

# 神達に拾われた男



The man picked up  
by the gods

## Roy

ILL. りりんら

# 3

# **THE MAN PICKED UP BY THE GODS (REBOOT)**

**– Kamitachi ni Hirowareta Otoko –**

**- VOLUME 3 -**

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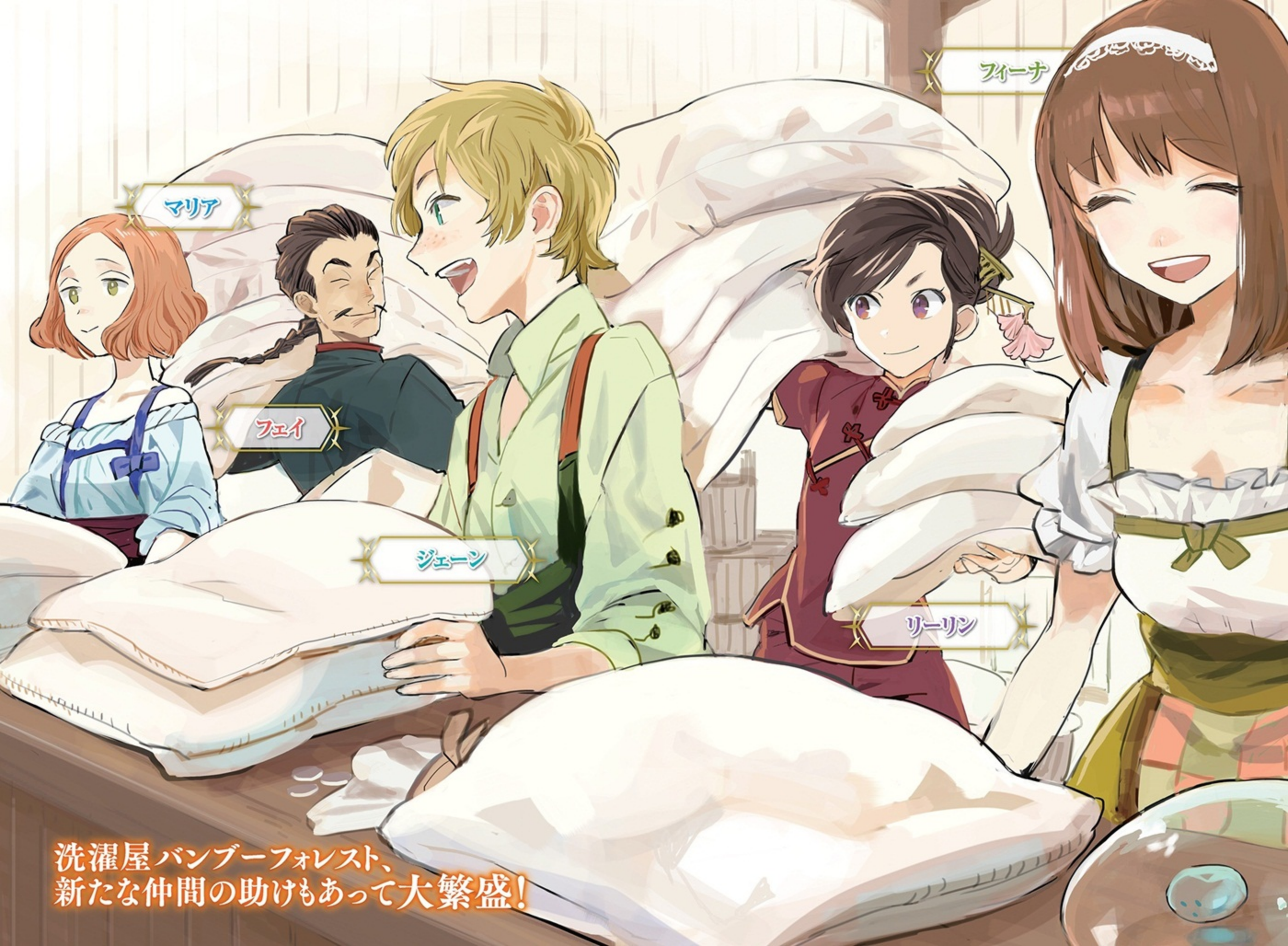


「カルム・ノーラッドと申します。  
姉共々、よろしくお願ひ致します」

「カルラ・ノーラッドと申します。先日までは弟と共に、  
モーガン商会のルイアム支店で働いておりました」

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マリア


フェイ

ジェーン

リーリン

フィーナ

洗濯屋バンブーフォレスト、  
新たな仲間の助けもあって大繁盛!



「見て下さい、  
こんなに綺麗な子が  
いっぱいなんですわ！」

# Chapter 49

## Meeting the Subordinates

12th day.

In the afternoon of Gimuru, a carriage leisurely passed by. Within it were the merchant guild's Grisiera, Pioro, and Serge. The tamer guild's branch head, Taylor, were also with them, as well as Serge's two subordinates, which were a pair of twins he wished to introduce to Ryouma.

"It shouldn't be long now." [Pioro]

"Right. It should be right at the second corner." [Serge]

The pair who looked like each other tried to hide their anxiety as they turned to the windows.

Everything started just a few days ago. While they were working at a branch store in Ruim, they suddenly got a notice of personnel change from the main store indicating that they were to leave their current jobs to someone else and go to the main store in Gimuru. The notice was signed personally by the president, Serge, himself.

Everyone congratulated them for being promoted to the main store, and after doing just as the notice had indicated and finding someone to replace them, they came to Gimuru. That was this morning.

They had to be delayed due to poor weather conditions, but when they got to the main store, they were suddenly informed that they weren't called to work at the main but at a store managed by an 11 year old child, who had connections with the duke's family. After that they had to change into their party clothes and headed to the opening party.

They not only had to be careful not to fail at managing the store, they also had to be tread carefully in their relationship with this child who was most probably the child of a noble himself. How they do here will decided their future.

“Oh, I can see it. That’s the store right there.” [Serge]

“Ho Ho Ho. That kid sure did a good job.” [Grisiera]

“A splendid store! He built this in a week?” [Pioro]

“Nee-san, is this?” [Carm]

“Yeah...” [Carla]

It was a simple looking store with a pure white wall attached with windows here and there surrounded by flower beds and a lawn. It was a simple design, but it was overflowing with an aura of cleanliness.

As the five stepped out of the carriage and entered the store, a shelf near the ceiling caught their attention, for the statue of four gods could be seen on it. When they looked around, they noticed various wooden furniture with a gentle atmosphere like the right L-shaped counter. Serge and Co. were shocked upon seeing the store completely furnished, and at the same time, Carla and Carm started feeling a little hopeful for the future of the store.

“Welcome! To the Laundry Agency: Bamboo Forest!” [Ryouma]

To the pair of twins, the person who would become their boss and was also the source of their worries, Ryouma, had just made his appearance. Their eyes reflexively changed to those of judging gazes.

“Ryouma, thank you for your invitation today. I’m really happy you even invited me~”  
[Pioro]

“Not bad. This store gives me a good feeling. Looks like I can look forward to what’s ahead.” [Grisiera]

“Congratulations for completing your store.” [Serge]

“Thank you everyone.” [Ryouma]

Ryouma looked just like a normal child as he smiled, completely unlike the sort you’d think suited to be a merchant. For better or for worse that’s how he looked to the twins. If he were just one of the kids in the neighborhood, they wouldn’t think anything

of it, but unfortunately, he was going to be their boss, so they couldn't help but think of how much trouble was waiting for them. Merchant work was no walk in the park. As someone who worked in the field despite being so young, they knew that all too well.

"Guild Leader of the tamer guild branch, Taylor, thank you for accepting my invitation."  
[Ryouma]

"Congrats. I was just wondering why there hasn't been any news since you registered, but Reinbach did introduce you."

Seeing the boy talk so brightly like that with 4 people, half of which led a guild while the other half owned a large business, the twins turned to each other and shared a knowing glance. This kid really was a noble's child.

"Serge-san, those are?" [Ryouma]

"Oh, please excuse the belated introductions. These are the assistants I wanted to introduce to you." [Serge]

"Carla Norad. I have been working with my younger brother at the Morgan Company's branch in Ruim just a few days ago." [Carla]

"Carm Norad. It is our pleasure to make your acquaintance." [Carm]

"These two twins are still young, but they have been working as the vice-manager at Ruim's branch until just a few days ago. They have worked for a long time at Morgan Company and they can also be trusted to do the job. I'm certain they can be of service to you, Ryouma-sama." [Serge]

"That's..." [Ryouma]

"Is there a problem?" [Carla and Carm]

Ryouma immediately added.

"I was just surprised at how qualified you are. There's no problem at all in that regard. It's a huge help to me too to have someone skilled come, but it just so happens that the work isn't very demanding, so I'm not sure if you'll have the ability to demonstrate your abilities here... No, I'm not saying you're not needed." [Ryouma]



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Isn't it a waste to use such talented people for a receptionist or someone to carry the laundry? But with the two already as nervous as they were, Ryouma's words couldn't be taken lightly.

It was then that Serge realized that they were acting a bit odd, but...

"Aren't you getting too worked up? Th—" [Serge]

"Ryouma! We're here!" [Wogan]

Just when Serge was about to gently speak to the twins, a loud voice interjected followed by 11 men and women entering the store. It was the adventurers guild.

"Welcome to the laundry agency, Bamboo Forest! Please walk right over to this counter here." [Ryouma]

"Oh, you did a pretty... GEH!? What's the shitty old hag doing here!?" [Wogan]

"Who's a shitty old hag? This grandma here might be a hag, but I sure as hell ain't no shitty old hag!

Goodness, Wogan, you've been the leader of the adventurers guild for so long and yet your mouth is still as potty as ever. That's why in the past you..." [Grisiera]

"Quit bringing up my past mistakes every time we meet! Good grief, and just how long are you planning to stay in power? Talk about being a tenacious old hag... So, why are you here?" [Wogan]

"Obviously, I was invited." [Grisiera]

"...Ah, forget it. Ryouma, how do we get our laundry done here?" [Wogan]

"Right... Carm-san, Carla-san, since I'm going to be showing them how to use this store, I might as well take this opportunity and show you how things work around here. Let's go in. Serge-san and the others too." [Ryouma]

Ryouma opened a part of the counter and urged the six to enter.

“First, the customer needs to purchase a bag specially made for this store’s purposes. A bag for one person’s worth of clothes goes for 20 suits per bag. The bag will be used every time the customer enlists our service, so it’s a one time purchase.” [Ryouma]

“I’ll take one then. We fill this bag up with our clothes, yeah?” [Wogan]

“Yes. Also, today is a practice of sort, so as thanks, the laundry will be free of charge. The bag too. Please have one and wait a bit.” [Ryouma]

“Thanks.” [Wogan]

“Carm-san, Carla-san, when a customer pays, you have to put the corresponding special slate into the pole by the right side of the counter.” [Ryouma]

From under the counter, Ryouma took out differently colored slates that had a hole on top and below, then he pointed toward the pole nearby that could fit the slates just right, as well as the sideboard with an enclosure.

“What is that?” [Carla]

“It’s a tool I made to easily calculate the income for the day. In our store, the prices vary according to the size of the bag purchased, so the slates signify 1 medium copper coin, 1 medium copper coin and 8 small copper coins, and 4 medium copper coins. That’s it. There’s just three. So when the customer buys a bag for his own use, you are to receive one medium copper coin from him, and then you are to put the black slate into the sideboard. The sideboard has a gradation and can fit up to 100 slates.

Once you’ve reached a hundred slates, you are to write a one on the paper below the sideboard, then you are to bring the black slates back under the counter. You are to repeat this until work ends, at which point you are then to use your record and the remaining slates to count the income for the day.

For example, let’s say your record says that you filled the sideboard with black slates three times with 42 remaining in the sideboard. In that case, the income for the day will be 342 medium copper coins, which translates to 3,420 suits.

There are three different fees just for the laundry service alone, and then you have another three from the bags, and then one from the special service aimed toward adventurers that includes armor and weapon, adding up to a total of 7 different kinds of fees, so I figured coming up with a system like this would make counting the income

for the day a lot easier. On top of that, I also want to find out just how much of which is selling, but of course, there's no actual telling how well this'll work until we try it." [Ryouma]

After saying that I went back to Wogan, but the other members of the merchants guilds were glued on the device.

Ryouma came up with this system by referencing the system in his past life that used different colored plates to calculate the income for the day. It's the system used by conveyor belt sushi. Of course, the system Ryouma came up with is still in its experimental stage, but in this world that did not have cash registers, that was more than enough to pique the curiosity of the merchants.

Unlike present day Japan that Ryouma came from. Here, the literacy rate is low and there are plenty of people who are poor at even the four basic arithmetic operations. And this system was especially suitable to be deployed in the countryside, as using the system only required one to accept the right payment and then follow the rest of the memorized procedure.

Depending on the time and place, with this system even people who can't do math could become an asset. The gradation could also be changed to suit other businesses. With their sharp insight, the five merchants immediately realized these things, but Ryouma was completely oblivious to them as he continued to talk to Wogan and the others.

"After paying your bagged laundry will be received and these tokens under the counter will be attached to the string tying the bag closed. A similar token will be given to the customer. Once, the laundry has been washed, it will be returned to the customer after confirming that the tokens are the same." [Ryouma]

After Ryouma explained how the tokens would prevent mixing up people's laundry, he then threw luggage into a hole plastered onto a wall that resembled a dust chute.

"On the other side is the room that the cleaner slimes are... Ah, by the way, cleaner slimes are..." [Ryouma]

"A slime that eats filth. We heard from Serge-sama." [Carm]

"Thank you, Carm-san. Do you two have any questions?" [Ryouma]

“About that new slime variant... Can it really clean stuff?” [Carm]

Carm immediately asked that question. His older sister, Carla, seemed like she also wanted to ask the same question, as she opened her mouth but immediately closed it when her younger brother spoke first.

“It’s probably hard to believe without seeing it for yourself... In that case, can I ask if anyone among the customers is willing to volunteer their laundry for a trial run?” [Ryouma]

“You can use mine.” [Jeff]

Jeff threw his bagged laundry over. Ryouma took it, and after showing to the twins that the clothes were indeed dirty, he threw it into the chute.

“I’ve already ordered the slimes to clean anything thrown into this chute and to bring them to the next room afterward, so everything is already automated. All that’s left is to retrieve the clothes from there, confirm the customer they belong to and return them. This is how this store operates.” [Ryouma]

In order to reduce the risk of clothes going missing and to allow the employees to focus on their job receiving the customers, we won’t be opening the laundry bags to fold them.

After giving a short explanation in a matter of seconds, Ryouma went inside and picked up the laundry. When Ryouma revealed the clothes inside, all the filth was gone.

“Wow, it really worked... Can the slimes clean anything?” [Carm]

“So far, yes, but just to be safe it would be best to check if the clothes are really clean. If they’re still dirty, you can just run them through the slimes a second time.” [Ryouma]

“Will dyed products be okay? They won’t discolor?” [Carla]

“I’ve tested cloths and clothes dyed in plant juice many times, but so far I haven’t seen any cases of discoloration. If there are any, it must be because of some other reason... You should inform the customers of this beforehand just to be safe. Is there anything else regarding the store’s operation that you would like to know?” [Ryouma]

“None.” [Carla and Carm]

“I see. In that case, how about we split the work and tend to the customers?” [Ryouma]

As Ryouma said that, he urged Carm and Carla to go to the counter. After that they took the laundry of the remaining 9 people. Ryouma watched Carm and Carla from the side, and when he saw that they were able to safely complete the job, he heaved a sigh of relief. As long as they can get the work done, then that’s enough. As for being tense, well, they’ll loosen up over time.

On this day, Ryouma took the first step of being comrades in work with these twins.

There’s a bit of misunderstanding left, though...

# Chapter 50

## A Busy and Fun Party

When the duke's group arrived, Ryouma invited all 29 guests inside.

"From this point on is reserved mainly for the employees. Normally, customers aren't permitted here. Here you can find the changing room of the employees, the reception office, the office, the toilet... etc. Oh, there's a kitchenette too." [Ryouma]

"Mind if I look around?" [Reinhart]

"Go ahead." [Ryouma]

The 29 guests followed Ryouma to the different rooms of the store. Ryouma found the whole thing reminiscent of the bus tours in his past life. When they got to the last room, the break room for the employees, Ryouma told the guests to wait, so he could get the food ready.

It was only when Ryouma left that it finally occurred to him that he'd invited all sorts of high-standing individuals to a private event without regard for social status.

Although it was only because he wanted to thank these people that he planned this event – also, partly because he didn't have any good relationships in his past life and admired such gatherings – after realizing what he'd just done, he quietly reflected on his actions in the kitchen.

But since most of the adventurers and the people were high ranked, they didn't actually mind it as much as Ryouma was thinking. Although a little tense, they chatted with each other as they waited for Ryouma to return.

10 minutes later, Wereanna started to become restless.

"Wereanna? What's wrong?"

“I-I think it’s Ryouma’s cooking. Something smells really good.” [Wereanna]

When she said that everyone started to pay attention to the smell, but only the 3 beast tribe members other than Wereanna and the dragonnewt could smell it.

“Nyaa!?! It really does smell good, nyaa!” [Miya]

“She’s right...” [Syria]

“I can’t smell anything, though...” [Pioro]

“The smell is probably too faint for humans, so only the beast tribe members could smell them.” [Mizelia]

“No, I can smell it too, de gozaru. Is this... meat? No, is it bread?... Regardless, it smells wonderful, de gozaru.” [Asagi]

“Come to think of it, Ryouma’s cooking tasted great last time too.” [Reinhart]

“Really, Reinhart-sama?” [Syria]

“Yes, even though it seemed he didn’t have many ingredients, that rabbit meat sauteed with Jija root sure tasted great.” [Reinhart]

“Ryouma-kun already has Lv 10 in Domestic Chores despite his age, after all. I’m sure we can look forward to a wonderful meal.” [Sebasu]

“Lv 10 at that age? That’s impressive. Domestic Chores may be easy to level up, but it’s rare to see anyone level it up to 10 before 40.” [Grisiera]

5 minutes later, Ryouma came back.

“Sorry to keep you waiting. The food’s ready.” [Ryouma]

“Alright, nyaa!” [Miya]

“Slow, slow, too slow! Do you have any idea how torturous it was enduring that delicious smell?” [Wereanna]

“Huh? You could smell it? I put up a smell-concealing barrier. Did it break midway?”

[Ryouma]

“Forget the barrier, where’s the food?” [Wereanna]

“I’ll bring it now.” [Ryouma]

“We’ll help too.” [Sebasu, Arone, Lilian]

Ryouma thanked the three Jamil servants, then he carried the food into the room with them, while a slime carried the drinks. Seeing that, the 5 members of the merchant guild and Taylor, the branch head of the tamers guild, finally noticed that Ryouma’s slimes moved differently from normal. The other guests explained for Ryouma.

While the other guests were explaining to them, food and drinks were brought one after another. When everything was served, Ryouma proposed a toast.

“Umm... I would like to thank everyone for coming to celebrate the opening of my store. Although it’s not much, I’ve prepared food and drinks. I hope you find it to you liking. Cheers!” [Ryouma]

“Cheers!” [Everyone else]

At the toast, everyone drank their cups at the same time, then Gordon suddenly exclaimed.

“W-What is this wine? Isn’t this the high class stuff!?” [Gordon]

“We are celebrating, after all, so I splurged a little.” [Ryouma]

“What wine is this?” [Gordon]

“I believe the store owner called it the Spring of Jemis.” [Ryoma]

When Gordon heard that, he looked at the cup in his hand and laughed.

“So it was the Spring of Jemis! I’ve heard word of its taste, but I’ve never actually tasted it.” [Gordon]

“It’s that famous?” [Ryouma]

“You bought without knowing? The Spring of Jemis is a highly regarded brand among wine aficionados.” [Gordon]

“I didn’t know at all. The store owner just recommended it, so I bought it.” [Ryouma]

“You have good luck. The Spring of Jemis isn’t that expensive, but it’s famous among enthusiasts, so it always sells out.” [Gordon]

“I see... Hmm, luck? Ah!” [Ryouma]

“What is it?” [Elialia]

“No, I just realized why I was able to buy one.” [Ryouma]

“Realized?” [Elialia]

“Yes. Actually, I have the divine protection of the god of wine, Tekun-sama.” [ryouma]

“Seriously!?” [Gordon]

“Is that true, boy!?” [Pioro]

When Pioro and Gordon heard that, they were shocked.

“Yes. Yes, that’s right. Is that strange?” [Ryouma]

“I envy you...” [Gordon]

“I envy you so much~” [Pioro]

“Tekun-sama’s divine protection is an object of envy among all dwarves. Especially, his divine protection as a God of Wine.” [Gordon]

“You prefer that over his divine protection as the God of Crafts?” [Ryouma]

“Well, I’m an adventurer, so getting good at smithing is a matter of course... Besides, any blacksmith worth his salt wouldn’t rely on some divine protection to get good. Skill is something you train and acquire with your own strength.

Compared to that, any dwarf would want good liquor, which is why the God of Wine’s

divine protection is generally more sought after. And chancing upon good wine is partly just luck. That's where Tekun's divine protection comes in." [Gordon]

Makes sense, Ryouma thought, then Pioro continued.

"I see... I can understand why you'd be envious then, but what about Pioro-san? Do you love to drink too?" [Ryouma]

"I don't hate it, but in my case, it's more because I'm a merchant. I haven't told you this yet, but my business actually deals with food goods. So, the reason I envy you is because if I had that divine protection I would have an easier time finding good liquor." [Pioro]

"Oh, I see." [Ryouma]

While Ryouma was talking with them, Wereanna interjected.

"Ryouma." [Wereanna]

"What is it?" [Ryouma]

"Seconds!" [Wereanna]

"That's quick! Did you empty your plate already!?" [Ryouma]

"Ryouma, me too." [Jeff]

"Me three." [Hyuzu]

"Me four." [Wogan]

"Jeff-san, Hyuzu, and even you too, guild master Wogan? Everyone sure eats fast." [Ryouma]

"That's cause your cooking is so good. It's my first time eating something so good." [Wereanna]

"Really? Saying that sure makes me feel glad cooking it, though..." [Ryouma]

"I agree with the lass. My jaws aren't as strong as they used to be, so the meat that

comes from the butcher are usually too tough to chew. But both this pasta's meat and the steak is so soft. For the first time in a while, I'm actually able to eat meat properly. I'm glad I came today." [Grisiera]

"Glad to hear. Please eat your fill." [Ryouma]

As Ryouma said that, he left to get them a second serving, but when he came back, this time Mizelia, Miya, Reinhart, and Asagi asked for their second serving.

"Reinhart-san, you enjoyed it too?" [Ryouma]

"Ha ha, I doubt there's a soul in the world who wouldn't fall in love with your cooking." [Reinhart]

"Really? I thought for sure fancier food would be expected of in parties... What's the matter?" [Ryouma]



The moment Ryouma said that, a glint flashed across Reinhart's eyes.

"Ryouma-kun, let me tell you something." [Reinhart]

"Y-Yes." [Ryouma]

"High-class food aren't all delicious." [Reinhart]

When it comes to parties among nobles, the splendor and uniqueness of the food matter more than taste, Reinhart said.

"After all, there are all sorts of preferences when it comes to taste... If one were serving to one or two people, then naturally one should cater toward their tastes, but given a multitude of people, that becomes unfeasible, and the odds of earning another person's petty displeasure only increases.

Which is why nobles have turned to preparing food with luxurious ingredients that are difficult to procure as a sign of good will. It's the safe way to do things, and it has been practiced for a long time now." [Reinhart]

"Because of that there are a lot of food that seem over spiced." [Elize]

"The chefs might be the cooks, but it's the nobles who decides what they cook. Of course, the food they serve are still edible, but they're rarely the sort you'd be thinking of eating. They don't taste bad, but at my age, they're a bit... heavy. On that point, your cooking is just right, Ryouma." [Reinbach]

"Ryouma-san, I feel like I can eat your food with my heart at ease." [Elialia]

"Well, I'm glad you've all enjoyed the food. I'll be bringing the dessert next, so please prepare yourselves~" [Ryouma]

Ryouma still had his questions regarding sacrificing taste for higher quality ingredients, but since that's what the four members of the Jamil Household said, he figured that's just how the nobles do things and left it at that.

"Pwaah... I'm done, nyaa... I can't eat anymore, nyaa... I'm so happy I came today, nyaa..." [Miya]

"Glad to hear it. Still, everyone sure ate a lot today. Especially, you, Jeff-san. Where do

you put all that?" [Ryouma]

"Hah? If I feel like it, I could still eat more. I have the Food Stuffer skill, you see." [Jeff]

"The Food Stuffing Skill?"

"Never heard of it? It allows its user to eat a lot in one sitting and not have to eat for the next few days. When I was just starting my adventurer career, I used most of my earnings in food, and after eating a lot in one sitting several times, I naturally learned the skill." [Jeff]

"That Food Stuffing Skill is one of Jeff's many resist class skills that he learned while living in the slums. That's why he's a lot sturdier than your usual adventurer, and can do one job after another, nyaa. That's why he's famous, nyaa." [Miya]

"Jeff-san sure is amazing." [Ryouma]

"Things just ended up like that after picking out more worthwhile jobs. I'm not really amazing or anything. If anything, I'd say you're the amazing one. You even have the resist class skills that I don't have. If you want we can take on a job together. You look like you could handle some slightly tougher jobs." [Jeff]

"Please take care of me when that time comes." [Ryouma]

"It'll be a huge help to the guild if you pair up with Jeff. Other adventurers can't really keep up with him, so he usually works alone. Unfortunately, some jobs just can't be done alone, and because of that those jobs tend to be untouched." [Wogan]

"What kind of job are those?" [Ryouma]

"Right... For example, a job that's C Rank, but requires one to mine flame crystals from a volcano. That's a difficult job without a skill to resist foul smell since an adventurer would normally have to come back several times and mine for a long time, leaving him exposed to the rotten-egg-like smell of the volcano. On top of that, the volcano is also covered with a weak poison that could kill a person depending on the place." [Wogan]

"Volcano poison?... By any chance, could this poison cause people's eyes to swell and become teary-eyed in light doses, and at heavier doses cause people to become unable to breathe?" [Ryouma]

“Oh! That’s right! You’re sure privy to it.” [Wogan]

“I just know a thing or two.” [Ryouma]

“Well, that sort of knowledge is an advantage to adventurers. Do you know how to deal with it? Is there an antidote for it?” [Wogan]

Ryouma became thoughtful upon being asked that, but this world did not have any knowledge on medicine and there was also no guarantee that he could make the medicine from Earth here.

“Unfortunately, I’m not sure if there are any. That being said, it seems the poison comes from the smoke from the volcano and the gas coming out underground, so you might be able to mitigate or nullify the effects by using a wind spell to protect oneself.” [Ryouma]

“Oh... Your grandma must be quite the expert considering how much she’s taught you. I’ve been working as the guild master for a long time, but you just keep surprising me when it comes to poison and diseases.” [Wogan]

Ryouma was startled a little when his grandma was brought up, but he quickly recovered and chuckled as he said she’s an amazing person, then he spoke to Carm and Carla.

“Carm-san, Carla-san, how was the food?” [Ryouma]

“It was very delicious!” [Carm and Carla]

“That’s good to hear. By the way, I would be glad to have you work here for me, but are you really okay with it? As I’ve mentioned before, I don’t think the two of you will be able to make the most of your abilities with a store like mine.” [Ryouma]

“I was actually discussing that with my younger brother just now.” [Carla]

“Please let us work here.” [Carm]

“Huh?... Did something happen? Somehow it feels like you’re so eager all of the sudden...” [Ryouma]

There was no hesitation in their words. It was almost as if they were completely

different from when they entered the store for the first time.

“Our deepest apologies for our early behavior. We’ve had a change of heart after seeing your store in person, Ryouma-sama.” [Carla]

“We were worried at first, but after seeing the tools and policies you’ve come up with, we believe there is much to be learned here.” [Carm]

“You sure change switch quickly...” [Ryouma]

“The young are simply that flexible, Ryouma-sama. I know people with more skill and experience than these two, but the reason I chose them is because of their flexibility” [Serge]

“We will do our best not to shame our introducer, Serge-sama’s Morgan Company, and our boss, Ryouma-sama of the Takebayashi Family!” [Carla and Carm]

When Ryouma heard the two say that, he felt they were somewhat similar to Serge.

“I understand. Having someone with a wealth of knowledge in merchant work is indeed reassuring, so I have no complaints. I look forward to working with you two.” [Ryouma]

“Yes!” [Carm and Carla]

The two replied with a smile that extended from ear to ear.

Meanwhile, Serge watched Ryouma’s exchange with the two with a face full of satisfaction.

“Remember not to push yourselves too much, though. Just do what you usually do. I don’t know about the Morgan Company, but you don’t have to worry about bringing shame to my family.” [Ryouma]

“No, it’s imperative that we be have at least this much resolve. A little bad reputation is all that’s needed for word to spread among nobles, after all.” [Carla]

“Huh? Carm-san, do rumors reach nobles so quickly even when it’s concerning a newly opened store?” [Ryouma]

“Most nobles are cautious of other houses’ movements, so things probably would end up just as my older sister said.” [Carm]

“Other house?... Could it be the both of you think I’m a noble?” [Ryouma]

“You’re not? But you have a relationship with the duke?” [Carm and Carla]

“We do have a relationship, but we just happened to meet by coincidence. So I’m not exactly a... Serge-san?” [Ryouma]

“...My apologies. I may have failed to mention that.” [Serge]

As Ryouma and the twins realized this inconsistency, they turned to Serge to clear up the misunderstanding.

While Ryouma, the twins, and Serge were all talking, another group was watching them and talking to each other.

“Hey, shitty old hag.” [Wogan]

“What, inconsiderate man?” [Grisiera]

“Can Ryouma’s store turn over that much of a profit? It’s a pretty strange store...” [Wogan]

“It will, though I can’t tell you how much exactly.” [Grisiera]

When Wogan heard that, Wogan knitted his brows.

“Aren’t you going to give him a hint or two?” [Wogan]

“For now I intend to quietly watch over him and let him do as he wishes.” [Grisiera]

“Is that alright?” [Grisiera]

“Serge has already given him two aides. Even if they get some attention, they should be able to deal with it. And should things get dangerous, he can ask for help himself, and I will be more than willing to help as a merchant.

Of course, there are always some unscrupulous ones that wouldn't care to choose their methods. You should keep an eye out too." [Grisiera]

"I know, but he probably won't need my help. That guy got into a fight with the Fang of Orbtem just recently." [Wogan]

"You mean those delinquent adventurers that have been getting infamous lately?... That kid is the one who crushed them?" [Grisiera]

"Yeah. He happened upon them while in the middle of adventurer work and found them picking a fight with some children. After that is just as you've heard. If there's anything to add, well, let's just say it was a one-sided fight.

Other than that, he also took part in the goblin subjugation. He has a lot of slimes, that kid...

It's just secondhand knowledge, but it seems you'll be in a world of pain if you look down his slimes just because they're slimes." [Wogan]

"Do those slimes use weapons?" [???

While they were talking to each other, another person interjected.

"Grandpa Taylor, you knew?" [Wogan]

"Can slimes use weapons?' An adventurer asked our clerks just recently. It's already become a rumor. But it's my first time seeing his slimes in action today. Regardless, I think I'll recommend him to take a short course." [Taylor]

"Right. It would probably do him good to know what a normal monster tamer is expected to be capable of doing and not doing... We need to be careful." [Grisiera]

"I know." [Wogan]

"Usually, it's a welcome thing for an able individual to appear, but... Reinbach also asked me to watch over him." [Taylor]

The three of them spoke among themselves like that in a corner of the room, while Ryouma enjoyed his time with his friends and colleagues that he did not have back in his previous life.

Before long, it was time to end the party. Before going back home, everyone reminded Ryouma not to push himself. When everyone had left, Ryouma cleaned the place up, then he stepped outside and took a good look at his store.

Ryouma felt a strange sense of fulfillment that he did not have in his previous life. After that, he went back to the lodging.

# Chapter 51

## Store Opening

The next day.

~Side Ryouma~

After the party yesterday, Carm-san and Carla-san excitedly announced, “We can start as early tomorrow!” Because of that we’re opening the store today.

The time is currently 5 AM.

“Yeah, this might be a bit too early...” [Ryouma]

I accidentally used earth as a basis for my work schedule. Those 2 probably won’t come until later.

Can’t be helped. Let’s kill some time with the slimes.

“Good morning, boss!” [Carla and Carm]

“Good morning, Carm-san, Carla-san. I look forward to working with you today.” [Ryouma]

When they came, I just did a little checking, then we immediately started preparations to open the store. I say ‘preparations’, but all we really did was to let the cleaner slimes enter the room and prepare some change and the bags.

It was Carm-san and Carla-san who brought the bags and the things they ordered this morning, so they’re already being very helpful.

“I’ll be going then.” [Ryouma]

“Take care.” [Carla and Carm]

I have my reservations about leaving the store to them right on the first day, but with

leaflets and other advertising avenues being closed, I have no choice but to go to the adventurers and advertise the store myself.

Besides, Serge-san introduced some really reliable workers, so... I guess I'm not needed anymore? Well, that's why I hired them in the first place.

While I thought that to myself, I dropped by my neighbor before heading to the guild. I have to tell Pauline-san that the store's opened already.

"Excuse me, is anyone in?" [Ryouma]

The store was open, but no one was inside, so I called out. When I did, Pauline-san came out.

"Coming! Oh! If it isn't Ryouma-kun. Did you come to buy some seeds again?" [Pauline]

"No. My store, Bamboo Forest Laundromat Agency, is opening today, so I thought I'd drop by to say hi." [Ryouma]

"Oh. It's opening already? That's quick." [Pauline]

"Yes. It's thanks to everyone's efforts. Last time, I handed out some free bags, so please consider using our services. Pleaes let Mary-san and Kiara-san know too. I've alerady informed the two employees working at the store." [Ryouma]

"You hired some helpers?" [Pauline]

"Someone I know introduced them so I can leave the store to them while I work as an adventurer. I'll also have to rely on my salary as an adventurer to pay their wages until the store gets going." [Ryouma]

In the end, they even said, "We don't need a salary as long as you let us work for you!!" But naturally, I couldn't just let them do that. I'd feel sorry if I did... Honestly, I don't really understand why they want to work at my store so badly. They'd probably get better wages and have more opportunities to show off their skills if they were ot work at Serge's. Hmm... Maybe it's because of my personal connections?

Regardless, it's a huge help to have their support.

"With how big your store is, I guess it was necessary. Well, do your best. I'll be rooting

for you too, so I'll give your store a try out today." [Pauline]

"Thank you very much. Well then, I'll be going to work." [Ryouma]

After bidding her goodbye, I left the store and went to the guild. As soon as I arrived, someone called out to me.

"Ryouma, your store is opening soon, yeah?" [Familiar Adventurer 1]

"How long before it opens?" [Familiar Adventurer 2]

"I wish you'd open it already~" [Familiar Adventurer 3]

I also looked for advice from the people I met in the carriage from the abandoned mine monster subjugation hunt. Apparently, those people were also looking forward to the opening of my laundromat.

"Bamboo Forest Laundry Agency is already open starting today." [Ryouma]

"Really!?" [Familiar Adventurer 1]

"Yes. We also have a full-body wash that includes the armor and the weapons, so please give it a try." [Ryouma]

"Alright! I'm definitely dropping by on the way home today!"

