and his family.

Meanwhile, Ryouma decided to call back his slimes that he sent hunting and prepared to receive guests.

30 minutes later Ryouma had finished his preparations and a horde of almost 1000 slimes could be seen sunbathing in front of his house. That horde jostled about as they waited for Ryouma's guests.

After awhile Reinhart-sama and his entourage arrived.

When the slimes noticed a large group of people approaching, their bodies began to shake.

Ryouma straightened his clothes and watched the forest, and very soon he noted some people approaching.

There were 11 people all in all. There was a beautiful woman and a beautiful girl behind Reinhart, as well as a dignified and muscular old man. Behind them were two maids and a butler just as Hyuzu had mentioned. The four guards, Hyuzu and Co., walked in front.

(Judging from the way they're dressed, those people behind Reinhart-san must be his family. The butler aside, those maid outfits sure stand out. Isn't it hard to move in them?)

"...Is it him?" [Maid 1]

"That's a lot of slimes..." [Maid 2]

"Ho? I heard he's tamed a lot of slimes, but I didn't think he would actually tame so many." [Old Muscle Man]

"They might only be slimes, but it's still commendable to have tamed so many." [Beautiful Woman]

"Even though the more familiars one has the harder it is to tame new monsters." [Beautiful Girl]

Reinhart's group approached Ryouma while he wondered about the practicality of maid uniforms.

When the maids saw the large group of slimes, they couldn't help but find their face cramping.

Reinhart's whole family except for himself looked on at the large group of slimes with amazement.

When they had finally arrived at the entrance of the house, the first to talk to Ryouma was Reinhart.

“Ryouma-kun, it’s been 2 weeks since our last meeting. We’ve come to thank you for your help back then. We’ve brought some gifts.” [Reinhart]

“Thank you.” [Ryouma]

“Don’t sweat it, they’re just some goods we had lying around.” [Reinhart]

“Dear, before that, how about introducing us?” [Beautiful Woman]

Reinhart introduced his family.

“Let me introduce you. This here is my father, Reinbach, and this beautiful woman here is my wife, Elize. And this here is our lovely young daughter, Elialia.” [Reinhart]

“I’m Reinbach Jamil of the Jamil Household, the former master of the family. It’s a pleasure to make your acquaintance.” [Reinbach]

“I’m Elize Jamil. Thank you for helping my husband and subordinates.” [Elize]

“My name is Elialia Jamil. I’m happy to make your acquaintance.” [Elialia]

“The pleasure is mine... I am, Ryouma Takebayashi... I come from, a distant land... It’s not much, but please let me offer you, my hospitality.” [Ryouma]

Though Ryouma would pause from time to time and could not speak straight, his words were still polite. That alone was enough to stupefy Reinhart’s family and their entourage.

“You don’t need to be so formal. Just talk to us as you normally would. To begin with, we’re the ones troubling you for coming here so suddenly.” [Reinbach]

“Thank you. Well then, please... Ah.” [Ryouma]

Ryouma was about to lead the people into his house when it suddenly occurred to him that the entrance was being blocked by all the slimes, so he had order them to go inside first.

“Seeing them in a bright place, they really are an impressive group of slimes. By the way, is it just me or are there more of them now?” [Reinhart]

“They multiplied... After everyone left.” [Ryouma]

Ryouma’s slimes currently numbered as follows:

Sticky Slime x 364

Poison Slime x323

Acid Slime x211

Cleaner Slime x11

Scavenger Slime x730

Heal Slime x2 (NEW)

Skills Heal Lv1; Increased Vitality Lv1; Photosynthesis Lv3; Digest Lv1; Absorb Lv1; Split Lv2

Frankly, after the slimes multiplied Ryouma found them too numerous, and he finally started having troubles feeding them.

Moreover, he also started to worry about the long-term effects of the slimes on the ecosystem. For the time being, instead of feeding them meals in order to meet evolution conditions or increase their numbers, Ryouma decided to feed the slimes just enough to sustain them.

If that didn't work Ryouma had prepared to thin out the slimes himself, but fortunately, he found a new goblin village two weeks ago, which he wiped out.

The goblin village didn't just provide Ryouma with food, it also gave him an unexpected boon, for when Ryouma tried to heal the slimes injured during the battle, two of the slimes evolved into heal slimes, a new kind of slime that could use healing magic.

Seeing a new kind of slime appear lit Ryouma's fire once more, but fortunately, he managed to hold himself back after considering the circumstances.

"Can all that actually fit inside?" [Reinhart]

"It'll be... fine..." [Ryouma]

"What do you mean?" [Reinhart]

"This." [Ryouma]

As Reinhart asked that question, Ryouma gave a command to the slimes.

Space was certainly an issue after the slimes multiplied, but three days after the fact, that issue was coincidentally solved. And the solution came from a mere question.

When the slimes had grown too numerous to fit in their room, they started to spill into

Ryouma's bedroom, and so, wondering what to do, Ryouma muttered to himself.

*Can't these slimes fuse or something? You know like Do*kue?*

In that instant, the slimes vigorously shook, and those of the same type fused together to form one slime.

Panicked, Ryouma quickly checked their status.

Big Sticky Slime x1

Skills

Sticky Liquid Lv5

Hardening Liquid Lv4

Sticky String Shot Lv3

Physical Attack Resist Lv1

Enlarge Lv2

Shrink Lv4

Jump Lv2

Digest Lv3

Absorb Lv3

Big Poison Slimex1

Skills

Produce Poison Lv4

Poison Resist Lv4

Produce Paralyzing Agent Lv4

Physical Attack Resist Lv1

Enlarge Lv2

Shrink Lv4

Jump Lv2

Digest Lv3

Absorb Lv3

Big Acid Slime x1

Skills

Produce Acid Lv5

Acid Resist Lv4

Physical Attack Resist Lv1

Enlarge Lv2

Shrink Lv4
Jump Lv2
Digest Lv4
Absorb Lv3

Huge Scavenger Slime x1

Skills

Disease Resist Lv5
Poison Resist Lv5
Lead Belly Lv6
Clean Lv6
Deodorize Lv6
Deodorizing Liquid Lv4
Stench Lv5
Produce Fertilizer Lv4
Physical Attack resist Lv2
Enlarge Lv3
Shrink Lv5
JumpLv2
Digest Lv6
Absorb Lv3

To Ryouma's good fortune, the combined slimes had an ability called 'Shrink', which allowed them to shrink their normally humongous bodies.

The bigger slime variants ate several times more than their smaller counterparts but effectively consumed less when compared to the food consumption of a hundred slimes. To put things into perspective, the bigger variants consumed about 20 to 50 percent less than their uncombined form. In other words, the issue of space and food had been largely dealt with.

Seeing how the slimes had a solution for the very problem that was bothering him, Ryouma couldn't help but wonder if this was some sort of self-defense mechanism that the slimes had to keep them from endangering themselves from eating up all the food or other overpopulation issues.

There needed to be at least 100 slimes to form a big slime and they all had to be of the same type. Upon fusion the slimes lose the 'Split' skill, responsible for slime reproduction.

It was a mystery where all the mass goes upon invoking 'Shrink', but in any case, Ryouma was happy to see the space and food problem solved.

Ryouma figured that showing would be easier than explaining, so he ordered the slimes to fuse.

When they fused in front of Reinhart and the others, they couldn't help but open their eyes wide in shock, many of them speechless as they stared at the big slimes.

"Big Slime!?" [Reinhart]

"Impossible!?" [Reinbach]

"No, there's no doubt about it. This is definitely a big slime? You managed to tame a big slime?" [Elize]

"...Is that, strange?" [Ryouma]

"No one has ever managed to tame a big slime before." [Elize]

"Eh?" [Ryouma]

This time around the one to be shocked was Ryouma.

When Reinbach noticed that, he explained.

"The contract doesn't work on big slimes. Many have tried, and some still do from time to time, but no one has ever succeeded." [Reinbach]

"But, of course... Contract... Meaningless." [Ryouma]

All eyes gathered on Ryouma as he explained.

"Big slime is... a gathering of many, slimes; therefore, contract conditions can't, be met. The contract, only works on one monster. Contracting, several at the same time, is impossible.

Contracting one out of, one hundred, is also impossible.

Because there, is only one nucleus... So, the contract won't, work.

I succeeded, because I contracted, many slimes individually, and then gathered them together." [Ryouma]

Chapter 5

The Difference in Common Sense 1

~Side Ryouma~

...What's wrong? For some reason, after I answered their question, everyone – especially the Jamil family – looked at me with scary eyes.

Did I do something bad?

“Magnificent.” [Reinbach]

Huh? What's magnificent?

“That's amazing, Ryouma-kun! You've actually solved a mystery that has been plaguing monster tamers for ages!” [Elize]

“!?” [Ryouma]

What's wrong with these people!? Their eyes are sparkling and they're way too enthusiastic for some reason... This is actually scary!

“Madam, Reinbach-sama, please calm down. You're scaring Ryouma-sama.” [Butler]

“Ah! Sorry about that, dear. I didn't mean to scare you.” [Elize]

“Sorry. I got a lil too excited there.” [Reinbach]

“It's alright...” [Ryouma]

“Let me explain what has these two so excited. The explanation you gave us just now regarding why monster tamers couldn't tame a big slime happens to be one of the mysteries that has been plaguing monster tamers.

Big slimes aren't strong, but they're hard to fight, so there were a lot of people who tried to tame one. In fact, you still see some people trying from time to time, but of course, no one's ever succeeded.” [Reinhart]

“Out of pride, many monster tamers tried to uncover the reason preventing the contract from working, but they couldn't get any results. In the end, their research labs were cut, and though there are still those who research them to this day, no one has

managed to succeed... At least, until you, anyway.” [Reinbach]

Uwaah... This has unexpectedly turned into something crazy.

“Mu~, what a weak reaction... Let me put it this way. The research on big slimes has been going on since roughly the very same day the arts of monster taming spread through the world.

It’s an unsolvable mystery so unsolvable that people don’t expect anyone to get results. In fact, it’s treated by research labs as a waste of time. And yet that supposedly unsolvable mystery that has made many researchers surrender was solved by you! Can you still remain so calm knowing this!?” [Elize]

You’re kidding, right? This was just a coincidence. Damn, this looks like trouble. What to do?

“What should I do?” [Ryouma]

“Leave a record in the tamer guild and announce your findings!” [Elize]

Ah~ So they had an organization that gathered information on this sort of stuff. Judging from the reactions of these people, it looks like it’ll get me a lot of attention if I announce it though. Oh, but this might be a good opportunity to leave the forest...

“Town, huh...” [Ryouma]

When those words slipped out of my mouth, the people of the Jamil Family and the servants reacted.

“Oh, I’m sorry. I forgot you don’t like towns...” [Elize]

“We won’t force you to record and announce your findings, but this is really one hell of a find, kid. I just want you to know that.” [Reinbach]

“I, understand. Ah...” [Ryouma]

After the slimes fused and entered, the path was finally traversable.

“In any, case, let’s enter, first.” [Ryouma]

There are beasts prowling outside, it wouldn’t do to stay out here for too long.

I led everyone into the house, then I left to prepare black tea for everyone. The black tea I had were looted from the bandits that attacked me in the past. They had a lot of the same brand, so it's probably stolen goods. I only found out I had them when I went to look for a spear to give to Hyuzu-san.

I didn't know since I'd already forgotten about the bandits' stuff. I had no need for money and I wasn't fond of stolen goods, so I just left them alone, but... If I'd known there were tea among the loots, I would have brought them out sooner.

Anyway, I brought out the best-looking tea leaves. They don't seem to have expired yet, so it should be fine. The only problem were the cups and the chairs. I didn't have enough for 12 people, so I had to quickly make some with earth magic.

I made the tea with the ingredients I got two days ago. One ingredient was the honey I got from a bee's nest, and the other was a ginger I treated with lemon-style syrup. They were all I had to substitute sugar with, so I hope the guests like them.

"Sorry to... keep you waiting. Please have, some black tea." [Ryouma]

"Oh, my. Thank you." [Elize]

"That's a good smell." [Reinhart]

"Hmm... You seem to have some good tea leaves with you." [Reinbach]

"It's from the bandits... who attacked me. I have a lot, more of them." [Ryouma]

"I see... It's good." [Reinbach]

"Indeed." [Elize]

"You've really managed to bring out the aroma of the tea leaves too. Ryouma-sama, where did you learn to make your tea?" [Butler]

'From another world' is not something I could obviously say.

"Grandma... Taught me." [Ryouma]

Grandparents = Omnipotent.

I really have to thank the gods for them. If I had to make up a lie on my own, I would surely be found out. I was often called 'stupid honest' back in my previous life – not that I agree with them. But, in any case, since all I'm doing now is using the setting that the gods prepared for me beforehand – a setting they prepared by summoning the souls of my grandparents and getting their permission – I don't feel like I'm lying at all. I'm really thankful for it.

“There’s more, honey, if you’d like...” [Ryouma]

“Thank you.” [Elize]

“Let me have some too. Honey is a luxury, so it’s a pretty rare occasion to get to taste it.” [Hyuzu]

“Wait a moment, Hyuzu-san!” [Camil]

“I got the honey from, a bee’s nest two days ago. It’s free, anyway, so... Camil-san, please have, some.” [Ryouma]

“Huh, really? Then in that case, I’ll have a little.” [Camil]

“Heh, you’re not so different from me, are ya?” [Hyuzu]

Around that time the young lady of the Jamil Family – Elialia I believe – noticed something as she drank her tea.

“Oh? It seems it’s not only honey. There’s something else mixed in.” [Elialia]

The butler immediately went to check.

I wonder if they don’t like the jija (ginger) and the lamon (lemon-like fruit).

“I can taste the juice of lamon. It’s a refreshing taste, however, that’s not all.” [Butler]

Fortunately, they don’t think it’s poison.

I decided to reveal the mystery. After all, it wasn’t like I added poison or anything.

“I also added, jija root.” [Ryouma]

“Oh, so this is jija. I thought it was just a salty vegetable. Who knew it could be used to draw the flavor out like this?” [Elialia]

“...Jija can be, used in cooking... Can remove the odor, of meat and fish...” [Ryouma]

“That is good information. Thank you, Ryouma-sama. I shall inform the master chef as soon as we return.” [Butler]

“You’re welcome.” [Ryouma]

“Now then – before I completely forget – we came here to thank you for your help last time. Please accept our gifts. Sebasu.” [Reinhart]

“Yes, Reinhart-sama. ‘Item Box.’” [Sebasu]

When Reinhart-san mentioned about the gifts, the butler behind him stood up and invoked a spell. Suddenly, an empty circle appeared from thin air. The butler, Sebasu,

extended his hand inside and took out something.

Item Box

As the name implies, it's a dimensional-type spell that creates a new dimension to store items in. It's a difficult spell but also one of the basics of dimension magic. I can use it too, but I can't put that many items in mine.

On the desk in front of me, upon which was a bucket full of fruits, came falling down countless rolls of paper and cloth.

"That's, a lot." [Ryouma]

"I didn't know what would make you happy, so I brought various goods. Please accept them." [Reinhart]

Reinhart said as he opened the rolls.

Inside the rolls were preserved food, clothes, writing tools, magic stones for lighting, clocks that moved via magic power... all sorts of things, each and every single one of which were piratical things that my house lacked.

It seems he took his time considering what my house was lacking.

"I just eye-balled the clothes, so try them out first. If they're too big... Arone, Lilian." [Reinhart]

"Yes." [Arone, Lilian]

"You can ask these two to help you." [Reinhart]

I was wondering why they would bring their maids with them to a place like this, as it turns out, they're here to ensure the clothes fit.

I felt kind of bad, so it was fortunate that the clothes didn't need much changes.

I should thank them.

"Thank you, very much. You brought, so much." [Ryouma]

"Don't sweat it. They're not that expensive, and besides, we also have something to do around these parts." [Reinhart]

"Something, to do?" [Ryouma]

"Remember when I said that we're a family of monster tamers? My daughter, Elia, has

been studying all this time. Now that she's of age, she needs to tame her first monster, a slime." [Reinhart]

Her first monster, huh. Since he mentioned 'age' that must mean that she hasn't been permitted to until now. Well, monsters are alive, so she would have to take care of it and it's also a little dangerous. It's only natural her parents wouldn't allow her until she's old enough.

"Congratulations." [Ryouma]

When I said that, the young lady drinking tea smiled and said 'thank you'.

Since she's yet to tame her first monster, I might as well lend her a hand.

"We've been looking all this time, but we've yet to find a single slime." [Elialia]

"Slimes are monsters too, they're living beings. There are times when you just can't find one." [Reinbach]

"...Then, how about, here." [Ryouma]

I stood up and pointed on the map of the forest on the wall.

"River. There should be, lots of slimes, here." [Ryouma]

It was a river not too far from the house. It's where I get my water from, and in fact so do the wild slimes.

If they look around it, they should be able to find a couple.

For the record, when I went to get water once, I managed to catch 14 slimes. Of course, that was only a one-time thing.

When I said that, the young lady's face beamed, and after getting her parents' permission, she asked me something.

"Can I call you Ryouma-san?" [Elialia]

"Please." [Ryouma]

"Then Ryouma-san, if it's no trouble, could you teach me which slime to pick." [Elialia]

"Which, to pick?" [Ryouma]

"Yes. I only need one slime, but there's probably a lot out there. I'm not so sure which

one I should tame.” [Elialia]

Ah, so that’s what she meant. There’s no good or bad slime, though...

“In that case... You should pick out your slime, according to what kind you, want it to evolve into. It will, take a lot of time, though... If you want strength, a different monster, would be preferable. If you don’t have want to raise, the slime for long, you don’t need to think, too much... Do you, still want a slime?” [Ryouma]

“Yes, it will be my first monster, so I intend to treasure it forever.” [Elialia]

What a pure face. Well, if it’s her, she probably will treasure it. I should help her.

Hmm? Why do I think she would treasure it if it’s her?

I don’t think I’ve ever thought like this before.

Am I being fooled? Could I be interested in her? A mentally-wise over 40-years-old uncle like me?

Stop. Let’s not think too much.

“Umm, is it not possible?” [Elialia]

I don’t mind teaching her, but the way I’m talking right now sure is a pain. It would be great if I could talk smoother.

“If you’re alright with me, sure, but... Only 3 types, can be currently chosen.” [Ryouma]

“Why only 3?” [Elialia]

“One of the evolution conditions is, unknown; the other one, I don’t have enough food; the other one, doesn’t suit, women... That last one would, actually be the best ability-wise, though...” [Ryouma]

“Can I have a moment?” [Elize]

While I was talking with the young lady of the Jamil Household, the madam interjected. She had a serious look on her face.

“Mother, I am currently talking with Ryouma-san. This is important for my first contract, so please don’t interfere.” [Elialia]

“I know that but there’s something bothering me. Ryouma-kun, if I’ve been hearing

correctly, it seems you actually know the evolution conditions for the slimes?” [Elize]
“More or less.” [Ryouma]

As I thought, the madam muttered, then she turned to Reinhart-san, who promptly lightly shook his head.

(I didn't hear about this!)

(I only heard he was researching!)

Well, that's probably what they were saying with their gestures.

“Could it be, this is another mystery, like the big slime?” [Ryouma]

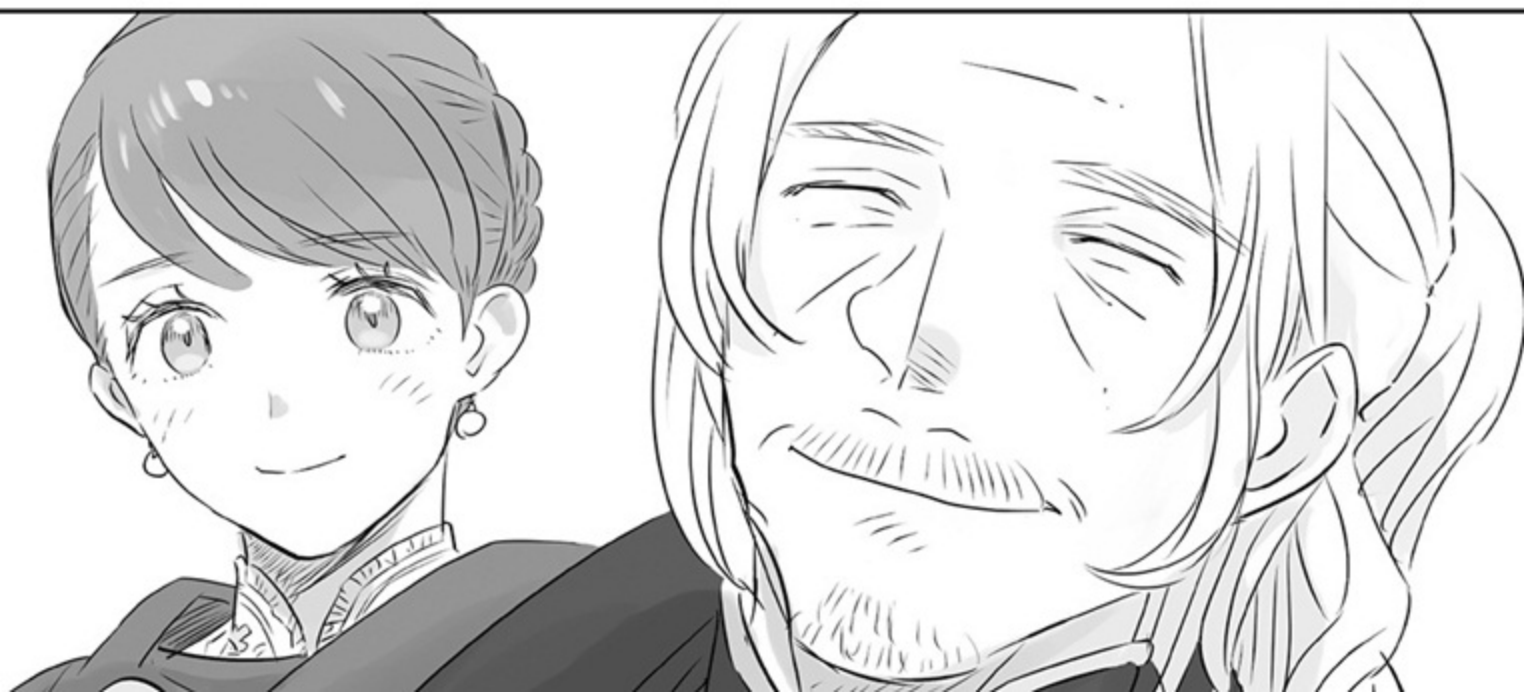
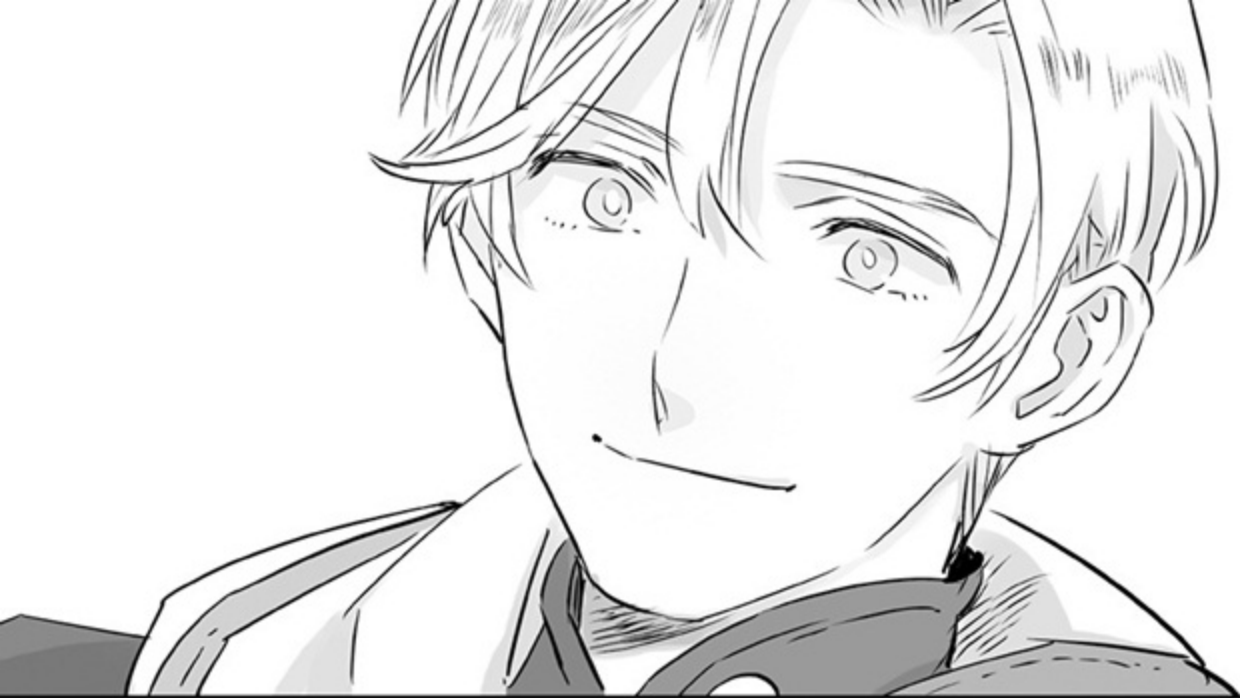
“Yes. Slimes can be found anywhere, but no one actually knows anything about them. You should be more careful who you teach those conditions to.”[Elize]

I thought it was fairly simple though.

But then again, even Japan has its own share of mysteries.

If I ever get the opportunity, I would like to talk to those slime researchers.

But that's still in the future. I need to figure out what to do with the present first.



Chapter 6

Conclusion

What should I do? I wondered.

I decided to just tell them.

After all, the process was more important to me than the result. I started researching slimes because I was interested in them and because I enjoyed the process. I didn't really care about the result; and besides, I've already told them. It's a bit too late to try and be secretive now.

"It's alright... The conditions for evolution is, diet.

Different diets, result in different variations.

Green caterpillars, lead to sticky slimes.

Poisonous herbs, lead to poison slimes.

Slimes have, preferences. If you feed them, what they prefer, they'll eventually evolve.

If you don't give them, what they prefer, they might still evolve, but slower; alternatively, they might die..." [Ryouma]

"I see, so that's how slimes evolve." [Elia]

Seeing the young lady nod interestedly, I nodded and continued.

"More food, will make the slime evolve faster.

You can pick from, poisonous herbs, green caterpillars, and the washed bones of monsters...

Those three can give you, poison slime, sticky slime, or acid slime." [Ryouma]

"Which type did you say I couldn't pick?" [Elialia]

"Cleaner slime, scavenger slime, heal slime. Their abilities are, the real thing, though." [Ryouma]

The four members of the ducal family did not know of the slimes I mentioned except for the heal slimes, so they couldn't help but glance at each other.

“What kind of slimes are the cleaner and scavenger slimes?” [Elize]

“They have the clean, and deodorize, skills.” [Ryouma]

“Clean and deodorize? I don’t believe I’ve heard of those before.” [Elize]

“I can guess what deodorize does, but what about clean?” [Reinhart]

“...It would be faster, if you saw it, for yourselves... Please wait, a moment.” [Ryouma]

I left the guests for a moment and went to the kitchen. There I took a cloth and dipped it in rabbit blood. I took that cloth back with me along with one cleaner slime.

“Sorry to keep, you waiting... This is a cleaner, slime. Please, look.” [Ryouma]

“A blood-stained cloth? What are you going to do with that?” [Elize]

“This.” [Ryouma]

I ordered the slime mentally.

As soon as I did, it took the cloth in my hands and took it into its body.

The cloth spun around the nucleus of the slime.

I’ve seen this scene countless times, but no matter how many times I see it, I can’t help but be reminded of a washing machine.

10 seconds later.

The slime stretched out a part of its body and handed the cloth to me. I spread that cloth open for the others to see. When the four members of the duke’s household saw it, they looked at it with inquisitive eyes. The butler and the two maids in particular were quite taken.

竜馬の見つけた新種のスライム

その素晴らしい能力に
お嬢様もメイドも大興奮!?



“The blood is gone, huh. The color’s changed too. Was it digested?” [Reinhart]

“It was sucked by the slime, right? Is that it?” [Elize]

“No, madam. That’s not all.” [Maid]

“Arone?”

The one who answered their questions was one of the maids, a middle-aged woman by the name of Arone.

“Ryouma-sama, I believe that slime has the ability to eat ‘filth’. Am I understanding this correctly?” [Arone]

“It is as you, say.” [Ryouma]

“What does that mean?” [Reinhart]

“That cloth wasn’t just filthy with blood. There were other substances mixed in. Its current color is its original color.”

When you don’t wash dirty things, the filth piles up, until eventually, its no longer possible to easily remove them. In some cases, the original color is lost forever.

So, in other words, the ‘clean’ skill is a skill that can clean even the filthiest things! Am I correct?” [Arone]

“You are... However, it’s not just, non-living things.” [Ryouma]

I mentally ordered my slime, and in the next moment, it took my hand and the cloth into its body.

“Wha!?” [Elize]

“Don’t worry.” [Ryouma]

Slimes would normally digest anything they put inside their bodies, so it was understandable why the members of the duke’s household cried out when they saw my hand enter the slime. In fact, it wasn’t just them. Every person in the room made a stiff face when they saw my hand enter the slime.

Five seconds later, I took out my hand.

“Are you ok?” [Reinhart]

“The cleaner slime, only digests filth... They won’t digest human, or animal meat, unless ordered to.” [Ryouma]

“Who would’ve thought there would be a slime like that?” [Reinhart]

“Please don’t do that again. It’s bad for the heart.” [Elize]

“My apologies... I’ve already gotten used to it, and... I really didn’t want to touch, this cloth if possible.” [Ryouma]

“Well, it certainly wasn’t very clean awhile ago.” [Elize]

“It used to be a goblin’s loin cloth, after all.” [Ryouma]

Everyone’s face twitched when I said that, but the maids became even more interested.

Apparently, that was because a goblin’s loincloth was considered to be the filthiest thing in this world.

“With this slime no matter how dirty or how disgusting something is you can make it as good as new... Moreover, you normally can’t, take a bath while traveling, right?” [Ryouma]

“Yes, at most I can just wipe myself. This was my first trip, actually. It feels so wrong not being able to take a bath at least once a day.” [Elialia]

“Rest assured then, with this slime... All your problems can, be solved.” [Ryouma]

After I said that, the young lady of the duke’s household looked at me with lasers coming out of her eyes. Eek! I thought. This is really scary! For various reasons!

To make things worse, the madam and her 2 maids’ eyes also magnified.

“Because, this slime, can eat filth, bad odor, all the dirty things.” [Ryouma]

“That’s the one! I want that slime! Please help me get a cleaner slime!” [Elialia]

...Oops. Didn’t I just say she couldn’t pick this? Why oh why did I pitch it to her then? Not to mention this was the worst of them all! Ahh, damn it! I lose myself too easily when it comes to slimes... At the very least, I should have pitched the scavenger instead!

“This is no goo-” [Ryouma]

“How could you say that after showing me such a wonderful thing? How cruel!” [Elialia]

“Ryouma-sama, I am a maid of the Jamil Household from a family who’s served for generations. I too have studied the basics of monster taming. If it’s no trouble, may I also know the methods of acquiring a cleaner slime?” [Arone]

“I’d like to know too~” [Elize]

The women seemed to go mad after being pitched such a wonderful slime. Their zeal was so great that the men actually faltered; the guards too...

