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聖女 の 魔力は 万 能 です

*The power of the
saint is all around.*



THE POWER OF THE SAINT IS ALL AROUND

– Seijo no Maryoku wa Bannou desu –

- Volume 1 -

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- SYNOPSIS -

Sei, a 20 year old office worker was summoned to a different world after finishing some overtime work. But the person who had summoned her looked at her face and said, "This is not the Saint." Is this neglect play!?

Sei left the royal palace and concealed her saint title. She started working at a laboratory where she made potions and cosmetics. She used her magic to grant people's requests and slowly people began suspecting that she was a saint...

Can Sei enjoy her slow dreamy different world life without her saint title being found out?!

「ありがとう、君のおかげで助かった」

聖属性魔法レベル∞って

超能力

「どういふこと?」

セイ

“聖女召喚の儀”で喚び出された20代OL、小島遊聖。
全ての能力が5割増しになる聖女パワーを発揮中

アルベルト・ホーク

氷の騎士様と呼ばれている第三騎士団の団長。瀕死の重傷のところをセイに助けられた

「ここに来てから、
すごく綺麗になった」

ジュード

薬用植物研究所の研究員。
人懐っこく面倒見が良い、
セイの教育係

聖女の
魔力は万能です

The power
of the saint is
all around

ここで治してしまったら、一般人だと言い張るのは難しくなると思う。でも、見てしまった以上、結局は治すことになるんだろう。見なかったフリをして立ち去っても、きっと気になって戻ってしまう気がする。心かもやもやしてね。

『エリアヒール』

どうか上手く治りますように。
そう祈りながら、私は魔法を唱えた。



PROLOGUE

One day I was suddenly summoned to a different world by a 【Saint Summoning Ceremony】 .

It happened when I arrived home late at night from work, while I was removing my shoes at the entrance of my apartment.

A white light suddenly appeared from under my feet. It was so dazzling that I had to close my eyes.

When I next opened my eyes, what I saw in front of me was no longer my familiar apartment kitchen, it was a room of about 30.6m²) surrounded by stone walls.

“It was a success!”

“““Yeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeees!!!””””

It was noisy but I ignored it and looked around.

In front of me, there were knights in surcoats and people wearing ankle-length robes. They all looked pleased.

The knights were hitting each other’s shoulders while laughing. The people in robes were slumped on the floor, they had faint smiles on their faces and their bodies showed that they had accomplished their task.

When I looked at the floor, I could see that there were lines drawn on it.

The lines were black and it had subtly fused with the floor. I wouldn’t have noticed the lines if I didn’t concentrate. The lines looked like a magic circle.

On my right there was a wall. On my left there was a girl who wore the same clothes as me.

Although I said that she was wearing the same clothes as me, it wasn’t a suit. She was wearing a casual knitted skirt, in other words she was wearing modern fashion.

Yes, apart from me and her, the surrounding people were wearing armours and robes. Is this inside of a game? I wanted to tsukkomi them.

The only appearances familiar to me were just me and her.

The girl appeared to be in her mid-late teens.

She was still sitting on the ground dumbfounded.

Like me, she was suddenly thrown into this situation.

Honestly, I also wanted to shout because I didn't know what was going on, but I desperately tried to keep calm in an effort to grasp the situation.

After roughly understanding was happening around me, a door further away from the girl opened and several people entered the room.



The person at the front was a handsome man with red hair, dressed in rococo style clothing without the wig, like the so called aristocrats. There were three people behind him; a handsome knight with black hair, a boy with red hair and another handsome young man with dark blue hair wearing simple aristocrat clothes.

Judging from their appearance; the boy with the red hair was the prince, the knight was his guard, the young man could be a scholar with a high position.

Even so red hair.....

If he kept dying his hair in such a gaudy colour, he'll be bald in the future.

While I was escaping reality, the guy with the red hair walked up to the girl sitting on the ground and kneeled in front of her. Then he said with a really nice smile,

“Are you the 【Saint】 ?”

.....o

.....o

.....o

.....Yes?

ACT 1

MEDICINAL HERB RESEARCH INSTITUTE

A month has passed since I've been summoned.

The season is fully heading towards spring, I am sowing medicinal herbs in the herb garden at the royal palace.

Why am I sowing seeds at the herb garden?

That's because right now, I am a member of the Medicinal Herb Research Institute located next to the herb garden.

Furthermore I'm also living at the research institute.

Yes..... I'm not living at the royal palace.

I live at the research institute.



On that day, I——Takanashi Sei was summoned to a different world by a ceremony called 【Saint Summoning Ceremony】 . This ceremony has been handed down since ancient times in Slantania Kingdom.

It seems that something called miasma occurs everywhere in this kingdom.

It was bad for miasma to occur close to humans.

Although a detailed theory has not been created, it seems that when the miasma density reached a certain degree it would become a demon. Moreover if the miasma was dense, the strength of the demon would be in proportion to the density.

The miasma in the surrounding area became thinner when a demon was defeated. The thickening of miasma could be prevented by continuously defeating demons.

However once every few generations, there is a period when the speed of the miasma

thickening exceeded the speed at which the demons were defeated. Since long ago, during such times, it seems that a maiden who would become the 【Saint】 would appear in the Kingdom.

The magic used by the 【Saint】 was considerably powerful and it seemed that the demons were quickly annihilated.

Thanks to that magic, the speeds in which the miasma thickened and the demons were defeated, were balanced.

According to one theory, there seemed to be a report that, in the area where the 【Saint】 was, the miasma did not thicken.

It was so unbelievable.

It was natural for the 【Saint】 to always appear. But just once, there was a time when no matter how dense the miasma was, the saint did not appear.

It was said that the sages of that time inspected all possible methods and constructed this ceremony to summon the maiden who would become the 【Saint】 .

What a nuisance, to be summoned by such a ceremony.

Because this ceremony had only been performed once, a long time ago, no one was sure if the 【Saint】 would really be summoned until they tried it.

However the sages of that time were magnificent, the summoning worked.

Furthermore it summoned two people.

It seems that up until now, only one 【Saint】 appeared at a time.

Compared to the past, the situation this time seems rather severe, so has the number of people increased in proportion to that?

It's a mystery.

During the past month, this is what I learnt about the 【Saint Summoning Ceremony】 .

From here on, I would like to talk about why I decided to live at the Medicinal Herb Research Institute.

The red haired guy who entered the room after the ceremony was undeniably the first Prince of this kingdom.

The first Prince-sama didn't even look at me, he saw nothing but the other girl, Misono Aira-chan, with whom he spoke with and it was only Aira-chan that he left the room with.

Well.

I am in my twenties. On the other hand Aira-chan is in her late teens.

As for which one was closer to the Prince in age, of course it's Aira-chan.

Moreover she has fluffy brown hair, translucent white skin, rosy cheeks and droopy eyes, the type that made others want to protect her. She is an adorable girl.

Since I was always busy, I never fussed over my appearance. It was ridiculous to compare her to me, a glasses wearing woman with dark circles under her eyes. My unkempt hair was tied up in a bundle and my white skin looked unhealthy.

I couldn't *not* understand why he only had eyes for Aira-chan.

But I thought that it was bold of him to ignore the existence of someone he forcefully summoned.

The knights and robed people in the surrounding area were also dumbfounded by the Prince's ability to ignore. I was awfully confused when I noticed that I had been left behind.

You know, I didn't know how to deal with being splendidly ignored.

As things were, I couldn't help becoming befuddled so I grabbed the nape of the robed person nearby and started questioning them with a sweet smile.

"Hey, I have something that I'd like to ask."

"Wh..... What is it?"

The Robed person, who was confused by me, responded timidly while sounding as if he was squeezing out his words.

He were taller than me and yet, his shoulders contracted and his eyes wandered about uneasily. Doesn't it almost seem like I'm bullying him?

I would usually feel guilty about something like this but not this time. I asked what was on my mind without caring.

"Where is this?"

"This is the royal palace in Slantania Kingdom."

"Slantania Kingdom?"

I've never heard of this country.

Since there are various countries in the world, I thought that maybe it was just a country I didn't know. But at the corner of my mind, I knew that I was just trying to escape reality.

"I see. So? Why am I here?"

"That is..... That....."

The robed person said hesitantly but when I immediately narrowed my eyes, he quickly began explaining.

"Yo-you were summoned here by the **【Saint Summoning Ceremony】** !"

" **【Saint Summoning Ceremony】** ?"

From there the explanation of the **【Saint Summoning Ceremony】** began, but you've already heard about that earlier.

"As I thought, this world is different from the world I was in, right?"

"Perhaps, I think so....."

I have never heard of miasma or demons occurring in my original world.

Perhaps, just perhaps, there was miasma and demons in my original world and I was the only who didn't know about it. I clung onto such little hopes. But what the Robed person had said seemed to be widely known in Sultania Kingdom.

Up till now I didn't want to accept it, but now I understand that I was summoned to a different world.

“So, I know what the 【Saint Summoning Ceremony】 is, but how do I get back to my original world?”

The 【Saint】 appeared when the density of the miasma needed regulating. So if the speed in which the miasma thickened returned to normal, there would be no need for the 【Saint】. Perhaps it may be possible for me to return to my original world.

I asked the question with such thoughts in mind. But the Robed person said in a small voice, “No”, and with that my hope was easily shattered.

In the first place, this is only the second time that the 【Saint】 had been summoned. It was said that the 【Saint】, whom was summoned the last time, spent the rest of her lifetime in this kingdom. There was currently no way for summoned people to return to their original world.

I was shocked when I heard that I wasn't able to return.

After listening to that, the previous attitude of the first Prince came to my mind. So after I finished listening to the necessary information, I thought that I should leave this kingdom.

First I'll leave of this room, then from this room I'll leave the Royal Palace, then from the Royal Palace I'll leave the capital, and finally I'll try to go to the neighbouring kingdom.

Looking back, I was extremely thoughtless. But at any rate I didn't want to be here.

I let go of the Robed person's nape after I heard what I needed to. As I was leaving the room, a panicked Knight chased after me.

“Saint-sama! Where are you going?!”

“I’m leaving.”

“Please wait!”

I thought about getting out of here in a hurry, but as expected of the Royal Palace.

It was too wide, I didn’t know exactly where I should leave from.

Blood had rushed to my head and I made rapid progress but the Knight chasing after me had eventually caught up and was standing before me. I was stopped.

I was irritated that he had blocked off my path so I glared at him. The Knight’s shoulders contracted, just like the Robed person from before.

“Please, please wait for a little while longer.”

“I took time to talk to you earlier, and I think that I was in that room for a considerable amount of time?”

“Well that is true..... But, please.”

The Knight hunched up his big body, it looked as if he was going to somehow stop me and my head chilled a little. Then I reluctantly nodded.

When the Knight saw that, he honestly looked relieved and while saying, “Please follow me”, he led me to a room somewhere in the Royal Palace.

“The person in charge will be coming, so please wait in here.”

The Knight said before leaving. A maid passed him on her way into the room, she was pushing a serving cart and on top of that serving cart was a tea set.

As expected, the tea that the maid brewed was very delicious.

The warm tea calmed my irritated feelings. Once I had calmed down, I began organising the information in my head.

The maid did not talk to me after she finished brewing the tea and so I had time on my hands.

She may have done this so that I would have time to think about my situation.

She was looking at me but she stood quietly against the wall.

And then I waited for an hour.

If you made an angry client wait an hour in Japan, without a doubt they would cut the contract. Again, I was getting angry and then finally, there was a knock on the door.

In return to the knock I said, "Come in". The person who entered seemed to be a high official in this kingdom. He wore clothes far plainer than the first Prince but his mannerism were the same.

The tea that the maid had brewed was very delicious and I was grateful that I had the time to organise my thoughts but as one would expect, it was hard to wait for an hour.

So I think it was inevitable that I unintentionally glared at the High Official.

The High Official of this Kingdom trembled under my gaze and while he was wiping the sweat off his forehead; he began explaining about this Kingdom in detail and about why I was left behind.

From what I heard about the circumstances at that time, I was very grateful to the Knight who had stopped me.

No matter how you look at it, once you leave the capital, the grassland is filled with demons swaggering around. It takes one week to travel to the neighbouring kingdom by carriage and thieves may appear along the way.

To be honest, for me who doesn't understand much about this world to reach the neighbouring kingdom, was clearly, impossible.

"I was told that you said you wanted to leave, but it is not realistic for you to immediately leave and live outside of the royal palace."

When I listened to the story of the gentle high official, I certainly thought that was true.

It was quite haphazard of me to live in the capital, I had thought that I would somehow manage but at the same time if I acted the same way as I did in Japan, I might not want to return.

When you travel overseas, you had to be cautious about the same things.

Even if I live in this kingdom, I would be staying at the palace for a while so it might not be too late for me to get used to this world.

While thinking that, I decided to live at the palace in accordance to the high official's words.



After the meeting with the high official, the maid who had brewed me tea guided me to the room that I would be staying in.

The room that I was guided to was bigger than the studio apartment that I lived at, in Japan. Moreover the living room and bedroom were connected just like a hotel suite.

The interior was also rococo-themed, it was very luxurious. It looked like the luxury hotels in Europe that I often saw on the internet. I had wanted to go and see it someday.

When I passed through the room and sat on the sofa, I got tired.

The light shining in through the window told me that it was daytime but when I was summoned, after I returned home from work, it was late at night in Japan.

It seems that there is a time difference between Slantania Kingdom and Japan.

It was probably due to fact that I was tired from working late every day and night and the sudden change in environment when I was summoned but I don't remember a thing after sitting on the sofa.

I think I probably fell asleep.

When I woke up the next morning, someone had carried me to my bedroom.

The coat and suit that I had worn were removed and I now wore a white negligee.

What the heck, did someone change me?

The maid who guided me here probably changed my clothes but I still felt a bit uneasy.

I thought about changing my clothes for now, but I wondered if it was alright for me to look around the room as I pleased. I moved around the room while thinking that someone was in the living room.

When I opened the door to the living room, the maid who guided me to this room the other day, was standing there, waiting.

When I told her that I wanted to change clothes, she led me to the bedroom and brought out various dresses. But the dresses were all decorative and fancy, they all seemed terribly expensive. There were only dresses that I was afraid of dirtying and they looked hard to move in.

Since I didn't plan on going out, I asked for a dress with little decoration which was easy to move in. I changed into a dress that was only somewhat extravagant.

While I was changing, I heard that she was the one who changed me into the negligee.

She returned my thanks with, "Not at all."

I had a feeling that she was disturbed but it was becoming increasingly shameful to point it out, so I stopped worrying about it.

This was my personal experience of changing clothes while saying thanks.

Like that, I spent two weeks at the palace.

I had time to spare.

The first three days were still good.

I was nervous at the thought of having to become accustomed to this world.

But I gradually became unable to endure the spare time.

Certainly my living essentials were guaranteed but other than that, it was neglect play.

Since the first time I met the High Official, he had not met with me once and I haven't received any news either.

I thought that he would contact me so I waited.

Since there was a maid in the room I was able to make some idle chat but it was difficult to continue talking for the whole day. In addition, she seemed to be working somewhere else as well, so it wasn't like she was always in the room.

At those times, I would be in the room by myself but it was hard to spend time doing nothing when there was no TV or smartphones.

As expected I became unable to withstand the free time. It wasn't good for me to confine²⁾ myself so I decided to take a walk. When I told the maid, she said she would accompany me.

However she had work as well, so I felt bad if she kept me company while I was killing time. Since I was only taking a little walk to the garden in front of the room, I forced myself to walk alone.

I was really hesitant.

At first, I only walked around the garden in front of the room. But day by day I walked further and further. While I was wondering around, I found a herb garden.

In Japan, I used herbs and aromatherapy as a way to relieve stress from work, so the herb garden was very interesting.

The planted medicinal herbs had the same appearance as the ones in Japan. While I was wondering whether the plants were different from the ones on Earth, a voice called out to me.

When I turned around, there stood a friendly, handsome man with dark green hair and striking eyes.

The voice that had called out to me belonged to a researcher from the Medicinal Herb Research Institute, located next to the herb garden.

“Do you have business with the research institute?”

“No, I am just taking a walk. I thought it was interesting, so I came to take a look.”

Was he interested in me because I said the medicinal herbs were interesting? Just like that, the researcher explained the medicinal herbs in the vicinity.

Lavender, rosemary, angelica, etc. The medicinal herbs had the same names as the ones in Japan, they also had similar effects.

“HP potions can be made with this medicinal herb.”

“HP potion?!”

I wanted to retort when a word like HP potion, which was used in games, was said. While I was surprised, the researcher smiled sweetly and began explaining about potions.

“When this medicinal herb is dried, it can be used to make potions. The herb is effective even if you decoct and drink it. But the effects are further enhanced by making it into a potion.”

“Eh, is that so?”

The Medicinal Herb Research Institute that the researcher was a member of, also conducts research on medicinal herbs. However, it seems that he mainly researched potions. After that he told me various things about potions.

I listened to the explanation of medicinal herbs used in various potions. In my former world, the salves and medicinal herbs used in the past were used as raw materials for HP potions here; the effects of the potion and medicinal herbs were connected, it was very interesting.

When I received the explanation of the medicinal herbs, time passed in the blink of an eye. I returned to the royal palace because evening was approaching.

“I had fun listening to your stories. Thank you very much.”

“It was my pleasure. Please come again.”

I made use of the researcher’s generosity and came back to the herb garden the next day.

As I tottered around the herb garden the researcher called out to me again, just like he’d done the previous day. He accompanied me on my walk as he told me about the effects of the nearby planted medicinal herbs and the effects of the potions made from those herbs.



We talked for three days in the herb garden but on the fourth day he showed me around the research institute. There, the other researchers also talked to me about various things.

The stories I heard from the researchers were very interesting. They mainly talked about medicinal herbs and potions. But they also told me things like; who was popular in the kingdom, who was working in the royal palace, etc.

I started going to the research institute every day and gradually it became troublesome to commute from the royal palace to the herb garden.

It takes 30 minutes to walk to the royal palace to the herb garden, you know?

Because it's the royal palace, the garden is endlessly large.

When I asked the maid, she told me that everything I could see is the royal palace.

It took an hour to commute to the research institute. But I thought that if I had that extra hour, I would be able to hear even more stories from the researchers.

"I really want to live here."

"I think that is fine. Actually, some researchers including myself, live in the research institute."

When I said what was on my mind, Jude, the research who I've been getting along with these past few days, approved.

He is the researcher who first called out to me in the herb garden.

"Really?"

"Yes, although there are some people who have residences in the capital. This place is on the opposite side of the capital and across from the royal palace. Moreover, there's some distance between here and the royal palace. In the past, there were also researchers who thought like you, so they decided to live here. Since then, the number of people living here has increased."

Jude had family living in the capital so at the beginning he commuted here. But when he'd heard that there were researchers living at the research institute, he quickly

moved in.

As I thought, it was troublesome to commute from the capital.

I mutter in my mind that everyone must be thinking the same thing as me and then a voice called out from behind me.

“What are you talking about today?”

Jude and two others looked back and there stood Johan Waldeck, the director of this Medicinal Herb Research Institute.

“Right now, we are talking about how difficult it is to commute from the royal palace. So it would be good if I could live here.”

“Live here?”

“Yes. There are many researchers living here, isn't there?”

“Well, yes there is. So you want to become a researcher as well?”

The Director grinned as he said something unexpected.

Me, work here?

Certainly the people who lived in the research institute were researchers who were working there. You wouldn't normally think that someone from outside of the institute would want to live here.

Even if I moved out of the royal palace and into the capital later, it was evident that it would be better if I did so while employed. Above all, it would be far more meaningful to work than spend my time idling at the royal palace.

Yeah, working at the Medicinal Herb Research Institute was a really good idea.

While thinking that far, I smiled sweetly and turned to face the Director.

“That is correct. I want to become a researcher.”

“Oh, is that so? Then, I'll start the procedure.”

The Director had said it so foolishly, that I couldn't tell if he was joking or not. After he had said that, he headed towards the director's room.

It seems that Jude, who was also listening close by, thought that the Director was joking.

When I was giving my greetings at the research institute, a surprising thing was said to me.

I must strike while the iron's still hot.

After I returned to the royal palace, I immediately asked the maid to convey to the High Official, whom I'd first met, that I would like to meet him.

Since it was already late in the evening at that time, it was decided that I would meet the High Official on the next day.

The next day, I finished my breakfast and as I was taking a break while sipping on tea, the High Official came into the room.

"I was told that you wished to talk with me?"

"Yes, to be honest I am interested in medicinal herbs, so I would like to work at the Medicinal Herb Research Institute....."

"That is fine."

"Eh? Is it alright?"

The high official had readily consented. I heard that the Director of the institute had talked to the High Officer about me moving from the royal palace to the research institute.

I had thought the Director had been partially joking, but he seems to have properly followed through.

Thanks to that, I was able to get the High Official's consent.

You did pretty well, Director.

The preparations proceeded from there.

My personal effects were the things I had with me when I was summoned; a coat, suit, shoes and my business bag. It wasn't much.

Nevertheless, I couldn't wear the suit, which I had only worn once, to work at the research institute. Of course I need a change of clothes but daily necessities were important as well.

Since the High Official had told me that he'll prepare those things, I left it to him.

He had prepared me; clothes that wouldn't look strange even if a researcher wore them, western-style dresses, plain shirts and skirts. He also prepared daily necessities such as towels and soap.

When I looked at the clothes I received, I noticed that the dresses and accessories that I had worn during my short stay at the royal palace was also in the pile. The new clothes I received all had similar designs to the ones I wore. They must have taken my preference into consideration.

Perhaps, the furniture in this room will also be arranged as part of my daily necessities.

After moving, I checked out the inside of the room and saw that it was furnished.

The bright colours of the furniture, matched well. It looked like a very cosy room.

So much so, that you wouldn't think that this was the research institute.

"Thank you for everything."

"No. If there are any problems, please don't hesitate to contact me."

"Thank you."

On the day I left the royal palace, I thanked the High Official, who had prepared me a carriage to go to the research institute and as always he returned it with his usual smile.

I didn't plan on returning to the royal palace. So from now on, I shouldn't have to rely

on the High Official. I thanked him for the second time and got into the carriage.

And that was how I acquired my room at the research institute and also how I become a medicinal herb researcher.

ACT 2

POTIONS

Those who do not work do not eat.

It has been a while since I've moved. I started working at the Medicinal Herb Research Institute without a hitch.

It felt uncomfortable to turn my hobby into a job, but after thinking things over, I think this was the best choice.

It seems that only a limited number of people knew that I was going to be working at the research institute. So the researchers at the institute only found out on my first day of work when the Director took me along to greet everyone.

"I have been assigned to work here. My name is Sei. I look forward to working with you."

The Director urged me to give my greetings, but for some reason everyone is in shock.

I already knew most of the researchers here, but it seems that having me work here comes as a great surprise to them. It was so sudden that they were all surprised.

Because of that, they didn't react to my greeting at first but after a while they begin to create a commotion.

Director: "Well then, the person who will be looking after Sei is... Jude, you do it."

"Eh? Me?"



The Director had spoken in a loud voice to calm down the commotion.

I was surprised at suddenly being told that Jude would be the one looking after me. But I feel reassured knowing that Jude would be the one in charge of me, since he is the one I am closest to amongst the researchers.

It was very common in Japan to work with people you don't know so I think I could manage even if someone I didn't know was in charge of me, however it was still better to work under someone I knew.

Furthermore, it was even better that it's someone I'm close with.

The Director probably thought of the same thing and put Jude in charge of me.

"I look forward to working with you."

"Me too."

I was surprised and greeted Jude again and Jude replied with a smile.

Jude taught me various things about the research institute; the main research topics, medicinal herbs that were called the same in the research institute, the names of medicinal herbs and potions.

The effects of the medicinal herbs were also the same as my original world. In between Jude's explanation, I talk about what I had learnt in Japan and he said in surprise, "You know it well."

In Japan, you can learn about medicinal herbs as a hobby, but here, there is a specialised course for learning about medicinal herbs at the Royal Academy.

Incidentally, the Royal Academy is a school where the children of aristocrats attend. They generally attend this school from 13 till 15 years old, which is when they come of age.

The specialised course was made for people to attend until they were 18. Jude had studied pharmaceuticals in that specialised course and he also learnt about herbs.

You could also study natural science in my original world and as I thought, the research there was more advanced.

Jude's specialised research was potions.

That's right, potions. Potions.

It's the type of thing that appears in RPG games.

Because you can drink it or apply it onto the affected area, I thought it would be similar to medicine in Japan. But it's somewhat different, potions have an immediate effect, right?

How far can the effects go?

The cut that I carelessly made was instantly healed when I applied the potion on it.

That surprised me.

In order to know the effects of the potions, I grabbed a knife and cut my fingertip with it. Jude was surprised to see me do this.

I wanted to test it out no matter what so I only made a tiny cut on my finger, but it had bleed terribly.

After that, Jude was angry.

My first day ended with an explanation of the research institute's equipment and the contents of my job.

The next day I was taught how to make potions.

Jude mainly researched potions and since I thought it would be more fun to touch things that didn't exist in my original world, I wanted to research together.

"Well then, let's get started."

Jude looks experienced as he starts making the potion.

I've never made a potion before and since we will be working together from now on, so Jude had to show me how to make it.

Potions are made by putting medicinal herbs and water into a pot, then simmering

and concentrating magic power into it..

Potions are divided into ranks such as: low grade, intermediate grade and advanced grade. The rank seems to be determined by the medicinal herb that are used.

However, high-ranking potions can't be made just by putting in the prescribed medicinal herb.

A delicate control of magic was needed in order to make high-ranking potions, the possible rank of production depended on the skills of the creator.

The medicinal herbs that are used as ingredients are expensive and the number of people who can make such potions are scarce, so high-ranking potions are sold at a price that can't be readily used.

In the first place, no one other than royalty and aristocrats can buy potions and it doesn't seem to be stocked at apothecaries.

Well, let's return to the story.

To make a potion, it is necessary to channel magic in while simmering.

Yup, magic.

"After putting in the ingredients, you simmer it while channelling magic power in."

"Magic power?"

When I had first heard that, I thought about how I would go about channelling magic power. I must have misheard him.

Because there's no magic in my original world.

"How do you channel it?"

"Eh?"

Jude was surprised when I asked that question.

There is magic in this world.

Magic power was necessary to use magic. There is something called life magic that everyone can use, so it seems that the people of this world are very familiar with magic power.

I think that this was becoming more and more like a game since I've heard the word potion and now magic. But no doubt this is reality

"Have you never used magic before, Sei?"

"I have not."

"Not even life magic?"

"Yes."

Jude was really surprised that I have never used life magic before, since it was something that even common people used. But I can't make potions if I can't control my magic. After he had finished making the potion, Jude decided to lecture me on magic control.

"Now it's finished."

"Wow ~."

After Jude had finished simmering the potion, he strained it before pouring it into a long thin vial. In the vial was a clear light red liquid.

The potion that Jude had made this time was the easiest low grade HP potion.

He had made it because the ingredients used were grown in the herb garden and were easily obtainable.

"It's amazing that you can make something like this ~."

"It's a low grade HP potion, so it's relatively easy to make."

"But you can't make it if you can't control your magic, right?"



Jude: "Well, that's true. But since it's only a low grade potion it shouldn't be too difficult."