I purposely replied to the adventurer in a loud voice for advertising purposes, then I went to the reception desk to get a herb collection job. I'll do my rounds around the abandoned mine at the same time.

A few hours later.

I may have left the store in their care, but I was still worried, so I quickly concluded my job and came back.

When I did... the store was already jam-packed despite it being its opening day.

...Huh? There's 20 people standing outside!!?

Panicking, I quickly entered the store, and Carla-san was there to greet me.

“Welcome... Boss!” [Carla]

“Carla-san, what’s the situation?” [Ryouma]

“The store’s a lot more popular than expected, Boss!” [Carla]

“Boss! The neighboring madams brought in their laundry!” [Carm]

Carm-san stepped out from the inner rooms of the laundromat, carrying bags of laundry, and said that.

Anyway, we need to do something about all these people!

“You two look after the customers. I’ll do all the carrying!” [Ryouma]

After giving that order, I started earnestly carrying the laundry and looking after the customers.

But even as we kept up that pace, the number of people still increased. What’s going on!?

In the end, it wasn’t until past 3 that the wave of customers ended. There’s still some customers left, but they’re not that many anymore. Unfortunately, it still takes a lot of times since we have to explain to every customer how the store works.

Apparently, the price I was charging really was low. The customers even had to ask stuff like ‘Are you really going to do my laundry for just that much?’ ‘You’re not going to charge me a separate fee after washing my clothes, are you?’...There were some people who refused to believe too, so it was quite troubling. At one point, so many people gathered that the guards had to drop by to check what was going on.

But that turned out to be a blessing, as the guard went to his boss afterwards and told him of my laundry agency. That boss dropped by and bought two bags and asked to enlist the 35 person course, so the guards could get their laundry washed.

Apparently, until last year the guards have been hiring someone to do their laundry, but the government office told them to cut down on expenses, so they had to stop. The captain of the guards said they were already fortunate that their salaries weren’t cut,

but from the sound of things, he seemed a little unhappy about the government office too. Regardless, after that I was told that he'd enlist my service again if he things go well. Did I just get a big contract this early on?

But still... Since opening 8:00 this morning... I think I've spent about roughly 3 minutes per person. I don't know when the customers are going to start coming again, but Carm-san and Carla-san work straight without drinking or eating?

...That's pretty bad, right? I'm fine, but their body won't hold... At this rate, this store is going to end up as some sort of slave business! I have to avoid that!! I stake it on my previous life!

"Good job, Carm-san, Carla-san." [Ryouma]

"You too, Boss." [Carm]

"There sure were a lot of people." [Carla]

"Indeed... It's a bit sudden, but more people is good, right?" [Ryouma]

"Yes, increasing our customers sooner should be good, but with the current workload, we we'll need 4 or 6 employees just so they can take turns working and resting. We had to spend more time today because of all the explanations, but judging from the customers' reaction, it shouldn't be long before we'll be as busy as today even without the explanations." [Carla]

Carla-san quickly told me how many people we would be needing.

"The customers were elated at the speed and quality of our store's service, so it should be safe to assume that there'll be more customers tomorrow. The guild should be able to introduce workers immediately, so long as you post a recruitment notice there, Boss." [Carm]

"How much would it cost me if I went ahead and hired some new hands?" [Ryouma]

"120 to 150 suits per day should be enough. That much can allow a person to live normally and even have some left over to save. An initial salary at this level is a very attractive proposal, so people should gather quickly." [Carla]

"It should be possible to hire some hands for cheaper, but we're currently in an emergency, so we need to hire new employees ASAP." [Carm]

"Alright. I'll go the guild now. The sooner we get those new hands, the better, after all." [Ryouma]

"Take care, Boss!" [Carm and Carla]

I decided to trust in the twins' unfaltering opinion and hurriedly left the store. Solving

problems as quickly as possible is best, after all.

But just when I was about to leave the store, I happened upon a neighbor of mine, carrying a huge bag, as three others accompanied her.

“Oh, Ryouma-kun.” [Pauline]

“Pauline-san, Leni, Rick, Zeke-san. I see you’ve all gathered today. What are you carrying?” [Ryouma]

“Why we were thinking of getting our laundry washed at your place, of course. We have a butcher, so we have no shortage of clothes stained in blood.” [Zeke]

It was Zeke-san who answered. He was Pauline-san’s husband and worked right next to her flower shop. I used Zeke’s meat for all the dishes I served during my party.

Normally, when it comes to butchers, anime love to depict them as this muscular giant of a man, but Zeke-san is the exact opposite. He’s not too bad vertically speaking, but he’s thin. Actually, he’s straight up lanky. In fact, he’s so thin, he looks like he’d topple over were a breeze of wind blow him. He’s an unhealthy looking guy.

“I heard your laundry agency could make these bloodstained scraps good again.” [Pauline]

“We were planning to buy some new threads, so we figured we might as well try and getting these washed.” [Zeke]

“Thank you. If I may ask something unrelated, do you have servants at your place?” [Ryouma]

“If you include me, we have 10 all in all.” [Zeke] [1]

“In that case, we have a course catered for groups of more than 7. Please consider taking advantage of it, as it’s a lot cheaper, costing only 1 medium copper coin and 8 small copper coins for one bag meant for 14 persons’ worth of clothes.” [Ryouma]

“Really? That’s great.” [Pauline]

“We’ll go with that then.” [Zeke]

While I was doing some sales talk, Rick interjected.

“Ryouma-kun what are you doing? You playing hooky?” [Rick]

“Ha ha ha, it probably looks like that to you, but I’m actually on my way to the merchant guild.” [Ryouma]

“Really?” [Leni]

It was Leni who asked that last question.

“The store’s a lot more popular than expected, so now I have to go out and get ourselves more hands.” [Ryouma]

“You’re kidding! On the store’s first day!?” [Leni]

“Honestly, I did promote the store a little, but I never expected it would be received this well.” [Ryouma]

“I’m shocked. That many people came?” [Pauline]

“Yes, our two employees have been working since morning without rest. They went 7 hours straight just like that.” [Ryouma]

After that I left the four and went to the merchants guild. There, I was immediately brought to the reception room, and the guild master came.

“Welcome. Isn’t your store opening today? Did something bad happen?” [Grisiera]

“Well, the store’s a bigger hit than expected. Thanks to that I need some new helpers.” [Ryouma]

“On the first day? Well, I’m stumped. Even I didn’t expect that... So, I guess you’re here to get more people. Alright. I’ll get a group of candidates that can work as early as tomorrow. You can pick from those.” [Grisiera]

No sooner than the guild master said that, she was out of the room, and I was made to wait in the reception room.

After being informed that the candidates have been gathered, I was led to the meeting room.

Inside was a group of all sorts of people from young to old, from male to female, from human to something else...

Hmm?

“...” [??? and ???]

There’s a strange pair... They glanced at me, but they quickly changed their gaze’s direction forward.

Am I also being appraised? There were also others who glanced at me, but as if they lost interest, they turned their gaze away...

“Everyone here has been taught the basics of arithmetic. You can use anyone here for your store.” [Grisiera]

“Alright. Good day, everyone. My name is Ryouma Takebayashi, and I own Bamboo Forest Laundry Agency. Thank you for taking the time to show up despite your busy schedule.” [Ryouma]

The crowd stirred a little when I said that. From the subdued voices, it seems they thought I was the servant of the their would be employer.

So they weren't appraisin me. Well, I do look like an 11 year-old kid...

Some of the people in the room quickly relaxed after my greeting. I ignored those and asked them.

“Umm, before we start, I'd like to ask everyone a question. Is there anyone here with a problem working at my store?” [Ryouma]

Bit by bit, more and more voices of dissension raised up. It was mostly the younger ones.

Although we're in dire need of workers, that doesn't mean I'm about to take in people who don't want to work for me because of my age or uncooperative people. Because of this it's best to leave the talk of wages last. It would be troublesome if people just gathered because the salary is high. There's a lot of candidates too, so reducing their numbers shouldn't hurt.

The people who didn't want to work for me left. I wasn't about to force them to work for me, so I had them leave.

One, two, three... Huh?

The wave of people leaving won't stop. Are they in such a hurry to leave? Normally, wouldn't you at least go through the interview? Although, I was the one who told them they could go...

In the end about 83% of the candidates left, and now, just 5 are left. I can somewhat understand why those left, but...

Anyway, I thanked the people that stayed behind.

“I take it the remaining 5 are willing to work at my store. For that I thank everyone here that you’re willing to work at my store despite my youth.” [Ryouma]

After bowing, I started talking.

“Let’s get to business then. My store, Bamboo Forest, is currently looking for people to carry luggage. You’ll only be carrying clothes, so even a woman won’t have any problems doing the job. If there’s anything to take note of, it’s that I’m a monster tamer. I consider my slimes a part of my workforce, so there will be slimes inside the store.” [Ryouma]

Upon saying that, the remaining five were shocked. Being a monster tamer isn’t anything special, but apparently, they didn’t expect that someone would actually use slimes as a part of his workforce.

“Which is why, if there are people here scared of or hate slimes, it’ll probably be difficult for you to work with me.” [Ryouma]

When I said that, a woman raised her hand.

“Yes?” [Ryouma]

“Are you using those slimes because you don’t have enough hands? Or are you going to be using them even after hiring more workers?” [Woman Candidate]

“I will still be using them even after hiring workers. This might offend some people, but at my store, the slimes are your coworkers.” [Ryouma]

At that, the woman who raised her hand and another woman and man left. Although it was a slime, apparently, they didn’t want to work with a monster, so they left. With this all that’s left is a middle-aged man and a young woman.

Is this all I have left to interview? Did I handle this wrongly?

Although these people were only gathered with the criteria that they could work as soon as tomorrow, it’s still shocking that I was left with only two in the end... I mean sure giving them a bunch of yes or no questions made everything go quick, but... Now, there’s just two left.

# Chapter 52

## Employment

I asked the last two candidates.

“Since you stayed behind, I take it you’re alright with slimes? Everyone else is gone.”  
[Ryouma]

The two quietly nodded.

“Then could you tell me your name? Also, if there are any conditions you would like to have, please feel free to speak up. The man can start.” [Ryouma]

I first called out to the middle-aged man. These people are quite interesting. First of all, the clothes they were are very different from the clothes the people in town wear. They look just like those Chinese actors in Kung Fu movies, so I noticed them as soon as I entered the room. Not to mention that rod the man is carrying and the woman’s hair ornament...

While thinking that to myself as I observed them, the man spoke.

“My name is Fei. This here my daughter, Leerin [1]. It would be great if you can hire us both.” [Fei]

He talks just like one! And it seems he’s the dad of the woman.

“So you’re father and daughter.” [Ryouma]

“She takes after her mother, so she does not look like me. Also, there’s something I need to tell you.” [Fei]

When Fei said that, he showed me his right leg. A splint could be seen attached to it.

“I’m actually merchant from a country called Zilmar, but it was getting dangerous because of war, so I left. Unfortunately, I lost all my money when I came to this country. Now all we have left are my stuff and my daughter.

At first, we had no money at all, but by working at the mines, we slowly saved up money. Too bad the cave collapsed and now my leg is broken. We don't have enough money to ask healer to treat me, so it will be a while before I can recover. Is this problem?" [Fei]

A broken bone, huh?

If I recall correctly, a medium heal should be able to take care of it. If not, then the advanced Mega Heal should. I can't use either, but my heal slimes can. And even if Fei can't be treated, I can just put him in as a receptionist.

"You can just work as a receptionist until you recover. It won't be an issue." [Ryouma]

"Really?" [Fei]

"Yes. Being a receptionist is a great job too. There won't be any problems as long as you can deal with the customers properly. Do you have any particular requests regarding the salary?" [Ryouma]

"None. As long as we can live, it's good enough." [Fei]

"I see. Then let's move on to daughter next... Leerin-san, right? Do you have any special requests?" [Ryouma]

"As long as you hire us both and give us enough to live, I have no complaints. Housing too would be nice, or maybe introduction to cheap place. We currently live in guild temporary housing. Once finds job we have to leave." [Leerin]

"Because of leg no one want hire me. Right now we somehow getting by thanks to daughter doing odd jobs. We don't have much money anymore. If you can find us cheap lodging, we won't complain." [2]



If they want lodging, then there's the lodging I built with my store. It's vacant right now, so they could just use that. They also don't seem to be looking for particularly high wages, so the wages we planned should be enough. And although they're foreigners, we're able to understand each other, so that's good.

Besides, although these people seem to be hiding something, they're quite strong. They're like Jeff-san and the others. I can't see any opening. In fact, they're way stronger than any bandit I've fought yet. I can probably leave the store's security to them if I hire them.

"We have lodging for employees. You can stay there." [Ryouma]

"Really!? That's great, ne!" [Fei]

Everyone else went home already and I don't think there's any problem with their abilities, but... There's one thing I need to confirm.

"There's just one thing I want to ask. Before that, guild master." [Ryouma]

"What is it?" [Grisera]

"I'm truly sorry about this, but could I ask you to give us some privacy? It's about the store." [Ryouma]

I said it like that, but I really want her to leave.

These two probably aren't from an honest trade.

It's not too strange for people in this world to kill in self-defense. I've personally killed around 30 bandits myself, but that's nothing before these two.

It's my first time feeling like this. Is this what they mean when they say 'the smell of death?' It's not just Japan. It's my first time feeling this even in this world.

Just in case, it might be better for the guild master to leave. It won't be easy fighting if I have to protect her too.

I'm sure I made it clear I want her to leave, but...

"What are you chasing me out for? If there's something wrong, then tell me." [Grisera]

Unfortunately, that had the opposite effect, and now she wants to hear my reason.

“It’s regarding the store’s secret.” [Ryouma]

Still, I want her to leave. I implied that while keeping my on the two.

It was then that Fei made his move.

“Guild master, it’s enough, yo. He’s already found us out, ne.” [Fei]

Hmm? This is a bit different from what I expected.

“Boss, I wonder just who you are, ne? We may be former killers, but we have no intention of picking a fighting with you, yo. The guild master too, ne.” [Fei]

True, I don’t really feel any hostilities coming from him.

“Guild master, you knew?” [Ryouma]

“Naturally. I don’t know about others, but when I introduce someone, especially someone from another country, I make sure I’m introducing someone good. Can’t accidentally introduce a spy, after all. These two really did run away from their country, though. Still, it’s pretty amazing that you noticed something was off about these two.” [Grisiera]

“I thought our disguise was pretty good, though.” [Leelin]

“Only the guild master and you have found us out so far. Boss, you’re not just a normal person, are you? That makes one really curious.” [Fei]

Leelin-san looked depressed, but Fei-san just asked that last question with a faint smile.

“I don’t have sharp eyes like the guild master does, but I’ve studied martial arts for a long time, so I can tell when someone is strong or weak. Besides...” [Ryouma]

“Besides?” [Fei]

“I noticed you were carrying some hidden weapons on you.” [Ryouma]

“Fei! Leelin! You brought stuff like that without you!?” [Grisiera]

“Oh, wow... You noticed that too?” [Fei]

“Stuff regarding hidden weapons was beaten into me really badly in the past. The scariest creatures in this world are humans. They use their heads, trick people, and when your guard is down, they strike. What allows people to do that are hidden weapons. If one wishes to defend against those, then one needs to study hidden weapons, or so I was often told...” [Ryouma]

It’s just my real dad I’m talking about here, but now that I think about him, it sure feels nostalgic...

“I was attacked a lot. Sometimes when we passed by each other in the house, and sometimes when I was just minding my own business.” [Ryouma]

“Just how in the world did you live your life?” [Grisiera]

“You sort of feel like our kind of people, but you feel different.” [Leelin]

“You’re like us, but it seems you only learned the techniques.” [Fei]

They can tell that much just by my aura? That’s amazing...

“My master thought me my skills, but I only started using them 3 years ago against bandits.” [Ryouma]

“So it’s the difference in years. We’ve taken plenty of jobs to take bandits or traitors. Lots of wars break out in our country, so the public order is really bad. If people like us don’t go around offing people here and there, it’s hard to maintain order. That part about being a merchant wasn’t a lie. We normally work as peddlers.” [Fei]

“Our boss lost in the war and our work and our country became meaningless, so we came here. We haven’t done any jobs worth being proud of. Will you still hire us despite that?” [Leelin]

“Since the guild master acknowledged you, then I’ll accept you so long as you do your job properly.” [Ryouma]

If they don’t cause problems and work properly, then the past doesn’t really matter.

Everyone has a secret or two, right?

“Really? We thought for sure no would want us once they came to know of our past.”  
[Fei]

“We even prepared to run away.” [Leelin]

“Please don’t run away. My store really needs help right now, and there’s no one left ot hire... Anyway, what matters is the now. Your past doesn’t really matter, so please come work at my store. Also, would it be possible to also ask you to work as bodyguards?”  
[Ryouma]

If the guild master knew of their situation and still chose to introduce them, then it’s probably fine. She has better eyes than me, after all.

From time to time, it even feels like she knows I’m actually already past 40... I hope it’s just my imagination.

“We’ll work hard.” [Fei]

“Leave the security to us.” [Leelin]

“I’ll hire you officially then. I look forward to working with you.” [Ryouma]

After we exchanged bows, the guild master spoke.

“Done? Then go. A carriage has already been prepared.” [Grisiera]

“Thank you, guild master.” [Ryouma]

“Something like this... Don’t mind it. Fei, Leelin, make sure to work hard, aright? This kid’s store is really promising. And next time, don’t carry hidden weapons on you!”  
[Grisiera]

“We can’t keep calm without them.” [Leelin and Fei]

“How long are you planning to act like assassins!? You’re merchant’s now, ain’t ya!?... Although they’re like this, they’re not bad people. They’ve never committed any crimes either. Please take care of them.” [Grisiera]

“I will.” [Ryouma]

“Take this too. It’s their resume. They have experience working in the military. Show them to those two from Serge’s.” [Grisiera]

“Alright... Wait a moment, wouldn’t it have been better if you just handed this to me from the start?” [Ryouma]

“Hee hee hee. This old granny here just wanted to see how good your eyes are. I wanted to see the quality of the workers you end up choosing when choosing blind. It was a bit shocking seeing all those other guys leaving just like that, but these two are the real deal. They can definitely do the job. Oh, and your eyes aren’t bad. Although I’m not sure if they’re very good from a merchant’s perspective. Well, either way, do your best.” [Grisiera]

“Thank you.” [Ryouma]

I left the guild with Fei-san and Leelin-san, then we went back to the store with the carriage that the guild master prepared.

When I got back to the store, there was a large crowd of customers gathered. It wasn’t as big as the crowd from this afternoon, but the 2 employees were very busy.

“Welcome back, Boss!” [Carm and Carla]

“What an amazing crowd...” [Leelin]

“This is the owner’s store? It’s really doing well.” [Fei]

“I’ll help them out. Carm-san, Carla-san, I’ll help. Let’s deal with the customers first.” [Ryouma]

“I’ll work too, Boss. I can at least carry stuff.” [Leelin]

“Me too. I can at least carry the laundry.” [Fei]

“Thanks! Don’t push yourselves too hard, though. Just do what you can.” [Ryouma]

They offered to help themselves, so I won't hold back. Fei-san was supposed to be just a receptionist, but it seems he can work a little too.

Like this we dealt with the lunch rush of the customers, and we were somehow able to finish everything by our closing time.

After hanging the closed sign in front of the store, I closed the store for the day.

"Fuu... Good work, everyone!" [Ryouma]

"You too, Boss!" [Carm, Carla, Fei, Leelin]

"Ryouma-sama, are they the new hands you employed today?" [Carm]

"Yes, the man is Fei-san and the woman is Leelin-san." [Ryouma]

"My name is Fei. It's nice to meet you." [Fei]

"My name is Leelin. It's good to meet you." [Leelin]

"I am Carm Norad." [Carm]

"I am Carla Norad. It's a pleasure to meet you." [Carla]

"You were supposed to start work tomorrow, but you ended up working today instead." [Ryouma]

"You're also providing us a place to stay, so this much is a given, I believe." [Leelin]

"Helping out when it's busy is only natural. That being said, there's something I'd like to ask." [Fei]

"What is it, Fei-san?" [Ryouma]

"We carried a lot of laundry today, but when did you wash them? We just put the laundry we got from the customers into the wall, and then retrieved them from the slimes." [Fei]

"Oh, right. I still haven't explained to you how we wash clothes here yet." [Ryouma]

After giving them the usual explanation regarding the cleaner slimes and the goblin loin cloth, the two was able to understand. Moreover, after seeing how busy the store was today, they were able to confirm with their own eyes what the guild master meant when she said that my store was promising. When I told them that today was actually the store's opening day, they were shocked.

Even in my previous life, the only place I could think of that could attract so many customers on the opening day is probably... a pachinko parlor, at most. Anyway, it's really weird in this world for a shop to attract so much customers on its opening day. But after talking to the customers, I was able to figure out what made the store so popular. Apparently, the adventurers had spread rumors of the store.

The adventurers who participated in the goblin subjugation told their adventurer friends, families, and even the general public about my laundromat. And then Pauline-san and her friends spread even more rumors themselves. Other than those two major sources, there were also people who found out about the store from other places.

"Laundry here is very affordable, so there were plenty of people who wanted to try it this morning." [Ryouma]

"Then the people who tried it in the morning told others of their experience, and people came in droves in the afternoon to experience the store for themselves. It seems this situation is likely to continue for a while." [Carm]

Even though there's no phones or twitter, word of mouth is still really powerful. I may have underestimated it a bit. Or maybe it's just not a good idea to just casually use what I could to promote my store... But, no... Having a lot of customers is a good thing.

Well, putting what's done aside, since we finally have time for a breather, maybe I should heal Fei-san's legs." [Ryouma]

"Carm-san, Carla-san, can I ask for your to take care of the rest?" [Ryouma]

"Of course." [Carm and Carla]

"Thank you very much. Then the two of you please come with me." [Ryouma]

I led Fei-san and Leelin-san to the store's break room, where I asked them to sit and wait for a while. A little later i came back with 2 heal slimes.

When I told them that the heal slimes could use High Heal, they were shocked, but were nonetheless thankful if Fei could be healed.

I ordered the two heal slimes to heal Fei, and Fei's leg was completely healed. Fei had broken his leg, so it took 3 casts each slime to fully heal his leg, totaling to 6 casts of High Heal all in all.

“Thank you. I'm glad that my leg is finally healed. Thank you. Really.” [Fei]

“Normally, it would cost a lot of money to ask a healer for treatment. Are you sure it's really okay for us to receive your help for free.” [Leelin]

“It's my job to make sure that the employees can work efficiently. If it's something I or my slimes could do, then there's no need to charge for it. That's why it's okay to make this treatment free.” [Ryouma]

There's a healer in town who can use intermediate healing magic, but because of the skill and mana required to cast such a spell, it costs quite a bit of money to ask him to cast his spell once. For something on the level of a broken bone, which would require more than just one casting, the price easily shoots up. Apparently, the reason Fei-san had been doing odd jobs here and there within the guild while refraining from receiving treatment from the healer was because he was hoping to heal his broken leg with time.

“If we'd left the country a little wealthier, we would have immediately been able to heal it with magic, but unfortunately, we already used most of our wealth as bribe just so we could leave.” [Fei]

“So that's why you don't have any money.” [Ryouma]

“The guards of our country's borders are greedy. So long as you pay them, they'll turn a blind eye to a crime and even someone fleeing the country. In the case you don't have money, they'll catch you and hand you over to the country to get the reward, so we couldn't not pay them. And if we tried to cheap out on the bribe, then if the reward was higher, we would either be caught or it would become very difficult to run.” [Fei][

“Because of the kind of jobs we did in the country, if others found out, our reward would be much a higher than a normal person's. Because of that there are people who catch normal people, hoping that they'd turn out to be our sort of people that would net them a huge profit. Because of that people who run usually pay up with almost

everything they have. There's no point trying to save money when your life is on the line." [Leelin]

Fei-san and Leelin-san quietly spoke.

Zilmar sure sounds like a dangerous country... They also mentioned that plenty of wars are being fought in it. I wonder if the country is going to be destroyed soon.

After talking with them for a bit, I allotted Fei-san and Leelin-san their rooms, then I let them sort out their luggage in their respective rooms.

After that I went back to the store and listened to Carla-san's report regarding our store's earnings.

"Today we earned 791 medium copper coin and 8 small copper coins, totalling to 7,918 suits." [Carla]

I asked the two pros how this sort of income compares to other stores, and apparently, the daily income of a medium-sized store without any noble customers is about 4,000 suits.

Today's income was quite shocking even after subtracting the expenses incurred. It was even more shocking when you realize that this is actually the store's income for its opening day.

"What amazing profits!" [Carm]

"At this rate, we might be able to equal the profit of a large store without any noble customers!" [Carla]

"How much would that be daily?" [Ryouma]

"About 20,000 suits. More than that and it's hard to categorize them. After all, once the nobles start getting into the picture, the income of a store shoots up. Being able to sell a high-class item just gives so much profits even after subtracting expenses." [Carm]

"There's also a lot of people who love to splurge their money on excessively luxurious goods." [Carla]

"I see... Well, in our case, nobles probably won't come into the equation, so if we could

make 2.5 times our income today, then we should be able to make the same income as a large company.” [Ryouma]

“Considering how much we made today, we might be able to achieve just that within a month. The adventurers guild still haven’t come and we’re also likely to get more customers.” [Carla]

“In fact, there might come a time when our income in a day is more than a medium gold coin.” [Carm]

“Ha ha ha, that’s probably impossible.” [Ryouma]

A medium gold coin is 50,000 suits. There’s no way...

“It’s possible!” [Carm and Carla]

Huh? Really?

“This is a miner’s town. There are plenty of miners and people engaged in the steelworks industry. Although there are less people today compared to before due to one of the mines being abandoned – or at least that’s what I heard – but even then, there should still be about 10,000 people.” [Carla]

“Those customers won’t just bring one bag when they get their laundry cleaned. Although it might be difficult to get a medium gold coin regularly, but it should still be possible if for example the adventurers guild were to come with a big job.” [Carm]

“I see...” [Ryouma]

So in other words, it might be possible occasionally.

“Moreover, if Ryouma-sama builds a branch store in another town, reaching that daily medium gold coin income shouldn’t be difficult.” [Carm]

“You’re already thinking of a branch store? That’s too fast.” [Ryouma]

“Perhaps, but there’s no harm in thinking.” [Carm]

“If we can get our hands on some trusted workers, building a branch store should be a trifling matter.” [Carla]

Well, it is true that we made so much today even though it's our first day. But let's put that aside for now. Right now what we should be doing is testing the waters and seeing how things go.

"Oh, right. I forgot. Here's the resume of the two new workers that I hired." [Ryouma]

"We'll look into it." [Carm and Carla]

The twins started treading the resume I gave them.

"You said it's enough to pay the employees a liveable wage, but they're also going to be working as bodyguards, so please give them a bigger salary. MAke it 150 suits a day." [Ryouma]

"You two have experience in the military? That's reassuring." {Carla]

After that I exchanged greetings with the four and went back to the lodging.

When I got back, I reported to Reinhart-san and Co.

When they heard how much I made, they were shocked.

# Chapter 53

## Adding More Employees

The next day.

After readying the store early in the morning, I went shopping to buy some things to welcome our two new employees.

“There’s this many people already?” [Ryouma]

I opened the store at 8 AM and spent about an hour shopping, so it should currently be around 9 AM.

I wonder what time the customers prefer to come. Also, I wonder what time the number of customers peaks.

As I thought that, I entered through the employee-only entrance. I had Carm-san and Fei-san deal with the customers, while I tasked Carm-san and Leelin-san with carrying the laundry. The store is doing fine for now, so I decided to leave everything to them, while I went to prepare food.

There’s no telling when it’s going to get busy, so they should eat while they still can.

I kneaded the dough and stretched it, then I covered it with my meat sauce.

Speaking of which, this meat sauce is left over from the party two days ago. I stored it in my custom made refrigerator, which makes use of barrier magic, so it’s been preserved. Just to be safe, though, I checked it with Identify first, and as expected, there weren’t any problems. Serge-san will probably make another fuss, if he catches wind of my refrigerator.

...Or maybe Pioro-san would make a bigger fuss? He did say his company handled food goods.

I sprinkled some cheese, cut onions, and herb over the base, then I put everything in the kiln. While that was cooking, I started working on the salad and the beverages.

After a while I was able to successfully make the pizza.

A delicious aroma wafted in the air and I took a bite from my portion.

...Yep, it's done. The customers haven't started to flood the store yet, so the timing is just right.

"Guys, I made some food. I'll help out, so please take turns with each other to eat."  
[Ryouma]

"Thank you." [Carm, Carla, Leelin, Fei]

I first substituted for Leelin-san and Carla-san, then after they ate, Fei-san and Carm-san substituted with them. Like this all the employees were able to get their break and eat.

But when afternoon came, the situation ended up just like yesterday and the store became jam-packed, so all the employees had to work together just to barely scrape by.

"Good job, everyone." [Ryouma]

"You too, Boss." [Carm, Carla, Leelin, Fei]

It's better than yesterday, but only to the extent that the workers aren't about to faint out of exhaustion anymore. If even one of the employees are absent, the situation will quickly become fatal. The employees won't even have the time to eat.

"There were a lot of customers today too. How much did we make this time?"  
[Ryouma]

"After calculating everything, our income for the day totals to 11,877 suits." [Carla]

Carla took out her notebook and showed me.

That's 50% more than yesterday. That's amazing progress after only one day.

"The store is really doing well." [Ryouma]

“It’s actually pretty crazy.” [Leelin]

“At this rate, the customers will probably keep on increasing.” [Fei-san]

“You think so too, Fei-san, Leelin-san? Do you think we should hire more hands, after all? We were originally planning to hire 3 or 4 workers anyway. The way things are now, if even one employee isn’t able to work, the burden on the remaining employees will be too great.” [Ryouma]

“It would probably be for the best to get more hands.” [Carm]

“We just asked for more workers yesterday, but it would be a huge help if you could get some more from the guild.” [Carla]

“Alright. By the way, I was thinking of also hiring a cook. Can you hire one from the guild too?” [Ryouma]

When I asked that, it was Carla-san who answered.

“Yes, but why would you need a cook?” [Carla]

“Everyone’s working hard in the store, so you don’t have time to cook, right? So, to remedy that, I thought I should hire a cook.” [Ryouma]

“That’s true, but you should just leave that sort of stuff to the workers.” [Carla]

“But it would be a load off your shoulders if someone specifically meant for that one job were to take care of it. Besides, if you’re going to eat, then you might as well have something good. This is what you call ‘employee welfare’.” [Ryouma]

“Well that’s true, but what do you mean by employee welfare?” [Carla]

“Ah... How to put it... Basically, it’s a kind of thinking that says employees should be able to work at their workplace comfortably.” [Ryouma]

They don’t have employee welfare here? Or is it just not popular?

“Ryouma-sama certainly does take care of his employees a lot.” [Carm]

“Even though we’re live-ins, our salary is so big. Conditions this good are very rare.” [Fei]

“With a good salary, a warm and comfortable room, not to mention, and on top of that, good food. Dad and I probably won’t be going anywhere.” [Leelin]

“Glad to hear. Then, can I leave the rest to you? I’ll be going to the guild to get more workers, but I won’t be coming back, as I’ll be going home after.” [Ryouma]

“Take care!” [Leelin, Fei, Carm, Carla]

When I got to the guild, I was brought to to the reception office again, where the guild master interviewed me.

“Did you come to hire workers today too?” [Grisiera]

“The store is unexpectedly doing well, so I have some spare funds.” [Ryouma]

“I see... So, how many are you hiring?” [Grisiera]

“3 more employees to handle the store plus one cook.” [Ryouma]

“A cook?” [Grisiera]

“The store is usually pretty busy, so the employees don’t have time to cook, so I thought I’d get someone to cook for them. At the same time, I figured I might as well make it so that the food is delicious. It’s for health and nutrition too.” [Ryouma]

“You don’t really have to go out of your way to hire a specialist, though. You sure do some weird stuff.” [Grisiera]

“Is it really that strange?” [Ryouma]

“Normally, one of the employees will cook if it’s that busy. Although it’s true you’ll have to hire various employees as your store gets bigger, but it’s fairly rare for someone to specifically hire a cook. Not that it’s a particularly bad idea, though. Wait here for a bit. I’ll look for some promising ones.” [Grisiera]

After waiting for a while, the guild master personally named 4 people and introduced them to me.

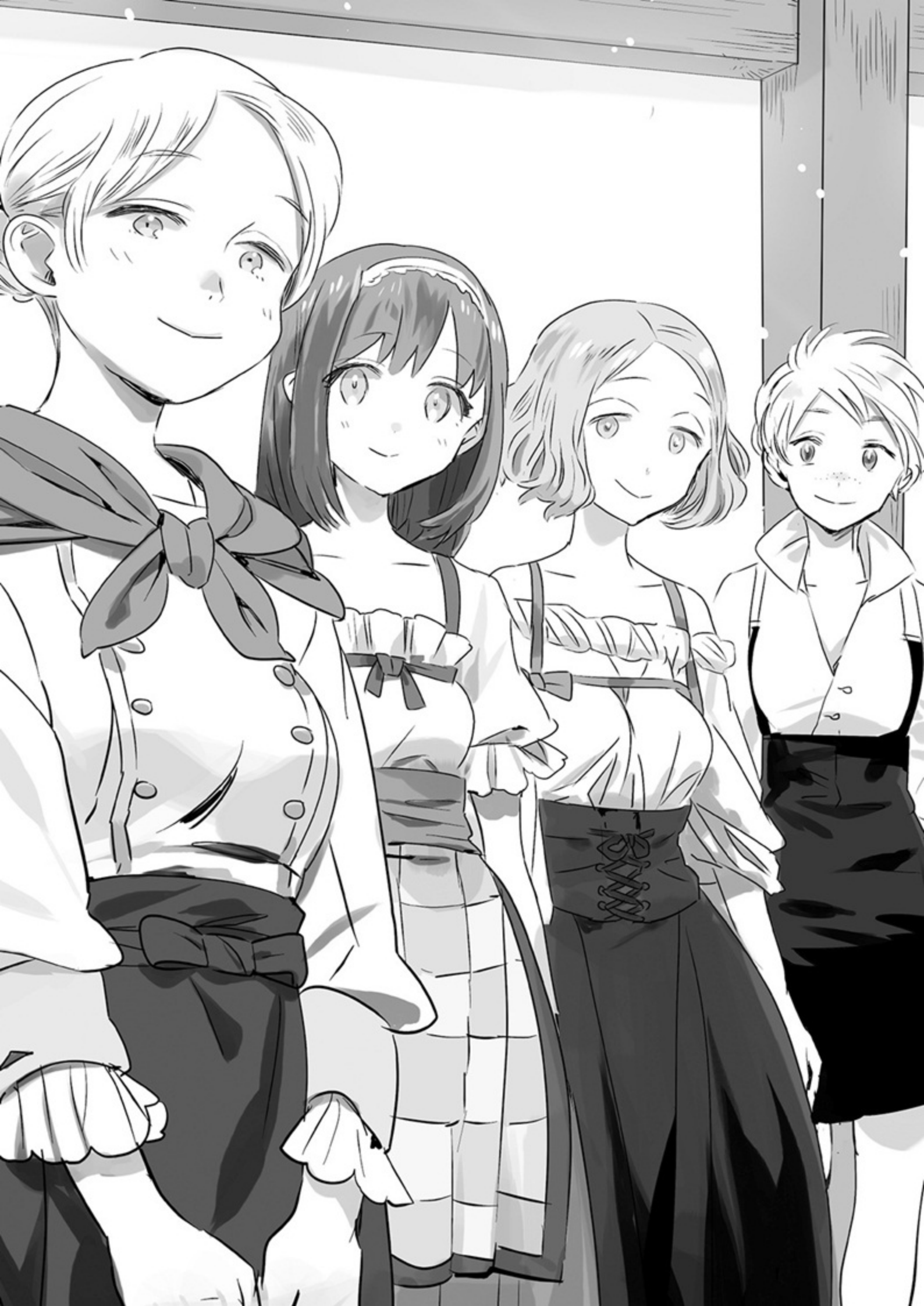
“Greetings! I’m Jane!”

