

勇者に  
滅ぼされる  
だけの  
簡単な  
仕事です

そのさん

3

AMANO HAZAMA  
天野ハザマ

# **THE SIMPLE JOB OF ONLY PERISHING TO THE HERO**

**– Yuusha ni Horobosareru Dake no Kantan na Oshigoto Desu –**

**- VOLUME 3 -**

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**[ Manga0205 (Light Novels Translations) ]**

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天野ハザマ

Illustration : ジョンディー

### アイン

ロクナの配下にいる諜報部員。  
カインを密かに監視していたが、  
知り合いになってしまう。

### ナナルス

魔族国家の外交官。  
外見は穏やかな気品ある  
老人で、相手の警戒心を  
解くのが得意。

### ニノ

ヴェルムドールに創造  
されたメイドナイト。  
イチカを敵対視している。

### イチカ

ヴェルムドール付きのメイドナイト。  
無表情かつ冷静沈着。  
得意料理は芋スープ。

### カイン・スタジアス

聖アルトリス王国のエディウス  
冒険者学校に所属する冒険者の卵。  
謎の魔族アルヴァの件にも関わっている。

## 魔王軍しほうしやう四方将

アルテジオ



東北方将

ファイネル



西方将

サンクリード



南方将

ラクター



北方将

### ルーティ・リガス

元勇者パーティの一人。  
ジオル森王国の英雄。

### ロクナ

魔王城の図書館守護担当。  
頭脳明晰な魔人で、魔王軍参謀役。

### ヴェルムドール

異世界レムフィリアの暗黒大陸に  
転生した新魔王。勇者率いる人類領域の  
侵略に備え、魔族の統一を図る。

# Chapter 1

The night of the day where the Jiol Forest Kingdom, which was in mankind's territory, and the Zadark Kingdom that the Demon King Vermudol governed had entered a treaty of friendship.

Luuty Rigas, who was the hero of the Jiol Forest Kingdom as well as one of the former Hero's party members, was staying in the Zadark Kingdom, which was in the Dark Continent.

The place she was at was one of the guest rooms that were prepared in the Demon King Castle.

The night view of the castle town that she looked down upon from the room's balcony was something truly gorgeous.

Thanks not only to the light of the Illumination Magic, but also the lights that were attached to the eaves of every shop, the entire town emitted a radiance that was like a treasure box.

“...”

It was definitely a civilized light.

It was a spectacle that couldn't have imagined during the time in the past when mankind had fought against the Demon King Gramfia.

For Luuty, who had visited this land in the past together with the Hero Ryuuya, she still couldn't believe it.

The Zadark Kingdom.

It was the nation that new Demon King had created and governed all of a sudden on a barren land.

“You're making quite the long face, aren't you.”

“!?”

Luuty was surprised by the voice she suddenly heard, saw the figure that appeared before her, and stepped back.

The one that was there, was the Zadark Kingdom’s Western General, the man called Sancreed.

Sancreed grabbed the handrail from outside of the balcony, and leaned his body forward.

“Wha, what’re you...? This is, the second floor...”

“Nn, ahh... well, I just did a bit of jumping is all.”

That’s right, Sancreed had jumped from the ground and went up to the balcony handrail.

That was simply all there was to it, but.

“...Normally, you’d come through the door, right?”

“I see. I had forgotten that.”

Seeing Sancreed say that with face that said he had seriously forgotten, Luuty breathed a deep sigh.

“...Rather, this is a lady’s room, you know.”

“...Ahh, I had forgotten that.”

“I wonder if I should push this guy off.”

It had irritated her quite a bit, but with the face of someone who had overbearingly came everyday to woo her in a similar way suddenly coming to her mind, she exhaled.

This happens all the time... is what she thought.

She stared at Sancreed who was still leaning his body forward from the outer side of the balcony.

“What is it?”

“It, it’s nothing...”

Luuty shook off that someone who came to her mind, and continued to glare at Sancreed.

“In any case, please hurry up and climb up. That stands out.”

“That’s true. It’s about time for the castle patrol to pass by below.”

“Th, then please hurry up!”

“Yeah.”

When Sancreed said that, he nimbly got onto the balcony.

“...So, what business do you have with me?”

“Nn? Business?”

“You came here because you had business with me, right?”

Being told that, Sancreed tilted his head... showing a look that said he was troubled.

“...No, I don’t particularly have any.”

“...Then what did you come here for.”

“Well I said it didn’t I. That you were making a long face.”

Just as he happened to be walking by, he saw Luuty making a long face.

That is why he tried coming here. That was simply all there was to it.

“I thought that if there was something troubling you, then you might need someone to listen.”

“...You, you’re a Mazoku, aren’t you?”

“Yes I am. But it’s not like a Mazoku can’t listen to the troubles of a Sylphid woman...”

After having said that much, Sancreed then made a face that looked like he realized something.

“...Come to think of it, I heard the Jiol Forest Kingdom was a country of disciplines... Could it be... is there one? A discipline like that...”

The Jiol Forest Kingdom where many of the long-lived Sylphid lived was a country that honored disciplines. There are many cases where foreigners that didn’t know of those disciplines would do rude actions without knowingly doing so.

“No, there isn’t.”

“I see... Then that’s good.”

Seeing Sancreed clearly look relieved, Luuty chuckled.

She didn’t feel the fearsome atmosphere from when she saw him during that afternoon’s coordinated exercise from the Sancreed that was standing before her.

What Luuty was currently feeling, was an indescribable nostalgia.

However, she didn’t know why she was feeling that. Today was Luuty’s first time meeting with this man.

In the end, he had only given a light self-introduction during the coordinated exercise, and other than the fact that this man called Sancreed had the position of being the Western General of the Demon King Army, she knew nothing about him.

That is why Luuty had decided to try talking with this man called Sancreed for a bit longer.

“...I was, looking at the town.”

“I see. Was there something about it that was bothering you?”

“If I were to put it simple, it’s everything about it.”

Even in the Canal Kingdom which was said to be a multi-raced nation, it wasn’t

possible to see such a diversity of races.

Various races such as Bestia, Goblins, and Majin were in harmony.

The Mazoku which were wicked beings that were covered in hatred and should have been a menace to mankind, they had overcome the racial wall and were living in peace.

“...I, believe that the fight in the past was the correct thing to do.”

The fight that unfolded in this Dark Continent against the Demon King Gramfia and the Mazoku he led.

Being reminded of the days where she defeated Mazoku together with the Hero Ryuuya, Luuty muttered that.

“I see.”

“Are you not going to deny me?”

“Do you want me to deny you?”

Those words were turned back on her in a flash.

Luuty stayed silent and shook her head sideways, showing her denial of it.

“I just thought that... it was something that would be hard to forgive for the Mazoku.”

“I see.”

Sancreed said that and nodded.

“But, that isn’t the case.”

Being told that, Luuty looked up at Sancreed’s face.

“Certainly, it is said that the Dark Continent went into chaos from Gramfia’s death. However, it was originally like that during that time, and it was a confusing age where Mazoku each did whatever they liked and had no unity at all... or so I’ve heard. That’s why, although Gramfia had died, the Mazoku didn’t all fly into a rage, nor were they bewildered by the change... or so I was told.”

“By who?”

“It was Fainell.”

The current Eastern General of the Demon King Army Fainell.

Being reminded of the face of the woman whom she had once fought against, Luty went “I see, that certainly does seem like something she would say” and laughed.

“...In that case, what about now?”

“Now?”

“What if mankind challenged the Mazoku to a fight and defeated the Demon King now... that is what I mean.”

“Fumu.”

Sancreed narrowed his eyes, and after just a bit of thinking, he answered.

“If that were to happen, the Zadark Kingdom would surely fall into chaos.”

Cutting his words off for a moment, he made a complete change from the gentle atmosphere that he had up until now.

“But, that won’t happen.”

A penetratingly cold voice.

That was a silent overpowering sensation.

A sharp bloodlust that felt as if thousands of drawn swords had been thrust before her had poured out.

“Before that happens, I will prevent it. For the sake of all those that live in this country.”

“Is that, so.”

That bloodlust that would have made even the captain of the Jiol Forest Kingdom Protection Chivalric Order Zekwell step back, Luty had directly accepted it.

That was something that she could do because she had experience as a hero with a long military service, as well as the embodiment of her resolution to accept the answer towards her own question.

“...As I thought, that really is how it is.”

“Yeah.”

Sancreed, who had put away his bloodlust, and Luty stared at each other just like that.

That which couldn't be cast away.

That which couldn't be forgiven.

Between mankind and the Mazoku, there were various discords.

If those were to be overcome—

Luty thought that, and opened her mouth.

“...Sancreed. You...”

“Was it here!”

A \*Dogon!\* sound resounded, and the door to Luty's room was kicked in.

What entered the room as if rushing in was the Eastern General Fainell... and several Magic Operated Armors.

It was there that Fainell discovered Luty and Sancreed staring at each other on the balcony.

“Nnn?”

Fainell saw that scene, and calmly analyzed the situation.

When she came here after feeling a bloodlust that was no trivial matter, Sancreed and

Luuty were staring at each other.

Also, they were on the balcony where the night view that was full of atmosphere could be seen.

“Fainell-sama, this is...”

“You guys!”

Fainell promptly turned her back to Luuty and Sancreed, and gave an order to the Magic Operated Armors.

“Tonight, we saw nothing! Got it!?”

“Yes ma’am, but what shall we do about that door!”

Fainell stared at the door that was pretty much broken due to her kicking it in.

“Mu, let’s see. Go fix it before Ichika finds out about it!”

“Yes ma’am, and if we are found out, I will report that Fainell-sama had broken it and had forbidden us to speak of it!”

“Stop that, I’ll end up getting snide remarks from her.”

“Since this concerns our lives, we cannot yield on this!”

Fainell, who was doing something like a manzai (comic dialogue) with the Magic Operated Armor, suddenly noticed the gaze that came from behind her and turned around.

“Ah—, well now. Sorry for getting in the way... I had no intention of doing so. Come on, let’s withdraw!”

“Pl, please wait!”

As Fainell tried to hurriedly leave the room, Luuty rushed to call her to a halt.

“What’s this, Luuty. You couldn’t be telling me to watch, could you? Although I look like this, I’m pretty pure hearted you know.”

“Just what are you talking about!”

“What you say... You guys’ story of love?”

“You’re wrong!”

When Fainell looked at Luuty and Sancreed’s figures with doubtful eyes, she expressed an artificial smile.

“Ahh, I get it. I totally get it. I didn’t see anything. That should be fine, right?”

“I’m telling you...!”

“I said that I get it. Just keep it in moderation.”

“So you really don’t get anything at all! Hold it right there!”

Fainell promptly left. Even the Magic Operated Armors that she left behind, they repaired the door with experienced hand work, and upon testing how it was by opening and closing it, they closed the door and left.

“Ahh, jeez! What are you going to do about this!”

Luuty threw her anger and impatience that had no outlet onto Sancreed.

“There’s nothing we can do about it.”

“Why are you saying it like it’s someone else’s problem!”

Being glared at by Luuty, Sancreed averted his gaze.

“Well, don’t be bothered by it.”

“It bothers me!”

“As an apology, I’ll take you to an interesting place.”

“Ha?”

Luuty made a puzzled face at the sudden proposal.

“You can’t sleep anyway, right? In that case, this is perfect.”

After saying that, Sancreed took Luuty’s hand.

Luuty’s face switched between red and blue from Sancreed’s unexpected actions.

Thanks to Fainell, she probably couldn’t help but be strangely conscious of it all.

“Wait... you, what’re you...!?”

“What, it’s merely an invitation for some nighttime fun.”

Sancreed made a broad smile.

“—Gate.”

Together with vestiges of light, Luuty and Sancreed’s figures disappeared from the balcony.

The place the two of them appeared at was an alley in the castle town Arkverm

“This place is...?”

“Arkverm. It’s the place you were looking at earlier.”

Luuty surveyed the area while being enveloped in the hustle and bustle.

What came walking to them from the front seemed to be a hairy, fluffy, white longhaired variety of cat Beastia.

The Beastia paid no heed to Luuty’s group, and passed by in a good mood.

“Now then, let’s go.”

While still gripping Luuty’s hand, Sancreed tried to leave the alley.

“Ho, hold on... My hand, please let go of it!”

“Nn? Ahh. Don’t stray away from me.”

“I won’t! Or rather, is this alright?”

That’s right, the castle town is the best place to gather the country’s information.

If this were mankind’s territory, it would also be the place that had the most number of spies being sent to it.

If he were to take Luuty to a place like that, it would be the same as leaking the Zadark Kingdom’s varied information.

Although a treaty of friendship has currently been formed with the Jiol Forest Kingdom, having defeated the Demon King Gramfia together with the past Hero, Luuty should be someone that should especially require special attention.

“Are you talking about money? Today is my treat. You don’t have to worry about it.”

While feeling irritated by Sancreed’s words that seemed like he wasn’t worried about the information leakage at all, Luuty drew close to him.

“I am someone who you never know when I’ll turn into your enemy. I’m asking if it’s alright to guide me through the town despite that.”

“It will be fine while that’s just an unsubstantiated assertion. Besides, you can be relieved since I will cut you down when that time comes.”

“...Is that so.”

Although Luuty found that a bit unconvincing, she gave up on doing any more questioning and breathed a sigh.

“The night is long but too short to enjoy it all. I’ll tell you about the shops I recommend.”

While gazing at the back of Sancreed, who had said that and started walking, as she walked, Luuty had a thought.

That he was similar.

She remembered the figure that already died... that had vanished within the flow of time.

That shouldn't be the case.

Although she felt a stir, Luuty denied her own thoughts.

## Chapter 2

“ ... ”

Luity walked through the town while being lead by the hand by Sancreed.

What she felt was, the hustle and bustle of the town.

The light of magic which shined in the dark night.

The laughter of the people.

The faces that thought back on the hardships of the day.

The faces that believed in the hopes of tomorrow.

Of the Goblins, of the Beastia, of the Majin.

Various smiling faces were found in this town.

The figures of people working, which was created based on a positive culture.

Natural figures... which she had recently seen even in mankind's territory of the Shutaia Continent.

While looking at that, Luity suddenly noticed.

“Come to think of it...”

“Nn?”

“The voices of touting for shops... there aren't any, are there?”

With it being a castle town night, there should have naturally been some. However, she didn't even see the figures of the employees on the streets.

“Ahh, the touting had disappeared.”

“Disappeared?”

“Yeah.”

To begin with, touting was something done meant to inform the customers of how great the products or services of their store was. As long as there was competition, there was a need to demonstrate who much better they were than other stores.

For any store, if there were parts where they were inferior to another store, they would try to improve and surpass them in it, and that by itself it a good side that would make the entire market grow and develop, but.

At times where they reached a certain level and were pretty much treated as equal, their bad parts as Mazoku would show its face.

Fellow people who possessed unshakeable confidence that their own place was the best would have their prides clash.

In other words, the Mazokus' time-honored method of deciding who was better, a fist fight would end up starting.

If fist fights that started due to touting frequently occurred here and there, doing business would be out of the question.

It was there that a battle with the intent of unification was performed in the shopping district, and the victor had made a proposition.

From now on, without comparing ourselves to other stores, let's determine victory or defeat with only our own store's products and services.

The sales will determine everything... is what they said.

In the world of Mazoku, the victor's words were absolute. Accepting the proposal of that man, who seemed to be the store owner of a skewer store, the current form was completed... that was the reason.

“In short, it's a match done with the actual products and services... that's what it means.”

“Hee... since they possess pride in their own work, something like touting isn't needed,

is that what it means?”

“...Certainly, pride does have something to do with it.”

Luuty’s favorable misunderstanding was something Sancreed didn’t go out of his way to correct.

“Plus... the sounds of fighting can’t be heard from anywhere at all.”

“Well, it’s not like there aren’t any though.”

If a fist fight were to be carried out now, there would only be cases where it would be approved of as a duel under the management of a third party.

“Types of those so-called crimes, there aren’t any.”

“Not even a single case?”

“Yeah.”

Seeing Luuty’s surprised look, Sancreed answered like that.

The Mazoku who had offered up their loyalty to the Demon King Vermudol wouldn’t commit criminal acts on the turf of their king.

Demonstrating their loyalty to the Demon King through their way of life was how the Mazoku were.

The Mazoku of the past were violent and brutal, but the Demon King of those times, Gramfia, had a big influence on that.

The current Demon King, Vermudol, had a personality that didn’t like strife and loved peace. Therefore, it was only natural that the Mazoku would live their lives where they kept order... and the Mazoku personally preferred this new way of living.

...Then again, there was also the circumstances where the Mazoku that preferred strife were mostly destroyed during the upheaval in the past though.

“But, just in case, patrols are also performed.”

Right at that moment, Magic Operated Armors that were carrying out patrols had passed by next to Luuty.

She then noticed that there would definitely be a Magic Operated Armor wherever she looked in the town.

When speaking of the patrolling soldiers when Luuty was in the St. Altis Kingdom, they had the impression that they were somehow slacking off, but it seemed that the Zadark Kingdom's Magic Operated Armors didn't have something like that.

“...”

As Luuty had her attention attracted by the Magic Operated Armors, she had her hand pulled again by Sancreed.

“Like I said, my hand! Please let go of it!”

“Nn? Ahh, sorry.”

“To begin with. I have...”

“Oh, here's a good store. This is perfect.”

Interrupting Luuty's words, Sancreed approached one store.

The store was a face-to-face style store where the counter was placed between the customer and the shopkeeper. The front of the counter was a transparent plank that seemed like polished crystal. There were shelves behind that plank, and bags of various colors were placed on them.

Bags of various colors were placed on the counter as well, but Luuty had absolutely no idea what they were.

“Bags...?”

“Well, they definitely are bags. Ahh, give me one of those silver bags over there.”

“Gotcha, that'll be five large copper coins.”

When Sancreed placed five large copper coins on the counter, the shopkeeper, a boar

Beastia, took out a silver bag.

Taking that bag, Sancreed checked its weight, and then placed it in Luuty's hand.

"It's called a piece lottery. Well, it's something like a specialty of the current Zadark Kingdom."

"Piece lottery...?"

"Try opening it."

Being told that, Luuty pulled the string that closed the silver bag's opening.

What was inside were dolls that seemed to have been made by carving stones.

One was a Magic Operated Armor.

One was a wolf Beastia that somehow seemed to have a frivolous-looking face.

"And the last one is... Is this... Fainell?"

Unlike the other black colored dolls, only the Fainell doll was carefully colored.

Its coating was beautiful too, but the craftsmanship of the doll which was the foundation of it was also wonderful.

Things that had delicate sculpting with a doll of this size, there probably weren't that many of them even within mankind's territory.

Feeling a faint amount of magical power from the doll, she could tell that Preservation Magic was cast on it.

"Good for you. It seems that the colored versions of the Four Cardinal Generals don't come out all that often."

"No, rather... this is a doll, right?"

"Ahh, they're game pieces."

She didn't know what game it was, but Luuty was just barely able to understand for

now that it was something of value.

“...Thank you, very much.”

After saying her thanks like that, Luuty went \*Ha\* in realization.

“L, like I’m saying! I have no reason to accept this!”

Just as she tried to give the entire bag back, Luuty noticed that Sancreed’s figure had vanished.

“Eh? Huh?”

As she searched for Sancreed’s figure in the crowds, a cold cup went right to Luuty’s cheek.

“Ah... hyaah!?”

“That was quite the funny voice.”

The one who stood there was Sancreed holding two cups.

“Just what in the world is with you!”

“You sure do ask a lot of difficult things.”

Sancreed made Luuty hold a cup in her open hand.

“It’s Ringil and Satoudake juice.”

“...I said this before but.”

“Nn?”

Luuty looked up at Sancreed who was taller than her and glared at him.

“There is no reason for you to be doing all of this for me.”

“It’s because you looked like you were crying.”

Sancreed replied like that to Luuty's words.

"That should be enough for a reason."

"...Both you and I, and both your country and my country, there shouldn't be that deep of a relationship yet."

To begin with, in the Jiol Forest Kingdom delegation this time, Luuty didn't have any authority at all.

Luuty's participation in the delegation this time was as an advisor who knew of the Dark Continent of the past... and then, as a guard where they could count on her abilities as a hero of her country.

Luuty was unable to make any political deals, and as long as there was nothing to gain for the Zadark Kingdom, there wasn't a single reason for her to be entertained by Sancreed, who was a general of the Demon King Army, like this.

This man, who had the position of Western General, had too many mysteries.

In the exercise location where the Demon King Army generals were lined up, a majority of the delegation members were overawed by the general called Raktor who emitted an atmosphere as if he were the incarnation of tyranny.

However, for Luuty, rather than Raktor, she couldn't help but be bothered by Sancreed.

It was the same even at this moment right now.

Luuty continued to feel a mysterious nostalgia from this man.

"Relationship huh."

"Yes."

Sancreed replied with a bored-sounding tone.

"We will end up having that sort of relationship from now on. So don't worry about it."

"Ha?"

Before Luuty could think about the meaning of those words, Sancreed continued speaking.

“Today, the Jiol Forest Kingdom and the Zadark Kingdom formed a treaty of friendship. From now on, both countries will surely deepen their friendship... In other words, both you and I will also deepen our friendship. Today is, well... it’s the first step of that.”

“...Ahh, so that’s what you meant.”

After looking with curious eyes at Luuty as she breathed a sigh, he dropped his gaze down to her hands.

“Yeah. So that’s why you don’t have to worry about it.”

“Also, one more thing.”

Luuty stared at Sancreed’s eyes.

“Is there still something bothering you?”

After Sancreed said that with a tired-sounding tone, Luuty thrust her cup at him.

“Who did you say was crying?”

“It was you though.”

“I wasn’t crying.”

“Is that so. But... If you were left like that, you would have cried, wouldn’t you?”

“I wouldn’t cry.”

“Is that so.”

“Yes.”

Sancreed nodded, and then pushed the cup that was thrust at him back towards Luuty.

“Well, drink. It’s good, you know?”

Being encouraged to do that, Luuty brought the cup to her mouth while being a bit nervous wondering what kind of taste it would have.

The juice that filled the cold stone cup had a mellow taste where the faint bitterness of the Ringil was mixed with the gentle sweetness of the Satoudake.

“...It really is, delicious.”

“Yeah.”

Sancreed also brought his cup to his mouth and drank the juice.

“Still, why, is it a stone cup?”

“...It seems that before this country was made, when the Demon King Castle was still worn down, they didn’t even have any tableware, see. It seems that the Demon King had his meals with tableware that was made out of stone. So it’s handicraft that is associated with that.”

“...Right.”

Hearing about the figure of the “Demon King” that was different from the image that she held towards them, Luuty looked at the cup in her hand and pondered.

The Demon King Vermudol was a Demon King that possessed an atmosphere different from the Demon King Shuklous that was in the [Dimensional Gap] and the “Great Demon King” Gramfia that Luuty knew of.

Those two Demon Kings, they probably wouldn’t even speak of something like “peace” even as a joke.

“...Sancreed.”

“What is it?”

“What do you think, of the current Demon King?”

Hearing the words Luuty muttered, after being silent for a bit... Sancreed answered

like this.

“He is a hard worker. Probably, much more than anyone else in the world.”

# Chapter 3

“A hard worker?”

Luuty was reminded of Vermudol’s figure as “Adventurer Shion” when she had met him in the past.

His figure as he was earnestly absorbed in reading a book in the library left an impression on her.

Especially how there were a lot of books in regards to history.

His reading of books regarding the Hero, thinking about it now, was probably because he was the Demon King.

Adventurer Shion would intentionally accept requests that other Adventurers wouldn’t take such as requests from small villages and requests that had little profit, and was a person that could be said to be a model Adventurer.

Hearing those rumors, Luuty zeroed in on him.

It was there that she suddenly noticed.

“...Come to think of it, why did he do such a thing.”

What Shion mainly accepted were requests to subjugate monsters that threatened villages and towns.

Subjugation requests had low rewards in proportion to their degree of difficulty, and with there not being many that accepted them, many of the requests would go unsettled.

However, if left alone, that land would continued to be threatened, and it might lead to towns being attacked.

Therefore, normally, people that would try their abilities and people that were driven by righteous indignation would accept those requests disregarding the reward.

In that case, why did Shion—why did Vermudol accept those kinds of requests?

As a disguise for the sake of hiding in the Shutaia Continent, it took too much effort, and as work done for the sake of encroaching into the center of the political administration, it was too roundabout.

As a result of completing requests that others would shy away from, the fame of “Shion” had been raised, but Luuty felt that that was only secondary to him.

Why would Vermudol, the Demon King, do actions that would protect the peace within the Shutaia Continent?

For Luuty, she was unable to understand that.

No—there was only one answer that she could think of.

Mankind’s peace was his objective.

If she thought of it like that, everything was coherent.

However, why was there a need to keep mankind’s peace?

“...”

Thinking things over, what came to mind was—the Alva.

Possessing bodies with a black lustre and bat wings, they were mysterious Mazoku where even the land in which they lived was unclear.

Since the Alva would suddenly appear with space transference and indiscriminately attack things, they had become a frequent problem in the Shutaia Continent.

“Adventurer Shion” sought information on those Mazoku that would appear here and there and brought about destruction.

In fact, it was said that “Shion” had buried a large number of Alva.

Since it seemed that the Demon King was able to create Mazoku, everything was his doing—it was easy to think that way.

However, that most likely wasn't the case.

There was too much of a gap between the appearance of the Alva and the appearance of "Adventurer Shion".

Besides, it wasn't like "Shion" exterminated only the Alva.

It was unreasonable to seek a relationship there.

"Then... does it mean it had nothing to do with the Alva...? However, in that case..."

In that case, just what were the Alva?

The Alva had sprung forth after the Great Demon King Gramfia, who had once reigned over the Dark Continent, was subdued.

In other words, it would be valid to think that the Demon King that succeeded after Gramfia had created them but... As long as the time when Vermudol had become the Demon King was unknown, she was unable to conclude with this.

"...I'm lacking on information."

Having returned from her sea of thoughts, Luuty noticed that Sancreed's face was right in front of her own and then backed away.

"Nwah!? Wh, wha...!?"

"So you finally noticed. Since you suddenly started mumbling, I thought that you had received some strange curse or something."

It seemed that she had gone too deep in her pondering and became unable to see her surroundings.

As her face was turning red, a grilled skewer that gave off a fragrant aroma that went to Luuty's nose was held out to her.

"Eh?"

"It's a Charging Boar and Maru Mushroom grilled skewer. Want some?"

“When did you get something like this...”