“Ryouma-kun, please don’t excite the women any more than this.” [Camil]

“The method is, hard to say to women...” [Ryouma]

“You can’t teach women?” [Camil]

“I don’t mind teaching, it’s just hard, to say.” [ryouma]

“They want to know, though.” [Camil]

Camil-san decided to help me out by leading most of the men and I to a corner of the room.

“...I get you.” [Reinhart]

“Who would’ve thought it would be something like that.” [Camil]

“That’s certainly not something you can say to a woman.” [Zeff]

“I think not even other women could easily say it.” [Jill]

“Well, I’m sure it’ll sort itself out.” [Hyuzu]

Hyuzu-san, however, did not share our sentiments. He turned around without a care for the world, and—

“Ojousama! Madam! Arone! I know the method!” [Hyuzu]

—he proclaimed it with a huge smile on his face.

What is he doing!? Does he know of a good way to say it?

“Really!?” [Elialia]

“Yeah! You just have to bathe and use the water as bait!” [Hyuzu]

He said it!! He said it super directly!!

Ah... There goes the slap.

When the women had finally calmed down, Reinhart-san explained the details.

If you put used water alongside clean water, most slimes would go to the clean one. For some reason, however, some slimes would prefer the used water.

Those are the slimes that have the inclination to become cleaner slimes.

After picking out the slimes with talent, all that's left is to feed them nothing but water and filth. Sebum and sweat would probably work best.

"I can't believe such a slime actually exists." [Elize]

"Sorry." [Ryouma]

"Umm, it's not your fault, Ryouma-san." [Elialia]

"I think it's... not easy for... women to catch cleaner slimes." [Ryouma]

"Ryouma-san." [Elialia]

"?" [Ryouma]

"I think... I'll go with a cleaner slime, after all." [Elialia]

It seems the young lady hasn't given up just yet.

"Then which of the guards..." [Ryouma]

"That won't be necessary. I may only be an apprentice, but I'm going to be a monster tamer from here on. I can't possibly rely on others for this." [Elialia]

"...You don't need... to do everything, by yourself..." [Ryouma]

"Even then, I believe I should take the first step on my own." [Elialia]

"...Your call..." [Ryouma]

"I-I... I'll do it! Can I have some water please?" [Elialia]

Everyone teared up at the young lady's speech. Her face was beet red, but she endured it.

She doesn't really have to go so far.

What's with the atmosphere, though? It's almost as if a protagonist has just made a life-changing decision.

Anyway, it felt bad just bringing out some water, so I decided to suggest she use the bath. As a former Japanese, there are times when I really want to go for a dip, so I built a bath when I was building my house. Who would've thought it'd be used for something like this, though?

"There's, a bath here. Please use it." [Ryouma]

"You have one? Thank you so much!" [Elialia]

I filled the bath with water magic and heated it with fire magic. When the water was at the right temperature, I called the young lady over. The entire preparation took just a few minutes. Magic's seriously convenient.

After the young lady came with the two maids, I went back to where the others were.

"Ouch! Man, they really glared at me." [Hyuzu]

"You deserved it." [Camil]

"It's because you didn't have any of 'that.'" [Ryouma]

By 'that' I was obviously referring to delicacy. I was often told I didn't have any back on in my previous life, but even I wasn't as bad as him... Or at least, I think I wasn't.

I mean... When I grew up I had to watch my mouth, or risk getting accused of sexual harassment. It would have been social suicide if I wasn't careful.

"Ah, Ryouma-kun. Welcome back." [Elize]

"Umm... Madam, I..." [Ryouma]

"It's fine, don't mind it. She's made her decision and it's not like you lied, right?" [Elize]

"Of course." [Ryouma]

"Then that's that. Besides, I'm happy to see she's serious about becoming a monster tamer. That being said, she could've just gotten the cleaner slime by asking one from you, though." [Elize]

...What did she say?

"What?" [Ryouma]

"I said she could have just gotten one from you. That didn't cross your mind?" [Elize]

Ha, ha ha ha... Why didn't I realize something so simple. If I'd realized that earlier, we wouldn't have had to go through all this mess.

Maybe being here in the forest all this time has finally taken its toll on me. It's been three years since I started living here, after all.

"Good grief..." [Ryouma]

"Oh, well it was interesting in any case. I thought 'that's youth for you', or something. Anyway, I'm glad to see my daughter's resolve." [Elize]

“Is that so...” [Ryouma]

I feel so tired for some reason...

After the young lady left the bath, she took the water and searched the river for slimes. Meanwhile, I consulted the maids on the fitting of my new clothes.

The young lady’s luck seemed to be good, as she came back early, about the same time when I was done talking to the maids.

The young lady brought the slime with her and contracted it in front of everyone.

By then it was already dark, so I suggested for everyone to stay the night. I let them use the bath and cooked supper for them.

The butler and the 2 maids offered to help, but I rejected their offer.

I’m happy for the offer, but the kitchen is too small. We wouldn’t be able to fit with 3 more adults. Not to mention, everything was built for a kid to use, so if they’re unlucky, they might just end up breaking their hips.

Incidentally, our menu for supper was fried beast meat with grated jija, my otherworld version of pork fried with ginger. Reinhart-san seemed to enjoy himself, and the others praised me too.

It was a weird taste for a Japanese like myself, though. Of course, I’ve gotten used to it by now.

It’s a pity but it can’t be helped since there’s not a lot of rock salt to get from the cliff, and I even have to use alchemy to purify it because it’s a mishmash of various minerals. If it weren’t for alchemy, I probably wouldn’t have stayed here for 3 years.

The ingredients here in the forest are enough to live off of, but they’re not enough to satiate my Japanese stomach.

Well, at least they’re happy.

Chapter 7

The Difference in Common Sense 2

After supper everyone chatted over tea.

“Ryouma-kun, what are you planning to do from here on?” [Madam]

“...To be honest, I’m not really sure, but I’m, thinking of moving...” [Ryouma]

My research has already reached a point where I could take a break and the slimes are starting to get too many for the house to handle. Moreover, I’ve also started to yearn for people’s company and I also need more seasonings and foodstuff.

Because of that I started considering going around the world, but I wasn’t sure what to say. After all, a kid who’s been isolated his whole life couldn’t possibly just go and say ‘I want to see the world!’ all of the sudden, right? That would be just too unnatural.

In the end, I decided to make use of my all-powerful grandparents.

“...My grandparents... told me to live happily... in town. My current... lifestyle is no good... I think. I don’t think... my grandparents would be happy to know... I live here.” [Ryouma]

“Ryouma-kun...” [Madam]

As the atmosphere in the room went solemn, Reinbach-sama closed his eyes and pondered for a moment, then he spoke.

“How about leaving with us then?” [Reinbach]

“Huh?” [Ryouma]

Huh? What is he saying? Isn’t this our first meeting?

“We are a ducal family, you know? We can at least take care of one person’s necessities without problem. And besides, I think it’s a waste for a skilled monster tamer like yourself to be secluding himself deep in the forest. I know you don’t like towns, but... How about it? Won’t you try going out for a bit?” [Reinbach]

...I never thought he would propose something like that. The other people seemed to be in agreement too what with those eyes that seemed to say 'it's alright'...Everyone here is so nice... It's enough to make my heart ache.

"We'll be going to Gimuru starting tomorrow. Once we're done with our errands, we will be going home. We'll pass by here again, so... How about it? Do you want to travel with us?" [Reinbach]

"Travel..." [Ryouma]

I don't know anything about this world... The gods taught me some basic knowledge, but I've never seen anything in person. In fact, I didn't even know how big of a deal my slime research was until they told me. I'm sure there must be a lot more things I don't know.

"R-Right... I think I might just get... in your way... But if it's not too much trouble, will you let... me travel with you?" [Ryouma]

"Oh! So you're coming!" [Reinhart]

"Well... I've also started thinking... of leaving the forest, so..." [Ryouma]

"I see, I see... You'll have to prepare your belongings then. We can extend our departure time to tomorrow afternoon. Will that be enough time for you to get ready?" [Reinbach]

"I'll be ready by morning. I can bring everything with me with my Item Box, after all." [Ryouma]

"Oh my, you can use Item Box at your age? That's amazing!" [Madam]

Really? I thought a lot of people could use Item Box?

"Grandma said it was, convenient, so I learned, it. I heard... a lot of people could, use it, though?" [Ryouma]

"Well, it's certainly an elementary level magic and a lot of people could use it, but the fact that you could use it while still being so young is a feat indeed." [Madam]

"I think it'll be a pleasure studying with Ryouma-san." [Elia]

"Thank you." [Ryouma]

After thanking the Jamil family, the young lady, the maids, and the guards offered to help me pack, so I decided to start with the most troublesome room.

"Whoa, what's with this room?" [Hyuzu]

“It’s filled to the brim with weapons and armor.” [Elia]

“Picking out what to bring from all these won’t be easy.” [Arone]

“Is that a pelt at the end of the room I see?” [Lilian]

“What’s with those pile of bags at the corner that looks like trash?” [Hyuzu]

The place I brought them to was none other than the storage room. All my loots from the bandits I’ve subjugated in the past three years are gathered here. I would sometimes come here to do maintenance on the weapons, but other than that, almost everything else has been stored away.

“I will be, putting everything into my, Item Box. That bag there, contains the bandits’ belongings.” [Ryouma]

“Specifically?” [Hyuzu]

“Don’t know...” [Ryouma]

“Don’t know? You didn’t bother to check? If you don’t check your spoils properly after a battle, isn’t that the same as risking your life for nothing?” [Hyuzu]

“It wasn’t interested, so...” [Ryouma]

I answered Hyuzu-san’s question curtly, but there were actually several reasons. One, most of the bandits’ belongings stank to high heavens, and two, there were rarely anything noteworthy. In one particularly bad case, I even ended up pulling out rotten meat; literally trash loot.

The money was irrelevant to me too. After all, I never went to town. What would I need them for?

In the end, searching through the bags was just a hassle, so I stopped bothering and just threw them to the corner after having the slimes clean them up.

“Then should we check the contents first?” [Arone]

“Good, let’s go with that. If the contents turn out to be junk, we’ll throw it away. Let’s split the work of putting away and identifying the contents, so we can get things done faster. What do you think?” [Jill]

I nodded.

At that, we left identifying the contents to the young lady and the two maids, while we took on the role of putting the things away.

For a while, we continued with my group just throwing things into that black hole, but along the way, they noticed that some of the equipment and the pelt could be sold for a good price.

But what most unexpected was that among the bandits' belongings I've ignored until now was a bag of coins with a large sum of money. 40 medium gold coins, to be exact.

Even I know the value of 40 medium gold coins, so it was truly a fortuitous find for someone like me who's at long last decided to go to town.

But... After that matter with the slimes, I'm concerned about the accuracy of my knowledge regarding this world. To be safe I should inquire the price of commodities.

I thought that to myself as we cleaned out the storage room as well as the other rooms. When we'd cleared out everything, I called the cleaner slimes and scavenger slimes and had them add the finishing touches. When everything was sparkling clean, I suggested for the ducal family and the guards to use the newly cleaned rooms.

"You sure? If there's work to be done, we don't mind helping."

"It's alright. I can do the rest by myself... Only food, and medicinal, ingredients are left, after all." [Ryouma]

"Medicine, huh... That's certainly not something amateurs should be handling. Alright then, but if there's anything else we can do, be sure to call us." [Camil]

"Thank You, Camil-san." [Ryouma]

"It's fine, it's fine. Thanks for the room too. Honestly, any room with four walls would suit me just fine, so this is really a big help." [Camil]

After chatting a little and giving my thanks I left

Now then... All that's left are the starter items I got from the gods... Oh, right... I wonder if I can take the slimes with me? I can't just leave them here. I should ask. They should still be awake.

"Reinhart-san, Reinbach-sama." [Ryouma]

"Something the matter, Ryouma-kun?" [Reinbach]

"Can I... bring my slimes... with me? There'll be 17, slimes all in all..." [Ryouma]

"Sure, go ahead. It's only natural for a monster tamer to take his monsters with him." [Reinbach]

"The carriage has plenty of space, so it's no problem at all." [Reinhart]

I see, that's good to hear.

“Thank you very much.” [Ryouma]

As I said that, they replied with a smile, saying, ‘it's fine.’ They're really good-hearted people. If this were in Japan, the equivalent situation would be me hitchhiking and asking, “By the way, I have 17 pets with me. Can I take them too?”

I don't know about others, but I definitely wouldn't agree to it. One or two maybe, but 17? In the first place, I don't even have a license, so...

I really can't overstate how grateful I am to the Jamil household. Oh, come to think of it, since I'll be going out, I might as well say a word or two to them.

As I thought that, I went to the deepest room in the house. It was really nothing more than a wide-open space, but inside, at the front wall, was a hollowed out area wherein the statues of the gods were enshrined.

The religions of this world don't prohibit idol worship, so sculpting a statue of a deity isn't a problem. In fact, there are adherents who buy small idols as models, so they could sculpt their own. They usually do it while praying in an area recommended by their church.

Personally, I did just that and created the idols, allowing me to both thank the gods and practice my earth magic. After making the idols, I enshrined them at my training grounds and reported to them daily.

But first, to keep others from seeing me, I'm going to block the entrance with earth magic...

...

There. Done.

I sat in the lotus position before the idols. After a few minutes of meditation, I opened my eyes and spoke.

“Today ended safely too. You're gods, so I'm sure you know, but some guests came

today. I'll be traveling with them for some time, so I won't be able to visit for a while.

I'm finally leaving the forest. I think I'll be able to keep that promise about visiting the church now.

It's just... I don't know when I'll be able to come back, so I've decided to take all my belongings with me.

If I decide not to come back here again, then I'll make new statues in my new home.

Anyway... Until next time."

After that I stood up, opened the entrance, and left.

Speaking of which, it seems I only have a hard time when I'm talking with humans. Huh... Well, I've never talked to the idols before, so I never noticed, but... I guess the stammering is because of nerves, after all.

Well, whatever... With this I've settled everything that needed to be done. All that's left is for me to leave with the slimes.

Let's sleep.

Like that I went to bed, but—

I wonder what the town is like.

—I couldn't stop thinking of the town.

Sleeping was harder than usual.

Chapter 8

The Day of Departure

The next day.

Hmm?

When I woke up, the room felt different. As for what, I wasn't really sure.

There was a magic stone for light by the bedside, though its brightness was lowered so it was dim, but other than that there wasn't much in the room. Huh? And then it clicked. The furniture was gone.

Oh, right. I packed my stuff yesterday, didn't I? Wait, no... Something's off.

Turning up the brightness of the magic stone with mana, I looked around me and saw that there was virtually nothing in the room. I did place some of my stuff in my Item Box, but I'm sure I didn't touch the tables, chairs, or shelves.

I didn't break them either, so where are they?

I don't see them anywhere.

Actually, now that my head's a bit clearer, even my bed is gone.

What's going on? Surely, I wasn't robbed, right? I mean if some burglar had broken in I would surely have noticed it, and the slimes would have made a ruckus too. The duke stayed over, but there's no way they'd steal my stuff.

Those things wouldn't sell for much, having been made with earth magic and all. And besides, what kind of burglar would even think there's something to be stolen from caves?

The spoils I got from the bandits could be worth a pretty penny, but I've already stored them in my Item Box. That leaves only the slimes... Hmm? The slimes? Oh no!

“Uoo!?”

Normally, there'd be at least a cleaner slime in the room, but even that wasn't around. As I tried to get myself out of bed, all of the sudden, it felt like I was floating, and then in the next moment, pain greeted me.

“Huh?”

When I got up, the room became dim again. I turned up the lights, and the room was back to normal. The chairs, the desks, and the rest of the furniture were back in place. Apparently I'd fallen off my bed.

“I was dreaming?”

After calming down, I looked up the bed. Lo and behold, the slime was there, bending down a little as it stared at me. I could confirm that the other slimes were in the cave too.

Good grief, please don't scare me like that, or so I wanted to say, but I guess it's not really applicable in a situation like this.

How long did I sleep for?

If I recall correctly, it should still be on the desk...

“...Ah, found it.”

When I looked up at the desk, a magic tool that functioned as a clock was there. The timepiece of the clock was a round, thin, gold plate with two long pins. That timepiece stood on a round pedestal that was supported by a y-shaped metal stand.

All the parts of the clock from the timepiece to the stand were of high quality, but the mechanisms that normally made a clock was nowhere to be found, making the whole thing look like a mirror. But that wasn't exactly wrong since it was polished well enough that it could be used as one.

The clock had the numbers 1 to 12 just like in Earth. A full revolution was 12 hours, and two revolution was 24 hours or 1 day. In other words, it read just like a clock from

Earth, so it was easy for me to use.

Looking closely though, there's a slight difference in the seconds of this world and Earth's. But I've been living on this world for three years already and I've yet to notice any difference in the length of days, so maybe it's just my internal clock being messed up.

Anyway, from looking at that clock, I could tell that it was currently half past five. The clock doesn't have an am or a pm, but obviously it's am. If it were pm that would make me one hell of a sleeper.

I could sleep again, but I don't really feel like it.

As I was thinking that, I heard the sound of footsteps approaching.

"Sebasu... san?" [Ryouma]

"Good morning, Ryouma-sama." [Sebasu]

When I turned to the direction the sound was coming from, I saw the ducal family's butler walking.

"What's the matter?" [Ryouma]

"I thought I heard an odd sound a while ago, and then I saw the hallway lit, so..." [Sebasu]

"Oh, did I... wake you up?" [Ryouma]

"Not at all. We servants are normally up around this time. Arone and Lilian are already up too, but the others are still asleep." [Sebasu]

"I see..." [Ryouma]

Well, in any case, the sun's up, so I might as well go draw some water. It'd be waste if I were to just loiter around here, and I'm sure I'll just get in people's way.

When I told Sebasu my plans, he looked puzzled. "Can't we just get water with magic?" he asked.

I did a little walking and some light training before leaving, then I told Sebasu and the others to use the facilities as they pleased and left.

“Fuu.”

When I left the house, the peaceful atmosphere of the morn and the forest caressed my skin. I immersed myself in it as I took a deep breath. The sun had already started to rise in the distant sky, so there was enough light to easily walk the road.

As I stepped on the grass wet from morning dew, I leisurely walked through the familiar road. I’ve walked this road to the river countless times.

As I was starting to get sentimental, I suddenly realized that the dream this morning was about the house when I first came to this world.

It’s been awhile, so it wasn’t a perfect representation, but in the past, it wasn’t just the furniture missing, I also didn’t have that map on the wall or that path that led deeper in.

When I was just starting out, all I did was dig and procure food and water.

The dream this morning was about a time not long after I’d dug enough space to live a little.

Oh, this is it.

In front of me was the river I always drew water from. The deepest part only reached up my knees, so it wasn’t very deep, but it was fairly wide, so it was convenient to draw water from.

” ‘Rock’ ” [Ryouma]

I made a water jug with earth magic.

After getting used to magic I’ve started to rely on it more and more, but in the past, I definitely drew water here every morning.

I also bathed, did my laundry, and trained by this river back then. Most of my time was spent here.

One day, when my house was finally a little bigger, I went here to draw water, but then

I happened upon a slime that had been washed away.

It wasn't the first time that I saw a slime being carried downstream, but that time it was at an arm's length, so on a whim, I picked it up and brought it back home. That was when I first learned how to tame monsters.

The basics of monster taming, also known as the contract, required one to weave a thread from mana and use that to connect one's self with a monster. Once the contract was in place, the practitioner could command the monster or understand its intention to some extent. It is also possible for the practitioner to know its position.

When I completed my first contract, the vague emotion I felt from the slime was fear. When I saw it shaking, I decided to call it 'Tabuchi-kun' because it reminded me of my first meeting with a former subordinate.

At first, Tabuchi-kun was weak due to having been washed away, so it moved fairly slow. Even when I reached out for it, all it did was shake a little, but it didn't try to run away.

When I gave it green caterpillar to eat, they managed to run away twice out of the five times I tried to feed it. It couldn't catch up to them. It tried to drink water from the river, but the downstream took Tabuchi-kun away again. I was wondering why the slimes were being washed away. Apparently, that was why.

I continued feeding and training them, and after getting one to evolve, I began my research... And that's basically how I got to where I am today.

How nostalgic... It's a pity Tabuchi-kun is no longer with us, but... I still have his nucleus.

...I wonder how my subordinate, Tabuchi-kun, is doing.

He was a chubby otakuish man who joined our company right after graduation. I had a lot of years under my belt, so I was tasked to show him the ropes. He quivered when he saw my body in my past life. I know I shouldn't be saying this, but he got along pretty bad with others too.

He was never late though, and he always explained how to do something when asked. He would also always feel sorry whenever he did something wrong regardless of if the person-in-question knew or not. We both shared otaku hobbies, so although our direction and generation was different, we still talked some. He had some difficulties with communication, but he got a little better before I died.

I saw him working before I died. Skill-wise there's no problem, but it would really be best if he just resigned and found a better company.

Thinking back, I had my fair share of troubles with him, but he was definitely one of the better subordinates I had. If not for that, I wouldn't have named a slime after him.

Ahh, what am I doing? It's no fun recalling a no-good boss and a no-good subordinate.

The slimes have gotten too many, so I don't name them anymore, but I can still distinguish them and call them individually thanks to the contract. It's really convenient.

"Oops, what time is it?"

Lost myself in nostalgia there. Seeing the sun reflecting over the water and how bright the surrounding area is, I don't think I have any time left for training. I should go back or I'll miss our schedule.

I filled the water jug I made with water and carried it on my shoulders back home. When I got back, Jill-san and Zeff-san were standing in front of the house. They were shocked to see me carrying a jug bigger than myself, but we exchanged greetings, and then I went into the house.

The clock was already pointing to 7 by the time I came back.

Time sure flies.

Oops.

"Ryouma-kun, you're back. Good morning." [Reinhart]

I saw Reinhart approaching.

“Good morning.” [Ryouma]

“Are you ready to go?” [Reinhart]

“No, problem.” [Ryouma]

“Good to hear.” [Reinhart]

After that I was invited to eat breakfast, and then I passed the rest of the time feeding the slimes.

When the time to leave came, I ate with the ducal family, and then I took the slimes with me and left the house.

I should block the entrance with earth magic... There.

Alright, now it’s time to start our journey!”

Shaking away all the nostalgia from these past three years, I turned around.

There, the 11 people I would be traveling with were standing.

“Are you ready?” [Reinbach]

“Yes, let’s go.” [Ryouma]

“Let’s go then.” [Reinhart]

“Alright, let’s go! Ojousama, Ryouma, if anything happens be sure to say it!” [Hyuzu]

Hyuzu was the first to walk, and then we followed from behind.

Like this I took my first step toward a new beginning.

Chapter 9

Swaying in the Carriage

After walking 2 hours through the forest, the path opened up, revealing the plains and the bare earth. As we continued our way, a group of guards dressed in armor just like Hyuzu and the rest came to view.

When they noticed our group approaching, they placed a hand on their chest and greeted us. These people were probably acquainted with the duke's family.

"Those people are?" [Ryouma]

"They are members of the Jamil Household's private army. They regularly patrol the region to ensure the roads are safe." [Elialia]

"Today they're here to escort us. Yesterday I had them investigate the forest."

Ojousama and Reinbach-sama said, but what did he mean by 'investigate'?

"Ryouma-kun, did you know? These past few years, more and more reports of monster sighting and casualties have been coming." [Reinhart]

"...? No, this is my first time hearing it." [Ryouma]

"I see. There are highs and lows when it comes to monster waves, but lately, the trend has been leaning toward the highs, so we have to increase the frequency of the patrols to ensure the citizens' safety. The reports from this forest are few as usual, but a few days ago, I heard about you." [Reinhart]

Me?

"When I found out that you lived here and that you defeated the strongest monster in this forest, the black bear, I figured you might have accidentally culled the monster population. So just to be sure, yesterday, I asked the nearby village to investigate."

Oh, so there was something like that... Is that the reason why he gave me so many gifts?

When I was about to ask that to Reinhart-san, a man dressed in an armor more

extravagant than the others stepped out. He was probably the representative of the group. At that, Reinhart-san left with Sebasu-san and received the man's report.

We didn't want to get in the way of their work, so we distanced ourselves from them. Eventually, I saw Sebasu-san pull out a carriage out of nowhere with his dimension magic.

I knew they had a carriage, but who would've thought he'd actually stored it in his dimension space. I mean, you can actually store something that big?

As I peeked into the hole created by Sebasu-san's dimension magic, I figured he was probably using the intermediate spell, Dimension Home.

It's compatible with the Item Box and is a league above it in terms of space. You can even live inside it. I've heard about it from the gods, but this is my first time seeing one in person.

As I was thinking that, Sebasu-san pulled out one carriage after another. Just how much space does that magic have?

While I was being surprised, the ojousama seemed satisfied at my reaction and laughed.

"Those are only the carriages we will be riding on, you know? The ones for our luggage are still in Sebasu's dimension home."

There's more!? I yelled internally as I did a self-tsukkomi.

After that the madam took my hand and we rode the carriage with the rest of the duke's family. All-in-all there were 6 of us inside. There were four from the Jamil family + me, and after waiting a little, Sebasu-san rode too, which brought our numbers to six.

As for the slimes, they were placed on the tray on the carriage's roof. Apparently, that was something usually used for liquor and snacks.

After ensuring that there was nothing wrong with the slimes on the roof and that everything was ready, we departed.

We were riding on the same carriage anyway, so I took this as an opportunity to ask Sebasu-san about the magic he used awhile ago. Apparently, Sebasu-san specialized in water and dimension magic, and was in fact, one of the leading magicians within the kingdom.

When I heard he could use advanced dimension magic, I asked him a question.

“Can you also use... ‘Another World’?” [Ryouma]

When I asked that, Sebasu-san looked at me with admiration.

“Oho, so you know even a magic like that?” [Sebasu]

“Tamed monsters, can still scare the villagers, so... I asked my grandmother about dimension magic, wondering... if I could use it in place of conjuration.” [Ryouma]

“Can dimension magic be used to teleport monsters?” [Elialia]

“It’s possible indeed, as monsters can live within the Dimension Home. The same is true for Another World. If you store your monsters there, they won’t be able to scare the villagers.” [Sebasu]

Thank goodness... It would be really troubling if they couldn’t live inside.

In this world, there is a magic just like the magic I use to tame monsters, it’s called Conjuration. It’s a magic tree that contracts monsters just like Monster Taming, but the monsters are only summoned when needed. Because of that it’s a lot more convenient than Monster Taming, garnering it greater popularity. Currently, it is more mainstream than Monster Taming, but that doesn’t really matter.

I chose Monster Taming because I figured it should be possible to use Dimension Magic to summon monsters like Conjuration does. Though another reason is because I would be able to pick another kind of magic if I chose Monster Taming instead.

“Though it depends on the place, being a monster tamers does have a lot of inconvenient parts to it.” [Ryouma]

“There’s also a problem with using Dimension Magic as an alternative. One, you have at least use an intermediate spell. Two, only a magician who can use dimension magic can take out the stored monster.

Even if you hire a magician who can use dimension magic, if that magician dies, you’ll never be able to get your magic back regardless of whether it’s still alive or not. You

also won't be able to call your monster out if the magician can't use his magic for some other reason. This holds true for all Dimension Magic spells regardless of class.

In the end, some tamers see dimension magic as useful, while some don't because of the risks."

...Come to think of it, I also ended up discussing this with the gods when I brought up the subject...

"Now, regarding your question, I can indeed use Another World, but it's not a magic I can use as I please. It's the most difficult spell of the Dimension Magic tree, so magicians who can use it are considered to be at the apex and are given much prestige... But that's about it." [Sebasu]

"What do you mean?" [Ryouma]

"It's inconvenient. If I were to explain it in steps, Another World requires three steps to invoke. First, one must create a big space. The space will decide how big one's Another World will be, but it's completely reliant on one's mana pool." [Sebasu]

"...In other words, if you have a lot of mana... you can make a big world, but... if you don't have much, you can only... make a small one." [Ryouma]

"Precisely. Moreover, the first step would exhaust all of the caster's mana, leaving him asleep for several days. And should the caster fail, he would have to do everything again." [Sebasu]

So, if you fail, all of your efforts will go down the drain, huh.

"If you do succeed, the second step requires you to create an entrance where you are and connect it to the space you created. This would also take a lot of mana, and again, if you fail, you start over.

Everything up to the second stage is preparatory for the third stage, where you finally open the entrance you made. Generally, opening the gate would consume anywhere from 5,000 to 10,000 mana points.

10,000 mana points is the minimum required pool for someone to become a royal court mage. That's enough to make even the best magicians of the country to faint after just one cast. So Another World really isn't something you can just pull out whenever you want.

Moreover, having to go through so much trouble to create such a huge space also

leaves one with the question of what to put in it.”

After reaching this point, the ojousama asked a question.

“What does that mean? Since there’s a lot of space, wouldn’t you just put whatever you want in it?” [Elialia]

“You could put your belongings in, but normally, the intermediate, Dimension Home, is enough for normal furniture and one’s belongings.

The only things you’d need Another World for would be something on the scale of palaces or fortresses. At that level, the bigger question would be how to make something so big fit inside. In the end, there’s really not much point to making such a big space. It’s just a waste of mana.” [Sebasu]

“I see...” [Elialia]

Well, it certainly has its cons... But the small matters aside, I should first focus on being able to cast Dimension Home. My monsters are slimes anyway.

As I was thinking that, Sebasu-san spoke.

“If you have large-sized monsters, then there are some as big as castles. If you have those, then you might find Another World useful.” [Sebasu]

“I see... Thank you.” [Ryouma]

“It’s no problem. If you have any similar questions, just feel free to ask.” [Sebasu]

“By the way, Ryouma-san, what kinds of magic can you use? I heard you could use earth and dimension, and I also heard you heated the bath, so I guess you must have water and fire too?” [Elialia]

Telling them the attributes I can use should be fine. I honestly answered her question.

“Grandma says I can use, all attributes.” [Ryouma]

“All attributes, huh. That’s rare. Is there anything you specialize in?” [Sebasu]

“Earth and dimension mainly... Then fire and water... I’m mostly focusing on the ones I need for... my lifestyle, so... there’s no real specialization, I guess.” [Sebasu]

“Hmm... And on top of that, you still have Barrier Magic and Monster Taming. Those with all attributes tend to become jack-of-all-trades. Be careful.” [Sebasu]

“I will.” [Ryouma]

Come to think of it, the gods said the same thing, didn’t they?

“...Did I say something strange?” [Sebasu]

“Huh?” [Ryouma]

“Ryouma-kun, you were smiling just now.” [Elialia]

Huh, I guess it showed on my face.

“My grandma said the same thing, before... Especially, since I tried my hand at healing magic, and alchemy too.” [Ryouma]

“Oh, I thought it’s because I said something strange.” [Sebasu]

“But still... Alchemy, huh. That sure is another strange hobby you have there.” [Reinbach]

Now that he mentions it, there sure is little information regarding alchemy.

“Is it that odd?” [Ryouma]

“You won’t find a lot of alchemists these days. In the past, there were a lot who scammed people, saying they could make gold, so it’s become an unpopular profession. It is said that there was once a man known as the Alchemy King who made a killing through alchemy, but other than him, no one else has succeeded.” [Reinbach]

“One reason is because the Alchemy King used the original version of alchemy, while present-day alchemy is nothing more than something profiteers came up with in hopes of striking it rich.