"Really? But, as I thought it's amazing."

"I-is that so?"

I was excited at seeing fantasy items in front of my eyes and kept saying that it was amazing. Jude was bashful.

Jude is slightly blushing, he's a honeycomb³⁾ hunk.

It was a sight for sore eyes.

After the potion was finished, Jude began his lecture on magic control.

Jude taught me in great detail, the same way he was taught at the Royal Academy.

Yes, he literally held my hand.

It seems that I start off by feeling the magic power in my body, but that is extremely difficult.

Why? Because I lived in a world with no magic.

If the people of this world only used life magic, it seems that there were no problems for them even if they weren't aware of the magic power in their bodies.

Most of the life magic can be invoked by chanting.

However, to make potions or use magic other than life magic, it was important to be aware of the magic in your body.

Jude explained the various ways to feel magic power but since I couldn't do it, Jude assisted me by using the Royal Academy method.

"Well, put your hands on top of mine."

As explained earlier, Jude raised his hands until they were up to his chest and I put my palm on top of his.

Since he worked in the herb garden as part of his job, Jude's hands were a little rough.

His hands are bigger than mine, it was definitely a man's hand. I could feel Jude's slightly higher temperature on my palm.

I was a little embarrassed because I had never held a man's hand like this before.

No, no, you'll lose if you start to notice it.

Work, work.

When I was trying to change my feelings like that, Jude calls out to me.

"Well then, let's start."

Jude sent magic power from his right palm, and then I feel something gradually flowing into mine.

It is similar to heat being transferred, it was a hard feeling to describe.

When Jude's magic power enters my right hand, it moves inside my body as if it is sweeping something away.

It seems that this is my magic power.

It wasn't as if the magic power was moving from my right hand and out from my left, instead it feels like it was flowing through my body like blood.

It seems that my body has stopped being that of an Earthling when I was summoned.

Because my body has now become able to feel magic power which was something that never existed on Earth.

"I feel something flowing through my body."

"Oh? Already? That's magic power."

Jude was a bit surprised when I told him I felt it, but he still taught me while smiling.

It was a training method at the Royal Academy, but even so it generally took people

about one week to feel the magic power in their bodies.

Jude said while laughing, “You’re talented”, since I was able to feel it quickly even though Jude had only sent a little bit of magic power to me.

The magic power still flowed through me even when Jude had stopped sending me magic power. The practice of magic control continues further from there, Jude is surprised that things were proceeding smoothly.

“Awesome, I didn’t think that the explanation would finish so soon.”

“I’m sure it’s because you’re good at teaching. Thank you.”

When I smiled sweetly and thanked him, he blushes and becomes bashful again.

Indeed, Jude’s teaching method was very easy to understand.

Jude, who had become happy, taught me various life magic afterwards.

He told me that it was inconvenient for me if I didn’t know how to use life magic.



A little time has passed since I’ve been summoned and Jude has opened up to me.

To the point that he stopped using honorifics.

Since Jude had started working at the research institute first, I treated him as if he was a company sempai, but since we were close in age, Jude told me that he wanted me to stop being so formal.

After having been taught by Jude, I earnestly made low grade HP potion.

Everything was for the sake of levelling up my production skill so that I could make high ranking potions.

It was also simply fun to level up while making potions.

Back in the days, I liked playing games that had a speedrun component, so I really got into it.

Of course, I didn't want to waste the low grade HP potions that I made, so it was decided that it would be used for research at the research institute.

The first unusual thing I noticed was the researcher who was researching potions, was not Jude.

"Sei."

"Yes?"

When I look back at the voice that is a little far away, I see the researcher beckoning at me.

I approach him while wondering what it was about. He points at the low grade HP potion on the work desk.

"Is that a potion that Sei made?"

"Mhmmm... Yes. I made that."

The potions made inside of the research institute were marked, so that people can tell who made it.

It was marked so that if something happened, investigations into the cause could be carried out.

The potion that the researcher pointed at was marked with a mark that indicates that I made it.

"Did you do anything different when you made it?"

"No. I didn't do anything different. Is something the matter?"

"Well, the effects of the potions are changed when you make the potion."

This researcher is developing new recipes for potions.

Right now he is trying to make a new potion with higher effects by using the raw ingredients of an already existing potion. It seems that during one of his experiments, he noticed that the effects of the potion made in the laboratory were different from

the ones being sold.

While he was doing a detailed investigation, he noticed that amongst the potions made in the research institute there were some that had the same effects as the potions sold and some which had different effects. As a result, he discovered that only the potions made by me had a higher effect.

The researcher tilts his head and wondered if I really didn't do anything different.

I made the potions with the same ingredients and procedure that Jude first taught me. I didn't change the procedure nor the ingredients.

"This is really a low grade potion, right?"

"I think so. I made it exactly like Jude taught me."

"I see. I guess I'll go ask Jude."

This time, the researcher calls Jude and asks him about what he taught me.

I was listening next to them, but the contents were exactly the same as I remembered.

"It's the typical method for making low grade potions."

"Yes. I don't know any other methods for making potions."

"For the time being, let's appraise the potion that Sei made."

"That might be too soon."

In the end, because I didn't know the cause, it was decided that the potion I made would be sent for appraisal.

Then the researcher went out somewhere and I got the appraisal result for the potion I made.

Don't be surprised.

The potion I made was a simple one, but it was established that for some reason it was better than the potions circulating in the markets.

It seems that it's 50% better than those potions.

"Still, it's weirdly effective."

Jude mutter while holding the potion I made with one hand.

The potions I made seems effective.

It seems that several vials of potion were submitted for appraisal, but all of them were more effective than the market goods.

"I'm making it just like you taught me."

"The colour is definitely that of a low grade HP potion, but I wonder why?"

"Who knows, maybe because I'm skilled?"

"Let's see, I don't think it matters, but how high is your pharmacy skill now?"

"Wait a minute. 『Status』."

When 『Status』 is recited, a semi-transparent window, which could only be seen by the user, appears in front of me. My status is displayed there.

This was one of the life magic that Jude taught me.

This was also one of the reasons why I'm so engrossed in raising the level of my production skill.

I think that seeing the level of my skills in numerical value was also one of the components of speedrun games.

Seeing the skills represented by numerical value made me want to carelessly aim for counterstop⁴).

Takanashi Sei

Lv. 55/Saint

HP: 4,867/4,867

MP: 6,057/6,067

Combat Skill:

Holy attribute magic: Lv. ∞

Production Skill:

Pharmacy: Lv. 8

“If you’re at level 8, you still can’t make intermediate grade potions yet.” After confirming my status, I told him the level of my pharmacy skill, Jude tilts his head while humming, “Hmm.”

“Well, isn’t it fine? It’s not like the effects are low.”

Jude: “No, no, no. It’s not at a marginal level where we can let it slide. It’s our job to clarify things like this!”

I thought that it was fine as long as the effectiveness is high, but Jude was angry because studying such mysterious phenomenon and investigating the cause was also part of a researcher’s job.

There’s no choice, I’ll go along with Jude’s inquires.

“Even compared with other people, the type and amount of ingredients used are the same, the procedure is the same, and the only thing that’s different is the person who made it.”

“That’s right.”

“The only other thing I could think of is the amount of magic power that’s being channelled in but...”

“Do you channel in a large amount of magic power when you make potions?”

“I wonder? I don’t think that I use that much magic power though.”

“Yeah, I didn’t feel anything like that when I watched next to you...”

If you increase the amount of medicinal herbs, channel more magic power or alter the raw ingredients used in a potion, it will more or less increase the effectiveness of the potion made.

But it doesn’t increase by 50%, it would only increase by a few percent.

The procedure is so simple, even if you change it, it would only be to the extent of how much magic power I channel into the hot water at first and how much medicinal herbs are put in to simmer.

It seems that the currently established procedure is the most effective, and the effects didn’t rise any further.

I made various potion experiments together with Jude while saying “Not this”, “Not that either.”

“Is there a magic attribute that could influence potion making?”

Jude: “I haven’t thought about that.”

“Really?”

“There’s not much difference in effect between the potions made by those who possess magic skill and those who don’t.”

There are magic skills with various attributes amongst combat skills.

These magic skills don’t include life magic and generally speaking those who can have magic skills are those who can use magic.

I thought that those who have magic skills would possess an attribute that effected the potion but according to Jude, it didn’t seem relevant.

“Aren’t you putting something other than magic in, Sei?”

“What’s something?”

“Mm, I don’t really know.”

Jude said and laughs while taking a long hard look at my hands.

His expression showed that he was joking.

Since he's opened up to me, the times Jude would joke like this during the middle of discussions has increased.

“What the heck is it?”

The discussion once again returns to the beginning.

“There's no choice, we'll have to find the case by trying various things. It's also part of our job to unravel this, isn't it?”

“Hahaa, yup.”

Thence, I make potions with Jude under various conditions.

Thus, my days pass by while making potions.



It's been 3 months since I've been summoned.

“ 『Status』 .”

Takanashi Sei

Lv. 55/Saint

HP: 4,867/4,867

MP: 5,867/6,067

Combat Skill:

Holy attribute magic: Lv. ∞

Production Skill:

Pharmacy: Lv. 21

Just by doing nothing but making potions at the research institute, my pharmacy skill

has risen to 21.

Since the rank of the potion made, increased for every 10 levels, I can now make advanced HP potions.

However, I still fail a lot.....

Because numerous valuable medicinal herbs are used to make advanced potions, I can't easily make many at this level since I fail a lot.

The number of high rank potions I've made since reaching level 20 are still only 3.

Nevertheless, since the number of people who can make advanced potions were few to begin with, it was quite a feat for a researcher like me to be able to make advanced potions.

It seems that up until now there hasn't been a single person in this research institute that can make advanced potions. When advanced potions were needed for research, it was ordered from outside, so when I was able to make them, everyone was happy since the time and cost decreased.

It was necessary to make potions in order to raise the level of the pharmacy skill, however magic power generally runs out. Therefore there is a limit to how many potions can be made in a day. It seems that the levels cannot be easily raised.

Me?

"As always, you've made an unusual amount."

"Really?"

"Yes. Because making no less than 10 intermediate potions per day is pretty strange."

The intermediate HP potions were lined up in a row in front of my eyes.

The efficiency of these potions are of course, 50% more than normal.

According to the Director of the research institute, even if the potion was poorly made, it may still be more effective than general advanced HP potions.

Even now Jude and 2 others are inspecting my potions day and night, in order to find the cause of the strange efficiency.

As usual, they can't understand the cause at all, Jude and I must have overlooked something, so other researchers have also recently joined the investigation.

The potion is inspected from various angles; there are those who inspect the production process, those who inspect the potion itself, etc. Meanwhile, I keep on earnestly making potions.

Throughout the day.

When was it? It was on the day that I made 150 vials of low grade HP potions.

Jude asked, "Can you still make it?"

My reply to that was, "Make what?"

Thereupon I finally learnt about the general amount of potions that a person can make in a day.

The magic power channelled into the potion increases as the rank get higher. It seems that the average number a person can make per day was a 100 vials of low grade potions or 10 vials of intermediate grade potions.

This case applies to pharmacists who specialise in making potions. It is even less for those who are working at the research institute.

MP certainly decreased when making potions but because it was insignificant, I didn't care at all.

Therefore Jude said that I wasn't channelling magic power in while I made potions, but my MP is steadily decreasing, and in the first place if you don't channel any magic power in, you can only make juice from the infused medicinal herbs.

In the end the Director said, "Let's prioritize the research on improving efficiency", so I'm back to making potions every day, but it seems I got a bit carried away.

I made more potions than needed for research, so they became leftovers.

Although they can be sold at a good wholesale price, regrettably the performance was 1.5 times greater than normal, which would be a problem when sold. So now there was a superb amount of potions at the research institute.

“You’ve made a lot again. The Director’s going to scold you.”

“I forgot to count the number of potions I made because I was concentrating, you know?”

I lied.

I want to quickly be able to make advanced HP potions without complaints, so I was only levelling up.

Because the medicinal herbs I used were from the herb garden, recently there have been people complaining to the Director about the decrease in medicinal herbs at the herb garden.

Because getting scolded was unpleasant, I’m thinking about hiding the potions I made today in my room. I take the potions I made today out of the cabinet when the laboratory door opened with a slam.

When I turned around, I saw a soldier with distraught breath. He shouts, “Where’s the Director?” as he darted into the laboratory.

When I point at the door leading to the director’s room, he heads there in a rush.

What on earth is happening?

After a while the soldier and Director come out from the director’s room.

“It’s an emergency, collect all of the recovery potions now.”

“What happened?”

“The 3rd Knight Order has returned from Ghosh forest, but a Salamander appeared. Many were injured and it seems there aren’t enough potions.”

I understand the situation from asking a researcher near the Director.

This week the 3rd Knight Order subjugated demons in the Ghosh forest, located west of the capital. But they apparently suffered enormous damage there.

The easy-going Director, who was always pleasantly smiling, is giving instructions with a dreadful face. Instantly the researchers noisily started collecting potions from desk drawers and shelves and gathering it onto the desk near the entrance of the laboratory.

Together with Jude, I also take potions out of the cabinet and carry it to the desk.

The soldier is surprise at the amount of potions gathered on the desk and says, “This much!?”

Yes, because they were recently amassed.

After we finish taking out all the potions from the cabinet, I remembered I had placed some advanced HP potions in my room so I go to retrieve it.

When I return from my room, everyone had finished gathering the potions in the laboratory and were loading it onto the wagon parked outside of the door.

“Some of you come with me.”

As instructed by the Director, the researchers near the entrance board the wagon.

The wagon begins moving when I got on it.

“Hey, does something like a dragon appear in the Ghost forest?”

“Dragon? No, they don’t.”

“Isn’t a Salamander a fire Drake?”

“Hm? Salamanders are just lizards that breathes fire.”

I received an unexpected reply when I asked Jude, who came with, about the Salamander.

Salamanders weren’t dragons.....

Although I had imaged it to be a fire Drake.....

“It’s able to cause this much damage despite only being a lizard.....”

“Even though it’s a lizard, it’s big and agile. Nonetheless, it’s not of the dragon species, it’s a high ranking demon.”

“I see.”

The Salamander’s image in my head has now become a 10 metre long Komodo dragon.

It breathes fire while moving at high speeds. The moment it confronts me, I’m confident that I won’t be able to move and give up on life.

While I was thinking about how hard it must have been for the Knight Order to face such a high ranking demon, the wagon stops at a corner of the royal palace.

As soon as I enter the building, the inside is like a battlefield.

“This is terrible.....”

“.....”

Many injured people were sleeping in the room that was normally used as a hall, and people who looked like doctors and nurses are running around in the spaces between them.

In the room, the groans of the wounded and burnt victims of the Salamander’s fire, overflow, and the voices of the doctors screaming, “Are the potions here yet?” resound throughout the room.

My carefree mind from a while ago, chills. I stand frozen on the spot, dumbfounded. The Director, who stood up first, clapped his hands.

Director: “Distribute the potions that we brought! You two are over there, Jude and Sei, please take care of the other side.”

““““Yes!”””””

I take several of the potions and distribute it to the doctors here and there.

The doctors are mostly standing near those who are seriously injured and give the potion to the patients as soon as they are received.

Due to the shortage of HP potions, low grade HP potions were also given to the severely injured, even though they would normally require an intermediate potion for complete recovery.

The doctors probably feel that it was better to give them something instead of giving up.

Especially for patients who were on the border of life and death.

Because by giving them the potion, they might survive.

“This is!”

The doctor who gave a patient the potion, which was handed to him by the researcher, was surprised.

After giving the potion to the patient who was breathing heavily, his skin which had been greatly torn by the demon’s claw, was completely healed. The patient, who had his eyes closed, opens them when he feels the pain suddenly disappear. He timidly confirms his body.

All his wounds had disappeared, even the small scratches that he had everywhere and his pale complexion is also improving.

“It was a low grade potion, right?”

The doctor, with the dubiousness look on his face, holds up the empty vial in his hand but since he’d given everything to the patient, it was difficult to determine the rank of the potion.

The doctor was surely given a low grade HP potion, but it wasn’t just any low grade HP potion.

It was the 50% increase potion that I made, in other words the effectiveness of it was the same as an intermediate potion.

I leave before the doctor could ask me anything and distributed the potions one after

another.

I can hear the bewildered voices of doctors and nurses from here and there, but I ignore it.

For now distributing potions had priority.

“Are there any advanced HP potions?”

I hear someone’s voice at the back of the hall.

There are many doctors and knights gathering at the place where the voice came from.

Is that where the voice came from?

Because I have an intermediate HP potion on hand, I head over there and as I approach, I could hear people discussing something.

“This could be difficult even with an advanced potion. Is there anyone who could use recovery magic?”

“Even if they could use recovery magic, if it’s not level 4 or over...”

“What about Saint-sama? That person can use level 4 recovery magic, right?”

“His Highness, Kyle did not want to show such a brutal scene like this to Saint-sama.....”

“What!”

Kyle is certainly the first Prince’s name, that red-head that looked like he’ll go bald in the future.

It is certainly difficult to see seriously wounded parts of patients without censorship.

Even I, who prides herself in having some tolerance towards splatter, give out potions while looking as little as possible.

That easy-going Aira-chan will faint the moment she sees something like this.

The knight who is listening to the civil official-like person's explanation, is he the patient's friend?

Since I couldn't see the patient due to the crowd of people, I couldn't judge his condition. But it seems that the injury was so serious that it was difficult to heal even with an advanced HP potion.

When I look around the crowd, I see the Director and walk over to him. He calls out to me when he notices me approaching.

"Sei! Are there any advanced HP potions left?"

"Ah, then, 「Captain!」."

When I turn towards the voice, the doctors and nurses quickly begin to move.

The patient's condition seems to have taken a sudden turn for the worse.

I also push my way through the crowd of people and go to the patient's side.

Looking closely the right upper half of the patient's body was burnt and he had various wounds all over his body. It's a miracle that he's alive.

His rough breathing gradually becomes quiet.

"Hey, move aside!"

I push the doctor away and look at the patient, it looks like he'll die soon.

I take out the advanced HP potion from my apron pocket in a hurry, open the lid and bring it to his mouth.

When I say, "Please drink!" in a loud voice, he was somehow able to drink the potion, little by little.

The surrounding people swallow their saliva as they attentively watch him slowly drink the potion.

After a period of time passes I look at the patient, who had finished drinking all the potion. His charred skin had peeled and beautiful skin appears from underneath it.

His rough breathing settles down but it didn't stop, it is the calm breathing of a sleeping person.

When I ascertain it with my own eyes, I breathe out at a job well done. The surrounding people shout out in joy, "Oooouuuuuuuuuuu!"

ACT 3

COOKING

Four months have passed since I've been summoned.

On that day because the potions from the research institute saved many people from the 3rd Knight Order, a special reward was bestowed from the royal palace.

In particular the person who I made drink the advanced HP potion was the captain of the 3rd Knight Order and also the 3rd son the Margrave family. So a reward was also sent from the Margrave.

In addition because of the efficiency, the 3rd Knight Order purchased my potions, which couldn't be sold to wholesalers.

Thanks to that, the research institute budget is abundant lately.

“So, is there anything you want?”

One day, when I bring tea to the director's room, I am asked if there was anything I want.

It was so abrupt that I have to think a little before answering.

“Well... I want a bath and a kitchen.”

“A bath and a kitchen?”

“Well ~, I like cooking.”

The reason that I answered with is true, but that's not all.

After all the cooking level of this world is low.

Or should I say, there are many dishes cooked without seasoning.

There are times when it's seasoned with salt or vinegar but it doesn't suit my tastes.

Although I went to the employee's dining hall at the royal palace to eat, it was really horrible.

Because the food was unappetising, I unexpectedly went on a diet.

I've never worried about it before but since coming to this world, I was strongly aware that I'm a Japanese person who is picky about food.

Although I'm crazy about food, I'm not very good at cooking. But based on the idea that what I make would surely be better, I requested a kitchen.

"Cook? Will Sei be the one cooking?"

"Yes."

When I said that I would be that one cooking, the Director opens his eyes as if he is surprised.

I don't think it's something to be surprised about though.

Or do I look like I can't cook?

When I tilt my head the Director tells me why he was surprised.

As I thought, he didn't think I could cook.

It seems that rich people like aristocrats and wealthy merchants hire cooks so the woman and children of those households don't cook.

Of course the wife in common households will cook.....

"Director, I'm also a commoner, you know?"

"Ah, now that you mention it, that's true."

The Director smiles wryly, he completely forgot about it.

The Director knows that I was summoned to this kingdom.

When I was assigned to this research institute, he had asked the High Official about

me. But he'd also wanted to know more personal things, he asked me directly.

Questions like: my social status in Japan, what kind of life I was living, etc.

At that time I talked about being a commoner and working at a company.

“When I look at Sei, I don't think you look like a commoner at all.”

“I think that no matter how you look at me, I look like a commoner.”

“That's not true. There are only a few commoners in this kingdom who have acquired high education like Sei.”

According to the Director there are no schools for commoners in this kingdom.

The Royal Academy that Jude had told me about before is a school where aristocrat children attend. It seems that only those with exceptional magic skills among commoners can attend as a scholarship student.

It's no wonder the Director is surprise when I told him that education was compulsory in Japan and even commoners have to attend.

While we were talking about such things, the Director finishes his tea and the conversation ends. Two days later the craftsman come to the research institute.

To be honest when I was asked what I wanted, I half-jokingly said bath and kitchen.

I didn't actually think that the Director would get things ready in order to build it.

I was naïve.

Didn't he already make arrangements beforehand? Things proceeded at a frightening pace and just like that the bath and kitchen were built.

The pace in which it was completed was fast enough that I thought it was comparable to that of Japan.

Thus the Medicinal Herb Research Institute was expanded.

The kitchen was like a large kitchen and next to it is the dining hall which can fit all of

the researchers.

Moreover it came with a chef.

In short it is a dining hall exclusively made for the researchers but it's popular with everyone.

Up until now I went to eat at the dining hall exclusive for employees at the royal palace but it's far.

The shut-in researchers were overjoyed.

“What're you making today?”

“Today is herb grilled chicken and salad.”

While I'm cutting lettuce in a corner of the new kitchen the Director called out to me from behind.

I went through great pains to get the chef to agree with me and now I was allowed to make my own share of food when it's not busy.

Because this kingdom's food didn't suit my tastes from the start, I requested it.

When I said that I wanted to make my own food, I was worried that the chef, who had finally come all the way here, would be offended. But fortunately this chef was a kind person and without any disgruntle he let me use a section of the kitchen.

However while I was in the middle of cooking he gave me a frightening glare.

Apparently he is a very ambitious person.

Because he wanted to have a taste, I told him, “Please help yourself”, he ended up eating the whole serving.

After eating a mouthful he became so engrossed in it that he remained silent while eating.

Since he wanted me to teach him by all means, since then every time I make a new dish I teach him the recipe.

As a result the food at the research institute's dining hall became delicious and the employee's dining hall at the royal palace was no match.

If the food has become delicious to this extent, it's fine even if I don't make it myself but since the chef bowed his head asking me to teach him new recipes; recently I cook for myself once a week and the chef behaves himself.

"Is something the matter?"

I ask the Director, who was standing behind me, while grilling the chicken.

From some time ago, not only just the chef but the Director is also standing behind me, gazing at my hands.

I wonder if a hole will open up in the chicken if he keeps staring like that.

I guess it won't open.

Since I've started cooking in the kitchen, whenever the Director was in the research institute he would always come to see me.

Director: "I was just thinking that it looks tasty."

"Thank you."

"What flavours are you using this time?"

"I only grilled it with salt. Afterwards I used medicinal herbs for fragrance."

"I see."

That was the extent of our conversation. When I look behind me again, the Director's eyes are still pinned on the chicken.

"Director, perhaps you want to eat this? I have a feeling I saw you eating lunch earlier."

"Uogh..... Well, I did but....."

When I glance behind me again, the Director has a shameful look on his face.

Even though he's looking like that he still won't leave. It seems that he really wants to eat it.

Usually when he's eating in the dining hall, he eats the same amount as everyone else so I can't see him being a big eater.

Was he lured in by the smell of the medicinal herbs smeared over the chicken?

Well the basil and rosemary were freshly taken from the herb garden so it's really fragrant.

Even the salad was freshly made.

I place the grilled chicken onto the plate and on the side is the salad I made, accompanied by a homemade dressing.

The two dishes set up for plating was for the chef and I. But I prepared another small dish and arrange a little bit of chicken and salad from my plate onto it.

When I finish arranging the food the chef cheerfully picks up the plate and carries it to the dining hall and put it down on the table closest to the kitchen.

I too follow after him with a basket of bread in one hand.

"If you don't mind, please eat."

I say to the Director, who was following behind me, and pointed to the spot where the small dish was placed. He gladly sits down.

Director: "It's tasty as ever."

Even without that comment, I smile at the Director who looks as if he's going to melt.

Above all else, it seems to suit his tastes.

The Director had already eaten lunch so I only served him a little bit of food but it seems that it wasn't enough.

He neatly cleaned his plate, even going as far as to spread the chicken fat and medicinal herbs onto the bread.

“But I was surprised that you used the medicinal herbs for cooking.”

“In my hometown, we use various medicinal herbs for cooking.”

It's called medicinal herbs in this kingdom but it's actually the so-called herbs.

Herbs itself meant medicinal herbs.

The herbs I used today, basil and rosemary, were common herbs used for cooking in my original world.

But in this world medicinal herbs were used as remedies and it seems that it's not used for cooking.

“By using medicinal herbs in cooking, you can prevent food poisoning and help accelerate digestion.”

“Hoh.”

“There are also medicinal cooking methods aimed at preventing illness.”

Medicinal cooking was a method in the neighbouring kingdom and since the chef is also with us, I blurted out that I was from a different world and talk about it as my hometown.

Although the chef might know that I came from another world.

Or he might not know, so just to be sure.

The Director is interested in cooking and medicinal herbs so he asks me questions, one after another.

Seeing him like this, it really makes me think that the Director is also a researcher.

He's usually in the director's office doing nothing but administrative work so he didn't feel much like a researcher.

I didn't know some of the answers to the questions that the Director asked me, in such cases he told me to take a guess and he also talked about what he'd thought.

The conversation got lively but because we were only talking medicinal herbs the chef couldn't join in and I feel that we did something bad.



“Sei.”

Today in order to teach the chef a new recipe, we are making sandwiches in the kitchen when Jude comes in.

“What is it?”

“There’s a message from the Director, he wants you to go deliver this document to the 3rd Knight Order barracks.”

“I’m in the middle of something right now, so can’t you go instead, Jude?”

“Nah, he said he wanted you to deliver it, Sei.”

“I wonder why? Do I have to go now?? Since I’m nearly finished with this, can’t I do it afterwards?”

Jude: “If it’s just a little while longer, isn’t it fine?”

“Got it. I just need to go to the 3rd Knight Order’s barracks, right?”

“Yeah, he’s in the captain’s office so bring it there.”

“Got it.”

I arrive at the captain’s office in the 3rd Knight Order’s barracks and when I ask a knight standing next to the door to announce that I was here, he immediately leads me inside.

Apparently the Director had let him know in advance that I was coming.