“Seeing that it looked like my words wouldn’t enter your ears, I got them from nearby.”

“Eh, could it be that you just left me alone!?”

In order to gloss over her embarrassment, Luuty displayed unreasonable anger but... Sancreed made a face that said he found it unexpected.

“Same to you. Could it be that you haven’t noticed? I properly pulled you by the hand and brought you here.”

“Heh?”

Being told that, Luuty looked around.

Certainly, the scenery was different from before.

“N, now that you mention it, the place is different.”

“That’s right... so, won’t you eat it?”

Being told that, Luuty received the skewer, and bit into it.

The Charging Boar had a unique flavor to it, but by no means was it an unpleasant taste.

“...So, what were you thinking so hard about?”

“...That’s...”

Luuty hesitated to say it.

This man called Sancreed looked like he was sincere.

If she asked, he would probably answer most things honestly, and if there was something he couldn’t answer about, he would probably say that he couldn’t answer about it.

At the very least, he wouldn’t deceive her... is what she thought.

It wasn't like Luuty knew deeply about Sancreed, but she was confident in her eye for people.

"If I ask, would you answer me?"

"I cannot make a definite promise. But, if it's something I can answer, then I will answer."

Hearing that reply, Luuty made a wry smile thinking that he was just as she expected.

"...What was the Demon King Vermudol trying to do in the Shutaia Continent?"

She went straight out and threw that question at him.

"...So you were thinking about that."

"Yes."

As if ruminating on Luuty's question, Sancreed turned his gaze to the sky.

The cloudy sky.

Bringing his gaze back from that, Sancreed met eyes with Luuty.

"...It seemed that he tried to bring peace to mankind's territory."

"And why, would he do that?"

"For the sake of this country's peace."

Luuty thought about the meaning of those words.

Why would the Shutaia Continent being at peace make the Zadark Kingdom be at peace?

"If the world is disarrayed, mankind would demand a place to put the responsibility on, and suspect the Demon King's revival... that seems to be what he thought."

"That, is..."

Not possible, is what Luuty was unable to say.

In fact, the existence of the Alva had cause a portion of people to suspect the Demon King's revival.

However, the reason why that suspicion wasn't that widely spread was because the world was generally at peace, and because people thought that the Alva were merely remnants of the Demon King.

But, what would happen if the world was thrown into disarray?

Would people seek the source that threw the world into chaos?

—There is no need to even think about it.

The Demon King Shuklous, who once used Brainwashing Magic and accelerated the chaos in mankind's territory. And then, the one who was said to be an even superior existence, the Great Demon King Gramfia. The people would surely remember them.

And then, the people would suspect the Demon King's revival, and think that the cause of all of the chaos was the Mazoku.

Just like how they had done in the past.

“That is why he resisted. That's all to the story.”

“...Is that, so...”

There was a point that she could understand.

In fact, it could be said that “Adventurer Shion” had stood up in order to keep the chaos done by monster damages to a minimum.

Unfortunately, the Demi-Human rejection had started to be loudly exclaimed, and since political problems broke out, his objective of making mankind's territory peaceful was unachievable. However, if that had not happened, “Adventurer Shion”'s actions would have contributed plenty to the peace of mankind's territory.

Agreeing with everything, she came to understand.

If Sancreed's story was the truth—it certainly had a large meaning in the current peace.

It might be a huge step towards the realization of true peace.

If they were able to form a peace treaty with even the St. Altlis Kingdom, then there was plenty of possibility that the other countries will also follow.

However, the problem was how would they negotiate with the St. Altlis Kingdom, and bring them to the point of entering a treaty.

In particular, there was no mistake that it would be extremely difficult to persuade the people that advocated the Demi-Human rejection.

The Demi-Human rejection argument was something that advocated that Demi-Human races like the Sylphid and the Metalio were just like the Mazoku in that they were things separated from the original strand of life, and that they were beings that went against the God of Life Philia's will.

There was no way the people that supported idea would accept something like the realization of a world peace that included the Mazoku so easily.

Just how far had those people penetrated the center of the St. Altlis Kingdom, and how would they move the country.

There was a need to know that.

"...Hey, come back. Your skewer is going to get cold."

"Wha... Hey, please don't touch my ear on your own like that!"

Having her ear pulled by Sancreed, Luuty's thought were forcibly interrupted.

However, it was true that it would be a waste for the grilled skewer to go cold. Putting one of the grilled skewer's Maru Mushrooms into her mouth, she enjoyed the crisp food texture.

Swallowing it down, Luuty had a thought.

Having the chance to eat something like this in the Dark Continent was a something

that she hadn't even thought of just a little while ago.

Without being limited to just Luity, mankind's common sense towards the Shutaia Continent's Mazoku was suspended in the past.

No, the common sense from the past is being succeeded as the newest thing... that would be the correct way to describe it.

In actuality, the Goblins, Ogres, and Bestia in the Shutaia Continent haven't changed at all from the past.

That is why people's perception of them shouldn't have changed.

Both now and in the past, Mazoku have continued to be the enemy of mankind.

Just what should be done in order to change that mankind's common sense?

"...Changing mankind's perception towards the Mazoku, will be difficult, won't it."

"That's true. That is what he's been worrying over this whole time."

When Sancreed said that, he returned the skewer that he had finished eat to the stall's shopkeeper.

"And I'm sure that he's worrying over it even now... All in order to protect this kind of daily life."

"Daily life..."

That's right, what was in front of her eyes right now was a scene of daily life.

Completely different from the Dark Continent of the past, a daily life similar to what could be found in a town of the Shutaia Continent was found here.

"I have, one request."

Hearing Sancreed's words, Luity responded with a twitch.

"We... the Mazoku and the Jiol Forest Kingdom, have become friends."

“Yes. At the very least, on documents.”

“That’s true.”

Luuty’s words that had a hidden meaning weren’t denied by Sancreed.

The method that Vermudol took in order to enter the treaty was pretty forceful, and there was no guarantee that the exchanged treaties would be protected forever after this.

Just like how the four major nations of the Shutaia Continent that had once walked together and exchanged oaths were now scattered due to Demi-Human rejection argument...

“But... I beg of you, please don’t betray us. At the very least, I ask that you alone don’t.”

“...Why me?”

“It’s because both the Demon King and Fainell seem to have taken a liking to you.”

“And what about you?”

Hearing that question, Sancreed said “fumu” and started thinking.

“Me huh... Let’s see. I would like to have expectations of our relationship from now on.”

“Well, that’s probably an appropriate impression.”

Saying that, Luuty smiled.

Since they had only met for the first time today, Sancreed’s words could be said to be only natural.

“I can’t make a definite promise. But, I will strive to not do so.”

“Yeah, that’s enough.”

That is why Luuty answered honestly, and Sancreed also agreed to it.

“By the way, when I heard about something called the [truth], I had asked about it to your king but. Is the objective of keeping peace that I just heard about that [truth] I was told about?”

“No... I don't know about that. Please ask that to the person himself.”

“In that case, please be the intermediary, okay?”

“...You want me to?”

“Is there anyone else that could do it?”

Just as he was about to say “there's Fainell isn't there”, Sancreed breathed a light sigh.

“...Well, it can't be helped. I was the one who asked for a favor first after all.”

“Fufu, that's true... By the way, the recommended shops that you mentioned before, was that the end of them?”

“No, I still have more though...”

“Then let's get going. Since this is a rare chance where it's all your treat after all.”

Seeing Luuty as she said that looking like she was having fun, Sancreed made a wry smile.

“...I see. No wonder they expected things from you.”

“Did you say something?”

“It was nothing.”

Saying that, Luuty and Sancreed started walking through the nighttime Arkverm once again.

# Chapter 4

The Demon King Castle in the Zadark Kingdom, the Throne Room.

The place that was more sacred than anywhere else in the castle.

Right now, the lights within the room were put out, and only the moonlight that came in from the window illuminated the throne.

The one sitting there, was the Demon King Vermudol.

“...Demon King-sama.”

Vermudol moved his gaze to the voice that called out to him.

“So it’s you, Ichika.”

“Yes.”

Seeing Ichika who had appeared beside him, Vermudol breathed a sigh.

“...You are also quite the hard worker. Just when do you sleep?”

“I do so when I rest.”

“I see, well do things in moderation. Have the jobs that can be entrusted to others done by others.”

“As you command.”

He tried saying that but... the actual problem was that there was no one that could match Ichika in quality results.

“...As I thought, wouldn’t it be better if I prepare a maid dedicated to routine tasks?”

The duties done in the current Demon King Castle had Ichika at the center and were performed by the Magic Operated Armors that belonged to the Central Army and the

Beastia unit led by Aulokk.

That being said, since almost all of the duties get completed with Ichika around, there are almost no jobs that get around to the Magic Operated Armors and Beastia.

However, for Vermudol, he was thinking that he should have the talented Ichika do other important jobs.

Then again, if he were to say that, Ichika would end up incorporating those “other important jobs” into her duties as well though.

Just once, Vermudol had tried to sneakily create a maid unit meant to support Ichika in the grand magic formation underground.

However, right when he was about to start, Ichika came along and stopped Vermudol.

And then, this time as well, Ichika kept a blank look at Vermudol’s proposal.

“That is not needed.”

“Well... I thought you would say that.”

Hearing that expected answer, Vermudol breathed a sigh.

“Even though I find Nino alone to be unmanageable. I do not wish to see other useless ones.”

“...True, even I don’t feel like I could make someone on your level.”

If Ichika’s words were to be believed, similar to Vermudol, Ichika was also specially made by that black young girl... she should have.

In other words, from that moment on, she was different from the other Mazoku.

It was only recently that he noticed this, but Ichika was the only one that was able to do a complete concealment against Vermudol’s “Status Confirmation” Magic.

He couldn’t find something like an opening on her at all.

There was no one that had ever seen her become serious at all.

That was the Maid Knight known as Ichika.

“Honestly, I’m grateful that you’re not an enemy.”

“Something like that is impossible. Please be at ease.”

“That’s true.”

Ichika then stared at Vermudol who nodded in agreement.

“...What’s wrong?”

“It is about time, please go to sleep. Tomorrow will have important government affairs too, correct?”

“Pretty much. But, I can’t help it, right? Things are going to finally start tomorrow. It can’t be helped that I’m feeling exhilarated.”

“Even so. Please properly sleep in your bed.”

Hearing Ichika’s words that said she wouldn’t yield even a single step, Vermudol made a wry smile.

It wasn’t that she was merely inflexible, it was that it was hard to go against her since it was a statement she made upon having a complete understanding of Vermudol’s physical condition.

Among Ichika’s duties, managing Vermudol’s physical condition was incorporated as a default.

“...Say, Ichika.”

“Yes, Demon King-sama.”

“The thing called peace, it’s pretty far away.”

“...It is, isn’t it.”

For a long time, mankind was in “peace”.

Long enough that mankind itself had forgotten its worth and was going to destroy it.

Peace—it is the thing that Vermudol craved, and the thing that mankind had now thrown away.

For the sake of obtaining it, Vermudol first did a massive killing of the Mazoku that would get in his way.

And then, he unified the Dark Continent, made new Mazoku, and had them develop.

“Not long ago, I even killed some Sylphid.”

For the sake of the Mazoku’s peace, he took the lives of Sylphid that seemed like they would become obstructing factors, and even having gone as far as doing something that was like brainwashing, he formed a friendship with the Jiol Forest Kingdom.

Everything, was for the sake of peace.

The first step on the blood smeared path, was finally taken.

No, he had no choice but to take it.

Even though it would have been better if peace could be reached while still at the stand still.

“Killing for the sake of peace, huh. I thought that was merely a chant for the sake of self-justification.”

“It was something necessary.”

“That’s true.”

Within the current chaos of mankind’s territory, there was the possibility that God was involved with it.

In order to obtain the ideal result in the shortest amount of time, it was something needed no matter what.

“You are the top of all Mazoku, the Demon King. There is not a single mistake in those actions that were done while thinking for the sake of the Mazoku.”

“I see... No, that’s right.”

That’s right, Vermudol is the Demon King.

Being the top of all Mazoku, the sole race in the world, called the Demon King.

“...”

“Demon King-sama.”

Seeing Vermudol ponder even more about something, Ichika opened her mouth.

“It will be harmful to your body. Please go to sleep already.”

“Yeah, I know. But I want to think for just a bit more.”

“That will not do.”

“Saying “that will not do”, you...”

Ichika, making a bit of a displeased face, glared at Vermudol.

“Demon King-sama, once you start pondering, you have a tendency to sink into a negative direction. I will not say that is a bad thing, but you must do it in moderation.”

“No, but still... going this far is actually”

“Demon King-sama, no matter what you think, there will be no changes in things that are facts.”

When Ichika said that, she forcibly put her hands around Vermudol’s body and carried him in her arms.

In slang terms, it was a princess carry.

“O, oi, Ichika!”

“I shall have you rest even if I have to force you to do it.”

“I get it so just put me down!”

“I will have to refuse.”



While still holding Vermudol in her arms, Ichika briskly walked to his bedroom.

Being carried in a princess carry so easily by Ichika whose appearance looked delicate, embarrassment and patheticness mixed into Vermudol's heart.

Although he knew it was pointless, he couldn't allow it to happen without resistance.

"You... If someone were to see this, then my dignity would..."

"There isn't a single presence within visible range of this place nor within the possible range of when we arrive there. The same goes for the route to the bedroom."

"Ahh, is that so..."

If Ichika says that, then she surely isn't mistaken.

Thinking that it really was pointless and giving up on resisting, Vermudol allowed himself to limply be carried just like that.

"Demon King-sama."

"...What is it? Just now, I was having second thoughts on whether or not I really am the Demon King though."

After warding off Vermudol's sarcasm, Ichika spoke with her usual tone.

"I beg of you, please continue on the path that you believed in. Even if no one else understands your anguish, I will be by your side."

Those were words that Ichika has spoken before. Just when was it that he had heard these words.

"No matter what path you choose from now on, I shall nestle close to you on that path."

Vermudol remembered the day he had first met with Ichika.

The time when the Demon King Castle was still just ragged ruins and when Vermudol and Ichika were the only two in the master and servant relationship.

While being reminded of that time, Vermudol muttered.

“...I also might end with just perishing to the Hero, you know? I am confident that my current self is pretty Demon King-like after all.”

“If one is a true Demon King, then there is no reason to lose to someone like the Hero.”

“Is that so?”

“It is. If you’d like, I will show you that I can cut them down.”

Seeing the rare occasion of Ichika make a joke, Vermudol was caught off guard... and made a small laugh.

“I see. Then that’s a relief.”

“Yes.”

As she said that with a lack of expression, Ichika arrived at Vermudol’s room, and her feet stopped right in front of the door.

“...Demon King-sama, please wait here for a bit.”

When Ichika said that, she put Vermudol down, silently opened the door, and slipped inside.

“...Nino, what are you doing.”

Hearing those word, Vermudol stealthily peeked inside from the gap of the opened door.

What was in there was Ichika who had a somewhat terrifying colored aura rising from her, and the figure of Nino who was rolled into a ball in Vermudol’s bed.

“Since Nino is thoughtful, Nino warmed up Demon King-sama’s bed.”

“Is that so. Since that is unnecessary, get out.”

“That cannot be done. Rather than a seed of rationality, a rigid, straight-laced maid has come invading like this after all. Nino thought that she should protect him at his side. Putting that Nino’s loyal servant style and beautiful young lady style together, it is on the level of being transmitted down after ages as a legend.”

“I see. It would seem that there are flaws in your thinking processes. Get out.”

“How boorish of you to hinder Nino’s loyalty. Those are lines that come out from not having confidence in your own appearance.”

Any more than this was dangerous. The Demon King Castle seriously could not be allowed to return to its first day state.

Feeling that way, Vermudol purposely pushed open the door so that it made a loud sound.

“Ah, Demon King-sama.”

“Demon King-sama... Please wait for a bit. Since I will be tossing this dumbass maid out through the window.”

“No, wait. It’s fine so wait. Nino, what are you doing?”

Being asked that, Nino restlessly raised half her body, and tilted her head.

With how she was wearing light green pajamas, she was clearly intending on sleeping here.

“What you ask... Preparing for sleeping together?”

“I see. I’ll accept those feelings.”

“If it’s now, Nino will also come with it as a set, you know?”

“I will accept only the feelings.”

Puffing her cheeks looking quite displeased, Nino was about to restlessly leave the bed looking like it couldn’t be helped.

“...Even though there’s nothing to be bashful about it at this point.”

“Demon King-sama?”

“Wait, that’s a misunderstanding. It is one of Nino’s usual jokes.”

Vermudol warded off Ichika's sharp gaze.

Vermudol had not gotten into that sort of relationship with anyone before.

He hadn't withered to the point of having absolutely no interest in the field of love... that is what he had thought.

But, right now, he didn't have the leeway to be concerned with that sort of thing.

"Un, Demon King-sama is serious after all."

"If you understand that, then you should also be a bit more..."

Nino, who had for some reason crawled back onto the bed, looked into Vermudol's eyes.

"But, Nino thinks that it's because there is no leeway. Nino thinks that you should try turning your eyes onto something a bit different."

Hearing that surprisingly decent opinion, Ichika also made a slightly surprised looking face.

"Even how Rokuna said before to go to the castle town, Nino thinks that she had that sort of aim, you know?"

"...I see."

Certainly, that castle town inspection had a strong element of play to it.

That too meant that Rokuna probably paid attention to Vermudol's needs and tried to get him to vent out his stress.

"...I understand your view. Now then, move away from there."

"Don't wanna."

"Move away."

"Ichika, Nino thinks you should leave this place and come back after about seven hours have passed. By that time, Nino will be gone... maybe."

Just as that quarrelling started, Vermudol had snapped his fingers and called a Magic Operated Armor.

“...Please prepare one bed in a vacant room right away. I will sleep there.”

“I have received your command.”

Leaving Ichika and Nino, who had once again started glaring at each other, as they were, Vermudol stealthily left his own room.

# Chapter 5

After leaving the bedroom, feeling that he really didn't feel like he would fall asleep any time soon, Vermudol came to the Demon King Castle rear garden for a walk.

The rear garden was the place that the Golem-type Majin, the Central General Gordy, could often be found covered in moss.

However, at present, Gordy's figure was not in the place she usually stood still at, and only the sound of swords clashing resounded in the quiet night rear garden.

The two that were crossing swords noticed Vermudol's gaze, but they did not try to sheathe their swords.

Instead, they increased their sword speed, and tried to come to a quick conclusion to their match.

The two's swordsmanship that had already surpassed an ordinary person's limits had become something that Vermudol couldn't see.

Before long, the sword attacks that seemed to have even sound fall behind stopped, and he saw the conclusion where each of them had their swords thrust before each other's necks.

This was an extraordinarily ideal way to finish a fight for the Mazoku, and had the meaning of being a tie where they praised each other's brave fighting.

Incidentally, in cases where they reached a conclusion where they don't come to an agreement, they would start fist fighting in place of bravely fighting.

"As expected of the two of you."

When Vermudol gave them an applause, the two sheathed their swords and bowed.

They were the Northern General Altejio and the Central General Gordy.

Even though it was for the sake of a sword bout, it was rare for Gordy to take her Majin form.

“No, that is not the case at all. I have shown you something quite unsightly.”

“What are you saying. For someone like me, I’m only able to randomly swing a sword.”

Vermudol generally carried a sword... but his forte was in magic, and he could barely use it at all.

He understood that it would be better to be able to use it, but hasn’t really had the time to practice.

He hated how whenever he did try to practise, the two Maid Knights that had completely different battle styles would try to cram their own ways of fighting... is something that he didn’t feel.

Ichika’s battle style was of the orthodox school where she used a sword and shield... or so she feigned to be, and was actually an ever-changing impregnable style where, depending on the situation, she would defend even with the sword and attack even with the shield.

At the time when the Majin Orel who was affiliated with the Central Army had first marched into the Demon King Castle, how Ichika had blown him away with her shield was a case of that.

In Nino’s case, unlike the previous style, she was the type to perform high-speed combat with two curved blades.

Generally speaking, her attack speed is uncommonly fast, and if one tried to defend against one of her curved blades, the other curved blade would come attacking from their blind spot. But not just that, even the trajectory of the curved blade that they thought they defended against would change right on the verge of collision.

Furthermore, the ultrafast boisterous dance that was interweaved into her footwork made it so that she wouldn’t allow her opponent to make a single counterattack.

“You are making a somewhat difficult face, aren’t you, Demon King-sama.”

“Nn? Ahh... I guess. By the way, Gordy, I knew that you used a sword but... I feel like this is my first time seeing it.”

Being told that, Gordy dropped her gaze onto the sword at her waist.

“That may indeed be the case. I also have no recollection of having wielded my sword before you, Demon King-sama.”

“Fumu... That is quite a waste.”

Altejio said that with an expression that said he truly found it to be unfortunate.

If she was able to be that much of a match against Altejio whose main occupation was that of a swordsman, Gordy’s skill must also be quite something.

The ones that used the sword among the Four Cardinal Generals were only Altejio and the Western General Sancreed, but if Gordy were to be added in, then it would be just right for them to polish each other’s sword skills.

...That being said, since the Four Cardinal Generals were usually scattered in various places, they probably didn’t have very many chances to do so.

“...Come to think of it, where did Sancreed go? Even though he’s the type of guy that seems like he would be the first to show his face at times like this.”

Sancreed was a man who had a high chance of appearing when there were event-like things going on.

It was unknown whether or not that was just a coincidence or if he had heard about it from somewhere though.

“Who knows... Well, isn’t this a good thing?”

“What’s this. Altejio, do you hate Sancreed?”

“No, that isn’t the case at all. At times like this, I would always have a bout with Sancreed, see. If he knew that I had a match with Gordy, that man would surely want to participate as well. For me, I have no intention of handing over such a good chance like this.”

“Is it something like that?”

Thinking “I really don’t get the thoughts of guys who use swords”, Vermudol suddenly realized something.

“...Wouldn't it be fine to go up against Ichika or Nino?”

Hearing Vermudol's words, who had innocently said that, Gordy made a wry smile, and Altejo grimaced.

“...Nino makes a face that openly says she does want to do things like this, and in Ichika's case, since she doesn't stay in the same place for more than one minute, we can't get a hold of her.”

“Is that how it is?”

“It is because the only time that those two come to a stop without making a reluctant face is when they are beside you, Demon King-sama.”

“H—n”

Being reminded of the two who argued in his bedroom, Vermudol thought that even the interpersonal relationships of the Demon King army were also pretty complicated.

Incidentally, when Ichika and Nino had done a mock battle before, the two of them didn't pull back at all until Vermudol stopped them, and they were one step away from having a death match.

Since they felt that Vermudol who was watching was much more terrifying, they haven't performed any mock battles since then.

“...But still, it sure is rare that the Four Cardinal Generals are gathered here and spending the night.”

“That is true.”

“Indeed.”

While looking at the two who agreed with him, Vermudol remembered a certain matter.

“Come to think of it, Altejo.”

“Yes.”

“That sword of yours, it’s a work of your lover, right?”

“Ha!?”

Seeing Altejo being clearly agitated, Vermudol thought “so that really is the case...” and was convinced.

The Light Burying Sword Auraal was Altejo’s beloved sword, as well as a famous sword that possessed a tremendous ability.

Even the Norm blacksmiths, they were unable to make a sword that surpassed Auraal even now.

It was to a degree that... If an example had to be given, it might be able to even burn up the flames of life, it was said to be that kind of product.

Why did Altejo possess something like that?

The answer to that, was the woman of the race called Metalio who Altejo had lived together with in the past.

The Metalio with the name of Margaret was the one who imparted the blacksmithing technology to the Dark Continent, and it was widely known that Altejo protected her during those days.

That was simply all to their relationship... is what had been said, but it seemed that what Nino suspected was correct.

“Demon King-sama... If I remember correctly, the ones called Metalio, are similar to the Norm and... um...”

“Yeah, they specialize in blacksmithing.”

“No, not about that, um... Their height, is a bit...”

“Putting it untactfully, they are smaller than Nino.”

“Is that, so...”

Hearing that, Gordy quietly took some distance from Altejo.

“Well, tastes are, um. They vary from person to person. Well... even if Altejio is— ... a bit of that... well, you are a comrade who has sworn allegiance to Demon King-sama.”

“That’s true, it isn’t very good to speak about people’s preferences. Especially when it has something to do with a racial characteristic.”

“Please wait. You are making some kind of misunderstanding.”

Altejio made a retort at Gordy and Vermudol who were nodding in agreement.

“Ahh, I get it. It’s fine, Altejio. I believe I understand.”

“That is right, there is no need to worry, Altejio. I also do not speak about people’s preferences.”

“No, like I said, please wait.”

Seeing the two of them looking at him with warm eyes, Altejio breathed a deep sigh.

“To begin with, Margaret is still alive.”

“...Nn?”

That is strange, is what Vermudol thought.

A Metalio’s life span is on the longer side among mankind’s races, but even so, it was only somewhat longer than the Humans. For her to have lived since the Dark Continent’s past era, that was something unimaginable.

“Both of you. Why do you think Margaret was accepted by the other Mazoku?”

“It was because she possessed blacksmithing technology, wasn’t it?”

“That is also a part of it but.”

Altejio cleared his throat a bit then continued.

“Margaret is a half between a Metalio and a Sylphid. She had strongly inherited the trait of being a long lived race of the Sylphid.”

Hearing that she was a half, Vermudol remembered the poster girl of the [Steel Fish Store], Carol, who he had met in mankind's territory.

That young girl was also a half.

If he remembered correctly, they were worried about that, so they would be going to the Canal Kingdom that had a lot of halves and quarter races... is what they should have said.

Most likely, in mankind's territory from now on, it would just be differences between races, but problems towards mixed races will also appear, is what Vermudol imagined.

"A half, huh. Was that also the cause of her drifting to this continent?"

"So it would seem. Mazoku are not cruel enough to lash her over something like that."

"I see..."

Although Vermudol nodded, there was one thing that worried him.

"Altejio."

"Yes."

"Do you resent me for killing people of the same race as Margaret?"

That's right, Altejio was a rare case... or rather the only case of a Mazoku coexisting with someone of another race.

There was enough of a possibility that with Margaret's influence, Altejio could see the race known as Metalio itself in a favorable light.

If that were the case, Altejio might resent him for having sunk the Metalio ship that Borkio's group was aboard a few days ago.

However, Altejio quietly shook his head sideways.

"No, that isn't the case at all."

And then, he stared at Vermudol.