Unfortunately, their version of alchemy is greatly inferior to the Alchemy King’s, and with it being used mainly for scams, both the art and the profession have found themselves in a precarious situation.” [Sebasu]

“Alchemists are secretive too, so they have a ghastly reputation. The other guilds are secretive in their own right, but the alchemist are in their own league.” [Elialia]

It seems the alchemists don’t have a good image. Well, it’s not that different from earth’s alchemists in the past.

“Would it be better... not to tell people I study... alchemy?” [Ryouma]

“That would probably be for the best.” [Reinbach]

“Alright.” [Ryouma]

When I said that, the ojousama asked.

“Ryouma-san, what do alchemists do?” [Elialia]

Well...

“I don’t know about the others... but in my case... the most I can do is purify rock salt.”

[Ryouma]

“Rock salt? There should be some that could be mined near the forest, but it was deemed useless due to having poison mixed in. Can you make something out of that?”

[Reinhart]

“The rock salt there has a lot of minerals... so it’s poisonous to humans... As long as you remove the minerals... It can be consumed... I use alchemy to... purify the rock salt from there...” [Ryouma]

“You can do that!?” [Reinhart]

“Yes. The food we ate at my house... all used the rock salt from there... I got it from the cliff.” [Ryouma]

Reinhart became excited when he heard that, but it didn’t take long for him to calm down.

“That’s amazing! If you can do that, then you can sell th... Ah, no. It’s no good. Word of the salt from there being bad has been spread for years now, so no one will buy it.”

[Reinhart]

“Really?” [Ryouma]

“Yeah, in the past, there were adventurers who happened upon it and tried to sell rock salt without reporting the mine. You can hunt and forage as you please save for certain designated places, but when it comes to rock salt, some nobles lose their bearings and try to monopolize it. I’m sure those adventurers didn’t want that to happen, so they tried to profit off of it themselves, but people started getting sick when they sold it, so they were arrested and executed.

It was a huge incident, so everyone in the country already knows that the rock salt from the Jamil Territory’s Forest of Gana is poisonous. Well, we never had any salt to begin with anyway, so it didn’t really affect us, but still...”

I guess even otherworlds have counterfeit goods...

“That cliff isn’t very big anyway... So you can’t get much salt from it... anyway... Even if you sell it into the market... I think it’ll just lose out to other safer and more abundant sources... But if it’s just the village nearby... or the Jamil Household, I’m sure it would

be useful..." [Ryouma]

"I see. That's unfortunate." [Reinhart]

After that I got more information regarding the world. I enjoyed the swaying of the carriage as I chatted with the others.

Chapter 10

First Town

The carriage continued along its way, only stopping from time to time take a break.

Around the time when the sun was about to set...

In front of me were 10 coins.

Of those 10 coins, 9 were in my hands. 3 were copper, 3 were silver, and 3 were were gold. They varied in size, the smallest being about the size of a 1 yen coin, while the next biggest was as big as a 100 yen coin, and the biggest was as big as a 500 yen coin. The remaining coin on the madam's hand was a platinum coin about the size of a 1 yen coin.

“We're lacking two more, but right now, we have copper coins, silver coins, gold coins, and this platinum coin I have here. Each type of coin has three sizes, totaling to 12 different coins.

A small copper coin is 1 suit, a medium copper coin is 10 suits, and a big copper coin is 10 times the size of the medium coin making it 100 suits. The value of the coins from silver onwards is a bit different. A small silver coin is 5 times the worth of a big copper coin, making it 500 suits, while the medium is twice that, being 1000 suits. From there on, you can just multiply by 5, and then by 2 on the next coin to get the values. The platinum coins are 10 times each, however.” [Elize]

In Summary:

Small Copper Coin	1
Medium Copper Coin	10
Big Copper Coin	100
Small Silver Coin	500
Medium Silver Coin	1000
Big Silver Coin	5000

Small Gold Coin	10000
Medium Gold Coin	50000
Big Gold Coin	100000
Small Platinum Coin	1000000
Medium Platinum Coin	10000000
Big Platinum Coin	100000000

“A commoner’s normal daily expenses would amount to about 100 suits, so copper coin is usually what’s used. Silver coins are usually used for savings or for small stores. Gold coins are mainly used by large stores. It is also the coin most frequently by nobles. As for this platinum coin here, it’s rarely used. When it does get used, it’s only for big purchases or for dealings between nations.” [Elize]

Alright, I think I’ve more or less grasped how coins work here.

While I was gathering my thoughts, the coachman called out to us.

“Everyone, we’re almost at our destination. You should be seeing the Town of Kereban soon.”

Oh, looks like we’ve made it to our stopover. And here I thought we’d be camping for sure... Wait a second, I don’t think I have any identification.

“Umm...” [Ryouma]

“Is something the matter?” [Sebasu]

“I have... no identification... Is that ok?” [Ryouma]

Calm down me! Wasn’t I doing just fine two weeks ago!? If I panic, I’ll start stammering again...

“Please rest assured, a temporary one will be given to those without. They’ll have to conduct a simple investigation first, but it’s nothing to worry about.” [Sebasu]

Ahh, thank goodness...

It would be nice if I could do something about this speech problem already, though...

As I was thinking that, I unconsciously sighed, causing the madam to worry for me.

“Are you ok? You really don’t need to worry, you know. No matter what happens, I’ll be sure to protect you. The town isn’t a scary place.” [Madam]

“Ah...” [Ryouma]

I think she’s misunderstanding, I better correct her.

“Actually, I’m not worried, about the, town.” [Ryouma]

“Really? Then what’s the matter?” [Madam]

“It’s the way... I talk. It’s weird, right? I... This... Way of talking...” [Ryouma]

“...True...” [Madam]

“I haven’t talked... to anyone in 3 years... It was only... when Reinhart-san came 2 weeks ago... That I started talking again... So the words can’t come out right... I’m surprised... myself actually... I’ve been talking to the slimes... since then to practice... And while it’s come back... to some extent... It’s still weird. I just can’t seem to fix-!?”

What’s happening!? Madam!? Why are you hugging me!?!?

“It’ll be alright! Ryouma-kun! Just take your time, take your time... *SNIFF... You’re no longer alone, so...” [Madam]



She's crying!?!... Actually, it doesn't seem to be just her. The ojousama and even the guys are... crying!? Why?

...Ah, I see. From another person's perspective, I must sound like a really lonely guy, huh.

Not talking to anyone else for 3 years, and then when I finally meet someone, I can't even talk, so I go and talk to some slimes instead.

"It's ok!... After all... I'm the one who decided to... live in the forest..." [Ryouma]

After that, I kept trying to tell her it's ok, but it wasn't effective. The madam hugged me until the very last moment when we reached the gates.

When we reached the gates, Sebasu-san and Reinhart-san got down the carriage. Apparently, they had to talk to the guards about my identification. After that, the madam and the others accompanied me to visit the guard house.

Actually, I would have been fine by myself, but the madam was worried, so she came with me.

Because of that the guards and the other people in charge of the process became very nervous.

I'm really sorry, people I don't know... For getting you caught up in this.

"T-T-T-Then could you p-p-please touch this crystal." [Gatekeeper]

This guy is way too nervous, not that I'm in any position to talk myself.

"Yes." [Ryouma]

I meekly followed and touched the crystal. When I did, a blue light shone from the crystal. When the gatekeeper in front of me saw that, he looked alternately between me and the crystal.

"C-Can you f-follow me inside for a second?" [Gatekeeper]

Did something happen? If I recall correctly, blue means innocent, but...

“Is there a problem?” [Sebasu]

“The light is blue. Everything should be fine, no?” [Madam]

“I-I-Indeed, the light is blue! But! A reward must be given! There is a record of of d-d-d-defeating a named bandit. So we must confirm and give reward!” [Gatekeeper]

When the madam and Sebasu heard that, they calmed down, but the man didn't bring me away anymore and did the entire procedure within an earshot of the madam and Sebasu.

“T-Then let me ask you, young man. Did you by any chance defeat a bandit this year?” [Gatekeeper]

“Yes.” [Ryouma]

“The crystal says you defeated Melzen of the Red Spear. Is this true?” [Gatekeeper]

Melzen? Who's that?

“I don't know... that person.” [Ryouma]

“He carries a red spear and is donned in a red armor. Doesn't ring a bell?” [Gatekeeper]

When he described the man, an image flashed through my mind.

Now that he mentions it, there actually was such a guy. His spear was really good, so I immediately stored it in my Item Box.

“I remember now. I stored his spear in my item box... Can that serve as proof?” [Ryouma]

“Show me.” [Gatekeeper]

I took out the spear.

When the person-in-charge saw that, he examined the whole spear and wielded it. When I felt the presence of mana coursing through the spear, red flames suddenly spouted out from the tip of the spear.

What!? That spear can do that!?

I had no idea. I'm gonna try that next time.

"No doubt about it. This is a red spear and a magic weapon, it's definitely Melzen's weapon. I'll prepare your reward now." [Gatekeeper]

As the man handed out orders to the soldiers, they hurriedly moved out.

As the man watched them leave, he spoke to me.

"I have to say... It's pretty amazing that you were able to take down Melzen. That man has gotten away from many adventurers and knights, he's definitely no slouch. If you don't mind, can you tell me how you beat him?" [Gatekeeper]

"I was attacked by bandits... After I beat them, they told me before they died... that they were betrayed... So I searched the area... and found Melzen and his men drinking in... a cave." [Ryouma]

"That's when you attacked?" [Gatekeeper]

"No. I am a monster tamer... I told my poison slime... to go inside the wine barrel."

"Ahh, I see, so that's how... Thank you for defeating him." [Gatekeeper]

After that, the soldiers brought the reward money, I stored it and my identification away in my Item Box.

The guards of the Jamil family were ordered to go ahead to the lodging, so they were no longer with us by the time we finished.

It was also decided that we would be walking to the inn, so the ojousama would have a chance to sightsee.

Incidentally, the reward for Melzen was 700 small gold coins.

All of the sudden, I'm rich. I can't think of a way to use it, though. Anyway, I should follow the others and thank them.

"Thank you." [Ryouma]

"It's fine~ You don't have to be so reserved with us." [Elize]

"Still... it's pretty impressive that you actually beat that Melzen." [Reinbach]

"Rather than that, can we please go see the town already!?" [Elialia]

"Calm down, Elia." [Reinhart]

“But this is my first time walking in such a big town like this!” [Elialia]

“Really?” [Ryouma]

“Yes. Like I said yesterday, this is my first time going out. There aren’t any places like this town here where I’m from, and besides, this is the biggest merchant town in the Jamil Territory. You won’t find many towns with more people than this!” [Elialia]

“I see.” [Ryouma]

There was indeed a lot of people, but it was still relatively empty for someone who has been to Tokyo. After all, when compared to Tokyo’s packed trains, the Town of Keraban was a whole league empty.

Huh, come to think it, isn’t this my first time visiting an otherworld town? Not as exciting as I thought it would be.

The old buildings are a rare sight, but they’re not really something to fuss about. There are no beastmen or elves either... Wait, Ojousama! You’re too excited!

The crowd of people going to and fro wasn’t that big, but the ojousama was being too conspicuous. It was clear as day that it was her first time in town.

It seemed dangerous, so I caught up to her.

“Ojousama, over here.” [Ryouma]

“T-Thank you. There sure are a lot of people. I feel like it’s so easy to bump someone.” [Elialia]

This ojousama would stop at a weird place as soon as something catches her eye. That conspicuous behavior of hers was basically announcing that she knew nothing of the world. Thanks to that, some annoying people came.

A girl was walking along a course that was sure to hit ojousama, so I pulled ojousama’s arm to get her out of the way.

“It’s dangerous.” [Ryouma]

“Oops... Tch...” [Girl]

After pulling the ojousama away, I saw the girl clicking her tongue as she withdrew. So she really was a pickpocket.

“Oh dear, thank you. Oh my, What is that?” [Elialia]

This time it was a man walking from the alley. I pulled the ojousama out of the way before they could collide.

“It’s dangerous to jump out.” [Ryouma]

“Huh!?” [Elialia]

“Uoh!?” [Man]

Because I pulled the ojousama out of the way, the man missed his timing and tumbled onto the ground.

“There are people coming out of the alley... be careful.” [Ryouma]

“T-Thank you...” [Elialia]

After speaking to ojousama, I approached the man.

“Are you alright? You’re not injured, right?” [Ryouma]

“This little br—!?” [Man]

The man tried to grab the nape of my neck with his left hand, but I lightly parried his hand up with my right hand and grabbed it. At the same time, I placed my left hand behind his elbow. Like this I twisted his arm and broke his posture without letting the ojousama notice.

The man was planning to say something, but when he realized he was falling, he stopped.

I stopped him before he could completely fall, though, then I looked him in the eye and spoke.

“You’re not injured, right?” [Ryouma]

“Y-Yeah... Sorry about that. Thanks for lending me a hand...” [Man]

“Please be careful.” [Ryouma]

Good grief, don’t lash out on a kid just because you failed... I’m actually an uncle deep inside, though.

Lately, I’ve been forgetting whether I’m a kid or an uncle.

“Ryouma-san! Let’s go there!” [Elialia]

You’re still planning to sightsee!? And how far are you criminals planning to follow us!?!?

After that I worked myself to the bone, protecting ojousama from pickpockets, extortionists, and kidnappers.

For some reason, the Jamil family seems to have left everything to me.

That aside, though, is this town really alright? Isn’t its public order too chaotic?

Chapter 11

At the Town Inn

Ryouma ended up accompanying Elialia as her guard until Sebasu called them over to the inn. Presently, they were already at the inn confirming their reservation, but...

“Oww...” [Elialia]

“Are you alright, Ojousama?” [Ryouma]

“Yes, my feet are just a little tired. Are you not affected by the carriage, Ryouma-san?” [Elialia]

“I don’t have any problems with them.” [Ryouma]

A little butt ache wasn’t really going to affect someone like Ryouma who possessed both a stupid amount of stamina and level 8 pain resistance.

But Elialia was a little down after hearing Ryouma’s response. He was a kid her age, and yet he was perfectly fine.

Seeing that, one of the maids called out to her.

“The first time hurts for everyone, Ojousama.” [Arone]

“Arone?” [Elialia]

“Once you’ve gotten used to riding, the pain will also cease. Ryouma-sama, you seem to be fine despite the long trip, could you possibly have some experience with horses?”

[Arone]

“No, this is... my first time too.” [Ryouma]

“Really? I thought for sure you had experience with how well you took it.” [Arone]

“I’ve never ridden one before, but... I have ran alongside, one while pulling a carriage.” [Ryouma]

In Ryouma’s school days, part of his running routine was to run alongside a horse while pulling a rickshaw. He’s actually quite fast too, being able to outrun a horse several times. Because of that he was scouted by a rickshaw man, and he started working part time as one.

Ryouma reminisced about those times as he said that last sentence, but unfortunately, from the perspective of Elialia and Arone, they could only take Ryouma's story as him being abused and made into a horse's replacement.

Because of that misunderstanding, the conversation abruptly stopped and the air quickly became grim.

(...What's wrong with everyone? Did I say something strange?...)

The odds of getting found out increased in proportion with how much he talked about his past, so he intentionally muddied his statement, but because of that thoughtless remark of his just now, Arone and Elialia have suddenly found themselves with a grim expression.

Ryouma himself didn't know that he was the cause for the sudden change in the atmosphere, but he tried changing the topic anyway.

"Umm... Ojousama, have you never gone out... until now? It seems, you're not used, to carriages." [Ryouma]

"Ah, yes. I've gone out before, but only to the nearby towns when there was something that needed to be done. I also rode with either my mother or my grandfather's familiars, so... And while I have ridden a carriage before, but in the end, that was only for short periods of time, so it doesn't really count." [Elialia]

"I see." [Ryouma]

Ryouma, who was an over forty-old failure at social interactions, did not have any techniques in the art of talking. After forcefully changing the topic, he had nothing to add, and silence filled the air once more.

That silence was only broken when Reinhart came back after finishing his discussion with the others regarding the guards and the plans for tomorrow.

"You've worked hard today, Elia. This time we're staying at an inn, so make sure to get a lot of rest." [Reinhart]

"Yes, father." [Elialia]

"Ryouma-kun, I'm sorry about this, but we couldn't get you the same room as ours, so you'll just have to stay with the servants." [Reinhart]

"That's more than enough." [Ryouma]

"It's a big room, but Sebasu's the one working on the papers, so you should be able to

stay in the same room as Zeff and the others. I'm sure it'll be easier if you can stay with someone you know." [Reinhart]

"Thank you." [Ryouma]

After a while, Sebasu came back, and everyone went to their respective rooms.



~Duke's Room~

As the four members of the Jamil household made themselves comfortable at a corner of their room, Reinhart suddenly asked Elialia a question.

"Elia, what were you talking with Ryouma-kun in the lobby? The atmosphere was pretty odd." [Reinhart]

When Elialia heard the topic of his question, she quivered with a jolt.

"A-Actually, I accidentally touched Ryouma's past." [Elialia]

"Really?" [Reinhart]

"Yes, Ryouma-san seemed ok despite having ridden the carriage for so long, so I thought he was used to it, but as it turns out, it was a first for him too. As it turns out, he's never ridden one before, but he has ridden alongside one while pulling a carriage..." [Elialia]

"I see... But it didn't seem like he minded. He seemed normal when I spoke to him, so Elia, you shouldn't mind it either." [Reinhart]

"Just have fun. Didn't you pull him wherever you want until you reached the inn? Just keep doing that." [Elize]

When Elialia heard her mother say that, her face reddened.

"Umm, that's... That was really embarrassing now that I think about it... I was too excited." [Elialia]

"You were a little too excited indeed." [Elize]

"AUu..." [Elialia]

"Ho ho, it's good to be lively. Elia, you're still a kid, so it's fine to have fun. But remember, you can't be careless. If you act like that, you'll end up a target of ruffians, you know. Make sure to pay attention to your surroundings." [Reinbach]

"Yes..." [Elialia]

“Anyway, you should go take a bath and retire for the day. We’ll be moving tomorrow and be camping again, so make sure to make the most of tonight.” [Reinhart]

“I understand, goodnight, mother, father, grandfather.” [Elialia]

As Elialia said that, she left the room.

After confirming that she was indeed gone, the remaining three members of the Jamil family and Sebasu changed the topic.

“Hmm... What do you think of Ryouma-kun?” [Reinbach]

“I told Elialia not to worry about him, but honestly, there’s a lot to be concerned about.” [Reinhart]

“He’s not a bad kid though. Besides, if he were actually scheming something, he’d act more normal.” [Elize]

“I agree, but it still begs that question... What kind of life do you have to live to end up like that? He said he used a poison slime to kill the bandits, but I don’t think that’s all. Ryouma-kun himself is undoubtedly strong. The fact he was able to easily protect Elia while being dragged by her proves that.” [Reinbach]

“Even putting aside the fact those ruffians were amateurs who couldn’t even notice that we were prepared for them, there’s no denying Ryouma-sama’s feats. He really made our lives easier.” [Sebasu]

“Indeed.” [Reinbach]

As Reinbach said that, he looked down on his right hand. The small head of a snake peeked out of his sleeves. The snake slithered onto his palm and peeked through the gap between his index finger and middle finger, while he petted it with his thumb.

That snake was a B Rank monster known as Assassin Snake. It was small but it moved quickly and was always wary of its surroundings. Reinbach had been using it to monitor the ruffians while Elia was walking around the city.

Even if Ryouma didn’t do anything, Elialia would never have actually fallen into actual danger.

“If he’s that skilled despite being so young, then... Could it be?” [Reinhart]

“Let’s not concern ourselves about that now. Just let him be. All we need to do is to watch over him.” [Reinbach]

“That’s true... Though it sure is sad seeing him react like that despite coming to a town.” [Elize]

“Indeed. It doesn’t have to be as pronounced as Elia’s, but children should be more excited with things like these.” [Reinhart]

“He was completely unfazed by the crowd of people. He looked at them like he was looking at some rock by the roadside.” [Reinbach]

Reinbach’s observation wasn’t wrong, but his interpretation of why Ryouma was making that face was. Ryouma was indeed looking at the crowd without any expression, but that was only because he came from Tokyo, which was always jam-packed with people.

Naturally, someone who was used to seeing an even greater crowd going wouldn’t be shocked when greeted by a smaller crowd. It couldn’t be helped then that his eyes were completely expressionless. Unfortunately, these people ended up interpreting his expression as that of a soulless person’s.

“What a glum thing it is to witness such a talented youth with eyes so dead...”

On this day, the needless misunderstandings regarding Ryouma increased.



~Servant’s Room~

Ryouma was brought by Sebasu to the room he would be staying at.

“Excuse me.” [Sebasu]

“Sorry to disturb.” [Ryouma]

As Ryouma entered the room, he saw Jill, Zeff, Camil, and Hyuzu already in the room. The room was a simple one with beds and 6 tables lined up along each other.

“You came!” [Jill]

“Well done.” [Zeff]

“It’ll only be one night, but let’s get along.” [Camil]

“That bed over there’s free.” [Hyuzu]

“Thank you for having me.” [Ryouma]

After they greeted each other, the five of them started chatting. Ryouma was mostly answering their questions though.

“By the way, what do you normally do?” [Hyuzu]

“?” [Ryouma]

“In our case, we normally eat out and drink ourselves dead, but you live in the forest, yeah?” [Hyuzu]

“Ahh... Normally, I research slimes... or practice my magic or train my body.” [Ryouma]

“...That’s it?” [Hyuzu]

“Yes.” [Ryouma]

“Isn’t that boring?” [Hyuzu]

“Magic and slime research is... fun.” [Ryouma]

“That’s your idea of fun? Looks like you have the aptitude to be a scholar.” [Camil]

“That sorta stuff is impossible for me though.” [Hyuzu]

“Come to think of it, Ryouma-sama, you do sometimes blurt out advanced knowledge or well-mannered speech. Did you study somewhere?” [Sebasu]

“I learned from my grandma. She thought me both academics and... how to behave myself.” [Ryouma]

“Your grandmother sounds like a wonderful person.” [Sebasu]

“She can do everything, except fight.” [Ryouma]

“Ho, then what about your gramps?” [Hyuzu]

“The exact opposite... A person who can’t do anything but make weapons and fight... But he’s really good. Even the weapons... he makes are first class. I can’t beat him... in either.” [Ryouma]

“Huh? You can smith?” [Zeff]

“I helped out, so... I at least know the basics. I didn’t learn, properly though... I also haven’t used, it in three years, so I can’t make anything decent right now.” [Ryouma]

“Well, you certainly can’t find any decent material or tool inside that forest.” [Camil]

“You’ve finally left the forest after all these years, so you should go ahead and buy the things you need. If there’s anything you want to do, you can walk around until supper.” [Hyuzu]

When he was asked that, Ryouma said this.

“Then can I ask where the church is?” [Ryouma]

“The church? Unfortunately, it’s already closed around this time.” [Camil]

“There’s a lot of bad people in this town, so they close their gates early. This town has the churches of the god of creation and the god of light. Which god do you follow?” [Jill]

“The god of creation.” [Ryouma]

“Then, I’m sorry to say this, but you won’t be able to get in today. If it were the god of

light's church, you'd be able to get in with a generous bribe." [Jill]

"really?" [Ryouma]

"The church of the god of light is big, but there's also a lot of unscrupulous people among them who would do anything for some donation." [Camil]

"There are even adherents who believe in their god but don't trust the deacons or the priests. All the donation-grubbers are with the god of light, so it's frequently said that only the pious ones are left in the god of creation's church." [Hyuzu]

"The gods worshiped are the same, so there's not much of a difference in their doctrines. Most people just pick their church based on the scale of the church and the personality of the adherents." [Camil]

"I didn't know that... Thank You." [Ryouma]

"No problem. Sure is odd though that you'd ask where the church is as soon as you hear you can go out. You that pious?" [Camil]

"Is it that odd?" [Ryouma]

"...I'm also a follower of the god of creation's church, but I only go once a month. I rarely attend worship." [Camil]

"Ryouma-kun, did you go to the church a lot before you started living in the forest?" [Zeff]

"Only once since I was born... I just pray to the stone idol at my house... I have one at the house in the forest too. I made it... with earth magic." [Ryouma]

"Then why don't you go ahead and buy some stone instead? This inn is fairly luxurious, so you should be able to ask for some stones to make idols." [Sebasu]

Ryouma then bought three building stones from the inn just as Sebasu had suggested. The stones that could be bought from the inn were too high-class, however, and they cost him 1 small gold coin for all three pieces.

After that, he came back to the room and created an idol by shaving away the rocks with earth magic.

The statues were so elaborate that Camil was taken aback. Ryouma was even able to earn Sebasu's stamp of approval.

Incidentally, the reason Ryouma's work was so detailed was because he had already personally met the gods, so he had a good idea how they looked like. On top of that, he had the Mana Control skill, which allowed him control his earth magic with precision, and back in earth, making figurines was one of his hobbies, so he was already used to this sort of work.

Like that Ryouma sculpted the three sculptures, and after Ryouma prayed to them, it was time for supper. When supper ended, Ryouma retired for the day to prepare for tomorrow's trip.

Chapter 12

Accident

The next day.

In the end, I couldn't go to the church in Kereban. There's another one at our destination, Gimuru, so I think I'll just visit that one. Until then I'll pray to the stone idols I sculpted yesterday.

And so, we continued on our leisurely trip, or so that's what I thought would happen, but...

"It's a bit cold, huh..." [Elize]

"Well, it is raining." [Reinbach]

"Even though rain is so rare in this season." [Elia]

"Our luck sure is bad, huh, Elia." [Reinhart]

A few hours after we left town, rain suddenly started pouring. The carriage had difficulty traversing the muddied road, so there was a lot of shaking for the passengers. We also moved a lot slower than before.

My luck has turned for the better since coming to this world, and it's been awhile since I've had such bad luck. But then again, considering how I'm inside a carriage while it pours, I guess my luck can still be considered good. Or at least that's what I was thinking when suddenly the carriage stopped and one of the escorts approached us.

"My lord, it seems there's been a landslide. We've confirmed that the road up ahead has been blocked." [Escort]

"What did you say? Is that true?" [Reinhart]

"Yes, the road is completely blocked. A big stone and tree has fallen, so we won't be able to pass for a while." [Escort]

"Can't we go around it?" [Reinhart]

"It would be a long way around if we tried. Moreover, while we've yet to confirm this, we believe there's a fairly large group of bandits should we try and go around.

According to a person with the Weather Forecast skill, the rain should be stopping in a few hours.

I recommend making camp and waiting out the rain. After that we can remove the blockage and be on our way. I believe this should allow us to reach our goal the fastest.

My lord, please decide.” [Escort]

“A long trip would be harsh on Elia, and I’d like to avoid a dangerous road... Let’s go with your suggestion.” [Reinbach]

“Thank you very much. We’ll get to work as soon as possible.” [Escort]

After that the carriage started moving again. Apparently, there’s a tree we could use to take shelter from the rain just up ahead. Personally, I find it a bad idea to stay near a tree when it’s pouring so heavily, but then again I haven’t heard any thunder, so I guess it’s fine?

Just to be safe, I should stay at least 2 meters away from the tree. That should at least make it safer for me in case lightning strikes.

5 minutes later, the carriage stopped, and Arone-san entered the carriage hurriedly.

“We’re preparing the camp as fast as we can, please wait a moment.” [Arone]

Arone said with a smile, but I was more concerned about the escorts working behind her while completely drenched.

As a former employee of a sweatshop back in Earth, I know full well that helping another person when he’s slacking off or trying to help someone despite knowing nothing is a recipe for disaster, but I still want to help.

If I recall correctly, there should be a barrier magic spell to ward off the rain. I haven’t used it in a while, so I’ve forgotten already, but that should allow me to help them without getting in their way.

“Mind if I, use barrier magic?” [Ryouma]

“Why all of the sudden?” [Reinhart]

Not good, that was too sudden. If I say that out of the blue without any explanation,

there's no they would understand.

"The people outside, are wet... I can use, a barrier to, ward off the rain. That should, make their work easier." [Ryouma]

"I see, that would help out a lot. Thank you." [Reinhart]

After getting permission, I took out a coat made from pelt and wore it. The outer part of its cloth has been dried like a resin with the sticky slime's sticky liquid, allowing it to repel the rain. My days hunting have gotten a lot easier ever since I made this thing.

I quickly wore it, approached a crowded place, and just as quickly casted the barrier magic.

Cover them and protect them from the rain 'Rain Shelter'

As I chanted the spell, a dome-shaped barrier protected the people from the rain.

Neither barrier nor mana could be seen by the human eye, so for a moment, the workers were shocked, but Camil-san was quick to pick up, and he waved his hands to thank me.

The other people thanked me too, but I just waved my hand in return and quickly went to my next target.

I couldn't cover everyone with one barrier, so I still needed to cast the spell in four more places. I went to the next closest one first. Incidentally, I'm also going to put a barrier up around the horses and the carriage, so I went back to the carriage.

"Good work, Ryouma-san." [Elialia]

"Thank you... 'Wave'" [Ryouma]

I took off my raincoat while replying to the Ojousama and Sebasu-san, then I expelled the water off my outfit with a basic water spell to avoid dirtying the carriage.

When I got back to my seat, there was a warm cup of tea and a new set of clothes prepared. The conversation naturally shifted to my raincoat.

"That rain gear of yours... I don't believe I've seen it before. Did you make it yourself, Ryouma-kun?" [Elialia]

“Yes.” [Ryouma]

“I noticed it was very effective at repelling water. Was there a beast in the Forest of Gana that could repel water so well?” [Elialia]

“I just treated it with the sticky slime’s sticky liquid... and dried it. Water can’t get through it, so it can repel the rain.” [Ryouma]

“The sticky slime’s sticky liquid has such an effect?” [Elialia]

Huh? She didn’t know that?

“You didn’t know about it?” [Ryouma]

“All I know is that it can be used as an adhesive.” [Elialia]

Really? For some reason, Reinbach-sama and the madam’s eyes are sparkling. Is this a new discovery too!? Just how little were slimes researched?

“Can I try that rain gear of yours a little?” [Reinbach]

“If you just, want to test it...” [Ryouma]

I took out several sheets of cloth from my Item Box.

“These cloths have already been treated. They’re thin and water can’t pass through them... They’re also worn out, but after the cleaner slimes treated them, they’re no longer dirty.” [Ryouma]

These were originally from bandits or the loincloths used by goblins, so please excuse them being all worn out.

When I handed out the cloths, it wasn’t just Reinbach-sama and the madam who took them, but Reinhart-sama and Sebasu-san also joined in.

They wrapped the cloths around their hands, and then they extended their hands outside the window to touch the rain flowing along the barrier.

“Ohh! It really can repel water!” [Reinbach]

“I’m not getting wet at all.” [Elize]

“it still feels a little cold, but that shouldn’t be any problem so long as a pelt is added inside Ryouma-sama’s rain gear.” [Sebasu]

“Ryouma-kun, why don’t you work with us and announce this rain gear of yours as a new product...” [Reinhart]

“Excuse me... Did you need me for something?” [Arone]

While the four adults were busy testing the water repelling abilities of my sticky slime’s sticky liquid treated cloth, Arone-san suddenly opened the door to the carriage.