“I’m Maria~”

“I’m Fina

“And I’m the cook, Sherma.”

The first three are all young women. They came from a poor village in hopes of making money. Jane-san is lively, Maria-san has a gentle aura about her, and Fina-san looks like a levelheaded person. At least, that’s my first impression of them. Shelma-san is older than the three and feels like a mother.



The guild master picked these people out herself, so they're definitely good. But even as I thought that, I made sure all the same that they were willing to work. When I did, they all nodded. As for why, some of them heard rumors that the store is really popular, while some of them saw the line outside yesterday. On top of that, the guild master herself told them that my store is safe.

Well, most of the people including me have already been acquainted with the guild master, so there's indeed less to fear for the women workers.

The three village women are villagers through and through. They don't have any special abilities, but that's okay.

Sherma-san's previous workplace was apparently an inn, so she can't make luxurious food, but that's okay too.

Everyone seems to be easy to get along with, so I decided to hire them all.

Just like that my business was concluded. It only took me 10 minutes.

Connections really are important... Seriously.

The 4 employees I hired today also wanted to work live-in, so we had to go back to the store. Before leaving, though, the guild master had a few words with me.

"Ryouma, if things keep going like this, I suggest you start thinking of opening a second or third branch in another town. You can open them anytime. Just make sure to consult me." [Grisiera]

I was taken aback to hear her say the same thing as Carm-san and the others.

Before parting, she hit my back with her cane and encouraged me, saying, "pull yourself together!"

After that I brought the 4 new employees to the store. Apparently, Carm-san and the others haven't gone home yet.

"Boss, weren't you going to go home?" [Carm and Carla]

I told them that the new employees were going to be live-ins, then after introducing them, I went my way.

4 days later.

4 days has passed since I hired the new employees.

The 3 girls are very hardworking, while Sherma-san's cooking is delicious. I stayed in the store on their first day just to be safe, but everything went just fine. The other day I cleaned the outer walls and mowed the lawn. Yesterday, I did my rounds around the abandoned mine.

Although it hasn't even been a week since the store opened, the store income shows no sign of stopping. Every day the store makes enough for a person to live modestly for three months. It's a bit scary, but it's only thanks to everyone that the store could become so popular.

They'll probably do fine even without me, so I can go back to my adventurer work now... Or so I was thinking, but then Serge-san called for me.

"Sorry to keep you waiting." [Ryouma]

"Ryouma-sama. Thank you for coming. Please, take a seat." [Serge]

"Thank you." [Ryouma]

"My apologies for calling you out so suddenly." [Serge]

"It's alright. My store doesn't need me anymore anyway. The two employees you introduced to me have been very hard Working." [Ryouma]

"I see. I'm glad to hear that they were able to be of use." [Serge]

"I seem to always be in your debt." [Ryouma]

"It's the same for me. I have also been making a profit thanks to you. After all, you've been purchasing a large amount of bags and daily necessities every day." [Serge]

“You’ve been a great help so far. And now, the store is doing so well that it’s honestly quite scary.” [Ryouma]

“It has already become a rumor around the block. And it’s getting quite popular even within the guild.” [Serge]

Serge-san took a breath, then he said this.

“But what’s surprising is that there’s still even more room for income.” [Serge]

Seeing I didn’t understand, Serge-san continued.

“It’s about the waterproof cloth, Ryouma-sama.” [Serge]

“Ah, right...” [Ryouma]

I forgot...

“Are you aware that it’s almost time for the grell frog outbreak?” [Serge]

“Yes, I’ve heard of it.” [Ryouma]

“Grell frogs are monsters that live in the marsh. Their hide can be used to make armor, while their innards can be used to make good medicine, so they sell for a large sum. Which is why during the outbreak a lot of adventurers start gathering around the marshes that these grell frog inhabit.

So, I was thinking, wouldn’t this be a good opportunity to make those waders that you made out of those waterproof cloths and sell them? Ryouma-sama, my invitation to you today is to know how many waterproof cloths you could produce.” [Serge]

Umm... I have about 907 sticky slimes right now, so it would depend on how many cloths are available.

“I will need normal cloths to turn into waterproof cloths, so I’ll have to rely on you to provide those. About how long do you think these cloths will be?” [Ryouma]

“Since I will be providing them, we can make each cloth about 70m long.” [Serge]

If I ask for more than I can handle, it’ll just trouble us both, so I should leave some

leeway for myself.

“In that case, if you can provide the cloths, then we can process about 45 to 90 per day. Drying will take some time, though, so there might be less in actuality.” [Ryouma]

When I said that, Serge-san’s countenance brightened.

“Just 10 cloths at the start will be more than enough. Any more than that is a welcome surprise.” [Serge]

“Alright. Shall we start producing them as early as today?” [Ryouma]

“Yes. Please.” [Serge]

“I’ll need to purchase the cloths then.” [Ryouma]

“I’ll give them to you for free since you’ll be turning them into waterproof cloths. When you hand the waterproofed cloths to me, I’ll pay you for the waterproof treatment. How much will you be charging?” [Serge]

“I’ll leave it to you. Please give me a fair price.” [Ryouma]

When I said that, Serge-san chuckled.

“Normally, a merchant would try to get as much money as he could when he has the advantage in negotiations, but this way is a huge help to me. That aside, where will you be processing the cloths? If people were to catch wind that you are the manufacturer, it wouldn’t be odd if some no good people were to be involved. Do you know a safe place where you can work? If not, I should be able to prepare you one.” [Serge]

“I was thinking of treating the cloths in the abandoned mine.” [Ryouma]

“It’s true people aren’t likely to go there, but will it be alright doing it there?” [Serge]

“I’m the person put in charge of it, so it’s not strange for me to be there, and I can also make a large workshop using my earth magic.” [Ryouma]

After this I got the cloths from Serge-san, then I left the store and went to the abandoned mine.

# Chapter 54

## Work in the Abandoned Mines

After arriving at the abandoned mine, I sent all of the slimes except the cleaner slimes to patrol the tunnels, while I renovated the tunnel in the highest part of the mine and changed it into a workshop.

It was already spacious from the start, though, so all I had to do was to make a workbench. I barely broke a sweat.

I stretched the cloth and piled up bricks where it ended, then I dug out a hole by the corner of the rack, which I fitted with a rod. I then covered that rod with the sticky slime's sticky liquid and stuck it to the ends of each cloth. I repeated the process about 45 times.

After that I told the sticky slimes to cover the cloth with their sticky liquid.

During the process the only thing one needs to keep an eye out for are bugs and monsters. I should probably consider installing a door for this workshop.

As I thought that to myself, I gave the slimes the order.

I watched the slimes do their job for a while, then after seeing that everything was in order, there was nothing left for me to do. If this were a store there would still be clerical work left to take care of, but alas...

Anyway, since there wasn't anything for me to do, I decided to do some training.

3 hours later.

I did some martial arts training and meditated, but the cloths still weren't done drying, so I decided to have the slimes train too.

Speaking of which, didn't they learn staff techniques and spear techniques the other

day?

It's a good opportunity, so I dried some trees outside and processed them using Circle Saw and Polish to make a large amount of rods. With this we should be able to do some staff and spear training.

...After a while, the slimes finished their training too, but the cloths still weren't done drying. I wonder if the cloths could absorb moisture? it's my first time treating so many, so...

With nothing to do, I went ahead and took a look at my own status board.

...Oh, hey. My Increased MP Recovery went up a level and is now Lv. 3. Did I use that much mana when I was building my store? Monster Taming, Wind Magic, and Electric Magic also went up a level. I did use them quite a bit... Oh, speaking of which, didn't the ojou-sama say she wanted to see the dolls I made? Should I make some now? I can just use the earth there for material. As for the subject, I can just pick something randomly...

“Create Block’ ‘Rock’ ‘Break Rock’” [Ryouma]

I prepared some stones and simple tools, then I used Break Rock to roughly make what would become the core of my figurine.

” ‘Playing Clay’ ”

I turned the earth into clay and used it as putty to make my figurine, then after putting it over my core, I started filling out the details with my tools...

Hmm... There should still be some lime left. Let's use that as the coating before we color it.

Within the tunnels illuminated only by Light, I spent the time making a harmless doll, casting spells here and there as it suited me.

...Or at least, that's what should've happened.

“Done!... Huh. Would you look at that, there's so many of them.” [Ryouma]

Before I knew it I was surrounded by dolls.

“What time is it?... GEH!” [Ryouma]

The sun has almost set!

Quickly, I took my dolls and dried cloth with me and went back home.

...I used too much mana, so it was a bit painful, but with the sun almost gone, I have no choice but to hurry.

...I really should stop getting overzealous over my work inside the abandoned mine. It's already so easy to lose track of time, if I keep working at the abandoned mine like this, I won't even notice the passage of time anywhere.

As I reflected over my actions, the day drew ever nearer to night. With no choice left, I was forced to use dimension magic one after another.

“I'm beat...” [Ryouma]

Somehow, I was able to make it back to the inn before the sun set.

After resting for a while, I dropped by the ojou-sama's family's room and Arone-san led me in.

“Welcome, Ryouma-san.” [Elialia]

“It's rare for you to visit us on your own. Did something happen?” [Reinhart]

“Oh, nothing special, just some business stuff.” [Ryouma]

I told them about my deal with Serge-san.

“Today, I was able to successfully make 45 waterproof cloths. I've already delivered them to Serge-san's. There's still room for more cloths to be produce, so I'll be increasing the volume tomorrow. I want to see how far I can go.” [Ryouma]

“I see. It seems there aren't any problems with the production of the waterproof cloths.

Is there anything else?" [Reinhart]

"Previously, the ojou-sama said she wanted to see my dolls. As it so happens, I made some while the cloths were drying." [Ryouma]

"You made some? Show me please!" [Elialia]

As she said that, I took several dolls from my Item Box.

"Here." [Ryouma]

I used stone instead of wood, but this one doll is based off the famous woodcraft bear. To make it more relatable, though, I changed things up a bit and made it based on Gana Forest's Black Bear.

"Oh, it's a black bear. It looks like it's catching fish." [Reinbach]

"This one is tiny but adorable!" [Elialia]

Those ones are based off of the cave bat, cave mantis, and small rat. I made them into bottle cap figures.

"There's also this. It's the doll I worked on the most." [Ryouma]

The next doll I took out was a doll made in the image of a person. I couldn't think of any subjects, though, so I decided to model them after the four members of the duke's family, as well as Sebasu-san and the two maids.

"This is... me." [Reinhart]

"This is me." [Elize]

"I'm here too!" [Elialia]

"And Sebasu, Arone, Lilian, and I are present too, it seems." [Reinbach]

"What elaborate dolls... Although I'm aware Ryouma-sama has crafted idols before, I still can't help but admire your workmanship." [Sebasu]

It's a bit rare to see someone so elated over my work in person, so this makes me

happy. In the past, only Fukada would get happy over my dolls.

Speaking of which, before I died, didn't Fukada ask me to make another one for him?... Huh? What happened to that?

...Ah, whatever.

"I didn't have any models, so used you as reference. I'm glad you like them." [Ryouma]

"Ryouma-san, can I have this?" [Elialia]

"Go ahead." [Ryouma]

"Thank you!" [Elialia]

If she's this happy, then I guess it was worth making the dolls. I should probably make some more in the future...

"I'll make you some more if the opportunity shows itself again." [Ryouma]

"Thank you so much." [Elialia]

After that I spoke with idly with Reinhart-san and the others for a while, then I went back to my room. When I got back, Sebasu told me he would be paying me 10 medium gold coins in exchange of the dolls, but it was too much money, so I rejected his offer.

The material was cheap and I got to kill some time, but more than anything else, there's no way I could accept money over something like this! But in the end, I ended up reducing the payment to a fifth. So, 2 medium gold coins. Is this really okay?

While I was wondering that, Sebasu-san said this.

"Many nobles have statues made after their own image, which they place in their residences or in town. When you consider how much they spend, this much money is just small change. And with someone of Ryouma-sama's caliber, I'm sure the clients won't have any complaints." [Sebasu]

Seriously!?

I was taken aback quite heavily by those words, so when I got back, I wondered blankly

to my self what I should make while the cloths are drying. Eventually, I fell asleep.

# Chapter 55

## A Slime's Unusual Event

The next day.

I showed my face in the store first thing in the morning. Seeing that everything was going smoothly in the store, I went to the abandoned mine.

I started making waterproof cloths today too, and as a result, I ended up idle. I tried of thinking what to do while waiting for the cloths to dry last night, but I fell sleep without coming to a conclusion. If this were back at my old word, I would read a light novel here or play some games, but alas...

I got 45 cloths today just like yesterday. I'm already done with my part. It's probably because I've started to get used to it that everything went a lot faster than before. What to do... I've already trained with the slimes, so...

After thinking for a while, I gathered the scavenger slimes and had them fuse into a king scavenger, then I fought it.

The king scavenger slime's current skill set is as follows:

Disease Resist Lv7

Poison Resist Lv7

Lead Belly Lv8

Clean Lv8

Deodorize Lv8

Produce Deodorizing Liquid Lv6

Stench Lv8

Decompose Lv7

Physical Attack Resist Lv5

Enlarge Lv5

Minimize Lv6

Jump Lv3

Overeat Lv4

Martial Arts Lv2

It might be because the scavengers have their own Physical Attack Resist now that the king scavenger slime's Physical Attack Resist went up one level. After all, the scavenger slimes only had one level in martial arts, but the king scavenger has two.

If you compare its skill set to a single scavenger, its skill levels are higher across the board. I don't have any data, but it's possible that each scavenger slimes pool together their experience regarding each skill somehow.

Speaking of which, because of the king scavenger slime's Physical Attack Resist, it was really hard to make my attacks affect it during our duel. Its body is a lot more flexible, so it's really good at parrying attacks. It's still only a beginner when it comes to martial arts, but it's fairly accomplished when it comes to defense.

As proof, the king scavenger slime can endure my attacks even when I attack it seriously. Of course, I refrain from hitting its nucleus just to be safe. That being said, it still takes a lot of effort to penetrate it.

But the problem is that it doesn't really have much attacking power. It can make itself bigger through Enlarge, making it better for suppressing others, but how much strength does a slime actually have? Not much if at all. If I wanted to I could easily brush it off. Its attacks don't have much power behind them either.

There's not much we can do about that, though, so I had it extend a part of its body as tentacles and use them as whips. The king scavenger can then use those whips to stick close to the enemy and pin him down. I also taught it a couple of throws that made use of the enemy's momentum and the king scavenger slime's flexibility and Enlarge skill.

Like this it could parry the enemy's attack to protect itself from harm, then attack the enemy by throwing him. After that it can pin the enemy down. This is the strategy I thought up for the king scavenger slime.

That took a lot longer than expected, but the cloths still aren't done drying, so I thought of walking the slimes for a bit.

My mind made up, I gathered the slimes. But just as we were about to leave, one of the slimes I had contracted suddenly started acting strange. I could tell its status to some extent thanks to the effects of our contract, but I don't know the specifics.

What's going on?

Hurriedly, I ran to where the slime was. It was the slime that I captured for the metal slime evolution experiments. Its body kept on quivering, but it didn't seem to be feeling bad.

Could it be?

"Is it evolving!?" [Ryouma]

It should still take a bit longer, but I can't think of any other reason for this.

After observing the slime for a while, the slime eventually stopped. I could feel a faint trace of mana emanating from it.

It seems to be releasing mana. But it doesn't seem to be casting a spell... Is it sucking the mana? It's releasing mana and then sucking it back in? What for? Does it need that to evolve? Or is it just doing it involuntarily?

After releasing and sucking mana back in several times, it's color started to change. In the end, it turned into a silvery-white slime. Was the evolution successful? It's status is... normal, for now. Nothing else seems to be amiss. Only, if this were really a metal slime, it should have a duller color. But this color is a polished silver.

I used Monster Appraisal, and this came out.

Species: Iron Slime

Skills:

Harden Lv3

Physical Attack Resist Lv2

Jump Lv1

Digest Lv3

Absorb Lv3

Split Lv2

It seems to be called Iron Slime. It has the same skills as a metal slime, but its Harden skill is one level higher than the metal slime. It probably ended up like this because I fed it iron, but...

"Don't metal slimes also eat iron?" [Ryouma]

They eat the same thing, so why did they evolve differently?

“Iron is tetsu (iron), and metal is kinzoku (metal)...!!” [Ryouma]

I took out the stones I used as feed for the metals slimes and used Identify on it.

Stone (Red Soil)

Soil from the mine that had been hardened with earth magic. Contains the following metals: Iron Oxide, Aluminum Oxide

“I knew it!... The red soil also has aluminum!” [Ryouma]

I remembered something I talked about with a kouhai of mine back at my part time at a road construction job.

“Metal slimes don’t eat just iron, they also eat aluminum. There might be other metals too...” [Ryouma]

I extracted aluminum and iron from the brick soil using alchemy, then I called over the iron slime and the metal slime.

When I did, the iron slime ate only the iron, but the metal slime ate both the iron and the aluminum.

I called over the metal slime and rubbed it.

“Are you basically omnivorous when it comes to metals? In that case, since the iron slime’s body is made of iron, what about your body? Is your body some kind of iron-aluminum alloy?” [Ryouma]

I asked the metal slime that, but no answer came.

“Well, with this I’ve at least figured out the evolution condition. It’s also my first time seeing a slime evolve in person.” [Ryouma]

Until now, for some reason, the slimes have been evolving while I was asleep [1]. So long as I feed the slimes, they’re bound to evolve within half a year, but there’s not telling when they’ll evolve and watching them 24/7 is a pain.

“Oh, speaking of which, I found out a few more things about Identify.” [Ryouma]

Apparently, the neutral spell, Identify, is like a search engine in how one gets info from it. If you don't know what it is you're looking for, the only thing that will come up is the name, but even if you want more specific information, only simple stuff come up.

But when I used Identify on the ceiling while cleaning the latrine pits, the word 'Sterilization' came up. And even the word 'virus' came up when I used Identify on the filth. So the results for Identify are probably has some relation with the knowledge of the user. The information probably changes depending on how much the user knows.

After trying it for a few times, I know now that I can get some more specific answers by asking more specific questions.

For example, the weight of this stone (hardened soil) and the ratio of its aluminum and iron content.

Stone 503.9g (Red Soil)

Soil from the mine that had been hardened with earth magic.

Metal Content: Iron Oxide 4.2% 21.1638g, Aluminum Oxide 5.1% 25.6989g

And the result is something this specific. This too is because my questions were a lot more specific. I can use this!... Or can I?

It's great that I can get more specific information, but I don't actually have much need for it right now... Maybe I could weight the next iron ingots I bring to Serge's in grams?

Or maybe I could get a common iron ingot from Serge and use that as reference to imitate? It's worth doing if it means my iron ingots don't stand out as much, but as it stands, identify doesn't really have much use right now... I can also just keep doing things as I've done them until now.

After that, while waiting for the waterproof cloths to dry, I made 500g aluminum-iron ingots with 80% purity as practice.

After the waterproof cloths finished drying, I gathered them and brought them to Serge, then I took the 300 cloths he prepared for me and went back to the inn... Or so I was planning, but it was an odd time, so I postponed going back to the inn, and went to the store instead. I'll go home after checking up on the store.

The store was as popular as usual. In fact, isn't there more people than normal?

I entered through the employee-only door and went to the break room, but there wasn't a soul there. Could they all be working?

Thinking that, I went to the store itself and there I saw one of the three working girls, Fina-san.

"Good afternoon, Boss." [Fina]

"Good afternoon. No one was in the break room, so I thought everyone was busy." [Ryouma]

"We're not exactly free either, but it's not that busy. There are a lot of people, after all. We've more or less figured out when people like to come the most, so we usually work together to deal with them." [Fina]

Oh. It seems everyone's already gotten used to the work here while I was gone. Looks like I worried for nothing.

As I was thinking that, it suddenly hit me.

"Ah..." [Ryouma]

"Is something the matter?" [Fina]

"The cleaner slimes are ready to split." [Ryouma]

"Huh?" [Fina]

To the cleaner slimes, this whole laundry business is nothing more than an eat-all-you-can-eat buffet. After a few days of it, it's only natural that they'd be able to split.

"The cleaner slimes will increase. Our laundry agency will become even more efficient." [Ryouma]

"Really! That's amazing!" [Fina]

"What's amazing are the slimes. I'll be here for a while, but you don't have to mind me." [Ryouma]

“Okay!”

As Fina-san said that, she took a nearby laundry that had already been cleaned and carried it.

Now then...

I had the cleaner slimes split, then I contracted them. The cleaner slimes currently number 54. Although cleaner slimes split less frequently than other slimes, there were 10 slimes that split twice. It's probably because of the laundromat. After letting the cleaner slimes split, because of their increased numbers, they started getting the job done a whole lot faster. I think they're actually working over twice as fast. Well, if they're this efficient, then we should make use of it.

“Ah, Fina-san, Carm-san.” [Ryouma]

They had come to pick up the new laundry, but I told them to help out with the customers instead.

I also told them to divide the work of carrying the laundry and returning them to the customers since there are more customers than usual.

“I'll take care of carrying the laundry. You two focus on returning them to the customers.” [Ryouma]

“You want make the store more efficient, right? Let's try it.” [Carm]

As such, they went back to where the customers where, while I gathered the laundry and carried them.

“Next!” [Carm]

“Over here please~” [Maria]

“Customer Number 18” [Jane]

“How is the quality, ma'am?” [Fina]

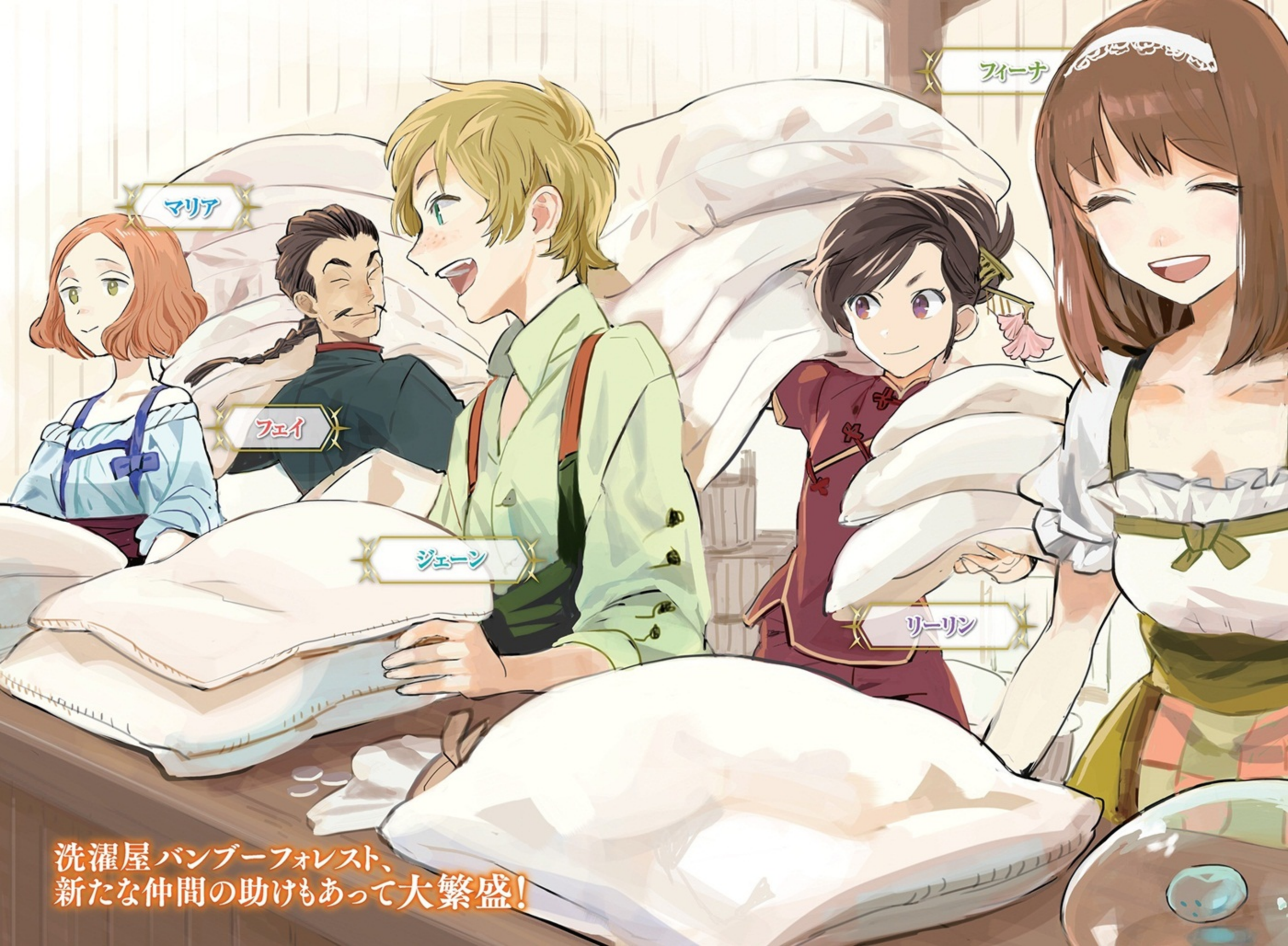
“Wow, it’s really clean... And it’s cheap too. This is great.” [Customer]

“Thank you very much! Please come again! Next is... Customer number 8!” [Fina]

After dividing the work, the flow of customers became even faster. The slimes are probably hungry after splitting. Because of that the laundries seemed to be getting cleaned even faster.

From time to time, we would run out of tokens, which meant there were more people waiting too, but we were able to solve the problem with some reception service. With the increase in efficient in both the cleaner slimes and the reception, the flow of customers reached a new level, and gradually, the wave of customers grew less and less.

Like that we we managed to get pass the peak time. The rest of the day was fairly monotonous, as we managed to safely close the store as the day ended without any more problems.



マリア

フェイ

ジェーン

リーリン

フィーナ

洗濯屋バンブーフォレスト、  
新たな仲間の助けもあって大繁盛!

# Chapter 56

## After Closing Time

After closing the store, I gave the cleaner slimes some water for cleaning the store, then Carla-san came to give me the store's daily report. But for some reason, the air about her seemed different than usual...

"Boss, it's about the store's revenue..." [Carla]

"What's wrong? Did we make a loss?" [Ryouma]

"No, that's not it." [Carla]

"Then in that case, we must've made a profit." [Ryouma]

"Yes, but it's not like the days before, Ryouma-sama. Because our income for just today is 26,0326 suits." [Carla]

26,036 suits!?

"W-Wait a moment. Didn't we only make 16,000 yesterday? Why is there suddenly a 10,000 suits difference?" [Ryouma]

"Today, right after you left the store, we got a huge contract. Apparently a manager of smiths and carpenters had heard the rumors going around and wanted to enlist services. And then after that, workers from the metal industry came one after another. They bought large bags and enlisted our services immediately.

But that's not all. Our individual and group customers have also increased. There are a lot among the individual customers who get more than one bag. The sales of the bags show no signs of ending either." [Carla]

"Can you give me the details of our revenue? I'm not suspecting you of anything, but I'd like to confirm it with my own eyes..." [Ryouma]

"Of course. Please wait at the office for a bit. I'll bring the records." [Carla]

I did as she told and waited in the office.

...Come to think of it, this is my first time using this room. I'm always carrying laundry or dealing with the customers or at the break room...

While I was thinking that, Carla-san came with a sheet of paper.

"These are our sales for the day." [Carla]

"Thank you." [Ryouma]

I took the sheet of paper and looked at the sales for the day.

Umm...

Individual Course:	10 suits x 998	= 9980 suits
14-Persons Course:	18 suits x 152	= 2736 suits
35-Persons Course:	40 suits x 55	= 2200 suits
Individual Bag:	20 suits x 159	= 3180 suits
14-Persons Bag:	25 suits x 68	= 1700 suits
35-Persons Bag:	30 suits x 50	= 1500 suits
Equipment Wash Service:	15 suits x 316	= 4740 suits
Total:		26,036 suits

Yep, the record checks out.

"You were right. Wow. I can't believe things actually got this far... Just wow." [Ryouma]

Even if you take away the sales from the bags, you still get something close to 20,000 suits. But this too is because of everyone and the cleaner slimes' efforts.

"By the way, what about the others?" [Ryouma]

"They're in the break room right now. They're double checking the sales for the day." [Carla]

"Double checking?" [Ryouma]

"There are medium and small copper coins, so they're separating them and confirming that the coins add up to what's been calculated." [Carla]

“Oh, so that’s what you meant. I’ll help out then.” [Ryouma]

“But this is a job for the employees...” [Carla]

“Technically, I’m also the manager of this store, so I’m also one of your coworkers. Let me help out.” [Ryouma]

Actually, you twins are just too good at office work. Although there is still some work to be done, it’s too little, and with how good the two of you are at supporting me, everything just gets wrapped up so quickly... For someone like me who always has an energy drink ready, this just isn’t enough.

“I understand. However, Ryouma-sama, you are not technically our this store’s manager, but are in fact the store’s manager.” [Carla]

After Carla-san said that, she accompanied me to the employee break room. It was just the room next door, though.

“Good job today.” [Ryouma]

“Thank you for today, Boss.” [Carm]

“Thank you for today.” [Everyone else]

When I entered the room, the 6 employees greeted me. A large number of copper coins could be seen gathered on a giant table. They seemed to be counting them one by one by hand.

“Thank you for working so hard everyday. It is a huge help to me to be able to leave the store to you.” [Ryouma]

“No need to thank us, Boss~ Since this store really pampers us~” [Maria]

“Exactly, Ryouma-sama. Hired workers are expected to do at least this much.” [Carm]

Everyone nodded in agreement to Carm-san’s words. Even Carla-san who was behind me nodded.

“I see... I’m glad to hear that. Anyway, let’s continue. We just need to count these copper coins, right?” [Ryouma]

“Yes. But we can really just take care of these ourselves.” [Carm]

“The more wands the better. Besides, that’s a crazy amount, no?” [Ryouma]

Our income for today is 26,036 suits. All of that was paid for in either small or medium copper coin. In other words, 1 or 10 suits coins. Naturally, that meant an absurd amount of copper coins.

Once everything has been counted, we will be putting them away in the safe in the basement, and then we regularly entrust the money to my account in the merchants guild. But that’s also a hassle...

“Please take a seat then.” [Fina]

“The seat beside mine is free.” [Fei]

“Excuse me.” [Ryouma]

I took the seat beside Fei-san and started counting copper coins, but as expected, having to count by hand will really take a long time... Although it won’t take too long since there’s 8 of us here, but still...

One minute into the work, a light bulb flashed. Oh, right! I had that!

I took out the bag of leftover lime from my Item Box.

Everyone turned to me, but I ignored them and just used identify on the small copper coins. What is the diameter and thickness of this coin?

### **Small Copper Coin 1 Suits**

A coin of the smallest value. Made of Copper.

Diameter: 0.9cm

Thickness: 2mm

It worked! I take back what I said this afternoon. This Identify stuff might actually be useful.

“Boss? What are doing? Why would you use Identify on the coin— Could it be? Is it fake?” [Fei]

“Oh, no. That’s not it. I just thought of making a tool is all.” [Ryouma]

“A tool?” [Fei]

“Watch. ‘Create Block’ ” [Ryouma]

After checking the size of other copper coin, I transformed the lime within the bag to become longer, while I made its interior to be shaped like an empty box. Naturally, I made the inner part of the resulting stone box hollow, then I removed a part of one end of the box with Break Rock, resulting in an object that would allow things put inside to fall if the box were to be inclined.

After that I used earth magic to erect 50 2mm tall 1cm squares on the hollowed part of the box along a line. Like this a copper coin could enter each square. I also treated the surface of the box with a thin layer of the sticky slime’s hardening liquid to protect the surface and make it safe to use barehanded.

Identify.

### **Coin Box [1]**

A tool used during the Edo period to count coins. Made by hardening lime with earth magic.

Success!

“Boss, what is that?” [Jane]

“I was just thinking if we could use this.” [Ryouma]

I took two hands full of coins and put them inside my counting tool, then I covered the open end and shook it for a bit. The coins made jingling sounds for a while. When I uncovered the open part, a lot of coins fell, but if you look closely, you’ll see that there are coins left in the squares.

“Fei-san, could you count these coins that were left behind?” [Ryouma]

“Sure.” [Fei]

Fei-san counted the coins carefully.

“Exactly 50 coins, Boss. Looks like you’ve invented another useful tool.” [Fei]

The moment Fei-san said that, Carm-san, Carla-san, and Leelin-san already understood the purpose of this stone box. The 3 young women, however, did not seem to understand it just yet, so I filled the box with coins, let the excess fall off, then distributed the leftover coins for them to count. Like this they were able to understand.

Jane-san is a cheerful and hardworking young woman, but she's a little slow when it comes to stuff that needs thinking, so I just let her figure it out on her own pace while I started mass producing the coin box. For the small copper coin version, I made it so that they could accept 50 small copper coins, while for the medium copper coin version, I made it so that it could take up to 100 coins. The original coin box could accommodate every type of coin, but I'll just make some adjustments later.

It turns out making the coin box was a great idea, for in just 10 minutes after making it, we were done.

After counting everything, most of the coins were small copper coins. I thought there was a lot of medium copper coins, but apparently the customers mostly paid with small copper coins.

After that I asked about the store and if there was anything they were having difficulties with.

“Difficulties?” [Jane]

“Nothing really comes to mind~” [Maria]

“This store treats us really well, so I don't have any complaints.” [Fina]

“A person who complains despite such good treatment is just too entitled.” [Leelin]

“Really? I mean your salary may be fine, but what about your brea—!!” [Ryouma]

Oh no! I forgot about their rest days!! What employee welfare? I've been making them work without rest!!

“What's up, Boss? Your face went all pale all of the sudden.” [Fei]

“...I forgot to allot you your rest days.” [Ryouma]

When I said that, everyone doubted their ears and stared at me. And then Jane-san said in loud voice.

“Boss! Are we going receive regular rest days!?” [Jane]

Huh? What’s with that reaction? Isn’t that a given? Though I suppose I really shouldn’t be saying that considering I forgot.

When I got a good look at everyone, they all seemed to be equally confused.

“How about once a week? You could rest once a week or take turns...” [Ryouma]

When I said that, the three young women became very happy. Seeing me so confused by their reaction, Carla-san went ahead and explained.

“Boss, the people who leave their home and go far away to work like these three normally don’t get rest days. Unless they have some sort of special ability, they are usually treated cruelly as servants and are paid less compared to others. But this store not only treats them well, it even pays a lot. Given such conditions, it’s only normal to expect that there won’t be any rest days.” [Carla]

“But it’s not just them who don’t get rest days. Small companies and retail stores like a grocery stores also don’t get any unless there’s a festival or a special event of some sort. Having rest days do take a toll on the business, and it’s also not strange for there to be circumstances wherein one needs wo work without rest. That’s especially true for newly opened businesses, which would often prefer to keep working nonstop to get the ball rolling.” [Carm]

Businesses ran like a bicycle, huh. [2] Well, I suppose there are those too.