As I enter I see the Director and another person sitting on a lounge suite set in front of a splendid office desk.

He’s the captain, right?

“I am sorry to keep you waiting.”

“No, you’re very helpful. Thanks.”

“Then, I will return now.”

“Wait a minute.”

When I pass the documents to the Director, he smiles while thanking me. I turn to leave the room once my task was done but the Director stops me.

I look at the Director wondering what it could be and he urges me to sit down next to him.

Why?

When I glimpse at the other person, who is probably the owner of this room, he also urges me to sit down.

When I reluctantly sit down next to the Director, he speaks to the other person.

“She’s Sei.”

“I see, so it’s you. I’m the captain of the 3rd Knight Order, Alberto Hawk.”

“Nice to meet you. My name is Sei.”

I don’t say my family name.

In this world only aristocrats have family names and I’m not an aristocrat.

When I was assigned to the research institute, the Director taught me this when I introduced myself.

In this kingdom if an unfamiliar family name is untactfully given, an enquiry will pursue and that’ll become troublesome so since then, I’ve decided not to give out my family name.

The other person is the captain after all.

I sit across from him and look at him again.

He's a quirky man with blonde hair and blue grey eyes that give out a cold feeling.

Is he the same age as the Director?

His physique is better than the Director's but only because he's a knight.

No, the Director is pretty tall and sturdily.

How can I say it, their muscle thickness is different.

Out of all the people I've met since coming to this kingdom, he might be my favourite type.



“Do you remember the things that happened during the 3rd Knight Order expedition?”

“Expedition?”

“You know about the Salamander.”

“Ah.”

I suddenly received an introduction, while I was thinking that it was odd for them to have business with me, the Director abruptly began to speak.

I was told that it was about the expedition and at first, I didn't know what he was going on about, but when the Salamander was mentioned, I understood.

The other day the Knight Order who went to Ghosh Forest, located to the west of the capital, returned with a large number of casualties.

Since then I haven't heard anything about it so I completely forgot. Was it the 3rd Knight Order?

“At that time, you made a guy drink an advanced HP potion, right?”

“Yes.”

“It's him.”

The Director says. Now that he mentions it, I do remember that there was such a person.

At that time, I only made the most injured person drink the advanced HP potion.

The burn was terrible. It was hard to look at so I tried not to look too much and because of that I didn't remember anything about the person's features. I certainly remember the knight who was next to me call the person, Captain.

I see, so he's the person who nearly died at that time.

Immediately after he drank the potion I saw his charred skin peel off and new skin regenerated from underneath but I didn't see him when he was completely healed.

Since after that I went to distribute potions.

When I look at the Captain again, there was no burn wounds from that time, only beautiful skin.

I think the potions from a different world are really excellent to be able to heal to this extent.

If it was like this then wounds other than burns might completely heal as well.

Although I want to see the effectiveness of the potion, it was still impossible for me to ask him to take off his clothes so that I could see.

“Thanks, I was saved by you.”

“It’s nothing.....”

Crap.

Because I wanted to see the progress, I stared at him for too long and now the Captain is slightly blushing.

The figure of a handsome bashful guy has such destructive power. My heart throbbed while I give a neutral answer and I hear the sound of light laughter next to me.

When I turn to my side thinking, what is it? I saw the Director put a hand over his mouth and trying not to laugh.

“Director?”

“Nah, it’s nothing.”

Although he says it’s nothing, he still seems to be holding in his laughter, but what’s funny?

The Director was acting so suspiciously that it wasn’t just me but also the Captain who had a dubiousness look on his face.

No rather than dubiousness, he looks sullen or embarrassed.

Do you feel embarrassed?

I look at the Director doubtfully and crease my eyebrows.

“Oh yeah, you wanted the ingredients for the advanced HP potions, right?”

“Yes. But they cannot be gathered without going to the forest, right?”

How vague. At the moment when the Captain tries to speak, the Director loses his urge to laugh and speaks while changing the topic.

I feel it was abrupt but I’m glad it happened before the Captain got angry. I quietly stroke my chest.

About the advanced HP potion ingredients that the Director brought up, I certainly remember talking about it to the Director.

The meagre amount of medicinal herbs cultivated in the herb garden for advanced HP potions had considerably decreased recently due to overharvesting.

I want to rapidly make more potions to level up my pharmacy skill but unfortunately those medicinal herbs are difficult to cultivate and I was prohibited from using them any further by the Director.

Therefore I consulted with the Director about purchasing it from the outside but since cultivation was difficult, it was sold at a very high price.

Although recently the budget is abundant, it is still difficult to purchase a large quantity of high-grade ingredients from the outside.

It grows naturally in the forest outside of the royal palace but it takes time and effort to go there to collect it, although it saves on cost. It is difficult for researchers to go gathering alone since there are demons in the forest.

“Right. If it’s nearby then they grow in the forest to the south. Why don’t you go and gather them for a while?”

“Director, I want you to spare me from being attacked by demons.”

“About that, it seems that the guys from the 3rd Knight Order will protect you.”

“Eh?”

“Apparently it’s a reward for the potion the other day.”

I unintentionally turn to face the Captain upon the Director’s words.

He looks calm, completely different from earlier. As the Director said, as reward for the potion it seems that they’ll guard me when I go to gather the medicinal herbs.

But.....

“But I have already received a reward.....”

I received a special reward from the royal palace and one from the Margrave household too.

Any more than that just feels too much.

“Captain-dono wanted to give you something personally.”

“Oi!”

The Director says while grinning and the Captain stops him in a panic.

But it was too late.

Is it fine to mobilise the Knight Order for personal gratitude?

“Personally?”

I glance at the Captain and as if he knew what I was implying, he clears his throat and awkwardly explains.

“We’d originally planned to go to the south forest for subjugation. So we talked about it in passing.”

“Is that so?”

It was originally planned.

If so, it won't be any problem, right?"

I certainly want medicinal herbs for advanced HP potions.

"If it is not a nuisance then please take me with you."

I bow my head and the Captain nods as if saying not a problem.

After that we talk about practical business such as when the expedition will start, etc, and it was evening before I realised.



Today I've come to Saul forest located to the south of the capital.

The 3rd Knight Order has been regularly killing demons around the kingdom and after the Ghosh forest to the west, they planned to expedite Saul forest.

It wasn't normal for the Knight Order to go on subjugation expeditions so frequently but the situation has been so bad in recent years, that the normal subjugation frequency couldn't keep up and as a result they now constantly go out on expeditions.

Well because of the 【Saint】 summoned by the 【Saint Summoning Ceremony】 the situation is deemed to have gradually improved.

Do your best, Aira-chan.

This time the researchers from the Medicinal Herb Research Institute have joined the expedition.

The main purpose of this expedition was to subjugate demons but the researchers have never come to this forest with the Knights before so everyone wanted to go, for the chance to gather a variety of medicinal herbs not available at the herb garden.

There were some researchers who wanted to survey the plants and not just gather medicinal herbs but the Director firmly rejected their proposal because it would get in the way of the main purpose.

It was normally unthinkable for researchers who are good for nothing burdens, to partake in a Knight Order's subjugation but this was the Knight Order's way of

repaying the favour.

Because there are researchers willing to participate in the harvesting, I thought that I could leisurely make potions at the research institute but the Director sadly obliged me to participate since I was the one who mostly used up the herbs.

“Oi ~, don’t separate too far.”

I find a medicinal herb I want in a place slightly away from the road and when I go over and try to take it, Jude warns me from behind.

I quickly harvest the herb and when I return to where Jude is, he scolds me some more.

“Just because this forest is calmer than the west forest, doesn’t mean that demons don’t appear. If you plan to separate, then say something before you do.”

“Sorry, sorry.”

The demons that appear in the south forest is weaker than the ones in the west forest but that didn’t mean that they didn’t appear at all.

I know I have to be careful but I can’t shake off my Japanese mentality. When I find something that interests me, I unintentionally totter towards it.

“I’m keeping a proper watch out so you should be fine if you don’t stray too far.”

The Captain calls out from behind us while abruptly laughing.

The Knight Order and researchers are currently separated and acting in 3 group.

This is because it’s most efficient this way. Jude and I are a part of the Captain’s team.

The demons that appear in the south forest are not that strong so the Captain doesn’t normally partake in expeditions to the south forest.

However according to a knight in the same team, the Captain made a special exception for us.

Although it’s a reward, I’m feeling somewhat apologetic.

“Thank you. Even so, I having a feeling that we have gone considerably deep into the forest, but no demons have appeared.”

That’s right.

I think it’s already been two hours since we’ve entered the forest but we haven’t encountered a single demon.

Is this normal?

While thinking so, I question the Captain and this doesn’t seem to be the case.

“No, it’s usually not strange to encounter several demons already, but.....”

“Is that so?”

“Ah, it is unusual to make it this far without encountering any.”

As he says this the Captain creases his eyebrows together and thinks a little before talking to the other knights.

Yes ~, I wonder what’s up?”

It’s not the calm before the storm but it would be nice if a strong demon like the Salamander doesn’t just suddenly pop up.

While thinking such things, I pick up the medicinal herbs growing on the roadside and head towards the meeting point.

There is a little opening a short distance from where I’m walking. We’re joining up with the other groups there and have lunch.

“Tasty!”

At the lunch meeting place where everyone has joined.

Listening to the voices from here and there, it was worthwhile for me to help out.

There was chatter about the lunch preparations being done by the Knight Order but for me who grieves over this world’s cooking situation, I had to help out.

The soup I made by using herbs, which aren't usually used, seems to be popular.

"I heard that the food at the Medicinal Herb Research Institute's dining hall is delicious but..... Are you perhaps the one who makes it all the time?"

The one who says this is the Captain while looking at the soup that is scooped in his spoon.

After all it was unusual to use medicinal herbs while cooking. Even while I was making it I was asked various questions like: what kind of medicinal herb is that? Why are you putting it in?

That behaviour was exactly like some Director who always looked at me from behind.

The Captain and Director have been friends since childhood. I've heard from the researchers that they're really close but does being close mean that even their behaviours are similar?

"No, I just provide the recipe. The chef is the one who always makes it."

"To always be able to eat something this delicious, I'm envious."

I saw him narrow his eyes and deliciously eats the soup, which delights me.

But it was a bit nerve wrecking to be in the middle of this group.

The knights and researchers seem to have opened up to each other as a result of this morning's subjugation. While everyone sat down where they liked, the Captain sat next to me.

The Vice-Captain sat on my other side. I'm the only researcher who has been thrown into this group of executives.

Jude?

When I tried to drag him along with me, he escaped.

I'll remember this.

"I was told that various medicinal herbs were used in this soup, but my body is warmer

than usual. Are there medicinal herbs with this kind of effect?"

"Well, that is right. Today's soup is....."

I mainly speak with the Captain but at odd times the knights would also call out to me, or rather many ask me about the herbs used in the dish. It's exciting.

The talk about herbs used in drinking side-dishes was especially interesting.

It'll be delicious if you put it in sausage.

Just like that, there's a heated discussion about food. We continue subjugating in the afternoon and return to the royal palace in the evening.

The people who went out to subjugate is supposed to gather at the 3rd Knight Order's training ground upon returning to the royal palace.

Despite being tired and maybe because the subjugation ended without any casualties, the researchers in the training ground were gathering in groups of 3 or 5, talking as if they'd just returned from an outing.

They didn't just talk about the medicinal herbs they'd gathered, they also talk about the demons they'd encountered and how the knights were at the time of subjugation.

Demons still didn't appear in the afternoon on the road that my group took and the knight who was with me said, "They're probably not coming because they fear the Captain's strength."

As the Captain of this Knight Order, his strength can compare with 1 or 2 people amongst his Order, right?

The knight had said it as a joke, although he did say that this kind of thing has never happened once, ever.

Actually it seems that the other group encountered demons several times in the afternoon. The researchers joined in with the knight's subjugation.

The researchers at the research institute all have magic skills.

They supported the knights by casting magic from behind.

They haven't subjugated demons since they'd left the Royal Academy so everyone had a bit of fun.

"I prepared myself since I was told that it was a subjugation, but we finished it so easily, I'm disappointed."

"Ah, it's been awhile since I've fought against demons, but considering all that, my condition's good."

"You too? I have a hunch that my condition's better than when I was at the Academy."

"All the same, isn't that saying too much?"

Just like that everyone was talking noisily and the nearby knight joins in when he heard it was about the subjugation.

"You guys as well?"

"Eh?"

"Well, we were talking about how strange it was that we were able to move better than usual."

According to the knight, at first everyone thought it was just them but when they saw that the movements of the other knights were also better than usual, they started talking and concluded that their physical abilities seemed to have risen.

"What's the cause?"

A researcher mutters as if speaking to himself and everyone starts expressing their opinions.

Well, they quickly realise what the cause was.....

"Wasn't it the lunch?"

""That's it!""

When they think about what they did differently than usual, everyone comes up with the soup that they ate for lunch.

It was certainly the first time the knights ate soup with herbs but the researchers should be used to eating it at the dining hall.

So was the herb the cause?

The researchers immediately become lively.

I manage to stop the enthusiastic researchers from returning to the research institute for investigation before they receive the break up signal. When we return to the research there was a big uproar.

Even though everyone should have been tired.

Then one week later.

In order to investigate the cause I made dishes with various conditions at the research institute then we eat and examine.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner we had a midnight snack on top of that as well. We eat all day long.

As one would expect it was too much for the researchers alone so we also ask for the cooperation of the 3rd Knight Order, who we'd become friends with during the subjugation.

The knights gladly cooperate since they could eat at the rumoured Medicinal Herb Research Institute's dining hall. It's a great help.

The result is, when one eats a specific dish made by someone who had the cooking skill, their physical ability improves.

When using this cooking skill the magic power of the creator will decrease, just like with potion making.

All chefs working at dining halls have this skill.

Of course our chef at the research institute also has this skill.

Takanashi Sei

Lv.55 / Saint

HP: 4,867/4,867

MP: 6,067/6,067

Combat Skill:

Holy attribute magic: Lv. ∞

Production Skill:

Pharmacy: Lv. 28

Cooking: Lv. 5

And before I knew it I also acquired it.

This was the reason why everyone's physical abilities was improved during the subjugation.

Even though the researchers eat this food every day, they rarely move their bodies so they didn't notice.

It was a knight's job to move their body so they noticed straight away.

Actually I think that's not the only reason they noticed.

The accursed 50% increase that appears when I make potions also occurs when I cook and the dishes I make are more effective than those made by the dining hall chefs.

Perhaps because of that the effects of the food became remarkably visible and it got noticed.

When the Director heard about it he was incredibly shocked and forbade me from cooking in public.

BEHIND THE SCENES 1

A little while ago.

In the Slantania Kingdom a gloomy atmosphere engulfed a room at the royal palace.

“Well then shall we hear the report?”

The Prime Minister, Dominique Goltz said with a perplexed expression.

There were eight people sitting on the left and right of the conference table: the Defence Minister, the Interior Ministers, All Knight Order’s Captains, the Court Mage Division’s Head Magician and lastly, the King sat at the far end of the table.

It was Joseph Hawk, the Defence Minister who spoke next.

His low heavy voice echoed.

“The situation has not changed, it is still unfavourable. Each of the Knight Orders have been sequentially subjugating and we have somehow managed to withstand. But at this rate, the demons will eventually flood the forest.”

Demons are born when more than a certain concentration of miasma is gathered. The stronger the miasma is, the stronger the demon born.

Miasma occurs relatively close to humans and it is still unknown as to why miasma occurs.

Miasma easily accumulates in dark places where people do not live: such as forests and caves.

It wouldn’t have been a problem if it only accumulated but demons were born from it. Those demons migrate near villages and towns, causing harm to humans.

The miasma in the surrounding area became thinner when a demon was defeated. The thickening of miasma could be prevented by continuously defeating demons.

In peaceful times, it was possible to prevent the demons from flooding villages and

towns thanks to the Knight Order's periodic subjugations.

However in this kingdom, once every few generations there is a period when the speed of the miasma thickening exceeded the speed at which the demons were defeated.

That was exactly what was happening right now.

The Knight Orders coped with it by raising the frequency of their subjugations.

However since the number of subjugation increased year by year according to the miasma, the Defence Minister and the knights agreed that they could only endure it for another year or two.

If they couldn't withstand then the demons will flood out from places that easily accumulated miasma and attack the surrounding villages and towns.

The Interior Minister, Alphonse Hummel, spoke after the Defence Minister.

"Various aristocrats have also reported that it has become increasingly difficult to cope with the miasma."

The Knight Orders subjugated the demons in the outskirts of the capital but regional aristocrats appointed people in their territories for subjugation.

Those appointed people are not farmers but mercenaries from various places.

The mercenaries gathered together to form mercenary groups. The feudal lords commission the mercenary groups to subjugate demons in exchange for a reward.

That was how they maintained the safety of their territories. But recently the rewards that the feudal lord gave out couldn't match up with the amount of demons and coping with them has become difficult.

Mercenary groups were also putting their lives on the line.

Even if it was somewhere they lived, if the reward was too low, they wouldn't work.

If the mercenary groups didn't work for some reason or if one mercenary group, alone, was not enough, sometimes the Knight Orders at the royal palace would lend a hand.

However since they had their hands full with the situation around the capital and weren't in any position to help out the other territories.

The Prime Minister further deepened the crease between his eyebrows at the response given by the Defence Minister and Interior Minister. Next Michael Huber, the Special Division's Captain, was asked a question.

"How is the search for Saint-sama?"

"..... I am sorry to say but we have yet to find her."

Huber's voice was also gloomy and heavy.

In times when the miasma thickened, a maiden called the **【Saint】** would appear somewhere in the kingdom.

The purifying magic used by the **【Saint】** was powerful and made it possible to defeat the demons one after another.

Because of the **【Saint's】** appearance, they could overcome the period by suppressing the flooding demons.

From that continuous history, this time too, they anticipated the **【Saint's】** appearance somewhere in this kingdom and so the Special Division searched in various places.

They believed that they would immediately find the **【Saint】** but contrary to their expectations, three years had passed since they'd began their search and they still haven't found her yet.

The Special Division earnestly searched the kingdom around every nook and cranny before the steadily approaching time of destruction.

But they never found her, they'd thought she hadn't been born yet and visited the same places many times.

But still they couldn't find the **【Saint】** .

A heavy silence fell upon the room.

“Would you like to rely on a legend?”

Yuri Dreves, the Court Mage Division’s Head Magician, quietly grumbled.

His whisper resounded throughout the quiet room and everyone sitting at the table turned to look at Dreves.

Dreves glanced at the surroundings and slowly lifted the documents placed in front of him.

“There is a ceremony called **【Saint Summoning Ceremony】** .”

“That is..... That certainly is a famous story but isn’t it just a fairy-tale?”

“No, it is a true story. The contents of the ceremony are written in here.”

“What did you say?”

“Amongst the books stored in the prohibited book chamber, there is a grimoire detailing the ceremony performed at that time.”

“Are the contents reliable?”

“I do not know. The method is written in here but the procedure is quite complex. A number of mages will also be needed to perform the ceremony. There’s a 50% chance that it would either succeed or fail.”

“Something like that.....”

“But I think that it is better to try it out rather than wait and do nothing as the demons overflow.”

The **【Saint Summoning Ceremony】** was a ceremony constructed in ancient times when the **【Saint】** did not appear no matter how thick the miasma got; just like now.

The sages in the past used all their knowledge to construct this ceremony in order to summon a maiden who would become the **【Saint】** from far away.

It sounded like this ceremony was exactly what they needed right now but the ceremony had only been performed once, at the time of its creation and has since been

dormant until today.

Therefore even if they performed the ceremony, they were uncertain about whether or not it would succeed.

Many mages and tools were needed for the ceremony so even just performing it was costly.

In peaceful times it wasn't worth it to perform the ceremony but since the limit was already approaching, such trifle things weren't a problem.

The King who was silently listening to the conversations, spoke.

“We will perform the 【Saint Summoning Ceremony】 . Court Mage Division, start the preparations immediately. Everyone else, continue with your duties.”

Thus for the first time in hundreds of years, the Slantania Kingdom performed the 【Saint Summoning Ceremony】 .

The 【Saint Summoning Ceremony】 succeeded.

A maiden from a different world was summoned by the ceremony.

However a problem occurred here.

Two maidens were summoned.

According to the documents, up until now only one 【Saint】 has ever appeared at a time.

Was one of them the 【Saint】 ? Or were they both 【Saints】 ? Or were none of them 【Saints】 ?

The only person who could judge this was the Court Mage Division's Head Magician, who'd collapsed due to the backlash of the ceremony and was currently still sleeping.

More problems occurred.

The leaders of this kingdom only learnt about the existence of the two saint *candidates* on the following day after the 【Saint Summoning Ceremony】 was performed.

The success of the ceremony was immediately reported to the King by the first Prince, who had desired to supervise the ceremony, himself.

The first Prince had only reported that the 【Saint】 had been safely summoned, he made no mentions of the number of people summoned.

At that moment the leaders of the kingdom thought that things were finally going to settle down but they were at their wits end when they were notified the next day.

They were notified that for some reason the first Prince only greeted one of the saint candidates and that he'd left the other candidate behind in the room.

Furthermore the other saint candidate was angry at the first Prince for ignoring her and leaving her there that she tried to leave the castle.

Fortunately because of the knights who were stationed there took action, they were somehow able to stop her from immediately leaving but the leaders could guess that her impression of this kingdom were considerably bad.

“I wonder what she’s doing now.....”

The King’s tired and exhausted voice resounded throughout the place.



A month had passed since the 【Saint Summoning Ceremony】 .

At this time, the day had long faded and the outside of the room was enveloped by darkness.

Two men were relaxing and drinking wine at Earl Waldeck’s detached house in the capital.

One of them lived here and was the second son of Earl Waldeck, the owner of this house. Johan Waldeck the Director of the Medicinal Herb Research Institute.

The other was Johan's childhood friend, Alberto Hawk, the 3rd son of the Margrave family and also the captain of the 3rd Knight Order.

Although they often drank together at the Waldeck estate, recently Alberto had been busy subjugating demons and couldn't make time for it. So it's been a month since they've met up at the Waldeck estate.

"Come to think of it, I heard that a new person recently joined the research institute."

"Mhm? Ah....."

It had been a month and a half since they've met and exchanged information so Alberto asked about the new researcher who'd recently joined the research institute.

Johan smiled bitterly as he remembered something upon Alberto's question.

Johan had guessed that this was the reason why Alberto had made time out of his busy schedule to visit the Waldeck estate as if it was nothing.

"What's she like?"

"Extremely normal."

"Normal?"

"She acts the same as the other researchers."

As not to stray far from the question, Johan replied to Alberto's question in a roundabout way.

Although Johan knew what Alberto wanted to know, he answered in a roundabout way like he usually did.

Just like this, Johan always made fun of the serious Alberto.

Since Alberto also knew this he returned Johan's answer with a bitter smile and urged him to continue with his gaze.

Johan was satisfied upon seeing that and gave the answer that Alberto wanted to hear.

“At present, she’s had no complaints towards the royal palace and she’s working earnestly.”

“Is that so? It seemed that she was angered promptly after being summoned. Since she was excessively furious, it seemed that the interior affairs official who corresponded with Saint-sama went deadly pale upon angering her.”

“Seems like it. Because of that, those guys who are always putting on airs are acting really humble this time.”

“Really?”

“Yeah.”

On the day that the 【Saint Summoning Ceremony】 was performed Alberto had left the capital to go subjugate demons so he’d only heard about what had happened afterwards from rumours.

He’d heard various rumours upon his return and that was where he’d learnt that one of the saint candidates was currently working at the Medicinal Herb Research Institute, where Johan was the Director.

So he’d thought that it would be faster to ask Johan directly instead of listening to rumours and made time out of his busy schedule to visit the Waldeck estate.

Johan explained how he came to look after the saint candidate, Sei, at the research institute.

Suddenly two weeks ago, a black hair, black eyed woman started coming to the research institute every day.

At first one of the researchers, Jude kept her company.

However since the research institute was an all-male place and there was a woman who was interested in medicinal herbs; in no time at all most of the researchers had kept her company.

Johan remembered that he’d felt uneasy looking at Sei, who had unusual coloured hair and eyes.

A few days before that, Johan talked with his older brother, who he'd met by chance at the royal palace and heard about the 【Saint Summoning Ceremony】 being performed.

He'd heard that two woman had been summoned one with dyed brown hair and black eyes, the other with black hair and black eyes.

When Johan remembered this he immediately contacted his older brother.

The next day after he'd told his brother about the black hair, black eyed woman who often visited the research institute; he was urgently summoned to the royal palace.

In the designated room at the royal palace, besides his older brother, there was a high-ranking officer.

Johan sat on the lounge suite set sofa and listened to the story. The woman who came to the research institute was indeed one of the summoned woman. If possible, they wanted him to look after her at the Medicinal Research Institute.

Why did he have to look after her at the research institute?

Although she was just a candidate, the 【Saint】 was just as important as the King in this Kingdom.

No, since the Saint held the fate of this country in her hands, she was more important than the King.

What was the reason for keeping someone like her, who might be the 【Saint】 at the research institute located at the corner of the royal palace?

When Johan pointed that out, the High Official wiped sweat off his forehead with a handkerchief and awkwardly replied.

Sei didn't have a very good impression of this country because of the first Prince's actions after the summoning.

Actually after the first Prince left, she also tried to leave.

Not from the room but from this country.

The people in the room had somehow managed to stop her and guided her to another room. After that thanks to the High Official's desperate persuasion, they'd somehow managed to persuade her into staying at the royal palace.

There has been no instances of two 【Saints】 being summoned in the past. Since there has been no case of two 【Saints】 being summoned by the 【Saint Summoning Ceremony】 , the people at the royal palace currently didn't know which one wasn't the 【Saint】 .

However since there has been no case of this happening, both of them could also be the 【Saint】 so it was dangerous to let them go therefore both were being kept at the royal palace.

Meanwhile Sei liked the herb garden at the royal palace and had recently been visiting it every day.

The High Official thought that if she deepened her relationship with the researchers then her impression of this Kingdom would improve.

“The point is that we're cleaning up His Highness, Kyle's mess.”

“We originally planned to have her learn about this country from a teacher. Incidentally it seems that the saint candidate under His Highness, Kyle's protection is attending the Royal Academy.”

“Perhaps, since you have made her angry you plan to curry her favour by letting her do as she pleases?”

“I guess so. We're not in a situation where we could take things slowly..... In any case, you've provoked the interior affairs many times right?”

“Of course.”

Johan broadly laughed and raised the glass in his hand.

Having heard the High Official's story, as an aristocrat Johan understood what the people at the royal palace was thinking. There seemed to be no problem in watching over Sei at the research institute.

But Johan didn't like the High Official's attitude since he was completely entrusting everything to him.

So Johan made a difficult expression and gave many reasons for refusing.

Even if she came to the research institute during the day, there was quite a bit of distance between the royal palace and the research institute so it would be difficult to commute daily.

Some of the researchers were staying at the research institute for that exact reason so what will happen if she asked to stay as well?

Even if she said she would like to stay at the research institute, wouldn't it be a problem to make her stay at such a scruffy place?

They didn't have the budget to reconstruct the rooms at the research institute, and so on.

Johan also gave other various reasons for why he couldn't do it and finally things went the way he wanted.