Apparently, the helpers normally sat at the back, and extending one’s hand out the window was the sign used to indicate when their help was needed.

“Oh, there’s nothing actually. Ryouma was just showing us his newly developed rain gear.” [Reinhart]

“Is that so? In that case, I shall excuse myself then.” [Arone]

When Arone-san was about to close the door, it occurred to me that her clothes were wet.

She must’ve been working somewhere outside of the barrier too.

I called out to her in a panic and took out a treated curtain made from one of the cloths I looted off the bandits.

“Wait... Arone-san.” [Ryouma]

“Yes, how may I help you?” [Arone]

“This, can repel, water.” [Ryouma]

“I can borrow this?” [Arone]

“You’ll get cold if you get wet... so please wear it.” [Ryouma]

“Thank you. I’ll be borrowing this then.”

Arone-san thanked me with a smile and left, leaving the rest of us to discuss the wonders of the water-repelling cloth.





Apparently, this world mainly uses leather to make their water-resistant products, making bigger products such as tents significantly heavier. Compared to that, a cloth that has simply been treated with a sticky slime's sticky liquid is much lighter.

Moreover, rainwear tend to get dirty easily. Using a material like leather would make the rainwear more likely to stain, and on top of that, there's also the possibility of mold growing. To avoid that, one would have to expend a lot of effort from rubbing off the filth to coating with oil, and then finally, drying.

Compared to that, a sticky slime's sticky liquid treated cloth could be washed with water and it would also be less prone to getting dirty. In fact, I myself only use the water spell, Wave, to wash off the dirt from my rainwear. After that all that's left is to dry it. I've never had any problems.

After explaining that the conversation shifted to what kind of products we could make, and I suggested well-known modern products such as raincoats and umbrellas.

Hearing about this world's rainwear has finally given me that feeling of being in another world.

Still, it feels a little odd that my cheat seems to be heading toward the domestic affairs route. I'm pretty sure the power I received was supposed to be my magic, but somehow my modern earth knowledge is actually proving to be so useful.

While we were talking, the servants finally finished preparing the tents... I've already forgotten about that, actually.

"Thanks for waiting, the tents are ready now. Oh, and thanks to you too for helping us out." [Zeff]

"You're welcome." [Ryouma]

"How long will the rain be pouring?" [Reinhart]

"The guy with the weather forecast skill says it should continue for a few more hours. We'll begin clearing out the rubble once the rain has stopped." [Zeff]

"In that case, you rest until then. Especially, the earth mages. They'll be using a lot of their mana later, so make sure they rest up lots." [Reinhart]

"Loud and clear, boss." [Zeff]

After that Zeff-san saw us to the tent. To my surprise, the tent was really spacious with 4 small rooms inside. What a big and amazing tent.

“The carriage shook a lot more today, so I’m sure you’re tired. Rest up.” [Reinbach]

“Alright, I’ll rest up now... and then do my best later.” [Ryouma]

They didn’t just let me ride with them for free, they even covered my lodging. I have to do something for them. It’ll be good training too, so all the more.

Reinbach was confused when I said I would do my best, though.

“Do your best? At what?” [Reinbach]

“Earth magic... I can help clear, the rubble.” [Ryouma]

“Just let the guards take care of that. You just rest, ok?” [Reinbach]

“You’ve taken care of me so much already... Please let me do it. It’ll... do me some good too.” [Ryouma]

“Hmm... If you’re going to say that much, then I suppose you can. But, you definitely have to rest when you’re feeling tired, ok? You’ve already put up a barrier, so you better make sure you don’t run out of mana, or it’ll hurt.” [Reinbach]

Ah, so that’s what he’s worried about. I’m grateful.

“Thank you very much, I’ll be careful.” [Ryouma]



After that a few hours passed. The rain stopped as expected and the guards that could use earth magic were split into several groups to clear out the rubble.

I worked on the area where most of the earth mages were focusing their attention to. I used Break Rock to cause a big rock to collapse, then I used ‘Rock’ to harden the soil and sand, so that I could clear them out more efficiently.

I also used Create Block, a magic born from synthesizing Break Rock and Rock, to change the soil and the rocks into brick-sized building stones simultaneously. After which, I had the slimes carry them away.

Unlike the others who were working on only one area – either the soil or the rocks – I was working on both at the same time. Because of that I was able to progress much

faster. On top of that, the slimes were carrying the blocks I made through a bucket relay, making the whole process even faster, as it allowed me to put almost all of my attention on magic alone. I was making progress at a frightening rate.

When the guards saw me doing that, one of them approached me.

“Can I have a sec?” [Guard]

“What is it?” [Ryouma]

“Ryouma-kun, right? How do you use that magic? I can use earth magic, but I’m originally a swordsman, so I don’t know much... but I’ve definitely never seen a spell that could deal with soil and rocks at the same time like the one you’re using. Could you teach it to me too?” [Guard]

“This spell is called Create Block... If you can use Break Rock and Rock, then you can probably also use it... You use Break Rock to turn rocks into soil, and Rock to turn soil into rocks, right?” [Ryouma]

“Yeah.” [Guard]

“Then just imagine the process of turning rock into soil and soil into rock into as one process as you invoke your mana.

That way, rocks will turn to soil, while soil remains soil, and then everything can be turned into rock. You should decide beforehand what size of rock you want to turn your target into... In my case, I make them just big enough for the slimes to carry.” [Ryouma]

When the man tried it out on a nearby rock, the resulting size was a bit of a mess, but he still managed to successfully transform soil and rocks into transportable rocks simultaneously.

“Oh! I did it! I still need to work on the uniformity of the size and the number of rocks made at a time, but I still did it. With this I should be able to consume less magic. Thanks, Ryouma-kun.” [Guard]

“As long as it was of use to you.” [Ryouma]

He asked me if he could teach it to the others too, and since there wasn’t really a big difference whether one or two people learned it, I agreed.

I went back to work, and after a while, the sun was about to set. When the signal to stop working was given, I went back to the tent.

“Ryouma-kun, welcome home.” [Madam]

The madam came out to welcome me, but...

“FUGA!” [Ryouma]

“You worked hard! Ryouma-kun!” [Madam]

“L-Let me go... please...” [Ryouma]

Just when I was about to greet her, she suddenly embraced me. Can't breathe! I'm being choked by her chest! I beg you, let go...

“Madam! You're choking him! Please release him!” [Lilian]

“Huh? Ah!” [Madam]

“*COUGH! Haa...” [Ryouma]

“I'm sorry! Are you alright!?” [Madam]

“Haa... Yes, I'm alright. Umm... Lilian-san?.” [Ryouma]

“Y-Yes!?” [Lilian]

“Thank you. You saved me...” [Ryouma]

“Oh, it's nothing. By the way, will you be having supper now?” [Lilian]

“Yes, please.” [Ryouma]

When I said that, Lilian led me to the dining table.

“Hey, Ryouma-kun. Looks like you worked up quite a sweat.” [Reinhart]

“Can you eat? Don't force yourself, ok?” [Reinbach]

“Don't worry, my body is perfectly fine.” [Ryouma]

“Ho? I'm pretty sure you used a lot of magic, though.” [Reinhart]

“Yes, it was amazing. What was that spell called? Create Block?” [Madam]

“That's right.” [Ryouma]

“Thanks to Ryouma-kun and his slimes, and him teaching the guards that spell, it seems the rubble will be cleared out a lot faster.” [Reinhart]

“That's good to hear.” [Ryouma]

Apparently, by the time we wrapped up for the day, there was one person who was able to completely learn the spell and three others who were able to use it a fairly high level. Because of that progress greatly sped up. Incidentally, the person who learned the spell completely was Gorche-san, the person I spoke to before.

Around this time the food was finally brought over and we all started to dig in.

Suddenly, Elialia asked me a question.

“Ryouma-san, how big is your mana pool?” [Elialia]

“?” [Ryouma]

Come to think of it, how much mana do I have anyway? I’ve been casting one spell after another, so it should have increased...

“Is something the matter?” [Elialia]

“I don’t know... how much mana I have.” [Ryouma]

“Eh!? Didn’t you go to the church when you were 10?... Oh, right, you were cooped up in the forest, but in that case, how do you tell when you have enough mana left?” [Elialia]

“Based on feeling and my body’s condition.” [Ryouma]

“Is that ok?” [Elialia]

“It’s fine as long as you get used to it. So, people get their mana pool checked at the age of 10?” [Ryouma]

“Yes, upon turning 10, a normal family would go to the church to get their child’s status checked. They will also be able to know whether their child can be a mage or not in the future depending on how much mana he has. We nobles get checked at the age of 5, so we can start training as soon as possible.

Since you’re able to cast so many spells without running out of mana, you must have quite a bit.” [Reinbach]

After that we talked about the city we’re headed to and the various things to do after reaching it. After supper I was given a room in the tent. With everything that needed doing already done and with all the work to do tomorrow, I decided to go to bed early, but there was one thing bothering me.

When we were talking about my mana pool, for some reason, the ojousama kept looking at me. What was that about? I noticed her looking intermittently, but I have no idea what it means.

We only talked a little, but now that I think about, it does feel like the topic was changed quickly. Did I say something bad? It’s worrying, but I missed the timing to ask.

I should ask when I get the chance. I should ask as nonchalantly as possible, but if I can’t, then it might be better to ask when we’re closer.

How long have I been thinking like this? My eyes are so heavy.

No longer in the mood to go against the call of slumber, I went to sleep.

Chapter 13

Gimuru Town

3 days later.

Aside for that one landslide, our trip went smoothly. And because there was always someone with me around the clock, I gradually learned to talk normally. I'm still a bit stiff when talking, but people can at least understand me now.

Today, we finally reached our destination: Gimuru Town.

"We're here, the Town of Gimuru." [Elize]

"So this is Gimuru..." [Ryouma]

A quiet town surrounded by high walls and greeneries, that was my first impression of it. It was smaller compared to Kereban, the town we stopped by last, but because of that it appeared more stable.

I've heard it specializes in iron and steel because of a nearby mine, so I was expecting it to be a bit rowdier, but this is good too.

Along the way, however, Reinhart-san mentioned that the production of iron has been declining, and this year it has finally reached the point where they might have to close the mine down due to lack of profit. Seeing the state of the mine is actually one of the reasons the Jamil Household came here.

That being said, it seems they've already made their mind to abandon it. "There's more than one mine, so it shouldn't pose too big of a problem if we close one down," Reinhart-san said. So they're definitely expecting to close it down. It's not really a topic to discuss with a kid though, so he might have left out some details.

The acquisition rate from that one mine has been mostly zero these past 3 years, so unless they find a new vein, they're closing it for good. On top of that, the miners have already stopped working there since last year. Not that it's surprising or anything, after all, I'm sure anyone would prefer to do work that actually gets results. When it

affects your income, all the more.

“We’ll leave our luggage at the inn, and then we’ll drop by the tamer guild to register.”

The tamer guild is the guild in charge of monster tamers and conjurers. Its main function is to introduce jobs and gather information. It also introduces its members to lodging that they can stay at with their familiars, as well as provide feed for cheap. In other words, it acts as a support to affiliated members.

Other guilds also exist, such as the adventurer guild, the mage guild, and the merchant guild, but the tamer guild has the least members. Due to many people finding familiars scary, monster tamer as a profession is relatively unpopular. As such, the scope of the tamer guild is a lot smaller than others, and it also has fewer branches. Gimuru Town happens to have a mine nearby, so there’s a branch here due to the abundance of cargo work.

...I heard most of that from the madam, though.

The madam is in high spirits today, so much so that she pulled me and the ojousama along as she hummed...

But there was something bothering me, so I asked her a question.

“How much information should I give to the guild?” [Ryouma]

“Sharing information is up to the discretion of the discoverer, so it’s up to you to decide how much would be fine.” [Elize]

I see, then...

“In that case, I’ll register the information regarding the slime evolution conditions and the method to tame a big slime. I’ll also register the 2 new slime variants.” [Ryouma]

“You’re keeping the sticky slime’s sticky liquid’s usage a secret?” [Elize]

“Yes since doing so would raise the odds for counterfeit products appearing once waterproof cloths are introduced into the market.” [Ryouma]

“Well, that’s true.” [Elize]

We were originally planning to go straight to the tamer guild, but then Reinbach-sama said this.

“Ryouma-kun, you’ve never gone to the church before, right? In that case, I think it would be better if we go there first to get your status examined.” [Reinbach]

When he said that, Reinhart-san and the madam both made an ‘Oh, right!’ face.

Apparently, one will receive a status board after getting his status checked at the church, a magic tool that allows one to show his status. Having one would make registering in the guild easier, so it was advisable to get one first.

For example, if there was a requirement to know Monster Taming or Conjunction to register, so long as one has a status board, all he would have to do to prove he’s met said conditions is to show the column where his skills are located and he’ll immediately be able to register. Without one, one would have to wait for a while, as the clerk in charge would have to prepare a slime, so that the applicant may attempt a contract to prove that he’s met said conditions.

As such, we decided to change our plans and go to the Church of World Creation first. Also, we left the slimes to watch our lodging while we’re gone. We could have brought them if we were just going to the tamer guild, but it can’t be helped.



When we got to the church, the person who greeted us was an elderly woman dressed in religious garment.

“Welcome, are you here to attend the chapel?” [Nun]

“We’re here to get this child’s status board. Due to some circumstances, he hasn’t gotten his status board yet.” [Reinhart]

“Greetings.” [Ryouma]

“I see, follow me then. I will lead you to the baptism hall.” [Nun]

I had to follow the woman dressed in religious garment alone, as only people receiving the baptism could enter.

“Please enter.” [Nun]

“Excuse me.” [Ryouma]

The room she led me to had a crystal ball and pedestal just like the one I saw back at Kereban at the guard house. Everything looked exactly the same except for the vertical

rectangular depression about as big as one's hand on the pedestal.

"This plate will become your status board. We'll place this here in the depressed spot, and as soon as you touch the crystal ball, the baptism will end. The crystal ball will emit a powerful light upon touching it, but please don't be alarmed." [Nun]

"Alright." [Ryouma]

The woman said as she showed me a transparent plate. After setting it inside the depressed spot, she urged me to touch the crystal.

"Please touch the crystal." [Nun]

"Ok." [Ryouma]

While feeling a little excited, I slowly approached the crystal and touched it. In that instant, a blinding light illuminated from the crystal. It was just like when I came to this world for the first time.

The light was so strong that I was forced to close my eyes. In fact it was so strong that it was not eigengrau that greeted me upon closing my eyes but a red color that gradually grew weaker as the light became fainter.

"U...? !?"



When the blinding light was gone, I opened my eyes, and what greeted me next was a space completely different from the earlier baptism hall.

This is the gods'...

"Hey! Ryouma-kun!" [Kufo]

"Over here!" [Gayn]

"Behind you!" [Rurutia]

Dazed, I turned around, and there I saw the three gods that sent me to the world of Sailfall standing. If they're here, then that must mean that I really am in that place.

"Gayn, Kufo, Rurutia... Did I die again?" [Ryouma]

"Oh, no, not at all. We just stopped the time in Sailfall a little and pulled your soul here."

[Gayn]

“I didn’t think we’d actually meet like this again, but who would’ve thought you would actually pray everyday to that statue you made in the forest.” [Kufo]

“Remember how you did nothing for three years but train, research, and pray? On top of which you ate only enough to fill yourself? That’s actually just like a clergyman’s training.” [Rurutia]

Really?

“Because you’ve met us before you were able to believe from the bottom of your heart that we truly existed. And after praying to us everyday for three years, you’ve cleared more than enough conditions to receive the Oracle skill.

Going to the baptism hall just woke it up, and in fact, once you return to your body, you’ll realize that you’ve learned a new skill called ‘Oracle’. It should be about level 2 or 3.” [Gayn]

“I see... In any case, I’m happy to be able to meet you again.” [Ryouma]

There was a lot to digest even with just this short exchange, but everything was happening so suddenly that I couldn’t process them all.

“We’re happy too. Especially, since you came to church.” [Rurutia]

“It looks like you’re enjoying your new life. We’re always watching you, you know? And from what we’ve seen, it seems you’re always doing one interesting after another.” [Kufo]

“I never expected you to coop up in the forest for 3 years. It’s a short time to us, but it’s fairly long for you humans. To begin with, while that forest is relatively safe, it’s not completely free of danger. At most, we thought you’d stay there for one year...” [Gayn]



The three gods happily talked like that, but it felt like they were wearing a faint wry smile.

“Did you know? You actually managed to make quite the luxurious home with just your magic and skills.” [Rurutia]

“That house of yours might look simple, but it’s actually really amazing considering where it’s located. I mean despite being in the middle of a forest, it’s safe, it’s big, it’s clean, and it has a lot of facilities. Especially that bath of yours, which is actually a luxury in this world. On top of that, I think you’re actually the only one in this world with a toilet that clean.” [Kufo]

“You making that much progress with your slime research was also a surprise. There’s not a lot of people who research it to begin with... I was especially surprised by those two new variants you produced: the cleaner slime and the scavenger slime.[Gayn]

“...Ah, ahh. So they really are new. I thought that might be the case after hearing someone from a monster tamer family say that they’ve never heard of them.” [Ryouma]

“I created the slimes, but all I did was give it the ability to adapt to its environment and reproduce. Because of that its possibilities are endless. Unfortunately, it’s too weak, so it just gets preyed upon by other animals, and its numbers don’t increase much after birth.”

The slimes are born differently depending on the environment, so even I forgot about their potential. So, I say, you did a really good job!” [Gayn]

“You must be the first person to research slimes that much.” [Rurutia]

Did people ignore slimes that much?

“Well, I made the slimes and even I forgot about them... In fact, I think you might even know about them than I do.” [Gayn]

“So the possibilities of slimes go beyond even a god’s knowledge?” [Ryouma]

“Well, there are still a lot of things you have in mind regarding slimes, right? I took a peek at your research, and you just kept coming up with ideas I could never even dream of.

To begin with, I may be a god, but I’m not all-powerful. We gods each have our own specialties and things we’re bad at. There are times when the creatures we created do things that surprise us too.” [Gayn]

“For example, humans normally can’t hurt us because we’re gods, but if you were to

try and beat us up now, you'd easily be able to. After all, we don't have any combat abilities.

We could use our divine powers to make it so that you can't touch us, but we can't win against you in terms of skills. Ah, but a god that specializes in combat won't lose." [Kufo}

"R-... I see." [Ryouma]

I didn't know that.

"Well, humans do tend to think of gods as all-powerful. But in any case, it's good to see you having fun. Moreover, you actually made contact with that family." [Rurutia]

Hmm? The gods know of the Jamil Household? Oh, but their gods, that shouldn't be a strange thing.

"Is there anything special about them? Not societally, but from the gods' standpoint?" [Ryouma]



The one who answered my question was Rurutia.

"Their ancestor was an otherworlder we brought over from Earth." [Rurutia]

"Really!?" [Ryouma]

"Yep, she was a really good kid~ She wanted to become an animal trainer, but because of some circumstances, she couldn't become one, so she asked us for the power to tame animals."

"Could it be that's the origin of Monster Taming?" [Ryouma]

"You're half-right. Actually, there was a similar technique at the time, which she studied too. After combining that with the power we gave her, she created Monster Taming. After completing it, she went on to gain various achievements, gained a noble title, and ended up marrying a noble. She was pretty and fairly popular, you see. Oh, and it was a love marriage. After that, her lineage passed down her techniques and they became the official line of monster tamers." [Rurutia]

"The current Jamil Household has also received many divine protections. Reinbach has mine, Reinhart has Kufo's, and Elize's has Rurutia's. Their daughter Elia has also deeply inherited the blood of her otherworlder ancestor, so naturally, we know them

well.” [Gayn]

“We watch them the most after you.” [Kufo]

“Hmm... Then the ojousama is very talented in Monster Taming?” [Ryouma]

“Talented, yes, but that’s something she inherited from her father’s side. The otherworlder blood she inherited actually comes from her mother’s side, a different otherworlder.

That otherworlder was your stereotypical otaku. He hated exercise and did not want to learn martial arts, so he asked to be made peerless in magic instead. Unlike you, he asked to be given more mana. As a result, he ended up with a powerful magic that could be cast repeatedly. It did take him a while to learn various magic, though.” [Gayn]

“It’s because he didn’t know how to take care of himself~” [Kufo]

“He’s a coward with no guts, so it’s already fortunate that he didn’t do anything bad. I was wondering what would happen after we bestowed him his powers, but he was paranoid to the very end.” [Rurutia]

Just how amazing was that otherworlder?

Still...

“It seems there are a lot of otherworlders, huh. Will I also meet one in my travels?” [Ryouma]

“One gets brought over every time we take mana from Earth, so of course, there’s a lot. But as for there being several otherworlders at the same time, it’s fairly rare. After all, there’s usually a 200 year gap between otherworlders, and that’s considered short.” [Gayn]

“Although there are times when mana consumption goes up – mainly because of war – and we have to bring more people than normal from Earth, but normally, more than one otherworlder at a time doesn’t happen. Presently, there’s no big war, so I think you’ll probably be the only one while you’re alive.” [Rurutia]

“If you want to know more about otherworlders, you should read books. Most of them have powers and skills similar to that of gods, so there are a lot of legends and fairytales about them. There are epics too.

For example, Elialia-chan’s matriarchal side’s peerless mage ancestor was summoned during wartime. That otherworlder came to be renowned as a brave warrior and a hero. There are also... Stories wherein the otherworlders get too arrogant and end up being treated like the demon king, causing other people to kill them. You’ve heard of the Alchemy King, right?” [Rurutia]

“Yes, is he an otherworlder too?” [Ryouma]

“That’s right. He was a reeeeeeeally annoying person though!” [Rurutia]

“He wanted to use alchemy, but when we told him there was no alchemy in the world, he said ‘Go make it then!’ He was really arrogant too, such that he had his subordinates call him ‘Alchemy King’ and had them spread word.” [Rurutia]

“It couldn’t be helped, so I had to figure out what alchemy was from him and from that I put something together halfheartedly.” [Gayn]

“Halfheartedly? Could that be why it’s so easy to use?” [Ryouma]

“That’s right.” [Gayn]

“I knew it! Write a simple magic formation, place the ingredients on top, apply mana... I thought it was a bit too easy, so that’s why! I found it strange because it didn’t need the careful balance of mana that the other schools of magic required.” [Ryouma]

“I didn’t want to waste time because of his selfishness, you see. I may have too much free time, but I’d rather that than be annoyed.” [Gayn]

“I agree with you there, but... How to put it...” [Ryouma]

“Even then, alchemy is still difficult for the people of this world. This world doesn’t have any knowledge of Chemistry, after all. The Alchemy King could use it easily because of his earthling knowledge, which allowed him to make a killing, but after that, no one else could use alchemy. The most people could do was separate some objects into their components.

The Alchemy King was obsessed with money, so because he didn’t want to have anyone taking away his profits, he never passed down his knowledge and abilities. The secretive nature of current alchemists is also due to his influence.” [Gayn]

“So that happened, huh...” [Ryouma]

He sure did whatever he pleased, that otherworlder...

“You’re actually really docile compared to the otherworlders until now... It may seem like you’re just being swept by others, but that’s not actually the case. You can make decisions for yourself, you follow rules you’ve set, and you try out various things. To us and to Sailfall, you are the best kind of otherworlder.” [Kufo]

“What’s this all of the sudden?” [Ryouma]

“Fuffu~n, we may act like this, but we’re still gods. Gotta act the part from time to time.” [Kufo]

“Ahh, I see...” [Ryouma]

“You don’t have to think too hard about it. Even if you just go with the flow like you did in your previous world, you won’t end up like last time. Besides, it’s not that bad to

just go with the flow.” [Rurutia]

“It’s enough to enjoy life, no?” [Gayn]

“That’s right... Yeah. Thanks.” [Ryouma]

“Don’t mind it, we are gods, after all. The least we can do is give advice.” [Gayn]

“Consider it as thanks for making our lives more eventful.” [Kufo]

“...We’ve almost reached the time limit. I’ll give some advice before our time is up.”

[Gayn]

“I’ve lost the words I knew in my past life, so this is all I can say for now, but... Thank you.” [Ryouma]

“You’re welcome.” [Rurutia]

“It’s because everyone is watching over me.” [Ryouma]

“Actually, the other gods have also been recently watching you.” [Gayn]

“Huh, other gods?” [Ryouma]

I opened my eyes wide at that sudden drop.

“The god of war and the god of magic both have their attention on you. It’s rare since they usually hate otherworlders.” [Gayn]

“You’ve only met us so far, but you’ll meet the other gods too when the time comes.”

[Rurutia]

“I never heard anything about that...” [Ryouma]

“Don’t worry about it, it’s not like they’re going to ask you to do something. Ah, but it seems the God of Art and Craftsmen has already given you his blessing. It’s not a bad thing, so don’t worry.” [Kufo]

“He said it’s because he likes the way you drank liquor in your past life. That guy is also the God of Liquor, and while you may not have drunk happily in the past, being able to drink that much is still worthy of admiration.

He also mentioned that he’d like to see your Drunken Fist once.” [Gayn]

“Drunken Fist? You mean that thing I copied from the movies in the forest? He was watching that? Who would’ve thought someone would like that stuff...” [Ryouma]

“You never know what’ll happen in life. And with your grandpa who supposedly raised you in this world being a dwarf, well, Tekun, the God of Liquor, also happens to be mainly worshiped by the dwarves.” [Gayn]

“That does make sense.” [Ryouma]

“Anyway, we really are out of time now, so we have to go.” [Gayn]

Eh!? Ah, right...

I just went along with the flow and chatted, but before I knew it, our time is already up.

That light started to glow around me again.

“It was nice seeing each other again...” [Kufo]

“Don’t make such a glum face. We’ll be able to talk again when you drop by the church. Although, we honestly weren’t expecting this.” [Rurutia]

“...I see. Then, until next time.” [Ryouma]

“Yep, until next time.” [Kufo]

“You really are an interesting person. I eagerly await the day we meet again. I’ll watch over you throughout your days.” [Gayn]

As Gayn said that, a soft light flowed out, and when the light ceased, I could see the woman in religious clothing again.

“Wow, that was an amazing light. The brighter the light, the more the gods love you, so you might one day receive a blessing from the gods. Check it with your status board later, ok?”

Looks like the time here really did stop just like Gayn said. Maybe I should ask about blessings?

“Thank you very much. Is there anything I should know regarding blessings?” [Ryouma]

“A blessing is something a god bestows on you. No one has the right to say anything about it except you and your god. I’ll answer if you have any questions, but I won’t ask you anything. Also, it’s normal to show your name, age, and race on your status card, but you should hide everything else. That’s private information, after all. You can hide or show information by thinking about it. Try it.” [Nun]

When she said that, I looked at the information shown on my status board.

Chapter 14

Studying at the Church

Name: Ryouma Takebayashi

Gender: Male

Age: 11

Race: Human

HP: 11,052

MP: 198,000

Domestic Skills

Domestic Chores Lv10

Etiquette Lv7

Musical Instrument Lv3

Singing Lv3

Calculation Lv5

Battle Skills

Close-Combat Mastery Lv7

Sword Mastery Lv7

Knife Mastery Lv6

Hidden Weapons Mastery Lv7

Spear Mastery Lv4

Bow Mastery Lv6

Staff Mastery Lv6

Weight Control Lv4

Throwing Weapons Mastery Lv7

Stealth Mastery Lv7

Traps Lv6

Body Control Lv6

Spirit Cultivation Lv5

Magic Skills

(Note: All levels in this section were previously Lv1.)

Monster Taming Lv2
Barrier Magic Lv2
Healing Magic Lv1
Alchemy Lv2
Fire Magic Lv3
Water Magic Lv3
Wind Magic Lv2
Earth Magic Lv4
Neutral Magic Lv3
Electric Magic Lv1
Ice Magic Lv2
Poison Magic Lv2
Wood Magic Lv3
Light Magic Lv2
Dark Magic Lv1
Space Magic Lv3
Magic Perception Lv3
Magic Manipulation Lv4
Increased MP Recovery Lv2

Production Skills

Pharmacy Lv6
Smithing Lv1
Architecture Lv3
Woodworking Lv3
Molding Lv4
Drawing Lv4

Resistance Skills

Physical Pain Resistance Lv8
Mental Resistance Lv9
Health Lv7
Stench Resistance Lv3 (NEW)

Special Skills

Survival Skills Lv3
Focused Mind Lv5
Greater vitality Lv3
Greater Stamina Lv6

Super Regeneration Lv3

Titles

Usurper

One Who has Lived Through Misfortune

Favored Child of the Gods

Disciple of the Sage

Disciple of the Martial God

Blessings

Blessing of Gayn, the God of Creation

Blessing of Kufo, the God of Life

Blessing of Rurutia, the God of Love

Blessing of Tekun, the God of Liquor

Well, the mana is about as expected. I was told beforehand that it would increase as long as I keep using magic, so there's no surprise there. The skills, on the other hand... A lot sure have leveled up. Not to mention, that's a lot of magic skills... Hmm? What's with this disciple stuff? Oh, this must be the setting the gods provided to ensure that there's nothing suspicious about my high skill levels. There're also the blessings from Gayn's group and the Liquor God. Anyway, let's hide everything else except for the name, age, and gender just like I was told.

“Done.” [Ryouma]

“I'll lead you to where your chaperons are waiting then. I suggest asking them if you want a more comprehensive answer to your questions.” [Nun]

When we left the baptism hall, I heard the sound of children coming from outside.

“Wait!” [Kid 1]

“Ahahaha! Over here!” [Kid 2]

I turned toward the source of that sound, and there I saw children dressed in old clothes playing.

“They are children under the care of this church. They're always so lively, so after finishing their chores, they would go out and play just like that.” [Nun]

Not sure if they're orphans or children who simply don't know their own family, though.

"Please follow me." [Nun]

I followed after the woman to a room in the church where Reinhart-san, the madam, Reinbach-sama, and the ojousama were eagerly waiting.

"The baptism has ended without any problems." [Nun]

"Sorry to have kept you waiting." [Ryouma]

"It's fine." [Reinhart]

After Reinhart-san said that, the woman immediately excused herself.

"I'll be excusing myself now then. Please feel free to use this room until you leave."
[Nun]

"Thank you." [Reinhart]

I also thanked her.

"Thank you very much." [Ryouma]

"You're welcome. Well then..." [Nun]

I saw the woman off as she left the room, then I turned to Reinhart-san with a puzzled expression.

"She seemed to be in a hurry... Is something the matter?" [Ryouma]

"The information within the status board is private information, so she's being considerate." [Reinhart]

"This room has also been prepared so that the baptized and his relatives may be able to talk among themselves away from prying ears." [Madam]

"So that's how it is." [Ryouma]

"It's best not to speak needlessly of one status, after all. Hiding one's status board in the past was illegal, but because of that there were a lot of people who used that information for evil. As such, it's currently common practice to hide it." [Reinbach]

"Revealing one's status information reveals one's fighting style and abilities, not to mention HP, MP, and other battle-related stuff, so it's usually only revealed to people one can trust. Blessings aren't revealed for the same reason. Normally, only one's name, age, race, and – depending on the person – titles are shown." [Reinhart]

“I see.” [Ryouma]

“Which is why, Ryouma-kun, you should make sure to hide your information, ok? You can ask us if you have any questions, but if you don’t want to reveal something, you don’t have to.” [Madam]

These people really are so kind... I’ll figure out later what to show.