“Boss, do you know? Our family apologized to us a lot when they sent us away~ ‘Sorry for making you take on such a hard role’, they said.” [Maria]

“Apparently, if our luck was bad, not only would we paid dirt poor, even our chastity might be in danger.” [Fina]

“You were worried about that, huh.” [Jane]

Does this world treat its employees poorly? As I wondered that, I turned to Carla-san.

“Abusing one’s position as the employer to seek sexual relations is against the law, but unfortunately, there are still those who do it. It’s one of the things an employee needs to look out for when looking for a job.” [Carla]

Sexual harassment was a thing in my previous world too. I guess that sort of stuff is the same even in other worlds.

“My store makes it a point to take care of its employees, so you don’t have to worry about that. Let’s continue working together.” [Ryouma]

As I said that, everyone smiled and nodded.

As for their rest day, since the wave of customers still show no sign of stopping, they told me that it would be a waste to designate a rest day now. As such, they decided to take turns resting once a week.

After discussing that and having Shelma-san’s delicious supper, I noticed that it was already almost 9, so I bid them goodbye and left the store. I might be scolded since I ended up coming home late again.

When I got back to the inn, the ojousama and the others had already returned.

As I drank tea and listened, apparently, the Jamil family was welcomed by the government office today. Part of the reason was because there was a new head, and another is for the remaining members part of that recent scandal to curry favor with the duke. Of course, all the efforts of these sycophants probably wouldn’t amount to anything.

I couldn’t help but imagine a party with a showy banner that says ‘welcome party’ on one side and a sign on the other side that says ‘hearing in session’.

As it turns out, something similar actually did happen.

Other than Reinbach-sama and Sebasu-san who told me all these, everyone else was already asleep.

It would probably be a bother if I were to stay here too long, so II excused myself.

# Chapter 57

## A Lucky Find

The next day.

“U, uu... My head... It hurts...” [Reinhart]

I dropped by the Jamil family’s room to meet the ojousama, whom I couldn’t meet last night, but when I got there, I saw Reinhart-san with a terrible hangover.

“Oh, Ryouma-kun, good morning.” [Elize]

“Good morning, everyone.” [Ryouma]

“Ryouma-kun.” [Reinhart]

“You seem to be in pain. Would you like me to make you a medicine?” [Ryouma]

“...Well, you’re here now, so might as well, I suppose. Could you make me some?” [Reinhart]

I warped into town and got some medicinal ingredients that would work well for hangovers, as well as some fruits that could be taken with it without any problems, then I went back to the inn.

“Here, please drink this. After this you should make sure to drink a lot of water.” [Ryouma]

It would’ve been great if some kaki were available. That or clam miso soup. This world is know to have had a lot of otherworlders, so I wonder if I could get some somewhere? I should look for them next time.

“T... Thanks... I’ll drink it...” [Reinhart]

“It would be best if you avoid drinking too much.” [Ryouma]

“My bad... Yesterday was... Uu... It hurts...” [Reinhart]

Reinhart-san tried to say something despite all the pain, but all that came out was a drunkard’s grumbles. The people of the government office wanted to curry favor from Reinbach-sama and Reinhart-san, so they kept offering them liquor and extravagant food. The ojousama and the madam too, of course.

The madam was alright, but apparently, because the ojousama didn’t have a lot of experience with that sort of stuff, Reinhart-san ended up drinking a lot in her place.

When I heard that I couldn’t help but become worried. Ojousama, will you be alright? When you become an adult you’ll be exposed to more and more of this stuff. I have Tekun-sama’s divine protection, so my situation is much better since I can’t get hangovers, though I’m not exactly sure myself how much I can drink with this body. I also have my experiences from my past life.

Maybe I should check once just how much I can drink.

While thinking like that to myself, Reinhart-san drank the medicine and the juice, then I left the inn.

It’s a bit late already, but I still decided to go to the store. After checking on the store a little, I left.

Everything seems to be going well, so that’s good.

Next stop is the abandoned mines. There’s something I want to try out, so I should catch some slimes along the way.

Also, since I’m going anyway, I might as well do a herb collection request.

“Good day, Maelyn-san.” [Ryouma]

“Oh, if it isn’t Ryouma-kun. Are you here for work?” [Maelyn]

“Yes. The employees can manage the store by themselves now, so...” [Ryouma]

“Having your own store with hired employees is a great achievement at your age, you know.” [Maelyn]

“I was lucky.” [Ryouma]

“I wonder. Ah, speaking of which, I’ve heard something good recently. It’s not a job, but it might be useful for you.” [Maelyn]

Something good?

“There’s a party of 5 adventurers that came from another town. That party brought an advanced slime variant with them.” [Maelyn]

What!?

“Can you tell me more?” [Ryouma]

“Catching a rare monster or just spotting one can fetch one a good price at the tamers guild. Well, as it turns out, that party of adventurers managed to find an advanced slime variant by accident, but when they tried to sell it, they were refused.

If it were a slime like your heal slime that could use some kind of magic, then it would’ve probably sold for a lot since it would’ve been quite useful, but clearly, that wasn’t the case for them. Those 5 adventurers are still young, so they probably made a mistake when gathering information. ‘Couldn’t a slime also sell for a lot if it’s an advanced variant?’ they said. They seemed pretty down.” [Maelyn]

“So you’re saying that that rare slime could be purchased as long as one has the money?” [Ryouma]

“Exactly. Want it?” [Maelyn]

“Yes. Very much. Would you happen to know where they’re staying?” [Ryouma]

“They’re staying at the badger pavilion east of town. The party’s name is Wharf of Shikumu. You’ll probably find them.” [Maelyn]

“Thank you. I’ll go now.” [Ryouma]

I immediately left the guild and hurriedly made my way for the badger pavilion.

My plans? We're changing them! All of them!

"Is this it?" [Ryouma]

I easily found the badger pavilion, but it looked really worn out. What is this? An abandoned building?

For the mean time, I tried entering the store. When I did I noticed an old man by the counter.

"Welcome. Are you a customer?" [Old Man]

"I have business with the Wharf of Shikumu, which should be staying here. Are they here?" [Ryouma]

"Yep." [Old Man]

As he said that he pointed toward the door to the right.

"Beyond that is a cafeteria that also serves as a bar. They're eating there right now. One of them has been drinking and grumbling since morning, so be careful." [Old Man]

"Thanks." [Ryouma]

Curt, but he seems like a good guy.

I opened the gate and went into the cafeteria. When I did, I immediately found the party of 5 that I was looking for. I immediately recognized them. They all seemed to be in the latter half of their tens.

"Excuse me, are you guys the members of the Wharf of Shikumu?" [Ryouma]

When I called out to them, they all turned to me.

"Hmm? You are?" [Party Member 1]

"Pardon my belated introduction. I am Ryouma Takebayashi. I am a monster tamer and an adventurer." [Ryouma]

“Hmph! A little brat like you is an adventurer?” [Sein]

“Stop it Sein. Sorry. This guy’s in a bad mood...” [Party Member 1]

“I’ve heard your circumstances. You brought a rare slime to the tamer guild and tried to sell it.” [Ryouma]

“Oh, so—” [Party Member 1]

“Hah!?! So you came here to pick a fight!?” [Sein]

The man called Sein stood up, but before he could walk toward me, he was stopped by a party member.

“I’m not here to pick a fight.” [Ryouma]

“What? So you’re here to make fun of us then!?! Made fun of by some brat... Fuck!! Fine! Laugh! We’re idiots, alright! We dragged our sorry asses all the way out here to try and sell a rare monster, but in the end we couldn’t make a single suit!! But why do we have to be insulted by a brat like you too!?” [Sein]

After Sein said that he broke down crying. Looks like he’s so drunk he’s seeing things already.

“Sein.” [Party Member 1]

“Calm down.” [Party Member 2]

“I’ll bring Sein to the room. You can’t talk like this.” [Party Member 3]

“I’ll go too.” [Party Member 4]

Two of their party members left the table and brought Sein back to his room.

“Let’s start over. We are the Wharf of Shikumu, and I’m the leader, Shin.” [Shin]

“I’m Kai. The guy making a ruckus is called Sein. Sorry about that.” [Kai]

“It’s alright.” [Ryouma]

“Thanks for being understanding. So, why have you come to look for us?” [Shin]

Right! That’s the important part! Who cares if there’s a drunkard or not!

“Right. Just as I was saying awhile ago, I would like to purchase the slime you couldn’t sell.” [Ryouma]

“That slime?” [Kai]

“I’d be grateful if you could get it off of our hands, but why? The tamer guild just insult us when we tried to sell it.” [Shin]

“Because I’m a collector of slimes, as well as a researcher. If there’s a rare slime I don’t have, it’s only natural that I would want to acquire it.” [Ryouma]

“As long as you give us a good price, we won’t have any complaints. We were planning to deal with it by tomorrow anyway.” [Shin]

“I see. Can you show me the slime? If it’s a slime I already have, I won’t pay much for it, but if it’s a slime I don’t have yet, then I’ll pay you handsomely.” [Ryouma]

“Sounds good to me.” [Shin]

“I’ll bring it now. Just wait here for a bit.” [Kai]

Kai-san left after saying that, then 3 minutes later he came back with a box made out of stone.

“There’s a slime inside this. Please be careful when you open it.” [Kai]

“Excuse me.” [Ryouma]

Carefully, I lifted the lid of the box and peeked at the slime inside.

The slime was dark red and had a much more syrupy body, making it a lot closer to liquid compared to normal slimes. After confirming the slime, I closed the lid.

“How is it?” [Shin]

“It’s a slime I don’t have yet, so I’m willing to pay a high price for it. If you don’t mind

me asking, how much have you spent so far to get here?" [Ryouma]

"5,000 suits for all 5 of us. We did as much as we could to cut down on expenses, but it still cost us that much." [Shin]

When I heard that, I took out two small gold coins from my Item Box.

"In that case, I'll give you 10,000 suits for the slime and another 10,000 to cover your travel expenses." [ryouma]

When I said that, Kai and Shin became flustered.

"Seriously!? That's 20,000." [Kai]

"Can a single slime really sell for 2 small gold coins?" [Shin]

"It's fine. After all, it's thanks to all of you that I could get my hands on this slime." [Ryouma]

"R-Right... Well, no complaints here. You're okay with this too, right?" [Shin]

"Of course, I am." [Kai]

"Then it's a deal." [Ryouma]

I handed over the money to Shin.

"I've received the payment." [Shin]

"I'll be taking this slime then. Thank you." [Ryouma]

"We should be thanking you." [Kai]

"With this we won't have to worry about our expenses for the mean time. Sein should also calm down." [Shin]

I can somewhat understand that man's feelings... There are times when you can't help but worry when there's no money. I also had times like that.

Speaking of which, wasn't a big job coming out soon?

“If you want to make some coin, it might be better for you to stay in town a bit longer. The season for a monster outbreak in a nearby marsh is almost here. Supposedly the guts of that monster has medicinal effects, so they sell for a lot. You can earn a lot so long as you can endure the stench of the marsh.” [Ryouma]

“Really?” [Shin]

“Yes. You can confirm with the guild if you want. I don’t know when exactly the outbreak is, but it should be soon.” [Ryouma]

“Thanks!” [Kai]

“Thanks for the info. Is there any way we can thank you?” [Shin]

I don’t really need it, but since they’re asking, I guess I could advertise here.

“Then how about dropping by my store? I own a laundromat as a sideline, you see. Although it ended up being a bit too big for a sideline.” [Ryouma]

“A laundromat?” [Shin]

“Yes, we’ll wash all the clothes you can fit in in our bags. You purchase the bags from us, of course. The laundry fee will only run you about 1 medium copper coin. We also have a service catered toward adventurers that washes all equipment and armor for only one medium copper coin and 5 small copper coins.” [Ryouma]

“There’s a store like that?” [Kai]

“Alright. It’s affordable, anyway, so we’ll drop by.” [Shin]

“Thank you. It’s just before the residential district to the east. We get a lot of adventurers as customers, so if you get lost just ask around and you should be able to find it quickly.” [Ryouma]

“We’ll definitely go.” [Shin]

“Thank you.” [Ryouma]

After that I went to the abandoned mine.

Here I don't have to worry about my surroundings, so it's the best place to do slime research.

When I got to the mine, the first thing I did was to start the treatment of the waterproof cloths. I'm here anyway, so I figured I might as well. Today I made 50, then after doing some other stuff, it was finally time to form a contract with the rare slime I just bought.

Gently, I lifted the lid of the stone box, then while peeking at the slime inside, I chanted the spell for the monster tamer contract.

Immediately, the liquid body of the slime rippled fiercely, then it gradually weakened down, until it was no more.

Contract success!

Well, I expected this, though.

When I used monster identify on it, this came out:

### **Bloody Slime**

Skills:

Blood Suck Lv4

Deodorize Lv3

Disease Resist Lv3

Poison Resist Lv1

Act Dead Lv10

Digest Lv2

Absorb Lv4

Split Lv1

Bloody slime, huh. It possesses the blood sucking skill too, so it's food definitely has to be blood. Other than that it also possesses the deodorizing and disease resist skills. Moreover, although a little low leveled, it also possesses the poison resist skill. What's up with this Act Dead, though? Is it really going to act dead?... Well, whatever. We'll just check the skills later.

The problem now is food. If it's food really is blood, how am I supposed to procure that?

“Should I hunt some random beast or monster?” [Ryouma]

I ordered the slimes to do as they please as long as they don't go too far, then I took the bloody slime with me and went hunting.

Before I left, though, I noticed that several dozens of slimes took their staffs and spears and started practicing on their own.

Although I just taught them so they could defend themselves, there sure are some passionate ones among them.

The slimes lined up perfectly and started repeating the basic spear/staff movements that I taught them. There were also some who partnered with each other and started sparring. Their movements gradually improved.

It's good that they're practicing, but I'm pretty sure this isn't normal.

While thinking that to myself, I took the bloody slime and looked for a prey. After a while, we found a rabbit with a horn. A horn rabbit, in other words.

I took out a bow and arrow from my Item Box, then with a single shot, I ended the rabbit's life. After that I told the slime to have his meal.

The slime approached the horned rabbit that laid lifeless on the ground, dyed with the red of its own blood, then it started to suck the blood straight from the wound.



So it drinks the blood from the wound. We have organisms that drink blood back on Earth too, like the mosquitoes or the fleas... Oh, speaking of which, there's also a bird that drinks blood. Well, basically, it's something like tha—!?

While I thought to myself as I watched the bloody slime do its thing, the bloody slime's body that was already more liquid than other slimes suddenly started to become even less viscous, then before I knew it, it had disappeared inside the body of the horn rabbit.

"It went in through the wound?" [Ryouma]

Well, that was unexpected.

The bloody slime's body is a lot less viscous than other slimes. It's not really a syrupy liquid anymore but more of a smooth one. It seems it uses that near-liquid property of its body to enter the veins of an organism and feed on its blood.

"This slime is... very different from all the slimes so far. Who would've thought there'd be a slime like this?" [Ryouma]

While I was being surprised by the actions of the bloody slime, the bloody slime suddenly exited the horn rabbit's body.

It's body is dark red, so it looks like blood is spouting out of the horn rabbit's corpse. It's a little creepy, honestly.

After the bloody slime had completely exited, I used Identify on the horn rabbit.

How is it?

### **Horn Rabbit Corpse**

Its skin, meat, and horn can be harvested.

It was instantly killed by an arrow shooting through its neck, so there's little injury to its horn and pelt, making their quality high.

The blood has also been drained exceedingly quickly, so the stench has been greatly reduced and its meat is of the highest quality.

I get the horn and pelt part, but did it just say that it's blood had been drained? That must be because of the bloody slime then. But I wonder if it's safe to eat. You won't catch anything, right?

I used Identify again, and it seems everything was safe.

“It seems this slime is going to be really useful for adventurers and hunters.” [Ryouma]

When I got back to the mine, I gutted the horn rabbit and cooked it. When I tasted it, the odor was completely gone and it was really delicious. The odor disappearing might have something to do with the bloody slime’s deodorize skill. With such convenient skills, it seems purchasing this slime was money well spent.

It seems I’ll be needing blood if I want to make more bloody slimes, though.

“Just how should I procure all that blood to feed my experiments... I can’t possibly hunt all the beasts and monsters around here, now could I?” [Ryouma]

After all, if I did that, then the ecosystem here would turn into a mess. Not to mention, I’d be taking work from other adventurers.

“I know! Let’s talk to Zeke-san.” [Ryouma]

There’s a dish back at earth that uses animal blood as an ingredient, but there’s no such dish here.

As for why, that’s because the mana of a living creature is present in its blood. If a human drinks it, the mana within will also enter his body, exposing him to mana intoxication should he consume too much.

It’s no different from mana overconsumption, so there’s no need to treat it, but it’s something that should be avoided.

Zeke-san is a butcher. Adventurers bring meat to him and he buys them. If he does the blood draining at his store, then it might be possible to acquire a lot of blood from him.

I’ll drop by his store when I get back to town.

As I thought that, I suddenly recalled that I’d forgotten to capture some new slimes to experiment with, so I looked for some in the tunnels and caught myself 3 fresh slimes. I formed a contract with them successfully.

The cloths still aren’t done drying, so I decided to start the experiments.

# Chapter 58

## Procuring Slime Food

After catching my breath, I released some mana toward the three slimes.

The slimes quivered and jumped toward that mana. The emotion transmitted to me was joy.

On the outside, the slimes just looked like they were shaking, but thanks to my Mana Perception skill, I could tell that they were in fact absorbing mana.

“As I thought...” [Ryouma]

When I saw the slime evolve after releasing and absorbing mana yesterday, I realized something regarding the relationship between slime and mana.

First, heal slimes can use healing magic, so slimes definitely have mana. The condition to become heal slime is also probably healing magic itself.

At the time, I figured, “if so, then wouldn’t it be possible to create a slime that could use fire or water magic?” But the result was that I just ended up hurting the slimes, so I stopped the experiments. But what about now?

A slime that could use every attribute. In the past, I figured there should be a slime that could use other spells. Something that I confirmed with Maelyn-san just the other day.

If it’s an existing slime, then it should be possible to make it evolve by changing its diet. The next question would be whether mana could be used as feed for slimes.

I released mana again. This time I turned my mana into that of the fire attribute. In my mind, I visualized the image of mana burning up like gas. Supposedly, that the image one visualizes varies from person to person. Like this I was able to change my neutral attribute mana into the fire attribute.

This attribute conversion is necessary if one is to use an attribute’s spell. Only,

normally, one would immediately invoke a spell along with the conversion of mana attribute. In my case, I'm stopping right before I cast the spell, leaving the mana in a converted state as I release it.

"This is actually more difficult than just using magic normally." [Ryouma]

It's probably because I'm not used to it.

"You don't like neutral mana?" [Ryouma]

When I tried releasing just neutral attribute mana, the absorption rate of the slime became slower.

I tried out different attributes, and I found out that two out of the three slimes preferred earth attribute, while the last one preferred dark attribute.

It seems mana attribute is an individual preference.

Does mana actually taste like something?

Anyway, the slimes look happy, so let's continue.

After that I kept feeding the slimes until I was just a step before running out of mana, then after taking a break, I took the dried waterproof cloths, went back to town, and headed to Zeke-san's store.

"Welcome! What kind of meat are you looking for?" [Store Clerk]

It was a 14 or 15 year-old boy that greeted me when I got to the store.

"Sorry, I have something I'd like to discuss with the manager, Zeke-san. I wonder if it would be possible to talk to him?" [Ryouma]

"Oh. Boss! Someone's looking for you!" [Store Clerk]

When he called out loud like that, a man covered in bloodstained clothes came out. It was Zeke-san.

Pale skin, unhealthily thin, and bloodstained clothes... This person is – in a very different way from Wogan-san – also scary...

“Oh, if it isn’t Ryouma-kun. You have some business with me?” [Zeke]

“Yes, actually...” [Ryouma]

I explained to him my situation.

“...I see. So there was a slime like that, huh. Alright, I can give you some now. There were some young adventurers who dropped by with a lot of spoils, so there’s plenty of blood if you need them.” [Zeke]

“Thank you very much.” [Ryouma]

After that I was let in to the workplace. 5 men were in the middle of work. Near the wall of the workplace was a large ceiling joist from which hooks and cords dangled from. Animals dripped in blood as they hung from the hooks and cords.

“Over here.” [Zeke]

I was led to one of the beasts dangling from the ceiling joist. There were two large containers beneath it, and both were filled with blood. The containers were as long as the room.

“Thank you. Would it be okay to feed my slime now?” [Ryouma]

“Sure.” [Zeke]

After getting permission, I put the bloody slime inside one of the containers. The bloody slime immediately went to work, and in the blink of an eye, the blood was sucked up until nothing was left.

“Wow... Now, that’s convenient.” [Zeke]

“You think so too?” [Ryouma]

“We have to dispose the blood after draining it from the meat. And even if we didn’t, we would still have to wash the container. Unfortunately, it’s big, heavy... It’s a huge hassle.” [Zeke]

“Especially, when we get a big one. Whenever we have to drain a lot of blood like today, it takes a lot of work.” [Worker 1]

“I see.” [Ryouma]

It was such a huge undertaking that even the worker nearby said it took a lot of effort. But still, they had to do it.

We were here already, so I figured I might as well ask if there are any dishes that use blood.

“A dish that uses blood as an ingredient? Never heard of one.”

“I mean it’s common sense to throw blood. Yeah?”

“Of course, if you could eat it, that would be a waste...”

“I’ve heard that the mana in the blood disperses if you leave blood on its own, but then the blood spoils or dries, so you still can’t eat it.”

Looks like mana-infused blood really is just waste.

After that Zeke told me to come whenever I needed blood. He also gave me the meat and bones that weren’t sold and had spoiled. He didn’t mind giving me the things that they would just throw away and was quite generous. With this I’ve also acquired feed for the scavenger and acid slimes.

“Thank you very much!” [Ryouma]

Elated after receiving much more than I was expecting, I thanked Zeke-san and left his store.

When I did...

“Walk briskly!” [Guard]

“That hurts!” [Suspect 1?]

“Hey! What are you sorry lots looking at!?” [Suspect 2?]

“This ain’t a show!” [Suspect 3?]

“Shut up and walk!!” [Guard]

I noticed the guards escorting several boorish-looking men. What happened!?

Upon seeing that, I immediately ran to the store. Everyone was already gathered.

“Is everyone alright!?” [Ryouma]

“Ah, Boss!”

“I saw the guards coming out of the store... Is everyone alright?” [Ryouma]

“Everything’s fine~ No one’s hurt too~” [Maria]

“Fei-san took care of all of them singlehandedly!” [Fina]

“Thank you, Fei-san.” [Ryouma]

“Don’t sweat it. This is my job too.” [Fei]

“You helped us out a lot too, Ryouma-sama. Fei-san and Leelin-san helped out, of course, but you also helped out since it was due to your foresight that you hired them beforehand. Thanks to that no one was hurt.” [Carla]

“N-No. I didn’t do anything.” [Ryouma]

I mean I just got here.

While I was thinking that, Leelin-san called out to me.

“Boss, can we talk? I think we should make some preparations in case they try this again.” [Leelin]

I left Fei-san and the three working women in charge of the store, then I took Leelin-san and the twins with me to the office.

“Although I said that, we don’t actually need it just yet. As long as my dad and I are here, there won’t be any problem. Ruffians like that, I could take them alone. There’s just one thing I want to ask. Boss, are you hated by someone?” [Leelin]

“What do you mean?” [Ryouma]

“Those ruffians were hired by someone. I know for sure since I gave them some truth serum before the guards came.” [Leelin]

“They were hired by someone?” [Ryouma]

I tried to think of who might hate me, but...

“Well, there’s a group of adventurers who tried to extort some children. I beat them black and blue, so they probably hate me, but it’s probably not them.” [Ryouma]

I’ve been isolated in the forest until now, and before that I was in another world. Ever since I entered town, I’ve been meeting nothing but good people, so I’m pretty sure I haven’t gotten on anyone’s bad side. The only issue I’ve ever had was really just that.

“Those guys said they were paid a large sum... Even though they were only asked to do something so simple.” [Leelin]

“Simple? What do you mean?” [Ryouma]

“They were just asked to quarrel with some customers and shout angrily.” [Leelin]

“But Fei-san noticed them and stopped them.” [Carla]

So they don’t want to hurt the employees or the facilities. What they want is to hurt the business, huh.

“...I really can’t think of anyone.” [Ryouma]

“Then perhaps it’s envy. From another store’s perspective, our laundromat suddenly appeared out of nowhere and started making a killing.” [Leelin]

“Those sort are everywhere. We should be careful.” [Carm]

“It would’ve been great if the ruffians had some more information, but it seems their

client took care to hide cover his tracks.” [Leelin]

“This sort of stuff does tend to happen where there’s profit. We might just have to brace ourselves to deal with the situation whenever it happens.” [Carla]

After this Carla-san and Carm-san reported today’s matter to the merchant guild and Serge, while I reported to the duke’s family.

It was also decided that the security in the morning would be left to Fei-san and Leelin-san, while the slimes will be let loosed to patrol the store grounds in the evening.

When I spoke to Reinhart-san about today’s matter, it turned into a huge deal, as he recommended me to use their connections to hire guards.

The ones that could be hired immediately were all former soldiers or knights, who retired because of an injury. The thing is not one of them was on the level something like my store should be able to hire, as they all had titles that overqualified them.

Speaking of which, of the people I was recommended, the most skillful one was the former knight commander. Apparently, he’s Reinbach-sama’s war buddy... As if I could hire someone like that!!

After talking for a while, it was decided that we would just quietly monitor the situation for now.

Oh, come to think of it, didn’t Leelin-san just casually drugged someone? I ignored it at the time, but they actually have that sort of stuff with them... Ah, well... They’re reliable, so it’s probably okay.

Let’s go to sleep already.

# Chapter 59

## Monster Tamer Arts

The next day.

“Ryouma-san, are you awake?” [Elialia]

The ojousama visited my room first thing in the morning. She was accompanied by Sebasu-san.

“What’s the matter?” [Ryouma]

“Dad’s teaching me monster taming arts, so I was wondering if you’d like to tag along.” [Elialia]

Monster taming, huh... Come to think of it, all I know about monster taming is the contract, the monster identify skill, and contract cancellation... Are there other spells? If it’s now, I do have time to spare.

But there’s also the matter with the ruffians yesterday...

While I was thinking that to myself, Sebasu-san approached me and whispered to my ear.

“I’m aware this is urgent, but I’ve heard that Ryouma-sama has more free time recently. Why not consider this as a break and spend some time with the ojousama? It won’t be long before the ojousama parts with you in this town, so as much as possible, she wants to spend as much time with you as possible. We’ve already sent a guard to watch over the store today, so please rest assured.” [Sebasu]

Ah~ ... Now that he mentions it, after starting the laundromat because of my desire to be independent, I’ve been spending all my time on ensuring my living expenses and tending to the store. As a result, I’ve been spending less time with ojousama than when we were travelling together.

She was so happy to train magic together too... She must’ve been elated to make a

friend.

...I might've done something bad, I guess...

"Alright. Can I learn too?" [Ryouma]

"Really!?" [Elialia]

When I said that, the ojousama's blooming smile was blinding.

Why do I feel so guilty?... Well, considering I didn't notice until now, I guess I really am at fault...

When I told my employees about this matter, they all smiled at me and said 'please leave the store to us!'

Even though something like that happened yesterday, I can't believe they're not complaining at all... If it were my old job, they'd definitely never let me hear the end of it.

Looks like I hired some really good people.

When we arrived at our destination, the place was none other than the open area in the abandoned mine that I've long gotten used to.

Apparently, we're doing the training here. The madam was standing before me and the ojousama with a bird cage in hand.

"Let us begin. To start off with, what is monster taming? Elia." [Elize]

"Monster taming is magic that allows us to form contracts with monsters, so that we may borrow their strength. When a contract is formed, a mana connection is formed between the practitioner and the monster. It is through this connection that the monster and tamer are able to understand each other." [Elialia]

"Exactly. What I'm going to be teaching you today is the Share Senses spell, which makes use of that connection. Just as the name implies, this spell will allow a practitioner to share his senses with his monster's and vice-versa. It's a spell that

allows a practitioner to inform his tamed monster when he's in danger." [Elize]

"This spell is limited only to monster tamers. Conjurers can't do this." [Elize]

Really?

"Why can't conjurers use this?" [Ryouma]

"It's because the contract conjurers use is forced upon their summoned monster. Although there exists a bond between a conjurer and his monster, the bond is one-sided." [Elize]

I see... I don't know much about conjurers.

"I see. That makes sense." [Ryouma]

"You need to be familiar with your monster to master Share Senses. Monsters that you know well and have been working with for a long time are much easier to use share senses with than otherwise. Today, however, the two of you will be using share senses with the monster we prepared for you." [Reinbach]

"What about my slimes? Can't I use Share Senses with them?" [Ryouma]

"You could certainly share your senses with a slime, but the effect will be hard to understand, and really, there's no point." [Reinhart]

"After all, slimes don't have ears, eyes, or a nose. Even if you manage to successfully link with them, you can't see, hear, or smell. You won't even be able to taste. I mean, in the first place, we don't really know how they're able to tell their surroundings." [Elize]

Now that she mentions it, that certainly would make the effect difficult to discern.

"I understand." [Ryouma]

After that Elia and I formed a contract with the monster in the birdcage, a crew bird.

Speaking of which, this is my first time forming a contract with a monster other than a slime.

I became a little nervous when I realized that, but the contract completed successfully.

“Done? Then imagine a connection forming between you and your monster. After that I want you to imagine that you can see what your monster is seeing. If you can do that, then you’ll be able to use Share Sense without a chant.” [Elize]

After being told that, I imagined the camera connected to a TV. When I did, the image quickly flowed into my mind, but...

“...I feel sick...” [Ryouma]

There’s two pictures inside my head. One from my eyes and another from the monster’s eyes. It’s hard to describe it, but it’s like two screens are being forcefully shown to me and forcefully trying to make me understand.

It’s not a very pleasant feeling...

“Oh, my. You’ve already succeeded, Ryouma-kun?” [Elize]

“As expected of you. There are actually quite a lot of people who have a hard time grasping the image for this. It’s a fairly difficult spell to understand.” [Reinbach]

“It’s precisely because it’s hard though that it should be taught early. That way you can practice it sooner... As for that sense of discomfort, that’s something that every monster tamer goes through after learning it for the first time. So long as you train and work hard at it, that odd feeling will eventually go away. Since you’re a beginner, you can just close your eyes for now and just focus on the image that your monster is seeing.” [Reinhart]

I need to get used to it, huh. I did just as I was told and closed my eyes, so I could focus on what my monster is seeing.

My crew bird is currently on the ground. The image perspective is really low, but without my own perspective overlapping with it, it’s somewhat manageable.

...Yep, this is a lot better.

We trained for 2 more hours after that. Right up till the end I had my eyes closed, but I at least succeeded at keeping the connection up while my crew bird flew in the sky. Being able to see the world literally from a bird’s eye view should be quite useful for security and surveillance.

While I was thinking that to myself, the ojousama succeeded on casting the spell.

“This feels... Weird...” [Elialia]

As expected, she feels weird too.

In my case, it's still somewhat manageable since I used an image based off of my experience on Earth, but in the ojousama's case, she's doing this without any prior similar experience.

With the both of us being able to successfully link with our respective monsters, we were given a short break.

Arone-san and the others poured us some tea.

“The 2 of you sure are fast learners. I can't believe you managed learned the spell so quickly.” [Reinbach]

“Elia has Jamil blood flowing through her veins, so I expected it would be fast, but still... I didn't think it would be this fast. I also thought Ryouma-kun would have some difficulties learning the spell.” [Reinhart]

“Isn't it fine? There'll be less issues if they can learn fast. After this comes the grind, after all.” [Elize]

“That weird feeling is going to continue, huh.” [Elia]

Apparently, the ojousama was having a hard time getting used to the sensation even with her eyes closed.

Though I guess anyone would have a hard time if an image was so pushed down their brain. I've seen TVs before, so I'm better off, but even if I tell her about them, it won't help since she's never seen one.

Good luck, Ojousama.

We talked idly like that for a while, then the madam asked me a question.

“Ryouma-kun, how was contracting a monster other than a slime? Did it feel weird anywhere? Does it feel like your connection is faint?” [Elize]

“No, not in particular.” [Ryouma]

“Then that might mean you have an affinity with bird-type monsters.” [Elize]

Affinity? What is she talking about?

“What’s an affinity?” [Ryouma]

It was Reinhart-san who answered that question.

“You don’t know? Monster Tamers and Conjurers each have their own individual affinities regarding what monsters they could form contracts with and how many. In some cases, they could form contracts with just a few but powerful monsters. It varies from person to person and is basically just like one’s affinity to magic attributes.

In your case, you most likely have very good compatibility with slimes; otherwise, you wouldn’t be able to form a contract with so many.” [Reinhart]

“Knowing what monsters you’re compatible with and picking the right monster is essential to monster tamers. If you don’t know what monsters your most compatible with, then you’ll have no choice but to keep looking until you figure it out. In my case, I’m most compatible with scaled monsters. And while I can’t form a lot of contracts, every monster I form a contract with is a force to be reckoned.” [Reinbach]

“In my case, I’m good with four-legged monster, while completely sucking at bird-type monsters. I can’t even form a contract with them.” [Reinhart]

“In my case...” [Elize]

Just as the madam was about to open her mouth, a light flashed beside her and a giant silver wolf suddenly appeared.

“!?” [Ryouma]

I was surprised, but the others were all just quietly sitting.

The madam chuckled and told me it was alright.

At that, I relaxed.

“Sorry for startling you. This child is Ruog, my little fenrir.” [Elize]



Fenrir?... You talking about that fenrir? The legendary one!?

“Oh, my. You seem to have mistaken him for the other fenrir.” [Elize]

“He’s not?” [Ryouma]

“Of course, not. Fenrir is a divine beast. Little fenrir is a monster. A wolf type monster that can use some ice magic. It’s definitely a powerful monster, though.” [Elize]

“I see...” [Ryouma]

Little fenrir sounds amazing... And the madam too since she’s able to win one over...

When the madam petted the little fenrir, the little fenrir made a delighted expression as it laid down beside her legs.

It’s like a dog.

“This child is the leader of the pack. I have 20 more little fenrirs like this one. Then I have another 100 wolf-type monsters. I’m really compatible wolf-type monsters.” [Elize]

20 little fenrirs!?

Although they can’t compare to me and my slimes in numbers, the quality is just too different. The intimidating aura around one is whole ‘nother league compared to the black bear’s.

“Elize is a masterful monster tamer. Little fenrirs aren’t something you can normally tame. In the past, when I met Elize, I actually couldn’t help but feel inferior.” [Reinhart]

“Oh, really? Didn’t you say something like ‘I have my sword!’ and just focused on improving your swordsmanship instead? And besides, I don’t think you were that untalented when it came to monster taming.” [Elize]

“...But if you compare me to you and dad, I look no different than your common monster tamer.” [Reinhart]

“But it’s not like you minded it that much, right? I mean, in the first place, even back in your childhood days, you never really liked training your taming abilities and just

focused on your sword instead. So don't make it out as if I'm at fault." [Reinbach]

While Reinbach-sama was grumbling, I glanced at Ruog and thought to myself.

The madam has 20 little fenrirs and another 100 wolf-type monsters. And Reinbach-sama could be said to be her equal.

This definitely isn't normal, right? At least according to this world's standard. I mean they did say she was an excellent monster tamer.