“I certainly have exchanged hearts with Margarett. However, that was with Margarett herself. I do not have even a fragment of a merciful heart towards those Metalio who betrayed your trust, Demon King-sama.”

“...Is that so.”

“Yes, rather, why you did not have me cut them down... that is the point that I resent.”

With the Metalio betraying the Mazoku, the Metalio's... Margarett's prestige in the Dark Continent would become smaller.

That is something that Altejio couldn't forgive.

“...Altejio.”

Gordy also called out to him with a serious expression.

“Is Margarett...”

“Yes, I believe that she is energetically working hard in blacksmithing today as well. She had said that she would forge a weapon worthy of Demon King-sama though.”

“No, it is not about that. Um...”

“Nn?”

Gordy, after showing a worried look, timidly spoke.

“Is she still... small?”

Hearing that, Altejio didn't answer, and abruptly turned his eyes away.

# Chapter 6

The second floor hallway of the Demon King Castle was bright and illuminated with the light of magic.

Naturally having a lot of lights, a considerable amount of magical power was needed in order to maintain it. Therefore, it was rare for this much Illumination Magic to be used indoors.

“...A demonstration of the king’s majesty, that’s what this is, isn’t it.”

“That’s also part of it. But, if I had to say, it’s more of a sightseeing spot treatment.”

In response to the words that Luuty muttered while walking down the hallway, Fainell, who appeared from the other side, answered her.

Luuty stopped her feet, and asked a question to Fainell.

“Sightseeing spot?”

Certainly, the royal castle might be appropriate for a sightseeing spot, but she hadn’t heard of a king turning it into something like that himself.

“According to Demon King-sama, he said that the Demon King Castle emerging from within the darkness using light would surely be beautiful. What, didn’t you hear this from Sancreed?”

“If you’re talking about him, he seems to have gone off somewhere again.”

“H—n. Well, I guess that guy doesn’t really matter. Come on, it’s going to start.”

Immediately following after Fainell’s words, a large number of Illumination Magic spells spread out at the same time in the Demon King Castle’s surroundings.

The illuminations changed their color one after another, and seemed to be dyeing the Demon King Castle in various colors.

“When you see it from the inside, you can’t really tell though. It’s quite beautiful when you see it from the outside, you know?”

The “light make-up” event that was held only at a set time at night was a specialty of Arkverm, and was also one of its tourist attractions.

It was an event that started with Demon King Vermudol’s idea, but now, it was so popular that new “light make-up” designs were being brought up almost every day.

When Luuty looked outside from the window, a great number of people were gathered near the Demon King Castle.

And what was on them, were smiling faces.

Anything and everything about them was different from the “Mazoku” that Luuty knew of, and they were the faces of people that sung praises of peace.

It was the same for the Mazoku that she saw in the town together with Sancreed earlier.

They didn’t pay any mind to Luuty who was a Sylphid.

Even though there were gazes that pierced into her when she was in mankind’s territory...

“...Hey, Fainell.”

“What is it?”

“Are you, happy right now?”

Not even a fragment of the atmosphere that made her seem like a ferocious beast in the past remained in Fainell.

Expressing a natural smile, she was standing next to Luuty.

After making a befuddled face for a moment at Luuty’s question, Fainell then made a small giggle.

“You really do ask strange questions.”

Saying that, Fainell also turned her eyes to outside of the window, and answered while waving her hand to the people.

“I am happy. You can see that just by looking at me, so why ask that?”

“...”

“Luuty?”

Seeing Luuty tightly gripping her hands together at her chest, Fainell turned a worried expression towards her.

“What’s wrong? Could it be that Sancreed did something to you? Don’t worry, your position is that of a state guest. Depending on the situation, I’ll kick his ass all the way to the [Sea of Farthest Ends].”

“No... That’s not it.”

“It’s not?”

Luuty remembered the past.

About when she came down to this Dark Continent together with the Hero Ryuuuya and the others.

About that time where she was filled with a sense of duty.

“About that time—were my actions when I first came to this place the right thing to do... That is what I end up thinking.”

The existence of the Great Demon King Gramfia and the Dark Continent which they learned from the final words of the Demon King Shuklous who had thrown the Shutaia Continent into fear.

Together with the Hero Ryuuuya, she defeated the Great Demon King Gramfia, and rescued the people that were abducted by Mazoku from the castle.

That in itself was the correct thing to do, is what Luuty believed even now.

The Demon King Gramfia was truly evil itself.

With a repulsive heteromorphic form, he was a Mazoku filled with insanity.

But on the other hand, she had also met with Mazoku who she could come to a mutual understanding with like Fainell.

At that time, Luuty, who burned with a sense of duty, didn't even try to understand the meaning of that.

Thinking only of the meaning of the power and mission that she was entrusted with by the Gods, and implicitly believing that Mazoku were wicked beings, she didn't have any doubts about them at all in the middle of the fighting.

Although peace returned to mankind's territory, even when she worked as the board chairman of the Edius Adventurer School in the St. Altlis Kingdom, they were tormented by Mazoku starting with the Alva, and her impression of the Mazoku didn't change.

However, right now, Luuty was strongly shaken up.

Thinking "at the time, was she truly doing the right thing".

"Come to think of it, why did you guys come to attack this place anyway?"

At that time, after hearing that Humans had attacked and were rampaging about, Fainell participated thinking that it sounded interesting, and after learning later on that their objective was to defeat Gramfia, she ended up becoming committed to it.

That is why she fought. That was all there was to it.

"From what I understand, it seems that Gramfia-sama was called the Great Demon King or something."

"Yes, the Demon King Shuklous announced the existence of the Great Demon King Gramfia as his master."

"H—n, and so the responsibilities of the subordinate are the responsibilities of master... is that it?"

"Ah, no... Gramfia, who manipulated Shuklous from behind-the-scenes, should be defeated, that is how it turned out..."

“Did he manipulate him?”

That is where Luuty sank into silence.

When they had arrived with great difficulty, Gramfia went into a state that looked like he had gone mad, and a decent conversation couldn't be made.

She didn't know what the truth of it all was.

In those days, she believed that to be the truth... that was it.

“No... I don't know.”

“So Gramfia-sama was defeated with that sort of soft reason.”

“..”

“Ahh, don't worry about it. This is just a hindsight-based opinion, but I am happy being underneath the current Demon King-sama. With just that, I can completely wipe away things like ill will of the past.”

Fainell's words felt like salvation to Luuty.

However, she couldn't cling onto that so easily.

Making the truth clear—This was the assignment given to Luuty who knew about those days.

Come to think of it, she was once told “Once you know the truth, you will definitely come to this side” by Vermudol.

Thinking “could that be what he meant”, Luuty realized something.

Vermudol knew something, and it was because he knew that that he tried to get into contact with Luuty.

The reason why he didn't tell her about the truth up until now was most likely because Luuty didn't have the resolve to accept the truth.

“...Fainell!”

Abruptly, Luuty firmly grabbed a hold of Fainell's shoulders, and stared at her.

"Wh, what is it!? Could it be, you have that sort of preference! Wait, I certainly said that I could become friends with you, but I didn't have that sort of intention, you know!?"

"Why are you blurting out such strange things! That's not it. Where is Vermudol... - dono right now!"

Luuty separated her hands from Fainell's shoulders, roughened her tone, and asked that.

"Ha? Demon King-sama? Wouldn't he be asleep?"

Hearing Fainell's words, Luuty dropped her shoulders.

Certainly, it was already the middle of the night.

To wake up a country's king just for the sake of her own business, that would be too impolite.

"Th, at's... true..."

"Honestly, just when I thought that you, the rampaging Sylphid, had finally calmed down... in the end, you really haven't changed at all."

"Th, that goes the same for you."

When Luuty rebutted with that, Fainell puffed out her chest looking like she was boasting.

"What are you saying. Unlike you, I am a good general that is liked by her subordinates."

In actual fact, rather than being liked, she was treated like an idol, but let's leave that aside.

Fainell held love for her current professional duties, and freely enjoyed both her boisterous and peaceful days.

Luuty felt that Fainell to be a bit radiant.

“...That’s right. You and I, seem to be different.”

“Luuty...”

Muttering that, Fainell extended her hand to Luuty but.

“...Demon King-sama. I can’t say that eavesdropping is a very good hobby.”

When Fainell turned her gaze to a corner of the hallway, Vermudol appeared while making a wry smile.

“No, I didn’t have any intention of doing that but... I couldn’t grasp the timing to come out.”

“If you stay up too late, I’ll report you to Ichika, got it?”

“...Please spare me from that.”

Seeing Vermudol breath a sigh as he remembered how he was princess carried, Luuty remembered what she wanted to ask and went \*Ha\*.

“Th, that’s right. Vermudol-dono, there is something I...”

“I know. You want to hear my story, right? It seems that you’re finally ready for it.”

The fact that Luuty accepted Vermudol’s gaze from the front demonstrated her affirmative will.

“That’s right. And then, I believe that you also want to hear my story.”

The current Luuty was able to understand.

That Vermudol also craved the truth.

He wanted to know about the things that couldn’t be written in books, about the things that only the Hero’s group knew about.

“Yeah, that is exactly it.”

Beside the two who were grinning at each other, Fainell looked uncomfortable.

“Um... Should I sit out of this?”

“No, Fainell. Please stay for it. After all, it is a story that I will have to tell the Four Cardinal Generals anyway.”

“Is, is that so? In that case, um. Could Altejo, or at least Rokuna be present...”

Hearing that, Vermudol let out an exasperated sounding voice.

“...Fainell.”

“Y, yes.”

“Don’t worry. I don’t be telling you to remember all of the content of the conversation after all.”

“Y, yes!”

At that moment, Fainell made her most delighted expression for that day.

# Chapter 7

“So, even though you came here in the end, I won’t help you, you know.”

“Mu, sorry.”

This place was the Grand Library that was in the Demon King Castle’s underground.

At both of Vermudol’s sides were Rokuna and Fainell, and Luuty was sitting at the other side of the desk that was placed in between them.

Just as he was thinking about where a place where no one would approach them would be, they ended up concluding with going to the Grand Library.

He thought that Rokuna would also be asleep at this hour, but contrary to his expectations, the master of the Grand Library was in the middle of staying up late and working hard.

“I thought that you would already be asleep.”

“Ahaha. Even though there’s a certain Demon King-sama that brings me a job to do everytime he comes up with something. I’d like to know just where I have the spare time to be sleeping. Jeez, Ver-cchi... You’re seriously so funny.”

Vermudol averted his eyes from Rokuna whose eyes weren’t laughing at all.

He felt bad about it.

However, there was practically no personnel that seemed like they could assist Rokuna in the jobs that were on the level that he had to ask Rokuna to do.

For example, a person able to assist her in the construction of magic theory, within the Demon King Castle, there was only Ichika.

But since that Ichika was also had her duties broken down to the second in her schedule, he couldn’t ask her to do anymore jobs than she already had.

He had thought of creating Mazoku that possessed intellect on the same level as Rokuna, but if he carelessly manufactured personnel that were too smart, they would clash with each other and cause unnecessary chaos.

In the end, he had no choice but to entrust it all to Rokuna.

Of course, he thought “I guess I’ve gotten carried away and pushed too many jobs onto her—” and was reflecting on it though.

“Well, I do feel sorry about it.”

“You only feel that way, and still plan on pushing more onto me, right?”

“Pretty much.”

“Why you little...”

Purposely not responding to how Rokuna was glaring at him with reproachful eyes, Vermudol turned his gaze to Luuty.

“Now then, why don’t we get started.”

“Yes.”

After a bit of silence, Vermudol opened his mouth.

“...First, let’s talk about the Alva.”

“This is about what you said you wanted to investigate when you were in the St. Altis Kingdom, isn’t it.”

“Yeah.”

The Alva were mysterious Mazoku that appeared in the Shutaia Continent.

Although they don’t understand their language, their intelligence seems to be considerably high, and their magical power is also high as they can use magic.

“As I had told you before, those are not under my... under the Demon King Vermudol’s influence. They don’t listen to my commands either.”

“In that case, who do those Mazoku belong to?”

“I can make a general guess... But, there is something I would like to confirm. In Shuklous’s stronghold, were there any Alva... or maybe anything that resembled them?”

“No, there wasn’t. I thought that they were Mazoku that were found somewhere in the not yet travelled Dark Continent though.”

“No, Alva do not exist in the Dark Continent.”

I see, it’s been decided with this... is what Vermudol thought.

The Alva were not a legacy of Shuklous who came out from the [Dimensional Gap].

The Alva were new Mazoku.

However, first keeping that a secret, Vermudol continued.

“In other words... That would make the Alva unidentified Mazoku that no one knows about.”

Luity silently thought for a bit, and nodded.

“An uninvestigated place that we didn’t know about in the [Dimensional Gap]... if that doesn’t exist, then that is how it would be.”

“Well, that would be the case. So, about the next thing to confirm.”

Vermudol shrugged his shoulders, and raised the next question.

“Was Shuklous, a genuine Demon King?”

“...I don’t understand the meaning of your question.”

“Did the Hero looked at Shuklous with Status Confirmation Magic? That is what I mean.”

When Luity let her gaze wander about in mid-air, she started talking while remembering things.

“...Whenever he met with an opponent he had never seen before, Ryuuuya had a habit of using Status Confirmation.”

“Fumu.”

“Since he said “there’s no mistaking it” when he saw Shuklous... I suppose he was.”

Going “I see”, Vermudol thought.

In that case, there was no mistake that the Hero saw Shuklous’s Status, and confirmed that Shuklous was a Demon King.

But even if he asked Luty how much of his Status was seen, she probably wouldn’t know.

“However, in regards to Shuklous, wouldn’t you all know more about him?”

“We don’t. It is because no one here knows about the Demon King called Shuklous.”

“...What do you mean by that?”

That was a predictable reaction.

Between mankind and the Dark Continent Mazoku who confronted each other as enemies from the beginning, there was no way they could come to a mutual understanding.

Mankind’s side acknowledged the Dark Continent Mazoku as the final enemies to be defeated.

The Dark Continent Mazoku recognized mankind as invaders.

In actuality, there was no telling how Gramfia and a portion of the Mazoku who abducted members of mankind using space transfer thought of it... But nevertheless, it couldn’t be helped that they would feel that the one called mankind’s Hero was the main cause of everything and why they were attacked.

In any case, it had become clear with this.

Shuklous really was a Demon King.

“I’m sure that Ichika will get mad at me for speaking like this but. Shuklous had no connection to the Dark Continent whatsoever... However, he was something that met the conditions of being a Demon King.”

Just as he thought that Luuty would reply said that she didn’t understand the meaning of that, surprising words came out from her mouth.

“...Come to think of it.”

“Nn?”

“When Ryuuya saw Gramfia... your predecessor, he muttered...”so this is the Great Demon King”. At the time, I only thought that he was simply talking about his heteromorphic form though.”

Vermudol guessed at what Luuty wanted to say.

He guessed that in other words, the Hero Ryuuya had detected some kind of difference in the Status between Shuklous and Gramfia.

“In regards to that, since the person himself is no longer around, there is no way of ascertaining it. In any case, it means that Shuklous has no connection to us.”

“Then, why did Shuklous talk about Gramfia’s existence?”

A hypothesis could be made.

Actually, Gramfia was a Demon King that possessed terrifying magical power, and was able to create Demon Kings other than himself, that was the theory.

However, this could be excluded.

It was because those that knew Gramfia would say that Vermudol’s magical power was definitely stronger.

Magical power was greatly connected to creation, but as long as Vermudol was unable to create Demon Kings, Gramfia shouldn’t be able to create Demon Kings either.

However, without talking about things that far, Vermudol only answered Luuty’s question.

“...That is where the problem lies. It is because it seems that Gramfia was a Mazoku that shut himself up in the Demon King Castle. Moreover, there is also the possibility that he didn't even know about the Shutaia Continent.”

That is right. What Gramfia grasped was something on the level of “there is a place somewhere where mankind exists”.

That is why he was only able to sent Mazoku to random places with his Transfer Magic.

Even so, that was plenty enough to say that Gramfia had commenced an invasion on mankind, and it was only natural that the Hero was summoned.

But on the other hand, without Gramfia realizing it, Shuklous had started a large-scale invasion in mankind's territory.

Therefore, Gramfia wasn't completely innocent.

But, he wasn't the Great Demon King as he was known as in mankind's territory.

“...However, in that case, the stories don't connect.”

“It's a simple story. Gramfia didn't know about Shuklous, but Shuklous knew about Gramfia. That's all there is to it.”

“...I am asking that that is the case. Why would Shuklous lie and say that Gramfia was his master?”

“There is surely someone that would profit because of that.”

It was there that Luuty met gazes with Vermudol.

As if she had realized something.

“...You are suspecting the existence of a mastermind behind all of this?”

“Yeah, I am suspecting the existence of an extraordinary mastermind.”

“Who is it?”

“Who do you think it is?”

Hearing Vermudol's words, Luuty worked her thoughts out.

Who was the one that could manipulate Shuklous?

Ryuuya heard of the existence of the "Great Demon King" and seemed to have consented to the idea.

However, if the assumption that Gramfia was the Great Demon King was wrong, then just who was the one that manipulated Shuklous...?

Thinking that far, Luuty remembered a connection.

Come to think of it, why did Vermudol confirm things about the Alva at the start?

The Alva, and the existence of the one manipulating Shuklous. If these two stories were connected—

"...Could it be, are you saying that the Alva are the subordinates of that mastermind?"

"That is what I am thinking."

Vermudol was relieved by the fact that Luuty had calmly accepted the story up until now.

What Vermudol was trying to do from now on was repudiate the God of Life.

Even if Luuty wasn't a devout believer of the God of Life, she was once a member of the "Hero's party" that defeated the Demon King in accordance with the guidance of the Gods.

If he didn't advance the conversation carefully, far from not obtaining Luuty's cooperation, there was the possibility that she would become an enemy.

"...I am thinking of a certain possibility."

Vermudol carefully chose his words.

While including his wish of it becoming a future where there was even a little bit more help.

# Chapter 8

A possibility.

That's right, from here on would be a story that is complete conjecture.

However, it needed to be spoken out.

It's because if it wasn't, then things wouldn't start.

"The possibility that the Alva were something created by that person. I, am suspecting that."

"..."

Luuty ruminated over Vermudol's words, and thought about the meaning of them.

To create the Alva—to create Mazoku.

In other words, it meant to create life.

When thinking of the number of Alva, which were a new species of Mazoku, it wouldn't be strange if someone were to have meddled with that flow of life.

When Luuty was about to open her mouth, Vermudol continued his words first.

"That isn't all. I... am thinking that Shuklous was also prepared by that person."

"That's..."

As she was about to say "now that is impossible", Luuty sank into silence.

What if the mastermind's objective, was to kill Gramfia.

However, having reached this far, she didn't understand the meaning of killing Gramfia.

Gramfia was a powerful Demon King, but to bring about fear and chaos to mankind's territory, he was unnecessary to Shuklous.

"However... manipulating a Demon King isn't something that anyone can do, you know?"

"True. But, there is one person that can. Someone that can create both the Alva and Shuklous... see."

Luuty didn't answer to those words.

Certainly, there was one—Someone that could create both the Alva and Shuklous.

The God of Life Philia.

If it was Philia, who managed the seeds of life and governs over life, that certainly is possible.

Having lent her power to the summoning of the former Hero Ryuuya, she was also the one that granted them the oracles in order to defeat the Demon King.

Luuty arrived at one possibility, then looked at Vermudol's eyes and asked.

"...Could you tell me just who it is that you are guessing it to be?"

"That's obvious."

Vermudol gave an immediate reply.

"It's the God of Life Philia. I do not know as far as to why she would do such a thing, but as a possibility, I believe it to be considerably high."

"...So it's not like, you're convinced of it."

"If I were convinced of it, I would be making preparations for war right now."

As Vermudol said that and shrugged his shoulders, Rokuna silently peeked over at him.

His words right now weren't a lie, but they were the truth either.

There was no proof of it—but, he was actually convinced about it.

That is why Vermudol was trying to gather hands that he could play to the point that could be said to be excessive.

However, it seemed that Vermudol intended on concealing that from Luuty.

While making a yawn, Rokuna dropped her gaze on to the book in her hand looking uninterested.

“Is that, so.”

While keeping her gaze fixed on Vermudol, Luuty continued onto her next question.

“Well then, let’s suppose that the God of Life is the mastermind behind everything. What do you intend to do?”

“That question is one that thought about asking you. What do you intend on doing? I, intend to fight.”



Going “I see”, Luuty started thinking.

There was no mistake that Vermudol was focused on fighting against the God.

With his remark just now, that face was something she could completely understand.

And then, Luuty’s answer was also something that was decided.

“...If, the God is the mastermind, I believe there is a need to inquire about her intent.”

For Luuty, the idea that the God of Life is the mastermind left behind some suspicions.

They were able to make hypotheses, but there wasn’t a single piece of evidence.

However... she also couldn’t just agree to it.

The “truth” that Vermudol thought of certainly is something that mankind wouldn’t even imagine.

However, as long as there was no evidence, she couldn’t believe in it immediately.

“If it’s about the God’s intent, then you will understand immediately.”

As if reading Luuty’s thoughts, Vermudol muttered.

“I have destroyed the scenario that God created. If she plans on being fixated on it, then she will surely be rushing to make corrections right away.”

“Scenario...?”

“Yeah.”

Curving the corners of his mouth, Vermudol expressed a small smile.

“The scenario where the Hero defeats the Demon King and brings peace to the world.”

But, he had no intention of following that scenario.

Using his function as the Demon King to its maximum degree up until now, he greatly shook up mankind’s territory.

The St. Altis Kingdom.

The Cylas Empire.

The Jiol Forest Kingdom.

The Canal Kingdom.

From these four major nations, the Jiol Forest Kingdom was detached.

This act had several meaning to it.

First, it was meant to be a symbol of friendship to the Mazoku in mankind's territory.

Second, it was meant to be a base for action for the Mazoku in mankind's territory.

Third, it was meant to destroy the troublesome thing known as the "justice of all of mankind".

For the sake of mankind and Mazoku from now on, the "justice of all of mankind" would be in the way.

In actuality, despite having been saved when they had drifted ashore onto the Dark Continent, Borkio betrayed Vermudol's kindness for the sake of the "justice of all of mankind".

As long as the Mazoku were imprinted as the enemy to mankind, there was logically nothing that could be done about it... but for Vermudol, it was something extremely bothersome.

Therefore, by destroying the relationships of the four major nations, he put pressure on mankind's state of mind, and made them carry suspicions towards the "justice of all of mankind".

The fourth and final meaning, was something that he could not tell Luuty at the present point.

It was, meant to prevent the completion of the Holy Sword.

The Holy Sword was said to be completed by going around every part of the world and

controlling the power of the Gods.

Vermudol had not seen the real thing, but as long as it seemed to be a sword that kept enough power to defeat the Southern General Raktor, he couldn't allow it to be completed.

For the sake of that, there was a need to first form a friendship with the Jiol Forest Kingdom.

That's right, all of this was an act to destroy the prepared scenario.

He wouldn't let something like the Holy Sword be completed.

He had no intention of perishing to something like the Hero.

He wouldn't become something like a sacrificed for the sake of mankind's peace.

He absolutely wouldn't allow something like imposing all evil onto the Mazoku.

And if that was something that God established, he would also knock down that God.

"...For the sake of the peace of the Mazoku, I will exhaust all of my strength. If the peace of the world is needed for that, I will make it happen. That is why, please lend me your strength, Luty. Your blind acceptance towards God... cast it away."

Luty quietly replied to Vermudol's invitation.

"Vermudol. If even you are a creature with life, then you should eventually return to the God of Life's side. Do you not fear that?"

That's right, this was the reason why mankind, and the Grand Altis Temple, worships the God of Life.

The God of Life Philia who manages the flow of life looks at all of one's deeds during their lifetime—that is the religious outlook that is instilled onto the people.

Easy to understand words such as "after death" and "the next life" easily tied people down.

Those that doubted the God of Life's existence and the temple's dogma, it could be said

that it would be better if they were gone.

“Not really. More than that, I find being played around with by a God however she likes in my current life to be scarier. Are you different?”

“...”

Luuty was at a loss for words.

Keeping silent as if to ponder... before long, she opened her mouth.

“I cannot make an immediate reply.”

“Hou?”

“I understand the truth you are speaking of. However, I don’t have a way to judge if that really is the truth.”

“True.”

Luuty answering like that, in a certain way, was only natural.

There was a possibility that everything that Vermudol talked about was a magnificent lie.

Most of mankind would doubt the Mazoku more than God.

“...That is why. Until the time the God’s will that you spoke of is shown. At that time, I will give you my answer. Are you fine with that?”

“Yeah, it’s not a problem.”

After Luuty nodded, she stood up from her chair.

“...This was a meaningful time. Good night, Vermudol-dono.”

“Yeah. Good night, Luuty.”

\*Katsun, katsu\* While making the sound of shoes resound, Luuty left the Grand Library.

After seeing her off, Rokuna poked Vermudol's shoulder.

"Is it alright? With just that. You had quite a few cards left hidden though."

"It's fine. If I were to show all of my hands at once, then she would instead be cautious."

"H—n... Well, for me, I think that it will be either tonight or tomorrow though."

Vermudol went "Fumu" to Rokuna's prediction and nodded.

"I see. The Alva will make a huge attack in the Jiol Forest Kingdom while they have the opportunity where the king isn't there. It was the scheme of the Mazoku... I suppose that would be how it looks... But, there haven't been any reports from the intelligence team about it, right?"

"There haven't—. There have only been regular reports stating that there aren't any abnormalities in both the royal capital and the national borders."

"Then, it won't happen."

When Vermudol said that, Rokuna made a dissatisfied looking face.

"That might be true but—. For now, I'll have them stay vigilant."

"Yeah, please."

Vermudol thought that they most likely won't play such a large-scale hand just yet.

However, something should definitely happen.

Something, for the sake of a happily ever after to God, to mankind.

"...But first comes tomorrow."

Tomorrow, the treaty of friendship would officially come into effect, and the friendship between the two countries would be relayed far and wide through diplomats.

Everything would start from there.

"...Munya."

“Nn?”

As Vermudol was about to show a dark smile, a weight was suddenly placed on his shoulder.

“Ara—”

Seeing that, Rokuna found that to be charming... or at least she found it to be charming on the surface, however, she made a face that said she found it amusing and couldn't hold it in.

“...Nn, nnu. \*Supii\*.”

Fainell, whose thread of tension had been cut now that Luuty was gone, was asleep and leaning on Vermudol's shoulder. Her figure looked truly happy.