“I understand.” [Ryouma]

As I said that, Reinbach-sama nodded in satisfaction, then he spoke with a serious face.

“Now that you have a status board, there’s something I have to tell you.” [Reinbach]

“What is it?” [Ryouma]

“It’s about your abilities. From what I’ve seen so far, your abilities should be extremely high compared to other children your age. Because of that I’m sure a lot of people up to no good will approach you. If you don’t want that to happen, you should hide your skills, and gain a position to protect yourself.

The problem is you’re too skilled, so it won’t be easy to keep a low profile; therefore, I think it would be best if you register at a guild as soon as possible and get a good position, or more specifically, a high rank. If anything happens, I’ll help out, but you should still exercise caution.” [Reinbach]

“Your abilities don’t match up with your age, so anyone can immediately tell that you’ve received a blessing from a god, but depending what kind of blessing it is, your life can seriously be in danger, so be careful.” [Reinhart]

...It’s true I haven’t really been holding myself back that much, but have I really done anything odd? It’s not like I’ve given my all or anything...

“I’ll be careful.” [Ryouma]

“...?” [Ryouma]

As I said that, it occurred to me that the ojou-sama was looking at me oddly like last time. I haven’t really done anything in particular this time, so I wonder if there’s anything she wants to ask?

“Is something the matter?” [Ryouma]

“Eh!?” [Elialia]

“I thought there might be something you wanted to ask.” [Ryouma]

“That’s...” [Elialia]

When I said that, the ojou-sama started speaking honestly.

“Actually, I’m a bit curious about how much mana you have.” [Elialia]

“Mana?” [Ryouma]

“Yes. Ryouma-san, last time you used a lot of magic, but you never ran out of mana. According to father, the amount of mana you used that time was enough to make a normal person faint, so I was wondering how much you actually had.” [Elialia]

Mana, huh. It’ll probably be fine even if I tell these people. Especially, since they’ve already seen me use enough mana to make a normal person faint. I was only using it like I did back when I was living at the forest, though... Ah! That must be why I was told to hide my abilities. Now, I get it.

“Ah... I just checked awhile ago, and it seems I have 198,000MP.” [Ryouma]

When I said that the people of the ducal family all opened their eyes wide and the ojou-sama looked at me with a complicated gaze, but that was all.

Huh? Isn’t their reaction a bit lacking?

“198,000MP, and yet you could cast so many spells.” [Elialia]

“Well, the bigger your mana pool is, the more spells you can cast.” [Ryouma]

“Eh? O-Oh, that’s not what I meant. I mean you’re able to use magic properly.” [Elialia]

“Properly?” [Ryouma]

“H-Huh? D-Did I say anything odd?” [Elialia]

For some reason, the conversation was running completely parallel. The ojou-sama was starting to be troubled, so Sebasu-san interjected.

“Ryouma-sama, could it be that you don’t have any difficulties using magic?” [Sebasu]

“Difficulties? Is that supposed to happen?” [Ryouma]

When I replied like that, everyone was taken aback.

Apparently, while a bigger mana pool gives a big advantage, it also makes it very difficult to control it, making it difficult to learn spells.

Trying to release a small amount of mana, for example, would usually result in mana gushing forth like a broken faucet or something. Because of that, people with huge mana pools need to train more extensively on control compared to those with smaller mana pools.

...I think I have a clue why I'm like this. When I first came to this world, the first spell I used was Break Rock. At that time, the most I could do was to open a hole just big enough for my finger to get into.

It was my first time, so I didn't realize it then, but I certainly did fail to control the mana I released, causing much of it to disperse. When that happens, the spell cast won't have any effect. In other words, I was soiling myself with mana, and I was just using a tiny bit of the mana I had.

As I continued to use magic, that problem became apparent. And after more practice, I started to be able to control it better. Better control meant less mana consumption and more effective spells.

Three years later, I'd improved greatly, and the result were those spells I used when the road was blocked. Although it's the same spell, my current earth magic is leagues above that when I first came here. From my perspective, it's normal not to be able to use magic, so I didn't find anything odd about it. I just thought I'd grown a bit, but it seems, this was a bigger deal than expected.

From the perspective of this world, someone who is able to control a vast amount of mana is a skilled person who's gone through harsh training.

...It feels a bit weird calling myself skilled, but anyway, I get it now.

"I never had anyone to compare myself to, so I never noticed. Sorry." [Ryouma]

"Ryouma-san, don't you know how amazing you are for being able to use magic so easily? I'm the same age, and yet I can't use magic at all." [Elialia]

"Huh?" [Ryouma]

"...Actually, my mana pool is at 200,000MP" [Elialia]

"200,000!?" [Ryouma]



“200,000!?”

That’s more than me! So that’s why the adults’ response was so lackluster! Gayn and the others were right. Elialia has definitely inherited much of her ancestor otherworlder’s blood. She was probably looking at me oddly because she thought I had a huge mana pool and was wondering how I could use magic well.

“I think I understand the situation now.” [Ryouma]

“That’s good to hear. It’s my first time meeting someone with a mana pool comparable to mine. To be honest, I’m also curious to what extent you can use magic and how you learned it, but I won’t ask...” [Elialia]

“It’s ok. I can show you the magic section of my status board. I’m curious too, anyway.” [Ryouma]

I called out my status board and showed the column on magic.

“Hmm... I see you’ve learned many different schools of magic. The levels are also relatively high considering your age. You did mention that you could use all attributes, but I didn’t think you’d actually be able to use them to this extent.” [Reinbach]

“All the beginner spells are at least level 2, and you even have level 2 or 3 intermediate spells.” [Reinhart]

“Your earth and space magic, in particular, are quite high. You’ve done well considering space magic is said to be one of the harder schools to level up.” [Elize]

“I believe it isn’t too much to say that you might surpass even me. To think you even possess Magic Manipulation, Magic Perception, and Increased MP Recovery.” [Sebasu]

“It’s because I used magic a lot back in the forest... Water and fire spells were used for cooking and bathing, while I used the earth and space spells for hunting, so I was using them pretty much everyday.” [Ryouma]

“Hmm, did you use offensive magic?” [Elize]

“No, I mostly rely on archery and trapping for hunting. I could use the fireball spell, but it would leave the meat charred and the parts I could consume would be less. As for Earth Needle, I used it to fill my pitfalls.” [Ryouma]

“I see. So you were able to improve your magic this much by using them daily. In that case, you should start studying offensive magic. There’s no harm in learning them, and there are monsters immune to physical attack.” [Sebasu]

Oh, right! There were monsters like that. Or I mean, it’s only a given monsters like that

would exist in this world. Any fantasy light novel would say so! I really shouldn't have forgotten, but I was cooped up in my little space for so long that I actually forgot. I should start practicing offensive magic from now on.

"I would like to try it." [Ryouma]

"The beginner spells are relatively easy, so you should be able to learn up to the intermediate spells with a little training. You have a lot of mana, so you might even be able to learn the advanced spells of the earth school." [Sebasu]

"You have Magic Manipulation on top of your huge mana pool, after all. Coupled with your Increased MP Recovery, you'll be able to train a lot in a day." [Reinhart]

"Those gifts of yours are very convenient as a mage. Don't waste them, ok?" [Reinbach]

"Yes, I'll do my best." [Ryouma]

While I was starting to understand how unique my skills were outside the forest, the Ojousama, who was staring wordlessly at my status board, suddenly spoke.

"So Ryouma-san trained by using his spells in his day-to-day life... Then maybe if I do the same thing, I'll also..." [Elialia]

"You don't have to use it for trivial things alone. You could also play with it." [Ryouma]

"Play with magic?" [Elialia]

She looked like she wanted to improve, so I told her of the things I did in the forest, but for some reason, she looked at me with a strange face.

"You've never messed around with the basic beginner spells?" [Ryouma]

"No. I've always been practicing my magic according to my curriculum." [Elialia]

"A person's skill in magic heavily influences his income regardless of whether he is a noble or not, so you won't hear a lot of people fooling around with magic." [Elize]

"For example, fire magic can be used in places that require strong heat like a smithery. Ice magic or space magic can be used to transport food. Earth magic or wood magic can be used for construction or farming. There are all sorts, but the demand is there. Which is why the more skilled one is, the less difficulty he'll have finding work. Or at the very least, have more options than a non-mage." [Reinhart]

I see. So it's not that playing with magic has been forbidden by religion, but that people have always looked at it as a means to put food on the table. As such, the people of this world treat playing with magic as the same as wasting mana. So, I guess she can't use this method then?

But just as I was thinking that, the three adults started supporting me.

“Playing with magic... That’s not something you hear often, but Elia, if you’re interested, you should give it a try.” [Reinbach]

“You have 200,000MP, after all. You should still have plenty left over even if you fool around a little.” [Reinhart]

“It would make for a good breather too.” [Reinbach]

I asked if that was really alright, and they said that the ojousama has plenty of mana to spare. A little bit wouldn’t hurt. Besides, it was something a skilled mage (me) suggested, so they figured they might as well give it a shot.

Then I guess I’ll teach the ojousama how to play with magic. Or so I was thinking, but we’re borrowing a room from the church right now. It wouldn’t be a good idea to do it here.

“Then I’ll teach you when there’s an opportunity.” [Ryouma]

“Really!? I’ll be waiting then!” [Elialia]

The ojousama was so happy that she took my hands.

It’s a simple beginner spell that any actual mage could use, but seeing her this happy makes me happy too.

“Now then, I believe we should be going soon. We’ve already talked about what needed to be talked about and we still have other errands to run.” [Reinhart]

Just as Reinhart-san said, we still had to register at the guild.

Remembering that, we all left the church and went to the tamer guild.

Chapter 15

Guild Registration

As I went with the others to the tamer guild, the first thing that came to view was tram stop where the monster pulling wagons were. This is a mining town, so transport jobs are naturally the most popular jobs around here. Following that logic, there's a lot of large-sized monsters, most of which either look like a cow or a horse. There are also some boar-like ones.

It seems small monsters can be taken inside the guild without any problem, so I could bring the slimes with us as long I have them use the shrink skill.

It was mostly humans inside the guild, but there were some goblins here and there carrying luggage.

Reinhart-san led us to a counter.

"Welcome to the Tamer Guild Gimuru Branch. How may I help you?" [Clerk]

"We will be registering my daughter and this child. We will also be submitting new information." [Reinhart]

"Very well. Please follow me." [Clerk]

The person manning the counter led us to a room and served us tea. A few minutes later, a man dressed in clothes better than the other staff members came with carrying some writing implements.

The man had a hair of red and white in a ratio of 8:2, arranged properly as if he had taken the time to get it done. He looked fairly old.

Light reflected off his hair as he looked toward us through his golden-rimmed glasses.

"It's been a while, Reinbach. I see the young lad, Reinhart, and Elize's daughter is well." [Well-Attired Old Man]

“It’s been a while.” [Elize]

“You seem to be doing well, Taylor.” [Reinbach]

Apparently, he’s an acquaintance of the ducal family.

“Not bad, anyway. As for the two of you, this will be our first time meeting. I am Taylor Smith, the man in charge of the Tamer Guild Gimuru Branch. By the way, Reinbach, since when did you have two grandchildren? I’ve heard of your granddaughter, I’m sure, but lately I’ve been forgetting things, so do forgive me if I’m mistaken.” [Taylor]

“Elialia is my only grandchild. This boy here is Ryouma-kun. By some stroke of fate, we met him a few days ago. We would like to register both him and my granddaughter to the tamer guild, and I would like you to raise his rank as soon as possible.” [Reinbach]

Can you really ask something like that!? I yelled inwardly.

When I glanced at Reinbach-sama’s face, he said this.

“Ryouma-kun, Taylor is an old friend of mine, he’s a man you can trust. There won’t be any problems.” [Reinbach]

When Reinbach-sama said that, the branch head, Taylor, spoke as if nothing at all was amiss.

“I can accommodate him to some extent since you’re the one introducing him, but a quick rank up will require that he has the skill for it.” [Taylor]

“Don’t worry, in the first place, the reason I’m asking this is because Ryouma-kun is far too skilled for his age.” [Reinbach]

“So you want a position that will prevent some strange people from messing with him, I see... I’d love to sit down and hear about his situation, but for now, let’s go ahead and proceed with the registration.” [Taylor]

Taylor took out two sheets of paper from the bundle of paper he was carrying by his armpit and handed them to me and Elialia.

“Fill in the necessary blanks. Ryouma-kun, will you be needing an amanuensis?”
[Taylor]

“Thank you, but I can write a little, so I’ll fill the blanks in myself.” [Ryouma]

I quickly filled in the blanks and submitted the paper to Taylor. The necessary blanks were name, age, race, and how long I’ve known Monster Taming or Conjuration.

“...So the young lady completed her first contract just a few days ago. Congratulations.”
[Taylor]

“Thank you very much.”

Taylor smiled at Elialia, then he glanced at the paper I submitted.

“Ryouma-kun, you completed your first contract 3 years ago. What familiars do you have with you now?” [Taylor]

“Slimes.” [Ryouma]

When I said all I had were slimes, Taylor made a difficult face.

“If all you have are slimes, I’m afraid it will be difficult to raise your rank... The jobs in this town revolve mainly around transporting goods or luggage. You need to at least have a goblin or a kobold if I’m to introduce you to a job. I can’t just give you work you’re unsuited to, after all.

To raise your rank, the first thing needed is a merit of some sort. That’s something you can normally build up by fulfilling one job after another. In other words, a person who can’t work can’t gain merit.” [Taylor]

Well, yeah. After all, if the guild can’t get any work done, no one will trust them.

Should I talk about my research here? As I thought that, I looked to Reinbach-sama and the others for confirmation. When I saw them nod, I went ahead and explained about the 2 new slimes I discovered, as well as my findings on the method to tame the Big Slime.

Taylor didn't show much of a reaction to the two new variants, but as soon as I mentioned the taming methods of the Big Slime, he quickly hushed me before I could even say anything. After that he made a difficult face and fell silent.

"Hmm... If you've really figured out the method to tame the Big Slime that would indeed be a big achievement, but..." [Taylor]

"Is there a problem?" [Ryouma]

When I asked that, Taylor made a face that looked like he'd eaten a bug.

"There's a current trend among Monster Tamers wherein only those who can tame powerful monsters are considered excellent." [Taylor]

"That's nothing new. Those people were around even when we were still children ourselves." [Reinbach]

"That's true, but the trend has been getting stronger lately. People who share those sentiments have increased among the upper brass of the Tamer Guild. I'm in charge of the branch here, so I'm able to keep an eye for any discrimination of the sort, but transport jobs are still the main jobs here, so there are definitely a considerable number of people who share that sentiment. One's abilities aren't really meant to be dictated by such meaningless standard, but unfortunately..." [Taylor]

We've digressed from the topic a bit, but after asking again, it seems I can indeed raise my rank by submitting my research findings. Only, the details of the promotion would require the details to be sent to the main branch, which will then scrutinize the information I've submitted and decide whether I'm worthy of a promotion or not. If they decide I'm unworthy, I'll end up being investigated and I might even be demoted.

Moreover, because of the recent trend, slime-related matters aren't currently valued, so I might not be promoted even if I hand over the information on the big slime. In that case, I'll only be calling trouble to myself.

I think it'll be better if I just give up.



“A lot has changed since I was active.” [Reinbach]

“It comes with the years. The old retires one by one, and now, even the upper brass are getting younger. Because of that even the opinion on familiars is changing. Ah, forgive me, I’m starting to rant.

Anyway, let’s continue with the registration. Once you’ve been registered you’ll be able to purchase feed from the guild at discount and you’ll be able to receive tutoring from your seniors if you wish. There’s nothing amiss with your documents, so all that’s left now is to confirm your skills. You can show me the Monster Taming skill on your status board as proof or you can choose to show me your familiar. Up to you.” [Taylor]

The ojousama and I decided to show him our status board.

“No need to do it directly. Just Place your status board on top of this stone plate.” [Taylor]

The stone plate he presented had a hollowed part on it just like the one at the baptism hall. But this time there was a metal plate inside the hollow part. It seems we were supposed to place our status board on the empty part.

The ojousama went first then me. When we inserted our status board a character appeared on the metal plate.

“And with that, your registration is complete. We of the Tamer Guild welcome you as our new members.” [Taylor]

After that the branch head, Taylor, asked me about my circumstances. I told him the same thing I told the ducal family.

“In that case, why don’t you play it long for the tamer guild and register at the Adventurers Guild as well? If you can live in a forest for 3 years alone and even hunt a black bear, then you must be quite the hunter. The Adventurers Guild should be able to accommodate your promotion.” [Taylor]

“I thought it would be safer to rely on you, so we came here.” [Reinbach]

“I see. Sorry for not being able to help.” [Taylor]

“Well, it’s not your fault. I’m sure Ryouma will do just fine at the Adventurers Guild.”
[Reinbach]

The Adventurers Guild can’t give jobs to people with no abilities either, but the basis of their ranks mainly revolves around one’s survival abilities and battle prowess, so I probably won’t have any problems with them.

“Although I couldn’t help you with your rank, feel free to drop by anytime you have a problem. I can at least lend you an ear.” [Taylor]

I thanked the branch head and went with the others to the Adventurers Guild.

Adventurers Guild.

We didn’t happen along any thugs or any such cliché developments along the way. I walked up to the reception desk normally and asked to register.

The Adventurers Guild has 8 classes starting from Rank G. Normally, one can only take jobs of the same rank, but it’s also possible to take bigger jobs after forming a party. There are also times when the guild itself will gather several parties to execute a large-scale operation. Doing a job with other people, whether it’s with just one party or with several parties, greatly reduces the difficulty of the job, so it’s possible to take jobs even one or two ranks higher.

The minimum age for registration is 10 years old, so I have that covered. Only, since I’m under 14, the guild will have to check my abilities, and I won’t be able to work on jobs even if it’s the same rank as me without the guild’s approval. This rule was implemented to avoid children with no self-control from doing reckless things. That limit is lifted upon turning 14, but at that point, one has to take responsibility for all failure. One would have to pay the penalty for breaking the contract, and there’s also the possibility of losing one’s life.

After the reception desk explained that, it was decided that I will be taking the combat examination.

“You want me to go all out?” [Ryouma]

“Yes... You should do your best here and show the guild your worth.” [Sebasu]

“That would be for the best.” [Reinbach]

“We’ll support you if anything happens.” [Elize]

“Good luck!” [Elialia]

“Just relax and do what you normally do.” [Reinhart]

As everyone encouraged me at the back of the training area, the receptionist from before came with a big burly man with a scary face.

“Are you the one taking the test?” [Scary-Looking Big Man]

“Yes, I am Ryouma Takebayashi. It’s a pleasure to make your acquaintance.” [Ryouma]

“I see, and those people are your chaperons?” [Scary-Looking Big Man]

“That would be correct.” [Reinbach]

“Feel free to watch, but please don’t interfere during the test. It won’t be necessary.”

[Scary-Looking Big Man]

“But of course.” [Reinbach]

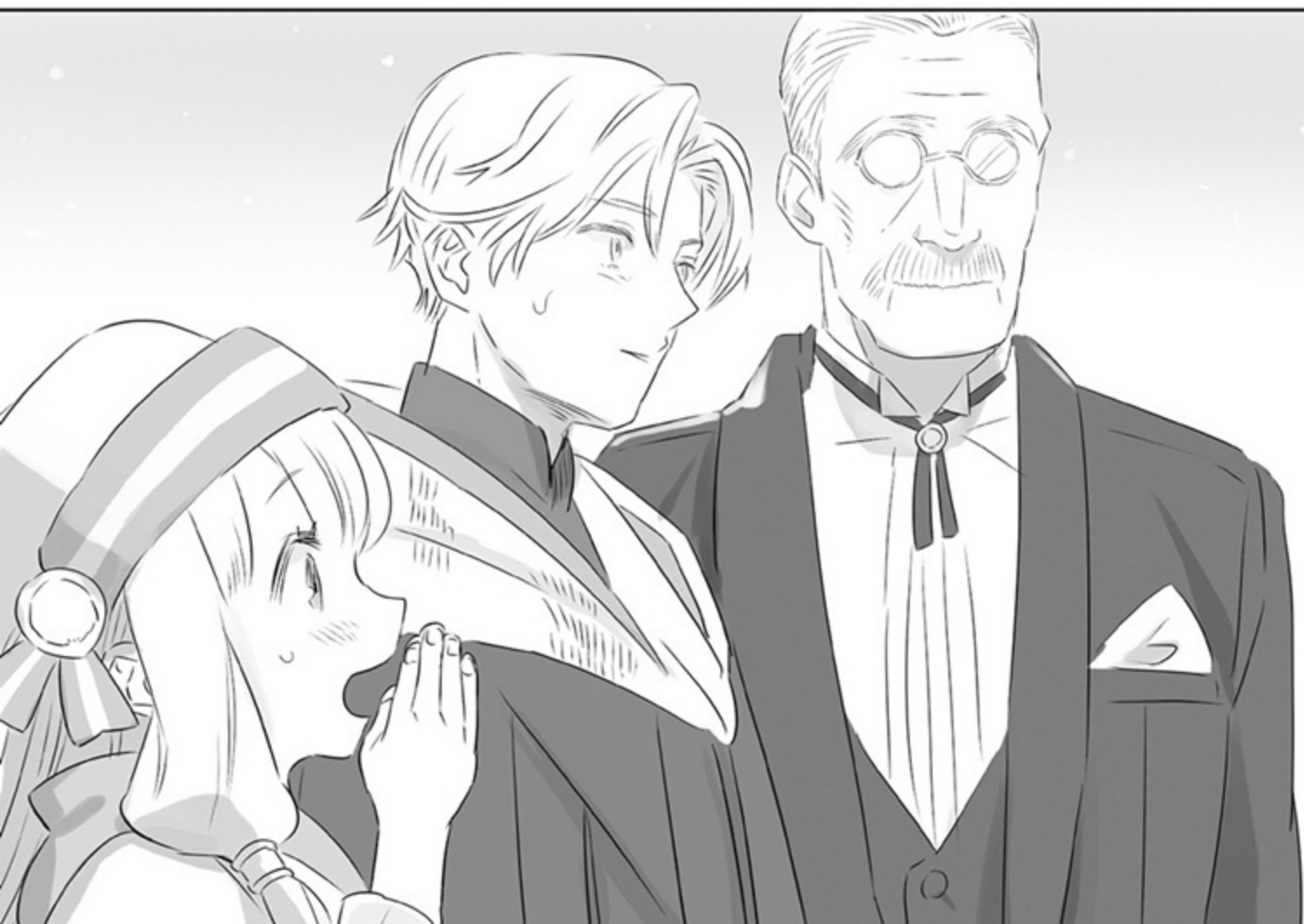
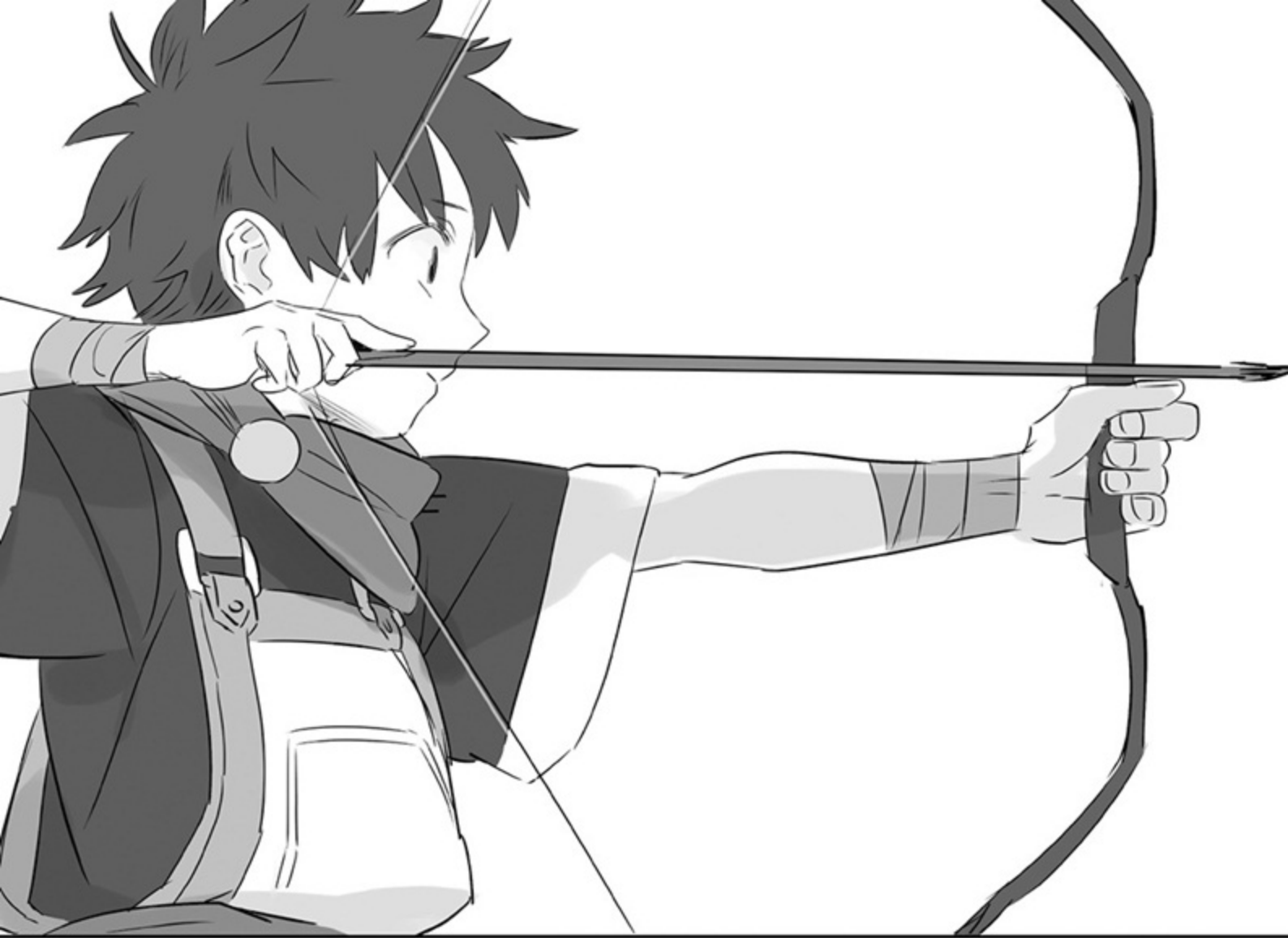
The man turned to me after saying that.

“So your choice of weapon is a bow, huh. Alright, let’s start right away. First, shoot those 5 targets from the line. You have 5 arrows. Shoot them one at a time.” [Scary-Looking Big Man]

The targets he pointed to were simply lined up along each other. Following his orders, I stood at the line and aimed at the first of the targets.

I stood with my legs shoulder-width apart as I nocked an arrow and pulled the bowstring. I executed the entire thing smoothly without halting for even a moment as I shot the first arrow. There was no pause to my movements even as I drew another arrow and shot at the second target.

I neither made noise nor panicked. I simply nocked one arrow after another as I quietly shot each target dead center.



I was pretty good at archery even back then, but ever since coming to this world, my archery has reached a whole new level thanks to all the hunting I did in the forest. I definitely couldn't shoot these targets as quickly in my previous life.

By the way, the school of archery I study under isn't Kyūdō but Kyūjutsu, so there's no need to stop like the kyūdōka (people who practice Kyūdō) do with their eight stances. I could stop if I want to, but the principle my father taught me was to focus on speed after confirming that the arrow would hit. In the past, my dad would hit me and yell at me if I stopped for even a moment.

I started reminiscing after shooting my targets, but I quickly snapped out of it and looked toward the examiner. He was already walking toward the targets. After checking every one of them, he came back.

"Everything was hit dead center. They may not have been moving, but that's still an amazing feat. Not bad. Next up are moving targets. Look at that wall over there."
[Scary-Looking Big Man]

The wall the man pointed to with his thick fingers was directly opposite the entrance. There was a pillar standing on one part of it, beside which was a gaping hole.

"A long time ago, a magic weapon called shotgun made that hole. It was a projectile weapon made by a famous adventurer called Kengo." [Scary-Looking Big Man]

That's obviously an otherworlder. What was he thinking bringing a shotgun to a sword and magic world?

"It eventually stopped working, though, and his rank stopped at C. But because he was able to come up with this device, he still managed to live affluently. That's just how useful this device is." [Scary-Looking Big Man]

Stopped working? Did he fail to maintain it or simply ran out of ammo?... He definitely pissed Gayn and the others off! Otherwise, they would have at least given him the ability to maintain and reload it. Besides, I doubt they would have given him such half-hearted support if he'd just properly talked to them.

As I was thinking that, the examiner continued.

"Targets will come shooting out of that pillar's hole. Just shoot them as they come.

There will be 50 targets all in all, and you'll also be given 50 arrows. Your grade will depend on how many you can shoot down." [Scary-Looking Big Man]

In other words, he wants me to play clay target shooting with a bow.

"I understand." [Ryouma]

"Alright, we'll start at my whistle. Good luck." [Scary-Looking Big Man]

The man handed me a quiver and stepped away.

I wielded my bow and waited for the signal.

Chapter 16

Exam Conclusion

After Ryouma shot five targets dead center, Elialia became very excited. Contrast her, however, the 4 adults were speechless.

“Amazing! Right!? Father!” [Elialia]

“Y-Yeah...” [Reinhart]

“I’ve always thought archers took their time to aim, but they actually shoot so quickly.” [Elialia]

Sebasu and Reinbach quickly pointed out Elialia’s misunderstanding.

“No, Ojousama, that sort of archery is not normal, but merely a result of Ryouma-sama’s technique. A normal archer could never shoot that fast. An experienced archer might be able to, but even then, only if he were to forget hitting the target.” [Sebasu]

“Elia, don’t use Ryouma as a standard. Handling a bow at that speed and hitting all the targets dead center is impossible for a normal person. You probably won’t find many who could even in the country’s army.” [Reinbach]

“Really? Ryouma-san is amazing!” [Elialia]

“That’s true, but...” [Reinbach]

“We may have underestimated his actual abilities...” [Reinhart]

Ryouma wasn’t aware of it, but after coupling the training he received in his past life with the live combat experience in this world through hunting, his skill in archery has already reached national levels and could be said to be one of the best in the country. The only help he received from the gods were in regards to his magic; hence, this ability could be said to truly be his own.

After the stationary targets came clay target shooting. Ryouma stood at the designated location and drew his bow. The targets would be coming from the opposite wall, so

neither Elialia and Co. nor the examiner could see Ryouma's expression.

Raising his concentration to the limits, not even a ripple of impatience could be found within his mind, in fact, there was neither excitement nor enthusiasm. He was as tranquil as a lamb on quiet pastures as he silenced his emotions and looked ahead.

Ryouma might appear young on the outside, but he was already a nearly 40 year-old man who has trained his whole life. Because of that he had a heightened ability to concentrate that was often wasted on his day-to-day life, only proving useful when he needed to do a mind-numbing task that needed to repeating.