After agreeing to support the saint candidate, Johan causally looked over the resources to plan for the improvement of the research institute. His brother who was sitting next to him stiffened but he ignored him.

Afterwards the renovations of the room that Sei would live in was given top priority. One week was an exceptionally short period of time but they managed to finish the renovations by the time she moved.

"But it's strange, no matter how much they wanted to gain the favour of the saint candidate, didn't the guys from interior affairs just leave her in her room?"

"Leave her?"

"According to one of researchers, she was complaining about it. She was summoned then guided to her room but after that they just left her alone so she had a lot of free time."

"What do you mean? It's different from what I heard."

Johan raised an eyebrow upon Alberto's words.

Alberto had heard at the royal palace that she had poor health after she was summoned and retired to her room.

As a matter of fact, there was a time difference between Japan and Slantania Kingdom. When she was summoned, it was late at night in Japan but in Slantania Kingdom it was still morning.

Because of that Sei was summoned after she'd returned home from work and was tired. Therefore after being guided to her room she immediately passed out on the sofa.

Because of that people didn't have a very good impression of her.

She looked like someone with poor health. Her skin was pale from working late day by day and she had eye bags under her eyes from many years of sleepless nights.

The court lady who had saw Sei passed out on the sofa sleeping like a dead person had rushed to inform the High Official. The High Official had panicked because he'd thought that the summoning had a bad effect on her body, which was so different from her angered state a few hours ago.

The High Official decided to give Sei time to rest and that was what had happened.

In addition due to these series of events, the information about two saint candidates was reported to the King a day late.

One of the reasons that the report was late was because even if just slightly, the High Official had been a little conflicted over the fact that he had to report their carelessness.

"I see. Her complexion was certainly bad when she first came to the research institute."

"What about now?"

"Now? Well..... Her complexion is considerably better now."

When Sei had first came to the research institute it was just like Alberto had said. Johan recalled that he'd concluded that she looked like she was prone to poor health.

Time had passed since then and although her skin remained white since she secluded herself at the research institute but the bags under her eyes had slightly improved. If people saw her now, they wouldn't think that she had poor health.

"I see. Is she eating properly.....?"

"Eating? You sound somewhat like a father."

"..... Shut up. It seems that recently the candidate at His Highness, Kyle's place hasn't been eating and it's becoming problematic."

"Hoh."

"The chefs are trying everything they can but since she's lost her appetite, His Highness is worried that she'll collapse someday."

"The candidate at my place also doesn't have much of an appetite."

"Is it normally for people not to eat much in their country?"

"Who knows? I'll ask about it next time."

The food seasoning used in Slantania Kingdom was too simple for the two who had been summoned from Japan.

Little seasoning was used and many dishes didn't use any seasoning at all so it didn't suit their tastes.

Therefore it was only naturally that they didn't eat much. The first Prince was worried about the other saint candidate and ordered people left and right to solve the problem.

However nothing worked.

"His Highness is very enthusiastic this time."

"Well, in various ways....."

Alberto said evasively but Johan understood what he was implying.

There are three princes in Slantania Kingdom.

For generations the eldest son become the King so the first Prince is treated as the Crown Prince.

But the second prince was more brilliant and recently factions have appeared backing him as the Crown Prince.

It didn't pose much of a problem since the second Prince wasn't interested and the King negated it but the first Prince who'd always been aware that he was inferior to his younger brother, was concerned about the factions.

It was evident that he'd aimed to appeal to those aristocrats by offering to supervise the 【Saint Summoning Ceremony】 .

Unfortunately at that time, the first Prince had angered Sei and his plan backfired on him which added extra pressure on him.

“Is His Highness still in charge of the 【Saint】 ?”

“Ah. His Majesty is still concerned about His Highness's blunder but if he left it to other people the prince might become anxious so he's just going to wait and see for a while. Fortunately the candidate at your place considered staying, His Majesty is probably hoping that'll help His Highness recover.”

“If there's a dispute over succession then the kingdom will lapse into chaos.”

Johan sighed. If dispute over the crown happened on top of the miasma problem, he expected that the kingdom would definitely fall into chaos.

Although the first Prince was a bit prejudiced, he was straightforward and deeply passionate which many people found favourable.

In addition he had the support of his close aides and the second Prince so for the time being he'd have no problems when succeeding the King.

The first Prince's evaluation from the aristocrats had dropped because of what had happened this time but he'd avoided making the fatal blunder of losing the saint candidate and the King seemed to think that the first Prince could still recover.

“Even so there's two people..... Did the ceremony really succeed? Given the history it's weird for there to be more than one 【Saint】 .”

“There’s no doubt that the ceremony was a success.”

“What’s your basis for saying that?”

“The appearance of demons have decreased lately.”

Since the 【Saint Summoning Ceremony】 the knights who periodically subjugate demons realized that the demons were decreasing bit by bit.

The demons that have already formed haven’t disappeared but the outbreak speed is getting slower. The knights felt that compared to before the number of demons have decreased.

Because of that the knights know that the ceremony succeeded and they were certain that the 【Saint】 is at the royal palace.

Of course this was also reported to the leaders.

The Court Mage Division’s Head Magician who could tell them who the 【Saint】 is, was still unconscious and they couldn’t tell which one was the 【Saint】 or if they both were. But the tragic atmosphere had been casted aside.

“Is that so? It’ll be good if your place settles down.”

“Yeah. As expected, everyone’s feeling fatigued.”

“Your next subjugation is at the West forest?”

“No we’re going to the East forest first then after the West forest is finished, I can take a long holiday. It’s more troublesome than the East and South, but the demons aren’t that strong so we should be able to finish the subjugation with ease.”

“Well, should be simple for you but do be careful.”

“Got it.”

At this time, some kind of flag had risen but none of them knew about it.

ACT 4

COSMETICS

Five months have passed since I've been summoned.

"What are you making?"

While I'm making essential oil from the lavender I harvested at the herb garden, Jude spoke to me.

"Is that potion ingredients?"

"No, they're ingredients for skin toner."

What I want is floral water, the by-product of making essential oil.

Since coming to this world I'm now able to make cosmetics.

I was always interested in handmade cosmetics and it has also become essential.

Of course there are cosmetics in this world but many are aimed for aristocrats, so it's expensive.

Luckily this is the Medicinal Herb Research Institute.

I can use the equipment and facilities to make cosmetics. As a bonus I can use as much ingredients as I want.

"Eh ~, so you can also make it from medicinal herbs."

"You can also make it from flowers called roses too."

There are cosmetics in this world but unlike potions there are many mysterious recipes.

Is it really okay to apply that on your face? There are so many things I want to ask.

If you apply something like that on your face, isn't it better to apply potions instead?

However the purpose of potions was to heal wounds, it didn't have any moisturising or whitening effects like cosmetic products did so it's tricky to use it as a cosmetic product.

I tried to use it before but it was really tricky.

"You've made it before. Did you use Lavender at that time too?"

"I used it but I didn't use it to make skin toner."

"I see. Does it have different effects?"

"Well, the basic effects are the same."

"Really? Well, cosmetics made by Sei seem like they'll have a high effect."

I smile bitterly at what Jude said.

The cosmetic products I make are highly effective.

Come to think of it, it turned out well when I tried to concentrate magic power into it while stirring.

There was a big difference in effect when I concentrate magic power in and when I don't.

Moreover my pharmacy skill influenced my cosmetics and my accursed 50% increase is applied.

When I noticed that my pharmacy skill influenced it, I thought perhaps, the other researchers would ask me to make cosmetics in the same way.

Then as feared, there was a difference in effect between the cosmetics I made and the ones I didn't.

It seems that the relationship between cosmetics and pharmacy skill is not evident and the researchers were surprised when they noticed.

Unlike potions only a limited number of people used cosmetics. The researchers weren't interested because they're all men so they didn't notice.

When my accursed 50% increase was reported to the Director, he laughed as if implying it happened again?

It was a very worn-out laugh.

“Did you start making cosmetics after coming to the research institute, Sei?”

“Yup.”

“I thought so.”

He thought so?

When I tilt my head, Jude laughs bashfully.

“You’ve become really beautiful since coming here.”

“Eh?”

So sudden, what’s he say, this kid.

Before I know it, I’m befuddled but I understand what he was implying and I can feel my face heating up bit by bit.

It was the first time a man had ever said anything like that to me and it was extremely embarrassing.

“Wh-what are you saying all of a sudden?”

“Mhm? I just said what I felt.”

He hastily plays it off but he seems to notice that I’m feeling embarrassed. Naturally, Jude laughed.

Certainly there was no late-night overtime in this world and thanks to living a regular lifestyle, the bags under my eyes have disappeared, it had completely disappeared. My hair and skin have also become radiant.

When I was in Japan, I worked late every day so it was unrealistic for me to be beautiful and stylish, I was a splendid unpopular woman. But the first time I looked in the

mirror after coming here, I saw the change in my appearance and thought it was a bit fun.

Thanks to the cream that I applied around my eyes, my eyesight got better and I no longer need glasses.

But an unpopular woman is an unpopular woman.

Even if my appearance has changed, the inside is still the same.

I am very distressed by this.

“Stop teasing me.”

I said but Jude just lowers his eyebrows and smiles as if he was troubled.



I wake up early in the morning, brush my teeth, wash my face and apply cosmetics.

The same routine I had when I was in Japan.

I think the cosmetics I made are slowly showing their effects and my appearance has become quite healthy.

I look at my reflection in the small hand-mirror (it was in the bag that was summoned together with me), I see the effects and smile, complacently.

Nonetheless having no makeup on, I look the same as ever.

I could make basic cosmetic products but I couldn't remember how to make make-up so I couldn't make any.

I didn't like heavy make-up so it was fine.

I looked at my reflection for a while and when I felt satisfied, I change my clothes.

Today is a day off and it will be quite good if I relax a little.

Well, what shall I do?

“ 『Status』 ”

Takanashi Sei

Lv.55／Saint

HP: 4,867/4,867

MP: 6,067/6,067

Combat Skill:

Holy attribute magic: Lv. ∞

Production Skill:

Pharmacy: Lv. 30

Cooking: Lv. 8

For the time being, let's check my current status.

My pharmacy and cooking skills have both increased.

If I continue cooking the skill will likely raise but recently it has become difficult to raise my pharmacy skill even when I'm making advanced HP potions.

What can I make that's higher than an advanced HP potion?

There are books on medicinal herbs and medicines at the research institute but I've never seen a book about potions with higher effects than advanced HP potions.

If I go to the royal palace library, will there be books like that there?

It's finally my long-awaited holiday but I'm going to be spending it doing work-related things, I'm still a workaholic. But I have nothing else I want to do.

Although I want to go into town to do some shopping, I've never been out of the royal palace before and I feel a bit uneasy.

It would be a different story if someone came with me.....

Well, whatever.

Today I'll seclude myself in the royal palace library and read books.

“Huh? Sei, are you going out?”

While I was descending from the third floor to the first, Jude called out to me.

Today's not his day off so he's working.

It seems that he'd just entered the research institute after getting medicinal herbs from the warehouse. The box he's holding with both hands contained a lot of medicinal herbs.

“Yup, I was thinking about going to the royal palace library.”

“I see, isn't it your day off today?”

“Yup.”

“Take care.”

“See you later.”

Jude saw me off as I leave the research institute and walk towards the royal palace.

It'll take 30 minutes but this is also good exercise.

I don't exercise enough because I confine⁵⁾ myself in the research institute everyday so I have to go on walks like this sometimes.

But it's troublesome.....

After walking for a short while, I arrive at the royal palace and went inside.

I've been to the royal palace library many times for work-related things so I didn't get lost.

Along the way I look at the vases and paintings decorating the royal palace corridor and in no time at all, I arrive at the library.

Because it's the royal palace, I think that they're all first-class items.

It is fun to look at the delicate patterns on the vases and elegant sceneries in the

paintings.

In my original world, some places turned former palaces into art museums, so it feels like I'm walking through an art museum.

When I arrive at the library, I open the door and enter. Due to the flow of air, I see dust floating in the light that shone through the window.

There are only a few windows in this room to protect the books so it was dim.

Using the faint light, I look at the books on the bookshelf and search for a book I want.

I pick a few books before sitting down on a nearby table and opening one of the books.

Of course, the letters aren't written in Japanese but I can understand what's written, probably due to the effects of being summoned.

In my mind it's written in Japanese so it was a very strange feeling.

I don't know how much time passed but when I made a roundtrip to the bookshelf and back again, the door creaked open.

It was not unusual for people to come here since it was available to everyone working at the royal palace.

I look up expecting the usual civil servants but instead I see a stunning beautiful girl wearing an extravagant dress.

She had blonde hair which was half tied up and blue almond-shaped eyes.

No matter how I look at her, she's a young lady from an aristocrat family.

In addition to that her family ranking is high.

It wasn't strange to see a young lady at the royal palace but I have a feeling that this is the first time I've met one at the library.

Because she was a sight for sore eyes I keep staring at her and she noticed me.

Because I'm Japanese, I quickly bow my head on reflex and she returns it with a lovely

smile.

It would be impolite of me to stare at her any further so I return my gaze back onto the book in my hand.

After a little while a book was placed in the seat in front of me.

I raise my face and it was the young lady from before, this time she's reading her book without looking at me.

I did wonder why she was sitting here even though there were other seats but I continue to read the book in my hand without caring.

When I finished reading all the books I had, I heard the bell telling me it was three o'clock.

I have a feeling that I was in the library for quite a long time.

I get up thinking I should return soon and the young lady calls out to me, "Excuse me."

"Yes?"

"About that book over there....."

Apparently she wants to read one of the books that I was going to put away.

I was already finished with it so I hand it to her and she was surprised to see the other books in my hand.

"You read difficult books. Are you a researcher?"

"Yes."

"As expected. This book is written in the ancient language so even I have difficulty reading it."

I could read it regardless of the written language because of some kind of ability, so I didn't notice it at all but it seems that one of the books I have is written in the ancient language.

Even if she told me it was difficult, I can't understand her feelings so I smile vaguely in order to deceive her.

"Are you also interested in medicinal herbs, Miss?"

"Yes I am."

I ask her while using horrible honorifics and she vaguely smiles.

Hmm, was my use of honorifics bad or did I ask something bad?

Although I couldn't come to a conclusion, I thought that it would be bad to bother her any further and decided to end the conversation properly.

"If you are interested, please come to the Medicinal Herb Research Institute. There are many herbs at the herb garden. My name is Sei, I am a researcher there."

"Thank you. This is a bit late but my name is Elizabeth Ashley."

"Well then, I should return to the research institute soon."

"Farewell."

I return the book to the bookshelf. When I leave the library, I feel the suffocating heat from outside.

It's already summer.

The temperature was somehow adjusted inside of the library and was lower than the temperature in the corridor.

As I walk back to the research institute while fanning myself, I hear a horse running from behind.

I turn around to look and there is a group of horses heading my way.

The people riding the horses looked like knights and I feel like I know the person in front from somewhere.

"Sei!"

“Ah, good afternoon.”

The person in front is the Captain of the 3rd Knight Order.

So does that mean that everyone behind him is from the 3rd Knight Order?

I see a few familiar faces so it seems that they are.

“Are you going to the research institute?”

“Yes.”

“If it’s alright with you, would you like a lift?”

“Thank you for your offer but I do not know how to ride a horse.....”

There is still some distance till the research institute.

I appreciate his offer but I don’t know how to ride a horse.

When I look up at him, troubled, he holds out his hands and said, “Hold on.”

I nervously held the Captain’s hands and he quickly lifts me up onto the horse. I was now sitting in front of the Captain.

No matter how thin I am, what kind of strength does he have to be able to lift up a woman?

Are all the knights this strong?

“Well then, shall we go?”

While I was surprised, the Captain lifts the reins and the horse slowly moves.

My line of sight was really high on a horse, it was a bit scary.

When I timidly grab onto the saddle, I hear a quiet laughing sound behind me. The Captain puts his hand around my waist.

“It’s okay, I’ve got you.”

“So-sorry.”

What’s with this closeness?

This might be the first time I’ve ever felt someone’s body heat on my back.

He’s not my boyfriend and I’m an old unpopular woman, being this close is intense.

It may be inevitable but I feel as if I’m being hugged from behind. It’s embarrassing, my ears are getting hot.

“What did you do at the royal palace?”

“Well today is my day off so I thought I would go to the library to read.”

“So it’s your day off. What kind of books did you read?”

“It was a medicinal herbs book. There was something I wanted to find.....”

While my heart was throbbing the Captain spoke to me.

Every time he spoke, his voice rang out from behind me.

While I was thinking, “Wow!” over and over in my mind, I reply and gradually calm down.

“You spend your day-off investigating medicinal herbs? Isn’t that work?”

“No, learning about medicinal herbs is also my hobby.”

To be honest it’s shocking for me to work on a day-off so I keep insisting that it’s a hobby.

“Do you not have any other hobbies?”

“Well.....”

He asked me in wonder but I couldn’t come up with anything else.

I’ve always worked so I don’t have any hobbies.

While we were idling chatting like that, we reached the crossroad between the research institute and the barracks.

The Captain told the knights at the back that he'd escort me to the research institute, so we split up with them at the crossroad.

When I told him that it was okay to let me down here, he replied with, "It's close so I'll escort you". In the end he took me to the entrance of the research institute.



"Sei, this part is a little difficult. Can you explain it to me please?"

"Well, this is....."

I talk to Liz about the book. She's also known as Elizabeth-sama, the person I met at the library.

Although we talk, it's only when I have business at the library so it's not for very long.

The contents of the books are written in foreign languages or the ancient language. Liz asks me about the parts she doesn't understand.

Liz seems to be studying languages. I explain the parts that are difficult to understand to her.

At first, she asked me about grammar but I'm sorry, I don't understand grammar at all.

I only understand the contents.

"I see, so that is what it means. Thank you."

"It's fine."

"I always interfere with your work, I am sorry."

"Ah, don't worry about it. It's a good breather."

Why are you talking to an aristocrat in an extremely familiar tone?

At first I properly used honorifics.

But somewhere along the way, Liz told me, you know?

I also call her Liz now instead of Elizabeth-sama. She asked me to talk normally with her.

I can't refuse when a beautiful young lady asks me that.

"Sei's skin is very beautiful."

In order to explain the contents of the book, our faces were very close to each other and she suddenly said such a thing.

I wasn't accustomed to compliments so I didn't know how to answer when a beautiful girl, who looked like a bisque doll with perfect skin and no pores, compliments me.

"Really?" I answer humbly while tilting my head. Liz nods in return and smiles.

"Even if I am being careful in this season, I still get sunburnt in the daytime. I heard that Sei also works in the herb garden but you are not sunburnt at all. I feel that you get whiter by the day and your skin is getting more translucent."

"Really? Liz doesn't seem sunburnt at all."

"Of course I am being careful. I take care of my skin every day, but even so I will never reach Sei's level of translucency. Which products are you using?"

Of course Liz is a girl so she also seems interested in beauty and she talked about it very enthusiastically.

Moreover is it because she's an aristocrat? She's talking about things that adults talk about. In Japan, I can't imagine girls in intermediate school talking about this kind of thing.

When I was the same age as Liz the most I ever did was put on sunscreen.

Do you call something like this 'high girl power'?

"I make the cosmetic products myself."

“Wow!”

When I said I made it myself, Liz’s eyes shine.

Since Liz was an aristocrat she’s never made cosmetics products herself so it’s unusual.

However since Liz is studying medicinal herbs she asked me questions like: what kind of ingredients are used? What kind of effects do those ingredients have?

She seemed more enthusiastic than when she asked about the book contents.

I thought Liz was also a girl. When she finally calmed down, she said something unexpected.

“It is not only the cosmetics making you beautiful, is it Sei?”

“Mhm? What do you mean?”

“You have fallen in love recently, haven’t you?”

Huh?!

Liz covers her mouth with her fan and laughs while looking at my face.

Wait, hold on, why’re we suddenly talking about this?

Love is in an awfully far away world for me.

“It is something I overheard, there is a rumour that Captain Hawk is often seen together with a woman.”

“Captain Hawk?”

I tilt my head when she suddenly said an unfamiliar name.

Liz thought it was strange so she closed her fan and knitted her eyebrows.

“Does Sei not know Hawk-sama?”

The only person that comes to my mind is the Captain of the 3rd Knight Order. Was his name Hawk?

I always call him Captain-sama so I don't know what his name is.

The Director always calls him Al so I don't know his family name either.....

"Is Captain Hawk the Captain of the 3rd Knight Order?"

"So you do know him after all."

"If so, the Captain of the 3rd Knight Order is good friends with our Director."

It seems that she was talking about the Captain of the 3rd Knight Order.

But if you say he was seen with a woman, there's a high possibility that it isn't me.

What I thought was negated by what she said next.

"It seems that someone saw him riding a horse with a woman....."

Sorry, that's definitely me.

Lately whenever he sees me returning from the library, he always escorts me back to the research institute.

And as sighted, there were two people riding on a horse.

It's really embarrassing so I refused him the second time but then he made this terribly sad face and I just couldn't refuse anymore.

Moreover at the beginning he took me straight back to the research institute, but recently we detour around the royal palace. We were probably sighted then.

"I think that was me."

"As I thought, it was Sei, wasn't it?"

I honestly confessed and Liz looked relieved while smiling.

I'm a bit concerned about her expression so I ask.

“What’s wrong?”

“Eh?”

“No, you just seem relieved so I wonder if it’s no good if it’s not me.”

I said and she says with a beautiful countenance, “I was worried”.

I wonder if I shouldn’t have retorted.

When I tried to tell her that she didn’t have to tell me if it was difficult to say, Liz sighs and confesses.

“When I heard the rumour, I was convinced it was Sei. But everyone at the academy kept saying that it was a different woman.”

“A different woman?”

“Yes.”

According to Liz, it is speculated that the woman who was with the Captain was her classmate.

Liz’s classmate. That probably means a 15 year old girl, right?

If I remember correctly the seniors at the Academy are supposed to be 15 years old.

Eh, a 15 years old girl and the Captain..... That reeks of crime.

Are age differences okay in this world?

“I feel that your classmate and Hawk-sama are separated by a number of years. Is that the problem?”

“No, it is rare but it is not a problem.”

I unexpectedly asked her since I was concerned but it seems that age differences were okay.

If so, what the heck is the problem?

When I brood over it, Liz speaks, hesitantly.

“There’s a problem with the classmate.”

“Problem?”

“At the Academy, she is very intimate with men who have fiancées. It has become a bit of a problem.”

Fiancée!

It was an unfamiliar word so it totally slipped my mind. It would normally become problematic if there was a rumour about someone with a fiancée.

Children of aristocrats that attend the Academy have prearrange marriages early on.

You became an adult at 15 years old here and when you become an adult it seems that you can get married as well. If you think about it like that then it’s not that early, is it?

But there’s something that is bothering me.

“Hey, does Hawk-sama have a fiancée?”

“Hawk-sama? He shouldn’t have one.”

“Oh. With the way the conversation was going, I was sure he had one.”

“If Hawk-sama had a fiancée then this would be problematic, even if it the other person is Sei.”

“That’s true.”

“Fufufu, I am sure that Hawk-sama can discern so there should not be any problems.”

I was shocked for a moment thinking that the Captain also had a fiancée but I’m relieved to hear that he doesn’t.

Even in this world, it’s problematic if there’s rumours about an engaged person.

Firstly, even if the Captain doesn't have a fiancée it would be troublesome for him to have rumours floating around about someone like me being his lover.

Unlike me, the Captain has many people he can choose from.

He simply escorts me back to the research institute out of kindness.

It would be inexcusable if this snatched away his chance at love.

For the Captain's sake I better deny it properly.

"It's not a problem or anything. In the first place Hawk-sama and I don't have that kind of relationship."

"Ah, is that so?"

"That's right. Anyway, let's back up a bit."

"Yes, right. So at the Academy they were saying that she would go as far as to lay her hands on the Ice Knight-sama too."

"Ice Knight-sama?"

"Ah, that is Hawk-sama."

The Captain seems to be called the Ice Knight-sama because he uses ice attribute magic and he's always expressionless. He doesn't let his emotions show.

Expressionless?

My impression of the Captain is that he's always smiling.

"Since Hawk-sama is also popular, various people have been saying things like, his followers have increased again."

"So that means, at the Academy she only gets intimate with popular men, right?"

"That is correct."

Liz lamented as she put a hand on her cheek and sigh.

In short there's a misunderstanding stirring about that Liz's classmate at the Academy, who makes popular guys wait on her, also laid a hand on the Captain.

But that's just something the girl said, I don't think it has anything to do with Liz. So why does she seem so gloomy?

"It sounds really gloomy. Listening to the story, it doesn't seem like Liz is involved in that classmate's problem. So is there something wrong?"

"Well the fiancées of the men around her told me to say something about it, so I am very troubled."

"That's something they have to say themselves, not Liz, right?"

"They have already warned her but the situation still has not improved."

"Well then even if Liz says something, isn't it impossible?"

"Well....."

Seeing Liz looking down and gloomy, I want to help her somehow.

However I've never had luck with love so I can't think of any advice to give her.

While I was thinking about what could be done, Liz speaks.

"A few days ago someone finally stopped coming to the Academy."

According to Liz, the fiancé of the young lady who stopped coming to the Academy was also one of the followers of the problematic classmate.

Because of her age, the young lady had a lot of acne on her face and she seems to have been troubled by her appearance for a long time.

She'd tried many ways to improve her acne but nothing worked. She had acne all year around, so she couldn't enjoy being fashionable. She was plain compared to the other young ladies around her.

It seems that one day the young lady heard her own fiancé compliment that classmate.

Liz was also with her at that time so she remembered what the guy had said: the classmate's skin is smooth so he wanted to touch it, she always looks cute, etc. Well anyway, it seems that he complimented her appearance.

They happen to pass by when only the guy was talking and accidentally overheard. Then the young lady and Liz left before they were noticed.

The young lady had never been complimented by her fiancé before. She was probably dissatisfied with her appearance because he never complimented her. She became anxious over it and is now bedridden.

She was shocked by the incident and she was feeling sad over her acne not healing no matter how hard she tried. It became too much for her.

"I thought that she would cheer up if her acne was healed at least....."

"Well....."

I think a little about what Liz said.

I can't advise her on things relating to love but I can give her advice on acne treatment.

"I can probably help you with acne treatment."

"Really?!"

Liz suddenly smiles upon my words.

I smile while nodding my head. For an hour, I explain about the acne treatment I heard of when I was in Japan, in detail.

After parting with Liz, I return to the laboratory. After finishing work, I begin preparing to make cosmetics.

Of course these cosmetic products are for the young lady who is suffering from acne.

While I was preparing the ingredients Jude passes by.

"You're making cosmetic products again?"

Jude seemed to have noticed that I wasn't making potions from the ingredients placed on the work desk.

I nod in return to Jude's question.

"Yeah, someone requested it."

To successfully make the cosmetic product, I also checked with Liz about which cosmetic products and treatments the young lady had tried so far. Sure enough, the products use outrageous ingredients. Discussions about those dubious treatments being like sorcery also popped up.

That was this world's standards and there maybe proper treatments but while she's trying my treatment, I made her promise not to use those cosmetic products and treatment.

I don't know what it will affect.