“To think that this is Four Cardinal General Fainell who was the eastern champion... I'm sure that anyone other than the Mazoku of the east would find this hard to believe.”

“...The eastern Mazoku know about this?”

Going “of course they do”, Rokuna nodded.

In the Demon King's eastern territory where it was relatively warm and easy to take care of, the figure of Fainell taking a nap looking really comfortable could be sighted quite often.

She was seen being like that as much as her figure zealously training was seen... but in the end, it seemed that her happy-looking sleeping face left more of an impression on the Mazoku.

“...Now I'm starting to get worried about the eastern area.”

“It's fine—, I'm coordinating things in that regard after all.”

“Well, if you say so, then it must be true but...”

Feeling that his image of Fainell from when he had just met her was breaking, Vermudol breathed a sigh.

“She’s just the embodiment of the idea that peace is wonderful. It’s a good thing—”

“Is that... so?”

Although he felt a faint amount of discomfort, Vermudol changed his mind thinking that it might be something like that.

“...Unfair. Nino also wants to sleep with Demon King-sama.”

Vermudol was surprised by Nino who popped her face out from underneath the desk, but he immediately changed to a look of amazement.

Nino disregarded that sort of thing, and hugged Vermudol.

“...Since when were you there?”

“Nino is always within Demon King-sama’s heart, you know?”

“...I see. Then I guess it can’t be helped.”

“Yup. It’s because Nino is the unforgettable-type of beautiful young lady. It can’t be helped.”

Thinking “it looks like I won’t be able to sleep today”, Vermudol smiled looking troubled.

# Chapter 9

In the capital city of the St. Altlis Kingdom, Edius, where a large number of Beastmen, Sylphid, Metalio had left all at once due to the Demi-Human rejection, the period of chaos had ended.

The personnel that flowed out and vanished were replaced with people that came flowing in from other regions and Humans that came back from foreign countries, and other than the point that there was almost no demi-humans, things could be said to have almost returned to how things were.

The reason why the end of the chaos came quickly was because the business transactions with the other countries had continued.

Putting aside the Jiol Forest Kingdom that they were in a state of tension with, the merchants of the other countries—especially the merchants of the Canal Kingdom and the small countries other than the four major nations, were still doing business with the merchants of the St. Altlis Kingdom.

So while there was a circulation of goods from other countries through merchants like that, the endeavors to raise self-sufficiency in the St. Altlis Kingdom also continued.

Like that, Edius was at peace on the surface—However, with the atmosphere of the smell of war definitely intensifying in the air, today as well, it received the night.

“...So it’s you again.”

What appeared at the side of the young girl who sat on the roof of a vacant house was a single young boy. He probably entered the house without permission, and climbed up from the attic.

Ignoring the young girl’s annoyed face, the young boy sat down beside her.

The young girl’s name was Ein.

The young boy’s name was Kain.

The two of them possessed similar sounding names, however, there was a decisive difference between them.

It was how Ein was a Mazoku, and Kain was a Human.

Incidentally, Ein was here to perform an investigation on the St. Altlis Kingdom on Rokuna's orders, so having Kain following her around was a bit of a bother.

However, ever since she saved Kain from an Alva attack, Kain came to visit Ein almost every night as if to see what was going on.

The fact that she would definitely be discovered by Kain no matter where she was also hurt Ein's pride as a spy a bit.

"I am sure that I told you to not get near me though."

"Haha... You're just the same as always."

"You're the one who is the same as always. Don't tell me that you still haven't given up."

When Ein cast a sharp glare at him, Kain averted his eyes and scratched his head.

"No, I actually haven't given up."

"Give it up. It's a waste of time."

Kain, who was a student of the Edius Adventurer School, was tenaciously inviting Ein to join his Adventurer party.

Of course, since Ein had the objective of investigating and needed to do covert actions, she continued to refuse even now.

"If you want a vanguard,, then that spear wielding, wild boar of a girl should be sufficient."

While remembering one of the girls that got along with Kain and was the daughter of the Necros Duke house that was called the Spear Princess, Ein said that sounding like she found him to be a pain.

Thanks to Kain coming to see her like this, Ein had come to be acquainted even with the female group that was around Kain.

It was extremely bothersome, but on the other hand, for some reason, there were a lot of people related to important people among the girls, so there was the merit of being able to obtain various information. To Ein, this gave her mixed sentiments.

“Ahh, you mean Seria. I had thought of trying to invite her too... but, there’s this whole situation going on, see. It seems that her worries are pretty big even as a Duke.”

“It seems that a majority of the royal capital has calmed down though?”

“U—n... Certainly, it looks like it’s calmed down on the surface. But it’s really muddy on the inside.”

“Is it about that Demi-Human argument thing? Then it would be fine if you relied on that woman you call senpai. She holds an important position, right?”

The one that Ein was talking about was Quelia who was Kain’s senpai as well as the daughter of the Head Priest of St. Altis’s Grand Temple.

It seemed that she had built a good senpai-kouhai relationship with Kain, and she could sometimes be found happily walking together with him.

“Ah—, yeah. Qu-senpai, huh...”

When Kain was about to say something, he hesitated, and just like that, he turned into a groaning ornament.

The reason for that was simple. It was because Quelia was a supporter of the Demi-Human argument.

Publically, she demonstrates an understanding with ways of thinking other than the Demi-Human argument, and although she might not be self-aware of it, Quelia was also one of the people that created the current atmosphere of the St. Altis Kingdom.

“A bit more... I think that I’ll consult Qu-senpai a bit later.”

“I don’t care. Do as you like.”

“Yeah, I’ll do as I like.”

Seeing Kain say that with a smile, Ein breathed a blatant smile.

She had gotten involved with a truly bothersome man.

Also, ever since that day she made direct contact with Kain, the strange Alva continued to appear.

The Alva that attacked Kain spoke words and tried to obey orders, which were features that made it hard to imagine that it was an ordinary Alva.

To begin with, the action of the Alva targeting a specific person itself was something strange.

In order to investigate what the Alva’s objective was and what the person that was being targeted by Alva was, Ein monitored Kain, but as a result of trying to prevent the Alva’s strange actions, she ended up revealing her figure in front of Kain.

Like this, although she became acquainted with Kain and no longer had to hide from him, it seemed like the Alva would also come to attack her frequently if she were to make movements that were even a little showy.

“And so.”

“What, do you still have some kind of business with me?”

“Ahh, yeah. It would be great if you knew though.”

Seeing Kain acting hesitant, Ein clicked her tongue and urged him to continue on with her gaze.

Since Kain had also gotten completely used to this, he saw that as an acknowledgement and continued his story.

“Do you know anything, about things like the Jiol Forest Kingdom’s internal conditions?”

Hearing the words “Jiol Forest Kingdom”, Ein reacted in her mind, but she feigned calmness.

Certainly, the internal conditions of the Jiol Forest Kingdom weren't known in the current St. Altis Kingdom.

The St. Altis Kingdom had sent out spies... but since the Jiol Forest Kingdom's vigilance level had increased, they could not get a great deal of information.

...That is the story that Ein had heard from the spy of some country that she had just happened to find and defeat not too long ago though.

"Why, would you want to know something like that?"

Information related to the Jiol Forest Kingdom needed to be treated especially carefully nowadays.

The fact regarding the treaty of friendship between the Jiol Forest Kingdom and the Zadark Kingdom was continuing on in secrecy for the time being.

According to Rokuna, since "the first impact is important", that information couldn't be circulated to other countries... especially the St. Altis Kingdom, until tomorrow's announcement.

If Kain were to know something, she would need to identify and crush the information route, restrain Kain until tomorrow morning or afternoon when the situation moves, and prevent the diffusion of information.

However, what came out of Kain's mouth were some unexpected words.

"...I'm, worried about Luuty-san, see."

Ein immediately understood when he mentioned Luuty Ligas.

She was a Sylphid, and one of heroes that were a part of the Hero Ryuuya's party.

She was formerly the board chairman of the Edius Adventurer School... and then.

"Another woman, huh. Do you have some kind of disease where you'll die if you don't bury your entire field of vision with women?"

"N, no. That isn't really the case though..."

“Then, just think “she’s probably doing fine...” or something.”

When Ein said that, Kain didn’t say anything more than that and sank into silence.

Seeing him look like he was enduring something, Ein reluctantly gave him a minimum amount of information.

“...There aren’t any stories of her dying. Are you satisfied with this? If you are satisfied, stop making that irritating face.”

“Eh, ah, yeah. Thanks. If she isn’t dead, then she’s fine, isn’t she.”

“You should just think that a person you haven’t met in a long time is doing fine. That’s all there is to it.”

“No news is good news, huh...”

Hearing Kain’s muttering, Ein made a puzzled face.

“Could it be, are you exchanging letters with Luuty Ligas or something?”

It would be a huge problem if that were the case.

By going through Luuty, there was the possibility of various information being circulated to the St. Atlis Kingdom.

Thinking that, Ein shuddered.

“Eh? No, it isn’t that sort of thing.”

“Not that sort of thing? So it’s a tryst. What’s the meaning of this when you’re just a mere student.”

Ein pressed him for answers as she tried to somehow pull information out of him, while Kain was slowly backing away while being impatient for some reason.

Determining that the fact that he was shedding what seemed to be a cold sweat to be proof that he was keeping something secret, Ein decided that she wouldn’t let him escape and grabbed Kain’s collar and pulled him close.

She wouldn't allow him to use magic and escape, and on top of that, he was within super close range, which Ein specialized in.

Maybe because he resolved himself from knowing that he couldn't escape, Kain shouted while becoming increasingly flustered.

"L, like I said, that isn't it! It's just an old saying! The one that says that when letters don't come, it's proof that they're doing fine..."

"So you really are exchanging letters with her... Spit it out, what were the topics?"

"I'm telling you, that's wrong! It's a metaphor!"

Hearing him go that far, Ein finally stopped questioning him.

Taking her hands off of Kain's collar, she threw him down onto the roof.

"How pointless. Say that from the start."

"Didn't I tell you that it was different from the start..."

Having no interest in Kain who was muttering his complaints, Ein looked up at the night sky.

As expected, the information blockade was perfect.

Up until today, the talk about the Jiol Forest Kingdom that flowing about within the St. Altlis Kingdom stopped at the level of just being rumors.

Everything would happen tomorrow—Tomorrow, the world would move greatly.

For the sake of the peace that Demon King Vermudol desired, a time where the Mazoku would also greatly move more than they are now would come.

"...Nn?"

Suddenly, Ein felt a sense of discomfort in the sky.

As if something, were cracking... that kind of faint sense of discomfort.

However, Ein knew the source of it.

“Oi, no-faithfulness.”

“Eh, are you talking about me?”

“It looks like a guest has come today as well.”

Kain reacted to those words, and he hurriedly stood up and drew the sword on his waist.

“The Alva... so they really came tonight as well!”

That’s right, that was the sign of an Alva’s appearance, the Alva’s characteristic Space Transfer method.

The spacial crack eventually expanded from an ellipse to a circle, and a thin Alva made its appearance.

The opened space extinguished one the Alva’s transfer was completed, and returned to being the original night sky.

“...So, it became stronger again.”

Seeing the Alva that appeared, Ein evaluated it as such.

The Alva that appeared and targeted Kain were weak to the point of being useless at first, but ever since Kain was added to the battles, they gradually became stronger.

They started to widen their tactics, and even the Alva themselves, they started to vary depending on the day such as having the type that attacked with magic or the type that attacked directly.

The Alva that appeared in the sky opened its black wings, and making a quick survey of the area, it confirmed Kain and Ein’s location.

“...I always say this but. I don’t mind if you die, just don’t get in my way.”

“I’d like it if you gave me some words of encouragement sometimes though...”

“Do your best to not get in my way. Are you satisfied with that?”

Leaving Kain, whose tension was complicatedly raised, alone, Ein took out her short sword.

It was possible for her to use her strength as a Majuu (magic beast) even in her Majin form, but with her being in front of Kain, she couldn't use those techniques.

In that sort of meaning, Kain was getting in the way, but there was no helping that now.

When Ein came to that kind of clear decision, she readied her short sword.

# Chapter 10

Confirming the slender Alva's location, Ein kicked the roof and accelerated.

She didn't know what kind of attack method today's Alva possessed.

However, there was no need to know.

It was because if she defeated it before being attacked by the opponent, the opponent's attack method didn't matter.

The moment she filled the gap to be at zero distance in an instant and tried to swing her short sword, the Alva disappeared from Ein's vision.

No, it didn't disappear.

With astounding speed, it went around to Ein's back.

"Wha... This guy!"

Ein twisted her body, and repelled the Alva's attacking claw with her short sword.

"What was that just now... it was way too fast, wasn't it!?"

Hearing Kain's words, she suddenly harbored a question.

That speed just now, it should have looked like it had vanished to normal Humans.

"Oi! Could it be that you saw the Alva's earlier movements!"

"Y, yeah... somehow... just barely though!"

Hearing Kain's response, Ein was convinced.

She thought that he was a strange man, but he concealed bottomless strength.

"I see. But you're in the way! You've got to get down!"

Saying that, she spun the short sword in her hand and changed the way she gripped it.

Before the Alva's claw could attack her again, she cut that hand up.

However, sensing that it couldn't avoid it, the Alva quickly flew behind her, and kept the wounds shallow.

"Tsk."

"Gurugogugugugu."

Taking some distance, Ein and the Alva kept each other in check.

Maybe because they were both high-speed close combatants, they instead couldn't carelessly get close to each other.

It was because they knew that the distance for their own certain kill attack would also be the distance for their opponent's certain kill attack.

After that check continued on for a while.

"Orugurovarurururu!"

Unable to bear it any longer, the Alva charged in together with a howl.

"Ha, how foolish... You're full of openings!"

Ein was about to intercept the Alva, however, she noticed that she couldn't move her arms.

It wasn't paralysis.

It was a type of curse that restrained her arm movements.

It was strong enough to surpass Ein's resistances who was a Majuu (magic beast).

"Gururururaa!"

"Don't screw with me... As if I'd lose... just from having my arms sealed!"

Ein bent her body around and evaded the barrage of claw attacks that the Alva unleashed.

And then regaining her posture, she threw a kick at the Alva's legs.

\*Dogon\* A sound as if it were struck with a blunt weapon resounded.

Together with a groan of pain, the Alva flew back with its wings, and made a howl.

“Garogurevarurururu!”

At the same time as that, Ein felt that her legs became unable to move.

“So it's my legs this time...”

But, that wasn't a problem.

Even if she couldn't move her arms and legs, her head and torso could move.

It was possible for her to at least bite and tear up her opponent the moment the Alva got close.

At the time she thought that.

“—Guillo Light!”

Together with that voice, a dazzling beam pierced the Alva's wings.

“Gu, guaaa!?”

The Alva screamed from the unexpected attack.

Ein was also surprised by the sudden situation, and was further surprised by the fact that it was Kain's attack.

“He did it chantless...?”

That's right, Kain only gave the keyword that activated the magic, and didn't do the chant.

Normally, magic would have the chant done and then activate.

By performing a chant that is filled with magical power, the activation process of the magic that is concealed in the chant sentences is recreated.

Therefore, as long as the chant is done, although there will be differences in power, magic can basically be done by anyone.

However, to use magic without a chant, either a fair amount of talent or a fair amount of training was needed.

There were quite a few people among the Mazoku that could use magic chantlessly, but it wasn't a feat that could be done by a mere Human—furthermore, by someone with the standing of something like a student.

“O Light...!”

After that, Kain had light magical power dwell in his sword, and invoked a Magic Sword.

Magic Sword.

That basically indicated a technique that could be said to be a secret technique even among sword techniques that Magic Swordsmen used.

More specifically, it was storing amplified magical power in a sword made with special materials and had a Magic Stone set into it and then wielding that sword.

It seems to have originally been the vestiges of the idea of “couldn't an all-purpose weapon that combines the functions of a staff and a sword be made”... but nowadays, there are few people that know about that.

And then, if magic with too much power were to be left dwelling within the sword, it would end up discharging.

Even the magic that Kain had dwelling in his sword right now was nothing more than the basic Light Magic.

However, even so, the fact that Kain, who should be a mere student, could use a Magic Sword is something to be surprised about.

“Sei... yaaah!”

Readying his shining sword, Kain ran at the Alva.

His movements still had many openings, but he was fast.

“Ruguaaaa!”

The Alva tried to intercept him with its claws, but it was easily cut by Kain’s sword of light.

“Guillo... Slaaaash!”

Kain put even more magical power into the sword, and cut up the Alva.

“Ga... giogeaaaa!”

The Alva turned into black particles together with its death scream, and vanished.

At the same time that happened, Ein’s arms and legs became able to move just like normal.

“Ein... Are you alright!?”

“Tsk... I have no problems.”

“Wh, why did you click your tongue!?”

Seeing Kain seem have receive a shock, Ein replied with another tongue click.

Having her prey stolen had injured Ein’s pride as a Majuu (magic beast).

“Doing something so unnecessary... I was going to bite him to death.”

“...If you bite something like that, you’ll get sick.”

“Don’t put me together with a weakling like you.”

That being said, that isn’t an impossible story... is what Ein thought.

Even if that Alva were to do something like send a curse from inside of the opponent that bit it, it wouldn't be all that strange.

However, that kind of consideration could be put off until later.

"Oi, enemy of women."

"I don't really want to reply, but what is it?"

"You don't want to reply you say... Someone like you, just when did you become so high and mighty?"

"...Is it alright if I cry?"

"You can after you answer my question. And do it in a place where my eyes and ears won't reach."

Making a face that said he had given up on making a rebuttal, Kain breathed a sigh.

"So, what is it?"

"It's about the techniques you used. Chantless and the Magic Sword... Those are something too versatile for a mere student. Plus, I'm sure that you should have been chanting up until yesterday though?"

Hearing Ein point that out, Kain averted his eyes looking like he found it to be awkward.

"Ahh, no, well, er—m. Actually, I've been able to use them since pretty long ago. One of those "hiding it from others" kind of things."

"Why is there a need to hide it?"

"It was told "hide it since it will attract the eyes of bothersome guys..." by Jii-chan."

Ein thought "I see".

The idea that those that stand out get targeted was the truth.

Even in the Dark Continent of the past, challengers would appear in front of those

who had become even a little famous one after another.

If they didn't have enough ability to match their fame, they simply would be tragically defeated.

That is why one should hide until they gain the ability... that sort of reasoning is something she could understand.

"I see. It is a bit backwards, but I can understand. Then again, it's not like I don't think that it's a waste to let go of a chance to battle against a strong person that is targeting one's self... but..."

It was there that Ein went silent as if suddenly noticing it.

Since it was a topic that she liked a bit, she felt that she talked a bit too much.

"Well, it's something that doesn't really matter."

"Ehh—..."

For Kain, the reasons were because of things like guys with political schemes would approach him or that he would be unjustifiably resented from feelings of jealousy by guys whose pride was the only thing that was enlarged, but he purposely didn't tell her that.

Ein had already lost her interest in Kain, and was thinking about the Alva that appeared not too long ago.

The Alva that appeared today was a type that she had seen for the first time. Could it be affiliated with being a spy or an assassin?

Its movements were fast, and it used curses.

It would be fine if this type of Alva appeared only this time, but if there were a huge amount of them, then they would be quite a threat.

This should be reported as an important matter in her next regular report.

And then, this man call Kain was also a problem.

Why was he being targeted by a special Alva?

That reason has yet to be cleared up.

Certainly, he was strong as a Human of this age.

However, would that be enough of a reason to be targeted by the Alva?

“...”

Unable to come up with the reason even after thinking about it, Ein gave up on thinking.

To begin with, thinking wasn't Ein's job.

Even if she were to learn of the reason that Kain was being targeted, it had absolutely nothing to do with Ein.

As she was summing things up like that, Ein turned her eyes to Kain who was loitering next to her.

“What, so you were still here.”

“Saying that I was still here... Isn't there something more, relevant to all of this to say?”

Hearing Kain's reproach, Ein put a finger to her lips and thought.

“Could it be that you, who has laid your hands on various women... actually don't have any friends?”

“No, I do have friends...”

“You say that but... recently, you have been appearing before me every night after all.”

“No, that's more because of various circumstances and... wait, oh crap!”

Panicking, Kain stuck close to the roof and hid his body.

When Ein looked down from the roof as she thought that his actions were suspicious, she saw that one of Kain's female friends was walking while restlessly looking around.

“That’s strange. I’m sure that I saw the light of magic around here. That was absolutely due to Kain...”

That figure that held a large spear was without a doubt the only daughter of the Necros Duke House.

“That Seira, ever since she learned that I was fighting against Alva every night, she’s been really annoying telling me to bring her along. Ah—, jeez. This is really troubling.”

“I see. But things are already done for tonight, right?”

“Yeah, but even if I tell her that, I wonder if she’d believe me. And if I were to tell her that I exterminated the Alva together with you, Ein, she would absolutely insist on coming with me... Qu-senpai had said something similar after all. It would be reassuring to have them around, but it’s not like I can drag them into something so dangerous.”

While thinking “I feel like the reason why those two want to be brought along is different from the Alva extermination” and “so it’s fine to drag me into this, this jerk...”, Ein went behind Kain and casually picked his body up.

“Eh?”

“In any case. Today’s share is already done. Go and complete a man’s responsibility or whatever.”

Saying that, Ein got down in front of Seira’s eyes while still holding onto Kain.

“Ah—, Kain! I’ve found you! Rather, you really were together with Ein...!”

“This guy simply came to me on his own... Here, take him back.”

After she said that, and carelessly tossed Kain to the ground, Ein once again returned to the top of the roof.

Some noisy voices could be heard from below, but Ein couldn’t care less.

While gazing at the moon that couldn’t be seen in the Dark Continent, Ein made some large stretches.

# Chapter 11

That day, the Jiol Forest Kingdom was enveloped in astonishment.

“Hey, oi. This official notice...”

“The entering of a treaty of friendship with the Zadark Kingdom... It says that they’re Mazoku!?”

On bulletin boards installed in various places within the country, mainly official notices from the country were put up.

What was posted just recently went something like the following.

[At this time, in the names of the Jiol Forest Kingdom King Sarigan and the Zadark Kingdom King Vermudol, it is announced here that both countries have entered a treaty of friendship.

In regards to building friendly relations, they will proactively coordinate in both culture and military.

This guarantees that all of the Sylphid, Beastmen and other races living within the Jiol Forest Kingdom and that the Mazoku and other races that live within the Zadark Kingdom will be in a relationship of equality, and is something for the sake of exploring for a favorable relationship from here on out.

Also, all races will be equal, with any discrimination based on race being intolerable, and both countries have agreed to endeavour to eradicate such discrimination.]

“...Is this, really a treaty with the Mazoku...?”

“I dunno... Is this Vermudol guy the Demon King?”

The reactions of those that saw the bulletin boards varied, but they generally first reacted to the word “Mazoku”.

And then, next was that they were bewildered on how the notice put emphasis on “equality”.

There were many that opposed or suffered from the Demi-Human argument that the St. Altlis Kingdom asserted.

At such an occasion, this was the content of this announcement.

Those that thought that the Mazoku were taking advantage of it, and those that suspected that it was a trap, there were naturally people like that.

However, at the same time, there were also those that thought “maybe”.

Maybe, a treaty of friendship was truly formed. If that were the case, wouldn't this situation be a change for the better?

Those that thought that way started to hold faint expectations of the king called Vermudol whom they had not even seen.

—And then, in the royal capital, there was an even greater uproar.

As for why, it was because the implementation of a parade for the said of demonstrating the friendship between the Jiol Forest Kingdom and the Zadark Kingdom was suddenly decided.

Just when they had thought that soldiers had suddenly started doing traffic control, the announcement of the treaty of friendship as well as the implementation of the parade was posted.

While looking at the royal capital that was astir from a window of the castle, Vermudol made a small smile.

There originally weren't any plans of a parade for the sake of making an appeal of the friendship, and it was something that was proposed on the spot.

However, he also thought that it was an effective measure.

For the citizens of the Shutaia Continent, when Mazoku were spoken of, fiendish Goblins, Bestia, Ogres and Amoeba with low intelligence would come to mind.

For the people that held that sort of image of them, even if they were suddenly told to get along with Mazoku, it was impossible.

However, what would happen if they were to see the Majin whose appearances don't have that much of a difference from theirs, or the Mazoku who may be heteromorphic but were clearly different from the ones that were on this continent?

For the inhabitants of the Shutaia Continent, the Majin would probably be relatively easy to accept, and if they could instill the image that it was possible to coexist with the heteromorphic races as well, then this parade would be a huge success.

Of course, there was also the danger that the citizens would attack trying to eliminate the Mazoku... but even if they had to brave that risk, the opening merit to it was huge.

"...O king, it is time."

"Yeah, I understand."

Vermudol answered like that to Sancreed who had come calling for him.

When he turned around, he met eyes with Sancreed.

"Nn? Is there something that you want to say?"

He asked that to Sancreed who was being the same as usual... with the usual being him making a cool-looking face.

Sancreed stood next to Vermudol and looked at the castle town.

"For the sake of this parade, Fainell and I... Two of the Four Cardinal Knights, as well Ichika and Nino were brought along. As a diplomatic unit, isn't it a bit too excessive?"

"That isn't true at all. As a matter of fact, I would have liked to bring along all of the Four Cardinal Knights."

When he said that, Vermudol expressed a smile to Sancreed.

“Just try and think about it. This place isn’t the Dark Continent but mankind’s territory. The effect that the treaty of friendship will give to the national mood is unknown... That is why there is a need to display it.”

“Display what?”

In response to Sancreed’s words, Vermudol answered him without a care.

“The possibility that we can understand each other. And then, also, well... reality.”

“Reality?”

“Yeah. No matter how they feel, we have already entered the treaty of friendship. This country already has no other path other than to walk together with us. It would demonstrate it in an easy to understand way.”

As he said that, Vermudol turned around.

The figures of Ichika and Nino were there before anyone noticed.

“...Let us go forth, Demon King-sama.”

“Nino is here to pick you up.”

“Yeah, let’s go.”

And then, the parade started.

The royal castle gates were opened, and soldiers meant for guidance came out.

The ones that went at the front were soldiers that wore gorgeous ceremonial equipment.

Hoisting the Jiol Forest Kingdom flag, their gallant figures were displayed.

And then, the ones next to them were knights that wore jet black full body armor.

Everyone of the Jiol Forest Kingdom shouldn’t know about them, but they were the

Magic Operated Armors that were affiliated with the Zadark's Central Army.