It was only on that aspect that his coworkers, who normally treated him poorly, acknowledged him. They spurred him on as a machine that could take on the annoying jobs. But those jobs never managed to make use of Ryouma's full concentration prowess.

Throughout his whole life, there has always only been one thing that could allow him to demonstrate his concentration prowess to its peak, and that was none other than his martial arts. Ryouma would trace the same stance day after day, executing the techniques as naturally as breathing. It was already at a subconscious level and there were no impediments in his heart; hence, he could execute the techniques to their utmost. That was Ryouma's true power, a power which he brought with him from his previous life.

Back then he had to adapt to his surroundings and put a lid on his abilities; otherwise, the people around him would fear him. But the laws and common sense of Earth no longer had anything to do with him; hence, from this point onwards, in a place far beyond the reach of the prison that was his former world, Ryouma could at long last unleash his true power.

At the whistle of the examiner, one clay target came shooting out of the right pillar. Ryouma predicted where it would go and shot toward it. Immediately after, the clay target fell to the ground, and another one came shooting out, but this time it was from the left pillar. Ryouma did the same as before, and the clay target fell again.

Although Ryouma had to figure out from which pillar the target would shoot, what he had to do was the same. Relying on his long training, he simply shot the clay targets as

they came.

Gradually, the clay targets shot faster and faster, slowly raising the difficulty of the exam, but Ryouma still hit them. When two clay targets appeared at the same time, Ryouma shot one first then he quickly drew another arrow and shot the other clay target before it disappeared in the hole of the other side.

For the last part, four targets appeared at the same time. In response, Ryouma took out 4 arrows and shot them all within the span of one breath. When all targets fell, a whistle sounded, signifying the end of the exam.



~Side Ryouma~

Fuu...!!

“! ‘Earth Needle’ !” [Ryouma]

When the whistle signifying the end of the match sounded, I put down the bow and took a breath, only for a knife to suddenly fly toward me. Fortunately, by reflex, I managed to catch it in between my fingers and throw it back to the examiner.

As the examiner drew his sword from his waist and cut down the knife, I threw away the bow and used the earth magic, Earth Needle, to create a sharpened rock rod, which I kicked at the base, breaking it, and then wielded as a spear.

“Stop! It’s my bad, my bad, ok? The exam is over. You passed with flying colors, so put that scary thing away, will ya?” [Scary Big Man]

The examiner did not seem to be hostile. Apparently, that knife was also part of the test, so I broke the spear with Break Rock, but I remained wary of him.

“Sorry about that. That knife throw is something I use to warn archers taking the exam. Archers have a tendency to ignore everything and focus only their targets, so there are a lot of guys who forget to take heed of their surroundings.

That knife throw is me saying, ‘if this were the forest, you’d be dead already.’ Most of the archers would make an unhappy face saying they were taking an exam, while the

others would understand and be grateful, and while there are a few who manage to barely dodge, as far as actually starting a counter attack goes, you're the first.

I don't have any qualms about your archery, so I won't put a limit on you. Feel free to take jobs of the same rank as you wish." [Scary Big Man]

A closer look at the knife shows that its edges were all rounded, so he's not lying, but... I think he just likes to poke his nose into people's affairs needlessly. In any case, I finally stopped being wary of him and thanked him for the warning.

"I understand. Thank you." [Ryouma]

"Right, I'll be expecting lots from you from now on, so do your best without pushing yourself, aight? I'm Wogan, the guild master of the Adventurers Guild Gimuru Branch. Glad to make your acquaintance." [Wogan]

He's the guild master!?

"The pleasure is mine. I didn't think the guild master himself would be overseeing the exam." [Ryouma]

"Huh? Well, you know..." [Wogan]

The guild master glanced at the members of the Jamil household and said.

"There's no way I could have left you in some greenhorn's hands when the duke's family came with you." [Wogan]

Well, now that he mentions it.

"Good point." [Ryouma]

"No really, why are they with you?" [Wogan]

"I happened to meet Reinhart-sama while I was hunting in the forest and was invited 2 weeks later to travel with them." [Ryouma]

"What kinda circumstance is that?" [Wogan]

"Excuse me for intruding on your conversation, but it seems the exam has already ended, so we would like to know what the result is." [Sebasu]

The one who interjected was none other than Sebasu. Ojousama looked nervous as she waited for the results.

“Sorry about that. He passed with flying colors, so I won’t be putting any limit on him. There are no problems ability-wise.” [Wogan]

“I see. Congratulations, Ryouma-sama.” [Sebasu]

“Congratulations, Ryouma-san!” [Elialia]

The ojousama ran toward me and took my arms, then she went round and round around me as if she were dancing... When she’s this happy, I can’t help but be happy too.

“Ojousama, please let Ryouma-sama go. Ryouma-sama still has some things to complete.” [Sebasu]

“Ah! That’s right...” [Elialia]

“Thank you, Sebasu-san.” [Ryouma]

After that I was brought to a room, the guild master’s room, to complete my registration.



“As I’ve told you earlier, I won’t be limiting the jobs you can take, so you’ll be able to take jobs of the same rank as yours. Just make sure to be careful.” [Wogan]

“Yes, I’ll do my best.” [Ryouma]

“Technically, you’re strong enough to start at E Rank, but you’ll stand out too much with your age and might end up being hated by others, so I’ve decided to have you start at G Rank. You’ll have to work your way up.” [Wogan]

“Thank you.” [Ryouma]

I bowed to Wogan-san, but he waved his hands and stopped me.

“Ah, stop, stop. You don’t have to use polite speech with me. It’s just a hassle, so don’t. By the way, who taught you how to handle a bow? An elf?” [Wogan]

“My grandpa did, but he’s a dwarf.” [Ryouma]

“A dwarf, huh... Archer dwarves are rare, but they have do flexible fingers, so I guess they have their share of experts too, although they’re not as renowned as the elves. Anyway, with this your registration is complete. All that’s left is for you to take this.” [Wogan]

The guild master handed me an envelope.

“What’s this?” [Ryouma]

“A letter of introduction to a black smith I know. Judging from the way you acted after deflecting my knife, you can also use a spear, right? That smith has a couple of spears, so why don’t you pick yourself a nice weapon. He also has some armors too, though it’s not his expertise. Anyway, buying from him is better than some cheap store.”
[Wogan]

I should just gratefully accept his kindness here.

“Thank you. I’ll go when I need a new weapon.” [Ryouma]

After thanking the guild master, I left the room.

It was already dark out, so after rendezvousing with my companions, we went back to our lodging. It was then that I remembered something.

“Sebasu-san, does this inn also sell stones to sculpt idols?” [Ryouma]

“Yes, are you planning to make another one?” [Sebasu]

“Actually, I received the blessing of a god I’ve never prayed to before during the baptism this morning. I want to sculpt his idol.” [Ryouma]

“I see... If it’s no trouble, could you share what blessing you received?” [Sebasu]

“Sure, it was the blessing of the God of Liquor, Tekun, that appeared on my status board.” [Ryouma]

“The God of Liquor, huh? It’s rare for a human to receive his blessing, but Tekun-sama is not only the God of Liquor but also the God of Art and craftsmen. He’s usually worshiped by the dwarves. Do you have any idea why he would give you his blessing?”
[Sebasu]

“My grandpa, who picked me up, was a dwarf. I’ve also helped a little in his smithing.”
[Ryouma]

I gave Sebasu the excuse I prepared with Gayn and Co.

“I see, so that’s why. You must have done something that pleased Tekun-sama in the past. It’s curious why he didn’t give the blessing of the God of Crafts instead, though...”
[Sebasu]

“The Blessing of the God of Crafts?” [Ryouma]

“Tekun-sama is known to bestow two blessings. One is the Blessing of the God of Crafts and the other is that of the God of Liquor. From what I’ve heard, the former allows one to advance quicker as a blacksmith, while the latter prevents one from getting drunk or getting hangovers. Oh, and it also increases the odds of coming across good liquor.

The latter blessing is still enviable, but it's not the kind of blessing that would gain animosity from others." [Sebasu]

"I see." [Ryouma]

"In any case, if you intend to sculpt Tekun-sama's idol, then I'm sure this stone should be more than adequate." [Sebasu]

As Sebasu-san said that, he took a stone out of his Item Box. It was one of the stones I made from the landslide.

"That's..." [Ryouma]

"It's the stone you created, Ryouma-sama. Money is needed in the city; and this stone is of standard size, so I brought it since I figured it could help cover your living expenses. After all, it seems you don't intend to rely overly on me or the masters I serve." [Sebasu]

"Thank you. You actually went out of your way to bring something like that." [Ryouma]

"Please don't mind it. Now, about Tekun-sama's idol, word has it that he dislikes gaudy ones and prefers those exquisitely sculpted from the heart. Offering wine to the idol is also a good idea. Tekun-sama's picture and the liquor can also be purchased along with the stones." [Sebasu]

"I'll buy it then." [Ryouma]

I went Sebasu-san to the employee lodging, and after telling them what we came for, they informed us that a rare expensive liquor, the Tears of Keromi, had just arrived.

I didn't know it's value, so I only bought 3 bottles, but Sebasu-san's eyes changed and he immediately bought two barrels. As it turns out, it was Reinbach's favorite brand, but because its production was limited, it was extremely hard to come by.

He told me it was thanks to my blessing that he was able to come across it.

Hmm... Doesn't it seem like he's also personally interested in it?

After that I went back to my room, sculpted the idol, offered wine to it, finished my meal, bathed with the cleaner slimes, and then retired for the day. Like this my first day in Gimuru concluded.

Chapter 17

First Job in Town

The next day.

Today I went to the Adventurers Guild by myself. I have my slimes with me, but other than that, I'm alone.

I was told during breakfast this morning that they had to meet the prefectural governor, so I decided go on my own today. The madam said I could just stay at the inn if I didn't want to go alone, but I'd finally registered at the guild, so I decided to take on my first job.

How about starting with a simple herb picking job for safety's sake?

With the basket I made in the forest strapped to my back – there's a slime inside – I took a look at the available G Rank jobs on the bulletin board.

There were all sorts of jobs from picking herbs to cleaning to helping out with moving. It was really interesting.

At first, I was thinking of taking on the herb picking job, but apparently, I could just take it after securing the herbs. In that case, I might as well just do something else and gather the herbs along the way back home.

I searched the bulletin board for another job, and there were 2 posted that caught my interest.

One was to help clean a house and the other was to clean the common toilet. Putting the house aside, I could probably clean the common toilet with the scavenger slimes.

Let's ask the receptionist.

"Excuse me, can I ask a question?" [Ryouma]

"welcome, how may I help you?" [Receptionist]

“Can I get the details on these two requests?” [Ryouma]

“Which ones?... Ahh, those. Those have been up for a while now, actually. They might seem like simple cleaning jobs, but those jobs are really dirty and stinky, so no one wants to do them. Not to mention, the scope...” [Receptionist]

“Are the places that big?” [Ryouma]

“Very. The house cleaning job comes from someone living right next to a landfill. They’re not really happy about it either, but it was cheap, so they bought the house anyway.

Unfortunately, a few months after purchasing the house, the wall separating the house’s basement from the landfill suddenly collapsed, and all that trash came pouring into the basement. Because of that the house has gotten all stuffy, and now, they need someone to do something about it.

Cleaning the basement is useless unless the wall is fixed since the trash will just keep pouring in, but then, you can’t really fix the wall with all the trash, so...

As for the common toilet, the government was originally supposed to hire the people living in the slums to clean it, but apparently, they haven’t been paying up, so now, the slum people don’t want to work anymore.

The latrine pits haven’t been touched for about 3 months already, and the people are already starting to complain. At this rate, the situation will get really bad.” [Receptionist]

That’s horrible... It’s so horrible you can’t even express it with one word.

“An epidemic would probably be a bigger problem than the complaints, though... For both of those jobs...” [Ryouma]

“Oh? You’re well informed. That’s amazing. Just as you’ve said, unclean places make it easier for diseases to spread, so it would be great if someone could take the jobs on already, but unfortunately...” [Receptionist]

“How big exactly are the places?” [Ryouma]

“The house has a 200 square-meter basement and the common toilet is 7m wide and 2km long with 30 latrine pits. The request for the common toilet is meant to be taken one latrine pit at a time.” [Receptionist]

“What about the trash? Oh, no need to mention the common toilet, that one’s obvious.” [Ryouma]

“Most of the trash in the house is kitchen waste and the rest are lumber remnants.”

[Receptionist]

If it's like that I can have the scavenger slimes eat them.

"I see... Can I take the house cleaning job then?" [Ryouma]

"Eh!? You're taking it!?" [Receptionist]

"Yes, I know a convenient magic for cleaning. Only, it costs quite a bit of mana, so there aren't many who use it." [Ryouma]

"I see~ Take out your guild card then. There's no time limit, but if you stop midway, you'll have to pay the penalty fee." [Receptionist]

"Gotcha." [Ryouma]

I don't know if it's simply because there really weren't any people interested in the job or simply because the receptionist girl was dedicated to her work, but I handed the guild card to her, and she quickly took care of the process. After that I headed to the house I would be cleaning.



The client lived in the eastern part of Gimuru in a district filled with cheap houses. Most of the houses were ancient, and in fact, even the house I would be cleaning was a run-down shabby house made of bricks.

I knocked at the door.

...No one's coming.

I knocked again.

...Still not coming.

Are they out?

I knocked again, but this time I called out.

"Excuse me! Is anyone in? I've come for the job request you posted in the Adventurers Guild." [Ryouma]

As soon as I said that, the sound of running footsteps and creaking wood sounded,

then the door swung open.

“Did you really come to help nyaa!?” [Client]

The person that came out had cat ears on her head and a tail extending from her waist. It was a cat girl. I knew the beast tribe existed and I’ve even seen them in the guild before, but this is my first time talking to one in person.

I’m a little excited, but it’s a pity... My first time meeting a beastman actually had to be accompanied by this terrible stench.

But, no! I won’t lose! I’ll show you the power of Japan’s customer service! My smile won’t break with just a little stench!

“Yes, I’m Ryouma Takebayashi from the Adventurers Guild. Would you happen to be the client?” [Ryouma]

“That’s right, nyaa! Did you really come to help nyaa!? I’d already given up nyaa~!” [Client]

“Before we start, please confirm the details of the job.” [Ryouma]

“Yep, yep! That’s it nyaa! My name is Miya nyaa! Thank you so much for coming nyaa!” [Miya]

“Please thank me when the job’s done.” [Ryouma]

“...Uu, UEEeeeeen!” [Miya]



She's crying!?

I did my best to treat her normally, but she suddenly cried... Now what?

"W-Wait a moment! Please calm down, ok?" [Ryouma]

"Sorry... It's just that I was so happy nyaa... All the adventurers so far were always full of complaints... and they always ended up leaving midway nyaa~ There were even some kids who couldn't handle the smell from the entrance and left right there and then... You're the first one who actually looks eager to do the work nyaa..." [Miya]

Couldn't you have endured a little at least, fellow adventurers? It's not like you could catch anything just by standing at the entrance...

"Anyway, shall we get to work? It's at the basement, right?" [Ryouma]

"That's right nyaa. But what are you going to do nyaa?" [Miya]

"I heard most of the trash are kitchen waste and lumber remnants. I have a suitable magic I can use." [Ryouma]

"Really nyaa?" [Miya]

"Yes, it costs quite a bit of mana, so there aren't a lot of people who use it. I also brought my familiars with me." [Ryouma]

"You're a monster tamer nyaa?... Well, so long as you can clean it up, anything's fine nyaa. Please take care of it nyaa." [Miya]

"Sure. Just to be sure, there are no valuables left at the basement?" [Ryouma]

"Nyan nyan, I never even used it to store anything, so there's no problem nyaa. Though even if there were some, after being buried in trash like that, I'd just throw it away anyway, nyaa." [Miya]

Well, unless it's something really important, you'd rarely keep something that's been buried in kitchen waste for so long. Good then.

"I should be able to finish quickly then. You won't mind if I get rid of everything in the basement, right?" [Ryouma]

"No nyaa." [Miya]

"I'll get to work then. Where's the entrance to the basement?" [Ryouma]

"Over here nyaa." [Miya]

Miya-san led me to a flight of stairs extending down. Following that, I found myself before a door, on the other side of which, was a mountain of garbage and a large

business of flies.

Closing the door for a moment, I let the huge scavenger slime out of the basket strapped to me and ordered it to split inside the basement, turning the huge slime into a colossal colony of slimes that filled the room till its roof, then I ordered it to release some stench to attract the flies, and when they'd gathered, I ordered the slimes to eat them all... The scavenger slimes found them delicious.

After that all that was left was to leave the slimes to consume the rest of the trash.

If someone were to see me, they might think I'm playing hooky, so to be safe, I put up a Barrier of Concealment to hide myself.

20 minutes later, the scavenger slimes told me that most of the garbage had already been eaten, so I finally entered the basement myself.

It's a lot better now than before, but it still stinks. Moreover, as the receptionist had mentioned, more trash is coming in from the hole. It seems this house was built at the foot of a slope and the landfill is right above, which is why the trash slides down into the basement.

Who's brilliant idea was it to build a house here? To make things worse, because the trash had buried it once before, the ground beyond the wall is unstable. Eh, I'm sure we'll manage so long as the scavenger slimes eat everything.

"Miya-san." [Ryouma]

"Ah, did something happen nyaa?" [Miya]

"The garbage pouring into the basement is to the left of the house, right?" [Ryouma]

"Yes, that's the landfill, nyaa." [Miya]

"I need to keep the trash from pouring in, so I'll drop by there for a bit. Just call me if something happens." [Ryouma]

After leaving a few words with the client, I went outside. This time I'm going to take the slimes to dine at the landfill.

"..." [Miya]

"They're slimes." [Ryouma]

"Indeed..." [Miya]

She looked at me suspiciously like a long lost relative who happened to be passing by.

I should put up a Barrier of Concealment here too. There's nothing legally wrong with having a slime for a familiar, but there might be some people who have issues with that, so just to be safe.

The Barrier of Concealment works because it utilizes dark mana, and it makes it so that people will pass through it unconsciously.

When I first learned it, I ended up leading myself astray. I passed by my own house several times before I noticed that the barrier I'd erected was messing with me.

While thinking of stuff like that, the scavenger slimes went to work, and one hour later, all of the trash had been eaten.

Still, I wonder what's up with these slimes. They don't need to eat a lot, but when you feed them, they'll keep eating until you run out.

...In any case, the trash is gone now. The wall is still dirty, but that's where I come in. I went back to Miya-san's house and had the scavenger slime and cleaner slime spray the basement with deodorizing liquid. When the stench was all gone, I washed the filth off the walls with water.

“Mist Wash.” [Ryouma]

By generating water with water magic and compressing it, I was able to spray off the filth from the walls.

I came across this spell while trying to cast Water Cutter, a high pressured water cutting spell, and when I failed, this came about. I noticed it was similar to one of the cleaning tools back in my previous life, so I figured I could use it as cleaning magic.

Even stubborn filth is worthless in the face of this spell, but it uses a lot of mana, so cleaning an entire room is quite taxing. On the bright side, it can be used as long as there's enough mana, but it's only really practical for people with a big mana pool.

“And done.” [Ryouma]

After washing off the filth from the walls, I had the scavenger slimes drink the filthy

water.

The room is all clean now, but the hole in the wall bothers me... Leaving it like that wouldn't be good, so I figured I might as well cover it up.

Having made up my mind, I used Create Block to turn the dirt outside into brick-sized stones and turned the hole in the wall into a square, then I used the sticky slime's hardening liquid in place of cement and filled the hole with my brick stones. The slimes helped out too, so the whole thing only took us about 20 minutes.

With everything done, I had the cleaner slime clean my body, then I put the slimes back into my basket and went back to Miya-san.

"Miya-san." [Ryouma]

"Nyaa!? Ah, you're dressed like when you came... I-Is something the matter nyaa? C-Could it be you're going back..." [Miya]

"...Yes, I'm done, after all." [Ryouma]

".....Nyaa? Huh? What do you mean nyaa?" [Miya]

Showing would probably be faster, so I took Miya-san and the giant question mark on her head and brought her down to the basement. The moment she saw how clean her basement was, her jaws nearly fell to the ground.

"W-What in nyaarnation is going on nyaa!?" [Miya]

"I cleaned it." [Ryouma]

"Amazing nyaa! You really cleaned it nyaa! It was packed with trash, so everyone's given up until now, but you actually cleaned it! You even fixed the wall, nyaa!?" [Miya]

"It would be problematic if trash were to pour in again, so I covered the hole with earth magic. It might be a bit conspicuous though since the I used a different stone than those used with the rest of the walls. If you don't like it, I can change it back." [Ryouma]

"Nyo need nyaa! I don't mind it, and besides, I was planning on having someone fill the hole once the place has been clean up anyway, nyaa. So thank you, nyaa." [Miya]

"I see, then the job has been completed, yes?" [Ryouma]

"Of course, nyaa. You cleaned everything perfectly and you even fixed the walls, so I'll pay you extra nyaa!" [Miya]

"Thank you." [Ryouma]

Miya-san happily signed the completed column of the request form.

With that the job was done, and all that was left was to bring the form to the receptionist and get my pay.

Miya-san sent me off with words of thanks.

Like that I finished my first job and happily walked back to the guild while feeling a sense of security that I could work even in this world.

Chapter 18

After a Job Well Done is Another Job

When I got back to the guild, I spoke to the receptionist girl again.

“Excuse me.” [Ryouma]

“Oh, you’re that kid from this morning.” [Receptionist]

“It’s done.” [Ryouma]

“Eh? Done? It’s only been 3 hours, are you sure you don’t mean you’re giving up?”
[Receptionist]

“Nope, I completed the request.” [Ryouma]

As I said that I handed the request form.

“...Wow you really did complete the job. You even got a bonus... Amazing. Although this job isn’t particularly hard, the stench is horrible and most people lose their resolve just from seeing all that trash pouring in endlessly through the hole.” [Receptionist]

“I knew a convenient spell.” [Ryouma]

“Good job. Here’s your reward for completing the request: 30 silver coins.”
[Receptionist]

The receptionist girl brought me the reward on a plate.

Hmm? That’s a lot more than the request posted for.

“I did hear I would be getting a bonus, but isn’t that a bit much?” [Ryouma]

“Miya-san has been increasing the reward since everyone kept refusing, and on top of that, you even got a bonus. This much is just right.” [Receptionist]

“I see.” [Ryouma]

“By the way, the guild master asked me to call you to his room when you returned. Mind dropping by?” [Receptionist]

“The guild master?” [???

The one who replied to the receptionist wasn’t me but the man on the next counter.

“Don’t worry, it’s nothing special, just the usual.” [Receptionist]

“What do you mean? I’m Ryouma Takebayashi, by the way.” [Ryouma]

“I’m Jeff Grange. That old man’s a busy body and just loves to help out young fresh recruits under 13 like you. He helped me too when I was new. He looks more of a bandit than any real bandits, but there’s no need to be afraid.” [Jeff]

“I see. Thanks.” [Ryouma]

“It’s fine.” [Jeff]

After that a voice called out inside the counter. It was the guild master.

“Exactly. You don’t have to thank that guy.” [Wogan]

“Ah, guild master.” [Receptionist]

“Geh! Old man.” [Jeff]

“You go ‘Geh’ after seeing someone’s face!? And whose face looks more like a bandit’s than real bandits, huh!?” [Wogan]

“Yours obviously, old man!” [Jeff]

“Shut it! It’s not my fault my face is so stiff! And I don’t recall ever making an evil face like some bandit’s!” [Wogan]

“Don’t Women and children run when they see you in a dark place?” [Jeff]

“Gu... But the people of this town don’t.” [Wogan]

“That’s because they’re already used to it!” [Jeff]

“*COUGH!... Enough... Ryouma, come.” [Wogan]

Seemingly hurt by Jeff-san’s words, the guild master pushed down on his chest called me over as he went back inside. I followed him in after saying my goodbyes to the receptionist and to Jeff-san.

The room I was brought to was the same room as yesterday’s, the guild master’s room.

“Sit where you like... Is that a basket? You stand out like a sore thumb.” [Wogan]

“Sorry, my familiars are inside.” [Ryouma]

“You were a monster tamer? I thought for sure you were a hunter.” [Wogan]

“They’re just slimes and I only learned from watching, so at most, you could call me a monster taming hunter. I mainly just use the sticky slimes for traps and the poison slimes to coat my arrows in poison.” [Ryouma]

The guild master broadly grinned.

“...That’s a nasty combination you have there.” [Wogan]

“You think? They’re just slimes, you know.” [Ryouma]

“I’m sure you already know this, but don’t look down on advanced slime variants.

A lot of adventurers think they’re no different from normal slimes, but they couldn’t be more wrong. Well, ok, a lot of them are still weak, but an acid slime’s acid can spoil armor. Fighting those repeatedly will easily turn new armor into rags. Poison can take your life, and a stick slime is a pain in the ass. After all, if you can’t move, what are you gonna do when another monster shows up? Nothing, you just wait and die.

Adventurers who’ve fought with slimes like those will never look down on them.” [Wogan]

“I see... It looks like I’ll have an easier time in the Adventurers Guild then. Actually, I went to the Tamers Guild, but apparently, there’s a current trend of looking down on slimes.” [Ryouma]

“I’ve heard that story lots from that old guild master. So that’s why you came here, huh.” [Wogan]

“Yes. Slimes can’t take on manual labor, so I came here to find some other work.” [Ryouma]

Wogan nodded several times.

“So that’s why... Anyway, on to business. I heard you took on your first job already. From the looks of things, it seems you did well.” [Wogan]

“Yes, the client was satisfied with my work. I even got a bonus.” [Ryouma]

“Ho, you were able to do it that well, huh. I heard it was a cleaning job of sort, what job was it?” [Wogan]

“I cleaned Miya-san’s house.” [Ryouma]

The guild master’s eyes opened wide.

“You cleaned her house?” [Wogan]

“You know about it?” [Ryouma]

“Well, Miya is an adventurer who lives in this town, so yeah. I see her around a lot.” [Wogan]

“I see.” [Ryouma]

“Still, since you were able to complete her request, that must mean you were able to clean her house.” [Wogan]

“Yes.” [Ryouma]

“I didn’t think there’d actually be anyone who could clean her house... So, how did you

clean it?” [Gowen]

“I knew a spell suitable for the job, but it costs a lot of mana, so it’s hard to use and isn’t very popular.” [Ryouma]

“Ho? In that case, I have another job I’d like you to take.” [Wogan]

Could it be?

“Are you by any chance referring to the common toilet?” [Ryouma]

“What? You knew about it?” [Wogan]

“Yes, I was choosing between that and Miya-san’s house this morning.” [Ryouma]

“That’ll make this quick then. We were tasked by the government office to clean the common toilet, so now we’re being blamed for it. It was originally their fault for not paying the slum residents, but the people are starting to complain.” [Wogan]

“I heard that from the receptionist, actually. Is that really true?” [Ryouma]

“It is. You know the town’s income has been decreasing these past years, right?” [Wogan]

“I heard it’s because of the declining mines.” [Ryouma]

“Right, so the government office cut down on expenses, but their methods mainly revolved around cutting the budget for the town’s management and shifting the problems to the people.” [Wogan]

The biggest cut was the budget allocated to the slum people.

The government office has been gradually cutting down on personnel, until eventually, they didn’t have enough people anymore.

When certain jobs couldn’t be finished on time, they shifted the blame onto the workers, saying that it’s only because they weren’t taking it seriously that the job wasn’t done yet, and then forcefully drove down their pay.

When the people started to complain, they argued that there’s no point in hiring a large group from the slum people since they won’t take the work seriously. But with the pay provided being essentially zero, it was only natural that the slum people wasn’t interested in working for them.

“They may be poor, but if there’s not enough compensation, even the slum people won’t be willing to work. It’s not like they’re asking much either. But if the compensation they receive isn’t even enough to cover their minimum living expenses, then what’s the point of risking getting sick? All that will do is just make their lives

worse. It wasn't worth the risk." [Wogan]

I see, so that's what happened.

"Just let me get ready and I'll do the job. The soonest I can do it is tomorrow." [Ryouma]

"Thanks. I'll pay you lots, so do a good job." [Wogan]

"You can count on me." [Ryouma]

I should try talking to Reinhart-san and the others too. They're the ones with the most authority around here. They'll be interested to hear what I did today too. Once they've been informed, I'm sure they'll take care of it.

"...What are you thinking?" [Wogan]

Did it show on my face?

"Well, I'm by myself today, but I was thinking of talking to the people who accompanied me yesterday." [Ryouma]

The guild master broadly grinned.

...No wonder Jeff-san says you look like a bandit. That face...

"Well, aren't you a nice kid? Do you think they'll help?" [Wogan]

"I'm sure they'll do something about it so long as they're informed." [Ryouma]

"On what basis?" [Wogan]

"Well, I'm an orphan living in the forest, and they just happened to meet me by chance, yet they actually went out of their way to help me out. We were strangers, you know.

Of course, it's impossible for them to do the same for a large group of people like the entire slum, but there's no way people like that will just sit and do nothing after knowing the situation." [Ryouma]

"I see. I'll be looking forward to it then." [Wogan]

"...If that's all, can I go? I need to prepare for tomorrow." [Ryouma]

"Yeah, I'll leave it to you. I'll tell them to prioritize you when you drop by, not that it's really needed since no one wants to take the job on anyway." [Wogan]

"That's true."

We laughed and I went back to the inn. Along the way I bought some cheap cloth and

a set of sewing tools from a cheap shop. I also bought an empty spool.

Chapter 19

In Order to Do a Good Job

Within a room in our lodging, I lined up the things I bought and went to work.

First, I rubbed the sticky slime's sticky liquid on the cloth I bought, then I dried it with the magic, Drier – a magic created by fusing the basic wind magic, Breeze, and the basic fire magic, Fire – and created several waterproof cloths.

In the past, I once lost control over dryer and accidentally filled Breeze with Fire. The result was a great flame, and the birth of a spell known as Flamethrower. I can't lose control now. If I screw up, no one will be laughing.

I took extra care to avoid burning the place down, but as a result, it took me until afternoon. It's easy to fuse two spells of the same attribute, but two spells of two different attributes isn't. Not that saying that will change anything, though.

Next, I had the sticky slime spit out some thread and rolled it around the empty spool I bought. The strength of the resulting string depends on the ratio of the sticky liquid and hardening liquid.

A 7:3 ratio of sticky liquid to hardening liquid will result in a soft and beautiful thread that can be used for sewing, while a 6:4 ratio will result in a robust thread. 5:5 results in a pliable thread that can easily snap should a human or a beast pull it, making it perfect for traps. 4:6 results in a strong thread useful for strangling people or animals to death.

When I was trying out the various ratios back in the forest, I led a black bear into several layers of 4:6 threads that I'd set up between trees. The black bear could only stand one of those once, and when I examined it, a small wound could be seen on its body.

It was then that I realized that the 6:4 thread could be used to create a dangerous trap, so I decided to stop using it. I haven't used it since then except for that time during the goblin outbreak and when I wanted to make a guitar. The thread wasn't sharp enough

to cut just by touching, so after a little tinkering, it was perfect for the job. I'm sure there are other less dangerous ways of using it too. I just have to look for it.

I always remember the past when working on simple stuff like this... And done. The 6:4 thread spool is ready. Next is to cut the waterproof cloths, so I divided them into various parts and cut them.