I told Liz important points like: face washing techniques, diet, sleeping time and so on. But just to be safe I decided to get her to use the products I make.

I put the ingredients that would affect acne into a glass container, stir and concentrated magic power into it.

While concentrating my magic power, I didn't forget to pray —go away acne— and —become pretty—.

I don't do this when making my own cosmetics but this time it's a gift.

When I pray really hard, the glass container gently shimmers white.

This has never happened before, it's strange but I couldn't find anything odd in the completed product.

I take a little and spread it onto the back of my hand but I didn't feel any stimulus.

Just to be sure I did a patch test and confirm that there are no problems. Should I pass it onto Liz?

I thought and move onto making the next cosmetic product.

Two weeks after giving the cosmetic products to Liz.

Liz was excitingly waiting for me to come to the library.

“Sei! That cosmetic product is amazing!”

Was the first thing she said. She restrained her voice because we were in the library but I walk closer to her since she couldn't suppress her excitement.

Anyway, it seems that Liz went to see the young lady on the day I handed her the cosmetic products.

Then she told her about the acne treatment she'd heard from me, gave her the products and returned home.

The young lady had already given up on treatment and she wasn't interested in it at first. But then it seems that she properly tried the treatment and products properly.

The day after she tried it, the effects appeared and I heard that there was an uproar at her house.

She came to the Academy a week after Liz passed her the products. Her before and after was so dramatic that the other young ladies also caused an uproar when they saw her.

“Then something troublesome happened again.”

“Something troublesome?”

She said it was something troublesome but Liz looks calmer than before.

I tilt my head and she told me the reason.

I regretted it after listening to her.

It was indeed something troublesome.

“There are many girls who want the cosmetic products that I gave to her.”

The young lady whose acne had completely disappeared, leaving behind only smooth

skin, ignited the beauty spirits⁶⁾ of the other young ladies.

They found out it was Liz who gave it to her when they talked about where the cosmetics were obtained and then everyone rushed to Liz.

Since the products were made by an individual, I heard that Liz hid who the supplier was. But they kept hounding her so it has become troublesome.

“Still I can’t prepare that many.”

“Yeah.”

Of course the amount is troublesome but it is also impossible for me to keep making cosmetics products to give out.

I told Liz that I want some time to think and return to the laboratory.

However I couldn’t come up with a plan by myself.

In times like this the best thing to do is consult with other people.

Yes, I depend on the Director when I’m in trouble.

“It is like that. So is there a good approach we can use?”

“You’re so abrupt again.”

The Director who is smiling bitterly while thinking of a plan, is such a good person, isn’t he?

Then as a result of thinking together, we decided to hand the cosmetic product recipes over to a shop that the Director is acquainted with and had them sell the products at the shop.

The products made at the shop aren’t the same as mine but it still seems to be effective.

Liz told people that it was going to be sold at the shop. The young ladies who knew about the result of my cosmetic products told their families and the products were so popular that it sold out on the first day of sale.

Of course the Director signed a contract stating that a percentage of the process will go to the research institute. So it goes without saying that the research institute's budget was abundant⁷⁾ once again.

ACT 5

THE CAPITAL

Six months have passed since I've been summoned.

"Excuse me."

I knock on the director's office door and wait for a reply before entering.

I placed the tea set, plated sandwiches and sweets on the serving cart.

The Director and Captain were sitting on the lounge suite sofas, waiting for me.

"It looks delicious."

The Director and Captain laugh happily when they look at the dishes arranged on the table.

Today is my day off but when I heard that the Captain had business with the Director and came to the Medicinal Herb Research Institute, I decided to prepare some finger food.

The image is afternoon tea.

The research institute didn't have any tiered trays so it was served on an ordinary dish. However when there is a tea party at the royal palace, it seems that the sweets are plated on a standing bowl.

The source of this information is Liz.

I pour tea into the tea cups and place it in front of the Director and Captain. Last, I hold onto the tea cup I prepared for myself and sat next to the Director.

I have a feeling that the Captain slightly lowered his eyebrows but I ignore it.

Sitting next to the Captain is too nerve wracking, yup.

"I'm sorry even though it's your day off."

“No it is not a problem, I did it because I wanted to.”

The Captain apologised but I wished he didn't care so much about it.

Even though it's my day off, I do the same things that I usually do.

Besides the Captain brought some sweets with him today so I'm happy that I can have a tea party like this.

Even so this sweet is very beautiful and colourful.

I think these sweets are made from fruits.

Because it's covered in sugar, it's really sweet. But since coming here, I've hardly had any sweets so I was kind of looking forward to it.

The Director and Captain have already finished their business so right now the three of us are talking about various things.

“But you work really well.”

“Really?”

“Even on your days off you never go out. You're always doing something at the research institute, right?”

“Because I live here. I also want to do housework on my days off.”

It's no different from when I did housework on my days off in Japan.

There are a lot of things I need to do on my days off like laundry and tidying up my room.

Even so I finish everything in the morning.

Laundry the most time-consuming thing is usually done by servants.

Most of the researchers living here are aristocrats and it seems that there are a lot of people who don't know how to do their own laundry.

So servants are hired to do housework such as laundry and cleaning.

I don't like it when other people enter my room while I'm not there so I clean it myself.

Most people seem to have other people do their cleaning for them.

Well, if they didn't then it'll be like Syvash⁸⁾, surely.

“Other than housework, you also research or go to the library, right? Isn't that the same as working?”

“But I don't work as much as I did in Japan.”

Both the Director and the Captain have a proper position within the royal palace so they know that I was summoned by the 【Saint Summoning Ceremony】 .

They're probably worried about me so they don't ask about Japan much but I do speak about it from time to time.

Therefore they know that the country that I'm from is called 【Japan】 .

“Before I worked every day from three bells in the morning until the midnight bell.”

“Hah?”

The Director raised a rare voice in confusion and his eyes bulge open.

The Captain didn't say anything but he stopped moving the teacup that he was holding to his mouth and stared at me wide-eyed.

It was inevitable.

Three bells in the morning is 9 am and the midnight bell is the bell that indicates that it is midnight.

If I add the time I take to get ready and commute, I wake up at 6 am every morning and sleep at 2 am.

Although I have two days off on the weekends, I went to work every Saturday.....

I wanted to do housework on Sunday but since I had physical health problems all I did was rest.

People in this world basically live when the sun sets and rises. I think it varies between occupations but the working hours of the research institute are also based on that.

Since coming here I've been working from 7 am until 5 pm every day.

Moreover the people from the research institute and 3rd Knight Order sometimes casually drink tea.

No one got angry when they drink tea.

Other people may be different but I feel that my lifestyle here is a lot looser than when I was in Japan.

If you look at the basics of my loose lifestyle then no matter how you look at it I overworked before.

“That..... Did you attend evening parties at work.....?”

“No. I was a commoner.”

Yes, like the Director and Captain, there are also jobs where aristocrats attend evening parties.

Those parties may have been held in Japan but I was in no position to attend such celebrity gatherings.

“That kind of commoner is as busy as our Prime Minister.”

“Everyone around me was like that?”

“The civil officials are like that.”

“Is that so?”

“Ah ~, that's right.”

Even here, the civil officials working at the royal palace seem to be very busy.

However most of the civil officials are aristocrats, not commoners.

“Huh, what is it?”

“No, you’ve become more beautiful compared to the time you arrived here.”

“Hah? What are you saying so suddenly?”

“When you first came here I thought that you looked like the guys from Interior when they’re busy.”

The Director placed his hands on my cheeks while saying, “Your eye bags have completely disappeared”, and stroke his thumb under my eyes.



No one other than my family has ever touched me like this and my heart was thumping in my chest.

Perhaps, my face is also red.

And the Director amused himself with my reactions.

The Director's facial expression doesn't change while he's looking at me but his eyes are mixed with joy, so I'm sure of it.

He seems to have noticed that I'm not accustomed to such skin ship so he's been messing with me like this recently.

Ah ~, enough.

I want to escape from the Director's hands but it is hard to move from the sofa I'm sitting on, so I couldn't distance myself.

While I was cursing in my mind I heard someone clearing their throat in front of me.

When I glance up, the Captain is glaring at the Director in displeasure.

The Director also noticed him clearing his throating and glaring at him so he released his hands from my face.

“What?! Do you also want to touch it too, Al?”

“No!”

It seems that the Director's target has changed to the Captain.

Anyway I drink my tea and sighed in relief.



It's hot.

It is the peak of summer.

This place is the mainland so it's not as humid as Japan.

But, hot weather is hot.

Moreover there's no wind today.

If I was allowed, I would like to be in shorts and a camisole.

Of course with bare feet.

If I were to dress like that here, the guys at the research institute will have nosebleeds and pass out.

Even though it's summer, I'm wearing a long-sleeved shirt and an ankle-length skirt.

Camisoles and short pants have less cloth than general underwear here.

Still at this rate I would probably collapse due to heat stroke. Although my sleeves are rolled up, it's still hot.

I'm writing a document to submit to the Director but my brush has stopped moving for a while now because of the hot weather.

Let's give up enduring this heat.

"Hey, Jude."

"What?"

I move to where Jude was sitting and he also seemed to be annoyed by the heat. There's openings on the sleeves of his shirt.

What the, that's unfair.

I also want to open up my sleeves.

If it's like this then let's make him work.

"I have a little favour to ask you. Can you come with me?"

"Okay."

I said and bring Jude to the kitchen.

The chef isn't there when we enter the kitchen since it was already past noon.

While looking around I found a bucket used for cleaning on the shelf near the wall.

I take the bucket, put it on the floor and turn to face Jude, who was standing behind me.

Jude can use water attribute magic.

I have a feeling that he told me he could fill a tub full of water with his magic.

"Can you fill this bucket with cold water?"

"I can. But what on earth are you trying to start?"

"I thought that it'd be refreshing if I fill the bucket with water and put my feet in."

"Wait, that's....."

"You're trying to say it's improper, right? It's okay, nobody's here."

It seems that it isn't good for woman to show their bare feet to the opposite sex in this world.

When I went to the library recently it was hot so I was fanning myself with my skirt and Liz got angry when she saw it.

Despite Liz being the same sex as me.

When I said that she replied with, "What if someone saw you?" She had a nice smile on while she was angry.

That was scary.

Because there is such values here, Jude hesitates and his face is unusually red.

"If Jude also had a bucket you can soak your feet. It feels good, you know?"

I propose the same thing to the reluctant Jude.

It is the whisper of the devil.

“You don’t have to worry so much. No one comes to the kitchen at this time and it’s not like I’ll be soaking my feet for that long. Please!”

“.....。 Fine..... If you insist. Be careful not to get found out.”

“Thanks!”

Although Jude is reluctant he fills the bucket with water and left the kitchen.

He cheekily took a different bucket with him when he left so it seems that he’s going to do the same thing in a different place.

Even if he said that, everyone’s the same in hot weather.

The kitchen floor is dirt so even if the water spills it’s okay.

I put the bucket in front of the chair and sit down on the chair.

I raise my skirt up to my knees so that it doesn’t get wet.

I took off my shoes and socks and put my feet into the bucket. The cool, cold water covered my feet.

Ah ~, as I thought it feels good.

Anyhow, no one’s here so I unbutton two buttons from my shirt, opened it and fan myself.

There’s no wind but it’s cool when I fan myself.

I spent awhile doing this and at the time when the water in the bucket became lukewarm.

The doorknob turned with a clink and the door behind me opened.

“Sei, here.....”

I heard a voice and turn back. The Captain was there.

He looked my way, stopped in the middle of his sentence and froze.

Ah ~, yup.

My appearance is overstimulating, isn't it?

It's very awkward.

For the time being I fasten my buttons, pulled my feet out of the bucket, put my shoes on and stand up.

"Hello Hawk-sama. What can I do for you?"

And as if nothing had happened, I called out to the Captain.

The Captain, who is frozen, covered his mouth with his palm and averted his eyes.

As usual he blushed.

"Sorry." He said in a small voice.

Please don't be shy.

Please pretend it didn't happen.

I think as I clear my throat. The Captain started speaking awkwardly.

"I heard that you have a day off tomorrow."

"Come to think of it, yes I do."

When he said that I remember that tomorrow's my day off.

But what's wrong with that?

I think and tilt my head. The Captain turns back to face me.

"Tomorrow's also my day off so I was wondering if you'd like to go to town together."

“To town!?”

Oh! I can finally go to town!!!

I haven't been to town yet.

When I replied joyfully the Captain recovered and smiled.

“Johan was worried that you were secluding yourself in the research institute and working on your days off. It is also important to take a breather once in a while, right?”

“Is that so?”

Johan is the Director.

It seems that the Director was worried about me.

I certainly didn't have anywhere else to go and because I live in the research institute, I'm also here on my days off so I end up working.

But I do spend my mornings leisurely.

“Thank you. Please let me join you.”

“Well then, I'll pick you up here tomorrow morning.”

“Is that alright?”

“Yeah, no problem.”

Yay ~!

What kind of place is it?

Of course it'll be like a European townscape, right?

I wanted to go to Europe at least once but I didn't end up going because I was summoned to this place.

Like that, there was a time when I was pleased.....

I was looking forward to going into town that I completely forgot.

The person who is going with me is the Ice Knight-sama, who isn't cold at all.

There was a short distance between the royal palace and the town centre so we rode a carriage from the front gate.

It wasn't a luxurious carriage from the Margrave but a normal carriage, it seems that the Captain made arrangements so that it wouldn't be noticeable.

The clothes that the Captain wore also matched with mine. They were clothes that commoners wore around town.

I think that the Margrave carriage is better than this one.

Because, you know, the normal carriage isn't spacious.

I'm in this cramped carriage with the Captain, who has a good physique. Just the two of us.

It's close! Too close!

Right beside me is a sparkling hunk!

Moreover, we're sitting relatively close.....

A trip in a narrow space while sitting relative close to a hunk.....

My level's too low. I can't do it!

Stop it! My life is already zero!

"Look! If you look over there you can see Johan's main residence."

"Eh ~."

I was screaming inside when the Captain smiled and pointed towards the other side of me.

Don't get any closer! Close. Too close!!!

I couldn't look at the Captain so I look towards where he was pointing and there was a magnificent residence.

Since it was the capital the price of the land must be expensive, right? And yet the Director's house was very big.

Is his family rich?

"It's very big."

"Yeah. Johan's family is really influential."

I thought that was the case and turned my head back. I really thought my heart was going to stop because the Captain's face is so close.

I was thankful that he moved when he noticed that blood was rushing to my face. But the inside of the carriage was really narrow.

Despite it being really taxing on my heart, the carriage carried on and gradually reached the town.

"Wow ~~~!"

It's amazing! What's this, it's so cute!

The landscape looks exactly like Europe!

The rooftops are red. It looked like something that popped out of fairy-tale.

While I was impressed by the townscape the carriage stopped and the door was open.

The Captain got off first and lend me a hand.

I take his hand and got off. Looking around this seems to be close to the centre of town. There are quite a few people.

While I was looking around impressed the Captain said, "The market place is that way, shall we go and see?" and took my hand.

Eh? Is he not going to let go of my hand?!

Wait!

No ~~~~~~!



“Wow ~~~!” I cheerfully shouted at the scene spread out in front of me.

There are various multi-coloured vegetables, fruits, meat and fish being sold at the marketplace. There is also a shop that looked like it specialised in mushrooms.

Besides ingredients, there are also shops and stalls selling bread. The smell drifting about the place made my stomach grumble.

Although there is an abundance of ingredients, their cooking is like that. Things I’ve never seen before are also being sold so it’s interesting.

There are also various breads in the bakery and although there was only a small amount they also had white bread.

The white bread is small and the price is higher than all the other breads, so is it treated as a luxury good?

The market was also called the capital’s kitchen. It was vibrant and crowded with people.

The road between the shops was big enough to fit eight people lining up but it was filled with people and it was difficult to walk through.

I walk through the road and I’m drawn to the interesting items on the shop displays so I look at them.

It seems that I was going to collide with the person walking in front of me.



“Thank you.”

When I smile and thank the Captain who was next to me, he sweetly smiles at me.

Even after we arrived at the market, he held my hand as we walked.

The market is crowded so I could get lost while looking at the stores.

Well, I want to escape from reality in various ways.

I don't think I'm that inattentive but if I stagger than I feel like I'll bump into the person walking in front of me.

So he casually released his hand and bring my shoulders closer to him instead.....

Fufufufufu.....

What kind of torture is this?

I wonder if God is testing the power of my heart?

After we avoid all the people will he possibly hold my hands again?

Yeah, I'm scared of getting used to it.

This went on several times.

I may not be red anymore and my face is probably twitching but I grew! I was able to thank him with a smile!

I think I tried really hard.

Shouldn't I be concentrating on the shops?

If I don't concentrate on the shops then I'll concentrate on other things!

“Are you okay?”

“Ah, yes. I am okay.”

“Are you hungry?”

“Yes.....”

It's still a bit early for lunch but we left early in the morning so I'm a bit hungry.

We walked for quite a bit so my feet is also a little tired.

The Captain seems to be fine but it's hard for a shut-in like me.

There are food stalls at the market but the Captain is an aristocrat so I'm a little worried.

He won't eat something brought at a food stall, right?

Does he feel like entering a nearby coffee shop?

“I am a little bit hungry.”

“Then why don't we take a break and buy something from the food stall?”

Huh? The Captain is an aristocrat, right?

I'm happy but is it alright for him to eat something from the food stall?

The Captain took me to the place where the wooden boxes were kept near the food stalls.

The Captain asks me what I want to eat and when I reply, he left me to go buy food.

Isn't he accustomed to this?

After waiting for a while the Captain returns with several skewers and two fruit waters in a cup.

After I receive the skewers and fruit water one by one, the Captain sat down next to me.

“It seems like you are used to buying things from food stalls.”

“Because I used to come here with Johan a long time ago.”

“Is that so?”

To my surprise the Director and Captain came to the markets when they were young.

Even the aristocrats of this kingdom come to the markets?

When I ask about it in detail, he told me that they came to the market dressed as young rich merchants.

I see.

“Ah, come to think of it how much was the food?”

“Don’t worry about it.”

“Eh, but..... Thank you for the meal.”

I feel sorry about something and my words got quieter.

He’s laughing like he’s troubled.

Well it’ll be fine if I return the favour next time.

The skewers were only seasoned with salt but the salt was good so it was delicious.

There was a good portion of skewers and I ate the whole thing.

I took a sip of the fruit water, it had a gentle fruity smell to it.

I was a bit thirsty so it was also delicious.

It would be really good cold but ice is a luxury item here.

“What’s wrong?”

I stared at the fruit water while thinking that and the Captain made a dubious face.

“No, it is nothing.”

“Really? Does it not suit your taste.....?”

“No. I just thought that it would taste better if it was colder.”

“Fumu.”

The Captain said and took my fruit water.

I watched the cup while thinking about what was happening. The fruit water in the Captain’s started emitting cold air.

Huh? What’d he do?

He presented the fruit water to me and I took it. There’s ice in the cup.

I was surprised. The Captain urged me to drink it with his eyes.

I took a sip and as I thought, it’s more delicious cold.

I smile in satisfaction and the Captain also smiles.

“It is delicious.”

“Is that so? I’m glad.”

“What did you do?”

“Magic.”

“!!”

This are no refrigerators in this world, ice could only be left in the ice room in winter or made with magic.

There aren’t many people who can produce ice with magic so ice is very precious.

I heard that it could be made with ice attribute magic, which was superior to water attribute magic, but I didn’t think that the Captain could use ice magic.

I never thought that I could see it being used right before my eyes.

“It is very delicious. Thank you.”

“I’m glad that it pleased you.”

The cold fruit water is very delicious and I quickly drink all of it.

I finish drinking it and say my thanks to the Captain, he laughs.

Like this, he didn’t look like someone who would be called the emotionless Ice Knight-sama.

He’s always laughing and somewhat sparkly.

No, sparkling has nothing to do with this.

He’s not wearing his Knight uniform today. He’s wearing normal clothes but his aura is showing so he doesn’t look like a commoner.

When I saw him this morning I thought he looked like a commoner but now that I’ve mingled with real commoners, I can see the difference.

Is it because they grew up differently?

The appearance of the fruit water that I drank was also beautiful.

If he dressed as a young rich merchant then he might be able to deceive people but if he dressed up like a commoner then there was no way he could deceive them.

He slants his eye when I carelessly stare at him.

I shake my head in a panic and say it was nothing before averting my eyes.

Please don’t look at me with such gentle eyes.

I really want to run away.

After we finished eating, we left the market and walked along the street while looking at the shops.

There are mainly good quality items lined up inside the shops, they were expensive. I

was a little hesitant to enter.

That's why I only looked at the shops but the Captain stopped in front of a certain shop.

"Sorry but could we go in here for a bit?"

"I do not mind."

We've only been looking at the things that I've wanted to look at today so I didn't mind.

Commoners could also enter the shop that the Captain stepped into but it was a somewhat luxurious accessory shop.

The inside of the shop was decorated with various accessories for both men and woman.

The Captain went into the back alone and I walk around and look at the items for sale.

There were hair clips and hair strings lined up near me. The hair strings stored in the boxes have a beautiful nine colour gradation.

I was so busy with work before that I didn't have the time to cut my hair. Even when I was summoned here, I just let my hair grow out and it's so long now that it's half-way down my back.

It's a little expensive but I want to tie my hair up in this heat. I wonder if I should buy this hair string before going home?

While I was browsing around, I found a hair clip that I really like.

It's an elegant piece made out of silver metal, there were blue gems inlayed in some of the fretwork.

The hair clip looks delicate and is very beautiful but it's also very expensive so I'm a little hesitant to buy it.

If there weren't any gems then it would probably be cheaper. While I'm browsing around the Captain returns.

“Sorry for making you wait. Did you find anything you like?”

“No, I did not.”

I liked the hair clip but it's a bit over my budget and it's also bad to make the Captain wait so I'll give up on it this time and search for it again next time.

“Then shall we go?”

“Yes.”

I follow behind the Captain when he left the store.

I came out a little late and the Captain held my hands again like it was the natural thing to do.

One way or another, I was able to slowly explore so I had a good time. We find the carriage and return to the royal palace.

It's been awhile since I've walked around and I'm mentally exhausted.

The carriage was swaying and before I knew it, I feel asleep.

I could hear someone calling me so I slowly open my eyes. The carriage had stopped.

I faintly look up at the Captain and smile softly.

“Have we arrived?”

“Ah. You seemed tired. You slept really well.”

No way, did I use the Captain as a pillow?

I stare at the Captain and his smile grew wider.

Ah, I did it right?

I used him as a pillow.

I can tell he saw my sleeping face.

I feel like I can't escape from this. I cast my eyes down as I blush and then I heard a puffing sound.

Woow, I think I received the most damage today.

I groan and glance sideways, the Captain got out of the carriage first, just like this morning.

I couldn't stay in the carriage forever and when I got ready to get off, the Captain lend me his hand.

We walk towards the research institute and talk about the market and my impressions of the shops.

Various things happened but today was fun.

When we arrive at the research institute, I turn to the Captain and bow.

"Thank you for taking me out today."

"No, it was fun."

He's called the Ice Knight-sama but today the Captain was in a really good mood.

He's always smiling.

Of course today as well.

I feel like I dragged him around quite a bit but not once did he complain.

He's such a nice person.

"It was also very fun for me. Goodbye."

"Ah Sei, here you go."

When I try to return to my room the Captain stopped me and gave me a big box.

What is it?

I couldn't tell what it was just by looking so for the time being, I receive it with both hands.

"What is this?"

"Please use it. Wait until you get to your room before opening it. Bye."

"Eh? Wait a minute. Hawk-sama!"

He ignored me when I tried to stop him and left.

It's probably better if I ran after him but I'm tired from today. I don't have the energy.

It can't be helped, I'll open it when I get back to my room.

If there's something wrong with it then I'll return it to him tomorrow.

I soothe my feelings, return to my room and open the box.

Inside was the fretwork hair clip that I liked from the shop.



"How was yesterday?"

The first thing the Director said to me when I entered the room were those words.

He has a teasing smile on his handsome face.

"It was fun."

He bluntly reply with, "That's good".

He looks like he wants to ask something but I ignore him and place the documents from the researchers onto his desk.

"These are the reports from the researchers."

"Thanks."

I quickly turn my back from the Director and just like I'd thought, he calls out to me.

"Where'd you go?"

"What do you mean?"

"So yesterday?"

What do you mean, "So"?

I turn around to face the Director and I knew it! He has that teasing smile on his face.

It wasn't something for me to be troubled over but it annoys me how he's amusing himself.

That's why I also grin.

"Are you my father, Director?"

"What's with that?"

"Well, you asked me where I went on my day off. It's similar to a father worrying over his daughter."

"Hey, hey. I don't have a daughter."

The Director also knew that I was teasing him, right? He's smiling bitterly.

"I went into town. That is all."

"Hoh."

"Oh right I heard something about you, Director. You use to be very naughty, right?"

"Wait a minute. What'd you hear?"

"I wonder?"

I only heard what the Captain told me while we were eating at the stalls but I said it in a way that could be misinterpreted on purpose.

Since he asked with a twitching smile, it seems that he's guilty of many things.

It was interesting a while ago but now I'm irritated.

"We went to the market, ate at a stall and then looked at various shops lined up along the streets. We returned when it got dark."

"I see. That's really robust⁹."

Robust?

I only went into town, I don't know what's robust about that.

I thought and the Director dropped a bomb.

"Anyway, I'm glad you had fun on your date."

.....o

Date?

I was flabbergasted with the bomb he dropped. The Director had a dubious look on his face.

"What's wrong?"

"..... Date?"

"Yeah?"

"I just went into town."

"You went into town with Al, just the two of you. You ate lunch and looked at stores, didn't you?"

"Yes."

"Isn't that a date?"

I gape while looking at the Director and then he delivers the final blow.

“When a man and a woman go out together, it’s called a date.”

I want him to wait for a bit.

Date?

No, no, did date mean something like that?

I think back upon it. Other than my father, I don’t ever recall going out with a man on my day off.

Eh? What?

Was yesterday my first date?

When I realise that, my face gets hot.

“No, I was only accompanying Hawk-sama into town, you know?”

“Accompanying..... Al invited you to go out and you left just the two of you, right?”

“Yes but Hawk-sama only invited me because he had spare time, right?”

“Well even if he was free, he wouldn’t invite a woman he didn’t like to go out.”

“Eh?!”

“Is that really surprising?”

“Because he likes me... He likes me...”

My words gradually thinned and I look down.

Because isn’t that so?

It’s impossible for the Captain to like such an unpopular woman like me.

Well I don’t think I dislike the idea but.....

Heaps of thoughts run through my mind as I look at my feet and the Director calls in a

quiet voice, "Sei".

"Was Al cold to you?"

"No..... He properly escorted me when I got off the carriage..... But is that not something aristocrats here do?"

"Well, it is."

"I thought so. He held my hand while we were walking and treated me to lunch."

"Yeah?"

"When we returned he gave me a present."

"Present?"

"Yes."

I take the box out of my skirt pocket and pass it to the Director.

Inside is the hair clip I received yesterday.

When I look at the hair clip I received from the Captain again, the gems embedded in it are different from the ones at the shop.