While I was thinking to myself like that, the ojou-sama called out to me.

"Ryouma-san, what are you thinking about?" [Elia]

"Hmm... I was just thinking how amazing Reinbach-sama is since he could stand equal to the madam." [Ryouma]

Elia seemed delighted at having her family member praised, as she made a big smile.

But the madam overheard my words and corrected me.

"Ryouma-kun. That's not quite right. Actually, Father-in-law is much more amazing than me." [Elize]

"Really?" [Ryouma]

"That's right. Father-in-law's monsters are in a different league altogether. Although he only has 20 under him, every one of them would be give an A Rank Quest should a subjugation job for them be posted in the adventurers guild. After all, half of them are dragons." [Elize]

"Dragons!?" [Ryouma]

I've never seen a dragon before, but I sure as hell know that 10 dragons mean serious business. Moreover, each one possesses a strength equal to an A Rank. That's just way too much firepower for a single person!!... Reinbach-sama, why does it feel like you're more of a cheat than I am?

"Mu... What's the matter with dragons?" [Reinbach]

Reinbach-sama asked after hearing my surprise.

“Oh, the madam was just telling me about your monsters. I think it’s amazing you could tame so many dragons.” [Ryouma]

“I just have good luck. Of course, there’s also my affinity, but the first one I formed a contract with was especially strong. And he gathered the dragons subordinated to him and they all became subordinated to me. Dragons are powerful allies, but I rarely call them. It would make a huge fuss, after all.” [Reinbach]

Well, that’s true...

“Besides, I can’t compare to the founder of monster taming, Shiho Jamil. Shiho-sama was compatible with all monsters and could form a contract with any monster regardless of their strength. Records say he also had an infinite number of contracts.” [Reinbach]

Well, that founder is probably an otherworlder, so it’s just the gods’ cheat at work. According to Gayn and the others, the founder is supposedly a good person.

Because I knew about the cheats, I was more intrigued with what Reinbach-sama’s dragons normally do.

“Shiho-sama sounds like an amazing person... By the way, Reinbach-sama, what does your monsters normally do?” [Ryouma]

“They live in the mountain in my territory. The monsters there are too strong, so people rarely come there. But their main job there is to prevent the monsters there from descending to the human settlements.” [Reinbach]

“I see.” [Ryouma]

“The stronger the monster a tamer has contracted, the more troubled he’ll be with where to put it. If you ever form a contract with a powerful monster in the future and you don’t know where to put, make sure to contact us, alright?” [Reinbach]

“Thank you.” [Ryouma]

I’ll turn to them for advice if my dimensional magic can’t accommodate it.

# Chapter 60

## A Compulsory Rest Day

After our break ended, we resumed training... Or at least that's what I thought would happen, but apparently, we were done for the day.

"The both of you have already learned Share Senses, so you can just practice it in your spare time from now on. For now, Ryouma-kun, why don't you listen to Elia's music. You might think I'm just a doting father, but I do believe her skills in music are truly something to be admired." [Reinhart]

"Music? Why all of the sudden?" [Ryouma]

What's going on?

"We talked about the rimel bird before, right?" [Elize]

"Yes. You mentioned it's one of the reasons you came to town." [Ryouma]

"That's right. Rimel birds can fly fast and use wind magic. That's why it's hard to catch one without hurting it. You can't seem them normally either. But rimel birds are still monsters, so you can still form a contract with them!" [Elia]

I see, so since it's possible, she'd like to try taming one, huh.

So, what does that have to do with the music?

"Does music have something to do with that?" [Ryouma]

"Bingo. Music is indispensable if you want to form a contract with a rimel bird." [Elia]

Really? I thought to myself, but then Sebasu came and explained.

"Rimel birds possess a great amount of mana and are also intelligent. Because of that a normal contract will fail with them. However, rimel birds use their beautiful cries to discern friends and to communicate. So, if you can play a tune for them that they

like, then it will become possible to form a contract with them.” [Sebasu]

As expected of another world, they have a catching method that goes beyond common sense! Who would’ve thought I’d have to play a tune to be recognized as a friend...

“You can form a contract like that? I didn’t know that.” [Ryouma]

“The odds of success are really low, so there are people who think it’s just something someone made up. Unfortunately, I’ve never heard of anyone taming a rimel bird other than with this method. As such, when it comes to rimel birds, it has the highest of chance of success.” [Sebasu]

“And that’s why Elia is going to show off her playing. Today is just practice though.” [Reinhart]

“Ryouma-san, please stay there and listen. If you don’t want to listen and fall asleep instead, that’s okay too. [1] But you can’t go home.” [Elia]

Huh? It’s okay not to listen, but I’m not allowed to go home?

Confused, I glanced at Sebasu-san and the others, and that was when I finally noticed it. They were smiling while looking at me.

.....Ah, could it be!

“You finally noticed?” [Reinbach]

“Ryouma-kun, you’re always working too hard, so we figured we should help you take a break for once.” [Reinhart]

“After subjugating some monsters, you built a store, then you hired some new employees, then you took some jobs at the adventurers guild, and now, you’re making some waterproof cloths. I hear you haven’t been getting much rest lately, too.

And just yesterday, some hoodlums came to your store, so you’re probably going to get busy again. So, before that, we figured we’d use today’s training as a pretext to distance you from work.” [Reinhart]

“Ryouma-sama, this is something everyone agreed on after hearing about your workload.” [Sebasu]

“And just when did word of that get around?” [Ryouma]

I never noticed at all.

“We’ll be watching over you today, so you’re definitely not working even a little bit.”  
[Elia]

“This kind of resting probably won’t help your mind rest, but without any rest at all, there’s a chance your body might break. If you still intend to work without regard for yourself after this, we’ll take you back home with us even if we have to do so by force.”  
[Reinbach]

“Sorry for worrying everyone.” [Ryouma]

“Even if your current workload is alright with you, a normal person would surely break down if they kept that up. It’s also possible you just can’t tell that you’re working too hard, so you need to be careful.” [Reinhart]

“And so, Ryouma-san, today is a compulsory rest day. I will be starting my performance then. Please do enjoy t.” [Elia]

The ojou-sama sure is unusually pushy today... Or was she always pushy?... Nah, I’m sure this is just her naivete.

While I was thinking that, the ojou-sama received a violin from Sebasu-san and started playing.

This world has violins too, huh. Maybe an otherworlder brought it.

I listened to the music while thinking of useless stuff. The ojou-sama is actually quite good.

She played a calm tune, so I was able to relax.

When the music ended, she asked me for my thoughts.

“Ryouma-san, how was it?” [Elia]

“You played beautifully.” [Ryouma]

I'm not just flattering her. I played some guitar myself back in my previous world, but I don't think I played that well. I don't know that much about music, but I felt good while listening to her playing, so I'm sure it's good.

Although my words didn't overly praise the ojou-sama, she was still elated.

After that she started playing again.

I listened to Elia play the violin while I petted the amiable Ruog and my slimes. I passed the time in leisure like this.

While listening to Elia's music, the time for the slimes to feed came, so I started giving the 3 slimes my mana.

"Oh!" [Ryouma]

Then, suddenly, one of them showed signs of change.

"It's here!" [Ryouma]

"What is it!?" [Elia]

"Ryouma-kun, what is it all of the sudden?" [Reinhart]

"What came?" [Reinbach]

When I exclaimed like that, the ojou-sama stopped playing, and the others approached me.

"My slime is evolving!" [Ryouma]

All eyes gathered on the slimes I was petting. Just like when the iron slime evolved, the slimes started shaking, then suddenly stopped, and then they started releasing and absorbing mana.

At the same time, their color started to change.

Everyone's eyes were glued to the slimes' evolution.

The slimes' color changed to a tawny hue.

When their evolution ended, I used monster identify on them.

### **Earth Slime**

Skills:

Earth Magic Lv2

Earth Resist Lv8

Absorb Earth Magic Lv1

Jump Lv1

Digest Lv3

Absorb Lv3

split Lv1

Earth magic! The experiment is a success!!

“Ryouma-san, what did it evolve into?” [Elia]

“It’s an earth slime. A slime that can use earth magic!” [Ryouma]

“Wow! That’s another rare slime!” [Reinbach]

“Ryouma-kun, earth slimes are fairly rare. Just how did you manage to evolve them?”  
[Reinhart]

I explained to them the method I used, but when the ojou-sama and madam tried it out...

“It’s not working...?” [Elia]

“This is surprisingly difficult...” [Elize]

Normally, after you convert your neutral mana to another element, you invoke a spell or just revert it back to neutral element.

Apparently, maintaining the converted mana requires a high level of mana control. Although I only had to take my time a little when releasing non-neutral mana, my magic control is currently level 4, a result of me constantly playing around with magic. In the end, the two had no choice but to accept that it currently wasn’t possible for them.

Frustrated, the ojou-sama stopped playing the violin and started training her magic, but she still couldn't succeed. In the end, she told me that she would strive to acquire the magic control skill next time. She did so while looking competitively toward the slimes that evolved.

Anyway, with this, I got two earth slimes and one dark slime.

### **Dark Slime**

Skills:

Dark Magic Lv2

Dark Resist Lv8

Absorb Dark Magic Lv1

Jump Lv1

Digest Lv3

Absorb Lv3

Split Lv1

Although I was a bit surprised with the slimes, I'm almost out of mana, so I decided to just leisurely enjoy the atmosphere.

".....Ah, a horn rabbit [1]." [Ryouma]

When Elia started playing her violin again, I sat back with my slimes and just quietly enjoyed myself, but when I let my crew bird fly, I noticed a herd of rabbits.

Meat... Should I get some as thanks to the people in the store.

When I told the others that I would go out for a bit to hunt, Reinhart-san, the ojou-sama, and the others offered to help, so I was able to get a lot of spoils.

I got my bow and arrow and hunted several animals while driving them toward Reinhart-san's group and the sticky slimes. After that, all that was left was to retrieve the spoils.

...As expected, hunting with a group makes the whole thing so much easier. The workload is completely different compared to when I'm hunting alone.

As I thought that to myself, I went back to where ojou-sama and the others were, then I brought my crew bird back into its bird cage and cancelled the contract.

The madam said, "You can take it with you, if you want." But I politely declined her.

Having the crew bird's eyes isn't that big of a deal for me, and even if it does become necessary, I can just catch one on my own.

"Well then... Shall we go back?" [Reinbach]

...Before I knew it, a lot of time has already passed.

It was best to get back before it got dark, so we rode the carriage back. We weren't going fast, though, so there weren't much swaying inside and the ride back was really pleasant.

But then again maybe I'm just feeling the aftereffects of the atmosphere this afternoon? Alternatively, it's also possible that I'm a lot more exhausted than I thought.

Like that I dozed off. And when we got back to the inn, I just returned to my room and slept.

# Chapter 61

## For Employment's Sake

The next day.

I woke up refreshed and went to the store before opening time.

“Good morning, everyone.” [Ryouma]

“Good morning, Boss.” [Carla and Carm]

“Good morning.” [Fina, Leelin, Fei, Maria, Jane]

“Thank you for yesterday. I was able to get a good rest as a result.” [Ryouma]

“That’s good to hear.” [Jane]

“It’s bad to work too much. Please take care of yourself.” [Carla]

“Boss, you work too hard. We were all shocked to hear how much you work.” [Leelin]

“Building this store in 10 days... That’s crazy talk. Leelin and I can’t do it. If you work that hard at your age, you’ll have an early grave.” [Fei]

“I’ll be careful.” [Ryouma]

“Please do that.” [Fina]

“Boss, you might act like an adult, but you’re still a child~” [Maria]

“Even an adult shouldn’t work excessively, you know?” [Jane]

It seems everyone in the store was also worried for me. I wasn’t really pushing myself all that much, though, since they’re around, but in any case, I’m happy that they’re concerned for me. I thanked them honestly and went to the kitchen.

“Sherma-san, are you here?” [Ryouma]

“Yes, yes. Boss, what do you want?” [Sherma]

Sherma-san was completely responsible for the store kitchen. She seemed to be making some kind of soup, as she was mixing something on a pot before I came in.

Shelma-san approached me before we continued talking.

“We went out of town yesterday to take a breather. I took the opportunity to hunt some monsters. I’d like to share them with everyone. The blood was drained from these as soon as I killed them, and then the meat immediately frozen, so they should be in good condition.” [Ryouma]

As I said that, I took the spoils out of my Item Box.

“Well, thank you. This is horn rabbit meat, yes? I’ll put them in the refrigerator for now and serve them to you and everyone later lunch.” [Shelma]

“Thank you.” [Ryouma]

As she said that, she stored the meet into the refrigerator.

“Oh, my. That’s a lot of meat...” [Shelma]

“I found a herd of horn rabbits, so I gathered them and then finished them off.” [Ryouma]

“It’s great we have this refrigerator. It’s really convenient.” [Shelma]

“Really? I mean, sure. I guess it’s convenient.” [Ryouma]

I have to cast cooling barrier once a day, though, so it’s actually kind of a pain. If I were a little better at barrier magic, I could make my barriers last longer, but alas...

Still, this is already a lot better than when I first started using barriers, and the longest one could last was about an hour.

“It is convenient. Normally, any ingredient you don’t use just spoils and gets thrown away. Vegetables maybe you can still keep them, but meat? There’s no saving that. If the weather is hot like in summer or just a particularly hot day, then the meat will

spoil super fast. And some ingredients just spoil a lot faster than others. But with this refrigerator, we can just store the meat we haven't used and serve them the next day. Thanks to that, we also get to save money.

I've heard there are magic tools out there that to do something similar, but they're expensive, so getting one isn't really feasible." [Shelma]

"Ah, now that you mention it... When I was living in the forest, I just ate whatever I got for the day, and gave the leftovers to the slimes. so it was never really an issue for me, but I guess that's also why people make preserved food." [Ryouma]

"Slimes are also convenient. Animal bones and other food wastes usually need a lot of cleanup, but with the slimes around, they can just take care of it. They're really a huge help." [Shelma]

We talked like that for a while, then I recast the cooling barrier of the refrigerator and left the kitchen.

Carm-san and Carla seemed to have something they wanted to talk about, so they called out to me.

"You want to increase the number of employees?" [Ryouma]

"If it were just a normal store, then the current number of employees would be fine, but once we start putting up branch stores, we'll need to fill them up with new employees. If we wait until then to start training the employees, we will be wasting a lot of time, so I would like to recommend that we start as early as now. At the very least, we should start training the branch store manager." [Carm]

"Right... Well, if theres a capable person, then I don't mind increasing our personnel. I also understand your concern regarding the training of the new employees. In the end, it seems I'll have to leave everything to you and the others, but you'll be needing another monster tamer, won't you?" [Ryouma]

"Slime specialists are rare even in the tamer guild... Well, I hear that it's because anyone can use slimes, but... Yes. As expected..." [Carm]

"In other words, The issue is whether we can trust the person or not..." [Carla]

"Speaking of which, you haven't ran into those ruffians again, have you?" [Ryouma]

“Other than one time, no one has showed up again.” [Carla]

“...Well, let’s just keep an eye out for now. As for the monster tamer, I’ll ask the tamer guild or figure something out myself.” [Ryouma]

“We’ll leave it to you then.” [Carla]

After that I left the store.

“Fuu! Hmm... Hey, it’s Ryouma!” [Jeff]

I was thinking of going to the store again when I happened into Jeff-san along the way.

It’s rare to see Jeff-san without his armor. He didn’t have his spear with him either. Instead, he had his cheeks filled with some skewered meat as he walked toward me.

“Good morning, Jeff-san. Are you resting today?” [Ryouma]

“It’s exhausting fighting everyday. Are you working today too?” [Jeff]

“I’m about to do my rounds around the mine.” [Ryouma]

“The abandoned mine? You mean that place we hunted at?” [Jeff]

“Yes. I’ve been left in charge of that place, so I need to patrol it regularly and see if some monsters have made a nest there.” [Ryouma]

“You do that too? So, you’re an adventurer, a laundry man, a manager... Isn’t that too much?” [Jeff]

“The laundromat is being taken care of by other people, so I don’t have to do any work personally. As for being an adventurer, I’m free to work when I want. And as for the manager job, it’s not like I have to patrol every day. I’m planning to expand my store, so it might become a little busy, but it’s nothing I would could too much.” [Ryouma]

“Well, that’s good then... Oh, yeah. Want some? It’s my treat.” [Jeff]

As jeff-san said that, he handed me a bag of skewered meat.

“I’ll have one then... Mmm!” [Ryouma]

When I took a bite, a meat with tingling seasoning that wasn’t from herb or salt filled my mouth.

Sugar and spices are expensive, so street food have a tendency to be salty, but this one is different... It’s delicious!!

“It’s delicious!” [Ryouma]

“Right? It’s sold by that cart over there. They use a little seasoning on it, so it’s a bit expensive, but it’s really good. There’s a plaza up ahead. Why don’t we take a seat there and enjoy these skewered meat?” [Jeff]

I followed Jeff-san and entered into a byway. After a while, we got to the plaza and sat ourselves in one of the benches that surrounded the well. The area seemed to resemble a park.

“Speaking of which, you just opened your store and you already feel like opening another one?” [Jeff]

“The guild master of the merchant guild and my employees told me to think about it, but it’s not like we’re putting one up immediately. There’s a lot of problems we need to solve first...” [Ryouma]

“What? You have something you’re troubled with?” [Jeff]

“The branch store we’re putting up will be situated in another town, so we’ll either have to hire more monster tamers or I’ll have to regularly travel between the two towns. My store needs someone who can manage the slimes, you see.” [Ryouma]

“How’s that a problem? Just get some from the tamer guild.” [Jeff]

“That’s one option, but apparently, slime specialists aren’t a thing. Slimes are considered beginner monsters and most people drop them for another as soon as they can. We also had an issue with some ruffians just a few days ago... Our store’s bouncers dealt with them, but because of that we really need to pick out our employees carefully.” [Ryouma]

As I said that, I bit into my skewered meat. The way the tingling hot taste brought out

the taste of the meat made for a really delicious meal.

After hearing my problem, Jeff-san offered me a solution.

“I have an idea.” [Jeff]

“Really?” [Ryouma]

“Yeah! I can’t help with business stuff, but if it’s people you’re looking for, then I’m your man. If you can’t rely on the tamers guild, then just get someone from the slums. What do you think?” [Jeff]

“The slums?” [Ryouma]

“That’s right. The slum people may be poor, but that doesn’t mean they’re useless. Just look at me. I used to be from the slums, but I’m working as an adventurer, right now, ain’t I?”

I know a couple of monster tamers that you might find useful.

Also, there are plenty of jobs available in this town, so while there are poor people, there are very few who’ve been driven so far that they had to commit a crime. There are a lot of decent people in the slums. But more than anything else, their sense of camaraderie is strong.

Unless you do something like drive down their salary like those government guys did for the latrine pits, the slum people won’t betray you. After all, they also want a reliable source of income that isn’t too hard. So, if you’re looking, you can hire anytime. As for trust, well, that’s something you build.” [Jeff]



Is this what they mean by ‘the scales fell off from your eyes’?

Apparently, the guild was more of an agency, so as long as you have a contact, then it doesn’t really matter. I can just look for my people on my own and then hire them through the tamer guild or the merchants guild.

Doesn’t seem like a bad idea. Reinbach-sama also hired the slum people to clean the latrine pits, so it’s not like they can’t be hired at all. There’s also a chance I might be able to find someone I can trust...

“Anyway, that’s one option to consider. If you feel like hiring someone, then I’ll help you look. My face still works around the slums, you know?” [Jeff]

“Thank you. I’ll consider it.” [Ryouma]

After that Jeff-san stood up and left.

I thanked him for the skewered meat, then I went to the abandoned mines.

I’ve already gotten used to using dimension magic, so I was there in the blink of an eye.

I was able to make 50 waterproof cloths last time, so this time, I’ll try and go for 70.

Once that’s done, I’ll go train.

The sticky, poison, acid, and scavenger slimes can fight, but it seems, the bloody slime doesn’t have any talent in fighting.

It’s body is a lot more liquid than normal, so its attacks have barely any effect. It doesn’t have any other ways to attack either. On the other hand, it is quite mobile, so it’s the fastest among the slimes, but I’m still not sure whether it would be good at fleeing or not. In any case, I’ll just have to observe it for now.

The metal and iron slimes are hard, but it hasn’t been long since I formed contracts with them, so they can’t move their bodies that well just yet. It’s still impossible for them to turn their bodies into tentacles. If they could do that, then I would have liked to experiment with combining their hardness, but it seems I’ll just have to wait until

they're able to control their body better.

The earth slime and the dark slime have shown that they can indeed use magic.

The earth slime can use Rock and Break Rock. They can also use a weak spell that resembles earth needle.

The dark slime can use Darkness, a spell that makes the surrounding area darker. It can also use the Dark Ball spell, a spell that releases a ball of darkness.

I rarely use Dark Ball, but it's supposedly a spell that steals one's life force. It moves like any other slime, but if I train its magic, I might be able to turn it into a moving gun.

Live combat practice might be needed for it to use attack spells, so it'll take some time.

I've already confirmed that the two earth slimes can use Break Rock, so I'll go ahead and teach them Create Block.

I did just that, and the two earth slimes were able to learn the spell after just a few tries. I was surprised by how fast they were able to learn, but being fast just means less trouble for me, so that's good. I'll have the earth slimes make building stones as part of their training, then I'll have the stones carried into one of the tunnels. I can probably use them for something later.

I let the dark slime practice on its own. It seemed to be practicing... Dark Ball?

...I don't know much about dark magic either, so I guess we'll both have to take our time learning it.

Like that I watched over the slimes and trained myself. It was quite fun.

On top of that, my condition was a lot better today than usual, so my training continued longer than it took for the cloths to dry.

When night came, I went back to the inn and dropped by the Jamil family's room.

"Welcome, Ryouma-san." [Elia]

“It’s good to see you.” [Reinbach]

“Did something happen?” [Reinhart]

“I wanted to consult you for something.” [Ryouma]

“Oh? For what?” [Reinhart]

I told them my conversation with Jeff-san, and they also thought it wasn’t a bad idea.

“I don’t mind if you hire the slum people if you think you can trust them. But, you have a trustworthy contact, so there shouldn’t be any problems there.” [Reinbach]

“The more jobs for them the better, so I have no complaints either. Just that it would be best if you hire them through the guild to minimize anything that might be used against you later.” [Reinhart]

“Alright, but I was thinking of having them register at whichever guild they preferred. So, either the merchants guild or the tamers guild. That’s okay, right?” [Ryouma]

“Of course. You may be a monster tamer, but you’re also registered at the merchants guild, so it’s up to you which to pick. No one will hold that against you.” [Elize]

“It might be best if you let both guild masters know beforehand. That should leave less room for issues.” [Sebasu]

Oh, yeah. Alright!

“I’ll drop by the guild tomorrow then.” [Ryouma]

After arriving at a conclusion, I drank black tea and chatted with the family for a while, then I went back to my room.

# Chapter 62

## Making Necessary Arrangements

Today, I dropped by the merchant guild first thing in the morning and was – as expected – brought to the reception office. This happens every time I come here, so I’ve already gotten used to it.

“Welcome, Ryouma. Are you hiring again?” [Grisiera]

“Yes, but there’s something I’d like to consult with you about first.” [Ryouma]

“Hmm? What is it?” [Grisiera]

I explained to her the situation.

“I see... Well, the ones I introduced to you on the first day were also like that, so... Alright. If there’s someone you think you can trust, bring him here. It’s not like it’s a crime or anything, so we’ll be able to process the papers quickly.” [Grisiera]

“Alright. When I find one, I’ll bring him then. Thanks.” [Ryouma]

“Yeah. Good luck.” [Grisiera]

Our conversation smoothly ended just like that, so I was about to leave, but then she suddenly called out to me.

“Wait, Ryouma. I forgot I had something to tell you. Take a seat first.” [Grisiera]

“What is it?” [Ryouma]

Though I’d just stood up, I sat back down again.

“It’s about those ruffians that came to your store before. I did some digging around on my own, and I managed to find out where they’re from. Unfortunately, I’ve yet to find out who commissioned them. Regardless, there’s a high probability that they’re involved with the people from the dark guild, so do be careful.” [Grisiera]

“The dark guild...” [Ryouma]

That’s no different than a criminal organization, right?

“Is that an organization of thieves and assassins?” [Ryouma]

“That’s right. But they’re not just involved with smalltime crimes. They’re also involved with smuggling, the procuring of tools to commit crimes, and they also act as an intermediary to contact people who specialize in crimes. Basically, they do a lot of illegal stuff. They’re not all just thieves or ruffians who can only bark. There are killers among them too, so do be careful.” [Grisiera]

“I will. Thank you for your warning.” [Ryouma]

“Don’t mention it. Also, you’re going to visit Taylor, right? Take this with you.” [Grisiera]

The guild master called out to someone outside, and then a clerk entered the room with a glass vial. The vial was filled with green liquid, and at the bottom could be seen some fine powder deposited.

Medicine?

After the guild master checked that it was the right product, the clerk stored the vial into a wooden box.

Judging from the color, viscosity, and the fine powder deposited at the bottom, I’m guessing that the medicine is probably a nutrient of some sort. A powerful one too.

“Curious?” [Grisiera]

“Sorry. A little.” [Ryouma]

I don’t want to stick my nose into something I have no business being involved with, but it’s true that I’m curious.

“You were the one who suggested that medicine to Wogan, no? But I suppose if you knew what sort of medicine this was, I doubt you’d be so curious. Regardless, it’s not for anything serious. Don’t worry. It’s just that when one grows old, there are times when they just can’t quite get rid of the fatigue. That’s all.” [Grisiera] [1]

The guild master wrote something while talking to me. After a while, she handed me a letter.

“Please pass this letter for me. This box is a regular thing, so he’ll understand once you give it to him. I told him in the letter that you’ll be giving it to him directly. I also told him to help you out with what you’re planning.” [Grisiera]

“Thank you very much.” [Ryouma]

“Give the old man my regards too, alright?” [Grisiera]

After the guild master saw me off, I left the guild.

“And that’s the gist of it. So I was thinking of hiring some people I’ve found through the guild or have them register at the guild.” [Ryouma]

“I see...” [Taylor]

Because I had something I needed to deliver, I was able to get a face-to-face meeting with the branch head of the tamers guild, Taylor. I told him the same stuff I told the guild master of the merchants guild, but while the merchant guild master didn’t mind at all, the tamer guild master seemed to be in deep thought.

“...Hmm? Oh, I beg your pardon. I can prepare some tea, if you’d like.” [Taylor]

“Oh, you needn’t mind me. Is there a problem, though?” [Ryouma]

“Rather than a problem... Why don’t you take a seat and I’ll explain.” [Taylor]

The guild master of the tamers guild stood up and walked over to a corner of the room, where a small shelf was. From that, he took out a tea set. He also had a magic tool that resembled a stove, and he used that to start making tea.

“You make the tea yourself?” [Ryouma]

“It’s not worth the effort to call people just to have them make me tea. Besides, making my own allows me a short reprieve from all the work.” [Taylor]

The guild master was quite skilled at making tea. The way he moved his hands seemed no lesser than the maids of the duke's family.

When the guild master came back with our tea, he started explaining.

“Now then... There's nothing wrong with your proposal itself. I also don't mind if you bring someone you believe trustworthy here. And of course, you may also hire a person that's currently affiliated with an organization. That sort of stuff just falls under the normal operations of the guild. Now, I would like the guild to support your store, but there are some things worrying me.” [Taylor]

“What do you mean?” [Ryouma]

“Hmm. If your store starts hiring from the tamers guild, then that would mean more jobs for us. As you build one branch store after another, the number of jobs that people can take will also increase. From the perspective of the guild, that's something to be happy about. Moreover, your store needs slimes, which is one of the reasons why I want the guild to support it. Do you remember what I told you when you registered?” [Ryouma]

“...You mean the part where you said there's no job for me to do?” [Ryouma]

The guild master nodded.

“The tamer guild gives jobs depending on whether a tamer's monster looks up to the task or not. If it looks up to the task, then we can give them a job, and if not, then naturally, we don't. In exchange, we also give out recommendations when we think they're up to it. That being said, there are certain types of monsters that are simply not cut out for certain things.

Some have difficulty finding work, some find work but the salary is low, and some are simply too high-maintenance. There are a good number of tamers who've had difficulties making ends meet because of such reasons.

Because as much as we'd like to provide everyone a job, there's a limit to the number of jobs we do have... This has also led to some tamers trying to tame monsters that they are not compatible with and failing.” [Taylor]

So, they try to provide as much variety in work as possible, but clearly, there's still a limit to that.

After a while, he started talking about the slimes.

“Slimes are renowned to be weak, slow, and generally useless, but every tamer has been indebted to them at least once in their life.” [Taylor]

“Because they use them to practice?” [Ryouma]

“Exactly. I’ve been the guild master of this branch for a long time now, and I’ve heard many situations where a tamer was unable to tame anything past a slime. As for those who couldn’t even tame a slime, well, they’re just really not cut out for taming.

Slimes are really easy to form a contract with, so they’re often used for training.

...I don’t know how much your store pays its workers, but if tamers can start making a living with just slimes, then the number of tamers that are struggling to make ends meet should decrease. That’s what I think.

I know it’s really selfish of me to say that when I told you before that I didn’t have any work for you, but...” [Taylor]

“No, that’s...” [Ryouma]

I know that the guild master was simply helpless regarding that, so I don’t blame him.

“Well, if you don’t consider it an issue, then thank you. In any case, this is why I want to support your store. There’s just one problem... The upper brass of the guild.” [Taylor]

The guild master nodded as he took a sip out of his black tea.

He’d added sugar to it, so it was fairly sweet, but the face the guild master was making was bitter.

“If it were just supporting you, then my authority would be more than enough, but if it were the guild itself to support you, I will have to report to the upper brass. It wouldn’t be strange if they started meddling then.” [Taylor]

So, in other words, the guild will become shareholders? Or will they make me listen to them since they’re supporting me?

“There are also some people that simply refuse to change their minds on the uselessness of slimes.” [Taylor]

“...You mean like people who had to endure a life of hardship, until they were able to finally make a stable living? I suppose some people from that crowd would have something to say if they see tamers making good income just from slimes, which are said to be the weakest and easiest monster to capture.” [Ryouma]

It would be a pain if they got mad at me over that. I don't feel like closing my store either.

“But then again, from the rumors I've heard, it seems you don't need any support. I don't know if the recruitment will go well, but I'll try calling out my personal trustworthy connections and see if I can get you a few people.” [Taylor]

“Thank you very much.” [Ryouma]

“If I couldn't do this much, that would simply be too sorry. By the way, are you busy today?” [Taylor]

“Oh, I was thinking of going to the adventurers guild after this, actually. To meet up with someone who might be able to introduce me to some candidate employees.” [Ryouma]

“That's rather fast. I thought you'd be taking your time more.” [Taylor]

“I changed my mind after hearing your part. Originally, I was planning on taking my time, but just as you said, the more stores I put up, the more jobs there will be, which means that there will be less people struggling to make ends meet. So, I thought I'd work a bit more proactively.

In any case, I've mostly made up my mind to hire some new people, so I feel it would be best if I could talk to them as soon as possible, so I can also think about the things that I need to consider.”

“Hmm... I'm glad you're thinking about it, but you don't really to mind it too much. Incidentally, since I've brought out this tea already, won't you accompany me until we finish it?” [Taylor]

“Gladly.” [Ryouma]

The guild master of the tamers guild poured another helping of black tea from the swaying teapot and into my cup.

Compared to the more serious atmosphere when we were talking earlier, our conversation over black tea was much more relaxed.

# Chapter 63

## A New Monster Tamer

When the sun was near the top.

“He’s here!” [Ryouma]

I waited at a corner of the guild around the time when Jeff was supposed to go home. After one hour of waiting, I spotted him.

He was reporting the success of his quest when I called out to him.

“Jeff-san.” [Ryouma]

“Hmm? Oh, Ryouma. What’s up?” [Jeff]

“I was hoping to take you up on your offer the other day.” [Ryouma]

“Oh, that’s pretty quick. I thought you’d think about it some more, but sure. Shall we go now?” [Jeff]

“Sure, but are you sure you’re good today?” [Ryouma]

“It’s fine. I’m going to the slum today anyway. My house is in that direction too.” [Jeff]

“Thanks.” [Ryouma]

I followed Jeff-san and helped him with some shopping he did along the way. Apparently, he was buying some provisions for the slum people. According to him, everyone in the slums of Gimuru help each other out a little bit like this.

“The income has been bad recently too. We’re almost there.” [Jeff]

As we chatted and walked, the people around us grew sparser by the minute, until eventually, the houses changed into older looking ones. Children dressed in poor clothing could be seen here and there.

Whenever they would notice us, they would wave at Jeff-san and call out to him. Jeff-san would respond, of course. What a peaceful scene. It seems Jeff-san is really loved. I continued to walk behind Jeff-san, and while gazes gathered on me too, I couldn't feel any ill will from them. It seems I won't have to fear being mugged.

We continued for a little more, and then eventually, we reached an old building that's bigger than the other old buildings.

"Gramps, you there?" [Jeff]

Jeff-san called out as he knocked on the door. When he did, the door opened.

I could feel a trace of mana. It's magic...

"Seems he's in. Let's go." [Jeff]

I followed Jeff-san inside, and what greeted us was a big room.

Past the door was a simple desk and a 60-years-old man sitting on a large chair.

"You came again?" [Gramps]

The man brushed his white hair as he leaned back onto his chair and quietly spoke.

"Jeff. I'm glad you're always helping me out, but I'm not old enough to be called gramps just yet." [Gramps]

"You're plenty old enough, gramps." [Jeff]

"My legs and loins are still fine, so I'm not a gramps just yet. So, what's with the kid? You want me to look after him too?" [Gramps]

"This guy here is an exceptional adventurer. He's good enough to feed himself, at least, so that's not what I brought him here for. He's here to talk. And by talk, I mean the kind of talk that might bring money to the slums." [Jeff]

"Ho..." [Gramps]

The man looked at me.

“It’s a pleasure to make your acquaintance. I am Ryouma Takebayashi.” [Ryouma]

“That sort of well-mannered words is useless here. The name is Revel. I’m the manager of Gimuru’s slums. Jeff’s introducing you, so you’re probably trustworthy, but I’ll warn you so you know. Don’t think you can just do whatever you want around here. I’d be grateful if we could keep our relationship harmonious.” [Revel]

I felt a strong pressure when he spoke. As expected of the manager of the place.

“But, of course. I also don’t wish for conflict.” [Ryouma]

When I said that Revel snorted smiled.

“Didn’t shirk even a little, eh?... Seems you got some balls, kid.” [Revel]

“Duh. He’s someone I acknowledged.” [Jeff]

“Right. So, what ‘good stuff’ did he want to talk about?” [Revel]

“Let me answer that.” [Ryouma]

It concerns my store, so I should at least be the one to talk.

“...And that’s the gist of it.” [Ryouma]

“So, because there’s some strange guy messing with your business, you want people you can trust. And as long as they can fulfill that one condition, you don’t care if it’s someone from the slum, huh.

That’s not a bad proposal, indeed. I won’t have any complaints as long as you’re able to provide a decent living to whomever it is you end up employing. So, as long as you pay properly, you can take whoever you want with you. There’ll be one more person providing foods and goods too, so that’s good.” [Revel]

Negotiations were a lot simpler than expected. I thought for sure I’d have to pay a referral fee, but it seems that won’t be necessary. Maybe it’s because Jeff introduced me. In any case, from here on out, what I need to do is to earn the trust of my future employee.