What I'm going to make is an imitation of the jumpsuit and the waders. I'm going to clean the latrine pits tomorrow, so I need to come prepared. The scavenger slimes might be doing most of the work, and the cleaner slimes might be able to clean me afterwards, but I'm still not going there in my normal clothes, so I have to prepare.

When I was about finished with my waders, a knock sounded on the door.

"Ryouma-sama, I hear you've returned. Are you in?" [Sebasu]

Since it was Sebasu, I went ahead and opened the door.

"I'm here." [Ryouma]

"Nothing is wrong then?" [Sebasu]

"Nothing in particular." [Ryouma]

"I see. The employee of the inn said you left this morning and came back in the afternoon, but have since been cooped up in your room without even having lunch."
[Sebasu]

Ahh, now that he mentions it, I didn't have lunch, did I?

"Sorry about that, I was a bit overzealous with my work... Did I worry everyone?"
[Ryouma]

"If it's no trouble, please do greet everyone, especially the ojousama and the madam. If it's only sewing, I'm sure you can do that even in their room. The maids will be able to help too." [Sebasu]

I wanted to talk to them anyway, so this suits me just fine. I placed the tools and the cloths into my Item Box and went to the duke's room with my slimes.



As soon as we got to the room, the ojou-sama and the madam approached us.

“Are you alright!? Did something happen!?” [Elialia]

“Ryouma-kun! Are you alright? You’re not hurt, are you?” [Elize]

“Calm down you two.” [Reinbach]

“If you pester him like that, Ryouma-kun won’t be able to talk.” [Reinhart]

The two calmed down after being reprimanded by Reinbach-sama and Reinhart-san.

“Umm... I’m truly sorry for worrying you. Nothing in particular happened, I was just a bit overzealous with my work and forgot to eat.” [Ryouma]

“Thank goodness~” [Elize]

“Good grief, I thought for sure something had happened.” [Elialia]

“Ho ho ho, isn’t it good nothing happened?” [Reinbach]

“What were you working on?” [Reinhart]

“I was sewing myself a set of waterproof clothes.” [Ryouma]

I took out the tools from my Item Box and showed them.

“Hmm... From the looks of things, these cloths have been given the same waterproof treatment from before.” [Reinhart]

“Yes. I’ve been working on it since I got back and was just about to make the actual clothes.” [Ryouma]

“But why all the sudden?” [Reinbach]

That was my cue to explain what happened today. They said it was fine to talk while working, so that’s why I did.

“—So in the end, I ended up taking on the cleaning request. It would be bad if an epidemic were to spread, so I was thinking of completing it as soon as possible.” [Ryouma]

“MUu...” [Reinbach]

“So that’s why. We should thank you. Who would’ve thought the government office of this town would do such a thing?... Sebasu.” [Reinhart]

“Yes.” [Sebasu]

“Go out and gather information. I want to confirm whether the government office really is guilty of those allegations. If they are, then the expenses should be less than

the previous year's, but the report they gave us mentioned no such thing. It's possible some people may be embezzling money." [Reinhart]

"Yes, my lord." [Sebasu]

Sebasu-san left the room after that.

"Thank you, Ryouma-kun. Because of you we might have just uncovered some hidden crimes." [Reinhart]

"Indeed. Embezzlement in and of itself is unforgivable, but embezzling the very funds meant to help the people and causing problems for them as a result is just absurd. In the first place, the wages of the slum people were decided over a decade ago. Reducing it is unforgivable! They're putting all my efforts into jeopardy..." [Reinbach]

Reinbach-sama's efforts?

"The construction of the common toilet and the employment of the slum people to clean it was thought up by my father-in-law as a countermeasure to a possible epidemic as well as an aid to the slum people." [Elize]

"In the past, I passed a directive to the various prefectural governors to build the facility, but the slum people didn't believe we'd hire them, so I had to go to the office of the slum manager and negotiate personally. It took a long time before all the construction work and employment work was completed. It pains my heart to know that there are people trying to put all that to waste..." [Reinbach]

Reinbach-sama looked sad as he spoke. Perhaps it wasn't just a job to him.

"In any case, if everything you said turns out to be true, these people won't be getting off lightly. Even if other people forgive them, the Jamil Household will not." [Reinhart]

"Thank you, Ryouma-kun. It is fortunate that we caught wind of this while we were here. Something is definitely off, as that request should have never seen the light of day if they simply continued the projects I pressed forward." [Reinbach]

"You're welcome." [Ryouma]

"Let the maids help you with those clothes. Arone, Lilian, help him." [Reinbach]

"Yes, my lord." [Arone and Lilian]

Since the two maids will be helping, I divided the work among the three of us. Lilian-san would work on the gloves, Arone-san on the jumpsuit, while I knit the string that will be used for various things.

“Ryouma-sama, what thread is this? I’ve never seen such a robust and yet thin, slender, and beautiful thread before.” [Arone]

“That’s the sticky slime’s thread.” [Ryouma]

“Slimes can make their own threads?” [Arone]

“Only the sticky slimes, and probably, only my sticky slimes, as I once mixed their sticky liquid and hardening liquid to see if I could make something out of that. The result was a thread-like substance. I had the slimes mix it themselves, and they were able to do it. It was a precious ability to be able to weave clothes back in the forest.” [Ryouma]

I called the Big Sticky Slime and had it spit out some threads.

“It can spit the threads out like this. The strength of the thread can also be changed depending on the ratio of the mixture of the two liquids inside their body.” [Ryouma]

After having the slime spit various ratios of threads, Arone-san and Lilian-san said they wanted to purchase it.

“I couldn’t possibly. You’ve already gone out of your way to help me, so the least I could is to give these to you.” [Ryouma]

The two were overjoyed to hear that. Apparently, the sticky slime’s thread was such a good thread that they had never seen anything like it despite their long years working for the Jamil Household, fixing and tailoring clothes for them. I’ve already gotten used to Earth’s synthetic fibers, so I didn’t think anything odd of it, but it turns out it was actually special.

After that I talked with Reinhart-san for a bit, and I decided to put the rainwear and the thread up for sale. Along the conversation, I also found out that because of the Reinhart-sama’s efforts, the towns and villages under their territory have a reputation for being clean.

Reinhart-san wanted to make these towns and villages even better by developing their commerce and making them prosper. Because of that the slime products I’ve nonchalantly developed were nothing short of enthralling to him.

Reinhart-san bowed his head and said he would like to work together forever [1], and I bowed my head in response and returned the sentiment. The people of Jamil are all good people, so I would love to work with them.

I continued to work even while talking with the Jamil family, so as a result, I was able to finish everything. When I tried putting everything on, the size turned out just right, but...

When I put on the gloves, fastened the arm cuffs of the jumpsuit with the string I'd knitted, put on the pair of waders that perfectly complemented my jumpsuit, and then fastened it with another string, everyone told me I looked odd.

Although they did agree that it was practical as far as work clothes went, so Reinhart-san told me that he would also like me to consider putting this up for sale.

Chapter 20

While Cleaning...

The next day.

With the work clothes in hand and the slimes ready, I let everyone know that I would be going.

“I’m going.” [Ryouma]

“Good luck.” [Reinbach]

“Take care, Ryouma-san.” [Elialia]

“Do your best.” [Elize]

“We’ll take care of the things on our end too.” [Reinhart]

As everyone saw me off, I left for the guild.

When I got to the guild, I approached the receptionist girl from yesterday.

“Good morning.” [Ryouma]

“Oh, you’re the kid from yesterday. Ryouma-kun, right? So you came.” [Receptionist Girl]

“Yes, there’s a job I would like to take.” [Ryouma]

“Yeah, I heard about it. Thanks for taking care of it. We were really at our wits end.” [Receptionist Girl]

“Then please take care of the papers.” [Ryouma]

“Sure, no problem... Ok, that should do it. Take this written request with you and head to the western district. Oh, and take this too. It’s the key to the entrance of the latrine pits. Please don’t lose it.” [Receptionist Girl]

“Of course. Now if you’ll excuse me.” [Ryouma]

“Take care.” [Receptionist Girl]



I left the guild and went to the westernmost part of the town just as I was told, and when I got there, I used the key to open a door that was affixed to a brick wall. Inside

was a shed made out of bricks and another door.

I tried to close the first door from inside, but it wasn't possible. Apparently, the door was made in a way that prevented it from being locked from inside.

I'll just leave it open then.

After putting on the jumpsuit and the waders, I opened the entrance to the latrine pits—

“ECK!?” [Ryouma]

—And promptly closed it. I'm sure you understand.

After being left to fester on its own for several months, the stench within has already reached a whole new level. The smell was so strong my eyes actually went teary.

The huge scavenger slime didn't seem to mind, so I let it enter first and ordered it to split and deal with the area.

I waited outside while the slimes went to work, but I just couldn't shake off the shock from that horrid stench.

When I finally calmed down, I had the cleaner slime soak a hand towel in deodorizing liquid, then I used that to cover my mouth.

My eyes were also affected by the smell, so I ordered the cleaner slime to ride atop my head and cover my eyes like a pair of goggles.

The cleaner slime's body is transparent, so I can still see even with it covering my eyes. Cleaner slimes are really useful.

I entered the latrine pits in full gear and went down the stairs to a vast underground tunnel, where filth could be seen piled up on both sides. The scavenger slimes eagerly swarmed through the mountains of filth. Meanwhile, I did my own thing and washed off the filth from the walls and the ceiling with Mist Wash, and then heated the remaining water with my original electric magic, Range, to disinfect it.



It was really dirty, so I did what I could to clean it. It seems to have worked, so I used Identify on the ceiling and what was originally this:

Unclean Ceiling, a ceiling dotted with filth.

Turned into this:

Stone Ceiling, the ceiling of one of the latrine pits of Gimuru Town's common toilets. It has been cleaned and disinfected through heating and is now clean.

The information that appeared changed from Unclean Ceiling into a mere Stone Ceiling. When I took a look at the details, I found out that my attempts to disinfect it via heating was effective.

Still, I just can't help but wonder. Just where is this information coming from? But then again, it's not like it's ever fed me wrong info, so I guess I might as well just take advantage of it for now.



We continued cleaning like this for a while, and after 5 hours, we finally managed to clean one latrine pit. But we weren't done yet, and the next event took another 3 hours, as the scavenger slimes had eaten enough to begin splitting more slimes. I can tell because of the familiar contract.

Fortunately, no one else will come here, so I can safely have the slimes split here. And considering there's still another 29 latrine pits, more slimes can only be a good thing.

When the scavenger slimes finished splitting, their numbers reached 1464. There were 730 before, but one of them was able to split twice, resulting into 4 slimes in total. I guess that just goes to show how much they ate yesterday and today.

All that's left now is to report to the guild, but unlike in my previous life, no one's hurrying me, so I decided to take my time and ensure that nothing was off about me or my slimes.

Below are the skills before cleaning.

Skills: Disease Resist Lv5, Poison Resist Lv5, Lead Belly Lv5, Clean Lv6, Deodorize Lv6, Deodorizing Liquid Lv4, Stench Lv4, Produce Fertilizer Lv3, Jump Lv2, Digest Lv6, Absorb Lv3, Split Lv6

Skills: Disease Resist Lv7, Poison Resist Lv6, Lead Belly Lv6, Clean Lv7, Deodorize Lv7, Deodorizing Liquid Lv5, Stench Lv6, Produce Fertilizer Lv5, Jump Lv3, Digest Lv7, Absorb Lv3, Split Lv6

The skills leveled up across the board. On top of that, Disease Resist leveled up a whopping 2 points. The others are cool too. But since Disease Resist leveled up, I guess that means there's something here that could cause a disease. In other words..... I'm currently within a hot spot!!

Do you understand the gravity of this situation? I know that a filthy place like this is bound to be home to several diseases, but the thing is that the scavenger slime had a Disease Resist of level 5, which according to the madam – I asked her before – is sufficient to ignore life-threatening diseases.

And yet! That level 5 Disease Resist actually leveled up a whopping 2 points! This is epidemic levels we're talking here! Fortunately, we were able to deal with it, or else it could've really gotten ba— Wait! Could it be the other latrine pits too!? That's not good, this is really not good! I need to inform people ASAP— No, before that, I have to sterilize myself! It won't be funny if I end up compromising the whole town!!

The sudden turn of events left me panicking, but I did my best to calm myself as I went back to the entrance, then I used Identify on myself and the slimes. Fortunately, we were in the clear.

When we got out, I ordered the cleaner slime to give me a thorough cleaning, then I had it work with the scavenger slimes to sterilize the surrounding area. I used the neutral magic, Identify, on all my belongings and the slimes, and after seeing nothing amiss, heaved a sigh of relief.

Since everything was labeled 'clean' that must mean that the cleaner slime and scavenger slimes' cleaning ability is effective.

I locked the door and just to be safe, erected a Barrier of Concealment, then I hurried to the guild.



I got a lot of attention along the way to the guild, as I was in too much of a hurry to change, but it doesn't matter. There's a more pressing issue now. I need to inform the guild master and the duke's family ASAP.

I ran to the guild, but when I was almost there, it suddenly hit me. If I were to go to the guild this panicked and if by chance word of the epidemic were to spread, the people might just also go into panic. Maybe I should act like a normal boy adventurer first?

With my mind made up, I stopped running and walked the rest of the way into the guild. My outfit drew attention as expected, and there were even some who pointed fingers at me and laughed. But I ignored all that and went to the receptionist. Now's not the time to be worrying about being the butt of a joke. I'm already at my wits end just keeping the panic from showing on my face.

"Excuse me." [Ryouma]

"Oh, Ryouma-kun... What's with the outfit? You look strange." [Receptionist Girl]

"They're work clothes for cleaning! What do you think? Looks good, right? It's easy to move in and you won't have to worry about getting dirty. In fact, it's difficult to dirty it even while wading through a pool of mud." [Ryouma]

"Now that you mention it..." [Receptionist Girl]

The surrounding people nodded and there were even some who showed interest.

"By the way, I just finished my work today and there's something I'd like to report to the guild master. Would now be a good time?" [Ryouma]

"Eh? The guild master?" [Receptionist Girl]

"Can I see the guild master?... There's something I'd like to talk to him about." [Ryouma]

"Really? Well... Sure, but there's a guest right now, so you might have to wait." [Receptionist Girl]

"That's alright." [Ryouma]

The receptionist girl went inside, and then after a while, she came back.

“Ryouma-kun, the guild master says you can come in.” [Receptionist Girl]

Looks like I can meet him as soon as possible. That’s fortunate. But before we could get to the guild master’s office, the receptionist warned me.

“By the way, there are some really amazing people inside the guild master’s room right now, so make sure you don’t say anything rude, ok? I don’t think there’s anything to worry about since it’s you, but just in case, ok?” [Receptionist Girl]

“Thanks. I’ll be careful.” [Ryouma]

When we got to the guild master’s office, the receptionist girl knocked and called out.

“Excuse me. I’ve brought Ryouma-kun.” [Receptionist Girl]

“Come in.” [Wogan]

We entered the room just as the guild master said. Inside were the guild master and the four members of the Jamil Household and Sebasu.

“Ryouma-kun, good job out there.” [Reinhart]

“Why is everyone here?” [Ryouma]

“We came to hear the story you told us yesterday from the guild master. We’ve also mobilized the guards to gather information.” [Reinhart]

“I see...” [Ryouma]

Unexpected, but this is good!

“So? What’s the matter?” [Wogan]

“I have some important information I need to pass on.” [Ryouma]

“What happened? And what’s up with those clothes. The basket yesterday was one thing, but I feel like your clothes are becoming more unique by the day.” [Wogan]

“These are work clothes I made for cleaning. It’s made to be functional, so it not a lot of thought has been put in aesthetically... That aside, I cleaned one of the latrine pits of the common toilet today.” [Ryouma]

It was a little forceful, but I brought the topic back to course. When the guild master and the duke’s family noticed how serious I was, they became serious too.

“Right, we talked about that yesterday. What about it?” [Wogan]

“I use water magic and scavenger slimes in order to clean. Scavenger slimes are slimes

that like to eat animal feces and rotten meat and they also possess the cleaning skill. That's how I clean stuff." [Ryouma]

"Never heard of that kind of slime before, but I understand that you're able to clean because of them." [Wogan]

"Right, I'll get to the point. Filth is dirty, so naturally, places with lots of it tends to become breeding grounds for diseases. To deal with that, the scavenger slimes have the Disease Resist skill. And just yesterday, my scavenger slimes had a Disease Resist level of 5, but after cleaning a latrine pit today, that level jumped up to 7." [Ryouma]

As soon as I said that, voices of shock filled the room and the air immediately tensed.

"What!?" [Wogan]

"Is that true!?" [Reinhart]

"Yes. It would be best to assume that the latrine pits are currently home to a disease terrible enough to raise a Disease Resist skill level of 5 by a whopping 2 points.

Fortunately, I noticed it before leaving the latrine pits, so I was able to clean myself and all my belongings with the same skill. I used the neutral magic, Identify, so you can rest assured that I'm clean.

I also checked the entrance and the surrounding area, and everything showed up as clean. I've also put up some countermeasures to prevent the disease from spreading. And just to be safe, I also locked the entrance and even put up a Barrier of Concealment." [Ryouma]

"I see, you did well. But still... I can't believe that a disease demon [1] was actually living there." [Wogan]

"Guild master. Fortunately, my slimes can clean the latrine pits, so I suggest banning others from entering until I finish cleaning everything. I think it would also be wise to have someone look out just to be doubly safe." [Ryouma]

"Let's do that. But are you really planing on working despite knowing there's a plague lurking down there?" [Wogan]

"Aren't the slimes the ones cleaning, anyway? Ryouma-kun, why don't you just order the slimes to clean and leave them be?" [Elize]

"It's too dangerous to clean a plague!" [Elialia]

"We can gather some people to take care of it, so..." [Reinhart]

Everyone tried to stop me, but I really have to take care of this myself. After all, it's

something I can do. It wouldn't be right to just leave this to others despite knowing that.

“Unfortunately, the slimes by themselves can't get the job done. There's filth stuck in places hard to reach like the wall or the ceiling, so unless I get rid of those with a water spell, the plague will just infect the area again.

I'm happy you're worried about me, but please leave this to me. Besides, if a lot of people were to go in and out, that would raise the odds of someone accidentally bringing the plague out with them.

On that point, it's much more advantageous to leave everything to just me and my slimes. I'll be fine, really... I know it's possible for someone else to do it, but it would be safest if I take care of it myself.” [Ryouma]

After saying that, I took out my status board and showed them 4 skills to persuade them. If I don't use these cheats now, when will I ever use them!?

Health Lv7

Vitality UP Lv3

Super Regeneration Lv3

Stamina UP Lv6

When I showed that to them, everyone was shocked, especially the guild master.

“Wh—!?” [Wogan]

“Health level 7, this is a skill that protects against anything harmful to one's health. At this level, the odds of me getting sick is undoubtedly lower than anyone else. And even if I do get sick, Vitality UP Lv3 and Super Regeneration Lv3 will drastically increase my odds of surviving. Stamina UP will also be helpful, as it will allow me to work a few days without sleep, allowing the job to progress much more quickly.

I doubt you'd find anyone more qualified than me. What do you think?” [Ryouma]

Silence filled the room as everyone was left speechless. But it wasn't because my logic wasn't sound, but because of their emotions that they found it difficult to let me go. Because of that everyone looked like they'd eaten a fly.

The silence continued on for a while before Reinbach-sama broke the silence.

“You are certainly..... qualified. I’m sorry for asking you to do something so dangerous, please take care of it.” [Reinbach]

Reinbach-sama stood up from his seat and bowed deeply toward me.

“Leave it to me.” [Ryouma]

“...I think it would be worse if a child were to contract a disease, but with all those skills, you’ll probably be fine... Ryouma, leave the look out to me. I’ll pick someone with Disease Resist and a pair of tight lips. When you work, try not to attract attention.” [Reinbach]

“Yes. Fortunately, the common toilet was made firmly, so the disease doesn’t seem to have spread just yet. It’s good we were able to notice it beforehand.” [Ryouma]

“You said it. It would have been horrible if a plague had spread.” [Wogan]

“Incidentally, the cleaner slimes were also in the latrine pits, but their Disease Resist skill never leveled up, so it should be safe to assume that the plague isn’t airborne. Everything will probably be fine once everything is cleaned.” [Ryouma]

“Airborne?” [Reinhart]

They don’t know?... Come to think of it, this world does have magical medicines that Earth doesn’t, and they’ve been talking about the existence of a disease demon for a while now...

I know the disease is simply because of a virus, but even Japan treated measles the same way before, so maybe they’re simply lagging in medical knowledge.

“Diseases can spread to a large group of people, right? Well, we refer to disease like that as an infection. And the method by which a disease spreads itself is varied. Sometimes it spreads itself like poison, requiring that others drink or consume it, while others can spread itself simply by being inhaled. We refer to the latter as an airborne infection. In such a case, the disease will spread quickly and dealing with it will prove difficult.

Fortunately, that’s not the case this time around, as the cleaner slime’s Disease Resist skill level did not increase. The disease present in the latrine pits is most likely what we refer to as an infection transmitted through contact, meaning it requires direct contact. Someone would have to touch an infected object, then touch a food or a drink to infect it, and then eat/drink that infected substance to be infected himself. Of course, eating the source directly works too. In any case, this is what we refer to as an

orally transmitted infection.

Because of the common toilet, the filth immediately falls into the latrine pits, so the odds of one touching them is nil. So long as I take care not to bring the plague out with me, everything should be fine... By the way, I'm not a specialist or anything, so all the information I said now is just the basic." [Ryouma]

I'm not a doctor, you know... But this sort of stuff is really common sense back in Earth...

Still, I'm glad it's not airborne! I know I was worrying on my own, but I'm still so happy that I have the scavenger slimes with me! If not for the slimes, I'm not sure what I would've done. Burning the filth would have just spread the disease via smoke. We would have to prepare a lot of disinfectants too. Come to think of it, I don't think I've even seen any disinfectants being sold.

"After saying all that it's still just the basic? I've never even heard any of that stuff." [Wogan]

"Ryouma-kun, I... No, everyone here thinks so too. Just where did you learn that?" [Elize]

As expected, they didn't know anything about diseases.

"I studied under my grandma. Granny was always researching medicine, so she knew a lot about diseases. Ah, but it would be better to say that I just learned a little here and there while chatting with her. I wasn't really officially a student." [Ryouma]

For the meantime, that was enough to make everyone understand. Although it seems they never really intended to pursue the subject, and they quickly started talking about what we would be doing after this.

After discussing among ourselves, it was decided that I would resume tomorrow, so I went back with the 4 Jamil members to our lodging.

I wasn't absolutely sure that there was zero chance of me spreading anything, so I suggested to change my inn after returning, but all 7, including the maids, firmly refused my proposition.

I understand their reasons, but what are they going to do if I do end up spreading

something? At the very least, they should put me somewhere where I could be easily monitored and dealt with when necessary. They should at least do that, I said.

...In the end, Elialia and the madam scolded me while crying.

I gave in in the end, but... Being cared for that much really made me happy.

Chapter 21

Meeting Together

The next day.

8 adventurers were gathered at the guild's meeting room.

"Wereanna, so your party is here too." [Jeff]

"You're here too, Jeff?... Hey, why do you think we were called today?" [Wereanna]

"Who knows? The other guys haven't a clue either. Rank, age, race... There's nothing in common about us at all. Just what criteria did they refer to to pick us, I wonder. Any clues on your side? You're the only party, after all." [Jeff]

"Dunno. The only common trait my party shares is that we're all beastmen. I doubt that has anything to do with it, though." [Wereanna]

"Well, yeah. I'm a guy and I'm human too. There's a dwarf and a dragonewt, but everyone else is human too, so race and gender probably doesn't have anything to do with it." [Jeff]

Another female beastman entered the room.

"Good morning, nyaa? Wereanyaa, Mizenyaa, and Syrnyaa are here too, nyaa?" [Miya]

"You too, Miya?" [Wereanna]

"That's right, nyaa. When I came back from work last night, the receptionist told me to be here today, nyaa. I sure didn't expect to see you three here, nyaa." [Miya]

"Neither did— Huh? You don't stink so much anymore. Did you finally leave that trashy house of yours?" [Wereanna]

"I told you so many times to move but you just wouldn't listen." [Mizelia]

“Did you finally get sick of it?” [Syria]

“That’s not it, nyaa. I’m still living there, nyaa. I know it’s not the best place, but I still paid a lot of money for it, nyaa. There’s no way I could just abandon it like that, nyaa.” [Miya]

“Then why don’t you stink so much anymore?” [Wereanna]

“Well, you see, there was a kid who took my cleaning request the other day, nyaa. He cleaned everything, nyaa.” [Miya]

“That endless hell of stench? He cleaned it up?” [Wereanna]

“I couldn’t believe it either, nyaa. But he actually cleaned the basement in less than 2 hours and even closed up the wall, nyaa. Supposedly, he used magic to clean the place and now it’s sparkling clean, nyaa.” [Miya]

“That’s amazing. Who was it?” [Miya]

“A newcomer, nyaa. I think he’s still under 13, but he carries a big basket woven from wood and vines on his back, nyaa.” [Miya]

Jeff reacted when she said that.

“Hah? A kid under 13 with a giant basket? You talking about Ryouma?” [Jeff]

“That’s him, nyaa! I’m pretty sure that’s what he called himself, nyaa.” [Miya]

“You know him?” [Wereanna]

“The old man called him in the other day after finishing his work. He looked like he had no idea why he was being called, so I told him there wasn’t anything to worry about, and that’s it’s just the old man being a busybody as usual. He was a really well-spoken kid, that guy.” [Jeff]

“He definitely knows his manners, nyaa.” [Miya]

Around this time, another person entered the room. It was none other than Ryouma.

Miya screamed when she saw him.

“Excuse me. Is—” [Ryouma]

“Ah! It’s that kid, nyaa!” [Miya]

“Miya-san? Ah, Miya-san and Jeff-san.” [Ryouma]

“Sup, we met the other day. Looks like you were called too. We were just talking about you, actually.” [Jeff]

“About me?” [Ryouma]

Wereanna approached Ryouma and introduced herself.

“Nice to meet you. So you’re Ryouma? I’m Wereanna, a member of the dogman tribe. I’ve known Miya for a long time now and we also used to be in the same party. I was really surprised when I heard you cleaned her house. That’s pretty amazing, you know.” [Wereanna]

“Buying a house is good and all, but when the wall broke down, it was a disaster. Of course, you know all about that. Anyway, it was really tough for beastmen tribe members like us whose noses are really sensitive, so I told her to move several times, but she was just too stubborn... Ah, I’m Mizelia by the way, from the tigerman tribe. Nice meeting you.” [Mizelia]

“I’m Syria, from the rabbitman tribe. It’s a pleasure to make your acquaintance.” [Syria]

“I’m Ryouma Takebayashi. It’s a pleasure to meet everyone.” [Ryouma]

“I used to be in the same party as these three, but when the stench of the house started to stick to me, it became difficult for me to work with them because of their sensitive noses, so I had to leave, nyaa. I just couldn’t abandon that house, nyaa. Well, there were other reasons too, nyaa.” [Miya]

“Miya can be really stubborn sometimes.” [Mizelia]

“So many people told her not to, but she still insisted on buying that house.” [Wereanna]

“Seriously, I can’t believe you actually lived at a place like that for 5 years.” [Mizelia]

“You’ve been living there for 5 years? That... must have been difficult.” [Ryouma]

Ryouma’s face went blank at that, then Jeff asked him a question.

“By the way, you have that same basket with you today, yeah? What’s in it?” [Jeff]

“My familiar. I am a monster tamer, after all.” [Ryouma]

“Heh~ So you’re a monster tamer. What familiar do you have?” [Jeff]

“Different types of slimes. I’m still just an apprentice. Slimes are kinda slow, so I put them in the basket, so we can get around faster when I’m in a hurry. Besides, it wouldn’t do to scare the townspeople.” [Ryouma]

Around this time, the guild master finally entered the room.

“Good, everyone’s gathered. Sit where you like.” [Wogan]

Everyone found themselves a seat and listened to what the guild master had to say.

“Before I can explain why you were called here today, I need you first to promise not to leak any information. If you can’t do that, then leave. For the record, you don’t have to take the job after hearing the details. You can refuse it so long as you don’t leak the details. There won’t be any penalties either.” [Wogan]

Everyone nodded without hesitation.

“Good, then let’s get to it... But first thing’s first, let me tell you by what criteria you were chosen. First is trust, we needed someone tight-lipped. Second, the skill Disease Resist. Everyone has it, right?” [Wogan]

“Disease Resist? Yeah, I have it. I’m sure you know already, old man, but I used to be from the slums. Living there, you’re bound to get 1 or 2 levels in it. Mine’s 5, though.” [Jeff]

“We also have it due to a town we had to go to for work that was plagued.” [Wereanna]

“Fortunately, the plague wasn’t that bad, and we were able to get back alive. We even got a skill out of it.” [Syria]

“If I recall correctly, you all have it at level 3.” [Wogan]

“Mine’s 4 now though, nyaa. I’m not saying this because I’m proud about it or anything, but living at a house full of trash like that... It’s only natural it would go up, nyaa.” [Miya]

From the flow of the conversation, the experienced male dwarf adventurer was able to guess the contents of the job. When he gave his conjecture out loud, the young adventurers panicked.

“Disease Resist... I take it we’re dealing with an epidemic here?” [Dwarf Adventurer]

“Has it already spread!?” [Adventurer]

“Calm down, Cher. Gordon’s right about it being an epidemic, but it hasn’t spread yet.” [Wogan]

“Not yet... I suppose that means one or two have already fallen ill?” [Wereanna]

“No, we coincidentally found the source of the disease. The person who found it is Ryouma over there. So far no reports of people falling sick have come yet.” [Wogan]

Everyone turned to Ryouma at that, then the guild master, Wogan, explained how Ryouma was able to find the disease.

“...And so, with the scavenger slimes’ Disease Skill jumping from a 5 to a 7, it should be safe to assume that a terrible disease the likes of which not even a level 6 Disease Resist could defend against is brewing in the latrine pits of this town’s common toilets.

The objective of this job is to stop the epidemic before it spreads. Also, considering how the people will react should word of this were to spread, you’ll have to work in secret.” [Wogan]

“Are all of us responsible for dealing with the plague— erm, cleaning the latrine pits?” [Cher]

“No, only Ryouma will be dealing with the latrine pits.” [Wogan]

“Wait a moment! Are you seriously planning to let a kid do all that by himself!? Don’t you think that’s too much? Kids tend to get sick quickly too, it’s too dangerous!” [Wereanna]

“Besides, it’s ridiculous to ask a single person to clean all of the latrine pits alone.” [Jeff]

“I share your sentiments, but this is for the best. Ryouma has already managed to clean a latrine pit yesterday in just one day.

And the highest level of Disease Resist among you is 5, which belongs to Jeff. Unfortunately, the disease were dealing with here isn’t something that can be dealt with even with a level 6 Disease Resist. The odds of spreading it is simply too high.

On that point, Ryouma possesses level 7 health, making him the person least likely to get sick. Moreover, he also has Vitality UP Lv3, Super Regeneration Lv3, and Stamina UP Lv6. Even if he falls sick, Ryouma still has the highest chance of surviving among everyone here.” [Wogan]

Everyone looked at Ryouma in shock.