It was light blue. The blue-grey colour matched the Captain's eye colour so now I'm a bit hesitant to return it.

I could buy the clips at the shop if I save up since it was only that expensive but I wonder if it's okay for me to receive something this expensive.

In the end I put the box into my skirt pocket, worrying about whether or not I should return it or not.

The Director picks it up, opens the box and looks inside before returning the box to me.

"Sei, it's common for aristocrats to escort woman while they're getting off the carriage or while walking."

“Yes.”

“But Al never gives them accessories as souvenirs.”

He stopped laughing in a teasing manner a while ago. The Director said that in a serious tone.

From his attitude I knew that the Captain didn't just casually give me this hair clip.

I look at the box in my hand again and my face heats up.

“Is it really okay for me to receive something so expensive?”

“Just take it if you don't mind.”

I grumble and the Director quietly smiled and returned it.

I didn't say anything, I just moved my neck and nodded.



“How do you do, Sei?”

The next day I went to the library to return the book I'd borrowed. I met Liz in front of the door.

She also seemed to have just arrived.

It was rare for me to meet her in the corridor.

We never arrange to meet. I come to the library for work so the times I come also vary.

That's why even if I go to the library, I'm not always able to meet up with Liz.

“Oh? You changed your hairstyle today.”

“Yeah. It's hot so I decided to do it up.”

“I see. That's a nice hair clip you have.”

“Th-thanks.”

The door squeaks open and I let Liz go in first.

Liz immediately went to find the book she was looking for.

As for me, I hand the book I'd brought with me to the librarian and look for another book to borrow.

As expected as soon as we met again, Liz pointed out that I'd changed my hairstyle.

Liz is really fashion-conscious, she'd noticed that I had my hair up just by glancing at me.

The hair clip was something I received from the Captain and it was somewhat embarrassing so I mumbled.

“Hey Sei. That hair clip is really pretty. Would you mind letting me have a closer look at it?”

“I don't mind but.....”

She called out from behind me when I was standing in front of the medicinal herb books.

When I turn around, Liz has a beautiful smile on her face.

I don't mind showing her but it's a bit troublesome to do my hair up again after I've unfastened it. But I don't mind showing her it if I don't have to unfasten it so I answered.

I couldn't show her if I stand here so we move to where the desks were. I sat down on a chair and Liz stands behind me.

Although she doesn't touch it, she seems to be looking at it very closely.

“This is good workmanship.”

“Thanks.”

“The embedded gems are really nice.”

“Really?”

“Yes..... Hey, who gave it to you?”

“Eh? Why?”

“Well, it seems a bit expensive for everyday use. That’s why I thought someone must have given it to you. Am I wrong?”

“No, you’re right.”

“Did Hawk-sama give it to you?”

“H-how do you know!?”

“How.....? I think it is pretty easy to tell.”

She was right about the Captain giving it to me. I was surprised and turned back, Liz looked shocked.

Eh, what’s with that?

Easy to tell?

When I ask her about it, Liz sighs, stands in front of me and lifts her index finger up.

“First, rumour has it *that* Hawk-sama has someone on his mind.”

“Wow.”

“I think that person is you.”

Seriously?

I haven’t heard this rumour, you know?

And what’s with “that”, huh?

Liz lifts her middle finger up.

“Second, the gems on your hair clip matches Hawk-sama’s eye colour.”

“You looked at it really closely, huh.....”

“Of course, the gems give the hair clip a nice finish.”

“No, not that I meant at Hawk-sama’s eye colour.”

“Hawk-sama’s eye colour is the Margrave family’s special trait so it is well known.”

“I see.”

“I thought it was you because of those two things.”

“Still can people make a connection so quickly just because the gems match the colour of Hawk-sama’s eyes?”

“Yes, that is right. It is well known that Hawk-sama favours Sei.”

“Well known?!”

“Besides it is common in this kingdom for men to give his colour to the girl he likes.”

“His colour?”

“For example, his hair colour or his eye colour. It seems that men generally give gifts that match the colour of their eyes.”

“I see.”

I didn’t know this.

So that means, the Captain likes.....

No, no. Wait, wait.

It’s impossible for me to think further than that!

What should I do? Was it really okay for me to receive this?

Director, you definitely knew this, right?

Why didn't you tell me!?

I hold my head in my arms while sitting and then I hear Liz giggling.

"Sei, you've become so red."

"I'm..... I'm not used to this kind of thing!"

"Oh, is that so?"

Ah, I can't believe Liz is lecturing me on love when she's about 10 years younger than me!

Liz watches me warmly when I lift my face. I really want to run away.

Ah, seriously I want to run away!

ACT 6

MAGIC BESTOWAL

“Magic bestowal?”

“Huh? You didn’t notice?”

It began with a single word from Jude early one afternoon.

Apparently my hair ornament was bestowed with magic.

It was only natural. I’ve never seen things that have been bestowed with magic in Japan, so naturally I didn’t notice.

“Can you tell what kind of effect was attached?”

“I don’t know but I can tell that magic was bestowed to it. It’s reacting to Sei’s magic power.”

“Reacting? You can tell that kind of thing?”

“Yeah, it takes some practice.”

“Really?”

When I ask Jude in detail he told me that you couldn’t find out what magic had been bestowed without using a magic called 『Appraisal』 .

There were very few people who could use appraisal magic. There was a big firm in town with some people who could and even within the Court Mage Division there were only a few people who could use it.

By the way if the level of appraisal magic was high enough, it seems that it could be used on people as well.

However, if the person who casts it doesn’t have the consent of the person they are casting it on, it could repel. It would almost always repel if the person it was casted on

was high levelled.

And now, magic bestowal.

Magic can be bestowed on things like weapons, armour, accessories, etc.

The core of things like gems are used as a premise for magic bestowal. The magic is embedded into the core and it becomes a magic bestowed tool.

Of course it's okay to insert the magic embedded core into tools.

The effects of the magic bestowed tool manifest themselves by reacting to the magic of the person in possession of it.

There aren't many people who could use magic but magic power itself vary greatly and everyone seems to have it.

Therefore those who have trained their magic perception can sense when something has been bestowed with magic.

Jude practiced it when he was at the Royal Academy and even now, in order to help his family business he never skips practice.

He's so diligent.

"It sounds interesting, doesn't it?"

"What does?"

"Magic bestowal."

"Eh? Don't tell me you want to try it out?"

"Ara, you understand me well."

Jude looked subtly disgusted so I smile sweetly at him.

What's with that face?

I couldn't bestow magic in Japan so it shouldn't come as a surprise that I want to try

it.

“It’s not easy to bestow an item with magic.”

“Really?”

“First of all, the cores are expensive.”

There are various core materials like gems and rare crystals so it seems that even though they’re small they’re quite expensive.

Also since magic is needed to bestow an item with magic, there are only a limited amount of people who can do it.

Therefore there was a huge difference in price between items with that have been bestowed with magic and items that haven’t.

Yes, there was a huge difference.

And this hair ornament was bestowed with magic.

.....○

.....○

.....○

“Why’re you making a racket?”

The Director spoke to me as he was walking passed when I was thinking about the price of my hair ornament.

“We are talking about magic bestowal.”

“Magic bestowal?”

“I heard that this hair ornament was bestowed with magic, so I was a little interested in magic bestowal.”

“Oh.”

The Director acted as if nothing happened, but he noticed this hair ornament was bestowed with magic, didn't he?

Because your eyes shook when I said, "Hair ornament".

Neither the Director nor Liz told me how much it was but I wonder if this is one of those things that aren't expensive to aristocrats.

I don't know if the items at the store front were bestowed with magic but since there's a huge difference in price they probably weren't, huh?

If I think like that then I dreaded the price of my hair ornament.

How do I return his gratitude.....?

While I was at my wits end thinking about it, the Director came up with an unexpected proposal.

"Do you want to try it?"

"Eh?"

"Magic bestowal. You're interested, right?"

Jude and I were flabbergasted at the Director's proposal.

Eh? Is it that easy to do?

When I look at Jude, who was next to me, he shook his head as if he knew what I was thinking.

"I have connections. What do you want to do?"

"I will do it."

It was a great proposal so I went with it.

I am interested in it.

The place that the Director took me to is the Court Mage Division's barracks.

Err, we're bestowing magic right?

Ah, is it because it's magic?

Since this is the Mage Division, there are a lot of people wearing robes everywhere. The Director and I am a bit out of place.

Now that I think about it that robe... The people who summoned me here were also wearing those robes, right?

As I thought, the people here participated in the ceremony, didn't they?

The Court Mage Division's barracks is quite far from the research institute, so the Director and I rode a carriage here.

It was further than the 3rd Knight Order's barracks so it would be difficult to walk here.

Because of the Director's order, Jude is house-sitting.

He said he preferred to work, but was it okay for me to come?

The norm of this world is a mystery.

"Sei, it's this way."

"Yes."

I stand at the entrance of the room and look at the Director, who had entered ahead, he beckons at me.

The room I am in has a workbench like the one at the research institute. The Director stands in the middle of the room, in front of the workbench.

Standing on the other side of the Director at the workbench is a robe wearing man who looks like a Mage.

When I bow and say, "I look forward to working with you" to the nervous looking Mage, he also bows in a rush.

Huh? What are you afraid of?

“Well then, I will explain about bestowal.”

The Mage smiles a little stiffly and began explaining about bestowal.

Why is he stiff?

Well, it’s not like I can do anything about it even if I worry.

On top of the workbench on the side was a divider box.

It seems that there are a variety of small gems and crystals in the box.

In order to bestow magic, you have to hold the small core in your hands, think about the effect you want to bestow and expose it to your magic.

The magic bestowed differed depending on the magic attribute of the person bestowing it. For example someone with fire attribute magic would bestow fire magic; someone with magic attribute magic would bestow water magic.

For effects that raised offensive and defensive power, commonly referred to as support type, it was necessary to use holy attribute magic.

There also seemed to be compatible materials for the kinds of magic bestowed. The Mage told me, “If you want to bestow support magic then I recommend these gems here”.

“What kind of effects will you bestow?”

“Let’s see.....”

What should I do?

Support magic, support magic.....

“Is it possible to bestow magic nullification?”

“Magic nullification.....?”

I think about it and suddenly remember about the Salamander that appeared in the West Forest.

It looked like a lizard that blew out fire. I thought it wouldn't be possible to make something that would defend against that fire.

After thinking for a while, the Mage said, "It might not be possible to nullify magic but I think it is possible to reduce the effects'.

I see.

Then let's think of a way to reduce the magic attribute.

"Then I'll do that."

"Then you probably want the gems around here."

I receive the core material from the Mage and cover it with both my hands.

Even if I said I covered it, the core itself was only about 3mm in diameter, so when I put my hands together you can't see it at all.

I imagine the effect I want to bestow and expose my magic to it.

Instead of just reducing fire magic, I might as well reduce all magic.

If I do that, could I raise magic resistance?

Yep, I think I can do it.

I image it and expose it to my magic power.

Crack

.....o

I, it broke?!

Yup, it's broken.

It's broken.

The impact runs through my palm and I timidly peak inside. It was just as I had felt,

the material had broken in two.

While I was worrying about what to do, the Mage asked me, “Is something wrong?”

“Mhmmm, it seems that it has broken.”

It's no use even if kept it quiet, so I timidly told him the truth and showed him the broken core. He looked at the core and said in surprise, “Eh?!”

The Mages all simultaneously looked our way when they heard his exclamation.

Eh, what's with that, it's scary.

Don't look over here.

The Mage looked at my palm and muttered in surprise, “It is broken”, while all the other Mages and the Director was frozen.

And while still muttering, the Mage also froze.

No, anyone's fine, so someone do something about this situation.

“Did you try to bestow magic reduction?”

A heavenly voice came from behind me and I turn around. There stood an Intelligent Glasses-sama. He had a familiar pair of blue-grey eyes and silky silver hair.

I inadvertently added “-sama” because of his cool aura and that heavenly voice that called out to me.

Intelligent Glasses-sama ignored my glance and picked up the core from my palm. He closely examined it.

“You really just bestowing magic reduction?”

“Ah, no.....”

He glances at me coldly and I spontaneously straighten my back.

The feeling was like that of a student and teacher.

“What did you try to bestow?”

“Mhm, well..... I thought that raising the magic resistance would have nothing to do with the magic attribute, so I.....”

“Then this material would be insufficient.”

Intelligent Glasses-sama said as he chooses a different material from the box on top of the table.

He chose a black gem around 5 to 6 mm in diameter.

It was twice the size of the gem from before. Is it alright for me to use something this big?

A gem this big must be really expensive, right?

I look at the Mage, who's also surprised.



The Director was surprised too.

“Is it alright for me to use this?”

I ask while comparing Intelligent Glasses-sama’s face with the materials. He nods and presents the materials before my eyes.

I received it and just like before, I wrapped my hands around it. I prayed for increase magic resistance and exposed it to my magic.

The materials instantly heated up before settling.

Was it successful?

I timidly open up my hands and this time it wasn’t broken. The materials were still in one piece.

Since the material looks the same, I’m uncertain if it actually succeeded.

I stare at the material and Intelligent Glasses-sama picks up the material in my palm just like before.

“ 『Appraisal』 ”

The magic that he quietly chanted was one that few people could use, appraisal magic.

I heard that only a few people here at the Court Mage Division could use it and Intelligent glasses-sama was one of them.

As expected of him.

I stared at him after the remainder of his heavenly voice and a smile slightly appeared on Intelligent Glasses-sama’s expressionless face that was like a Noh mask,

His faint smile quickly disappears and his face is like a Noh mask again then he said, “It was successful”.

The surrounding Mages heard that and cheered.

That’s good, I was successful this time.

I, who was feeling relieved, was quickly presented with another core.

The person who presented it to me was of course, Intelligent Glasses-sama. I tilted my head in confusion and he said, "Next is....."

Eh, we're continuing?

For the time being, I received it and it was as big as the first core I used.

"Poison reduction."

"Yes."

He said in a voice that I couldn't refuse, so I inadvertently nodded.

This time I properly bestowed it with the effect he told me to.

Intelligent Glasses-sama's judgement was correct. The magic bestowal finished without the gem breaking.

When I finished bestowing, I opened my palm and Intelligent Glasses-sama picked up the finished core and used appraisal magic on it.

The bestowment must have gone without a hitch because he nodded in satisfaction and presented the next core to me.

I took it and he frankly told me what effect he wanted me to bestow.

I obediently bestowed the effects he wanted. I must have done well because Intelligent Glasses-sama handed me materials one after the other in the same way.

Thus I continued bestowing the effects he wanted one after another.

He casted appraisal magic on the cores I bestowed with magic and confirmed that the effects were all bestowed correctly.

We continued this routine work the whole time.

Well, magic bestowal didn't take up that much time, you know.

What are you going to do with all these?

He initially told me to bestow them with reduction types like poison reduction and attribute reduction but before I knew it, he'd mixed in nullification types such as poison nullification and paralysis nullification. It ended with bestowing two effects simultaneously.

My MP was exhausted while I was bestowing magic and when they had noticed, someone placed an intermediate MP potions in front of me.

It seems that the Mage who was watching this series of actions, gave me the MP potions.

Five of them.....

It was a really good amount of MP potions but I drank them all.

While taking a break.

Well, since potions don't accumulate in my stomach I can drink as many as I want without worrying.

Even so, there was quite a few of them.

Yes.

There was someone waiting next to me holding the next material while I was drinking.

I was chugging it down, you know. I was chugging it down.

“How long am I going to continue doing this?”

After bestowing many gems with magic, I thought I should head back to the research institute and called out to Intelligent Glasses-sama.

The magic bestowed cores were carried to him like a conveyor belt and were all beautifully lined up in front of him.

Intelligent Glasses-sama looked at the number of cores and nodded his head before moving. He went to a locked shelf by the wall and took out a large material from the

shelf.

It was a transparent stone over 1 cm in diameter.

It's not a diamond, right?

The size of the material presented to me made the surrounding Mages gulp.

Director, your mouth is open, you know?

“This is the last of it. I want; abnormal status nullification, magic nullification and attack nullification.”

Eh? Three of them?

Moreover they're all nullification?

I was surprised when I heard that and the surrounding Mages were also surprised.

I wanted to tell them that if they opened their eyes that big their eyes would pop out, you know?

For the time being I think about whether I could do as I'm told, but it's unlikely that both magic nullification and attack nullification would be compatible.

Well, if it was magic and attack resistance I could probably bestowal all three onto the jewel.

“It is unlikely that both magic nullification and attack nullification would be compatible. But I could probably raise magic and attack resistance.”

“I see. Let's do that.”

I was told that my suggestion was okay so I went ahead and bestow it with abnormal status nullification, magic resistance and attack resistance.

The heat in my palms is higher than before and it took a long time to cool but it seems that I was successful.

I gave the completed core to Intelligent Glasses-sama and he casted appraisal magic

onto it to confirm that the magic was bestowed onto it.

He smiled slightly so it seemed that I was able to bestow the effects he told me to.

The Mages who gulped and watched me bestow magic, instantly cause a ruckus.

I sighed in relief and the Director said, "Good work".

Yeah, I was feeling more tensed than usual and I more tired than usual.

I want to return to the research institute soon to have a cup of tea.

"Today's reward."

When the Director and I tried to leave the Mage Division's noisy barracks, Intelligent Glasses-sama gave me a black stone.

It's the stone that I first bestowed with magic resistance.

Reward..... If this was for sale then it'll be really expensive, right?

Is it fine?

"Are you sure?"

"I don't mind. You worked quite a bit today."

"Is that so?"

He said it was fine so I receive it, gratefully.

I have a feeling the gem in my palm momentary flashed.



It has been one week since I performed magic bestowal at the Court Mage Division.

I heard from a researcher that the Captain called for me and when I went to the Director's room an unexpected person was there.

It was Intelligent Glasses-sama.

“..... Excuse me.”

“Have a seat, Sei.”

The Director urged me to sit next to him and told me the reason why I was called.

It seems that a few days ago someone leaked out that there was a large amount of magic bestowed cores at the Court Mage Division. The knights who heard this asked for the cores.

The cores they asked for was of course the magic bestowed cores.

Therein lies the problem. They also heard that the current Court Mage Division couldn't make the cores that the knights wanted.

If the mages couldn't make it then it was okay to refuse but because the real thing was at the Court Mage Division, they couldn't refuse.

Yup, I'm the ones who created the cores at the Court Mage Division.

It was one of the many cores I made a week ago.

It seems that Intelligent Glasses-sama refused at first.

Somehow the knights knew that the real thing was at the Court Mage Division and didn't believe that the mages couldn't make it.

In this country, the Court Mage Division was a place where the most excellent mages gathered so the cores weren't purchased from the outside.

If the Court Mages couldn't make the core then there was no way that people working at ordinary shops could.

Since things were stalled between the knights and the mages, Intelligent Glasses-sama came to the research institute to ask if I, the creator, could help him.

“I know I can't ask this of you but could you lend me a hand?”

“I do not mind, but.....?”

I was the one who originally wanted to bestow magic at the Court Mage Division, because of that something like this happened so I didn't mind helping out. But since I'm a member of the research institute it's important to get the Director's approval, right?

Ah, he might say it's alright if it's after work hours?

I glance at the Director. Intelligent Glasses-sama notices me doing so, also glances at the Director.

“Just this once. Of course we'll be receiving compensation for it.”

“Thank you.”

Intelligent Glasses-sama remained emotionless like usual but unlike the time when we met at the Court Mage Division, I think that he looks really apologetic because he's looking down casted.

After that the Director and Intelligent Glasses-sama talk and it's decided that starting from tomorrow, I will be working at the Court Mage Division.

The next morning when I finish my preparations and left, a carriage from the Court Mage Division arrives.

According to the Director, it seems that Intelligent Glasses-sama prepared it.

It seems that the carriage will be picking me up and dropping me off every day until I finish production.

This is really helpful since the Court Mage Division is very far.

When the carriage moved towards the Court Mage Division, Intelligent Glasses-sama waits at the entrance, especially for me.

“Good morning.”

“You have a lot of luggage with you.”

He said after our rushed greetings. I look at the box in my hands and proudly point out.

“These are MP potions. It is better if I have them, right?”

It seems that Intelligent Glasses-sama agrees with what I said. He nods and takes the box from me.

“Ah, I can carry it by myself?”

“There’s no need for a woman to carry heavy things.”

It wasn’t that heavy. He quickly enters the building after he takes the box from me.

I trot after him.

Then when I enter the same room that I performed magic bestowal in, the mages were already bestowing magic inside.

“Huh? Does the Court Mage Division start earlier than the research institute?”

“Nope.”

I was planning to arrive at the Court Mage Division’s barracks before they started work but when I arrive the Mages are already rushing around and working.

According to Intelligent Glasses-sama, work starts at the same time for both the research institute and the Court Mage Division but they received a lot of requests from the Knight Order so they’ve been working since early morning.

I ask if I should come to work earlier starting from tomorrow, but they were the ones who asked me to do this so they tell me that it’s alright for me to arrive at the same time as today.

“Is the deadline soon?”

“We were told to have it done in time for the next subjugation.”

When I asked out of concern, I found out that the deadline was too short for the amount of items requested.

I was scared when I saw a vein pop out of Intelligent Glasses-sama's temple so I pretend not to see it.

The place where I was working was the inner most part of the room.

The preparations had already been prepared by another Mage and the box with the cores is sitting on the work bench.

I place the box with the MP potions at my feet and immediately start bestowing magic.

At first I wait and see and Intelligent Glasses-sama is standing next to me.

“Is the request from the 3rd Knight Order?”

“No..... It's from the 1st Knight Order.”

I got used to it after a few times since I only had to bestow one type of magic so it wasn't a problem for me to bestow magic and talk at the same time.

I think there are people who work silently because it's work but there's a person standing next to me so it's a little bit awkward. There was something that I was curious about so I thought I'd ask.

The Director and Intelligent Glasses-sama only said that it was a request from the Knight Order so I'm a bit curious about who put in the request.

I glance sideways at Intelligent Glasses-sama since it was a Knight Order that I had no relations to and he has a sour look on his face.

Is he on bad terms with that Knight Order?

“Sorry. I've been ordered to remain silent about this but it might have leaked out somehow.”

He muttered in a low voice as if he was crawling on the ground and chills run down my back.

It seems that I wasn't the only one. The other Mages also look pale.

I feel the temperature dropping but it's just my imagination, right?

“No, it might have also been leaked by someone in the research institute since there are researchers who know that I performed magic bestowal here.”

“Do they also know what you bestowed?”

“Ah, no they did not.....”

I tried to change the cold atmosphere but it backfired.

I only talked about magic bestowal with Jude so I said something like that. The Director forbade me from talking about the kind of bestowal I did, so only the Director and I know about it.

In that case there was a high possibility that one of the mages leaked the information about magic bestowal that only I can do.

The Director was probably sullen yesterday when Intelligent Glasses-sama came to the research institute because he knew about this.

Moreover since the atmosphere was cold, I think it might be better not to talk any further so I decide to silently concentrate on my work.

After a while Intelligent Glasses-sama must have thought that it was fine for me to work alone and left.

The atmosphere changed at once.

However since I was allocated a rather large amount, I continue working one after the other without talking.

Because I was concentrating on my work, I didn't notice that the lunch bell had rang. I finally noticed that it was lunch when Intelligent Glasses-sama called out to me.

“Are you not going to the dining hall?”

“Eh?”

I look around when he called out to me and everyone had already moved to the royal palace.

“Is it already lunch time?”

“Yes.”

It's a bad habit of mine not to notice anything around me while I'm concentrating.

When I tell him that I brought a sandwich here from the research institute, we decide to have lunch together.

The last time when I did magic bestowal here, Intelligent Glasses-sama only talked to me when necessary so I'm worried that lunch is going to be awkward. He is mindful of it and this time we chat a little.

Fortunately Intelligent Glasses-sama and I talk about things related to work so I think it got a bit lively.

If we talk about trendy clothes or sweets, I don't think I would be able to follow it at all.

I'm sorry I'm not like a woman.

Then as soon as lunch finishes, I return to work.

I work until closing time while taking MP potions in between my breaks. I was able to finish 80% of the requested amount.

It seems that I'll be able to finish this by tomorrow.

When I sigh in relief, Intelligent Glasses-sama came to check the current situation.

“Have you already finished?”

“Yes.”

When he sees the amount I had bestowed, his eyes open in surprise. He picks up some of the finished items and use appraisal magic on it.

It's important to check if the magic was bestowed correctly.

There didn't seem to be any problems with the random items he checked and my work

ends for the day.

“You did really well. I’ll rely on you tomorrow too.”

His face soften, it wasn’t just his mouth but also his eyes as well. I’m surprise that he didn’t have his usual emotionless expression.

The surrounding people are also in shock and a commotion occurs.

It’s a bit disappointing that his smile disappeared when the commotion occurred.

The next day, I bestowed some more cores and the Court Mage Division was able to successfully complete the 1st Knight Order’s request.



I knock on the director’s office door.

As soon as I hear a reply from within I say, “Excuse me” and enter. The Director is reading some documents at his desk.

“Excuse me. I want to discuss something with you, do you have any time?”

“I don’t mind, what is it?”

The Director turns away from the documents and looks at me.

There is something that I want so I want to discuss if we are able to order it.

“It is about this. Would you be able to order it?”

I said as I pass the memo to the Director.

The Director reads it and looks dubious.

I thought so.

The things written on the memo have nothing to do with work.

“Honey, sugar and lemon. What on earth are you using it for?”

“I thought about making some sweets.”

“Sweets?”

Yes, the ingredients written on the memo are for making sweets.

Honestly, I was worried about whether or not this world had the ingredients I wanted but I confirmed it with Jude so I thought I should finally make it.

When I was a student I always made sweets at home.

After becoming a working adult, I stopped making them.

“I was thinking about making it for myself so I am planning to pay for it. I thought that I could purchase it together with the food for the dining hall.”

“For yourself? So you’ll be the only one eating it?”

The things I plan to make this time are for myself so I planned on properly paying for the expenses but that wasn’t the part that the Director caught onto.

No, I didn’t plan on eating it by myself, you know?

Do you also want to eat it, Director?

I see.

Well then should I ask the Chef to help me out and make some for the researchers as well?

“If it is like that then the ingredients written on the memo are not enough.”

“Then add the necessary ingredients to the dining hall ordering form and bring it to me.”

“Is that alright? I thought that honey and sugar is expensive?”

“It’s fine.”

“I will only pay for myself, you know?”

“Who said that you’d pay?”

“No way, are you taking it from.....”

“There’s no way I’ll do that.”

The Director sighs in amazement.

But Jude told me that sweet ingredients like honey and sugar is precious in this world so it’s really expensive.

I think it’d be quite expensive if we purchased such high-quality food for the researchers as well, you know?

The dining hall has a food budget, right? So it’s impossible to include those ingredients in the budget, right? Therefore it wasn’t strange for me to think that it’d be taken from the research funds.

Ha!

Will the Director personally pay for it?

“Well, you don’t have to worry about it.”

The Director saw that I’m worrying over who was paying for the ingredients, smiles wryly and waves his hands as if telling me to leave.

The ingredients that I asked the Director for arrives a few days later.

Early in the morning on my day off, I go to the corner of the kitchen and begin preparing the ingredients.