Seeing the flag that had a sword crossed with a staff drawn on a jet black background, the people understood that it belonged to the Zadark Kingdom that they were said to have formed a friendship with.

What appeared after them were Jiol Forest Kingdom soldiers that were composed of Beastmen Tribes.

And then, a commotion spread by the figures that continued on after them.

Similar to the knights from earlier, they were Beastia that wore jet black armor.

“Uwaah— ... They're totally looking at us, Aulokk.”

“Shh, shut up and walk. If you make any useless chatter, we'll get scolded by Ichikane-san afterwards!”

The Beastia affiliated with the Central Army would normally be performing routine tasks in the Demon King Castle, but they also possessed equipment with the official style of the Central Army, and even performed military training. Lining up in ranks and walking wasn't a problem for them.

The coordinated movements of those Beastia gave a shock to the citizens of the Jiol Forest Kingdom.

“Oi, those are Beastia, aren't they...”

“Were they really capable of making such coordinated movements...?”

In the Shutaia Continent, just like the Goblins, Beastia were also known as Mazoku with low intelligence.

They also had communal lives, but their lifestyle level was low and they were incapable of battle that made use of their groups... that was the common knowledge about them in the Shutaia Continent.

However, the Beastia that were walking in front of them overturned that common knowledge.

“Hey, oi. I’ve totally been feeling the gazes of women for a while now. Couldn’t it be that they’ve fallen for me?”

“Oi oi, That’s obviously because they’ve fallen for my silky smooth white fur. A calico cat bastard like you should just butt out.”

“I told you to stop it! Just shut up and walk!”

Naturally, there was no one among the citizens that noticed that they were having such a conversation.

But unfortunately for them, Ichika was completely listening to them, and had decided that she would scold the ones that were chattering afterwards.

And then, the ones that were on board the carriage that was at the center of the parade were to two most important people.

The Jiol Forest Kingdom King, Sarigan.

The Zadark Kingdom King as well as the Demon King, Vermudol.

Seeing the two of them waving their hands with gentle smiles, the people could actually feel the “friendship”.

For those that made going on adventures their livelihood, they might notice that Vermudol was the “Adventurer Shion” whose whereabouts had gone missing... but being overwhelmed by this situation that has never been seen before, there was no one here that would speak that out loud.



The ones walking at both sides of the carriage were a young lady whose basic theme was green, and a woman whose basic theme was black.

The two of them possessed completely different impressions, however, they matched only in the fact that they were Maid Knights.

Maid Knights acted as both a maid and a knight, and were existences said to be the finest attendants.

Since Maid Knights were seldomly seen in mankind's territory, various gazes such as interest and adoration, and even fear were turned towards the two of them.

Feeling such rude gazes, Nino looked displeased in an obvious way, but Ichika was expressionless as usual.

And then, at the front and back of the carriage, there were four people who seemed like knights.

The two at the front were the captain of the Jiol Forest Kingdom's First Protection Chivalric Order Zekwell and the Western General of the Zadark Kingdom's Western Army Sancreed.

Their types were different, but seeing these two uncommonly beautiful people, sighs leaked out of the women that saw them.

Zekwell, who had protected the Jiol Forest Kingdom for a long time, was popular enough for portraits of him to be sold in the castle town... but it was clear that Sancreed who was next to him would be just as popular.

The ones that were rushing their pens in a hurry were probably portrait merchants.

And then, the two at the back of the carriage.

One of them was the captain of the Jiol Forest Kingdom's Second Protection Chivalric Order, Alfresto.

He had a face that left the impression that he was young, silver hair, and blue eyes. Matching the evaluation of being "overall cute", he was also a popular person.

Beside him was the Eastern General of the Zadark Kingdom's Eastern Army, Fainell.

Fainell, who possessed both beauty and a dignified atmosphere, owned an androgynous charm that fascinated both men and women.

If one set aside the various disappointing parts inside of her, Fainell also had a high amount of charisma.

In fact, there were a lot of gazes that passed over Alfresto and concentrated onto Fainell.

“...It feels like I’m being watched.”

“You really are being watched, Fainell-dono.”

Alfresto made enough of a wry smile that couldn’t be noticed by the citizens.

“I see... I thought that more hostility would be turned towards us though.”

“...To be honest, I also find it a bit unexpected. I thought that we would have to be wary of a disturbance happening though.”

That’s right. Although there was surprise in the gazes that were turned towards them from the citizens... There were surprisingly few gazes that had hostility mixed in.

Could this be a type of peace senility that was brought about by a long period of peace?

However, above all, the fact that there were many people who were disgusted with conflict that had race as the reason was probably the greatest factor to it.

That was the reason for this goodwill... or even if it didn’t go that far, for these gazes with little hostility.

The influences of the Demi-Human argument uproar had reached even a place like this.

The showy parade had relieved some of the shadows that had fallen onto the hearts of the people.

# Chapter 12

On this day, the news that the Jiol Forest Kingdom and the Zadark Kingdom had entered a treaty of friendship had been reported with astonishing speed due to the “Transfer Magic” done through the Mazoku.

The Zadark Kingdom dispatched its diplomats as well as Magic Operated Armors that would act as the war potential that was previously promised.

However, they weren’t there as substitutes for the royal palace’s imperial guard chivalric order.

Then just where would the war potential dispatched from the Zadark Kingdom be stationed?

The places that they would be stationed would make it easy to understand that both countries had a definite cooperative relationship, yet also demonstrate it in a powerful way.

On that day were the entering of a treaty of friendship was announced, mankind’s soldiers vanished from the Jiol Forest Kingdom’s national borders.

A Human merchant affiliated with the Canal Kingdom, Prois, was one of the people that personally experienced that at the national border.

The place that Prois was currently at was a checking station located on the Jiol Forest Kingdom’s side of the national border between the Jiol Forest Kingdom and the Canal Kingdom.

The Jiol Forest Kingdom was a nation built within the Great Jiol Forest—which was also called the Forest of Bewilderment.

To enter the Jiol Forest Kingdom, which was said to be a natural fortress, passing through the path managed by the nation was the safest method, and except for the people that thought about somehow carrying prohibited goods in, passing through the checking station was common sense.

Prois, a respectable merchant, had noticed that the usual Beastman soldiers weren't at the checking station.

Although he had the thought that the man who he had completely become familiar with had finally gotten a promotion and returned to the capital city or something... when he saw the knight that was standing in his place, he felt a sense of discomfort.

The ones standing in front of the gate were two knights that wore black full body armor and full-faced helmets.

Two similarly black colored knights were also standing on top of the checking station's lookout platform.

Seeing them who gave off a spirit that said that they wouldn't allow even a single suspicious person through, sweat started to shed on Prois's back.

They were one step away from being on high alert... that kind of atmosphere could be felt.

By some chance, maybe some type of bandit had taken refuge somewhere near here.

While thinking about that sort of thing, Prois approached the checking station with the best smile he could make.

"Hello there, thanks for your hard work."

"Halt right there."

Seeing Prois approach, the knights made the swords on their waists sound with a \*kachari\*.

"Wha, wh-wh-what is it!? I haven't..."

"This place is a national border that continues onto the Jiol Forest Kingdom. Suspicious people, criminals, and any others that would bring about negative influences to the Jiol Forest Kingdom, or those that would bring about fear of those cannot be allowed passage. The possibility of passage will be determined through our discretion, but any formal objections in regards to this will not be accepted. Also, even in the case where you are not permitted in today's application, there are cases where you will be permitted under the same conditions in future applications. This is a

condition done within the range of the aforementioned discretion, and there is a part where it will be influenced due to all sorts of conditions, and depending on the individual doing the determining, the guarantee of granting permission or lack of will be...”

“P, please wait! I understand all of that!”

Prois hurriedly waved his hands at the knight that started explaining stipulations to the application of passing through the national borders.

“It will be enough if you just tell me the point that have been changed over the past two months!”

“Understood.”

When the knight answered like that, he once again started his clear explanation.

“As of today, through an agreement with the Jiol Forest Kingdom, the Zadark Kingdom will be executing border security on the Jiol Forest Kingdom’s behalf. There are no changes to the inspection criterion, and inspections based on the Jiol Forest Kingdom’s laws will also be enforced from now on. That is all. State your objective, and in the event you wish to enter the country, make an application with your affiliation and name, and the number of people. In the case that you possess any credentials from any organizations, it is recommended you present those.”

“Heh...?”

Hearing that, Prois made an absent minded face.

Entrusting border security to another country—he had never heard of such a thing.

Even small countries that don’t have enough people in their own armies would do something like entrust such an important duty to another country.

Not to mention that the place that Prois was trying to go to right now was one of the four major nations, the Jiol Forest Kingdom.

For such a major nation to entrust their border security to another nation, he found that to be completely unimaginable.

Plus, he had never even heard of a country like the Zadark Kingdom.

The knight that was standing here wore excellent articles that could be said to be on the level of being national treasure class.

The fact that all of the knights had the same appearance probably meant that that was the official style of the place called the Zadark Kingdom.

Just what kind of country was it?

Suddenly facing such an unbelievable situation, Prois couldn't help but be bewildered.

"Ah, ah—. Before I make an application, may I ask you something?"

"Permitted. However, any allegations related to the application will not be tolerated. For cases of special case applications due to unavoidable circumstances, a separate inspection will be performed."

"Ah, no no! It isn't anything like an allegation!"

"Then state your business. In the case I am unable to answer, I will state something to that effect, but I will not state the reason I am unable to answer."

"Ah, yeah. Of course."

Although he thought "what a bothersome guy...", Prois maintained his smile.

From Prois's experience, the ones called knights were generally strict.

They loved established routines and order, and even the knights affiliated with the Jiol Forest Kingdom which had a large number of disciplines boasted top-class strictness.

However, Prois thought that the knights of this Zadark Kingdom were deserving of that description as well.

"With all due respect, what do you mean by an agreement with the Jiol Forest Kingdom...? I, have travelled a considerable amount of the world, but I don't know of a country called the Zadark Kingdom."

"Answer. By agreement, it is the agreement that a treaty of friendship has been formed

between the Jiol Forest Kingdom and the Zadark Kingdom. As a link for military cooperation, this has been carried out due to the Zadark Kingdom side complying with the Jiol Forest Kingdom side's request."

"Warning. The average time for a normal national border inspection is being largely surpassed. From hereafter, refrain from questions that do not have a direct connection to the investigation."

When the knight finished answering Prois's question, another knight stated that at almost the same time.

A warning... that is what he said, but in other words, it was frank advice telling him to "hurry it up".

When Prois hurriedly called his coachman, the coachman and the escort Adventurers came running.

"W, well then. My objective is to do business transactions within the Jiol Forest Kingdom. My affiliation is the Canal Kingdom Commerce Guild, the Lekkman Company. This coachman is someone I employ, and the group over there is an escort affiliated with the Adventurer's Guild... also, erm. Here are the identification papers."

"Affirmative. However, in cases of business transactions, present the list of carry-on goods as well. It is recommended that this be done with the Jiol Forest Kingdom's specified prescribed form, but it is not necessarily required to be in that form."

"Ah, of course. Here is the list."

The knights received the identification papers and the record list, and then started confirming them with experienced hands.

Seeing the movements that seemed like they could take over a business in no time at all, Prois went "hou" and revealed some admiration.

Before long, the movements of the knight that was checking the list came to a complete stop.

"The list has been checked. It contains many weapons and armor, but it is recommended that you pay prudent attention at your selling location. Depending on the situation, at the time that other events occur, an investigation at the time of your

departure from the country will be carried out. Refusal of this is not permitted, but I ask if you wish to enter the country or not despite this.”

“Yes, of course I wish to do so.”

Prois’s answer was obvious.

If he didn’t enter here, then he wouldn’t be able to tell why he had come here after having hired the escorts.

“Understood. Well then, the final inspection for entry to the country will be performed.”

“Heh?”

Prois had never heard of something like a final inspection.

“Um... What do you mean, by final inspection?”

“Answer our questions without any lies.”

“R, right.”

Prois thought “well, if it’s just that then”, and nodded.

After the knight confirmed that, he began to ask questions to Prois with a quiet tone.

“In regards to those within the Jiol Forest Kingdom, all races are equal. Without exception. Do you agree or disagree.”

Going “I see”, Prois understood.

This was without a doubt an influence from the recent Demi-Human argument thing.

Preventing advocates of discrimination from entering the country would be said to be natural in a certain meaning.

“Of course. I naturally agree. Yes, that goes for everyone here!”

After Prois expressed a whole faced smile and answered, he looked behind himself and glared at the coachman and Adventurers.

“O, of course!”

“Yeah, we don’t do anything like discriminate!”

“Naturally.”

“It is just as you have heard.”

Seeing Prois answer like that and smile, the two black knights nodded at each other.

“Understood. Well then, we will confirm that those words are authentic.”

“Ha?”

In front of Prois, one of the knights raised the visor of his helmet.

There was no face which should have originally been there, and it was hollow.

Hearing the sound of wind blowing through the inside of the armor... Prois’s group noticed that the inside of the armor was empty.

And then, Prois understood.

That the knight in front of him, was a Mazoku.

A country that Mazoku were affiliated with, something like that didn’t exist in the Shutaia Continent from what Prois knew.

In other words, the Zadark Kingdom was...

“A Mazoku... the Jiol Forest Kingdom, has joined hands with the Mazoku...?”

One of the escort Adventurers spoke that out loud.

The coachman became unable to continue standing and fell down, and Prois also became pale.

This was Prois’s first time seeing a “genuine” Mazoku that was different from Goblins and Bestia.

His legs trembled with the feeling of wanting to run away, but he couldn't go back now. If he were to do that, all that would be left were losses.

Fortunately, it didn't look like they would kill them.

Prois thought "in that case" to encourage himself.

"I! D-d-d-d, don't have a p-p... pwoblem!"

Although he became teary eyed, Prois once again glared at the ones behind him.

"Th, there is no problem! No problem at all!"

Confirming that the coachman answered while wailing, Prois next turned his gaze to the Adventurers.

If these guys were to draw their weapons or something, then that would be the end of it all.

As he thought that he would demand an outrageous sum of compensation if that were to happen, the Adventurers also displayed wills of consent while hesitating.

Seeing that, the knight put down his helmet's visor.

"Understood. Your entry to the country is approved."

"May you have good business."

The knights announced that and stepped away from being in front of the gate.

Prois kicked the coachman that was still on the verge of tears, and got on board the coachman bench.

"Warning. Refrain from acts of violence. Bear in mind that you may become the targets of restraint depending on the situation."

"O, of course, yes!"

After Prois hurriedly shouted in response to the knight's words, he returned to the inside of the carriage.

At any rate, he wanted to get away from this place as soon as possible.

Once they urgently passed through the check station, Prois breathed a deep sigh of relief.

“...Wait a sec. Could it be, it isn't going to be the same way within the country, right?”

While holding that kind of unease, Prois hurriedly shook off his imagination.

However, after that, he looked at his own goods and suddenly thought.

“...That was some good equipment. I wonder if we could sell something like that in our company...”

The escort Adventurers looked at Prois mutter to himself with worn out faces.

With that group aboard, the carriage clopped its way through the forest.

# Chapter 13

With the parade finished, a buffet style dinner party was held in the Jiol Forest Kingdom royal castle.

The participants were nobles, royalty, military personnel... and even among those groups, they were people that were especially hand-picked.

There was extravagant cuisine, and pleasant music performed by an orchestra.

The venue that was decorated with resplendent ornaments was undoubtedly the finest location in the Jiol Forest Kingdom.

Normally, the dinner party would become a place of fun social activity, but having accepted guests that were Mazoku, it was enveloped with a feeling of tension.

“...We are being watched.”

“It can’t be helped. It’s because in a certain way, we are today’s leading actors.”

To the displeased looking Nino, Vermudol shrugged his shoulders.

Vermudol had also felt the gazes that were fixed upon them, but since they were not mixed with hostility, he determined that ignoring them would be the best thing to do.

If he had to say, they were gazes mixed with fear... or maybe interest and expectation.

And even for that, it was most likely an expectation that they would play a restraining role against the St. Altlis Kingdom on the point of military cooperation.

In fact, as long as the Magic Operated Armor of the Central Army were stationed at the national borders, in the event that the St. Altlis Kingdom came attacking, the first ones to battle would be the Zadark Kingdom Army... that is how it turned out to be.

However, Vermudol found the captain of the Protection Chivalric Order Zekwell’s quick-wittedness to turn the Zadark Kingdom into a shield with the unprecedented measure of entrusting the national borders to another country to be likable.

From the start, it was the Zadark Kingdom's side that proposed military cooperation, and it was only natural to make effective use of that.

"Vermudol-dono."

"Oya, why if it isn't Sarigan-dono. Thank you for preparing a place like this ahead of time for us."

Seeing King Sarigan come along, Vermudol returned his greeting.

When Sarigan nodded to that, he sent a gaze that said "do not approach..." to the people in the surroundings.

"Are you enjoying yourself?"

"Yes, thanks to you."

Exchanging such formal words, Sarigan made a serious expression.

"...So, it's finally started."

"Nn?"

"Our treaty of friendship will most likely have a grand effect on the world... There is the part where we cannot predict just what kind of reaction the St. Altlis Kingdom will make, but the reactions that the other countries will make are unknown as well. Will it bring about chaos, or will a new flow be born... Either way, the world will surely be shaken in a large way."

The Jiol Forest Kingdom and the Zadark Kingdom's friendship in other words meant the friendship between mankind and the Mazoku.

That would become throwing even more live coals into the fire of the Shutaia Continent which was currently shaken up by the Demi-Human argument.

In this treaty of friendship, the word "equality" was insisted to the point of being excessive, and was the exact opposite for the Demi-Human argument that advocated Human Supremacy within mankind.

If thought about ethically, justice would surely be on the Jiol Forest Kingdom • Zadark

Kingdom side.

However, the point that the Zadark Kingdom was a country of Mazoku was an obstacle.

Was it truly alright to place trust in the Mazoku?

That sort of view was only natural, and it would instead be unhealthy of them if they didn't have that sort of view.

As for how the various countries would react to the news they received from the Jiol Forest Kingdom, just as Sarigan said, it was unknown.

However, Vermudol saw that they wouldn't suddenly just go to war, and would first run about gathering information.

To see whether it was the truth or not.

To see what the Zadark Kingdom was, and to see who the new king of the Mazoku was.

Among all kinds of other things, they would surely gather various pieces of information.

And then, a target of that intelligence gathering should naturally befall upon the Zadark Kingdom's diplomat.

Vermudol then sent his gaze with a peek to his own subordinate that he had newly created for the sake of that.

Nanalus.

He created a Mazoku whose abilities were fragmented as a Majin, but possessed a talent that towered above the rest as a diplomat.

It wasn't like he didn't have any worries about how things would actually turn out, but if it was him who was pleasantly chatting with the Sylphid, then he would surely answer Vermudol's expectations.

"Yes... However, I am sure that they will also understand the true meaning of peace that is to come eventually."

"...We can only pray that that is how it will turn out."

Pray. However, just what should he to.

At the very least, the God that Vermudol should pray to did not exist in this world of Remfilia.

Though, if that black little girl that had sent Vermudol to this world was an unknown God of Remfilia, then he might have to pray to her.

“...Sarigan-dono.”

“Nn?”

“Sarigan-dono, have you met with the Gods?”

“No, but if it’s Luuty, then I think she might have...”

“...Is that so.”

After nodding, Vermudol started to think.

The Jiol Forest Kingdom was a country that held faith in the God of Water Aklia and the God of Wind Wyrm.

If the Hero Ryuuya had to visit here in order to complete the Holy Sword, then the possibility that the means to meet with a God remaining somewhere in this country was high.

The God of Life was most likely an enemy, but that did not necessarily mean that the other Gods would be as well.

There was a need to meet with the Gods as soon as possible.

But, he had yet to obtain Luuty’s cooperation.

“Sarigan-dono. You would not mind if we walk about this country, would you?”

“Of course I wouldn’t mind. We are friendly relations, aren’t we?”

“...I thank you for your kindness.”

Things would be simpler if they could borrow Luuty's strength, but it couldn't be helped right now.

While thinking that, Vermudol looked at Luuty who was sitting two tables away from him.

"...He's looking at me."

"It can't be helped. There are several things that would move forward if you just cooperated."

While bringing some salad to her mouth, Fainell replied to Luuty.

What Fainell carried on her plate was a salad of foliage plants that were in season, and all of them were normal vegetables raised basking in the light of the sun and couldn't be raised in the Dark Continent.

They were high class ingredients that contained a faint amount of magical power, but when compared to the goods of the Dark Continent, their concentration of magical power was low.

However, the part on how they didn't run, shout, or fly like the vegetables of the Dark Continent made them easy to handle.

"...I didn't say that I wouldn't cooperate."

"But you won't do it now, right?"

"That was the promise after all."

After swallowing down her salad, Fainell nodded her head as if comprehending something.

"As usual, you're such a bothersome fellow."

"Botherso...!? I don't want to be called that by someone as noncommittal as you!"

"I'm not noncommittal, I'm just magnanimous."

"If you're going to say that, then it should be slovenly!"

“Wh, what!?”

Seeing those two quarrelling, the men that gathered the attention of the female camp of the venue—Zekwell and Sancreed came walking over.

“Luuty... Just what are you making a racket over?”

“You too, Fainell. Keep it in moderation.”

They were admonished like that, but Luuty and Fainell didn’t listen to them, and glared at the two of them.

“Zek, there is something I want to ask you.”

“Sancreed, answer me honestly.”

Seeing the two of them with glazed eyes, both Zekwell and Sancreed unconsciously took a step back.

Luuty and Fainell filled the distance so that they wouldn’t escape, and asked them a question with clear voices.

“Am I... a bothersome woman?”

“Am I... a slovenly woman?”

Zekwell subtly averted his eyes and answered.

“Th, that isn’t true at all. Luuty, you are simply a bit more meticulous than others.”

On the other hand, Sancreed answered upfront.

“That’s great. If you’re self-aware of it, then you have to possibility to improve upon it.”

Luuty looked triumphant, and Fainell looked vexed.

Naturally, this wasn’t a scene where Luuty would act triumphant, but for Fainell, it brought an instant effect.

Fainell grabbed Sancreed's clothes, and started shaking him back and forth.

"Why • you • little! You should read the atmosphere a little and then answer!"

"It's meaningless even if I were to lie in this place, right. In that case, detaching myself and taking part in your development is what a genuine friend would do."

"As if I care, you idiot! Besides, you, I heard about it you know! It seems that you drew a colored version of me in the piece lottery, didn't you! Someone like me... someone like me!"

In actuality, the one who drew it was Luuty, but for Fainell who didn't know about that went on the verge of tears and continued to shake Sancreed.

Fainell had drawn quite a number of piece lotteries, but she had yet to possess a colored version of herself.

"Wa, wait, Fainell. Please calm down."

"No, don't stop me Luuty! You wouldn't be able to understand my feelings!"

"Everyone is looking! So calm down!"

Being told that, Fainell went "Ha" and looked around at the surroundings.

The skit that had suddenly started had completely gathered all of the attention, and far away, the fact that Vermudol was making a tired looking face had entered her eyes.

"..."

Fainell's face was dyed red very fast, and she hung her head down covering her face with both hands.

"...What a blunder. Now my image that I built up in this country is..."

"I see."

Whether it be in the Dark Continent or here, your image won't change.

That is what Sancreed muttered in his heart, but he didn't dare say it out loud.

# Chapter 14

In the shadows of having entered the treaty of friendship, there were some that were overcome with sadness.

For example, the survivors of the Imperial Guard Chivalric Order.

For example, the friends and relatives of the generals that had died.

The incident was suppressed, and it pretty much wasn't told to the public.

Therefore, there was no one that knew of the sadness of those that were left behind.

They, had a thought.

Why did the knights have to be killed?

To them, the "justice for all of mankind" that had taken root in mankind of the Shutaia Continent started to whisper.

It was because the other party were Mazoku.

They should get revenge on the betrayer that pardoned the Mazoku that killed their beloved ones.

That was an act that would be forgiven, and an act that would be praised.

If seen with the large visual point of all of mankind, that was justice.

That is why they gathered comrades, and formed a plan that aimed for the time when the dinner party was being held.

And then, right now, they were keeping low in the room that they had infiltrated through the guidance of those within the royal castle.

Their forms were as cooks, as waiters, and as security soldiers.

The plan after this was simple.

They would break into the venue, and kill as many people as possible. They would kill, and kill, and get dyed in blood.

If they were to do that, it would be impossible to suppress that news.

Everything will be exposed in broad daylight, and the savage deeds of the Mazoku would be known to all of the citizens.

And even if this event were to be suppressed again, the information about it should spread through the outside collaborators that knew of the implementation of this plan.

That's right, this was a fight that they couldn't lose.

They put strength into their hands that held their weapons.

"...Is everything ready?"

A man with the appearance of a waiter asked that question.

The man's name, was Hendrick. He was the vice-captain of the Imperial Guard Chivalric Order, and a man how had the day off and wasn't there at the day of the incident.

The resentment for how the captain whom he respected more than anyone else was killed.

The anger towards King Sarigan who suppressed that information.

For him, Sarigan was already not a king that should be protected.

He would kill Sarigan, and accept a new king.

He believed that that was his duty that should be carried out for the citizens of the country.

"For the sake of all of mankind, we must become the cornerstone towards the future."

Hearing Hendrick's words, other voices spoke in unison.

"...Let's go."

When Hendrick said that and stood up, he noticed that there was a maid he didn't recognize standing in front of the door.

She had long black hair, and voluptuous bulges on her chest that advocated that she was a woman.

What covered her lean body was a maid outfit with black as the basic tone.

And then, she had breast armor and... a sword hanging on her waist. She also carried a gigantic shield.

Just when he thought "she's pretty heavily armed, isn't she...", he remembered.

"I saw her at the parade..."

Someone's voice was heard.

That's right, this woman was a Maid Knight under the Demon King's direct control.

The Maid Knight in front of them opened her mouth while staying expressionless.

"...You had said "let's go", but may I ask where it is that you are going?"

Her cold eyes that seemed to be penetratingly cold ominously shone red.

Someone went \*hii\* and raised their voice.

"If you desire a journey to death, then although it may be presumptuous of me, I shall assist you in doing so."

\*Zokuri\* A chill ran down Hendrick's spine.

It's no good, this wasn't a situation where excuses would pass.

If they didn't kill her, then they would be killed.

Besides, their opponent was only one person.

If any one of their comrades made it through here and reached the venue, then the plan would succeed.

“...Don’t hesitate! Our opponent is only a single person!”