Syria asked Wogan a question.

“...I understand he’s suitable, but if that’s the case, then what are we supposed to do?” [Syria]

“You are to keep watch while he’s working and ensure that no one else enters. We can’t lock the entrance while the latrine pits are being worked on, so we’ll have to rely on you.

Also, those among you with the neutral magic, Identify, will have to use that to ensure that Ryouma isn’t infected when he goes out.” [Wogan]

“Do we really need 9 people to keep watch?” [Jeff]

“...Ryouma can work for a few days without sleeping. His ‘Health’ skill is a mixture of

the Disease Resist, Sleep Resist, and Poison Resist skills. This was confirmed with his status board.” [Wogan]

“I see, so there’s 9 of us, so we can keep watch in shifts. Ryouma, are you really going to be ok?” [Jeff]

“No problem. Working a few days without sleep is pretty much the norm for me. I’m also working on my own volition, so this much won’t be a problem.” [Ryouma]

“I see.” [Jeff]

“Keep an eye out on him too, to see if he’s really not pushing himself... You have 10 minutes. In some ways, this is more dangerous than a monster subjugation job. You won’t be penalized even if you refuse, so make sure you think hard on this.” [Wogan]

After Wogan said that, he left the room. Ryouma left too since it was already decided that he would be participating.

After the adventurers thought on it for a while, Jeff spoke.

“Sigh... What to do?” [Jeff]

The dwarf adventurer named Gordon answered.

“I’ll do it. I was born and raised in this town. I know a lot of people here. I can’t just run away now.” [Gordon]

Following him, the dragonewt adventurer also express his intent to join, and then another, and another...

“This one shall also accept. It is wisest to nip an epidemic in the bud before it can bloom.” [Dragonewt Adventurer]

“I can’t believe something like that is brewing in this town... I know it’s dangerous, but I can’t just leave a kid like that to fix it all by himself. I have to do it.” [Wereanna]

“You said it. In the first place, all we’re doing is keeping watch. The one doing the actually dangerous part is that kid. Given conditions like that, I can’t possibly turn tail and run now, can I?” [Jeff]

Apparently, it didn't even take 10 minutes for the adventurers to decide, and after Wogan and Ryouma returned, everyone agreed to participate.

After that Wogan passed on the knowledge that Ryouma claims he received from his grandmother, and then quickly decided on the groups of the lookouts.

Chapter 22

Working With the Senpai Adventurers

~Side Ryouma~

Preparations complete.

I went ahead of the others and made my preparations in front of the latrine pits. My outfit is too conspicuous, so if I'd gone with the others, we would have definitely garnered some attention. Besides, I'm sure they have their own preparations to make, and they might also want to check if the virus really hasn't spread yet.

With my preparations all done, all that's left is to wait for— Oh, speak of the devil.

When the footsteps ceased, the door opened and three people came in. Of the three, one was Miya-san, whom I worked for before, and the other was Jeff-san, who I met after cleaning Miya-san's place.

"Thanks for coming." [Ryouma]

"Sure, but we haven't done anything yet." [Jeff]

"We met just the other day, but I think we should still introduce ourselves, nyaa. Let me start; I am Miya Cat, nyaa. Call me Miya, nyaa." [Miya]

Miya-san's light brown furry tail swayed while she introduced herself. It was almost as if she was trying to appeal her being a member of the catman tribe.

After her introduction Jeff introduced himself.

"Like I said before, the name's Jeff Grange. I was raised poorly, so I'm not fond of manners and etiquettes. You don't have to be polite with me. Just talk normally." [Jeff]

"Thank you, but I'm not forcing myself or anything." [Ryouma]

“That’s fine then. Next is...” [Jeff]

“This one, de gozaru.” [3rd Adventurer]

The adventurer this time was someone I hadn’t been acquainted with yet. He had shortly cut dark brown hair that was almost black and talked like someone from a historical play. He used a katana too. No, judging from the size, it’s an o-katana (big katana). That’s a first seeing one since coming here. The bandits didn’t have any katana with them. Just who is this guy?

“This one’s name is Asagi. I left the dragonewt village and embarked on a journey in hopes of honing my blade. Currently, I have settled in this town and am working as an adventurer. There is fate between us, let it be a pleasant one.” [Asagi]

“Ryouma Takebayashi. It’s a pleasure to make your acquaintance. So you’re a dragonewt.” [Ryouma]

Dragonewts are also known as the dragonman tribe. Just at the name implies, they are said to look like dragons, but he didn’t look like one at all, so I thought he was a human.

Asagi-san noticed that.

“Did you just realize that this one is a dragonewt, de gozaru?” [Asagi]

“Sorry, this is my first time meeting one.” [Ryouma]

“It is fine. Dragonewt features are not as obvious as other tribes like Miya from the catman tribe. Most have scales in one part of the body, while a very few grow a horn. The rest are no different from humans. With such minute difference that cannot even be seen openly, it is perfectly understandable that you were not able to recognize one, de gozaru.” [Asagi]

While we were talking, it finally occurred to me that there was in fact a scale – the same color as his hair- extending from his neck to his chest. But I was more interested in way he talked and the weapon he carried.

“Sorry, do you mind if I ask you something?” [Ryouma]

I thought it would be a bit strange to ask about his accent right off the bat, so I asked

about his hometown first. As it turns out, a person who was most likely an otherworlder was indeed responsible for creating the dragonewt village in a faraway island.

“Many of the dragonewt possess greater physical prowess and magic than the human race. That has been the case since long ago, and it is said that it was because of that that we once lorded with hubris over other races.

The person who created the dragonewt village was not a dragonewt, however, but a human who possessed a body stronger than even that of the dragonewts. He was also a master of the sword. It is said that that person defeated all the dragonewts that oppressed the humans, but he did not kill them and instead spared their lives. That left a deep impression on the dragonewts then and they came to be his disciples.

After that they followed him with the rest of the dragonewts who didn't oppress others to an uninhabited island and created a village. To this day we carry his soul and techniques as samurai, de gozaru. This is the legend of our village's origin, a verse from the 'exile'.”

Asagi-san is a descendant of those dragonewt disciples. and his accent is something the dragonewts inherited from that otherworlder. Amusingly enough, it turns out even his name was taken from the color of the kimonos when the samurais first made their appearance.

Looks like that otherworlder really liked samurais.

...It feels off, though. I don't know if the story merely changed after all the years, but that otherworlder really feels like a foreigner sorely mistaken about Japanese culture.

“...Hey, not that there's anything wrong with your story, but don't you think we should be getting started soon?” [Jeff]

“Ah, right.” [Asagi]

“Time really passes when talking.” [Ryouma]

Recalling what we were supposed to be doing, we went back to work.

“I'll open the door now, but before that, please take a towel and dip it into this.”

[Ryouma]

I ordered the cleaner slime to spit out some deodorizing liquid into a bowl.

“What’s that?” [Jeff]

“This is the deodorizing liquid of the slime. It should dilute most of the stench. Don’t worry, it’s not poisonous.” [Ryouma]

“I see.” [Jeff]

After seeing me dip a towel in the deodorizing liquid and wrapped it around my face, they followed suit and covered their mouth and nose.

“I’ll open it now.” [Ryouma]

And so, I opened the door...

“I’m off—” [Ryouma]

“UGU!... *COUGH...” [Asagi]

Just when I was about to leave, Asagi-san suddenly choked.

“Are you ok?” [Ryouma]

“Sorry... I’d braced myself for the smell when you opened the door, but I didn’t smell anything, so I thought there wasn’t anything to worry about. Putting my guard down was a mistake. Dragonewts have noses as sensitive as the beastmen tribes, de gozaru. The moment I removed the towel this happened.” [Asagi]

Ahh, so that’s why... I was like that too yesterday.

“It can’t be helped. I was no different yesterday, and I’m human. The smell is so bad it even gets to your eyes. I probably wouldn’t be able to stand it either without the slime. I’ll leave some deodorizing liquid, so feel free to use it as you please. Alright, I’m going now.” [Ryouma]

After that I went in with my slimes. As expected, this latrine pit was in a horrible

condition just like the one yesterday.

I figured I might as well check if the latrine pit really was diseased before cleaning it, so I used Identify on it.

This is what appeared:

Idake Virus: A virus that grows in filth. Causes the Idake Disease.

Incubation Period: Activates 10 hours after entering the human body.

Symptoms: Dizziness, fever, cold, numbness in the limbs, general paralysis, obnubilation (mental cloudiness), cardiac arrest.

Prognostic Symptoms: Numbness or paralysis may remain.

Infection Method: Oral Infection

Note: Weak to heat and lack of moisture. A special medicine exists for this disease.



So there really was a virus! I couldn't confirm yesterday as I'd already cleaned everything by the time I've thought of it, but it would've been great if I was able to check beforehand. That way there wouldn't have been any room for doubt. Wait a moment, there's a medicine for it!?

The moment I learned the name of the disease, the corresponding medicine and its concoction method appeared in my head as if I were merely remembering something I already knew. Looks like it's included in the knowledge Gayn and the others gave me. I should share this information with the others too.

"Guys, can you hear me?" [Ryouma]

"What's up, nyaa?" [Miya]

After cleaning myself and the surrounding area in front of the door, I opened the door a little and called out. Miya-san immediately noticed me.

"I thought I'd get some info first before starting, so I used Identify, and as it turns out, the disease is called Idake. Apparently, there's also a medicine for it. I came back to pass that info." [Ryouma]

"Really, nyaa!?" [Miya]

“Yes, there’s no doubt about it. The medicine has a couple of expensive ingredients, so it might be too late already, but can you still tell the guild master about it?” [Ryouma]

“I’ll inform him now. If we tell him the name of the disease and the fact that there’s a medicine for it, the old man will surely buy enough to cover us even if it’s expensive. I don’t know how long he’ll need, though, so we should get the news to him ASAP.” [Jeff]

“Wait, tell him the concoction method too. That way he can have someone concoct it immediately.” [Ryouma]

“You know the concoction method too!?” [Jeff]

“Yeah, I recognize the medicine back when my grandma was teaching me.” [Ryouma]

“That is most reassuring. Speak and this one shall write it down.” [Asagi]

As Asagi-san pulled out some writing tools, I immediately told him the formula and concoction method of the medicine. He didn’t understand what the medical jargon meant, but he still managed to write everything down.

Come to think of it, I haven’t used a brush in forever. I’ve been using nothing but feathered pens since coming here, but then again... It’s not like we used them a lot in the previous world either. At most, brushes were only used to write a New Year’s card.

“Done. Will this do?” [Asagi]

After confirming that the written information was accurate, Jeff-san took the note and ran. I myself went back to the latrine pits.

Now that that’s done with, I don’t have business left with the filth, so it’s time to wipe them out. Slimes, eat them all!

At my behest, the slimes by my feet inflated like a balloon, filling the staircase to the latrine pits with their body.

Their splitting yesterday resulted in their numbers going past 1,000. Because of that they didn’t become a huge scavenger slime after merging but a king scavenger slime. It’s a lot bigger compared to the huge scavenger slime.

Also, it may be called king, but it's still possible to grow into an even bigger version so long as their numbers increase. I don't know far they can go, but the skills of the king scavenger slime are as follows:

King Scavenger Slime x1

Skills:

Disease Resist Lv7

Poison Resist Lv7

Lead Belly Lv8

Cleaning Lv8

Deodorize Lv8

Deodorizing Liquid Lv5

Stench Lv7

Produce Fertilizer Lv6

Physical Attack Resist Lv3

Enlarge Lv4

Shrink Lv6

Jump Lv3

Overeat Lv1

The king scavenger slime possessed the Overeat skill in place of Digestion and Absorption. When I tried using it, the king scavenger slime used the Enlarge skill to make itself big enough to reach the ceiling of the latrine pit, then it consumed the surrounding filth with a speed several times faster than before.

Moreover, because the slime was now big enough to reach the ceiling, it could clean even places it couldn't before. Later on I should be able to split the slimes into two king slimes to cover both sides of the latrine pit, while having a couple of scavenger slimes to deal with the middle.

With my mind made up, I ordered the slimes to deal with the filth, then I worked on the ceiling and the walls myself.



Doubling on the slime numbers really was a big help as expected.

I know we're working without rest, but still... We finished a full 2 hours faster than yesterday. That's something.

After successfully cleaning this latrine pit, I cleaned my clothes and belongings and went outside just like yesterday.

When I did...

“Oh, did something happen again?” [Jeff]

“Oh, I’m done here. So I’d like for you to run your checks, so we can proceed to the next one.” [Ryouma]

“Already, nyaa!?” {Miya}

“Didn’t you need a day to clean a latrine pit?” [Jeff]

Huh?... Ah! I only cleaned one latrine pit yesterday. They were probably told that, so as a result, they think I need a full day to clean one latrine pit.

“It looks like there’s a misunderstanding. Actually, the scavenger slimes did their splitting yesterday, so I had to form a contract with the new ones. I actually only needed 5 hours to clean the latrine pit yesterday. But it’s even shorter now as the slimes have doubled their numbers.” [Ryouma]

“Doubled? Wouldn’t that just give you two slimes? How could two slimes cl— erm, eat that much?” [Jeff]

Ah, they don’t know about the slimes merging to form the big variations.

“This slimes is usually in small form, but it’s actually a king scavenger slime, an advanced variant. Have you heard of the big slime?” [Ryouma]

“Yeah, it’s a giant slime.” [Jeff]

“Slime variants of the big class are actually a colony of many slimes of the same type. So while it may look like just one slime on the outside, what you’re seeing is actually an entire colony of slimes.” [Ryouma]

As I said that, I ordered the scavenger slimes to split 20 times.

“Unyaa!?” [Miya]

“Woah... Seriously?” [Jeff]

“This is...” [Asagi]

“From what I’ve heard in the past few days, the slime is rarely researched, so the only ones who know about this are me and my acquaintances. I’ve always been researching slimes, so I tend to forget that it’s not common sense. My apologies.” [Ryouma]

“Nah, so long as you can do your job, it’s fine. By the way, how many scavenger slimes are in that thing?” [Jeff]

“1464.” [Ryouma]

“1,000!?! *COUGH Excuse me... No wonder you can work so fast.” [Jeff]

“Please consider the information regarding the slimes confidential too.” [Ryouma]

After that they ran their checks, and when they were sure everything was clear, we went to the next latrine pit, and then the next... And so on and so forth.

Chapter 23

Realizing Something Only After the Fact

3 days later.

This one's the last.

I've barely gotten a wink of sleep these past three days. I would chat with the others from time to time, but for the most part, I was cleaning. When I think about how I'm almost done, I can't help but think back to everything I've done.



"This one's done too. Let's go to the next one." [Ryouma]

"Hey, just how long do you think you've been working without rest now?" [Jeff]

"The sun's already set, nyaa." [Miya]

"This makes two already. Why not rest first, de gozaru?" [Asagi]

"My stamina and mana are holding up just fine. And besides, I'd like to get this over with as soon as possible." [Ryouma]

"...You do look like you've still got plenty of energy to go." [Jeff]

"This one thinks so too." [Asagi]

"Same here, so there's no reason to stop him, nyaa. It would be best if we could get this over with sooner than later anyway, nyaa." [Miya]

After cleaning the second latrine pit on the first day, I went to the next pit with the approval of Jeff-san and Co. By the time I was done with the third latrine pit, the people keeping watch had changed.

“Oh, you’re out.” [Wereanna]

“You’re Miya-san’s party members.” [Ryouma]

“It’s Wereanna.” [Wereanna]

“I’m Syria. We’ve been put in charge of the evening shift. Let’s get along, Ryouma-kun.”
[Syria]

“Yes, let’s get along. I’m done here already, so please run your checks. Also, I heard you have some MP potions on you.” [Ryouma]

“We do.” [Mizelia]

The medicines of this world were largely divided into two categories.

Medicines that use medical herbs and stones like those in Earth and magical medicines that use the mana of its ingredients or ingredients whose properties have changed due to the presence of mana. Potions are a kind of magical medicine that take effect instantly.

The rabbit girl, Syria-san, used Identify on me and the surroundings, while the tiger girl, Mizelia-san, took a vial out of her large bag and gave it to me. The vial was filled with a deep green liquid.

Mizelia-san informed me that the MP potion could recover as much as 2,000 MP. She also warned me to be careful not to take more mana than my body could handle, as that would cause an abnormal status known as Mana Intoxication.

After hearing her warnings, I went ahead and emptied 10 MP potions.

“Thank you. Let’s go to the next one then.” [Ryouma]

“Already? Why don’t you rest a little first?” [Mizelia]

“I heard you haven’t rested one bit since Maya’s group was on shift. I bet you haven’t eaten either, right? Here.” [Wereanna]

Wereanna handed me a basket full of sandwiches.

“I got it from the client’s butler. I think it would be best if you finish these first before going to the next one.” [Wereanna]

“Butler? You mean Sebasu-san?” [Ryouma]

“Yep, that’s what he called himself alright. You know him? He said you had a tendency of forgetting to eat when working. He was waiting here up until a while ago, but it seems he had some errands to run and left.” [Wereanna]

My body’s holding up just fine, but I did actually forget about eating, so I gratefully accepted. Because of that I ended up having more time to interact with these girls.

“Has the information on the disease reached the guild?” [Ryouma]

“Yes. The guild master is getting some concocted through an acquaintance of his. He said he’ll prepare enough for all of us. By the way, are you really planning on working without rest?” [Wereanna]

“I intend to rest, of course.” [Ryouma]

“Well, you’re not resting enough. There’s nothing wrong with taking a break after every pit, honestly.” [Wereanna]

“Frankly, I’m not really sure if you can pull it off. Are you sure you’re not pushing yourself?” [Syria]

“I’m confident in my stamina. But I can understand why you find it hard to believe considering my age.” [Ryouma]

“There are a lot of newbie adventurers who eat more than they can chew, after all.” [Wereanna]

“True that. If not for the fact you’d shown your status board, I would have protested. If this mission were to fail because of some recently registered adventurer’s unsubstantiated claims, the consequences could reach all the way to the heart of the town... I do think you’re qualified now, though.” [Mizelia]

Mizelia-san’s words were a bit harsh, but I never expected everyone to trust me just

like that on our first meeting. If not for my status board, it wouldn't have been strange if they saw me as just another kid. I mean I really am just a kid right now.

We chatted idly like that until we finished eating, then we went back to work.

The next break I took was when the sun rose. The people keeping watch was different again.

“Excuse me, we've come to take our shift.” [Cher]

“Oh, hello, Cher-kun, Raypin-san, Gordon-san.” [Syria]

“Hello, Syria. Good job out here.” [Cher]

“How's the work going, de aru?” [Raypin]

“Well, from the looks of things, it seems to be progressing a lot faster than expected, but is Ryouma alright?” [Gordon]

“He's doing his best and still has plenty of energy to spare. Although, currently we've been forced to pause work for a moment.” [Syria]

“Did something happen?” [Gordon]

“See for yourself...” [Mizelia]

“What do y— Uwaa!?” [Raypin]

“What's with all the slimes? There's so many there's no where to walk.” [Gordon]

“I heard he used slimes. Did a stampede occur or something, de aru?” [Raypin]

“Stampede? Ryouma-kun says the slimes are splitting.” [Syria]

“Splitting? With these numbers, de aru?” [Raypin]

I had allowed the slimes to split to further hasten our work, but while they were in the middle of splitting, the new group arrived.

“Are you the next group? Let me introduce myself again. I’m Ryouma Takebayashi. My apologies for the current situation, but the slimes needed to split, so we won’t be able to work until they’re done. In exchange, work should progress even faster later. Please take care not to step on them.” [Ryouma]

“Right, I’m Gordon. Nice to meet you.” [Gordon]

“I’m Cher.” [Cher]

Short-statured with thick limbs and a face that was mostly beard. Gordon-san was indeed the very image of a dwarf.

As for Cher, he was a human. He looked like a middle or high school student.

“Hmm... They don’t look weak, so it’s probably not a stampede then... Hmm? Oh, my apologies. I am Raypin. I’ve become an adventurer in order to research monsters. I have a question I’d like to ask. I hope you don’t mind. This is not a stampede, right, de aru?” [Raypin]

“Ryouma Takebayashi. I am also researching slimes as a hobby. If I may answer your question with another question, what do you mean by stampede?” [Ryouma]

“A stampede is what you refer to when slimes suddenly start splitting. It happens when slimes are ordered not to split for an extended period. Eventually, they can’t keep it in anymore, and they start splitting like crazy. In that state, they won’t listen to orders and will split beyond their limits. It is said that it’s an instinctual response when the slimes are kept from reproducing.

Once a stampede starts, the slimes will split to an insane number, but the resulting slimes will be far weaker than before and will have to supplement their nutritional needs with whatever is available nearby, de aru.” [Raypin]

“Oh? I didn’t know slimes did that.” [Ryouma]

“Well, it doesn’t really occur when slimes are left to reproduce normally. And besides, there were plenty of crazy things done in the past to produce research material, so there was probably some negligence on the lab’s part. I’ve never seen a stampede personally, de aru.” [Raypin]

“So you thought it might be a stampede because of their numbers?” [Ryouma]

“Exactly.” [Raypin]

After that I told him that there were originally 1,000 slimes. I also told him about the big slime, which caught his interest.

I drank MP potions with one hand and formed new contracts with the slimes while chatting with Raypin.

By the time I was about done forming contracts with the slimes, Cher-kun and Gordon-san couldn't keep up with our conversation anymore.



...Among other things, Sebasu-san would bring me food once a day. There were times when he would be waiting for me by the door too, but regardless, the food would always be brought in a basket.

Once, there was even a letter from the ojousama included, telling me not to worry about the slimes left in the inn as they were taking care of them.

A lot of people were looking after me, not just the 9 guards, so I worked and rested nonstop, and as a result, the scavenger slimes split again, bringing their numbers up to 3,033. With that I was able to make 3 king scavenger slimes, each with 1,011 scavenger slimes, and had them line up to fill the entire latrine pit as they went to work.

Their skill levels also went up.

King Scavenger Slime x3

Skills:

Disease Resist Lv7

Poison Resist Lv7

Lead Belly Lv8

Clean Lv8

Deodorize Lv8

Deodorizing Liquid Lv6

Stench Lv8

Produce Fertilizer Lv7
Physical Attack Resist Lv7
Enlarge Lv5
Shrink Lv6
Jump Lv3
Overeat Lv4

Disease Resist never leveled up again, though. It seems level 7 is enough to deal with the Idake Virus.

Clean, Deodorize, and Overeat have all gone up most likely because of the work we've been doing. I don't quite understand why Physical Attack Resist went up, though. Could it be because their bodies are rubbing against the walls? Or perhaps it's because their bodies are rubbing against each other? I'm not really sure, but high skill levels never hurt anyone.

I followed after the slimes, disinfecting the walls with a combination of Mist Wash and Range as I went along, until eventually, we were almost done.

When we got to the last latrine pit. The slimes ran through the walls and the ceiling once, then I cleaned them a second time with water and heat. I used identify to ensure that everything was clean, and when I saw that it was, the work that I've been continuing these past few days was finally concluded.

"All done?" [Gordon]

"Yep, everything's clean." [Ryouma]

"Great! And with that everything's been taken care of. Good job." [Gordon]

"You really did manage to do everything in one go." [Cher]

"The only breaks you ever took was to eat." [Gordon]

"Now that you mention it... Ah, Raypin-san, please run your checks." [Ryouma]

"Right... Ok, there are no problems. Everything is clean. All that's left now is to go back and report to the guild, de aru." [Raypin]

“Thank you. Shall we go?” [Ryouma]

“Wait. I’ll bring you, de aru. ‘Warp.’” [Raypin]

Apparently, Raypin-san could use dimension magic, so he used the intermediate spell, Warp, to bring us to the guild. He may talk arrogantly, but he’s a good guy.

As soon as we got to the guild, the receptionist girl sent us to the guild master’s office.

“Ryouma, huh. You done?” [Wogan]

“Yes, all 30 latrine pits of the common toilets have been cleaned. It should be ok now.” [Ryouma]

“Great! That’s great! All of you should go home and get plenty of rest today! I’ll contact the others. Tomorrow, you can come back here, and the guild will give you your payment. Ryouma, you took care of most of the work this time, so you can expect a handsome reward.” [Wogan]

“Sure. I’ll be going— Oh, right. Guildmaster.” [Ryouma]

“What?” [Wogan]

“No one’s gotten sick, right? I couldn’t be informed of the goings in town while in the latrine pits, so...” [Ryouma]

“Don’t worry. I called up a well-connected grandma I know to get the medicine, so there should be enough medicine for everyone even if someone does get sick. That being said, no. No one has gotten sick so far... You mentioned it takes 10 hours after entering the body for that Idake Disease to take effect, right?” [Wogan]

“Yes, that’s what appeared when I used Identify.” [Ryouma]

“Then it should be fine. The medicine you mentioned is already underway, so just go home already and sleep. You haven’t had a wink of sleep yet, right? If anyone gets sick, I’ll tell you. Sleepiness and tottering on your feet ain’t helping anyone.” [Wogan]

“...Right. I’ll be on my way then.” [Ryouma]

After saying that, I left the guild and the three people that came with me.

As I walked the road back home alone against the chilly winds, that nostalgic floating sensation after several sleepless nights hit me.



I returned to the lodging with only the pleasant winds for my companion, but when I got back, the members of the ducal family were there to welcome me.

“Welcome home! Ryouma-san!” [Elialia]

“Welcome home, Ryouma-kun!” [Elize]

“Welcome home.” [Reinhart]

“You look well. That’s good, that’s good.” [Reinbach]

“Welcome home, Ryouma-sama.” [Sebasu]

“Please leave your baggage with me.” [Arone]

“Have you eaten yet?” [Lilian]

All 7 of them welcomed me back home.

What a nostalgic feeling.

How long ago was it that I was last welcomed like this?... Was it back when my mother was still alive? No, Elialia and the others have welcomed me so many times, so why... Why do I feel like this?

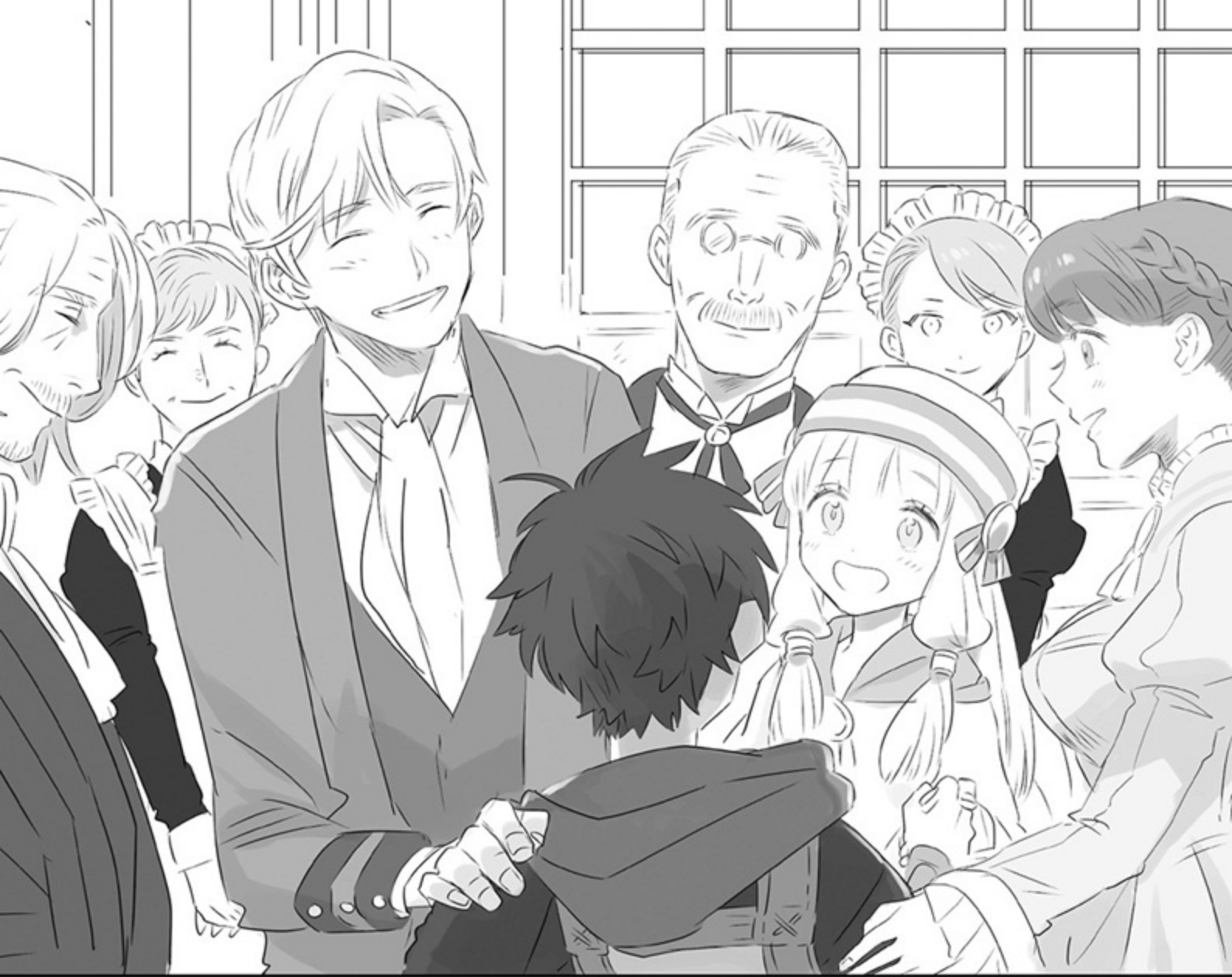
“Ryouma-kun, is something wrong? Are you hurt anywhere?” [Elize]

“No... My body is fine. I was just reminded of the past a little...” [Ryouma]

Family? Ah, right... It’s that feeling. That’s what they resemble...

When I couldn’t do my job well, when I came back home dead tired, when I was fired, when I couldn’t find work, when I was depressed... Each and every time, the one who was always there to welcome me back home was... my mother.

“Ryouma-san!? What’s wrong!?” [Elialia]



It wasn't until when the ojousama cried out that I realized it. I was crying. Without knowing it, without my permission, my eyes just started leaking on their own.

"Ahh... I'm sorry... It's alright... Really... I just remembered my family a little. For some reason, being welcomed like this reminded me of the past... It's strange. You don't even look similar." [Ryouma]

My mother wasn't bad looking, but she did have a normal face with no remarkable features, completely unlike this family of absurdly good looking people.

While I was thinking something stupid like that, before I knew it, the madam had taken me into her embrace, Elialia was hugging my arms, Reinhart-san had his hand over my shoulder, Reinbach-sama was patting me on the head, and Sebasu-san and the two maids were looking at me with warm eyes.

After that I was taken care of. They fed me, they prepared a bath for me, and then tucked me into a futon.

I don't know if it's simply because I haven't pulled all-nighters in a while that I can't think well right now, but... It's not a bad feeling.

The warmth of having someone welcome me and the sense of fulfillment after a day's hard work that I'm realizing for the first time because someone was actually there to welcome me... All of that filled me with a sense of satisfaction as I allowed the comfort of sleep to take me.



PDF by: traitorAZEN