Of course it’s difficult for me to make everything for the researchers as well so I cook with the Chef.

Previously when I told him about making sweets he asked me to tell him the recipe so this is perfectly.

Oh yeah at the beginning there was only one Chef at the dining hall but now there are five.

They work in a rotation of three so not all five Chefs are here at once.

The rumour that the research institute's dining hall has delicious food seems to have spread to the royal palace and they dispatched people here to learn.

In addition to that, since this morning I put in a lot of effort to make sweets with the Chef.

I made simple cookies and pound cakes with honey and lemon.

I only vaguely remember the recipe but it seems that it came together nicely.

I'm glad. That's good.

The pound cakes that I take out from the oven are nicely baked.

The other Chefs who were preparing lunch also sample it with me. I got a positive response from them.

A nice smell drifted from the oven so the chefs who were preparing lunch kept glancing over here.

They seemed curious so I decided to invite them to sample it with me.

The cake sample tasted perfect so I cool the rest down and cut it up before putting it in a basket. Now it's ready.

I'll entrust the rest to the Chef to give to the Director and researchers. My goal today is to go to the 3rd Knight Order barracks. Let's go!

Yup, was my tension too high?

If it wasn't this high then I can't go!

Today I'm going to the 3rd Knight Order barracks for a certain reason.

I thought about giving my thanks to the Captain.

I've been worrying over it ever since Jude told me about the price. I thought it was too much.

Even if the other party favours me, it's still too much.

Then I got a core from magic bestowal so I used it to make an accessory for him.

I was troubled over various things but I made a necklace.

Since he wields a sword, I thought a ring would be troublesome and I have a feeling that he didn't have piercings so he couldn't wear earrings. I thought that necklaces wouldn't get in the way of anything.

I don't know which designs were common in this world but I made it into a dog tag so that men can wear it.

I engraved a cross in the middle and embed the core into the middle of that.

I think that it's an acceptable design.

Still I couldn't make it by myself so I outsourced it.

The shop was introduced to me by the Director.

He had a frightful smirk on his face though.

It was a little embarrassing just to take the necklace with me so I also brought cookies and the pound cake.

I think that it's fine just to give him the basket.

I arrive at the Captain's office.

The Knight standing at the door smiles at me and announces my presence. He didn't mistake me for a suspicious person.

What does it mean when I haven't even introduced myself yet and he's already announced my presence?

I don't remember sending a messenger from the research institute to tell them I was coming.

It's probably that, right? I shouldn't always go horse riding with the Captain.

I know it isn't good to do so since rumours float about, but it's hard to refuse him when he invites me so I continue to go horse riding with him.

Uoh.....

"Excuse me."

Soon after bracing myself at the entrance, the Knight opened the door and I enter. The Captain is doing paper work at his desk like usual.

Even if they're a Knight Order they don't always train and go on monster subjugations. The people at the top have a lot of paper work to do.

"What's wrong today?"

"I made some sweets so I came to share them with you."

As I said the words I prepared in advance, the Captain's face softens.

Yup, sorry, I can't look at you directly.

Why?

Please don't ask me!

When I give the Captain the basket, he takes off the cloth and looks inside.

At first glance it looks like there are only cookies and pound cake inside.

Actually the box containing the necklace is thrust into the corner. It's hidden by the cookie so he can't see it.

"It looks delicious. Let's hurry up and eat it."

The Captain confirms that there are cookies and pound cake inside and stands up with the basket.

Did I come when he was taking his break?

I hope I didn't disturb him.

Well then, I've handed over the basket so I suppose I should head back now.

As I think that and try to say my farewells he says to me, "If you don't mind, would you like to join me?"

No, I want to leave before you notice the necklace inside of the basket.....

.....o

I couldn't win against the smiling face of the Captain.....

I give up and sit on the sofa as advised.

.....o

Mhm, why are you sitting next to me?

There are sofas over there too, you know?

Was it weird for me to sit on a three seater sofa? The Captain sat next to me.

I'm perplexed by the distance between us but I didn't feel the need to run away like before. Did I get used to the distance while horse riding with him?

I'm scared of getting used to it.

I don't know, it feels like the places I can escape to have been steadily decreasing.

A while later, the tea was brought out and the gentle smell of tea hangs in the air.

The Knight standing at the door seemed to have noticed and requested for a maid.

The amber liquid in front of my eyes was a luxury good that I haven't drank since coming here.

I take a sip of my drink. . The astringency was just right and it was very easy to drink.

As expected of tea from the royal palace.

They use good tea leaves, huh?

For some reason the maid brought some plates so I take out the cookies and pound cake from the basket and hand it to the Captain.

Mr. Knight at the entrance, did you notice that I brought sweets with me?

Ah, did you notice from the smell?

“I’m not really good with sweet food but this is delicious.”

“Thank you.”

The Captain seems to favour the mildly sweet cookies. He took a bite of the cookie and smiled.

Of course I’m glad he’s so pleased with it.

When I saw that, I was also caught up in the mood and smile. The Captain looks at me and his smile deepens.

An ikemen’s smile has high attack power.

I feel my face getting a little hot.

No, no, looking at him in the eyes is bad.

“By the way, it’s been bothering me for a while but.....”

The Captain takes the necklace box out of the basket while drinking tea after he finished eating.

I choke but I want someone to compliment me because I didn’t spurt out any tea.

I hid it so why did he notice?!

“It feels that this has been bestowed with magic. What is it?”

“Mhmmm ~.....”

My eyes wonder about as I try to think of an explanation.

Uoh ———.

This is useless. I can't think of anything.

I glance at the Captain and he looks like he's happily anticipating something while staring at me.

"That is also for you. It is my thanks for the hair ornament."

I'm making no progress even if I think about it so I answer honestly.

As soon as I told him that, the Captain's smile becomes wider, he nods and asks, "Can I open it?"

"I went to the Court Mage Division the other day and did magic bestowal. I made that core but....."

It's painful for me to wait silently for the Captain to open the box, so I told him that I made the core.

As soon as the Captain opens the box and sees what's inside, his eyes widen.

"The core is bestowed to increase magic resistance. I thought that you could use it when you go out on subjugations."

I could tell that my face is burning while I'm explaining it to him.

It's embarrassing so I look away from the Captain and because I was thinking about tomorrow I didn't notice until it was too late.

I returned my gaze when I felt something touch my right hand. The Captain was lifting up my hand.

He didn't do it in slow motion but I felt as if it was in slow motion.



I looked at the Captain's eyelashes and carelessly thought, "Wow ~, it's long". I'm definitely escaping from reality.

I feel it afterwards. A soft feeling touches my fingertips.

The Captain's feverish look as he releases his lips from my fingertips.

That's all I remember.

After that I don't know how I returned to the research institute.

BEHIND THE SCENES 2

“Good morning.”

In the King’s office deep within the royal palace, Airhart Hawk the Court Mage Division’s Deputy Head Magician, presented the King with a black velvet tray.

There was a diamond 1cm big on the tray.

The other day, Sei had bestowed it with abnormal status nullification, magic resistance and attack resistance.

When the magic bestowed core was placed in front of him, the Prime Minister standing next to the King, who is usually emotionless, gulped.

It wasn’t unreasonable for the Prime Minister, who excelled in Machiavellianism, to inadvertently reveal his true feelings.

The core that Sei had made, was only found by excavating deep within ancient ruins or by subjugating monsters.

Sometimes magic bestowed tools dropped when monsters were killed. The quality of the bestowal tool depended on the strength of the monster.

To get an item with the same bestowment as the one Sei made, the entire Knight Order would need to subjugation the monster or else it won’t drop.

It is indeed a legendary item.

Items with similar effects become national treasures.

Those treasures weren’t gathered within the past several decades, no, they was gathered over hundreds of years. It took months and years to find just one of those treasures so there were only a few of them.

The core that was placed in front of the King and the Prime Minister was one such treasure. It was the first time they had seen such a treasure in front of them outside of the treasury.

“Indeed. I can see why you wanted to clear the room.”

The King sighed after a moment of silence.

The King had received a report that Airhart and Johan, the Director of the Medicinal Herb Research Institute, had confidential information that they wanted to share with him. Therefore only the King and the Prime Minister were present at the meeting place.

Sei had already bestowed magic in front of the Court Mage Division. Airhart had also issued a gag order on the Mages but he couldn't deny that there was a possibility that it would leak out from the Mages. It was, however, still better to clear people out of the room while reporting to the King.

The content reported by the two was about why they had wanted the room cleared; Sei had produced a legendary rank magic bestowed tool. It was unavoidable that the two, who held up this country, were dumbfounded.

A legendary rank item was exactly as stated. The core that Sei had produced was extremely useful to the military and it could be sold at astronomical prices. Sei, who can make such tools, was definitely a goose that laid golden eggs.

If this story were to get out, people would certainly target her.

This time, Sei was interested in magic. Airhart, who Johan had contacted, took the opportunity to examine her magic abilities so that he could report it to the King.

The only person who could appraise a person's status, the Court Mage Division's Head Magician was still in a coma after the 【Saint Summoning Ceremony】 ; so they didn't know whether Sei or Aira, who were both summoned by the ceremony, was the 【Saint】 .

However it has already been more than half a year since the ceremony and they didn't know when the Head Magician would awaken so the Cabinet Ministers talked about examining Sei and Aira's abilities.

Aira was attending the Royal Academy so they screened in class and her ability was being examined in various ways.

Sei, on the other hand, was placed at the Medicinal Herb Research Institute and was performing the same work as the other researchers so the investigation into her abilities was proceeding slowly.

There was also that thing that happened immediately after she was summoned so she didn't appear at the royal palace often. Therefore her spontaneous request this time was a godsend.

The King accepted Airhart's report and a few days later, magic bestowal was conducted at the Court Mage Division. He'd decided to use this opportunity to investigate Sei's abilities.

Sei's astonishing abilities were revealed in this investigation.

The Court Mage Division already knew how they would investigate Sei's abilities and made preparations beforehand.

The effects of magic bestowal differed depending on a person's: magic skill attribute, level and how much magic power they expose to the item. Trying to bestow an item with high effects required a higher level of magic skill and more magic power needed to be used.

The relationship between the bestowed effects, the level of magic skill and the amount of magic power required have been researched extensively so they understood it to a certain degree.

They used that information to investigate Sei's magic skill. They would measure Sei's magic skill level by gradually increasing the difficulty of the magic bestowal.

If possible, they wanted her to exhaust her MP so that they could calculate the max value of it by the amount of MP potions she consumed.

Of course since Sei had been summoned here by the 【Saint Summoning Ceremony】, it was highly possible for her to possess holy attribute magic, so the Mage initially asked her to bestow support magic.

Something unexpected happened midway and Airhart took over but the plan still proceeded as planned.

The difficulty of magic bestowed were increased as such: reduction, resistance and

then nullification.

Level 10 magic skills were generally regarded as the highest level but throughout history, there had only been one or two people who have reached that level. Even the Mages that worked at the Court Mage Division were mostly at level 3.

Reduction could be bestowed with the lowest level holy magic skill; resistance required level 3 holy magic skill, and nullification required at least level 5 holy magic skill.

The effect that Sei wanted to bestow first was magic nullification which was the most difficult so instead, the supporting Mage recommended she try reduction, which was the easiest to bestow.

The first one failed and broke because Sei changed the bestowal effect beforehand. That had been completely unexpected but she succeeded in bestowing magic resistance the second time.

Since effects like resistance and defense fell under the resistance group they decided that Sei's magic skill at that time was level 3 or higher.

Half a year half passed since they've been summoned and even Aira the other candidate was at level 4. Her holy magic skill had already surpassed the Court Mage Division. When she first began attending the Royal Academy, however, her holy magic skill was only at level 1.

It was easy to imagine how surprised the Mages were since Sei, who had never attended a magic lecture, was suddenly at level 3.

In order to investigate further, Airhart instructed Sei to bestow various effects.

The surrounding Mages wondered how long it would take for Sei to blow a fuse at Airhart's extremely businesslike instructs and grew fearful. Fortunately for them, she followed his instructs and bestowed magic quietly without losing it.

Bestowing reduction group magic required at least level 1, but a higher level may be required depending on the effect of the reduction.

For example, poison reduction can be bestowed at level 1 but paralysis reduction cannot be bestowed unless the caster had a holy magic skill level of 2 or higher.

Airhart tried to examine Sei's magic skill level in detail using that premise.

In order to bestow various effects, he gradually increased the difficulty level but in the end Sei succeeded in bestowing nullification which required level 5 or over.

Therefore as a magic researcher, Airhart got a little greedy.

The next instruction that he gave her was to bestow more than one effect onto a single gem. No one has ever succeeded in doing that before.

Still he felt that it was impossible and he asked her half-heartedly. Even if the effects were from the easiest reduction group, Sei easily succeeded.

Since it came to that, everyone wanted to see how far she could go.

The Mages who were secretly watching her at that time all concentrated on what she was doing.

When she took a break, Sei asked how long she would continue this for so Airhart gave her the last order.

He had told her to do the impossible.

Abnormal status nullification, magic nullification and attack nullification.

It was the highest difficulty nullification and he didn't just instruct her to bestow two nullification, he had asked her to bestow three of them. No one has ever been able to do something like this before. Even if it could exist in this world, he had instructed her to bestow something dodgy.

As he'd expected, it was impossible even for Sei. She, however, suggested that she could bestow the core with abnormal status nullification, magic resistance and attack resistance; which was something legendary.

She had succeeded, just as she declared.

Thus Sei's holy magic skill level was probably at the highest level; level 10.

Her holy magic wasn't actually at that level but it would be a while longer before Airhart and the people at the royal palace find out.

“Her holy magic skill level is most likely at level 10. Her level, itself, is over level 40.”

The King and Prime Minister’s eyes widened when they heard him report that in a quiet voice.

Apart from combat skills and production skills, Status also showed one’s basic level.

Basic level effected things like HP, MP, attack and magic.

The average levels of an ordinary person was between level 5 ~ 10, for those who graduated from the Royal Academy 15 ~ 20, and for knights and mages that worked at the royal palace 30 ~ 35.

The Knight Order Captains and the Head Magician were the only ones who had passed level 40.

This time they estimated that Sei’s max MP was around 5000 from the amount of MP potions she drank during the magic bestowal.

The only person with the highest max MP at the royal palace is the Court Mage Division’s Head Magician, whose level is 45.

Because of that, Airhart speculated that Sei’s level is 40 or over.

“It’s really high...”

It’s not surprising that the Prime Minister grumbled.

The first Prince was investigating Aira, who was summoned along with Sei, and was making regular reports under the King.

According to his personal statements, when Aira first entered the Royal Academy her level and magic skill was at 1 and through taking classes at the Royal Academy her level had risen to 16 in the last six months.

Aira’s level rose extremely fast considering that it took the other students three years to reach level 15 ~ 20.

It wasn’t just her level that rose fast but her magic skill as well. Her magic skill rose just by using it so she has been proactively making use of potions to raise her magic

skill. Thus her holy magic skill was now comparable with the Court Mages and was now at level 4.

Nevertheless, her level and magic skill were no match for Sei's.

“Her high level is because she's the 【Saint】 , is it not?”

“We still do not know that yet. We have people searching for documents describing the details of the 【Saint】 's status but we still have not found anything yet.”

“If only we had some kind of information on her status.....”

“Details about the status are not important. The important thing is information on purifying miasma and annihilating the monsters. There are a lot of documents detailing those things.”

There were many books detailing the 【Saint】 successors and monster annihilation at the royal palace library but books detailing the 【Saint】 's status has yet to be found.

The stories left over about their private lives were love stories involving the royal family or a knight, etc. There was, however, no stories about making potions or bestowing magic like Sei.

There was a reason why the stories on the 【Saint】 were bias in this way.

There were 【Saints】 in the past who bestowed magic like Sei.

They didn't produce legendary cores like Sei did but they were still able to make quality cores that couldn't be produced normally.

Wisely, the upper stratum of that time, were anxious that the 【Saint】 would be used by others for something other than her original purpose and forbade people from recording anything other than monster annihilation which led them to the current situation.

The ideas of the upper stratum of that time and the current King roughly matched.

This can be seem from the expression of the King which gradually darkened since the

beginning of the discussion.

He was delighted that there was a high possibility that the 【Saint】 existed but regardless of whether she is the 【Saint】 or not, Sei's ability had a great influence on the kingdom's tactics.

If her abilities were known to the public, it was easy to predict that people who wanted to make use of her would appear from near and far. It also wasn't hard to predict that their actions would cause disarray in the kingdom.

As King, he had to think of ways to protect Sei from those people. It was inexcusable for him to only just be pleased with what was happening.

“We need to increase her guard.”

Everyone at the King's office agreed with what the King ended the discussion with.

The Medicinal Herb Research Institute where Sei is located was far from the royal palace. Recently people, who weren't researchers, come and go from the research institute but the number of unauthorized people entering the research institute was still low.

There were people guarding Sei, a saint candidate, in secret ever since she moved to the research institute. It was, however, easy to find when suspicious people entered a building depending on its location so there weren't many people assigned to guard Sei since she mostly stayed at the research institute.

However considering that there was a leak this time, they felt uneasy at the number of guards she had.

Considering that Sei's abilities were already well known amongst the Mages, they concluded that it was important to increase the number of guards Sei had.

However it would also become a problem if they increased it too much.

The King had received a report from Johan stating that Sei wanted to live life as an ordinary person.

Therefore unlike Aira, they didn't assign a guard at her side but instead, had the guards protect her in secret.

They concluded that they would assign guards to the research institute to pose as researchers and chefs, that way they could place people close to Sei.

ACT 7

MAGIC

Seven months have passed since I've been summoned.

The sunlight that blazed down during the daytime is still the same but it feels like the day is getting shorter.

Every morning while I'm watering the medicinal herbs I feel that the sun is rising later. I think that it's almost autumn soon.

"Good morning, Sei."

Jude who woke up and was adjusting his outfit, came while I'm watering the medicinal herbs with a watering can.

Although I'm watering the medicinal herbs, it didn't mean that I'm watering all of them.

To begin with, the medicinal herb garden had recently expanded so it was impossible for me to manage the whole place just by myself.

I'm only taking care of the herbs I personally use, in a corner of the research institute's medicinal herb garden.

There were many other researchers who have their own personal fields as well. They were all managed individually.

"If you had asked me, I would have helped out."

Jude looks at the watering can I'm holding and lowers his eyebrows.

Because Jude can use water attribute magic, he could water all the herbs without having to use a watering can.

When he knew that I was watering the herbs every morning, Jude told me that he could water the herbs using his water magic and has been helping me out.

But he doesn't help out every day. I feel guilty about asking him to do it every day so I only ask him to help out if I meet him before watering the herbs.

"Thanks. I'll just accept your feelings."

I smile and say my thanks. Jude laughs with a feeling of resignation.

I have just finished watering the herbs so Jude accompanies me back to have research institute.

Jude doesn't have his own field so it seems that he came out just to help me water my herbs.

"By the way, were the medicinal herbs arriving from the shop today?"

"Yeah. There's more herbs than usual so the Director said that the researchers also have to help move it to the warehouse."

I confirm today's schedule with Jude on our way back home.

Since we sell the potions to the 3rd Knight Order at wholesale price now, the medicinal herbs were not enough to cover the amount of potions sold so we started to stock herbs from the shop.

By the way, the shop we stock from is Jude's home because of that we were able to purchase the herbs at a cheaper price so the Director's happy.

According to Jude, his home was the biggest store in the capital and he handles various things at the shop. He's always the first to know what ingredients are being purchased for the dining hall.

I thought that I asked for various unreasonable ingredients for the dining hall so I'm feeling a little apologetic.

"What time will the goods arrive?"

"Around the 3rd morning bell, right?"

"Then, I wonder if it's alright for me to arrive around that time?"

There are clocks in this world but they were very expensive. There are only a limited number of people who have it.

Therefore commoners knew the time from the bell chimes ringing from places like the church. The bell at the royal palace also rang at pre-set times.

The 3rd morning bell was about 9 A.M.

Even if I leave when I hear the bell ring, I'd still make it in time since the warehouse was next to the research institute.

I went to the warehouse when I heard the 3rd morning bell but there was nothing for me to do.

The large number of boxes containing medicinal herbs piled up in the wagon is being carried into the warehouse by the other researchers and assistants.

The majority of the herbs are used by me so I told them that I would help out but everyone declined.

No, well, I got to see everyone's strong point which I usually don't see and it was good eye candy for me. I wonder if it's okay if I'm the only one who thinks it's good?

I'm feeling somewhat guilty so I decide to stop watching them and instead go to deliver the potions to the 3rd Knight Order in place of the assigned person.

The potions are delivered on a wagon pulled by a donkey so it's not hard work.

The assistants will do the loading and unloading.

Oh yeah, we have coachman for the wagon now.

I was worried about whether I could control the donkey well at the beginning but it's pretty easy.

This is probably a really excellent donkey.

The donkey was a good boy who obediently listened to what I said.

This is probably something I wouldn't experience in Japan just like making potions.

"Huh? Sei?"

I encounter the Knights who have just finished training while the assistants were unloading the potions from the wagon at the side entrance.

Since they were training they weren't wearing their usual knight uniforms. Their clothing is slightly rough.

I sometimes went on subjugations with them and they would sometimes help me investigate food effects so I'm on good terms with the 3rd Knight Order.

To the extent that they would call out to me like this.

The Knights who called out to me, were heading my way. They see that the wagon next to me is piled up with potions so they could guess that I brought it here.

"Did you bring the potions here?"

"Yes."

"The research institute's potions are really effective. They really help us out during subjugations."

"Thank you."

After training the Knights shuffled in a circle around me.

Most of the Knights are taller than me and they have good physique so it feels like I'm being surrounded by walls.

This is a real meat wall, just kidding!

"You're always making a fair amount, isn't it hard? Next time would be double this amount, right?"

"Eh? Is it increasing?"

"Huh? Haven't you heard anything?"

I heard from a Knight that the amount of potions would double next time but I still haven't heard anything from the Director.

To be honest, I can make triple this amount by myself so there's no problem if it's doubled.

When I ask about it in detail, he told me that the next scheduled subjugation will be conducted by the 2nd and 3rd Knight Order. So it wasn't just the 3rd Knight Order that was ordering the potions but also the 2nd Knight Order.

The Director and Captain decided to do so because it would cause problems if only one party had effective potions.

Indeed, the amount of medicinal herbs delivered today was larger than usual.

"Are the Knight Orders joining up because a powerful monster had appeared?"

"It's not like that. We're going to the Ghosh Forest next so just to be safe, the two Knight Orders are joining hands."

"Ah."

The Ghosh Forest is where the Salamander appeared and although time has passed since it had appeared, there could still be another one out there so this time they're going on a massive subjugation mission.

"Is the 1st Knight Order not going?"

Since the 2nd and 3rd Knight Orders were going I thought that the 1st Knight order would also join in so I innocently asked but as soon as I did, the expression of the Knights around me grimed.

I might have asked something bad so I tilt my head and the Knights around me begin talking bitterly.

"The 1st Knight Order will be protecting His Highness."

"His Highness?"

"Ah, His Highness Kyle and his associates will be going to the East Forest to level up so

the 1st Knight Order will be guarding them. They won't be joining the subjugation this time."

Kyle, Kyle..... Ah, that red-haired Prince?

I didn't know who he was for a moment there when they told me his name, I certainly remember that the 1st Prince had that kind of name.

"His Highness and his associates have already passed level 15. So even if they go to the East Forest, it'll be pretty hard for them to level up....."

"Yeah. If they're going then it'd probably be better for them to head to the South Forest."

"If they have guards escorting them, it's probably better for them to go to the South Forest, huh."

What the Knights are trying to say is that the East Forest is for beginnings so students up until level 12 will level up well there.

Therefore the First Prince and his associates who are already at level 15 would find it hard to level up at the East Forest.

The South Forest has stronger monsters than the East Forest and it's easier for people to level up from level 12 ~ 20.

After that I ask about it and I heard that the First Prince used to go to the South Forest. I wonder why he's going to the East Forest now.

"It's because of her right? The Saint-sama"

"Well, it's mostly because of her."

"Saint-sama?"

"A girl being protected by His Highness. They call her that."

When I inadvertently respond to the word **【Saint】**, the Knights tell me various things about the Saint-sama.

I could guess who it was when they told me she was being protected by the First Prince and yup, it was about Aira-chan.

To summarise the Knight's stories, Aira-chan is attending the Royal Academy and the First Prince and his close associates are looking after her.

The First Prince reasoned that because she was the **【Saint】** it was better for the country if she levelled up faster.

She had entered the Royal Academy later than her classmates so in order for her to level up faster it was better for them to head to the forest with the 1st Knight Order, who're higher level than her. This way they could level her up faster than usual.

Of course, the First Prince is royalty and his close associates are all sons of aristocrats so the 1st Knight Order are accompany them for safety reasons.

Since they were power-levelling her it was better for them to do so at the South Forest but the First Prince strongly opposed saying that it was dangerous so they're heading to the East Forest instead.

The other reason was that there was no longer a need for Aira-chan to level up and catch up to her classmates.

"He is really treating her like she's glass."

As a person summoned together with Aira-chan, I'm a little relieved that she didn't met with any bad experiences.

She is younger than me I'm a little worried after all.

I think I looked relieved but the Knights who are looking at me have a strange expression on their faces.

Eh? What is it?

"Sei feels more like a Saint-sama than that Saint-sama."

"His Highness doesn't have a discerning eye."

"If something happens tell us. If it's something we can do then we'll do it!"

They were trying to comfort me while looking at me with eyes of pity. Even if you don't worry so much I'm okay, you know?

I do what I want. I'm having fun living my ordinary peaceful life, you know?

"Ahaha, Thank you. I will let you know if anything happens."

Everyone says that I'm like a 【Saint】 . When something bad happens I'm really like a 【Saint】 , huh?

According to my Status anyway.

But I will not positively affirm it nor do I intend to publicise it.

I don't intend to deny it either because it might be found out one day.

I'm still a little bit peeved at what had happened on the day I was summoned so I'm not going to obediently admit it.

So I want to spend my life as an ordinary person until the day someone finds out.



I recall the story I heard from the 3rd Knight Order the other day.

Yeah, it's about the girl who was summoned together with me.

She was taken by the first Prince and now attends the Royal Academy.

I think she's still around the age to be a student so that in itself doesn't matter.

What I'm concerned about is that her level was lower than her classmates at the time of admittance.

After parting with the Knights, I returned to the research institute and confirmed it with Jude. I talked to him about whether there are a lot of people around level 7 or 8 in their first year at school.

The Knights said that there were many third graders who were level 12 ~16; the Prince and his associates were excellent students so they exceeded that and was at

level 15.

Because she's being accompanied by her classmates, Aira-chan's highest level would be the same as the Prince and his associates, level 15.

I remember my level.

Or rather, I just checked it a while back. I didn't raise my level and my level hasn't risen since I've been summoned.

It remains at level 55.

Yes, level 55.

Comparing it now, Aira-chan is level 15 and I'm level 55.....

Even if Aira-chan level is higher than 15, it's probably lower than mine, right?

I was somewhat concerned and asked. Jude is level 20 and even most of the Knights were around level 30.

I don't think her level is higher than theirs.

What on earth is with this level difference?

I have a really unpleasant idea but I don't want to think about it much.