Hendrick encouraged himself, and shouted towards his comrades.

“For the sake of all of mankind, we must become the cornerstone towards the future!”

Hearing that voice, other voices were raised one after another.

“For the sake of all of mankind, we must become the cornerstone towards the future!”

“For the sake of all of mankind, we must become the cornerstone towards the future!”

Together with the voices, the sounds of swords being drawn resounded.

The Maid Knight had yet to draw her sword, and her expression didn’t even break at all.

“Uoooooh!”

A man with the appearance of a soldier readied his sword and started to run towards the Maid Knight.

Leaving his defense to his armor, he made a thrust with his fastest speed and all of his strength.

That was a Hard sword technique that would definitely throw their greatest attack into the opponent.

The sword was swung down towards the Maid Knight, but before that blade could reach her, that man was bisected along with his sword.

Looking closely, what was gripped in the Maid Knight’s hand was a beautiful longsword that didn’t have even a speck of cloudiness.

No one knew just when it was that she drew it.

“...Did you hope for a one on one match? I believe that you all do not stand a chance in that though.”

Seeing the exasperated Maid Knight, the others readied their weapons as if they were all snapped to it and rushed in.

Swords, spears, axes, arrows, the Maid Knight looked upfront at the dangerous weapons that were coming to attack her.

Even if she was a skilled Maid Knight, this was surely a number of attacks that couldn't possibly be defended against.

Thinking that, Hendrick was convinced of their victory.

However.

“Beheading Three Hundred Sixty Five Consecutive Attack.”

At the same time he heard those words, Hendrick saw it.

It, was a manifestation of hell.

The weapons and his comrades had been reduced into particles before they could reach the Maid Knight.

“M, monster...”

Seeing the Maid Knight stand there without being stained with even a drop of blood despite standing withing a pool of blood, someone muttered that.

Just who would be match for an opponent like this?

When the Maid Knight looked at Hendrick's group while still being expressionless, she muttered sounding bored.

“...What astounding weakness. I cannot even imagine just how I could possibly lose to you all.”

“Guuh...!”

Hendrick kept silent, but a man with the appearance of a cook shouted.

“Damn you, you damned Mazoku... Do you intend on disgracing a knight’s pride!”

“A knight’s pride, is it.”

The Maid Knight breathed a sigh.

“And just where do you all have something like that?”

“It is with our unbendable justice!”

Hearing that man’s voice, his other comrades also readied their weapons once again.

However, the Maid Knight breathed out looking like she didn’t care for that answer at all.

“How stupid. Something like the pride of a knight that goes against the master that they should be serving, that’s worth even less than a rusted sword. That also goes for a sword that injures its master, and a shield that cannot protect its master. No matter what kind of justice is there... know that that is something that cannot be forgiven.”

“A mere mass murdering Mazoku speaking as if she knows...!”

“If you didn’t want to be killed, then you should have quit being a knight. Living for the sake of your master, and dying for the sake of your master, isn’t that what a knight’s job is? Be self-aware that you yourself a just a tool.”

The man groaned, however, he clenched his sword while being filled with fighting spirit and murderous intent.

“...For the sake of all of mankind, we must become the cornerstone towards the future!”

Saying that, the man who swung his sword at the Maid Knight... was cut down and tumbled onto the floor.

“Certainly, you will become a cornerstone towards the future. Through being disposed of as remains of the past.”

When she said that, the Maid Knight turned her red eyes towards the remaining people.

All that were left, were a mere five people.

Although she was disappointed at how there was less of a resistance than she expected, the Maid Knight re-gripped her sword.

“Now then, what’s wrong. Aren’t you all also going to become cornerstones of the future or whatever?”

Hearing those words, Hendrick resolved himself.

Their wish to leave this room could no longer be met, and they would all surely die here.

However, the fact that they had died here would be widely known through their outside collaborators.

The fear of the Mazoku that would kill all who oppose should widely take root in the citizens of the Jiol Forest Kingdom.

Once that were to happen, the people would notice without fail that they were being used by the Mazoku.

Protests would be performed, and King Sarigan would become unable to ignore them.

Depending on the situation, even other countries might intervene.

If it was the Cylas Empire, they would surely lend their strength.

That’s right—Their defeat here, would eventually be a victory.

Right now, I should simply be elated with success.

Hendrick thought that, and readied his sword with a calm heart.

“...Here I come, Mazoku.”

“I do not mind that but.”

The Maid Knight said that and then snapped her fingers with a \*pachin\*.

“Zwei. You are there, right?”

“Yes. However, I will have to refuse coming down into the middle of a pool of blood.”

“I do not mind. So, how is the progress?”

Seeing the Maid Knight converse with something that was in a place he couldn't see, Hendrick expressed a question mark on his face.

What, just what was going on?

It couldn't be that she was calling for reinforcements at this point in time.

“Yes. The insurrection members that exist within the royal capital have all been disposed of without a doubt. Not even a fragment of the roots have been left behind.”

“Is that so. And what of the possibility of derivatives from that?”

“That is not a problem. They have been completely disposed of.”

Hendrick understood.

That everything was crushed.

The kindred souls of the people here... and the people that were here were all killed.

In other words, their defeat here would only become a defeat.

Leaving nothing behind, but death.

That couldn't be allowed.

He needed to break through them here.

No matter what he had to do...

When Hendrick looked at his comrades, they also made expressions that said they were of the same will.

Even if it was just one person, they would break through here.

What they had to do, hadn't changed.

Hendrick calmed his heart, and focused.

What he harbored in his heart, was the sword of justice.

Bearing the regrets of their comrades, Hendrick and the others ran forward.

"...For the sake of all of mankind, we must become the cornerstone towards the future!"

Before the number of corpses increased even more, the Maid Knight sheathed her sword into its scabbard.

"Justice for all of mankind, is it. That really is a nuisance."

After the Maid Knight breathed a small sigh, she gave instructions to Zwei.

"Deal with this place with the people whose hands are free. After that, send everyone to their respective post."

"Understood, Ichika-sama."

The Maid Knight—Ichika went outside of the room, and closed the door.

The dinner party was without a doubt being held right about now.

She held anxiety in various meanings in entrusting the duty of being the Demon King's bodyguard to Nino... but this was something that couldn't be helped.

"...Fuu, how stupid."

Remembering the ones that she had just cut down not long ago, Ichika breathed out once again.

Due to the "justice of all of mankind", Borkio's group betrayed the Mazoku, and the

ones that were in front of her had betrayed the king that they should have been serving.

However, with today's disposal, the possibility of people that were aroused by the "justice of all of mankind" in the Jiol Forest Kingdom from now on had surely become low.

"Now then, I suppose I should return to the venue as well."

Fixing her clothes that didn't have the smell of blood at all, Ichika advanced down the corridor.

# Chapter 15

The night that the dinner party ended and all of the invitees had left the castle.

On the balcony of the royal villa that was assigned as Luuty's place to stay, the figures of two women were there.

They were Fainell and Luuty.

The two, who were completely recognized as friends even by those around them, sat facing each other at the table.

On the table, there were two wine glasses, and one bottle.

"...You know, Luuty. I had always imagined, about what kind of country, you guy's country was like."

Turning here eyes to the outside scenery, Fainell muttered that.

While gazing at the view of the moon and the stars which would never be seen in the Dark Continent, Fainell took a glass into her hand.

What she remembered, was the figures of the Hero's group that she had fought several times in the Dark Continent.

The serious and often scolding, yet clumsy Human Great Sage, Teria.

The free and uncontrolled, yet possessed a strong sense of duty in the strangest places tiger Beastman, Juno.

The always annoying half-Metalio, half-Human, Duke.

The prim faced and most rambunctious Sylphid, Luuty.

And then, the one said to be summoned from another world, the Hero Ryuuya.

He was unconventional, stupid, perverted, strangely stubborn, and limitlessly sweet

to women.

Furthermore, he hated twisted things. And he couldn't ignore those that were suffering.

And although the companions that surrounded Ryuuya would say this and that about him, they believed in Ryuuya from the bottom of their hearts.

No, it looked like they even loved him.

And it seemed like the Hero Ryuuya had tried to sincerely answer those feelings.

Well... unexpectedly, he had proposed to Fainell on their first meeting though.

Of course, it goes without saying that she answered him with an electric shock.

At that time, she thought of him as merely an idiot with no faithfulness, but she came to realize later that he was an idiot that would pierce through hopelessness.

In any case, the Hero Ryuuya's party was a group of "companions" where various races gathered and laughed with him at the center.

"...That the place that you all lived in was a place where various races lived on good terms with each other. That is what I had thought."

Luuty didn't answer her, and simply quietly turned her gaze to Fainell.

Fainell also didn't speak any more than that.

Taking a sip of wine, she washed it down her throat, and gazed at the starry sky just like that.

"...You must have been disappointed."

"Only if I were to speak honestly. For me, when mankind is spoken about, it's about you guys."

Fainell shrugged her shoulders at Luuty who made a wry smile.

"However, there is something that I still don't understand."

“Something you don’t understand... you say?”

“It’s about Ryuuya. Did that guy, ever properly receive my Volsaber even once?”

Volsaber was Fainell’s unique magic, and Fainell’s certain kill technique that clad her arms in blades of electricity.

If one were to receive it directly, they would turn into ash without even leaving behind any bones.

However, that wasn’t the case with Ryuuya.

Although he would become tattered, he stood up from it.

At that time, she thought that it was because of the Hero’s abilities.

“...He shouldn’t have been able to stand up. It isn’t something that can somehow dealt with using grit. At that time, that guy stood up with something other than idealism.”

The Hero got up any number of times.

That is how mankind narrated it.

That was by no means a metaphor, because as long as his heart didn’t break, the Hero would crawl back up from the depths of death any number of times.

Fainell had actually seen that.

“...I also, don’t understand it.”

No matter what the setting was, Ryuuya would stand up, hold his ground, and support and guide the hearts of his companions which looked like they would break.

Or maybe that might be an ability of the Hero, but they could no longer know now.

“...I see.”

After Fainell said that, she concentrated on her glass.

Luity wouldn’t lie in a setting like this.

They got along well enough for her to understand that much.

“...The Hero, huh.”

Hearing Fainell’s words, Luuty also ruminated on those words.

The Demon King Vermudol had gone out onto the center stage.

Advocating friendship and forming a treaty with the Jiol Forest Kingdom, he created the image of being a Demon King that could be talked to, and made them have a premonition of a new age.

If they could reconcile with the Mazoku, then half of the world’s problems would disappear.

However, would there be people that believe in that... that was a different story.

In actuality, when the treaty of friendship was proposed, there was a disturbance, and a lot of casualties such as the Jiol Forest Kingdom’s generals and Imperial Guard knights had come from it.

This was something that she couldn’t say was something she felt at ease about at this point.

The details were unknown, but there was a report that not too long ago, starting with the Imperial Guard Chivalric Order vice-captain Hendrick, the figures of those related to the generals and Imperial Guard knights killed by the Mazoku had been extinguished all at once.

Documents that smelled of high treason were also discovered at their homes, and they seemed to be hiding themselves somewhere... that was the story but.

It was said that King Sarigan, who received the report, discontinued the search.

It seemed that the reason was that it wasn’t a problem, but it seems that King Sarigan didn’t talk about how it wasn’t a problem.

Zekwell said “didn’t the king move his secret unit and dispose of them...”

Certainly, if it was King Sarigan as he was now, he might do that much.

However, Luuty had a thought.

That “couldn’t this also be a case that the Mazoku got involved with...”

Then again, since Fainell didn’t react no matter how many leading questions she asked her, it was another Mazoku... or maybe King Sarigan had truly commenced it himself.

At any rate, as long as the Demon King has personally appeared in mankind’s territory, the movements of the Zadark Kingdom’s Mazoku couldn’t be ignored.

In that case, it wouldn’t be strange for the St. Atllis Kingdom to conspire to summon a Hero.

As Luuty was thinking about that, Fainell muttered something as if she had suddenly remembered it.

“I just remembered this from talking about the Hero but.”

“Eh?”

Luuty’s thoughts were interrupted.

“Could it be that you didn’t end up together with Ryuuya?”

Hearing those words, Luuty’s movements came to a complete stop.

She didn’t expect to be asked about this sort of thing.

“What do you mean... by together...”

“I mean, if you became a married couple or not. I’ve said this and that a couple of times, but I felt that you had the highest chance of doing that with him.”

“Ah—...”

Certainly, she was aware that she was the one that had connected with Ryuuya the most.

However, the result was that Luuty and Ryuuya didn’t end up in that sort of relationship.

The reason for that wasn't because Ryuuya was someone from another world.

"...It's because Ryuuya and I, couldn't live in the same time."

That's right, that was also the reason why the Sylphid built communities with fellow people of the same race.

Among mankind, there didn't exist any races that were as long lived as the Sylphid.

In cases where a child that was born with another race didn't strongly inherit their trait of longevity, the child would end up leaving this world much earlier than the parent Sylphid. Most Sylphid were unable to endure this.

Luuty also didn't have the confidence that she could endure that.

"...Sorry. I was insensitive just now."

"No, it's fine. It's because we who live long lives often forget about that."

Seeing Luuty make a laugh without energy, Fainell stood up, went around behind Luuty, and hugged her tight.

"...There's no way it's fine. I might not be all that smart, but I at least know that much."

"...Fainell."

Luuty looked up at Fainell who was hugging her, and smiled looking troubled.

It was because the face of a sad-looking Fainell was there.

"...Why are you making that kind of face, jeez."

"It's because you looked sad."

Luuty remembered the time she reunited with Fainell.

"If it was now, they could be friends", that is what Fainell said.

And then, right now, Fainell was sharing Luuty's sadness.

It was because she understood her—because she ended up understanding her.

Luuty thought “how troubling...”

Luuty had not yet decided to take sides with Vermudol.

Depending on the situation, she might end up having to fight against Fainell once again.

And yet, Luuty ended up realizing something.

That the existence of Fainell, who got sad for her sake and lived in the same time as her, had made her so happy.

“...Fainell.”

“...What is it, Luuty?”

That is why, Luuty had no choice but to acknowledge it.

This friendship, and Luuty Ligas’s friend called Fainell.

“Thank you, very much.”

“Don’t mind it. It’s only natural.”

While looking up at Fainell’s face, Luuty made a chuckle.

“It is... because we’re friends?”

“Yeah, that’s right.”

Fainell also looked down at Luuty’s face and similarly laughed.

“Because... we’re friends.”

Fainell and Luuty laughed sounding like they were truly having fun, and lively talked about silly things underneath the starry sky.

# Chapter 16

The royal capital of the Jiol Forest Kingdom, Roumrelus, was located at the center of the Great Jiol Forest, and Sylphid and Beastmen made up a majority of its population.

Among them, a small number of Humans and Metalio were also included, and they continued a fairly good coexistent relationship.

However, the Sylphid who lived far longer lives didn't maintain deep cultural exchanges with other races, and had a tendency to build communities with fellow Sylphid.

Although Duke and Luuty who were members of the Hero Ryuuya's party lived in the same country, it was said that they weren't all that acquainted until they became companions... but this was also related to the Sylphid's circumstances.

For the same reason, Roumrelus ended up being naturally divided into the zones "the Sylphid zone" and "the others zone", but since the area around the royal castle was the commercial district, the shops of various races were lined up.

Although trade with the St. Altis Kingdom had become smaller ever since the Demi-Human rejection had intensified, the effect that had on the Jiol Forest Kingdom's industry was small.

Originally, the Jiol Forest Kingdom was a country that lived together with the Great Jiol Forest, and there are many countries that desired the crops raised in that fertile land. Especially the Cylas Empire which they actively had business with even now.

They also did favorable business with other countries, and on the surface, there weren't any problems in the people's lives.

Without any changes from before, people were walking about, happily shopping even in the commercial district around the royal castle... And among them, there was the figure of one young lady.

She couldn't really be called small, but it was hard to say that it was an average height.

She had a physique where one could agree if she were called a thinnish young boy.

She had light green, very short hair, and green eyes.

Wearing cloth clothes that could be found anywhere, she displayed a displeased-looking expression.

That was the Maid Knight who was a subordinate under the Demon King Vermudol's direct control, Nino.

Not wearing her usual maid outfit and armor, the current Nino would be seen as merely a town girl to those that didn't know her.

Nino's duty this time was information gathering.

Via the parade and dinner party from the other day, Vermudol's face became well-known in the Jiol Forest Kingdom.

Unable to leave the Zadark Kingdom open for too long, Vermudol and Ichika, as well as Sancreed had already returned to their country.

Fainell stayed behind in order to deal with some remaining business, and Nino was left behind as information gathering personnel.

There were two types of information to gather.

One was about the Gods.

Information in regards to the God of Water Akliia and the God of Wind Wyrm who were worshipped in this country, and information regarding the method to meet the Gods.

The other one was about the town's reaction.

The Intelligence Group was also moving about, but limited to this time, he sought information from a different angle.

In other words, the point of view of an ordinary person.

In order to grasp the reaction of the populace, there was a need to gather rumors in the town that was related to the Zadark Kingdom and the Jiol Forest Kingdom's

friendship.

Originally, this was a job that would take time to carry out, but Nino was selected since she could immediately her opponent's guard.

Even now, Nino was walking around the castle town without being suspected by anyone.

...Then again, since that in itself said that she didn't stand out, Nino felt dissatisfied about that though.

To begin with, the fact that she was doing this kind of mission alone was something that Nino couldn't agree with.

After all, the fact that Nino was in the Jiol Forest Kingdom like this meant that right now at this time, Ichika was the only one at Vermudol's side.

Having no one but that straight-laced, cold blooded, expressionless Maid Knight around, there was no mistake that Vermudol wouldn't be able to relax either.

Perhaps he would be unable to stand the fact that the soothing Nino wasn't around, and might create a new substitute Maid Knight.

That would be no good. That absolutely couldn't be allowed.

However.

Would he really be healed with something like that?

Noticing that it was a temporary healing, he might re-evaluate Nino's value.

"...In that case, there would be no need to be impatient in accomplishing the mission. Nino's value should break through the limit with some superior information."

As Nino continued to walk down the road, her eyes suddenly stopped and were drawn to a street stall.

A syrupy something was emitting a sweet smell and was cooking on an iron plate.

Nino stared hard at that thing that cooked making a \*jyuwa\* sound and asked about

it.

“...What is that?”

“Ou, you mean this? It’s called a fried cake. It seems that the Hero Ryuuya had developed it in this country.”

“Hmmn?”

As she said that and looked at the black cat Beastman shopkeeper’s hands, the shopkeeper flipped the fried cake over with skilled hands.

“Could it be that you haven’t eaten one before?”

“Nope.”

“Acha— ... That’s no good, Ojou-chan.”

When Nino answered like that, the shopkeeper made a grave-looking expression with exaggerated gestures.

When the shopkeeper handed a fried cake to the child that was excitedly waiting next to Nino, the shopkeeper started mixing that syrupy something in order to fry the next cake.

“Not having eaten this is the same as not being in the Jiol Forest Kingdom. After all, look, it’s that kind of thing. To begin with, this fried cake that the Hero Ryuuya developed was something meant to surprise Wyrmsama who was starved for stimulus.”

“Wyrms... The God, of Wind.”

“Ou, that’s right! Eating this, Wyrmsama was surprised and even demanded seconds.”

Hearing about the God of Wind Wyrms, Nino held out one silver coin.

“Then, give me one.”

“Aiyo, I’ll give you a fresh one, so wait a bit!”

After handing over Nino's change from a hanging basket, the shopkeeper started frying a fried cake with a good mood.

While looking at their hands, Nino asked a question to the shopkeeper.

"The God of Wind. Can they be met even now?"

"Heh? With Wyrmsama? Nn—..."

Hearing Nino's question, the shopkeeper groaned sounding troubled.

It was true that there was that kind of story with the fried cakes, but it wasn't like the shopkeeper was the one to hand the fried cake over to the God of Wind.

Even if she were to ask if it were possible to meet with them or not, the shopkeeper had no way of answering.

"Let's see..."

Flipping over the cake that was on the iron plate, the shopkeeper thought about it.

It would be easy to say "I don't know".

However, the young lady in front of him had hair and eyes that reminded him of the Great Jiol Forest.

Looking at this green beautiful young girl, it would be wrong to cut her down with an "I don't know"... that is what he thought.

"I've heard that Wyrmsama's temple is somewhere within the Great Jiol Forest but... as for guys who have gone there, there's pretty much only the Hero that's done it... or so I've heard. Hoi, it's finished!"

Wrapping up the fried up cake with a large leaf, the shopkeeper handed it over to Nino.

"Nn, thank you."

"Ou, and if you meet with Wyrmsama, give 'em my regards!"

From behind Nino, who had started walking while eating the fried cake, the

shopkeeper's joking voice could be heard.

Nino suddenly looked back at the shopkeeper's direction, and changed her vaguely displeased looking lips into the form of a impish smile.

"...Don't wanna."

Saying that, she left into the crowds of people.

The shopkeeper who saw that just kept a dazed expression, and gazed at the direction that Nino vanished into.

Not noticing how the shopkeeper had been unconsciously charmed, Nino recalled what she had just heard while munching on the fried cake.

It seemed that something called the God of Wind Wyrms temple was somewhere in the Great Jiol Forest.

And then, the Hero Ryuuuya ensnared the God of Wind Wyrms with fried cakes.

While savoring the fluffy texture that had a faint sweetness, Nino started thinking.

Certainly, it was tasty.

When she was in mankind's territory before, she had thought that she had eaten all of the tasty things, but to think that something like this was still left.

Thinking that she should have had Vermudol eat this while he was in this country, Nino lamented over her own mistake.

However, it was still at a level where she could recover.

If she were to make and hand over this fried cake together with the story about the God of Wind, Vermudol would surely be delighted.

Making the past Hero's method of ensnaring the God of Wind her own, it was certain that he would be deeply moved by Nino's competence.

Now that that was decided, she would need to return to that shop from earlier. She would obtain the recipe somehow.

Finishing up the remainder of the fried cake, Nino was about to turn around when her shoulder was patted with a \*pon\*.

A chill ran through her at that moment.

Nino turned around with her most displeased expression of the day.

What was there were Human men that were expressing vulgar smirks.

There was one man wearing strangely tailored clothes, and two men who seemed to be his underlings.

The one who placed their hand on Nino's shoulder was one of the underlings.

"Yo, looks like yer have quite a lot of fun, ain't cha."

"Ya sightseein'? As a matter of fact, we were havin' fun sightseein' too. Wanna have fun together?"

She went "ahh, so that's it".

Nino noticed what was happening to her.

This was one of those "being hit on" things.

They were charmed by Nino's beautiful young lady style that was on a sinful level.

When she thought that, she felt like she could even forgive the man that had touched her so familiarly.

"It'll be fine. Even fer you, it'll totally be more fun bein' together with us than by yerself."

"Right, right, and even that person over there is a super impressive guy. After all, he"

"Ei."

“Gupeh.”

Since she had a second thought and couldn't forgive him, Nino sunk her fist into the man's body.

With that one attack, the underling man lost consciousness and went white-eyed.

And since she couldn't forgive his shamelessness of fainting and nearly collapsing towards her, Nino went further and made a kick, blowing the man away.

“Sh, Shawn!? Oi, you, what're you doin'!?”

“Punishment. So, who is the principal offender?”

“Haa!? What nonsense are ya spoutin'!”

Nino's slap exploded on the other underling man that had snapped in anger.

The slap, which was too fast and made her hand look like it disappeared, had reaped the underling man's consciousness, however, he was forcibly awakened by a follow-up slap.

“So, who is the principal offender? The most important looking guy that's frozen up over there?”

“Don't screw wi...!”

He got a second double slap.

“So, who is the principal offender? The important looking guy that's trying to run away over there?”

“You, don't cha know who that perso...”

He got a third double slap.

After throwing down the man who started crying and stepping on him, Nino stood in front of the most important looking man who had completely lost the timing to run away.

Nino looked up at the man who had a fair amount of height, and glared at him.

“You are the principal offender.”

“W, wait. Please wait! That’s it, tell me what you want! It can be anything.”

“I want your scream, I guess.”

\*Goryun\* Making an unpleasant sound, the tip of Nino’s shoe kicked the man’s crotch.

Looking at the man, who foamed at the mouth with an extremely ghastly face and collapsed, with a disgusted-looking face, Nino breathed a sigh.

“...It would seem that you didn’t need any assistance.”

When Nino turned her gaze to the direction that voice came from, a man with a shapely face was standing there.

The man with blond hair and blue eyes wore even better tailored clothes than the trash that had fainted at Nino’s feet just now, and carried a long sword.

Narrowing his long slit eyes, the man broadly grinned.

“...It has been a while, Nino.”

Nefas Albania. He was the eldest son of the St. Altlis Kingdom’s Albania Duke House.

Nefas brushed up his hair and—

“Nino won’t be accepting anything like being hit on. Bye bye.”

Seeing how Nino looked like she didn’t remember him at all, he panicked and started to chase after her.

# Chapter 17

Ever since Nefas Albania had met Nino in the St. Altlis Kingdom's Edius Adventurer School, he had been scheming to somehow obtain her.

However, while he unable to come up with even a single effective hand and was anguished over what he should do, Nino's whereabouts became unknown.

And when he thought that he had no choice but to give up on her, Nefas coincidentally discovered Nino in the Jiol Forest Kingdom's royal capital, Roumrelus.

"Wait, wait wait! Don't you remember me!?"

"Nino knows that trick. It's a pattern where you hit on someone by making them drop their guard by acting like an acquaintance."

"That's not it! Don't lump me together with that sort of thing!"

"Getting enraged from getting defeated in an argument, you overpower your opponent. But that will not work on Nino."

"Like I said, that's wrong! I'm begging you, please wait!"

While breathing a sigh, Nino turned around to face Nefas who was hot on her heels.

"What? Nino is busy."

"You just ate a fried cake! No matter how you look at it, you have free time!"

"I see. Goodbye."

Nefas hurriedly went around to the front of Nino who had once again started walking.

"I still haven't finished my business with you!"

Clicking her tongue, Nino averted her gaze from Nefas.

There were two choices.

Either silence this guy, or leave this guy behind.

As Nino started to think about which one was better, Nefas misunderstood that as her waiting for him, and breathed a sigh of relief.

“...Phew, honestly. I had introduced myself at that time. I’m Nefas. You remember, don’t you?”

“...”

Making him faint and silencing him was the easiest thing to do, but the man in front of her seemed persistent.

It would be the same even if she left him behind here, and would probably appear before her over and over.