After getting permission from the manager, Jeff-san and I left his house and went to

the house of a monster tamer that Jeff knew. Along the way, Jeff-san called out to two children and had them call someone.

“Where did you send those kids?” [Ryouma]

“You’ll know later.” [Jeff]

When we got to a house, Jeff-san violently knocked on the door.

“Hey! Old man Corkin! You’re here right!? Open up!” [Jeff]

If someone were to see Jeff now, they’d definitely think he was a bill collector.

Surprisingly, the door suddenly vigorously opened, and a slender middle-aged man jumped out. The atmosphere around him was like that of a salary man who’s been laid off.

“Shut up! I can hear you perfectly fine without knocking like a madman!” [Corkin]

“Well, you usually don’t show up when I call you!” [Jeff]

“That’s because I’m in the middle of my research!” [Corkin]

“Like hell that’s true!” [Jeff]

“What does someone like you who’s never researched anything in his own life know!? Research is like diving into the deep sea of thoughts, and pursuing an idea before it vanishes like one’s breath would under the water. There’s no way I could have the time for anything else while submerged in the deep sea of thoughts!” [Corkin]

“And because of that your fruitless research cost you all your fortune! And now, you’re completely bankrupt and living out here in the slums!” [Jeff]

“Y-You shouldn’t say that so upfront... Forget it. What do you want?” [Corkin]

“A job offer. Monster tamer work.” [Jeff]

As soon as Jeff said that, Corkin’s eyes twinkled.

“A job? For me? Monster tamer work?” [Corkin]

“Yeah. The client is Ryouma over here.” [Jeff]

It was then that he finally noticed me.

“It’s a pleasure to make your acquaintance. My name is Ryouma Takebayashi.” [Ryouma]

“Sorry about the unsightly display earlier. You’re the client? What do you mean by monster tamer work?” [Corkin]

“For the meantime, how about letting us in? Old man Corkin.” [Jeff]

Oh, yeah. Corkin scratched his head and let us in, then he closed the door. The house only had one room and was quite dim since it only had one magic stone for lighting. There was also a cloth in the corner of the room that probably served as his futon.

He didn’t have any chairs, so we sat down on the floor and talked.

“So, what is it that you would like me to do? Unfortunately, I am not very skilled in monster taming. If you want me for my monster taming abilities, I’m not so sure I can meet your expectations. If it’s research, however, then I might be of use to you.” [Corkin]

“What is your research about?” [Ryouma]

When I asked that, he answered in a self-mocking manner.

“It’s the last research theme I was given back at the research institute. It’s slimes...” [Corkin]

Slimes!?

“Really!?” [Ryouma]

“Yes, and because I couldn’t get any results, I was fired. It’s been 10 years since then, but I still can’t let go of my research, so I’ve been continuing it until now... Why are your eyes sparkling?” [Corkin]

Corkin-san had replied in a self-mocking manner, but when he saw my reaction, he couldn’t help but make an odd face.

“It’s the sort of research the bigwigs in the institute give to someone when they want to kick them out since it’s a leisurely post with nothing to do. The same was true for me. So, tell me. Why exactly are your eyes sparkling?” [Corkin]

“Because I also research slimes, albeit privately.” [Ryouma]

“What!?” [Corkin]

After that Corkin-san and I wordlessly stared into each other’s eyes for a few seconds... And then, at the exact same time, we gave each other a firm handshake.

“Comrade!” [Corkin]

“Senpai!” [Ryouma]

“What just happened in those few seconds!?” [Jeff]

“Nah, we just sort of...” [Ryouma]

“Outsiders can’t understand... The joy of meeting someone who researches the same topic.” [Corkin]

“You’re damn right I don’t understand...” [Jeff]

Suddenly, a knock sounded from the door.

“Another guest? Today sure is noisy...” [Corkin]

Corkin-san stood up and opened the door. Outside were a man and a woman.

“Corkin-san? We came here because we heard there was a job offer. Is it true?” [Woman]

“I didn’t think a job for monster tamers would come, so I came as fast as I could!” [Man]

“Huh, so it’s you two. Robelia, Tony, the client looking for a monster tamer is inside. He also happens to be a comrade of ours!” [Corkin]

“Comrade?” [Robelia]

“Do you mean...” [Tony]

“Anyway, go in first!” [Corkin]

As Corkin-san said that, he dragged the two inside and closed the door.

After that I exchanged greetings with the 2 newcomers and we introduced ourselves.

The man was Tony-san. He was 23 years-old. In his case, he was an exceptional monster tamer, but his talent earned him the envy of others. He had an honest personality, and in the end, he was tricked by his superiors and coworkers. As a result, an experiment’s failure and the responsibility of a scandal was pushed to him, causing him to be demoted. He was then ordered to research slimes, but without any results, he was fired.

When I asked him why he doesn’t just work as a monster tamer if he’s so good, apparently, a bigwig from the tamers guild of the town he used to live at zeroed in on him and kept him from getting any work. To make things worse, word of him being an ill-mannered monster tamer spread throughout ten tamer guild’s network, so now he can’t get any monster tamer work even if he goes to another town. Presently, he is working at the mines as a day labourer.

“...Have you gone to the tamer guild of this town?” [Ryouma]

“It was horrible back at the other towns, and I couldn’t even get any money to buy food for my monsters, so by the time I got here, I’d already released them...” [Tony]

Apparently, he came to this town to work at the mines after giving up on the tamer guild.

I should probably help him meet guild master Taylor.

“That sort of stuff happens too, huh.” [Robelia]

The woman said that as she consoled Tony-san. She is Robelia-san. A 25 year-old woman, who was sexually harassed by her boss at her research institute. At the time, she was focused on her own research, so coupling that with her lack of immunity toward men, when her boss touched her, she was shocked and accidentally sent her monster against her own boss.

Although it wasn’t a strong monster – the sort that was just good for threatening – her boss still ended up being cut. Her boss played innocent, and she got the short end of

stick, as she got demoted. She was assigned slime research, until eventually, she got fired. Presently, she works 3 times a week at a brothel as a servant, doing odd chores here and there. She also makes a living by patching up clothes.

With everyone having introduced themselves already, all that was left was my own introduction.

So I introduced myself and told them about the job. They immediately showed interest.

“There’s a slime like that?” [Corkin]

“That’s my first time hearing one.” [Robelia]

“What a strange ability.” [Tony]

I decided to give them a demonstration.

I always have a cleaner slime with me in my Dimension Home, so I can keep my body clean. I took out that one slime and had it clean a pair of shoes.

“Wow...” [Corkin, Tony, Robelia]

“That’s a slime, alright.” [Corkin]

“This pair of shoes was dirty, but the filth just disappeared. Did it melt it?” [Robelia]

“But the shoes retain their form.” [Tony]

“Hmm... Does it really just eat filth?” [Corkin]

To prove to them that it was safe, I allowed the cleaner slime to clean my body.

“...” [Corkin, Tony, Robelia]

I don’t know if they’re worried or expectant, but they watched me carefully as the cleaner slime cleaned me.

“Would you like to give it a try?” [Ryouma]

After showing them it was safe, I offered to let them experience it themselves.

“Then how about I... huh?” [Corkin, Robelia, Tony]

The three of them spoke at the same time.

I only have one cleaner slime with me today, so I'll just have them go in turns.

It took us quite a bit of time to finish, but after going through the cleaner slime bath, their shine on their skin and the color of their hair has gotten better.

“Oh, it's actually better than soap.” [Corkin]

“I feel refreshed!” [Tony]

“Since when was it that I last looked like this!?” [Robelia]

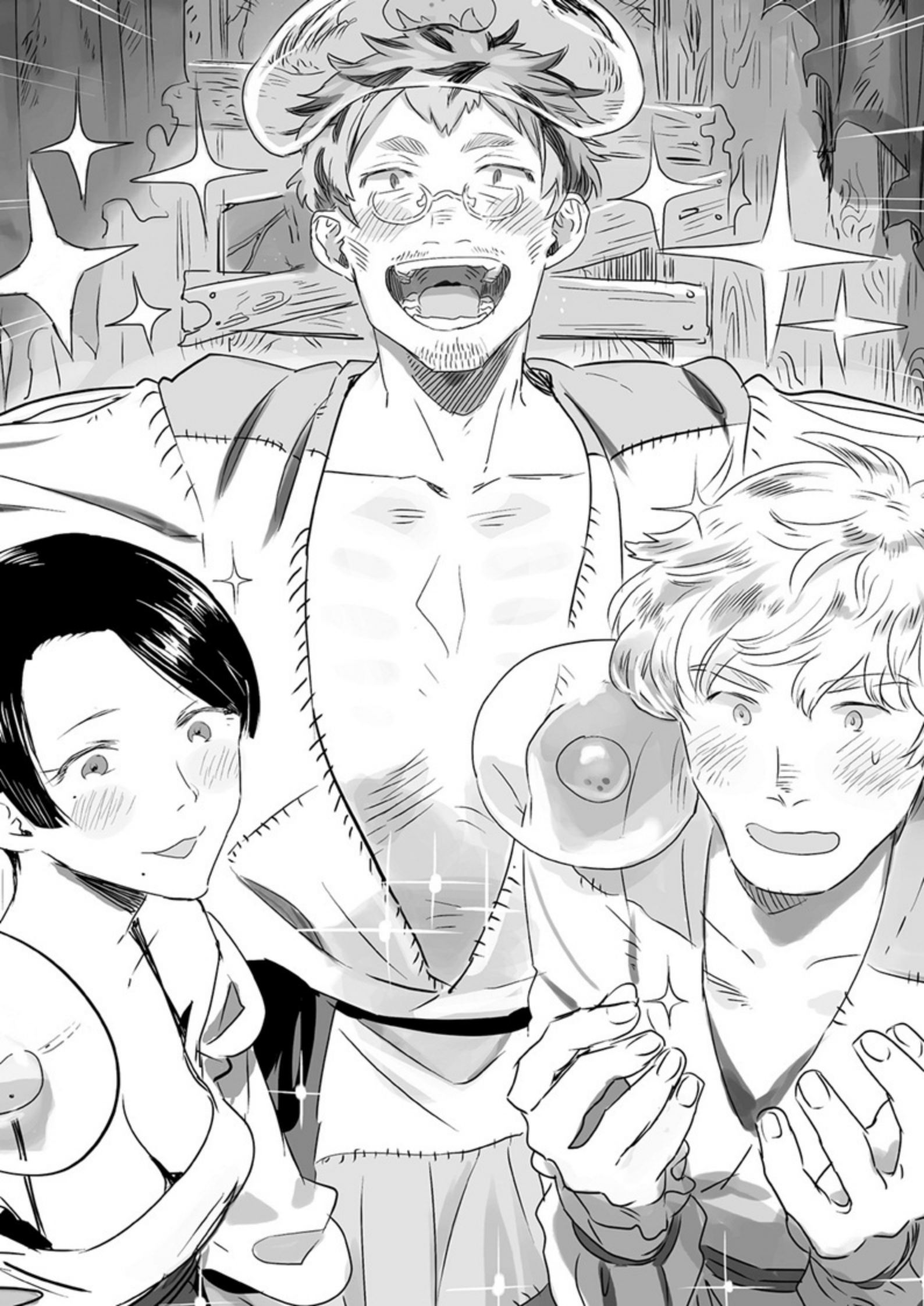
It seems all the filth that they couldn't get rid of due to the living conditions in the slime vanished because of the cleaner slime.

They really were dirty, though, considering how long the cleaner slime took, but now, they're looking pretty good.

“Very curious. Our job is just this slime and the laundromat, yes? In that case, will it be alright for us to research during our free time?” [Corkin]

“With something like this... We could finally get back at those guys who looked down at us in the past!” [Robelia]

“The salary is also a lot bigger than any job I've worked before... On top of that, it's monster tamer work... I'll do it. No. Please let me do it!” [Tony]



...I can really feel their zeal. Suddenly, I feel reluctant to hire them, but... It's not like I can really judge them considering how I'm like... So long as they won't betray me, then that's good enough.

Maybe it's because our goals are similar, but I feel like it would be okay to hire them. After hiring them, I should leave them under Carla-san's watch until when I can fully trust them. In that case...

"What about your current work?" [Ryouma]

"I'm unemployed. And the job I took ended yesterday, so I don't actually know when I'll get work next." [Corkin]

"I'm a day labourer, so there's no problem on my end." [Tony]

"I just need to leave a few words at the brothel, then I should be good to go." [Robelia]

"Alright. By the way, can the three of you do math?" [Ryouma]

"Yes we can." [Tony, Robelia, Corkin]

"In that case, I would love to have you work at my store. We haven't decided where to put the second store just yet, but you need to learn the ropes first anyway, so... Ah, by the way, what about your residence? You can choose to live in the slums or at the store." [Ryouma]

"Live in please!" [Robelia, Tony, Corkin]

"Alright then. Before going to the store, though... Jeff-san, do you know a good clothes store?" [Ryouma]

No offence, but these guys look seriously shabby. Although the cleaner slime managed to clean them, their clothes are still full of holes... Only high-class stores have uniforms, so most employees work in civilian clothes. My store is the same, but their current outfit is just no good.

Because of that I had to ask Jeff-san and Robelia-san to buy some nice clothes at the nearest store. If there were only men in the group, I could've just asked Jeff-san, but Robelia-san was a woman, and none of us knew anything about women's clothing, so I told her to pick out her own clothes.

While they were out buying clothes, I went to the store and told Carm-san that I'd decided to hire some new hands.

# Chapter 64

## Omen

After coming back from the store, I met up with Jeff-san and the others, who were now properly attired.

“Since my job’s done, I’ll be going then.” [Jeff]

“Jeff-san, thank you so much!” [Ryouma]

“It’s fine, it’s fine! See ya!” [Jeff]

Since his part was done, Jeff-san left.

I bowed to him as he left, then I took Corkin-san and the others with me and brought them to the guild.

By the way, I brought them to register at the merchant guild instead of the tamers guild. I asked them which guild they preferred, and apparently, they all preferred the merchants guild, so that’s where we went.

When we got to the guild, as usual, we were brought to the reception office, where the guild master met us.

“Are they the new employees you were talking about?” [Grisiera]

“Yes. An acquaintance of mine introduced them to me.” [Ryouma]

“You move as fast as ever. Didn’t you just talk to me this morning?”

But then again, being able to move quickly is advantageous to a merchant, so I guess it’s fine.

So, you three will be working at this kid’s store?” [Grisiera]

“Yes!” [Corkin, Robelia, Tony]

When they said that, I felt like the guild master opened her eyes wide.

“Ho ho... Ryouma, just what in the world did you do? For some reason, I can feel an odd ambition from these three. Moreover, they seem unlikely to double cross you. Didn't you just meet today?” [Grisiera]

Her eyes are as good as ever...

Maybe it's because they were all slime researchers at one point, but after realizing the worth of the cleaner slimes, they've since looked at me highly despite my age. It's probably because I was the one who discovered the cleaner slimes.

On top of that, they also carry a grudge. Just the possibility that they may be able to clear their name has probably made them happy, and to make things even better, they can now make enough to support themselves. So, it's not that surprising that although it hasn't been long since we became acquainted with each other that they've already taken to me.

Putting the reasons aside, the guild master decided nothing was amiss and gave us authorization. Like that we completed their registration and contract.

With the guild personnel as our witness, we signed a contract that put them in charge of my cleaner slimes, but restricted them from handing them to anyone else.

There are several types of contract forms, but the one we used for our contract was one that's usually used for big contracts. It was a special contract form, so to speak.

No spells were used or anything, but the paper itself is proof of an important document. so it can neither be forged nor rewritten. There's also a heavy punishment associated with breaching it.

As an exception, they may hand over the cleaner slimes should I increase my stores once again. After all, without an exception like that, I won't be able to increase my stores.

After completing the necessary paperwork, I thanked the guild master, then left the guild with the three new employees.

After that, there was only one place we would go: the store. I decided to introduce them to Carm-san and the others as soon as possible and get them starting immediately.

“Customers number 13, 14, 15!”

“Numbers 38, 39, 40. I’ll leave the laundry here!”

Also, along the way, I found out that Corkin-san was apparently a former noble. Because of that he spoke a bit arrogantly. As such, we had him carry the laundry.

Tony-san was a day labourer, so he had a lot of stamina. He too was tasked with carrying laundry.

Robelia-san’s previous work gave her plenty of opportunities to interact with people, so we put her in charge of the reception desk. Although we put her there just like that, she was able to do the job pretty well.

Actually, it seems she might have learned a trick or two from her previous work, as she’s already enchanted several adventurer customers.

It’s not like she’s wearing anything revealing too, but I guess it doesn’t really matter whether she’s dressed scantily or not. Appearance isn’t everything, after all.

Anyway, the enchanted male adventurers will probably become frequent customers.

Speaking of which, I just realized this, but it seems all the women in this store are gorgeous... Or maybe the average level of this world is just higher? I mean I don’t think I’ve met anyone unattractive just yet. Even the older ones have aged quite well.

While I was thinking that, a loud voice suddenly resounded from the store.

“Corkin, is that you, de aru!? Why are you here, de aru!?” [Raypin]

“That manner of talking... Raypin!?” [Corkin]

“...You two know each other?” [Ryouma]

Corkin-san was in the middle of carrying some laundry, while Raypin-san was leaning over the counter with a shocked expression.

While the two of them were looking at each other, petrified, I called out to them.

“Y-Yes. Raypin is a former colleague of mine.” [Corkin]

“We used to work at the same research institute, de aru. It’s been years since I left the place, but who would’ve thought we’d meet again here, de aru. Corkin, when did you come to this town, de aru?” [Raypin]

“That’s...” [Corkin]

Sounds like this is going to be complicated.

“Corkin-san, go ahead and take a break. Raypin-san, come in. We can talk in the office.” [Ryouma]

I brought the two of them into the store’s reception office.

A few minutes later.

After hearing of Corkin-san’s circumstances, Raypin-san heaved a deep sigh.

“I didn’t think you were in this town long before I arrived, de aru... I thought for sure you’d just come.” [Raypin]

“...Didn’t think you’d be in this town either. I thought for sure you’d be running all over the place chasing after monsters here and there in between towns.” [Corkin]

“It’s true I like to go around, but I need to have a town that I consider as my base. Still, what a great coincidence it is for us to have met like this, de aru.” [Raypin]

“I thought we’d never meet again too. I’ve thought about it countless times, but I really think I should’ve taken you up on your offer when you left the lab.” [Corkin]

“I told you, de aru. We may be both researchers, but our nature just doesn’t suit research institutes.” [Raypin]

“Unlike you, I don’t have any talent in magic. On top of that, I don’t have any ability to tame monsters either. Adventurer work is too dangerous and I didn’t think I could

keep up, so I refused. I don't think I made the wrong decision back then, but...

I should've washed my hands clean of the institute a lot earlier. If I'd done that, then at the very least, I wouldn't have lost all my fortune." [Corkin]

The atmosphere started to turn sad because of Corkin-san, but it was also him who cleared that atmosphere.

"But from today on, I will be working at this store, so maybe it's not such a bad life after all. If it's from here, then I think I can turn to those who laughed at me before and look them in the eye. And although it hasn't been more than a few hours since I learned about them, but after hearing about the cleaner slimes, all that time I've spent researching slimes be it out of frustration, regret, or habit, has suddenly felt like it wasn't so useless after all. That's why I'm really grateful to the boss." [Corkin]

"I'll be relying on you from here on out, so please do your best." [Ryouma]

"Of course." [Corkin]

"...Well, at least your safe, de aru. If you're going to be working at Ryouma's store, then your livelihood will also be secured, de aru." [Raypin]

Speaking of which, why did Raypin-san come here? It's not like he brought any laundry with him either... Oh, did he store them in his Item Box?

"By the way, Raypin-san, did you come here to get your laundry washed?" [Ryouma]

"Oh, no, de aru! I got a lot of my laundry washed yesterday, so I'm okay on that front for now, de aru." [Raypin]

Oh, so he came when I wasn't around.

"I came here today to notify you, de aru. Do you know of grell frogs, de aru?" [Raypin]

"Yeah, it's that monster that's supposed to have an outbreak in the marsh near this town, right? Its hide can be used to make armor, while its guts can be used to make medicine." [Ryouma]

"If you know, then that'll make this quick. That outbreak is about to start." [Raypin]

“Really!?” [Ryouma]

“The peak is expected to be about 3 or 4 days later, but starting tomorrow, job postings looking for grell frogs will start appearing in the guild. Grell frogs sell handsomely because they’re medicinal ingredients, so it’s a good time to make money.

Other than that, the rimel birds that feed on them are also popular among monster tamers and nobles.

If you can tame a rimel bird, you’ll gain a lot of prestige. The guild’s appraisal of you will also go up. You should give it a try if you’re interested.” [Raypin]

True. The opinion of the guild aside, from what I’ve heard, rimel birds seem to fly fast, so having one around should make for a convenient method of communication.

“Thank you for the information. I’ll be needing a fast way to communicate once I start putting up branches in the other towns, so I’ll give taming one a shot.” [Ryouma]

“I see, de aru. Good luck, de aru.” [Raypin]

Suddenly, someone knocked on the door and called for me.

I think it’s Carm-san, but he sounds like Carla-san, so it’s a bit hard to tell if it’s really him just from the sound...

“Boss, the adventurer, Asagi-sama, is here with 4 other adventurers. He says he has something to talk to you about.” [Carm]

I wonder what he wants me for. Anyway, I glanced at Corkin-san and Raypin-san, and after confirming that they were done, I replied to Carm-san.

“Please bring them here.” [Ryouma]

“Understood.” [Carm]

After Carm-san left, Corkin-san also went back to work since he could meet with Raypin-san anytime now. After they left, Asagi-san, Miya-san, Wereanna-san, Mizelia-san, and Syria-san came.

“Welcome, everyone. What’s the matter?” [Ryouma]

“Sorry for dropping by without a word, nyaa— Nyaa? Rapyin, you here, nyaa?” [Miya]

“I came here to notify Ryouma about the grell frog outbreak, de aru.” [Raypin]

“You too, huh. The reason we came here is related to that, actually, de gozaru.” [Asagi]

“I’ll cut to the chase. Ryouma, those work clothes you wore before, could you tell us where you bought them?” [Wereanna]

“Washing our clothes here works, but it’s a pain having to go back and forth. Especially, for dragonewts and beast tribe members like us. So we really would like to get our hands on some clothes that don’t dirty as easily.” [Mizelia]

Ahh, I see... Good timing. I can use this to introduce them to Serge-san’s store. I’ve already given him the waterproof cloths, so he should’ve started making them already.

“The Morgan Company of this town sells them. The product isn’t that well known yet, so there’s not a lot of demand for them just yet. As such, I don’t know if they have any in stock. If they don’t have any, well... you’ve all met their president, Serge-san, so with my introduction, you should be able to get in touch with him.” [Ryouma]

With this, I haven’t refused them completely.

“Really!? Thank you so much!” [Syria]

“This much isn’t really worth talking about.” [Ryouma]

“No, really. Thank you. Beast tribe members have way better noses than humans think, so it’s really a huge help to us.” [Mizelia]

“The leftover smell really sucks too...” [Wereanna]

Is it really that bad?

“Thank you, Ryouma. I’ll be going to Morgan Company then, de gozaru. Please excuse me.” [Asagi]

After saying that Asagi quickly left.

“What was that? A bit odd.” [Wereanna]

“Yeah, normally, if he shows up to someone’s place so suddenly, he’ll spend a lot of time apologizing...” [Raypin]

“Ahh!?” [Syria]

“Nyaat’s happening!?” [Miya]

“The clothes Ryouma-kun was wearing! There’s a chance it might run out of stock, right!?” [Syria]

“!!!” [Miya and Co.]

“That’s it!” [Mizelia]

“Asagi didn’t want to miss out on any, so he left as soon as he could!” [Wereanna]

“We can’t be wasting time here, nyaa! Hurry, nyaa! Ryouma, thank you so much, nyaa!” [Miya]

Miya-san and the others quickly left.

Do they really hate the smell that much?

Beast tribe members and dragonewts... Just how good are their noses?

“What a noisy bunch, de aru...” [Raypin]

“Raypin-san, you’re not buying?” [Ryouma]

“I’m used to bad odor and filthy things. It’s an indispensable part of being a researcher. Besides, I intend to capture grell frogs with magic, so I won’t need to enter the marsh, de aru. I won’t get dirty much, de aru.” [Raypin]

“I see.” [Ryouma]

I continued to chat with Raypin-san about monsters after that.

Apparently, when grell frogs are purchased at the guild, each grell frog goes for 1 medium silver coin because the medicine made from their guts have various effects.

After hearing that, I checked with the medicinal knowledge I was given after coming to this world, and it seems there are about 50 different medicines that use grell frog guts as ingredient. Vitality medicine and nourishment medicines make up the most, though. And they sell particularly well to noble men.

What's important is the processing of the ingredients. An unskilled person will cause the quality to drop. The ingredient can still be used even if it's of a lower quality, but the resulting medicine will also be of a lower quality. There are times when the ingredients are so bad they can't make the medicine too. That's why the guild warns its adventurers never to attempt disemboweling themselves.

Of special note when it comes to processing grell frogs is the blood draining. If the blood isn't drained properly, the quality will turn sour real fast... Huh? Wait a moment. Doesn't that mean that the bloody slime is like actually really good for this?

And then after draining the blood, you have to dry the frog and its parts to preserve them, but drying them normally would damage the goods, so you have to use wind magic and dry quickly. The speed of drying directly affects the quality. I'm pretty sure I can just alchemy for that part.

The process seems simple enough, there's plenty of ways to make use of it, and preservation isn't a problem.

Unless you've taken a job, it's usually hard to find a buyer for grell frogs. And if you do manage to find one, usually, they'll try to drive the price down real bad. But it seems you can also just capture the grell frogs and take the job later like I do with the herb collection jobs. Maybe I should hunt them to ensure I have a good supply of medicinal ingredients.

Time passed as we chatted like that.

"It's this late already? Sorry for keeping you up so long, de aru." [Raypin]

"It's fine. I had a lot of fun." [Ryouma]

After sending Raypin-san off, the store closed too without anything out of the ordinary happening.

After confirming the proceeds of the store, I went back home.

# Chapter 65

## Preparations

At the ojousama and the other's room, Arone-san poured me a cup of tea as usual while I reported to the duke's family.

"Have you talked to the guild?" [Elize]

"Yes, and I've also employed three new monster tamers today." [Ryouma]

"You've hired some already? Aren't you going too fast?" [Reinhart]

"Maybe, but I found some good people, and besides, the guild master of the merchant guild gave her approval." [Ryouma]

"Oh? Then I suppose that's fine." [Reinbach]

"Moreover, they're all people who have been demoted and researched slimes. They seem really fired up, saying stuff like 'with this we can finally show those guys up!'" [Ryouma]

"I see..." [Reinhart]

"They might be more reliable than people who make excuses to keep up their appearance." [Elize]

After talking about the store, Reinhart-san also told me about the grell frog outbreak. They intend to form to try their hand at taming the rimel bird the day after tomorrow.

The next day.

I dropped by the store early in the morning and told them about my plans tomorrow to free up my schedule. When I did, Caulkin-san [1] told me what to watch out for regarding the rimel bird.

“Thank you. You sure are well informed.” [Ryouma]

“Ha ha ha. That’s because I’ve been trying to tame one every year. Although I’ve never succeeded, I did gain a lot of knowledge.” [Caulkin]

“Are you going this year too?” [Ryouma]

“I was planning to go until yesterday, but since I have a job at this store already, there’s no reason for me to go after the rimel bird anymore.” [Caulkin]

Caulkin had a cheerful face as he said that.

It makes me happy to hear him say that about my store.

I left the store in a good mood as I dropped by Serge-san’s store.

“Welcome, Ryouma-sama.” [Ryouma]

“Good morning, Serge-san. I’ve come to deliver the water proof cloths.” [Ryouma]

“Thank you very much. These are for the other day, yes? Also, it seems you’ve advertised for me too, as 5 customers dropped by yesterday.” [Serge]

“How are the sales?” [Ryouma]

“They’ve been selling quite well, even past the 5 customers you referred to me. They’re especially popular among adventurers. When they found out about them, they even bought some for their friends.” [Serge]

“Oh, come to think of it, I walked every day in that outfit when cleaning the latrine pits. I stood out a lot in those days, so that’s probably why they’re so popular among the adventurers.” [Ryouma]

“That’s probably it. From the way things are going, the demand is likely to rise faster than expected.” [Serge]

“I brought 70 cloths today, but I can still amp up the production. I’ll try expanding the workshop to increase the production.” [Ryouma]

“Thank you, but please don’t push yourself.” [Serge]

Ah, looks like Serge-san has also heard about how I work too much.

“Don’t worry. My store doesn’t really need me anymore, and most of the time spent producing the waterproof cloths is just waiting for them to finish drying.” [Ryouma]

“That’s good then...” [Serge]

Serge-san seemed to look at me suspiciously as he said that. After that he checked the water proof cloths that I brought and paid for them. After receiving the payment and the next batch of untreated cloths, I left for the abandoned mine.

After arriving at the abandoned mine.

I asked the sticky slimes to start treating the cloths, then I took 2 earth slimes with me along with the scavenger slimes and went to a different tunnel to create a new workplace.

I got the two earth slimes to make a hole via ‘Create Block’, while the scavenger slimes carried the blocks and I reinforced the walls. Like that we quickly built the new workshop. With more racks at hand, I was able to produce more waterproof cloths.

As a result, I managed to create twice as many cloths as before, totaling to 140 cloths. The sticky slimes look like they can still work more, so we should probably be able to stop around 150 cloths. It’s not good to work the slimes too hard, after all.

“Alright, go ahead and do what you want for now.” [Ryouma]

The slimes worked a lot today, so I decided to exempt them from today’s training.

I built a bowl with earth magic and filled it water via water magic.

...Oh, the slimes have gathered around the bowl. They’re drinking, they’re... Huh?

When I looked at the gathered slimes, it suddenly occurred to me.

Could the slimes other than the earth and dark slimes absorb mana?

...Let’s try it out.

I released neutral mana.

...The earth slime and the dark slime absorbed it a little slower than usual, but it seems the other slimes could absorb mana too.

When I changed the attribute, I found out that the sticky slimes preferred neutral mana, the poison slimes preferred poison mana, and the metal and iron slimes preferred earth mana. The earth slime and the dark slime are a given.

But what was surprising was the bloody slime, who preferred neutral and water, the acid slime, who preferred poison and water, the cleaner slime, who preferred water and light, and the scavenger slime, who preferred earth and darkness... They actually equally preferred two elements.

It seems there are slimes that like multiple things too...

The heal slime prefers neutral, water, and light. It actually prefers three different types of mana, but what it really likes is a healing spell. Why is the heal slime the only one who prefers an actual spell over mana? Well, I can consider it as training for my healing magic, so whatever...

While I was thinking that, the heal slime suddenly became eligible for a split. Does mana also serve as nourishment to these slimes? I should investigate this more carefully later...

For the mean time, I let the heal slimes split and formed a contract with them. The heal slimes now numbered four.

After that I made some preparations to tame a rime bird. I took my guitar from my Item Box and started practicing.

"...That's it." [Ryouma]

My playing isn't too bad for someone playing as a hobby. Of course, it's not that good.

Anyway, it would be great if this is enough to tame one, but eh... Whatever happens will happen. If it's no good, then I'll just look for another bird-type monster.

I killed some time until the cloths finished drying, then I went back to town, I dropped by Serge-san's store again.

"Well done." [Serge]

It seems this much was enough to fill their stock for now. It takes time to turn these cloths into product, so for the time being, they won't be needing any more water proof cloths. It seems Serge-san is really trying not to make me work too much. But, really... It's actually the slimes who make these things, you know?

I should turn the remaining cloths into waterproof cloths too.

After leaving Serge-san's store, I looked up at the sky and thought to myself.

"...There's still some time, but there's no work left to be done..." [Ryouma]

There's nothing to do even if I go home now, and it's too late to be going back to the mine to train, so... Let's drop by the church then.

When I got to the church, the woman who made my status board was there by the gates.

"Oh, you're..." [Nun]

"Thank you for last time." [Ryouma]

"Welcome. How may I help you?" [Nun]

"I've come to pray." [Ryouma]

"I see, then please follow me." [Nun]

I sat in the chapel like last time and offered a prayer with my hands folded.

..... Hmm?

Huh? I thought I'd go to the divine realm as usual, but nothing is happening.

...But then again, I guess it'd be weirder if I could go every time.

Or at least that's what I was thinking when all of the sudden everything turned white.

"!? This is? Oh, it's the usual, I guess. There was an odd lag there, though." [Ryouma]

"Sorry, sorry, I don't use this power that much, so it was harder than expected." [???

When I turned around, the one who replied was a short-statured hairy old man who carried a barrel of alcohol over his right shoulder, while holding a sake bottle with his left hand. He stood there as he emptied the contents of the glass bottle into his mouth.

There's no mistaking it. It's the God of Wine!

"Could you be Tekun-sama, the God of Wine?" [Ryouma]

When I asked that, he moved the sake bottle from his mouth and replied.

"You got that right. The name's Tekun. By the way, you don't need to talk politely to me. I'm a god, so if I feel like it, I could just read your mind, so there's no point in using keigo (polite language). Besides, it's a pain, so when you call me, just call me Tekun. Aight?" Well, take a seat." [Tekun]

Oh, yeah... These guys can read minds, so there's not much meaning in using polite language, I guess.

I sat just as Tekun-sama instructed me to.

"Then I'll just talk casually... It's nice to meet you. I'm Ryouma Takebayashi. Thank you for giving me your divine protection." [Ryouma]

"I've seen you from time to time, so it doesn't really feel like our first time. And don't mind the divine protection, I just give it from time to time whenever I see someone interesting. It just so happened to be you. That's all." [Tekun]

As Tekun said that he drank from his sake bottle.

"Are you the only one around today?" [Ryouma]

"Yeah. The others are doing whatever they want. As for the god of war, the god of magic,

and the god of the land, I can't see anything but white, but they're probably somewhere comfortable. In human terms, that's where they built the place they would call a house and lived in it." [Tekun]

"I see. I didn't know that... Do you have a house too?" [Ryouma]

"Nah. Don't have any. I'm a god of wine and craftsmen. Wine and craftsmen can be found in all sorts of places, so I just wander through those places as I please." [Tekun]

"You wander?" [Ryouma]

"The divine realm is more or less connected to the world you live in. Well, if you want a better explanation, you'll have to ask someone else. I'm not good at explaining stuff like this. But enough of that. Drink." [Tekun]

Tekun took a cup full of liquor from thin air and gave it to me. The shape of the cup was just like that of a goblet, but it was gold, and silver and small jewels could be found adorning it here and there.

"Come on! Cheers!" [Tekun]

"C-Cheers!" [Ryouma]

I ended up toasting because of him, so I just went along and drank from the cup.

"...Delicious!"



A sweet liquor that's extremely delicious.

"It's made from fruit and honey raised in a land blessed by the god of the land and the god of farming. And the ones who made it have also received my blessing, so of course it's delicious." [Tekun]

"Wow... Could I also get my hands on these when I come back? Also, you can give a divine protection to lands too?" [Ryouma]

"I'm glad you like it, but this is an offering, so it'll probably be hard to get your hands on one since the excess stock are distributed among craftsmen or those within the circle.

As for the divine protection, well, I can only bless people, but the god of the land can bless lands. There are other guys too who can bless places they like. Gayn also once blessed this whole world, you know? After all, he's the god of creation." [Tekun]

Oh, yeah.