I don't want to think that it's because of our age difference but I'll hate it even more if I was the **【Saint】** and Aira-chan wasn't.

If it was like that then I wouldn't be able to live my normal peaceful life.

Aira-chan would also hate it, right?

She was summoned by the **【Saint Summoning Ceremony】** but she's not the **【Saint】**
.....

"Hey, you put a lot of energy into making it, huh."

When I turn around at the voice that called out to me, I see the Director looking

stunned.

I silently made potions while in deep thought so I made more than planned.

The research institute recently started selling potions to the 3rd Knight Order at wholesale price so I aimed to increase the efficiency by making a lot of potions at once. On the desk next to the kettle I'm mixing right now is 1 ~ 5 times more potions than what a normal pharmacist would make.

"I am sorry. I made too much while in deep thought."

"It still looks like you have some room for more so could you double this amount by the end of today?"

"Well, if it is just that much then I can make some room for it."

I said to the Director with a bitter smile and his cheeks twitch.

When I first came to the research institute and he saw that I was making a lot of low HP potions, he was worried about my MP getting depleted but recently, he doesn't worry.

Instead he worries about the herbs in the medicinal herb garden decreasing day by day.

Since they are used in advanced HP potions, he couldn't allow it to decrease any further so there's a current use ban on it.

It doesn't seem like my pharmacy skill level would rise any further so recently, whenever I need to make advanced HP potions for the 3rd Knight Order, the materials are purchased from the store so I only make a small amount.

Advanced HP potions is both effective and very expensive so in the recent subjugations to the East and South Forest, the Knight Order doesn't use it unless they have to. So even if I make a lot of it, it'll just accumulate.

This time, however, they're going to the West Forest for the first time in a long time so it's better for them to use the advanced HP potions that they normally don't use. Therefore I've increased the production rate by a little.

The only thing I could do as an ordinary person was to make potions so I made them enthusiastically but the look on the Director's face told me that I overdid it a little.

I had planned on using the whole day to finish my work but I inadvertently finished everything in the morning so I decided to go to the royal palace library.

I want to search for books on medicinal herbs that could be made into potions which are more effective than advanced HP potions.

I've been researching medicinal plants for a long time but I still haven't found anything yet.

When I previously asked Liz, she told me that there might be books containing that information in the prohibited book warehouse but ordinary people can't enter that warehouse.

Since there's no choice, I'm reading all the books related to medicinal herbs.

There's still a long way to go.

Even now to kill time, I'm searching for a book that seems like it would be related to medicinal herbs but then I find a book that interests me so I take it.

The title of the book included the words 「Holy Magic Attribute」 .

My level is odd but what's weirder is the level of my holy magic in my status.

What is ∞ ?

Levels that aren't even represented by numbers might be related to the 【Saint】 .

Since I came across the subject by chance I was able to ask about basic levels, but I haven't heard anything about attribute magic levels so I don't know what the average is.

If I'm too persistent then they'll ask questions so I couldn't ask any more than that.

I had timidly asked about basic levels but thankfully no one asked me about my level.

Now let's return to the main subject.

Although the book is about holy magic, I don't think that my level would raise higher than this so I don't have anything in particular I want to study.

Also, my pharmacy and cooking skills are still levelling up so it was way more fun.

But after coming here I thought a little about what I'd heard about Aira-chan.

She was summoned at the same time as me but her level was lower than mine.

Because of this, the possibility of her holy attribute magic being lower than mine is also high.

Of course, it's fine if she was the same level as me or rather I hope that she's the same level as me.

That way I can remain an ordinary person forever.

Because as soon as I become a 【Saint】 , the chances where I'll have to be together with that Prince will increase, you know.

I really want to avoid that.

Ah, I strayed again.

Hearing about Aira-chan and the subjugation to the East Forest made me think that it's better for me to learn a little magic.

The subjugation will commence where that Salamander appeared.

I heard from the Knights that the monsters had decreased recently but I'm still a little worried after all.

A lot of people may get injured like that time. There may even be cases where potions just weren't enough and magic was needed.

I remember someone saying at that time that potions might not be enough and that they would need magic to heal the wounds.

If something like that were to happen then I feel that it'd be better to have some knowledge of magic rather than have none at all.

That's why I was interested in the book about holy attribute magic.

"Are you interested in magic?"

I turn to face the voice that abruptly called out to me and is surprise to see a man standing close to me.

The book I took was certainly about holy attribute magic so it's quite difficult.

In other words, my eyes were gliding from left to right. I was so immersed in reading that I didn't notice that someone had approached me until they had called out.

"That book is extremely difficult....."

"Yes. I was just thinking that it would be nice if I had something simpler."

"Then how about this one?"

He took a book from the opposite bookshelf and handed it to me.

I flip through the pages. It was much simpler than the book I was reading earlier.

Even a beginner like me could understand something like this.

"Thank you."

"No problem."

We only talked to that extent but he's staring at me.

Yup, it feels uncomfortable.

Because he is very similar to *him*.

The man looks a bit older than me and I have a feeling that *he* didn't suddenly just age.

The man is also a lot taller than me but he's probably shorter than the Captain.

When I look up a little, I can see bright copper hair on his head.

His lips are drawn in an arc, he had gentle narrow eyes and a straight nose.

His features are well-balanced and really resembles *that person*.

Although their features are similar, his face deviation value is also very high.

Since he was older, I feel that he has more destructive powers than *him*.

What can I say, there's a wide difference.

"It's a bit late but I am Seigfried Slantania."

I'm sure I look doubtful.

His face changed from a laughing one to a serious one as he introduced himself and he bowed beautifully.

From his sophisticated graceful movements and his name, he's definitely one of this country's loyalties, right?

Or rather, he is royalty right?

"Can I call you Sei?"

"Y-yes."

Dammit, I was supposed to give my greetings.

I forgot to introduce myself probably because I was so surprised and dumbfounded. By the time I'd noticed he'd already introduced himself and confirmed my name.

I should return his greeting now, right?

"My name is Sei."

I pinch my skirt like an aristocrat woman, bend my knees and bow.

It's called courtesy.

The other person seems to be from royalty, so I think that politeness is important.

When in Rome, do as the Romans do.

There are times I might meet aristocrats without knowing anything since I'm in the royal palace so it was good that I learnt a bit from Liz.

"You don't have to be that formal. I'm the one who should be apologising to you."

Seigfield-sama touched my arm, flustered and snapped me out of my thoughts.

Even if he said so, I don't think there's anything that he should be apologising for.

"I heard that my son has been very disrespectful to you. I apologise for his foolishness."

"Your son?"

"Yes."

"Mhm ~, your son is Kyle..... Is it about His Highness?"

"Yes."

When the man in front of me said son, it reminded me of the first Prince.

I'm sure his name was Kyle. Looks like I was right.

"Ah, please raise your head!"

"But....."

"I did not mind."

It was a lie when I said I didn't mind but I think that having a King lower his head is a problem.

I want him to stop, it's really bad for my heart.

"I originally wanted to apologise much faster in a proper place but..... I apologise that I'm doing it in such a place."

"No, please do not worry about it. I would rather it be here."

According to the King, there were various political problems and an official apology would take place later.

I, however, think that doing nothing would also be a problem. The King heard that I often come to the library alone so he often visited the library to meet me.

It seems that we kept missing each other so he wasn't able to meet me.

But well I don't need such an overwhelming apology in an official or informal place.

He politely told me in a roundabout way.....

"I wanted to apologise. You've also made various achievements since coming to this Kingdom. I would like to award you, is there anything you want? For example, territory or rank....."

"No, thank you."

"I see. Then how about a mansion in the capital....."

"I would also like to refuse that. I would not be able to manage it."

"Then how about I prepare some servants there as well?"

"Servants!?"

After that, he offered me various things as reward but each and every one of them were too much for me so I earnestly refused.

He also offered me dresses and accessories.

I'm interested in it but I politely refuse because I can't maintain them.

Then he said, "It's just like Johan said", while smiling bitterly.

I heard that conversations about giving me a reward have been brought up before but the Director put an end to those conversations.

He said I'll probably refused.

Good job, Director.

“Oh well. I’ll give up for today, but if you can think of anything you want please let me know. If it’s within my powers then I’ll prepare it for you.”

The King smiles bitterly and ends the conversation there. It was time for him to return and my sudden audience with the King was over.

Yup, it was bad for my heart in various ways.



“Ouch.”

Today isn’t my usual cooking class day but I feel somewhat humoured so I’m helping out at the dining hall.

The menu has already been decided so I’m just cutting up the ingredients.

I carelessly cut my fingers while cutting up the vegetables.

It doesn’t look like I cut it too deeply but blood is oozing out bit by bit.

I secretly glance around and the chefs are all busy preparing for lunch so no one’s looking my way.

“ 『Heal』 .”

I cast recovery magic in a small voice so that no one else can hear me. The cut on my finger healed in no time.

Magic is amazing.

I read the books I borrowed from the royal palace library the other day and learnt how to use magic.

Should it become necessary, classroom learning just wasn’t enough so I’m actively using it when the opportunity arises.

It’s called practicing.

It seems that I made the right decision to practice magic. At first, I couldn't invoke it very well.

I tried different things with a book in hand and now I'm able to use magic so I decided that it was good to practice.

Now it'll be no problem if magic was needed for treatment when the Knight Orders returned from the Ghosh Forest.

The potion deliveries were finished and the 2nd and 3rd Knight Orders headed to the Ghosh Forest in the West just as planned.

After the Knights departed, I prayed for their safe return.

Then the subjugation mission at Ghosh Forest to the West of the capital finished and the 2nd and 3rd Knight Orders returned to the capital.

It's further away from the capital than the East and South Forest and it took them about two weeks to get back after they'd left.

The potions seemed to be useful. When I heard that no one had died in this subjugation, I sighed in relief. That was a week ago.

Although no one died, there are people who were injured. There are also people who will be hospitalised in a hospital like place once they returned to the capital.

Immediately after coming home from the subjugation, there were various proceedings. I heard from the Captain that he was busy so after a few days had passed, I decided to visit the hospital.

Because I heard that some of the Knights from the 3rd Knight Order who I've become friends with, were hospitalised.

I brought the cookies I always baked when I went to visit them in the hospital.

“Hello ~.”

“Oh ~, isn't that Sei?”

“How are you feeling?”

“Just fine, I’m fine.”

“What’re you saying? You looked like you were at death’s door when you came back.”

“Shut up ~.”

The building that I entered to visit everyone certainly feels like a hospital. The room that the Knights are in is big enough to fit 10 people.

There are many people still suffering from lacerations and puncture wounds in the first room I find the Knights in.

I listen to their story. It seems that a lot of monsters had accumulated in the West Forest because no one had subjugated there for a while so there are a lot of casualties this time.

They used potions as much as they could so somehow no one died.

The people in this room used the potions to stop the bleeding and returned to the capital.

It’s been a week and they look healthy but as a matter of fact, there are still a lot of people who need to rest.

They are taking a break from subjugation since a reasonable amount of people are hospitalised but the people who could work have already left the hospital and returned to the Knight Order.

They said that it took them twice as long to catch up on training if they skipped.

It was normal for me but I have a hunch that the Knights are also workaholics.

“It must have been tough.”

“Even so, I’m glad I could return alive.”

“Yeah, it’s all thanks to Sei’s potions.”

“I’m glad the potions were useful.”

I feel a little shy since everyone’s thanking me.

I’m glad that no one died.

We talk about various things and I find out that there are Knights from the 3rd Knight Order in other rooms as well so I say my goodbyes to the people in this room and move onto the next one.

All the rooms I go to feel the same. Everyone was thanking me so I’m glad I worked hard on producing potions.

I wonder how many rooms I visited carefreely like this.

I found a Knight I knew in the room and lost my voice.

“Oh, did you come to visit me?”

He greeted me with his usual grin but his left arm isn’t there.

I want to nod in reply but when he saw how different my attitude was from normal, he put his right hand on his head.

I never thought that I’d be so shock to not see something that is always there.

What can I say? My words aren’t coming out.

“That arm.....”

“Oh, I made a blunder.”

He smiled hearty and told me it was taken by a monster.

When I asked him if he couldn’t heal it with potions he told me that the most potions can do is heal lost fingertips. Healing a lost arm was impossible.

He laughed and said that the Captain got lucky that time with the Salamander.

“If you couldn’t heal it with potions, then what’s left is healing it with recovery magic?”

“Yup, well yeah but.”

I’ve heard before that recovery magic was more effective than potions before but when I talked about, he has a strange expression on his face as he hesitated.

“Is something wrong?”

“It’s hard to heal the loss of limbs even with recovery magic.”

According to him, level 8 holy magic attribute was needed to cast recovery magic that could heal lost limbs.

The problem was that no one at the royal palace had higher than level 6 holy attribute magic so no one could heal lost limbs.

“Is there no one?”

“There are only a few people who could use holy attribute magic within the Mage Division.”

There were few mages in the Mage Division in the first place and their magic attributes varied. Recovery magic couldn’t be used with most magic attributes so only those who had an aptitude for holy attribute magic could cast recovery magic high enough to heal lost limbs.

If magic attributes were equality distributed amongst the mages, then just how few of them can use recovery magic?

“I’m just glad that I could use the potions to stop the bleeding. If not, then I probably wouldn’t have made it.”

It’s painful to listen.

“Thanks for coming today. I’m glad I could see you in the end.”

“Eh? In the end?”

“When I’m able to move, I decided that I would quit the Knight Order and go back to my hometown. It’s hard to be a knight with this arm.”

I agree with what he's saying.

But I don't want to agree with it.

I stare at his arm that disappears half way down his upper arm.

Is it because the potion stopped his bleeding? Flesh beautifully covered over the opening and I can't see his bones.

Just because it's gone, I can't agree with what he said.

He must be a former commoner who entered the Knight Order after he graduated from the Royal Academy.

If he quits the Knight Order then he'll be a commoner once again, and won't be able to come to the royal palace anymore.

When I think like that, I get really lonely.

I softly touch his arm and his body shakes in surprise.

"If..... If you can heal your arm, would you?"

"That....."

His smiling face up until now scrunched up at my question.

Well yeah.

No one likes to lose their arm.

Level 8 holy attribute magic was needed to heal a lost limb.

I fulfil that condition perfectly.

But if I heal him here, then I think it'd be difficult to keep insisting that I'm an ordinary person.

If he was a stranger then I could pretend that I didn't see anything and walk away.

No.....

Perhaps even if he was a strange, I'll end up healing him anyway because I've already seen him.

Even if I pretend that I didn't see anything and leave, I'd probably worry about it so much that I'd return.

I'd feel gloomy.

I'm quite the coward.

I concentrate magic power into the palm that's touching him.

Depending on how much magic power I concentrate, I can adjust how well he heals.

This time I will heal his lost arm so I concentrate more magic power than usual.

Please heal.

I pray as I cast my magic.

“ 『Heal』 .”

I chant my magic and a pale white light covers the Knight's body.

Something that looked like a white dense mist gathers around his missing left arm and gradually shapes into an arm.

The haze dimly radiated white. It's the same light that's covering his body although the shades is different.

Gold particles intertwined like a lame¹⁰⁾ inside of the white haze and it's sparkling.

The Knight shone for just a few minutes and when the light settled down, he had a left arm.

The Knight looked at his left arm for a while, dumbfounded and then gradually opened and closed his fist.

“Is there any discomfort?”

“..... None.”

He continued to open and close his fist so I got a little worried and asked but there doesn't seem to be any problems.

I'm glad. I did it properly.

That somewhat makes me happy and I smile.

The Knight stopped gripping his fist and stared at it, absent-mindedly.

“Sei.”

“What's wrong?”

He called out to me in a quiet voice so I tilt my head wondering what was wrong. He grabbed my hands which I had placed on my lap.

It happened so suddenly that I inadvertently cried out in surprise but the Knight doesn't let go of my hand.

“..... Thank you.”



His usual light hearted personality was nowhere to be found. His brows were creased and he cried while thanking me.

“Mhm, you’re welcome?”

“Why are you saying it like a question?”

“No, nothing.....”

It was somewhat embarrassing being thanked so I inadvertently phrased it like a question. The Knight dropped his shoulders, crestfallen and returned to his usual self.

I’m a bit relieved.

It was sort of nerve wrecking to not see him act like his normal self.

People usually touch other people with a light feeling but when it’s done with a serious feeling, it’s too much.

It was the same for the Knight. When we smile wryly at each other, I unexpectedly feel eyes on me.

I’m bothered by it so I look around. All the patients in this room are staring at me.

Ah, yup, that’s right.

I suddenly grew back his arms.

I felt it when I first entered the room too but all the patients in this room are suffering from the same type of injuries; they have all lost some part of their body, whether it be arms or legs.

It depends what they’ve lost but the people occupying this room will probably quit the Knight Order after they leave the hospital.

They’re probably thinking that I’d heal them as well since I’ve already healed someone in the same room as them.

Well, the ship’s already sailed so why don’t I heal them all?

I exhale and ask the Knight to bring me MP potions from the research institute regardless of rank.

Even though he's injured, his arm is healed so it's fine if I ask him to run an errand for me, right?

Although I have a lot of MP, if I heal everyone then I might run out half-way through.

He happily undertook the errand and I send him off with, "Well then, see you". When the Knight got off the bed and took a few steps he raised his voice, "Ah?"

"What's wrong?"

I thought something was wrong and called out to him but the Knight doesn't reply. For some reason he's stomping and stretching on the spot.

"It even healed my old wounds."

"What?"

What the Knight was saying was, that it wasn't just his arm, but also his previous injured knee that was healed.

He said that the discomfort was completely gone.

When I said that magic was awesome because it could even heal old wounds, he told me that magic didn't normally heal old wounds.

Eh? Is this also because of my accursed 50% increase?

Or did I just use too much magic?

But I'd hate it if people didn't recover because I used my magic powers half-heartily, so I didn't think too deeply about it.

Let's think about the fact that I healed old wounds later. For now, I decide to concentrate on treating these people.

I heal everyone in the room, one by one.

Regardless of the wound being big or small, external or internal, magic healed everything.

If that's the case then magic's really handy, huh?

All the people who were treated were all surprised at what had healed and they were all tearing up while saying thanks.

No, some people were actually crying.

It's the first time I've seen a man cry so I'm pretty impatient.

I finish healing everyone and turn around to go home when I see a crowd of people by the entrance of the room.

They must have noticed that I was finished because they started entering the room. They were listening to the people in the room.

I call out to one of them and talk to them. He said he'd heard a racket and came to check it out.

Well yeah. Some people who were healed were screaming loudly with joy.

The people who'd entered this room all knew the people in this room so of course, they also knew how serious their injuries were.

Well, most of the people who were hospitalised were all injured from the subjugation so they're all colleagues.

Anyone would be happy to see that their colleagues have recovered and shouts of joy were coming from here and there.

They tangled with the people who I treated and thanked me.

Well ~, "Ah, I did some good", I thought in self-satisfaction. I leave the hospital room thinking that I should head back to the research institute and encounter the Knight carrying the MP potions.

Oh yeah, I asked him to go fetch me some potions just in case I ran out of MP half-way through.

I surprisingly had enough MP to heal everyone in that room.

I'd intended on using a lot of magic power to heal the people with lost limbs but it seems that 『Heal』 didn't use that much MP.

However I feel bad if I don't use it because he went to fetch it for me.

Well, I've already practiced so should I heal the other people as well?

Yup, let's do that.

At any rate, I feel that I'm at a level where I can't keep insisting that I'm an ordinary person anyways.

I became defiant and decide to the treat the patients in the other rooms.

I tried to carry the MP potions by myself but the Knight and the other people around me stopped me and carried it for me.

I head to the next room. Behind the Knight carrying the MP potions, there's a line of curious onlookers.

I feel like a doctor making her rounds in certain dramas.

It's extremely embarrassing to be observed but it's not like I can do anything about it, so I gave up.

Thus, I treat each person one by one while drinking MP potions. But there's a lot of people in this hospital.

I got tired of just using 『Heal』 and then I remember that I read about range recovery magic before in a book.

I want to try it out.

I've already finished healing the people with lost limbs and the only patients with relatively lighter wound remains.

I could always use 『Heal』 again even if it only partially healed people or doesn't activate.

In the next room, I walk all the way to the middle and stop. This time, instead of concentrating it into my palm, I release my magic so that it fills the entire room.

Even if I said I released it, I've never done it before so I concentrate and just imagine that the magic is being pushed out of my body.

“ 『Area Heal』 ”

While casting the magic, I feel magic power coming out of my body. With me at the centre, something that looked like a magic circle is drawn on the floor.

The lines of the magic circle were drawn in a white light. The area enclosed by the magic circle is covered in a white haze filled with golden lame, just like when 『Heal』 was casted.

It was very magical. The scene that I thought was indeed fantasy, disappeared within seconds.

I look around to see if it'd worked and everyone who was in the magic circle, all seem to have healed.

Everyone checked the conditions of their injuries and smiled, when they saw that it'd all healed.

Alright! I decide to make a triumphant pose in my mind when a voice calls out to me from behind.

“Today you're casting..... Ranged recovery?”

When I turn around to face the familiar voice, I saw the Director and Captain.

“Yes. Why are you here, Director?”

“For crying out loud! You were late in returning and the guy from the 3rd Knight Order came to take the MP potions. I was worried so I came.”

“I'm sorry.....”

He told me seemingly shocked. I didn't want to receive punishment so I apologised and he smiled, wryly.

“Even so, you’ve really gone wild.”

“No, I didn’t.....”

“Ah, I saw people who’d lost their arms and legs regain them a while ago. I was surprised.”

The Captain said after the Director, pressing for answers.

Yup, even I think I overdid it a bit, but it couldn’t be helped, you know!

They were expecting it.

I had to respond to their expectations.

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.....o

.....o

I’m sorry.

I also wanted to try out magic.

“Well, but you did well.”

The Captain said that when I hung my head down in shame while reflecting on my actions.

The Director and Captain both tap me on the shoulders in appreciation.



“Sei.”

A voice called out to me while I’m walking through the royal palace.

I turn to face the voice and it was a Knight from the 3rd Knight Order that I knew.

I see that he's smiling and waving so I also wave back.

Since we're both working, we pass each other with only a simple greeting.

Since I was summoned only the researchers who worked at the same place as me called out to me like this, but recently the Knights have started to call out to me too.

I know more Knights now because of what happened at the hospital the other day so lately, people have been calling out to me while I'm walking around the royal palace like this.

Despite the fact that I only walk back and forth from the research institute and the royal palace library, like today.

I think my world suddenly got wider because of that incident even though I confide myself in the research institute.

I enter the library and return the book I borrowed back to the librarian and this time, I heard a small, "Ah".

The person who had said that was a person wearing a robe. When I turned around, I accidentally met his eyes.

Judging by his appearance, he looked like a Court Mage but I don't know him.

I smile ambiguously while tilting my head and he returns it with a similar smile.

The librarian had just finished confirming the book that I'd returned so I could finally leave.

I'd noticed his voice this time but I have a feeling that the random times when I raise my face and meet the gaze of the person near me have increased.

I just feel that way for some reason.

I felt that I was being too self-conscious so I quietly kept it in my mind without telling anyone.

After returning the book, I walk over to the bookshelf to find another book to borrow.

Since I've been to the library numerous times, I generally know where the books I want are.

I take the books I wanted one after another and when I find the last book I want in the top row of the bookshelf, I stretch out my hand but a stretched hand next to mine took the book first.

"Here you go."

"Thank you."

Was the person who was smiling while handing me the book, a civil official?

He probably is one since he's not wearing the knight's armour nor is he wearing robes.

It's not like I couldn't reach it or anything but the book was a little bulky so he really helped me out by getting the book for me.

I say my thanks and once again return to where the librarian is.

Come to think of it, more people have been coming here recently.

The image I had when I was by myself was that there were only a few people here. The only people I met in the library were Liz and the civil officers but lately people I've never seen before are coming here. No matter when I come, there's always someone here.

It's nice that people are making use of the library but I also like to read books in peace.

That part is just a little too bad.

"Sei-sama!"

When I stepped out of the library with the new books I borrowed, someone called out to me again.

This time it's a Knight from the 2nd Knight Order.

I don't have to see his face to know that.

Only people from that Knight Order call me with –sama.

There were times where I've been called that by shop assistants in Japan but it's always been my surname, never my first.

That's why being called that by people from the 2nd Knight Order was embarrassing. I've asked them to stop attaching –sama to my name but they don't show any signs of stopping.

“I will carry your books for you.”

“Thank you.”

“No, no. Please leave this much to me.”

A pleasant smile appeared on his face and he easily took the books that I was barely able to carry.

This is also a recent event.

At the beginning, I felt really bad and tried my hardest to refuse them but they wouldn't back down so I gave up and just let them carry it.

The people from the 2nd Knight Order seemed to really worship me a lot. They add –sama to my name and when I'm heading home from the library, they walk with me and help me carry my books.

It was certainly helpful since it was hard to walk from the royal palace to the research institute while carrying heavy books but every time I go to the library there's always someone there.

It's always a different Knight so it's not like they're stalkers but it's really unnatural for me to meet people from the 2nd Knight Order every time I go to the library.

They can't be on standby duty near the library, right?

I want to believe that it's not like that.

I chat with the Knight while walking and before I knew it, we'd reached the research institute.

Like always, I say my thanks and enter the research institute.

One of the books I borrowed today was something that the Director wanted. I hand the other books to one of the researchers and head to the Director's office.

"Director, I have brought the book you wanted."

"Thanks, just put it over there."

I knocked on the Director's office door and waited for a reply before entering.

The Director is in the middle of writing up documents so I put the book I brought with me onto the place he'd pointed at.

"Did they escort you again today?"

"Yes."

Did he finish writing the documents? The Director raised his face and grinned. I return it with a completely exhausted look.

The Director once saw a Knight from the 2nd Knight Order at the entrance, escorting me back to the research institute while carrying my books.

He asked me what had happened and I told him that they escorted me like this every time.

"I refused at the beginning but they wouldn't give up so I gave up instead."

"I see. Well, it's no use."

"It's no use?"

"The other day you did various things, right? It seems that you're already the **【Saint】** to the guys at the 2nd Knight Order because of that incident. Well it seems that they're not the only ones who think so."

I smile wryly, reply in my head with, "Ah! I thought so" and sigh.

It seems that from the public's point of view, I'm far from being a commoner.

That's how much I overdid it.

Rumours are called rumours for a reason. It wasn't just the 2nd and 3rd Knight Orders but also other people from the royal palace that talked so it couldn't be helped.

I expected this to happen but I thought that it was inevitable at that time. I want to sigh.

If possible, I wanted to live a quiet and peaceful life.

Well whatever, it's fine.

Everyone was really happy.

I remember the Knights crying, shouting and hugging each other in joy I'm glad I healed them.

I convince myself and calm myself down. I'm once again shocked by what the Director says next.

"It'll probably be clear soon whether you're a **【Saint】** or not."

"Eh?"

"There was a message from the Court Mage Division a while ago. They want to check your status."

The bomb that the Director dropped was that the Court Mage Division's Head Magician would finally perform status appraisal on me. To me, that was an extra-large bomb.

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9. Didn’t know a better word for the one Author used. No idea what she means...
10. cloth made from silver and gold thread



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