In that case, making him eternally silent would be for the best, but as expected, she felt that would be over doing it.

As Nino thought “well now, this is troubling...”, Nefas’s irritated-sounding voice resounded.

“Oi, are you listening to me!”

“Nino wasn’t. What do you need?”

“As I said! Your master... I am asking where Shion is!”

Hearing that, Nino expressed a question mark.

Shion—if he knew about Vermudol from when he was infiltrating mankind’s territory, he should have seen him at yesterday’s parade and noticed though.

“You, what about yesterday’s parade?”

“Ah? Come to think of it, there was some kind of ruckus, wasn’t there. Since I wasn’t interested, I didn’t see it.”

“That so.”

In other words, it seems he didn't see the Demon King Vermudol's figure.

That being said, there also wasn't a need to expressly explain it to him.

“Nino is currently in the middle of a job, so Nino is alone. If you can grasp that, leave.”

“...I see.”

Nefas said that, and he was about to turn around and leave surprisingly easily.

However, in the middle of that, he stopped and stared at Nino.

“...I had heard that you were swallowed up in a revolution and died.”

“H—n.”

“Tell this to your master. This country is also in quite a questionable situation. That it would be best to leave this place quickly.”

Hearing that much, Nino thought that the man in front of her seemed to have a utility value.

It seemed that he possessed a fair amount of information.

Moreover, although she didn't really get it, he looked like he found Nino to be favorable.

When Nino thought about how her mission was to gather information, there was surely a need to have a conversation with him and pull out some information.

“If you know something”

“Nn?”

“Nino is kind, so Nino is willing to listen.”

Hearing those words, Nefas made his eyes go round, and made a strained laugh.

He thought that she would be the same as that time... when they had first met, where she simply dealt with him coldly.

Then again, he didn't think that he would make any progress despite the difference... however, even so, he didn't feel like letting this chance he had finally grasped escape.

"...Ahh. In that case, why don't we have a meal somewhere."

"It is enough with that."

When Nefas looked at where Nino pointed to, there was a juice stand.

The menu was nothing but ringo-squeezed juice.

"That's... ringo juice?"

"That's right. That is delicious."

Although Nefas tilted his head wondering "is that so?", he approached the ringo juice stand.

"...Give me two."

"Aiyo. That'll be eight small copper coins."

"The smallest thing I have is a large silver coin though."

"Arya—. I've got it, I've got it. Just wait for a bit!"

When the dog Beastman shopkeeper said that, he placed slightly dirty small silver and copper coins into Nefas's hand.

Seeing that, Nefas subtly distorted his face, but he reluctantly put them into his pocket.

Receiving the juice, he breathed a sigh and returned to Nino's side.

"...Here's the juice."

"Nn, thank you."

After Nino accepted the juice and took a sip, she prompted Nefas to continue his story.

“So, what do you mean by questionable?”

“Nn? Ahh... To start with, this is connected to the story as to why I am in this country.”

Nefas’s father, Rudias, was a duke of the St. Altlis Kingdom, and was an outstanding man of importance even in the country.

In order to have a conference with the Jiol Forest Kingdom’s cabinet minister, he had come to this royal capital a few days ago.

And then, being fed up with the St. Altlis Kingdom’s recent atmosphere, Nefas also accompanied him.

On that occasion, it was suddenly announced yesterday that the Jiol Forest Kingdom and the Zadark Kingdom had entered a treaty of friendship.

Hearing this announcement, Nefas was astonished.

Even Rudias, who was seldomly perturbed, was unable to conceal his unrest. It probably meant that a situation of that degree had progressed completely behind closed doors.

At the same time this should be something to be surprised about, it was also something to be feared.

Hearing Nefas explain up to this point all at once, Nino displayed a questioning expression.

“...Why?”

“It’s simple. The reason my father has come to this country right now, is to search for the possibility of peace from now on.”

“H—n”

“The St. Altlis Kingdom and the Jiol Forest Kingdom are just one step away from war... but, that is due to the bunch who have the idiots of the temple as their center. Even though anyone could understand that something like a war between fellow members

of mankind was foolish if they possessed a decent mind.”

Nefas snorted sounding unhappy.

Hearing that, Nino raised Nefas’s evaluation and level of importance up by one level in her mind.

It would seem that this man called Nefas entered the category of “decent mankind”.

While thinking that, she half-heartedly nodded.

“Now from here, it’s about this entering of a treaty of friendship. From a military point of view, this means that the Jiol Forest Kingdom has obtained powerful collaborators called Mazoku, and has taken one step forward in front of the other countries.”

“That’s true.”

“But, at the same time, this also contains a certain danger. Do you know what that is?”

“Nino doesn’t.”

Hearing Nino’s immediate reply, Nefas cleared his throat, and continued his story.

“The fact that the Jiol Forest Kingdom has joined hands with the Mazoku—with the Zadark Kingdom have given those believers of the Demi-Human argument an ideal reason... that is what it is.”

That’s right, if this story about the treaty of friendship were circulated to them, the believers of the Demi-Human argument would probably say this.

Those Demi-Humans have revealed their true nature. Joining forces with the Mazoku, the intend on driving mankind into a crisis... that is what they would say.

And then, complaining about the necessity of the Hero Summoning, they would surely shout for a crusade.

In the St. Altlis Kingdom, where the Hero legend had strongly taken root, that was an extraordinarily easy story to accept.

“...If the warmongers were to gain even more strength, it really will turn into a war.

But, they don't understand the danger of that."

Humans were nothing more than one categorization among mankind, and even looking at the four major nations, the St. Altlis Kingdom was the only nation with Humans as the center.

The royalty of the Canal Kingdom were Human, but the Canal Kingdom was originally a country of multiple races. At this time where the Demi-Human argument had fanned the flames of war, the possibility that they would ally with the St. Altlis Kingdom was low.

In that case, the St. Altlis Kingdom would end up going to war against the entire world.

"...Then it isn't any different from now. They would only plunge into war knowing they would lose."

"That might be true. But, you can't necessarily say that they will lose. If the Hero were to appear that is."

In the verses of the Hero Ryuuya's tale that were extolled in the legends, there was a part that said he was able to blow away a large army of Goblins with a single attack.

This was an anecdote that exemplified the Hero Ryuuya's abilities, but if this were the truth, then the Hero would surely possess abilities that could rival an army alone.

If the Hero were summoned, there would be no telling who would win or lose.

"...If, the Hero were around, and they could win. Would you support the war?"

Hearing Nino's mutter, Nefas thought.

If there was a chance of winning, there would surely be Humans that would accept war.

However, Nefas was different. As a noble that should carry the future of the country, something like that was contrary to his aesthetics.

"I would obviously object to it. There is no meaning to a war between fellow members of mankind."

“...Then it’s fine against the Mazoku?”

“I don’t know. It’s because I haven’t met with a Mazoku that I could converse with after all.”

“H—n.”

That “Mazoku that he could converse with” was right before his eyes, but Nino wouldn’t explain every single thing.

After enjoying the ringo juice’s sweetness, Nino stood up.

There was value in trying to talk to him.

Thinking that, she returned the cup that the juice was in to the owner of the stand.

“That was pretty interesting. Nino thinks it would be fine if you live just like that.”

“Is that so.”

“Un.”

Nefas nodded, and gulped down the ringo juice all at once.

“Hey, Nino.”

“What?”

“Will you, be staying in this country for a while?”

Nino thought for a bit about how she should answer Nefas’s question.

Since she had heard what she needed to hear, having him follow her around any more than this would be a bother, but perhaps he might be useful for something.

“...Probably.”

“I see. I, am staying at an inn near the royal castle called [Arodia]. I’ll welcome you at any time.”

“H—n.”

“Where are you staying?”

“Won’t tell you.”

Saying that, Nino started walking. Since he didn’t chase after her this time, she continued on just like that.

The St. Altis Kingdom’s situation—There are warmongers on one hand, and Humans that are trying to stop a war between fellow members of mankind on the other.

And then, there is the fact that there is conference being held with the Jiol Forest Kingdom for the sake of that.

Nino had obtained several pieces of information.

For the time being, this information should be reported with maximum priority.

If Nino were to use Transfer Magic, she could easily make a report to Vermudol immediately, but she unfortunately couldn’t use that.

If it was Fainell who similarly remained in the Jiol Forest Kingdom, then she could use it, but she should be in the middle of a job that she was entrusted with from Vermudol at this time.

In that case, she had no choice but to wait until a Mazoku came for the regularly timed report.

“...If only Nino could also use magic.”

Nino’s skill with the sword was top-tier, but her talent in magic was lacking.

Since she had confidence that she could cut up an average Magician with her sword, she didn’t feel that it was necessary... but at times like this, she would end up thinking “if only I could use some convenient magic”.

Then again, since the place that Nino should be at the at the side of Vermudol who was also a Magician, it might not be a problem even if she couldn’t use it.

“...Rather, there is also the possibility he did this under that premise.”

No, there is no mistake that that is how it was.

Supporting the parts that the other lacked, that kind of relationship.

Surely that was Vermudol’s desire, is what Nino thought.

“Un, as expected, it means that Nino is number one.”

Muttering that, Nino vanished into the crowd of people in a good mood.

# Chapter 18

Fainell was in a room of the Jiol Forest Kingdom's royal castle.

She was facing a desk and gazing at a document with a terribly stern face, but reacting to the \*bashin\* sound of a door opening, she raised her head.

"...So you've come."

The one who was on the other side of the door that was thrown open was Nino.

She was always making a displeased looking face, but maybe because she was called out by Fainell, she was looking a degree worse than usual today.

Nino quietly opened her mouth.

"...What? Nino is busy."

Fainell made a wry smile in response to that manner of speech that skipped over the greetings.

Maid Knights should have originally had the abilities and behavior of not only a knight but a maid as well.

She might speak like this because Fainell wasn't her master, but Nino's curt attitude shouldn't be shown to those that possess fantasies about Maid Knights... is what Fainell thought.

In any case, there was a reason that she called over that Nino.

"Nino."

"What?"

After tapping the document at her hands with her finger, Fainell sent her gaze to Nino.

"It's about this document."

“Bye bye.”

The moment she heard about the document, Nino closed the door with a slam.

Fainell heard footsteps become distant at a great speed.

Most likely, she probably wouldn't catch up to her even if she started chasing her now.

“Fuu... Is that girl really a maid?”

Isn't she actually just a knight dressed as a maid, is what Fainell thought.

When compared to Ichika, she hadn't really seen her do any work.

“Well, I guess that wasn't surprising.”

Saying that, Fainell breathed a sigh.

Thinking that it would most likely turn out like this, she had already sent a message to someone else.

And it was right at that time that the presence of that person had appeared in the room.

Falling a bit behind the appearance of his presence, a black clothed man that possessed ashen hair and eyes stood in front of Fainell and bowed.

“...Zwei, here before you.”

“Yeah, sorry for the trouble.”

“No, you had called for me after all.”

Zwei was one of Rokuna's subordinates, and a Mazoku belonging to the Intelligence Group.

If one were to go by his position, he should have originally been going around gathering intelligence in the Cylas Empire, but right now, he was conducting a certain mission... or so it seems.

In other words, he was excellent enough that he was able to lead a squad.

“Zwei. I have something to talk to you about.”

“It is unfortunate but.”

Zwei sent his gaze to the document at Fainell’s hands... and before long, he shook his head.

“I have been commanded by Rokuna-sama to refuse anything in regards to that matter.”

“Wh, why! Even she should be able to understand!”

“I am terribly sorry. However, those are my orders.”

“Impossible. Are you saying that she takes priority over my request?”

Hearing Fainell’s words, Zwei made a wry smile.

The fact that she didn’t use the word “command” here is a reason why Fainell is liked by everyone in the Eastern Army.

Other than times where it’s a critical moment, Fainell wouldn’t use the word “command”.

She intuitively understood the weight of the word “command”.

“Yes. She said, an idiot should occasionally use their head.”

“Wha, what was that!?”

“If you have an objection, I can deliver her a verbal message.”

After Fainell thought about it for a bit, she breathed a sigh.

“...No, it’s fine. It feels like she’d make an objection to my objection.”

“I believe that is quite sensible. Well then.”

After Zwei answered like that and once again erased his figure, Fainell soon became unable to sense him.

Although Fainell was surprised by that, she was impressed and thought “as expected of the Intelligence Group”.

“..”

Leaning her body into the back of her chair, Fainell looked up at the ceiling.

She played all of the hands that she could, and this was the result.

At this rate, she would be unable to accomplish the duty task she was entrusted with from Demon King Vermudol.

Failure wouldn't be allowed. However, at this rate—

“Kuh... Just what should I do...”

A line of sweat was shed.

A stalemate, a maze without an exit... various words flowed within her head.

A means to solve this challenge, Fainell currently did not have one.

“Fu, fufu... This is pretty ironic isn't it.”

Fainell covered her face with one hand, and laughed while hanging her head.

At the edge of despair, she couldn't help but laugh.

“To think I would be driven to the wall in a place like this. This kind of sensation, just how long has it been...!”

At that time, an orderly \*kon kon\* sound could be heard from the door.

Getting surprised, Fainell raised her head.

“Fainell? Are you there?”

That voice was a voice that Fainell knew well.

Being a former hero, and Fainell's friend—it was Luuty Ligas's voice.

“...Luuty huh. Please come in.”

After Fainell answered like that, Luuty opened the door... and made a puzzled face.

And of course she would.

The usually dignified Fainell was making a face like a knight who had resolved themselves for death.

It was impossible to not find that strange.

“What’s wrong, Fainell.”

“Fu... I’m merely reflecting on my own powerlessness.”

“Right.”

After replying with a look that said she didn’t really understand, Luuty looked at the top of Fainell’s desk.

What was there was a mountain of piled up documents.

Even in Fainell’s hand, there was a document.

“I don’t really get it, but if you’re busy, then I can come back again later.”

Fainell was about to see off Luuty who said that and was about to turn around... but after suddenly changing her expression, she jumped up and leapt over the desk.

Seeing Fainell make a \*dan\* sound as she landed close to her, Luuty displayed a surprised expression.

“Wh, what’s wrong?”

“Luuty. I’ve realized it.”

“Ha?”

In response to Fainell who was tightly gripping Luuty’s hands with a serious face, Luuty expressed a question mark on her face.

Fainell didn't notice that, and just nodded as if she had comprehended something.

"That's right. If I just think about it, it's really simple. In other words, it was that sort of thing!"

"No, I don't understand what's going on. Could you properly explain it to me?"

"In other words, it means that you and I are friends."

"That's true."

As expected, she really didn't understand what she meant.

Luuty breathed a sigh, and slowly separated her tightly gripped hands.

"What kind of connection is there between your troubles and our friendship?"

"Umu, in other words. Well, I am here because I was commanded by Demon King-sama to deal with the remaining business of the treaty of friendship."

"Yes."

Fainell staying behind in the Jiol Forest Kingdom was something pleasant for Luuty since it increased the time they could talk with each other, and that was why she would come to visit Fainell to make use of that free time.

"And then, these are the documents of that remaining business."

Fainell hit the mountain of documents with a \*bon\*, and Luuty nodded.

It was a considerable amount of documents, but it could be said that that was only natural.

After all, something like a treaty of friendship between mankind and the Mazoku was a world-first.

Basically, in addition to the treaty, various by-laws would have to be reviewed, or maybe even established for the foundation of it. Depending on the case, reviewed matters might also have to be supplemented from now on.

It was a bit of a bother, it was something necessary for the sake of both countries future and long association from now on.

In a relationship between fellow countries, it didn't end with just a promise, there was a need to always negotiate and continue their interactions.

That was the reason why there were diplomats, and even the diplomat dispatched from the Zadark Kingdom, Nanalus, was also busy making his rounds.

"...So, at what part does the story of our friendship connect to?"

"Nn, in other words, you had come just when I was troubled."

"...You, could it be."

As Luuty moved her eyebrows with a twitch, Fainell expressed a smile.

"Help me out, Luuty."

She staggered.

Luuty almost ended up collapsing from that all too great of a shock, but she somehow managed to hold her ground with fighting spirit.

"As... As if there is someone that would ask a person of another country to assist in their countries paperwork! Are you an idiot!"

"E, even you're calling me an idiot!?"

"If you don't like being called an idiot, then let's go with dumbass! To begin with, although I do go in and out of the royal palace, I am not someone has something to do with politics you know!?"

Hearing those words, Fainell's expression instead became brighter.

"Then this is just perfect, isn't it! Employing personnel that one is lacking on-site is something that happens often!"

"There are jobs where it's alright to do that, and jobs where it isn't alright to do that!"

“B, but! These are documents that also affect your country!”

“Hey, you shouldn’t be talking about the contents of documents like that so easily!”

\*Ban\* Overawed by Luuty hitting the wall, Fainell drew back.

It was there that Luuty shouted as if pressing her for answers.

“To begin with, what is with the top of that desk! Properly sort those documents into those that are processed and those that need to be processed! Take the excessive things off of the desk! Understand that whether or not paperwork gets done starts from organization of the desk!”

“Wha, what the heck! You’ve suddenly gotten really scary!”

“That • is • be • cause! You are just way too hopeless at this!”

For Fainell, she had resisted obediently nodding to her, but there was a sound argument to what Luuty had said.

And then, above all, Luuty was scary.

Overwhelmed by Luuty, Fainell helplessly started organizing the top of the desk.

“Hey, move those hands faster! You’re technically a person of the military, aren’t you!”

“Don’t put technically to that! Aren’t you being a bit mean today!?”

“Move your hands instead of your mouth! Once your work environment becomes decent, the meanness will disappear!”

While being told that by Luuty, Fainell properly sorted out the documents on top of the desk.

Though, since there were too many things unprocessed after separating them, there wasn’t even a fragment of a sense of accomplishment.

“Un, that’s pretty much it.”

“...Wouldn’t it have been better to use the time on tidying up on doing the paperwork

instead?"

Being glared at by Luuty after leaking out her dissatisfaction, Fainell hurriedly averted her gaze.

"An orderly work environment makes efficient work possible."

"Mu... That's, well..."

Luuty turned a gentle smile towards Fainell who had fallen silent.

"...I believe that there is a proper reason to why you were entrusted with this work. Wouldn't it be nice to properly finish it up and report that?"

"Could you help me out with it?"

"Nope."

Hearing Luuty's reply, Fainell breathed a depressed sounding sigh.

# Chapter 19

In the vicinity of the Jiol Forest Kingdom's royal castle, there were many estates.

One among them had become vacant due to sudden circumstances—more specifically, it was the result of the coup d'état attempt that occurred on the day of the dinner party, and it was now being used as the house that the delegates of the Zadark Kingdom are staying at.

The ones staying there were Nanalus who was the diplomat, and the Maid Knight Nino.

Also, the members of the Intelligence Group that were sent out within the Jiol Forest Kingdom would come here to rest in turns.

“Now then...”

In a room of that building that was named the Zadark Kingdom Delegation Building, one man put his arms through the sleeves of a suit.

It was a black suit where one could understand that it was of high quality at a single glance. He had beautiful white hair, and a well-managed white moustache.

Polishing the glasses that used Holy Silver for the frame with a cloth, the man checked their condition.

A gentle old aristocrat with an abundance of experience.

If he were to be described, those words would surely be appropriate.

However, in truth, he would instead be classified as being young in the Dark Continent.

His name was Nanalus. He was the diplomat of the Zadark Kingdom.

As for why he was created with that kind of outward appearance.

That was merely a problem of image.

The negative image held towards Mazoku—things like being wild, fiendish, snatching Humans, there would be no end to it if they were all brought up, but in any case, a violent image followed them around.

The most effective way to overturn this kind of image was a “gentle and elegant elder”.

Against Nanalus, who gave off an intellectual impression, there was almost no one that thought he “looked fiendish”.

For those that imagine Mazoku who are just like the typical image people have of Mazoku—for example, Mazoku like Orel and Raktor—they would see Nanalus and have some of that malicious image removed.

And then, Nanalus would slip into the openings of their heart and remove their wariness.

Those with a strong sense of suspicion were the exception, but at the very least, it was a fact that there were many people that became close with Nanalus at the time of the dinner party between the Jiol Forest Kingdom and the Zadark Kingdom the other day.

And then, the many letters that was placed on Nanalus’s desk right now were sent from those people.

Taking a letter into his hand, Nanalus started checking the sender and the contents of the letters one by one.

“Fumu, so this letter is from Count Guutia...”

Nanalus searched for that name in his own knowledge.

If he remembered correctly, that was one of the prominent nobles in the Jiol Forest Kingdom, and although he didn’t have an important position, he should be a person that possessed large influence in politics.

The contents of that letter was an invitation to a tea party.

There were other letters with similar content, but in Count Guutia’s case, the date of it was the problem.

“Goodness... To designate it to today. What a troubling person.”

Count Guutia's territory was in the eastern part of the Jiol Forest Kingdom.

It wasn't so far that it would take several days to get there from the royal capital, but it also wasn't a distance that could immediately be arrived at with a carriage.

To begin with, it was social etiquette to send a written invitation like this with a date that allowed some leeway in time until it was held.

As for the reason why he would purposely designate today despite that, he was most likely anticipating the use of Transfer Magic that only Mazoku could actually make use of.

Even if it was said that the Mazoku had come to the Jiol Forest Kingdom using Transfer Magic, there were very few people that would accept that so readily.

He probably made this kind of sudden invitation in order to ascertain if that Transfer Magic was the real thing or if it was some kind of trick.

"...Well, I am sure it will be fine."

After putting the invitation from Count Guutia away into his pocket, Nanalus started sorting out the other letters.

"...Fumu. So this one is addressed to Sancreed-dono. Well, I am sure that it is another love letter from some young woman from somewhere. I will send this at the regular call time."

There were many that saw Sancreed at the parade and the dinner party, as well as people that had conversed with him.

Among those people, there were people who fell in love at first sight or harbored yearning for Sancreed, and a great number of things that seemed like love letters were sent.

Since something like a mail service going to the Dark Continent didn't exist, they were sent to the delegation building just like this... that is how it turned out.

Since Sancreed accepts those letters and sincerely responds to them, the letters will surely increase from now on.

It seems that similar letters are sent to Fainell as well, but for some reason letters from women are mixed in with the letters from men.

Although they had formed a treaty of friendship, it was predicted that mankind would draw a line in their association with the Mazoku... but after making it public, it turned into this situation.

Incidentally, that sort of letter has not been sent to Demon King Vermudol at present.

As expected, with him being the Demon King, fear probably took precedence and they wouldn't think of sending him letters.

According to Nino, she says "I understand Demon King-sama's charm so it isn't a problem".

After roughly sorting out the letters, Nanalus started the construction of Transfer Magic.

Transfer Magic was a magic that was difficult to handle, and moreover, this time it was a place he had never been to before.

Transferring to place he has not seen had an especially high degree of difficulty and would come with risks, but Nanalus needed to do this despite that.

There were two reasons for it.

It was for the sake not letting them realize the limits of Transfer Magic. And then, it was for the sake of not letting the race called Mazoku be underestimated by mankind.

If it was for the sake of that, doing things despite a bit of recklessness was Nanalus's job.

"...Nu, ugh..."

At Nanalus's feet, a Transfer Magic Formation was constructed.

Nanalus poured magical power into that formation that emitted a blue light.

Imagining the transferring location with a place on a map, he calculated the distance from his current location and determined the transfer spot.

Having the image and the calculations be even a little off wasn't allowed.

"...It is complete."

And so, Nanalus's Transfer Magic was completed.

The magic formation had a blue radiance, and awaited the final activation words.

"—Gate"

At the same time as those words, Nanalus's figure vanished from the delegation building.

When the transfer was finished and Nanalus raised his head, the gate of an estate was before his eyes.

"...Wh, who are you!"

"Where did you appear from!"

Seeing people who seemed to be guards wearing partial armor, Nanalus expressed a gentle smile.

"Please pardon the discourtesy. I am the Zadark Kingdom diplomat, Nanalus. Might I be mistaken in thinking that this is the estate of Count Guutia?"



“The Zadark Kingdom... P, please excuse us”

“Please pardon us, for our rudeness...!”

Seeing the guards suddenly go pale and lower their heads, Nanalus breathed a sigh in his mind.

This much of a change in their attitude—It really looks like the negative image towards Mazoku is deeply rooted in them.

Or maybe, suddenly appearing before them with a transfer had been overdoing it.

“Devotedly doing one’s professional duties is not something that should be reproached, so I do not mind it... Now then, might I be mistaken in thinking that this is the estate of Count Guutia?”

“N, no! You are not mistaken, at all!”

While expressing a gentle smile at the trembling guards, Nanalus took out the invitation.

“I have come here after receiving a written invitation from Count Guutia. I ask that you convey my arrival.”

“Ha, hahii! Ple, pl-pl-please wait for a moment!”

For them to be this afraid of me, it makes me doubt my own aptitude as a diplomat... while thinking that, Nanalus gazed at the guard that clumsily headed to the inside of the estate.

On the other hand, he was relieved that the transfer was a success.

This time, he was lucky enough to have transferred in front of the gate, but the possibility of that not being the case was high.

It would have still been fine if it was in the air within the premises of the count’s house, but if it went terribly, it was plenty possible to have transferred inside of building materials such as the gate or the house, one of the so-called transfer accidents.

This time’s success had luck play an extraordinarily large part of it.

In other words, Nanalus had won the gamble, but he didn't want to do this kind of tightrope walking ever again.

After a short while, someone that had different equipment from the earlier guard—someone who seemed to most likely be a knight of Count Guutia's territory, and a young Sylphid woman wearing a dress had appeared.

She had silver hair that went to her shoulders, and blue eyes. She was a young lady that had an ephemeral impression and made one somewhat desire to protect her.

That young lady pinched the hem of her dress, and made a bow that still had some inexperience remaining in it.

"Welcome and thank you for visiting the Guutia House today. I am the second daughter of this house, Galeria."

"I am the Zadark Kingdom diplomat, Nanalus. Today, I have come after receiving an invitation from Count Guutia."

Nanalus returned the bow to the young lady who introduced herself as Galeria.

Seeing Nanalus like that, Galeria's cheeks were dyed a faint scarlet.

Nanalus did not give that any particular attention, and while showing a gentle smile, he held out the written invitation that the earlier guards had forgotten to receive.

"Now then, Galeria-sama. If you would please confirm this written invitation."

"Ah... yes. Well then."

After receiving the written invitation from Nanalus, Galeria started checking it as if it were really precious.

Before long, after raising her head, Galeria smiled.

"Yes, this is correct. Well then, I shall guide you."

"Thank you very much. However, Galeria-sama, for you to personally guide me is..."