"Nowadays, the lifeforms of this world has grown up and are changing the world as they please, though, so the places with Gayn's divine protection are decreasing. The same is true for me, but there are also times when I stop giving the divine protection on my own volition.

Like for example, I could've given a divine protection to a blacksmith devoted to his craft, but if that divine protection turns him into a no good fellow, then I'll feel like removing the divine protection." [Tekun]

As Tekun said that, he drank from his sake bottle.

"By the way, do you know where Gayn and the others have been going to lately?" [Tekun]

"Where they're going?" [Ryouma]

"Yeah. I haven't been seeing them lately. It's not like I have nothing else to do, so I'm not really that troubled, but seeing them missing so frequently has me a little concerned." [Tekun]

"Hmm... But you just called me here too, so..." [Ryouma]

It was then that I remembered what Kufo told me last time.

“Oh, maybe they went to my world.” [Ryouma]

“Your world?... What was that called again? Earth?” [Tekun]

“Yeah. That one. Last time I came here, Kufo said that Gayn and the others went to Earth to sightsee.” [Ryouma]

“HAA!? They went sightseeing!?! What the heck are they doing!?” [Tekun]

Tekun yelled out in surprise.

“Is that strange?” [Ryouma]

“...Normally, gods don't interfere with other worlds. Bringing people like you from another world to this world is something we do only because this world is in really dire straits. In other words, it's an exception brought about by pressing circumstances. Going sightseeing is most definitely not a valid reason for an exception.” [Tekun]

“But Kufo was so sure about it last time we talked. He said Gayn was fanboying over Japan's idols, while Rurutia was going around the world eating all sort of sweet food, and Kufo himself was exploring the unexplored regions of earth.” [Ryouma]

When Tekun heard that, he suddenly thought of something.

“But how could it be? Is that really the truth? I don't know much about idols, but...” [Tekun]

“It's true. Really.” [Ryouma]

“It's not impossible to go, but... Won't the god of your world get mad? Besides, something like this has never happened until you came h— It couldn't be!!” [Tekun]

Suddenly, Tekun stood up with great fury.

“What is it!?” [Ryouma]

“Those no good bastards... They couldn't have been so free that they used negotiations with the god of your world as a pretense to go sightseeing, could they? They're not the

only ones free, you know? How dare they have fun by themselves!" [Tekun]

As Tekun trembled all over, he took the sake barrel over his shoulder and yelled.

"I can't stay here! I have to find them!" [Tekun]

As Tekun was about to run off, I called out to him in a panic.

"W-Wait! What about me!?" [Ryouma]

"Ah, sorry... But don't worry, when the time runs out, you'll go back on your own. Take some liquor with you. If you let mana flow into that goblet, you'll be able to get liquor anytime. Sorry, but I'm really in a hurry right now. Later!" [Tekun]

"W— Fast!" [Ryouma]

I couldn't even see him as he ran off in an amazing speed. Actually, the speed he's moving at doesn't match his steps. Ahh, I can't see him anymore... He really left me behind...

"I can't believe I was left alone in a place like this... Anyway, I might as well kill some time drinking..." [Ryouma]

I drank a mouthful of wine.

"Yeah, this is seriously some good stuff. But I sure wished I had some snack to accompany it." [Ryouma]

Unfortunately, there's nothing here but the liquor and the goblet. Tekun said I could get as much wine as I wanted from this goblet as long as I coursed mana through it, but that's only for liquor. Snacks won't come out... But wait... If I can use mana, does that mean I can use magic here?

"Item Box!" [Ryouma]

A black hole appeared in thin air.

It seems I can use Item Box.

"I did it... I guess it doesn't have anything to do with the place. Well, whatever. With this, I should be able to find something I can use for snacks... Don't I have some fruits

around here... None? Well, I have been living at the inn for a while now, and I've been storing all my food at the fridge at the store, so..." [Ryouma]

I took out the items in my Item Box, but there was nothing that could serve as snacks.

While I was thinking that, the light that signaled my return came.

Oh no! I have to clean up quickly or else!

Hurriedly, I emptied the goblet, then I threw all of my stuff back into my Item Box.

After storing everything away, I closed the Item Box, and the light signal became stronger. Before I knew it, I was back in the human world.

"D-Did I make it?" [Ryouma]

When I used Item Box, everything I took out was back. What a relief...

It's too bad about that wine, though. I drank everything in one gulp, but I feel like I wasted it... I should've just quietly enjoyed it...

It was really delicious too. What a pity.

This must be my first time feeling like this over a cup of liquor.

After leaving a donation, I left the church feeling a little sad.

I went back home after that.

# Chapter 66

## To the Marsh

The next day.

Today was the day when they would finally try taming a rimel bird. To that end, I, the four members of the duke family, Jill-san, Zeff-san, Camil-san, and Hyuzu-san walked the road toward the mines.

The ojousama and the others were donned in armor and had a weapon with them just like when we went out to train at the mines before, but in my case, I was wearing my latrine-pit cleaning outfit. Being the only one dressed like this sure makes me stand out from our group...

Incidentally, we also couldn't use the carriage in order to train the ojousama. She might actually have quite a bit of stamina. We've been walking all this time, and although we might be taking breaks from time to time, I still think it's amazing that she hasn't complained.

"Fuu... Ryouma-san, are you alright?" [Elia]

"I'm alright." [Ryouma]

"You sure have a lot of stamina." [Elia]

The ojousama was gradually getting tired, but it's not really something to make a fuss about.

After all, we were walking up a mountain trail, and the road wasn't paved, so I think it's already commendable that she's not complaining.

Camil-san seemed to have thought the same thing as he encouraged her.

"It's alright, Ojousama. You're stamina is already amazing compared to normal children your age." [Camil]

“That’s right, Ojousama. Don’t compare yourself with Ryouma. This guy is just abnormal. Any normal child would have long been out of breath, but this guy isn’t even sweating. Sweat a little, won’t you?” [Hyuzu]

“Even if you tell me that...” [Ryouma]

That’s a physiological phenomenon, so...

“But seriously, boy, most people would at least sweat easily without having to be told that’s the norm.” [Hyuzu]

“I know we’re not going very fast to match the ojousama’s pace, and I’d understand if you were a trained expert like us, but you’re still just a child, aren’t you? Just what kind of training have you been doing?” [Camile]

“Hmm... To put it briefly, I was trained to the limits. Whenever I fell or rested, I’d get beaten up so hard to be heavily wounded, and then I’d be asked if I’d rather keep getting beaten or train. After doing that everyday, I ended up like this.” [Ryouma]

“Was your master a demon from hell!?” [Hyuzu]

“Can’t refute that.” [Ryouma]

When I was a child, I was really scared of my dad. So much that I couldn’t even breathe when I was in front of him.

While I was thinking that, it seemed it was time for us to set off.

“We have to get moving again before Elia cools down completely.” [Reinhart]

“It’s just a little bit more.” [Hyuzu]

Like that we started walking again, then after some 30 minutes of walking, the road curved and we entered into a forest. After another 30 minutes, the air started to smell really bad. So, this is the stench of a marsh.

As we continued along, the redbrown-colored marsh came to view.

We seemed to be somewhere by the very borders of the forest and the mine. We were inside a forest, but there were few trees, and the marsh felt as if the earth from the

abandoned mind had collapsed and flowed into it.

The smell only got worse as we approached the marsh. The ojou-sama had to cover her mouth to endure it.

“This is the marsh I was talking about. The smell you’re smelling comes from the fallen leaves and the rotting corpses of various organisms inside the marsh.” [Reinhart]

“What a horrible smell...” [Elia]

“It certainly stinks, but unless you can adapt to this, you won’t be able to explore the other regions.” [Elize]

Oh, yeah. Reinbach-sama has supposedly fixed the Jamil territory up, so it’s a lot better compared to the other regions... Wait, does that mean that the other regions smell like this all the time? Oh, dear. Let’s hope not.

“Hmm... It seems the grell frogs and the rimel birds aren’t in this marsh yet. This isn’t the only marsh, so let’s check the others.” [Reinbach]

As such, we started walking again. 10 minutes later, we found a marsh 3 times bigger than the previous one. This time, 30 adventurers, 30 monster tamers, and over 200 birds came to view.

“Those are rimel birds!” [Reinhart]

“Those are...” [Ryouma]

“They’re beautiful...” [Elia]

The rimel bird resembled a large parrot, but it had a tail that you could find from long-tailed fowls. Its body was blue, but its head and tail were covered with beautiful green feathers. No wonder it’s so popular. It looks so strange with the marsh as its backdrop.

They’re really beautiful, but I think the surrounding adventurers will become a hindrance.

“They went that way!” [Adventurer 1]

“Hurry up and catch the grell frogs!” [Adventurer 2]

“Ah!?” [Adventurer 1]

“Hurry! Before it gets eaten’ [Adventurer 2]

The adventurer entered the marsh and started competing with the rimel birds for the grell forgs.

Tough-looking men played about in the mud, trying to catch redbrown-colored frogs – the same color as the mud – with either their nets or their hands... It was a sweltering sight.

Meanwhile, two young men brought out their instruments by the side of the marsh.

“Ryouma, Elia, look. It seems those two want to try their hands at taming the rimel birds.” [Elize]

The other man started blowing his flute. It seemed to be a recorder of some sort. He didn’t seem very skilled.

“How important is musical skill when trying to tame a rimel bird?” [Ryouma]

“It’s hard to say since the ones judging are none other than the rimel birds themselves.” [Sebasu]

“As word says, there was even a case when a monster tamer played confidently only to be rejected, then in a fit of anger, slammed his instrument against the ground, causing a discordant sound to play, and was then able to form a contract with a rimel bird.” [Elia]

“I don’t know what to say to that...” [Ryouma]

When the man finished playing, the rimel birds all started chirping out in unison.

“Kera kera kera kera kera kera kera!!”

“Ahahahahaha!”

The man’s performance was met with the laugh of over 200 birds.

The birds laughed in mockery.

Caulkin-san said that the rimel birds would chirp in alarm whenever they didn't like one's music, and it just so happens that the way they would chirp then is really infuriating.

So this is what he meant by that!... True. After hearing it it's certainly not good on the ears.

This sort of stuff seems to be happen frequently, though, as the adventures aren't reacting one bit. Instead, they're using it as an opportunity to gather even more grell frogs. And even after finishing, they just ignored the guy.

"I think you can tell just from the birds' chirps, but this is how a failure looks like. Taming like this is impossible. You can try again if you want, but if you do it too many times, you might get attacked. So, at most, you should only try twice." [Reinhart]

While Reinhart-san was explaining, the other man started playing with his flute.

This time was even worse than the guy before, as the rimel birds started laughing before he could even finish.

Getting roasted by some birds seemed to have struck a nerve, though, as the man unsheathed his sword and entered the marsh.

"T-That's not good... Be careful, everyone." [Reinbach]

"Ha!" [The four guards]

At Reinbach-sama's words, the four guards stepped forward.

Sebasu-san and Reinhart-san also stood alert, while the madam covered for me and Elia.

"Ke!" [Rimel Birds]

"GUAH! E-Eek!!" [Frustrated Musician]

The rimel bird nearest to the man seemed to have sensed danger coming from him and his sword, as it chirped and attacked him.

As a shallow wound was left on the man's shoulder, he cried out in pain.

"Wind magic." [Ryouma]

At that, the other rimel birds also looked at the man.

When the man saw that, his anger quickly cooled and fear took its place as he ran for his life.

The people nearby were caught up in the clamor, and had no choice but to also retreat.

The rimel birds casted wind cutter at the fleeing back. Their accuracy wasn't very good and they kept on missing, but the man ran for his life regardless.

"You can't lose your cool like that. Rimel birds may be gentle, but they're not weak. If you look down on them and try to force them into obedience, they'll fight back." [Elize]

While the madam was warning us, I noticed that the man was running toward us.

That's bad!

The man managed to reach the bank of the marsh, but he seemed to have lost his focus and stopped. It was then that one of the rimel birds casted a spell and got the man by his legs.

"KUAH!? AHH..." [Frustrated Musician]

"Earth wall!!" [Ryouma and Camil]

"Keh!!" [Rimel Birds]

Camil and I immediately cast our spells, erecting a wall made out of earth between the man and the rimel birds.

The ten wind cutters that shot for the man made a shaving sound, but our earth walls managed to hold.

The wind cutters stopped, but then in the next moment, a loud chirp resounded.

"Kukeh! Kukeh!! Kukeh!!! Kukeh!!!" [Rimel Birds] [1]

“Kyaaa!” [Elia]

“GU!?” [Reinhart]

“Is this!?” [Reinbach]

“Get a hold of yourselves!!” [Reinhart]

For some reason, everyone started acting as if they were in pain. The ojou-sama even started shaking and tottered. Fortunately, the madam and Sebasu-san were able to quickly support her.

What’s going on!?

When I looked around me, even the adventurers in the marsh were suffering. There were even some who lost their minds and were crouching as they screamed.

To affect such a large area... Not to mention this powerful mana I’m sensing. No matter how you look at it, the culprit must be the rimel birds’ chirping.

But which bird?

I searched for the source of the sound and mana, and in a few seconds, I managed to isolate everything to a single bird. Apparently, it was using a wind magic technique similar to mine as it amplified its own chirps. Because of that I was able to quickly find it.

“Silent!” [Ryouma]

I casted a spell toward the culprit bird. It was a spell meant to stop the vibrations in the air. And just as I’d hoped, the sound stopped and everyone’s expression softened.

Looks like it was effective... Unfortunately, it’s not so simple, as the rimel bird was resisting.

That rimel bird is probably using a spell similar to my Big Voice that increases the vibrations in the air.

I’m using a spell that works the exact opposite of that, but because of that, it seems this has suddenly turned into a battle of control.

If I slip for even a moment, the sound will return.

Our control is equal... No, it's gradual, but I'm being pushed back. If I can't win with control, then...

I'll win with brute force!

I used significantly more mana than before and casted the spell again.

"Silent!" [Ryouma]

"...Kukeh!"

After a few seconds of struggling, the rimel bird realized that it was at a disadvantage and flew away. The rimel birds followed it and left.

I stayed wary of any attacks from the air as the flock of rimel birds flew away.

"They ran?... I guess it's over for now then?" [Ryouma]

"Camil, heal that man! Jill, Zeff, Hyuzu, get those fainted men in the marsh and bring them to shore! Sebasu, how is Elia?" [Reinhart]

Reinhart-san gave out orders and then checked with Sebasu how Elia was doing, but it was the ojou-sama herself who answered his question.

"I'm... Alright..." [Elia]

"Are you okay, Elia? You're not hurt?" [Reinhart]

"Yes... I was just scared suddenly, but... that's all. I'm okay now." [Elia]

"I see. That's good... Ryouma-kun, thank you. That was you just now, right?" [Reinhart]

"The cause was that rimel bird's chirping, right? Well, it seemed like that, at least, so I stopped it, but what exactly was it doing?" [Ryouma]

"Huh?" [Elize and Elia]

When I said that, the madam and the ojousama reacted.

“Ryouma-san, you didn’t feel anything?” [Elia]

“Was I supposed to feel something?” [Ryouma]

I just thought the birds wouldn’t shut up. That’s why I could leisurely look around. But everyone suddenly started acting like they were out of their minds. Now that was shocking.

“You just thought they were noisy? That’s it?” [Elize]

“Yep.” [Ryouma]

The madam was really confused when she heard my reply, so Reinbach-sama and Sebasu started explaining.

“The rimel bird Ryouma stopped probably wasn’t just a rimel bird. That’s probably an advanced variant, a nightmare rimel bird. They can use dark magic too on top of wind magic. Their most striking feature is that they can inflict mental damage via dark magic.” [Reinbach]

“This spell of theirs inflicts fear and confusion. It can also cause hallucinations and even knock people out. Just like those adventurers.” [Sebasu]

Sebasu-san pointed toward the people who’ve been dragged back to shore. Jill-san and the others had dragged them back to safety, and most of them were sitting, but a part of them were either still unconscious or crouching in fear.

“That spell sure is terrifying...” [Ryouma]

“That’s just how strong it is. Physical strength is different from mental strength, so even vegetarian adventurers could lose consciousness. Those adventurers are still just neophytes, so it’s not surprising that they’d end up like that.” [Sebasu]

“And even if you build up your endurance, it will still hurt. You’ll just be able to endure better.” [Reinhart]

Come to think of it, I have a Mental Pain Resist skill, don’t I? Maybe that’s the reason why I didn’t feel anything.

When I asked them, the confused madam suddenly said ‘that’s it!’

Apparently, my resistance is so strong that I didn’t even feel a thing.

They say that I probably won’t be affected much by mental attacks, but I’ve never really thought up any countermeasure for them in the first place. And while it’s good that they can’t affect me, not even knowing I’m being attacked is pretty bad. I should be careful...

While we were chatting like that, Jill-san and the others came back. Looks like they’re done helping the adventurers.

“What’s the damage on their side?” [Reinhart]

“The guy who caused everything is the only one wounded, but we’ve already healed him, so he can return to town without any problems.” [Jill]

“But what are we going to do now? All the rimel birds flew away because of that guy.” [Camil]

“Shall we look for their nest?” [Ryouma]

“That might be a bit difficult. When rimel birds fly, they use wind magic to call the winds and ride them. That’s why their speed is in a league of its own, but that also means the area we have to cover if we’re going to be looking for them is going to be really big.” [Camil]

“Let’s wait for a bit. We came all the way out here, so I’d at least like to give it a try.” [Elia]

Because of the ojou-sama, we decided to wait here for a while. During that time, the adventurers gradually recovered and the fainted ones also started waking up.

But they no longer seemed to be in the mood to hunt or maybe it was just because the duke was around, but regardless, the adventurers all left. The only ones left were us.

I made us some seats near the marsh, and we passed the time talking idly to each other.

Apparently, the nightmare rimel bird's mental attack was really powerful, but attacking to stop it would cause the rest of the rimel birds to fight back, so the situation would just turn into a bigger mess. As such, the best response usually is to either just endure the nightmare rimel bird's attack or run.

I wonder if my Silent was okay since it wasn't actually an attack, but just something meant to mute the sound. It's a good thing that Caulkin-san and the duke's family told me beforehand not to attack the rimel birds.

Also, it seems that the rimel bird's advanced variant has only been spotted once in 10 years. It's an extremely rare monster. Although things turned out pretty badly, being able to see one in the flesh is our good luck.

"How did it look like?" [Elia]

"It seemed darker than the other birds. Like a deep blue and green. It had a luxurious feeling to it. Other than that there's also..." [Ryouma]

As we passed the time idly chatting like this, an intimate atmosphere suddenly filled the area.

"It won't be long before we have to go our separate ways, huh?" [Elia]

When the ojousama said that, it finally occurred to me that they came here specifically to see a rimel bird and try their hand at taming one.

Us coming here today means that they've accomplished that goal, so they'll be leaving soon. We probably don't have much time left together.

Uhh... What should I say here?

'I see?' That's a bit too apathetic.

'Don't go!' A 40 year-old uncle saying that is kinda gross.

I mean I might look fine on the outside, but mentally speaking it's really not okay for me.

'We'll meet again' Yeah this is the one. I'd like to say something more clever, but this'll have to do.

“But it’s not like you won’t be meeting anymore, Elia. Right? Ryouma-kun.” [Elize]

Ahh... I took so long thinking up a response that I got beaten to the punch.

“Of course.” [Ryouma]

“If you exchange letters, you’ll be able to keep in touch.” [Reinbach]

“...You’re right! We can meet again! Ryouma-san! Please write me a letter! I’ll write you too!” [Elia]

“Sure!” [Ryouma]

“Idiot! If you’re a man, you should at least give her a hug!” [Hyuzu]

As Hyuzu-san said that, he hit me from behind, causing me to almost fall off my seat.

“Woah! What are you doing? And what are you thinking!? Aren’t you her guard!? You should be stopping me from doing stuff like that!” [Ryouma]

“Hah? But it’s more interesting like this!” [Hyuzu]

Hyuzu-san said with a grin on his face and a thumbs up.

“Is that okay?” [Ryouma]

“As long as it’s a hug between friends. Yeah. Between friends... Friends.” [Reinhart]

“It’s nothing to fret about. Really. You’re both about 10 years-old. You’re children.” [Reinbach]

Reinhart-san was making a slightly complicated expression, but Reinbach-sama didn’t seem to mind one bit.

I guess hugs are like a greeting here? Kinda like westerners?

“See? Well, come on then. If you’re a man, give her a reaalllll hard one. ‘Sides, if you don’t do it quickly, it’ll get awkward.” [Hyuzu]

“...” [Ryouma]

“GAHA!?! Y-You...” [Hyuzu]

It was starting to get annoying, so I gave him a body blow. A realll hard one just like he wanted it.

When I turned around, my eyes met with the ojousama’s.

She seemed to be blushing a little.

But this sort of reaction makes things harder for me.

Looking for a way out, I turned to the madam again, but she seemed to be intent on just watching things go.

Scratch that. I’m pretty sure she’s having the time of her life right now...

“What... are you doing... GUFU...” [Hyuzu]

Hyuzu asked as he held his stomach and crouched down in pain.

“Just trying to cover up my shyness... Don’t mind me...” [Ryouma]

I can’t believe I just said that... Though I did just hit him all of the sudden. Was it that painful?

“Like hell you were just trying to cover your shyness!?! If I hadn’t trained this body I’d be out cold right now!... Owwww... Why does it hurt so much when I’m wearing armor?” [Hyuzu]

“Oops. Sorry about that. It’s become a habit.” [Ryouma]

The blow I used is specifically meant for people with armor, so of course it hurts.

...Ah, not good. I’m also starting to become real tense.

Calm down, me!

A strange atmosphere filled the area...

“...” [Ryouma]

“...” [Elia]

“...” [Ryouma]

“...” [Elia]

“Pirorororororo!!” [???

“!?” [Ryouma]

“Fueh!?” [Elia]

...Only to be broken by a whistle-like sound.

When we turned around, the rimel birds had returned.

# Chapter 67

## Attempting the Contract

When I saw the rimel birds flying, I was speechless.

Beyond the trees, with the red mountain as their backdrop, the rimel birds spread their seemingly transparent blue wings as they fluttered and turned their green tails. The sight of rimel birds descending was a beauty my vocabulary alone could not express.

There seems to be more of them now than a while ago, but it doesn't seem as if they've brought reinforcements with them or anything, for very soon they started feeding on the grell frogs.

In any case, it doesn't seem like there's any danger, though there's one guy from the flock that's been staring at me all this time. It's that advanced variant from before. Ever since it landed, it hasn't touched the grell frogs and is just staring at me without even blinking once. Is it on guard because of what happened before?

The ojou-sama had already gotten her instrument from Sebasu and was getting ready to play, but...

"Reinhart-san." [Ryouma]

"Yes?" [Reinhart]

"Should I leave for a moment? That advanced variant from before has been staring at me all this time. Maybe it's still on guard because of what happened before, so I might just get in the way if I stay here..." [Ryouma]

"It's okay. I don't mind." [Elia]

Elia herself rejected my idea.

"The contract is between me and the monster, so I won't make excuses saying that the only reason it failed was because of you, Ryouma-san." [Elia]

The ojousama unusually had a cold air about her as she said that.

“Besides, I would prefer it if you watched me. So, please, stay here. I feel stronger when you’re around.” [Elia]

The ojousama said with a smile.

If she’s going that far, then I can’t exactly leave, can I?

“Alright. I understand. Good luck.” [Ryouma]

“Yes!” [Elia]

After encouraging her, I stepped back.

The ojousama took a deep breath, then she started her performance.

She played a relaxing tune just like she did before. At first, the sound was soft, gradually growing ever quiet, then the sound started growing louder and louder. The ojousama’s tune was like that of the sea waves, ever changing, sometimes bigger, sometimes smaller.

But be it small or big, the sounds of her performance resounded throughout the marsh.

The rimel birds also acted different from before, as they seemed to be swaying to the tune of her music.

After a while, the ojousama’s performance concluded.

“...!” [Ojousama]

As the ojousama nervously looked at the rimel birds, they suddenly all started chirping simultaneously.

Their chirping now wasn’t annoying like that time when they were mocking the men. Instead, their chirping sounded like a pleasant tune similar to that of a harp or a piano. The sounds weren’t a disorderly noise either. It like a musical performance, having order to it.

That performance lasted for about a minute until the most dazzling bird from the flock

flew toward Elia with 8 others and gathered by her feet.

It's a success!

But just when I thought she was going to form a contract with them...

"Ojousama, the contract! The monster contract!" [Ryouma]

"Oh, right!" [Elia]

Did she forget out of sheer joy?

For some reason, the ojousama had stiffened up and replied absentmindedly as she performed the contract in a daze.

I watched her form the contracts one after another, and it seems she really has succeeded.

When Elia finally formed a contract with the last but most beautiful rimel bird, she finally cheered.

"I did it!!" [Elia]

"Good job!!" [Reinhart]

"A good job indeed!" [Reinbach]


"Isn't that great, Elia?" [Elize]

"Congratulations." [Hyuzu]

"Congratulations, Ojousama." [Ryouma]

The ojousama had succeeded in forming a contract with 9 rimel birds all in all. Forming a contract with just one was so hard already, so I never thought she'd be able to form a contract with so many.

"Look how many beautiful children there are!" [Elia]



「見て下さい、  
こんなに綺麗な子が  
いっぱいいますわ！」

Surrounded by the rimel birds, the ojousama patted them and played with them.

It seems they've taken to her already, as they've started riding her shoulders and her thighs.

It's kind of sad that I can't help but be reminded of a scene where I tried to open a bag of bird feeds only to be swarmed and forced to drop the feed as a result. Seriously, why do I have to remember that sort of stuff when such a touching sight is before me.

You could turn this scene into a painting and title it 'a beautiful girl playing with birds' and it wouldn't feel strange one bit.

But there's no point in thinking stuff like that. Since she managed to do it, then I might as well give it a try!

Let's do this!

I took out my guitar from my Item Box. When I did, the ojousama immediately looked at it curiously.

"Ryouma-san. Is that an instrument? Are you also going to try and tame one?" [Elia]

"I'm not as good as you, but I'd like to try my hand at taming a rimel bird." [Ryouma]

"Good luck!" [Elia]

"Good luck, Ryouma-kun." [Reinhart]

"We'll be looking forward to it." [Hyuzu]

After being encouraged by everyone, I started getting ready.

Just like the ojousama, I started with a deep breath.

I haven't formally learned the guitar, but when a neighbor of mine moved elsewhere, he left me a guitar and a textbook.

I killed time reading that book and practicing on the guitar, and somehow, I managed

to memorize the chords. So, I can play a little.

Of course, it's a far cry from the ojousama's playing, but I'll do my best.

The piece I played was a popular tune from the TV in my previous life. I never bought the sheets for it, but I managed to learn it by hearing. That being said, it's probably quite different from the original.

But that doesn't really matter.

I don't think I'm particularly good, but I don't think I'm that bad either, so I should just play with a good mood.

“!”

The rimel birds started swaying to the tune.

Oh, they like it? That's interesting.

When I finished a tune, the rimel birds stopped swaying and went silent for a few seconds.

The result was... A performance like chirping!!

“Huh!?” [Ryouma]

I was shocked to see 6 gather by my feet, but what shocked me even more was seeing that advanced variant from before among that 6.

Weren't you wary of me?

“Ryouma-san, form a contract with them!” [Elia]

Oh, right. Looks like I also ended up dazing off.

I hurriedly formed a contract with them one after another.

“Fuu... Success.” [Ryouma]

As I said that, everyone clapped for me.

“Congratulations, Ryouma-san!” [Elia]

“It’s great to see the both of you succeed.” [Reinhart]

“Congratulations, Ryouma-sama.” [Sebasu]

“You did it!” [Camil]

“Forming a contract with rimel birds is really difficult, but you two went and formed several contracts on your first try! The two of you are amazing!” [Elize]

At the madam’s words, everyone turned to my rimel birds. The advanced variant I’d contracted and the prettiest of Elia’s birds seemed to get along very well as they flew in the air and sprung about on the ground.

That rimel bird sure is beautiful. My 6 rimel bids are also beautiful, but I feel as if that rimel bird’s color is a bit more dazzling and brighter than the others.

“...Ojousama, how about calling the rimel bird next to Ryouma-sama’s advanced variant and using Monster Identify on it?” [Sebasu]

Sebasu-san seemed quite curious about it. The ojousama was confused, but she called her bird over anyway and used Monster Identify on it.

When she summoned her bird, my advanced bird also came with it and perched itself atop my head.

Why did you have to pick my head to park your feet on? Well... You’re light, so whatever, I guess.

“Huh!?” [Elia]

While I was wondering what was up with the bird perched atop my head, the ojousama suddenly let out a shocked voice.

“What happened?” [Ryouma]

“This bird is also an advanced variant!” [Elia]

What!? Weren’t advanced variants only seen like once in 10 years!?

“Really!?! It looks different from mine, though...” [Ryouma]

“Yes, it’s not a nightmare, but a phantom rime bird. It excels at light magic instead of dark magic.” [Elia]

“There’s something like that too?” [Ryouma]



I was shocked, but in my case, I just thought it was a little strange. It was much worse for Sebasu-san and the others, as they were so shocked they'd gone speechless. When they had regained their sanity, they started tossing Elia into the air and showered her with praises.

After they'd calmed down and finding out why they were so excited, apparently, the phantom rimel bird was an even rarer advanced variant than the nightmare rimel bird.

Seriously!? I mean sure its lustre and color is different, but I can't believe two such rare specimens could be found in one flock.

Everyone was a lot more surprised than I was.

After this, we had to enter the marsh and catch some grell frogs as part of the ojousama's training, but everyone's attention was gathered onto the rimel birds.

In fact, it seems they'd completely forgotten that they came here to train.

The grell frogs weren't particularly hard to catch so long as you didn't mind the smell of the marsh. It almost felt like they were losing on purpose as we caught way too many of them. There was also only us in the marsh, so that made things a lot easier. If there were a lot of people like earlier, catching grell frogs wouldn't be so simple.

Anyway, we finished catching grell frogs, then used the cleaner slimes to wash ourselves after leaving the marsh. After that we went back to town.

Is that really enough for training? Didn't they come here to get the ojousama used to getting dirty? Well, her slime will also turn into a cleaner slime, so I guess it's fine?

...Well, no one's stopping us, so I guess it doesn't really matter.

We took a short break before going home.

The madam, the ojousama, and I were all surrounded by our birds, while Reinhart-san watched with envy from the side. Apparently, he had poor compatibility with bird-type monsters, but I don't think he'd scare them just by approaching.

Reinbach-sama told Sebasu-san to prepare a feast for today, so Sebasu-san had already gone back via Warp to inform Arone-san and the others. It seems today's results has everyone restless.

When we got back to the inn, a wonderful meal with sufficient spices and expensive liquor was waiting for us. Like that the feast began. Of course, the leading actors were none other than the ojousama and I. Reinhart-san and the others continually praised us while we ate.

The ojousama quickly ate her fill and became caught up in the conversations, but my parsimonious spirit was just too strong, as I couldn't help but eat too much of the good food in front of me. In the end, I ended up drinking too much.

I mean, it's a waste to just leave them, right?

Still, it has been a while since I ate and drank so much... It's also not like my previous life. Although I drank there too while surrounded by people, I never had this much fun. Even though the food in my previous life should be more delicious, it seems as if today's cooking actually tastes better. The wine too.

...Oh, come to think of it, Tekun mentioned I never managed to enjoy liquor back in my previous life. I wonder if this is what he meant by that? It probably is. Today, I feel like praying to Tekun.

After the feast ended, I got some of the leftover wine as offering and went back to my room. After recalling that I'd left the idols I made before at the store, I created a new one and prayed to it.

This is my second party since coming to this world. I was able to enjoy myself in a different way from my previous life. Thank you. It's something we just bought, but please accept this luxurious wine as an offering.

...Something like this? I bowed my head to the idol, then I went to sleep.

I feel like I can get a good night's rest tonight.

# Chapter 68

## The Day Before Parting (1)

The next day.

I visited the ojousama and the other's room first thing in the morning and when I got in, many of the adults were groaning.

"Ugh... Ryouma-kun... Sorry, but... Could you make me that... medicine again?" [Reinhart]

"Me too. I know it's unsightly considering how old I am, but... I drank too much, it seems..." [Reinbach]

"Me too... Thanks..." [Elize]

They were really happy yesterday, after all...

Even Arone-san and Lilian-san don't look so good. It was a celebration, so they too drank a little, but it seems they can't hold their liquor either.

Of the adults, only Sebasu-san was alright. I was sure he'd drank a lot, but he seems perfectly fine. As for the ojousama, although legally speaking it was fine for her to drink, she only drank one cup to be safe.

Anyway, I went to the drugstore and the grocery store just like last time and bought the ingredients, then I went back to the inn and concocted the medicine.

After Reinhart-san and the others drank it, they told me to accompany Elia.

"Ryouma-kun, sorry, but could you watch over Elia today?" [Reinhart]

"With the sorry state we're in, we really can't look after her right now." [Reinbach]

"What he said. Thanks." [Elize]

Maybe it's because we won't be meeting soon for a while, so they're basically telling

me to go make some memories with her?

If that's the case, then I can't refuse here.

"Sure thing." [Ryouma]

As I said that, they said thanks and went to their bedrooms. It seems they really do have a hangover, though.

After seeing the three off, I talked to the ojou-sama.

"Well then, what should we do for the day?" [Ryouma]

"Ryouma-san, don't you have work? Aren't you busy?" [Elia]

"The employees can take care of the store by themselves already, so I just need to show my face once in the morning and in the evening." [Ryouma]

"...Then can you show me what you normally do?" [Elia]

"If that's alright with you, sure..." [Ryouma]

Is she really fine with that?

"I'll be looking forward to it then!" [Elia]

Like this I ended up accompanying the ojou-sama. Sebasu-san also came with us as our guardian. We dropped by the store once to show my face, then we went to the mines.

When we got to the mines, I started treating the cloths as usual. There were some things I did that weren't part of the norm, but that was just me letting the rimel birds play around in my Dimension Home. That's something that happened before I started working. And then there's the ojou-sama helping out in my work.

I wonder if she's really okay with just this?

Naturally, I ended up thinking like that, but I had no idea what activity we could do, so I asked the ojou-sama.

“What are we doing next?” [Elia]

“Nothing in particular. After telling the sticky slimes to treat the cloths with their sticky liquid, then all that’s left is to wait for them to finish drying. We have a lot of free time now. Normally, I’d train or make dolls during this time.” [Ryouma]

“Oh, I see... I thought you were always busy at work.” [Elia]

“Well, I used too. But after the store became self-sustaining, I’ve gotten plenty of free time. Do I really look that busy?” [Ryouma]

“You always seemed to be working from dusk till dawn without any rest, so yeah...” [Elia]

“There are times when I’m doing nothing too, so I’ve had to find ways to kill time too. Like making stones to make buildings with or something. I’m quite leisurely, you know.” [Ryouma]

“Really?... By the way, you mentioned making some stones to build a house with. Does that mean you’re really going to be living here?” [Elia]

“Living here would make doing my rounds easier. I can also train my magic here without causing other people problems.

“When are you going to start building your house? You’re not going to live in this tunnel, are you?” [Elia]

Hmm...

“I was thinking of just making a simple shed with the stones or digging out a hole in the tunnel to live, then slowly building my place for a while, actually.” [Ryouma]

“In that case, can we talk for a bit?” [Elia]

“Of course.” [Ryouma]

We left the workshop and went to a well-lit place outside, where I made ourselves some chairs using earth magic.

“Ojousama, you’ll be going to the academy starting this year, right?” [Ryouma]

“Yes. All noble children have to attend the royal academy starting at 12 years old. Well, it’s not like we actually have to go, but if we don’t go, my reputation among nobles will decline.” [Elia]

“I see.” [Ryouma]

“...Actually, I don’t want to go either, but it can’t be helped.” [Elia]

“Really?” [Ryouma]

“Dad, mom, and even grandpa says they wouldn’t let me go if it weren’t customary.” [Elia]

“...Why?” [Ryouma]

“The gates of the Royal Academy are also open to commoners, and every year, a lot of them would enrol. While in the school, there’s no difference in status, but there are still a few people who can’t help but cause problems.” [Elia]

Ahh, yes... I recognize this cliché setting.

“And as for the subjects, well... You could study them by hiring some tutors, but in the school...” [Elia]

The ojousama paused there.

“But in the school what?” [Ryouma]

“...There’s a chance it might be hard to study things that one should be studying.” [Elia]

“What’s the point of the school then?” [Ryouma]

“I don’t know either, actually. My parents just told me to go make friends, and to be careful not to be overly influenced by the atmosphere in school. They said it didn’t matter if my grades were bad or if I couldn’t do what was taught in school, but I had to train like I was taught back at home.” [Elia]

Huh... Those three are going that far?

I should ask Sebasu-san too.

“Noble and affluent families can all prepare specialized teachers on their own, but society has its own requirements, and as such, one has to study a variety of things regardless of one’s status. It is open, though. Of course, Ryouma-sama, there’s no need for you to go.” [Sebasu]

“That’s why dad didn’t invite you to go, right?” [Elia]

“Ah, come to think of it...” [Ryouma]

He certainly hasn’t said anything of the sort.

“Is it really not needed.” [Ryouma]

“If you go, you’ll surely be an excellent student who will attract the eyes of all nobles. At the very least, I’m sure you would in swordsmanship and magic classes.” [Elia]

“And your problems will increase too, in both the bad and the good sense.” [Sebasu]

“I see...” [Ryouma]

“That’s why I don’t feel like it. If it weren’t a custom, I would much rather train with you.” [Elia]

Hmm... I never enjoyed school life either, so I can’t really say anything here... Anyway, the ojou-sama is the duke’s daughter, so she probably wouldn’t be bullied, right?

“That’s true, but I don’t have anyone I can call a friend either. Everyone is too scared of my status and my mana to approach me.” [Elia]

Oh, yeah. She said something like that when I made my status board, right?

But putting her status aside, is her mana really that terrifying to others?

I don’t think it’s that scary, though.

When I asked her that, she became sad.

“I once made a blunder...” [Elia]

She did say that having too much mana can make control difficult. Is that why?

“I was 5 at the time, I believe.” [Elia]

It seems that was when the ojousama started training in the basics of magic.

“I specialized in fire and ice, so I was learning to freeze a cup of water. A relatively safe exercise. But I always froze the table along with the cup.” [Elia]

She puts too much power, huh.

“It was always like that for me, but one day, a slightly older boy came to our house. Apparently, his parents wanted him to get along with me.” [Elia]

Erm... why does it feel like the atmosphere changed all of the sudden?

I quietly listened, and as it turns out, that child was the son of a noble family acquainted with the Jamil family. They were probably looking to marry their son to Elia.

When they met, their parents told them that they had something important to talk about and told them to go play on their own, but the two of them didn't know what to talk about, so they ended up talking about magic instead.

“He said he was good at magic and that he wanted to show his to me... The fireball he showed me at the training area at our place was certainly good. ‘It was a safe spell, very much unlike my own,’ I told him.” [Elia]

But he was a boy, and probably the proud sort, so he offered to train with me. He said he would teach me. And we did just that, but after trying the spell out several times, the results wouldn't change.

“Because of that his mood worsened.” [Elia]

“He probably wanted to act cool in front of a girl...” [Ryouma]

I'm a guy too, so I can relate. But they're still kids...

And at the age of an elementary student, someone older would only be about a middle school student, right?

Considering the ojousama's social standing, there's no way that a kid could teach

better than her usual teachers.

While Elia continued to fail to make any results, the older boy's mood continued to worsen, until eventually, an incident occurred.

Because the ojousama wanted to make the next spell a success, she ended up pushing herself too hard and released too much mana.

Without any control, the spell *ruptured*.

"I ended up casting my spell at the opposite direction of the target, and... I froze him."  
[Elia]

Although only several parts of his body were frozen, he tumbled in surprise and injured himself on the frozen ground. After that the whole thing blew up, but in the end, his life was safe. Their parents scolded their own children and didn't pursue the issue any further. Everything ended amicably.

But ever since that day, rumors spread that the ojousama of the Jamil family would cast spells on people she didn't like. Others would say that she would cast spells on people whenever she was in a bad mood.

Exaggerated rumors like that spread among the nobles.

"So that was the disaster..." [Ryouma]

"Well, it's true that I messed up." [Elia]

I think I might have just stepped on a minefield. I would like to change the topic please.

But if I go about it too obviously it would be in poor taste, so I better talk about a similar experience of my own.

"Ryouma-san, have you ever experienced anything like that?" [Elia]

"Yep. When I was still in the village, we had a school, well, no... It wasn't big enough to be called a school, but anyway, the adults were teaching the village children, and so I joined." [Ryouma]

This was actually about PE time back in my middle school days.

Kendo was a part of our school's PE curriculum.

This was my first blunder in 1st Year middle school.

"At that time, they were just supposed to explain to us how stuff worked." [Ryouma]

We did some warm-up, then they taught us how to put on the armor, then we started training the basics. After that the teacher called for the experienced practitioners to raise their hands. He wanted the experienced practitioners to have a demonstration match, so the others could see what it's like.

Several raised their hands at first, but the very first one the teacher called was bad.

He was a famous athlete. He'd gone to several Kendo tournaments and had won several 1st and 2nd places. He'd even come up in the discussions from time to time. That was actually the reason why the teacher called out to him.

He walked to the front like it was a given, then the teacher started looking for someone to have a match with him.

Unfortunately, no one wanted to answer the call. They probably thought they couldn't win and didn't want to lose in front of the class, so in the end, only my hand was left raised.

"So, that's how you got into a match with him..." [Elia]

To keep things brief, I easily won.

It seemed he wanted to end things quickly, so he attacked right from the bat, but I hit him in the forearm with the bamboo sword and ended the match in my favor instead. No more than 2 seconds after the match had started, he was crouching on the ground in pain.

"Although we were wearing armor, his wrist was broken. The match and the class ended there, and since then, no one wanted to be involved with me. Rumors even spread that I'd injured him intentionally." [Ryouma]

In fact, the person himself insisted just that on the very next day. He said I laughed while he was crouching.

I never intended to do that, though. If anything, I was shocked, but we were both wearing our headgear at the time, so our classmates couldn't see our expression.

If the truth is vague, then people would just choose whoever they trust more.

“And because he was popular, I didn't stand a chance. Well, he avoided me since then, though, so it was as if nothing had really happened. For some reason, hearing myself say that makes me kind of sad.” [Ryouma]

“U-Umm... You don't have to feel so down... Umm...” [Elia]

Before I knew it I was the one being comforted.

Our roles had completely reversed.

# Chapter 69

## The Day Before Parting (2)

“A-Anyway! It’s because of that that people started avoiding me.” [Elia]

The ojousama forcefully changed the topic.

I should just follow her here.

“Rumors sure are hurtful...” [Ryouma]

“It’s because there are people who actually believe those exaggerated rumors...” [Elia]

If one’s parents believe them, then the children who will accept it as truth too.

After all, children are always watching the adults. Although the latter usually doesn’t notice that.

“By the way...” [Elia]

“Yes? What is it?” [Ryouma]

The ojousama timidly asked me.

“Are you okay?” [Elia]

“What do you mean?” [Ryouma]

“About what I talked about just now... I’m a little concerned.” [Elia]

“Ahh...” [Ryouma]

I guess she’s worried that I would start acting differently around her.

“I’m fine.” [Ryouma]

“I mean it is true that I lost control of my magic and hurt another person.” [Elia]

But it's not like you did it on purpose. And besides, I've also broken someone's wrist. I've even killed plenty of bandits in the forest. That I did intentionally.

The ojousama also seems to regret what happened, so I'm pretty sure there's nothing wrong with her ethically speaking.

And besides, I've seen magic countless times already, so I could just dodge something like that.

If it's Ice Arrow, I could just deflect it. And if I clad myself in ki, it won't have much effect on me even if it were to hit me.

So in conclusion, there's no problem.

I told Elia that and she chuckled.

"I see. Then, Ryouma-san, I'll have to ask you not to forget to meet me again in 3 years."  
[Elia]

"I won't forget." [Ryouma]

"I'll confirm that in 3 years. If you forget because of work or something, you better watch out cause I'm going to hit you with the magic I've trained for the past 3 years."  
[Elia]

EEK! Scary! What is this girl saying all of the sudden.

"Ha ha ha, p-please don't do that... By the way, where did you learn to talk like that?"  
[Ryouma]

I mean it's a little bit different from the usual image of the ojousama, no?

"It's how mother made dad remember a promise he forgot a long time ago." [Elia]

"I-I see..." [Ryouma]

Thank goodness Reinhart-san is still alive...

"Besides, it's not like my magic would work against you, right?" [Elia]

I did say that, but... Isn't this and that different?

While I was thinking that, the ojousama started laughing as if she were teasing me.

"Oh, right. I just remembered something good. Sebasu!" [Elia]

"Yes, ojousama. How may I help you?" [Sebasu]

The ojousama suddenly called Sebasu-san and started whispering to him. Sebasu-san nodded, and in the next moment, he took out a small box from his Item Box.

The ojousama took that and gave it to me.

"Ryouma-san, please take this." [Elia]

"What is this?" [Ryouma]

"It's a necklace I got from my mother on my 10th birthday."

When the ojousama opened the box, a beautiful necklace appeared. It had golden chains and a golden setting with a ruby the size of a fingernail inserted into it. Although the design was simple, it was surely expensive. Moreover, this ruby...

"Is this mana?" [Ryouma]

For some reason, I could feel mana coming from the ruby.

"Oh, you noticed? As expected. The ruby of this necklace is a magic gem." [Elia]

"Magic gem, you mean those things used for lighting?" [Ryouma]

"Not quite. Those are spell stones, a magic tool, so to speak. Umm... Ryouma-san, you know of magic stones, right?" [Elia]

"Magic stones... If I recall correctly, those are found in places with high concentration of mana. Magic stones refer to the stones dug out from there that contain mana, right?" [Ryouma]

"Exactly. Mana stored in magic stones can be used to cast a spell. This mana can be used to help one in conserving his mana. Among those stones, there are some that are

valued not as mere stones, but as jewels. They are called magic jewels. Magic ores are also a thing.” [Elia]

Magic stones can supplement one’s magic. Magic ores can be used to forge magic armor and weapons, as well as other miscellaneous stuff.

“As for magic gems, these can be used for anything. Be it to supplement one’s magic, or to forge a tool that could amplify one’s abilities, or as a decorative item. On top of being extremely convenient, the effects of these gems are much higher than usual, so not only are they super expensive, the production of these gems is also really low.” [Elia]

The ojou-sama said all of that in one breath, but...

“...So in other words, this is a super luxurious item?” [Ryouma]

“Exactly.” [Elia]

“Exactly? There’s no way I could take something this precious.” [Ryouma]

“I want you to have it!” [Elia]

“No, this is too precious...” [Ryouma]

As if I could accept something like this!

I firmly refused it, but the ojou-sama wouldn’t take no for an answer. In the end, Sebasu-san had to interject.

“The two of you please calm down. Ryouma-sama, the ojou-sama only wants you to keep the necklace for the time being, so you can give it back to her when you meet again next time.” [Sebasu]

“Oh, so she’s just lending it to me? But why?” [Ryouma]

“Ryouma-sama, you might not be aware, but it’s customary to give a friend you will be parting with for a long time something precious as a form of prayer to meet again. Word says doing so also makes it more likely that you’ll meet again. I don’t know what period or from who this practice first spread, but it’s something that has been passed since long ago. To this day, this custom is still practiced.” [Sebasu]

Ahh, I see. So, that's what she meant.

"So you want me to entrust this necklace to me?" [Ryouma]

"Yes." [Elia]

"...But this is something precious to you, right? Are you sure you're okay leaving this with me?" [Ryouma]

"I wouldn't have offered it in the first place if I wasn't. Please give it back to me 3 years later." [Elia]

Mu... If she puts it like that... Not to mention that it's a custom for reunions... And if this is really what she wants, then...

"I understand. I'll take care of it for you in the meantime." [Ryouma]

"Really!?" [Elia]

"In exchange, I'll absolutely give it back to you." [Ryouma]

"Of course." [Elia]

I accepted the box and stored it into my Item Box

I shouldn't lose it if it's inside my Item Box.

"Now then..." [Ryouma]

Since we're following custom, I should give the ojousama something too.

...But what precious possession do I have? Money? Pelt? Stuff like that would just weigh her down. Building stones, ingots, waterproof cloths? Erm... I don't think I have anything decent.

Because of my hunter lifestyle, I've adopted a way of thinking where I prioritize getting the ingredients or components of things I need. Unfortunately, these things can't really be considered as precious.

Hmm... Don't I have anything?

After thinking for a while...

“Dimension Home.” [Ryouma]

I took out a heal slime and a scavenger slime from my Dimension Home and handed them to the ojousama.

“Ryouma-san?” [Elia]

“I couldn’t think of anything good to give you, but after considering what’s precious to me, I figured I could give you my slimes instead. These two will surely be of help to you. Please take them with you.” [Ryouma]

The ojousama was speechless for a moment, but then in the next moment, she had her hands over her mouth as she did everything she could just to keep herself from laughing.

I guess it was weird, after all. Sigh... Why did I have to give her a slime anyway?

I know I didn’t have anything eels, but can you really give a slime as a gift?

Maybe I should’ve thought this over a bit more...

“Fu fu... Sorry, Ryouma-san. I just thought giving a slime was very much like you. Thank you. I’ll be sure to watch over them in your stead.” [Elia]

“Really? Thank you very much.” [Ryouma]

“No, thank you. Thank you for entrusting me with your precious monsters.” [Elia]

I placed the heal slime and the scavenger slime on the ground, then I removed our contract and allowed the ojousama to form a contract with them.

“Contract complete. I’ll be sure to treasure them.” [Elia]

“I’ll leave them in your care.” [Ryouma]

After that we chatted about slimes and magic, and then we ended up training magic.

“This is the ice magic I frequently use.” [Ryouma]

“‘The Ice Cube’ spell I can use, but I still can’t use your ‘Cooler’ spell.” [Elia]

As the name implies, Ice Cube is a spell that creates a cube of ice to be placed inside one’s glass, while Cooler is a fusion spell of wind and ice that summons a cool wind to freshen one up. Both spells are particularly useful for summertime.

“Mist Wash” [Sebasu]

“Ah, you did it.” [Ryouma]

Even Sebasu-san joined in on the topic of water magic. I tried teaching him Mist Wash, and as expected, he learned it after just a few tries.

“...Ho. The mana expenditure is a bit high, but it might just do well for removing stubborn dirt.” [Sebasu]

If he can use that, then he can might be able to use even harder spells.

Thinking that, I taught him Water Cutter, which was the true form of Mist Wash.

Ah, but although I say ‘taught’, all I really did was show it to him by casting the spell at a nearby a rock.

Sebasu-san looked curiously at the spell.

“Like this? ‘Water Cutter’. Hmm... Not enough. ‘Water Cutter’” [Sebasu]

After trying the spell out 5 times, Sebasu-san was able to execute the spell masterfully. He was already better than me right on the first try, but after the fourth try, the power behind his ‘Water Cutter’ was clearly a cut above mine. On the fifth try, he straight up went and cleaved the rock.

So this is what happens when a master water mage uses the spell.

After doing this and that, dusk eventually came, and we went back via dimension magic.

As I looked at the stores along the path back to the inn, I saw the adventurers that went to the marsh before and some doctors carrying some foul-smelling bags. They

had gathered into a crowd and were quite lively.

“Welcome back, Ryouma-kun.” [Reinbach]

“Thanks for looking after Elia today.” [Elize]

“It’s nothing. I had fun too.” [Ryouma]

“And Ryouma-san taught me a lot of new spells. I can’t use them well yet, but I’ll do my best to learn!” [Elia]

“That’s great, Elia.” [Reinbach]

“Yes! He also lent me his heal slime and scavenger slime.” [Elia]

“Oh, really? Be sure to treasure them.” [Elize]

“Of course.” [Elia]

When we got back, everyone had already recovered from their hangover. We talked about the things that happened today, the things that happened after we meant, and all sorts of other stuff until it was late into the night.

And then...

On the day of parting.

At the stables behind the inn, the duke’s family, their servants, and their guards were all inside their carriage. They called out to me one after another through their window.

“Take care of your body.” [Reinhart]

“Don’t push yourself too much.” [Elize]

“Make sure to rest.” [Reinbach]

“If something happens, be sure to contact us.” [Reinhart]

“Drop by when you’re free, alright?” [Jill]

“Do your best, boy.” [Camil]

“Stay well.” [Zeff]

“Stay strong.” [Hyuzu]

“I pray for your good health and the success of your future endeavors.” [Arone]

Jill-san, Arone-san, and the rest of the guards had called out to me too.

“Everyone, ojousama, take care. Thank you for everything until now.” [Ryouma]

I bowed my head as I said that. It’s too bad I’m not very good with long speeches. I wish I could express my gratefulness better, but alas...

“Ryouma-san.” [Elia]

“Yes, ojousama?” [Ryouma]

“About that...” [Elia]

““That’?” [Ryouma]

What is she talking about?

“I’ve been thinking about it since you entrusted me with your slimes yesterday, and... We’re friends, right?” [Elia]

Where is she going with this?

“Since that’s the case, please call me *Elia*. [1] My family and people close to me call me that, and besides... It’s not like you work for my family, right?... Don’t you think it’s strange for a friend to refer to me as ojousama?” [Elia]

“Ah~... I understand.” [Ryouma]

Now that she mentions it, it is weird.

“Very well. If you’re alright with it, then please allow me to call you Elia. You’re okay with that, right... Elia?” [Ryouma]

“—Yes! Ryouma-san, until the day we meet again, I’ll be sure to work on my magic!”  
[Elia]

“Same here.” [Ryouma]

As Elia said that from atop the carriage, I replied.

“Do your best!” [Ryouma and Elia]

When our words overlapped, Elia and I laughed.



Soon it was the time to leave.

The first to go was the carriage of the guards, then came the carriage of the duke's family.

As they headed toward my direction, they waved at me from the window of their carriage, and I waved back at them.

I watched as the carriage moved toward the horizon, gradually growing smaller and smaller, until it could be seen no more.

“Well then... I suppose I should get going then.”

I'll drop by the store, then I'll go to the mine, and there, my new life will begin.

Starting today, I won't be living at the inn anymore, but at the mines.

The ojousama, no... Elia... Elia told me to do my best, so... Let's do just that.

First, I'll have to secure myself a house.

“No time to be dawdling.” [Ryouma]

As I encouraged myself, I started walking.

From today onwards I'll be starting a life that's a little different from what I've lived so far.

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*[1] – Specifically emphasized by the author. For those not in the know, no suffix plus first name basis denotes a greater degree of intimacy. That being said the reason for the emphasis could be something else.*

# Monster Information + Character Introduction

## Slimes

### **Sticky Slimes x907**

Skills:

Sticky Liquid Lv5

Hardening Lv3

Sticky String Shot Lv2

Physical Attack Resist Lv1

Jump Lv3

Digest Lv3

Absorb Lv3

Split Lv3

Staff Mastery Lv1

### **Poison Slime x666**

Skills:

Generate Poison Lv3

Poison Resist Lv3

Generate Paralyzing Agent Lv3

Physical Attack Resist Lv1

Jump Lv3

Digest Lv3

Absorb Lv3

Split Lv3

Spear Mastery Lv1

### **Acid Slimes x666**

Skills:

Generate Acid Lv3

Acid Resist Lv4

Physical Attack Resist Lv1

Woodworking Lv1

Jump Lv3

Digest Lv4

Absorb Lv4

Split Lv2

### **Cleaner Slime x54**

Skills:

Clean Lv4

Deodorize Lv8

Deodorizing Liquid Lv6

Disease Resist Lv5

Poison Resist Lv5

Physical Attack resist Lv1

Sweeping Lv1

### **Scavenger Slime x3032**

Skills:

Disease Resist Lv7

Poison Resist Lv7

Lead Belly Lv6

Clean Lv7

Deodorize Lv7

Deodorizing Agent Lv5

Stench Lv6

Produce Fertilizer Lv5

Physical Attack resist Lv1

Jump Lv3

Digest Lv7

Absorb Lv3

Split Lv6

Martial Arts Lv1

### **Heal Slime x3**

Skills:

Healing Magic Lv3  
Vitality UP Lv2  
Photosynthesis Lv3  
Digest Lv1  
Absorb Lv1  
Split Lv2

### **Metal Slime x1**

Skills:

Harden Lv2  
Physical Attack Resist Lv2  
Digest Lv3  
Absorb Lv3  
Split Lv2

### **Iron Slime x1**

Skills:

Harden Lv3  
Physical Attack Resist Lv2  
Jump Lv1  
Digest Lv3  
Absorb Lv3  
Split Lv2

### **Bloody Slime x1**

Skills:

Bloodsucking Lv4  
Deodorize Lv3  
Disease Resist Lv3  
Poison Resist Lv1  
Act Dead Lv10  
Digest Lv2  
Absorb Lv4  
Split Lv1

### **Earth Slime x2**

Skills:

Earth Magic Lv2  
Earth Resist Lv8  
Absorb Earth Magic Lv1  
Jump Lv1  
Digest Lv3  
Absorb Lv3  
Split Lv1

### **Dark Slime x1**

Skills:

Dark Magic Lv2  
Dark Resist Lv8  
Absorb Dark Magic Lv1  
Jump Lv1  
Digest Lv3  
Absorb Lv3  
Split Lv1

### **Rimel Bird x5**

Skills:

Wind Magic Lv3  
High-Speed Flight Lv6  
Long-Distance Flight Lv5

### **Nightmare Rimel Bird x1**

Skills:

Wind Magic Lv4  
Dark Magic Lv3  
High-Speed Flight Lv7  
Long-Distance Flight Lv6

## Characters introduced

### Neighbors:

Pauline – Owns a flower shop near Ryouma's store.

Zeke – Pauline's husband. Owns a butcher next to her flower shop.

Leni – Daughter of Pauline and Zeke. A tomboy.

Tall – Friend of Pauline and Zeke. A weak man.

Rick – Son of Pauline and Zeke. A naughty child.

Kiara – Neighboring Housewife (Mother of 1)

Marry – Neighboring Housewife (Actually Tall's mother.)

Revel – Manage of the slums.

### Employees:

Carla Norad – Twins with Carm. An employee sent from Serge's store to work at Ryouma's.

Carm Norad – Twins with Carla. An employee sent from Serge's store to work at Ryouma's.

Fei – A former assassin who ran from Zilmar. Leelin's dad.

Leelin A former assassin who ran from Zilmar. Fei's daughter.

Maria – One of the girls who left her village to make money. The serious type.

Jane- One of the girls who left her village to make money. The gentle type

Shelma – One of the girls who left her village to make money. The energetic type.

Caulkin – Former monster researcher and noble.

Tony – Former monster researcher.

Robelia – Former monster researcher.

### Merchants:

Pioro Saionji – President of the Saionji Company. A merchant who mainly deals with food goods.

Grisiera – Head of the Merchant Guild in Gimuru.

### Tamers Guild:

Branch Head Taylor – Head of the Tamers Guild at Gimuru.

# Gossips

## The Movement of the Gods

In a certain place within the divine realm, in a place where a certain god in the form of a lanky man was standing, appeared the three gods.

“Ah~... I’m so tired...” [Kufo]

“You finally came back.” [Fernoberia]

“What are you doing here, Fernoberia?” [Gayn]

“It’s rare for you to leave your domain.” [Rurutia]

The god who was standing in that place was none other than the God of Magic, Fernoberia.

And the three gods were Rurutia, Gayn, and Kufo.

“I was actually brought here by force, though I’m also a little curious.” [Fernoberia]

“By force?” [Kufo, Gayn, Rurutia]

Suddenly, four gods came out of nowhere and surrounded them.

“W-What is with this situation?” [Kufo]

“Why are we being surrounded?” [Rurutia]

“Can you explain what’s going on?” [Gayn]

Tekun was the one to step forward.

“Why don’t you ask yourselves? I’m sure you know what we’re here for.” [Tekun]

“What are you so angry for!?” [Rurutia]

“Calm down for a moment, Tekun-san. If you approach them like that, we won’t be able to talk.” [Willieris]

“You heard her. Calm down and drink a cup of wine or two.” [Grimp]

The ones who asked Tekun to calm down were none other than the goddess of the land, Willieris, and the god of farming and livestock, Grimp.

These two gods had a gentle personality. Willieris looked like graceful middle-aged woman, while Grimp was a middle-aged man who always carried a hoe. They were married to each other.

In order to calm Tekun, Grimp went and shared a cup of wine with Tekun.

Meanwhile, Willieris started explaining.

The goddess of the land and the god of farming and livestock had perfect coordination.

“The reason we’re here is because we heard that the three of you went to the otherworld to play. Tekun was the first to catch word of that. He gathered all of us in anger because he also wanted some free time to himself.” [Willieris]

Fernoberia interjected.

“Tekun asked Willieris and Grimp to come to get me to use my powers to look for you.” [Fernoberia]

“Oh, right, you used your divine powers to prevent Tekun from entering your domain...” [Rurutia]

“It’s because outside of crafting, he’s a rough, irresponsible, alcoholic who never shuts up. He’s a nuisance.” [Fernoberia]

“Hey! I can hear you, you know!?” [Tekun]

“Besides, you rarely have any need of me, and you’re also not the only one banned from my domain.

But let’s put that aside for now. What are the three of you thinking going into another world to play when we gods have a policy of not interfering with each other’s world.” [Fernoberia]

“Wait a moment! Who did you hear that from?” [Rurutia]

It was Tekun who answered.

“Don’t play dumb. I heard everything from Ryouma, who said that’s what Kufo told him. And although I feel bad for using it, but I read his mind at the time, and he wasn’t

lying.” [Tekun]

When Kufo heard that, he face palmed as he muttered to himself, “Dang! I told him not to tell humans about it, but I didn’t mention anything about the other gods...”

In any case, they all decided to sit down and talk. Chairs appeared from nowhere as they each took their respective seat and gathered into a circle.

“Now, can you start talking? Or better yet, just take me with you!” [Tekun]

“I don’t know if you simply went there to play, but we can’t just ignore it if you’re frequently visiting another world.” [Willieris]

“Please talk to us.” [Grimp]

“Hmm... Actually, we’re investigating the situation of the earth god.” [Gayn]

“We talked about it before, remember? The earth god interfered with Ryouma’s life for some reason.” [Kufo]

“That we did. That was certainly not proper behavior for a god. I was shocked when I found out about it.” [Fernoberia]

“Anyway, we went there to investigate that matter.” [Kufo]

“So you didn’t go there just to play?” [Tekun]

“We haven’t talked to Ryouma about the earth god yet, so I had to fool him somehow.” [Kufo]

Tekun’s anger calmed down a little at that.

“So, that’s what it was.” [Tekun]

“Tekun, do you only get mad when it comes to playing around?” [Fernoberia]

“Frequently visiting another world is a problem in and of itself, though?” [Willieris]

Fernoberia and Willieris were taken aback at Tekun’s reaction.

After pulling himself together, Fernoberia asked.

“Are you sure it’s okay to be visiting that world so frequently?” [Fernoberia]

“There shouldn’t be any problems...” [Gayn]

“It sure is a pain having to go there so secretly...” [Kufo]

“We still haven’t figured anything out, but something is strange... We’ve found several people like Ryouma who’s lived an unfortunate life. Of course, the degree of misfortune was a different, but still... Even stranger the earth god didn’t seem to be using the luck he’s stolen.” [Rurutia]

“We thought the earth god was using the good fortune he took to give something to his adherents, but after investigating the matter, it turns out he’s not doing anything with it. He just keeps on taking and taking.” [Gayn]

“The management of the world was terrible too. I know the humans of that world have developed all sorts of technology and are pretty much independent, so there’s not a whole lot to do, but the fact that we were able to sneak in so easily was just absurd. It felt stupid putting in so much effort to sneak in when the door was basically wide open.” [Kufo]

“It was so easy we thought it was a trap or something, but in the end, there was nothing. If a demon king from another world came, the earth god probably wouldn’t be able to respond in time.” [Gayn]

“That bad? If so, then is he even still doing his job?” [Fernoberia]

“Perhaps not...” [Gayn]

“Besides, what’s the point of stealing people’s happiness? We gods don’t have a use for it.” [Grimp]

“That we don’t know.” [Rurutia]

“Technically, one could use it in place of faith to maintain one’s godly powers when people aren’t worshipping anymore, but so long as the world is safe, one shouldn’t lose his power.” [Kufo]

“I was thinking that too. It’s true that the Japanese have less faith than the people of this world, but the people of the other countries of that world were pious. The world itself had no problems too. The natural environment of the world is slowly being destroyed, but it’s not that serious enough to threaten one’s power. That’s why we’re borrowing mana from that world.” [Gayn]

“It’s certainly curious. But if that’s the case, then there really is no point in stealing people’s happiness. Just what is that earth god stealing it for?”

It was here that the god who hadn’t said anything until now opened her mouth.

“...It doesn’t really matter, does it? We don’t steal people’s happiness, so we don’t know if there’s a use for it, but that doesn’t mean there’s no use for it, right? Isn’t that enough? If that god picks a fight with us, I’ll just crush him.” [Kirillel]

“Kirillel, you’re saying stuff like that again... As usual, you’re all brawns and no brain. Seriously, women like you...” [Fernoberia]

The goddess who had opened her mouth was none other than the goddess of war, Kirillel. Her body was well built, and she donned an armor, while a sword hung by her waist.

Although her body was strong, it was also supple, and there were plenty of parts that were womanly.

She was like a guy, but she was definitely a goddess.

“Who’s all brawns and no brains!? I can use my head too!” [Kirillel]

“You can when it comes to fighting.” [Fernoberia]

“So? That doesn’t change the fact that I can use my head! That’s at least healthier than someone like you who shuts himself in his domain!” [Kirillel]

“Our bodies can’t breakdown. Health is irrelevant.” [Fernoberia]

These two gods were the exact opposite of each other. As such, whenever they met, they would argue like this.

The other gods have long gotten used to it. Before the conversation completely

stopped, Gayn interjected and asked Kirillel a question.

“Let’s put that aside. Why are you here? Tekun couldn’t have possibly called you, right?” [Gayn]

“What are you talking about, gramps? I’m the god of war, you know? Where there’s conflict, there’s war. Thus, where there’s conflict, so am I! When I felt Tekun’s anger and heard that you and the others went to another world to play, I thought a little spanking was in order!” [Kirillel]

“Not needed!” [Rurutia]

“Good heavens! Please don’t joke about something like that!” [Kufo]

“You’re a god too, so a spanking would be pretty dangerous!” [Rurutia]

“Don’t worry, I won’t do anything this time. I understand that the earth god is acting weird and that it’s because of that guy that weird stuff happened to the soul of that guy, Ryouma.

As such, going to another world because you’re wary of the earth god is a valid excuse, right?

Of course, I don’t think the earth god would try to encroach into our world unless given a reason.” [Kirillel]

Kirillel was the most skilled among the gods when it came to fighting, so she was responsible for protecting the world from otherworld intruders or executing enemies.

She is also responsible for handing out heavenly judgement on humans that are about to bring a great catastrophe upon the world. Although, that’s an extremely rare situation.

This time she was here to judge the actions of the three gods. Although alone, Gayn and the others couldn’t possibly stand up to her. Moreover, if she really wanted to and if she were willing to pay the price, she could destroy Gayn and the others even though they were all gods.

Of course, this wasn’t an issue that Gayn and the others would be destroyed for. Still, if they did receive punishment, it would still hurt, so it was a great relief for them to

hear that Kirillel wasn't going to punish them.

"That's really bad for the heart..." [Rurutia]

"I think my life just shortened..." [Kufo]

"Please don't scare the elderly so much..." [Gayn]

"The likes of gods don't need to worry about lifespan or heart, no? Anyway, since I'm not needed, I'll be going now. There are some people still fighting, so I'm actually quite busy." [Kirillel]

"Oh, sorry for this." [Tekun]

"It's not like you called me. I just came on my own, right? Also, Gayn, Kufo, Rurutia, please limit the times you go to earth, okay?" [Kirillel]

"Right..." [Gayn]

"Okay." [Kufo]

"We'll talk it out with you from here on." [Rurutia]

"You're not stopping?" [Tekun]

"Eh, but I still haven't..." [Rurutia]

Rurutia cut off her speech midway.

Tekun didn't miss that.

"Haven't? Haven't what?" [Tekun]

"It's nothing." [Rurutia]

"Our investigations haven't gotten us any results yet." [Gayn]

"Right, right." [Kufo]

Gayn and the others acted cool on the surface, but then Willieris asked a question.

“Are you still hiding something?” [Willieris]

When she said that, a dangerous aura started emanating from Tekun again.

“You guys are really investigating the earth god, right?” [Tekun]

“That’s right.” [Rurutia]

“But of course.” [Kufo]

“We definitely investigated the earth god.” [Gayn]

“It seems you are indeed still finding people whose happiness is being stolen, so that part is not a lie... But let me rephrase the question. Did you do anything else other than investigate the earth god?” [Tekun]

When Tekun asked that, Gayn and the others stiffened and they immediately looked away.

“Well? Kufo, Ryouma-said you went to earth to sightsee.” [Tekun]

“That’s... Well, we were looking for people whose happiness was stolen, so we did end up seeing the world. I just called that ‘sightseeing’ to fool him.” [Kufo]

“In other words, if you felt like it, you could sightsee?” [Fernoberia]

Kufo shook when Fernoberia said that.

“Hey, you were leading me on!” [Kufo]

“Kufo, you basically just admitted that you could go sightseeing while looking for humans whose happiness has been stolen.” [Grimp]

When Grimp said that, Tekun turned to Gayn.

“Gayn, I heard you were into something called ‘idols.’” [Tekun]

“Idols are people who entertain the earthlings by dancing and singing. They can usually be seen projected on the box called ‘TV’. You can easily see them while walking around the city, so it’s not like I purposely went out of my way to see them.” [Gayn]

“Singing and dancing? We have that in this world too. There’s no reason to go out of your way to—[Tekun]

The dangerous aura around Tekun grew weaker when he heard it was just singing and dancing, but then in the next moment, Gayn’s eyes became sharp.

“Don’t compare it with the songs and dances of this world!! The idols of earth are cute and hardworking!! They make you want to cheer them on!!” [Gayn]

“Y-Yeah?” [Tekun]

Gayn looked so menacing that Tekun couldn’t help but take a step back. Not long after, however, Gayn knew he messed up.

When Willieris saw that, she spoke.

“I guess that makes it clear that you were in fact seriously watching these ‘idols’” [Willieris]

Tekun turned to Rurutia next.

Rurutia knew she couldn’t fool them anymore, so she answered before he could ask.

“I needed to prepare myself before working on Earth, so I treated myself to some deserts. [Rurutia]

After that Tekun’s angry voice and the screams of the three gods resounded throughout the divine realm.



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