Normally, guiding is something that a servant would do.

For a family member of a noble to greet him, that could be said to be unbelievable.

“No, I had asked to leave this to me.”

“So that was the case. To think you would show such consideration for someone like me...”

It would seem that Count Guutia is seeking an intimate relationship with the Zadark Kingdom, is what Nanalus guessed.

It would be safe to regard Count Guutia as a person of importance from now on.

“Please don’t say that. Nanalus-sama, you are a diplomat of the Zadark Kingdom after all. Rather, I am worried if I am fit for the role.”

“No, for someone such as me... Whoops, this won’t end at this rate. Oh dear, how troubling.”

Hearing Nanalus say that with a joking tone, Galeria, after showing an expression that said she was taken by surprise, put a hand over her mouth and giggled.

“Fufu, that is true. How silly of me... how embarrassing.”

“Oh dear. It seems that I have brought shame to a lady... Please do forgive me.”

“Well then, Nanalus-sama. Although I may be inexperienced, would you please accept my guidance?”

“Of course. That would be a great honor for this inexperienced diplomat.”

Just as Galeria let out a smile at those words, the knight that stood there like a sculpture lightly cleared his throat.

“Galeria-sama, it is about time...”

“Ara, you are right. Well then, let us start walking.”

## Chapter 20

Passing through the gate, they walked down the path to the estate.

With Galeria at the lead, Nanalus followed after her, and the knight walked behind him.

However, Nanalus sensed a presence that wasn't gentle at all from the knight.

The knight having this attitude was probably because he was a Mazoku, but that being said, Nanalus felt that this knight was a failure as Count Guutia's subordinate.

As long as he served Count Guutia, he had the duty of paying the standard amount of respect to the count's guests.

Making at the very least a slight bow to the guest was proper etiquette, as well as common knowledge.

If he was making light of him and thought that the likes of a Mazoku didn't have that kind of common knowledge, then he was mistaken.

In the Zadark Kingdom, even the Magic Operated Armors knew at least that much etiquette.

“...”

It was there that Nanalus noticed one more gaze.

It was that of Galeria who was guiding him.

This gaze was a favorable one, unlike the knight's... but this one could also be said to be rare.

He had conversed with various women in the Jiol Forest Kingdom hosted dinner party, but he had almost no memory of having talked much with Galeria.

At most, he had talked to Galeria who had become a wallflower and handed her a drink.

Since Nanalus looked like he was of advanced age, he did not receive love letters like Sancreed did.

To begin with, he was outside the range of being a love interest to women, and Nanalus also found that to be convenient.

In other words, this favorable gaze that was coming from Galeria wasn't a feeling of love, and it probably meant that she simply wasn't cautious of him.

Nevertheless, even though he was walking while being accompanied by a noble's daughter, the fact that they weren't conversing at all was pretty new to him.

Since he could tell that Galeria was doing her best to try and talk with him, he watched her for a while, but since he felt like it wouldn't work out at this rate, he sent her a helping hand.

"That is quite a nice dress."

"Eh? Ah, y, yes. Um... this..."

"Yes, it suits you very well."

After Nanalus said that, Galeria made an expression that clearly said that she was relieved.

It was most likely a dress she held a lot of pride in.

Since noble women would typically choose their outfit to match the season, the weather, the location, and the latest fashions, they possessed a surprisingly large amount of dresses.

And since that was connected to displaying the noble's power, there were examples where the noble women of the St. Altlis Kingdom would secretly compete in their number of dresses.

Although the Jiol Forest Kingdom was not strong in that sort of tendency, it wasn't like it didn't have that sort of thing at all.

And then, in most cases, an "ace up the sleeve outfit"—a so-called "best set of clothes" would exist.

The fact that Galeria was wearing that could be said to be display of Count Guutia's enthusiasm towards this tea party.

Just what kind of request would the count make... is what Nanalus thought at this time.

"Ohh, Nanalus-dono!"

Hearing that voice, Nanalus's thoughts were interrupted.

While expressing a gentle smile, Nanalus turned his gaze to the owner of that voice—to Count Guutia.

At a corner of the garden that spread out in front of the estate, a circular table and chairs were prepared.

There were two maids at Count Guutia's sides, but their atmospheres said that they weren't mere maids.

They were probably the ones known as Battle Maids.

Battle Maids were maids that had somewhat studied martial arts, and it is said that there are many nobles in mankind's territory that employed these Battle Maids.

At first, they were substitutes for Maid Knights, but nowadays they were recognized as a proper occupation... or so it seems.

Seeing as how they had thin swords hanging at their waists, they probably served as Count Guutia's guard.

"To think I could truly have you come by today!"

"No, no, I am surprised as well. I did not think that I would be received by your daughter."

In response to Count Guutia's words of surprise, Nanalus purposely replied in a harmless and inoffensive way.

If he were to poorly react to how he mentioned about coming by today, it might turn into giving him some kind of information about Transfer Magic.

“Hahaha, no,no. That was Galeria’s wish, you see.”

“That is quite a wonderful daughter you have.”

“Yes, she is a daughter I am proud of.”

Saying that, Count Guutia laughed, and then sent his gaze to the maids.

After confirming that the maids nodded with their gaze, Count Guutia turned back to Nanalus.

“Well, please have a seat. The garden’s roses are beautiful at this season.”

While pulling out the seat he was recommended by a maid, Nanalus lowered himself into the seat.

After he took his seat, baked sweets were immediately lined up on top of the table, and hot black tea was poured into Nanalus’s cup.

Although he felt a bit of suspicion in how Galeria sat close to him, Nanalus turned his gaze to Count Guutia who sat across from him.

“...By the way.”

Count Guutia, who received Nanalus’s gaze right from the front, erased his smile and started to talk with a serious expression.

While thinking “so it’s finally time”, Nanalus didn’t change his gentle smile.

For things that were too important, Nanalus would be unable to answer with his own discretion.

Since Count Guutia should also understand that, he probably intended on having this meeting be on a wait-and-see level.

What Nanalus predicted, was a request for deployment of Magic Operated Armors, which were deployed at the national borders, to Count Guutia’s territory.

Or maybe, to be given the skills related to Transfer Magic.

Talks in regards to international trade were also possible.

No matter what kind of demand came, he would need to reply flawlessly.

As Nanalus started to quickly construct replies to the predicted demands in his head, Count Guutia opened his mouth.

“Nanalus-dono... do you have a wife?”

Hearing those words, Nanalus’s thoughts halted for an instant.

As expected, this question was unexpected. Naturally, the answer was “I don’t” but.

“No, I do not have one.”

After thinking about it for a bit, Nanalus spoke only the truth.

He did not understand the other party’s intentions, but it was better than making a strange lie.

Could it be—

Coming from Galeria who was peekingly looking at Nanalus, a feeling of liking that was somewhat stronger than before could be felt.

No, but.

If they were to go only by appearance, they were different to being like a grandfather and his grandchild.

“You see, the truth is. It would seem that Galeria has taken a liking to you, Nanalus-dono. The Jiol Forest Kingdom and the Zadark Kingdom have formed a friendship, and both countries should flourish even more from now on. In that case, this would be even more of a symbol of friendship for both countries...”

“No, please wait a moment.”

While pressing on his forehead with his fingers, Nanalus stopped Count Guutia.

“Is something the matter?”

“Ah—, in other words. This tea party is...”

In response to Nanalus who was feeling dizziness from the unexpected situation, Count Guutia expressed a smile.

“Yes, Nanalus-dono, I was thinking of trying to put you together with Galeria. So how about it? She is still young, but I think she is quite a good-looking woman. No, no, that might be parental bias though.”

Not thinking that there would be anyone that would offer up their daughter to someone with such an aged appearance like his... moreover to a Majin, Nanalus breathed a sigh in his mind.

For Galeria, she wouldn't want to be used as a tool in such political strife.

Thinking that, he started to want to feel pity for Galeria, but in that case, that wouldn't explain the feeling of liking of Galeria's from earlier.

“Nanalus-sama...”

Hearing Galeria's words, Nanalus felt a cold sweat being shed on his back.

“Nanalus-sama, do you hate young ladies like me?”

The preferred type of Galeria, who was an impeccably beautiful young woman, was an elderly, dandy white-haired man.

Galeria had thought that preferred man wouldn't appear... but just the other day, she had met a man who perfectly conformed with Galeria's preference, and moreover was someone who had longevity similar to Sylphids.

Galeria persuaded her father, Count Guutia, and since this was perfect for Count Guutia who was interested in ascertaining the authenticity of Transfer Magic, he set up the tea party.

In other words, the invitation to this sudden tea party was that sort of thing.

“Nanalus-sama...”

Just how should he evade the young woman that was gazing at himself?

Nanalus's thoughts were rapidly turning in order to grasp for the optimum response to that.

To the fact that Nanalus that didn't know about—the face that he himself was pretty popular with a portion of Sylphid women.

Nanalus's busy days were still only just starting.

# Chapter 21

Right around the time Nanalus had fallen into a delicate crisis, the figures of Demon King Vermudol and the master of the Grand Library Rokuna were inside of the Zadark Kingdom eastern part's Lulugal Forest.

Rokuna was standing at the center of a magic formation meant for the development of a large-scale magic, while Vermudol was watching over here at a place a bit away from it.

The strong brilliance of the magic formation indicated that a considerable amount of magical power was being poured into it.

To begin with, magic was a technique that used magical power to interfere with the world.

This was something that everyone who aspired to be a Magician learned at the beginning, but image was everything in magic.

Namely, it was about what they were trying to create.

Accurately imaging that which could be said to be like architectural rendering was essential part in constructing magic.

However, in reality, it wouldn't go that easily.

Putting aside cases where there wouldn't be any nuisances whatsoever, there weren't very many people that could create such an accurate image in the middle of battle.

It was there that techniques such as chants and magic formations were invented.

A chant was literally a technique where a spell is cast, but this was equivalent to being a so-called blueprint of magic.

Through doing the chant, the user of the magic abridges the work of making an image,

and makes it possible to use magic by only consuming magical power.

Similarly, magic formations were also used at times of carrying out complex magic where a chant wouldn't be able to cover it.

However, in reality, there was hardly any magic that needed to make use of a magic formation.

The cases were pretty much the complex technique styles like Transfer Magic and Transmission Magic, or super large-scale attack magic.

In other words, what Rokuna was trying to currently use was that sort of magic.

Specifically, it was Summon Magic.

She was trying to reproduce the magic that Demon King Vermudol discovered in mankind's territory.

In regards to the things known about Summon Magic, there weren't very many.

First was the chant for Summon Magic that Vermudol had heard in mankind's territory.

If they followed the definition of the chant, then they should be able to do a summoning just by pouring magical power in and doing the chant.

However, in reality, when Rokuna performed the chant, the Summon Magic wasn't invoked.

For that reason, they thought that to use Summon Magic, a special disposition might be necessary.

But, Rokuna was doubtful in regards to this.

For example, it is said that Transfer and Transmission Magic are currently only available to the Mazoku, but that was actually wrong.

It was simply because an astonishingly large amount of magical power and the power

to control that was required, and as long as those conditions were cleared, it would be available to people of mankind.

That is the sort of thing magic is.

For the Summon Magic, it isn't about it being available only to a chosen few, it should simply be that there was a lack of research and that the conditions were unknown.

Thinking that way, Rokuna continued her research on Summon Magic.

"...I implore a sword."

Using the magic formation that had an enormous amount of magical power poured into it as an aid, Rokuna started the chant.

The technique style incorporated in the magic formation were based off of Transmission Magic.

However, it wasn't something meant to transmit something, but used in order to make the surrounding space unstable.

Hypothesizing that Summon Magic was magic that summoned something from a different space, wouldn't doing that be of some help... that is the thought behind why it was included.

"I implore an agent."

The magic formation flickered.

"Although my body is fragile, my heart is stern. My heart has become a sword, and desires a time to be wielded."

What she imagined, was a sword.

A sword that could cut through everything.

"Therefore, o agent, come forth. I implore that you be here to execute my will."

Putting magical power into the chant, Rokuna casted the final invoking words.

“Come forth, Sword Spirit.”

At the same time as those words, the figure of a swordsman appeared—is not what happened.

This time as well, it ended with just being a waste of magical power.

“...This sure is strange.”

Rokuna breathed a sigh, and looked up at the sky.

The cloudy sky was the same as always, and seemed to represent the current state of Rokuna’s mind.

If it were normal magic, then there was no way it wouldn’t have been invoked after coming this far.

As she thought, some kind of condition was lacking... Or maybe she made an error.

However, she didn’t know what that was.

Until she could reproduce the Summon Magic that mankind used, doing the Demon God Summoning that Vermudol desired was just a dream within a dream.

Since she was able to develop several new magic spells over the course of verifying the Summon Magic, it wasn’t like there weren’t any good results, but it didn’t bring her any closer to her original goal.

In other words... she was approaching the limits of her research.

She knew the reason for that.

The precedents of the use of Summon Magic, which were the research material that she used, were overwhelmingly lacking.

The precedent of Summon Magic that Rokuna knew of was only the one instance that Vermudol saw.

To continue on beyond the current stage, she had no choice but to try and actually see the Summon Magic with her own eyes.

The young Summon Magician Human girl that Vermudol was said to have come into contact with.

She had no choice but to try and see that young girl's magic.

Of course, there were risks.

The current St. Altlis Kingdom was a dangerous place.

There was no telling when the Hero would be summoned. Or maybe, the Intelligence Unit just didn't notice it, and the Hero might already be summoned.

“ ... ”

Rokuna started thinking.

There certainly were risks, but it wasn't like she didn't have expectations.

A report that came from Ein who was infiltrating the St. Altlis Kingdom said that she had become acquainted with a young girl that seemed to be that Summon Magician.

The contents of the report were something that gave her a headache from wondering what in the world Ein was doing, but right now, that was perfect.

Using Ein as an intermediary, she would be able to get in contact with the Summon Magician without any suspicion.

But—

“Hey, Ver-cchi.”

“Nn?”

Rokuna asked a question to Vermudol who was silently gazing at the experiment scene from behind.

“About the Human called Kain, what do you think of him?”

“Kain... Ahh, him.”

Kain Stagias was the male Human that Vermudol had come into contact with when he had infiltrated mankind's territory.

In Ein's report, he was targeted by strange Alva, his physical abilities were high, and he was able to use attack magic chantlessly.

And then, there was nothing but women around him.

Hearing that report, it wasn't unreasonable that Rokuna would also knit her brows.

He was like the Hero Ryuuya that was left behind in the legends.

However, Kain Stagias was unmistakably born and raised in the St. Altis Kingdom, and he wasn't a summoned Human like the Hero Ryuuya.

Above all, since the Hero can use Status Confirmation Magic, if he was the Hero, then there was no way he wouldn't have noticed Ein's true identity.

But, even so, Rokuna couldn't get rid of her unease.

And it seemed that Vermudol was of the same idea.

When he had heard the report about Kain, Rokuna noticed that Vermudol made an expression that said he was worried about something.

In actuality, Vermudol was worried about even now.

The Hero.

Summoned from another world.

However, if he remembered correctly, in the tales of the world that the human that became the material for Vermudol's construction, there should have been something else.

A method to call out a Hero from his own world—something, that wasn't a summoning.

He couldn't remember what that was.

"...Kuh."

Wrong.

It wasn't that he couldn't remember.

It wasn't there to begin with.

Vermudol didn't know the name of the human that became the material for his own creation.

Memories of the world that human was in didn't remain.

Until now, he hadn't felt agony about that, but after all this time, he was now vexed.

“Ver-cchi?”

When he noticed that Rokuna peered at his face with a worried look, Vermudol suddenly became aware.

Bringing his thoughts back, he would try thinking about the method other than summoning.

That's right, what if for example, it was the same method as himself.

What if Kain was a Human made by the Goddess of Life with a similar method to how he himself was made?

However, in that case, that wouldn't explain how Kain's birth was something that certainly happened.

Kain was a Human of this world that was properly born from both of his parents, and was a different existence from Vermudol.

But, he certainly was bothered by the report that was related to the Alva.

They were movements as if they were trying to train Kain.

Just what was the meaning of this?

“...I don't know. But, I'm positive that he is someone that it would be best to be careful around.”

“Well, that’s true.”

Due to there being rumors of Kain, who was the person requiring special attention, being a womanizer, the opinion that attaching Ein, who was a female Mazoku, to him as a monitor was a problem also came out.

However, on the other hand, she was just right to enter his guard and investigate the situation... that kind of view was also there, and in the end, Ein’s monitoring continued.

“So, why did you ask about Kain?”

“Nn, I was thinking that maybe— I should go and meet that Summon Magician that is close to that guy called Kain.”

“...Are you serious?”

“A course I am. As expected, my research won’t advance without that—.”

Their time wasn’t limitless.

Even if it was dangerous, they wouldn’t be able to obtain the desired result unless they plunged in.

And if they couldn’t do that, there would be nothing to say of their aim of summoning the Demon God.

And as a risk for the sake of calling out the mysterious and mighty existence that could create Vermudol who was the Demon King, this could instead be said to be on the lighter side.

“I will go too.”

“That is obviously no good. Are you a dumbass?”

“Calling me a dumbass, you...”

After poking Vermudol’s forehead, Rokuna glared at him with reproachful eyes.

“Don’t you get it? Ver-cchi, you are currently famous as the Demon King, you know?”

What is going to happen if a guy like that were to march into the St. Altis Kingdom. If done poorly, guys who are caught in the rumors about [Adventurer Shion] would start coming out about now, you know? Or what? Are you going to go to war with the St. Altis Kingdom right now?"

"Guh..."

Being told that by Rokuna, Vermudol was unable to make a counterargument at all.

Whether it's as Adventurer Shion or as Demon King Vermudol, either way, he would stand out too much.

"Th, then, at least bring a guard."

"And who are you going to have join me? I'll say this now, but if any one of the remaining Four Cardinal Generals were to move right now, obstacles in the kingdom's management will appear, you know?"

"Th, then, maybe Gordy or Ichika... No, how does Orel sound?"

"Right, and rejected. Ichika is already going at full operation, and I was going to have Gordy fill in the holes while I'm not around. And Orel is naturally rejected."

When Rokuna said that, she expressed a bold smile.

"And you understand, don't you?"

Holding Vermudol's face in between both of her hands, Rokuna whispered to him.

"If it's someone of Orel's level... I'm the stronger one."

With no exaggeration at all, she announced only the simple truth.

Hearing those words, Vermudol nodded while making a wry smile.

Certainly, Vermudol had created Rokuna to be like that.

"I will join up with Ein in the next regularly scheduled contact. Well, I'll immediately return once I've accomplished my objective. You can't do anything interesting while I'm away, got it?"

“Yeah, I understand.”

Seeing Rokuna impishly smile, Vermudol returned the smile.

## Chapter 22

In a room of a vacant house on a back street of the St. Altis Kingdom royal capital Edius, Ein was loitering.

That vacant house was originally an inn, but right now, the signboard was taken down.

Ein, who was staring at a single spot, saw a magic formation appear in the middle of the room, and took a saluting posture.

On top of the magic formation, Rokuna, enveloped in light, appeared.

“I have been expecting you, Rokuna-sama.”

“Mu, it was no problem... Just kidding. You don’t really need to do that sort of thing with me.”

“I cannot allow that to be.”

“Oh really. Then just do what you want.”

After Rokuna said that sounding uninterested, she surveyed the surroundings.

“H—n, so this is the [Steel Fish Store]. The owner of this place went to the Canal Kingdom, right?”

“That is what I have heard. Shall I make a follow-up survey?”

“Nn—, I don’t think that’s really needed though.”

“...That is true.”

The Canal Kingdom, which was the birthplace of the Great Sage Teria, is a country where magic research is popular.

Also, she knew that it was a nation of multiple races and willingly allowed the birth of mixed parentage between the races.

It was a negotiation candidate for the Zadark Kingdom from now on... but that was for later.

“So, what are you doing for a base? Could it be that you’re borrowing this place?”

“No, since I did not feel a particular need for one, I have not set up a base.”

“Ah—, is that so. Then a base will be needed for a while starting today. Since you’ll be in my full-time service during my stay here.”

Hearing Rokuna’s words, Ein nodded.

“Understood.”

“...Ein. Try stating my temporary profile.”

“Yes ma’am. Rokuna-sama, you are a travelling magic researcher that just happened to find me and hired me as a guard.”

“Yo—sh. Well then, let’s go secure a base.”

“Yes ma’am. Well then, I will immediately clean an open room.”

\*Supa—n\* A nice sound was made.

Rokuna had hit Ein’s head.

“If we just set up a base on our own in a vacant house, we’ll be considered suspicious people. You need to think, stupid.”

“R, right. However, Rokuna-sama.”

“What.”

“Rokuna-sama, there are no records of you entering the town. Um, since you will stand out for better or for worse, I fear that if you legitimately take up an inn in the current situation, unnecessary probing will be done...”

Being told that, Rokuna groaned with a \*Muu\*.

What Ein had said was reasonable, but Rokuna's objective can't be accomplished with covert actions.

To openly take action and make contact with the young Summon Magician girl, there was a need to crush the possibility of being suspected.

"It can't be helped. I'll enter in from the gate. Just come and greet me whenever."

"Ha? Wait, what do you mean by whenever...!"

Before Ein could finish talking, Rokuna erased her figure with Transfer Magic.

The place that Rokuna transferred to was on a highway that went through a forest, and was just a bit away from the royal capital's gate.

The royal capital Edius was surrounded by high walls, and there were lookouts on top of those walls.

However, even if the lookouts saw the area that Rokuna appeared in, it should only look like Rokuna had walked out from the forest to them.

"Well, I guess this should be good enough. Erm, yup. Going with this gate will look like I'm coming from the Canal Kingdom."

While confirming things with the simple map drawn up by the Intelligence Group, Rokuna nodded.

The entry records that Ein mentioned earlier wouldn't be something to worry about all that much in times of peace.

It would be on the level of making an inquiry in cases where suspicious people or criminals had appeared, and if one was mainly doing espionage activities like Ein, then it wasn't needed.

However, the current St. Altis Kingdom was on edge.

On top of that, since Rokuna stood out in various ways such as appearance, speech and conduct, and abilities, it could be said that this was necessary in order to pass off as a

“simple traveller”.

“Now— then, I guess I should get going.”

“And where are you goin’, Nee-chan.”

At the time Rokuna was about to start walking, a voice was heard from behind her.

As she turned around, there were the figures of several men within the forest. They wore cloth clothes and leather armor, and they also wore animal pelts on top of those.

Rokuna answered those men.

“Where you ask, to the royal capital though.”

“Ou, is that so.”

“Yup, see ya.”

When Rokuna turned around, the man called out to her back once more.

“Well, don’t cha think it’s impossible for you to be going now?”

At the same time as those words, Rokuna’s feet were entwined by something that looked like the vines of a plant, and dragged to the forest.

The men were bandits who made this forest their turf.

They, who mainly focused on attacking merchants that came from the Canal Kingdom, were about to warm their chests by going and having a drink in the royal capital and make a ruckus.

And as they were about to, they just happened to find a beautiful woman—Rokuna, walking alone.

It would be one thing if they were on the open highway where they could gather attention, but being in the forest, lookout soldiers who were paid off would pretend that they didn’t see their bandit deeds.

That is why the men dragged Rokuna into the forest.

The men were convinced that their plan had succeeded, so they didn't notice that Rokuna's eyes had changed and looked like she was enjoying the situation.

“Yoossh, Onyx! Tie her up just like that!”

A man who seemed to be the leader shouted at the man that pulled Rokuna into the forest with Vine Magic—the man called Onyx.

It would be fine if they just sold off the goods that they stole and brought back to the hideout like they usually would later.

Slaves were prohibited in the four major nations, but guys who desired prohibited stuff could be found anywhere.

It was because there were guys like that around that the bandit lifestyle was viable.

After thinking “I'm sure that the prey this time will sell for a lot” and looking at Onyx, he found that Onyx was standing up straight looking dumbfounded.

“Onyx...?”

The end of Onyx's gaze.

Noticing that there was nothing at the end of the magical power vines that extended out from Onyx's hands, the leader muttered.

“Oi, where did that woman go...?”

There was no one that could answer the leader's words.

They saw that the woman's figure had vanished together with some light.

However, it wasn't like she was the God of Light Raidolg, so something like this shouldn't be possible.

“Oi! I asked you guys where did that woman go!”

“I'm right here though.”

The moment the leader tried to turn around to the voice that he heard from behind, an electric shock ran through his body, and he lost consciousness.

“You guys are that, aren’t you? Look, what they call bandits. Man—, this is my first time seeing some.”

While playing with an electric shock that was gathered into a sphere, Rokuna laughed sounding like she was having fun.

Seeing that, Onyx got a chill.

When speaking of magic that gathered an electric shock into a sphere, Electric Bullet would come to mind.

It was magic that fell in the lower-middle rank of difficulty in spells, but it wasn’t magic simple enough to be casted by omitting the spell... in other words, chantlessly.

Despite that, the woman in front of Onyx didn’t even speak out the words for invocation.

This surely meant that she had learned the technical skill “Chant Disposal” which imagined and organized everything for a magic spell in an instant.

In other words, this removed the chant opening that was a Magician’s weak spot.

A Magician that could use Chant Disposal was worse than going up against a single platoon of a Chivalric Order.

The moment he thought “there’s no other choice but to run”.

“Well, it looks like you had some bad luck.”

The Electric Bullet that Rokuna threw was sent up over Onyx’s head, and changed into countless lightning strikes.

While seeing the merciless lightning strike his comrades one after another, Onyx regretted laying a hand on this woman, and then immediately lost consciousness from being struck by lightning.

“...Alright, and it’s done.”

After confirming that all of the bandits had fainted, Rokuna clapped her hands together.

The Electric Bullet that Rokuna used was originally magic where a compressed electric shock that was compressed would diffuse upon impact and paralyze the other party, but this time, she had put an absurd amount of magical power into it, and made it so that the electrical shock spread out to the entire area.

Naturally, she had done so on purpose.

By demonstrating the difference in strength in an easy to understand way with magic that anyone would know, the other party would lose their fighting spirit and that would immediately settle things.

Going further, killing them would be the fastest way of doing things, and since banditry was regarded as a capital crime, there would be no reason for her to be condemned even if she did so... but since there would naturally be a need to prove that the other party was a group of bandits, that would be bothersome in a different meaning.

The reason that the bandits this time were fortunately not killed was because Rokuna hated that sort of bothersome stuff.

“Good for you all—, since I’m the type that finds that stuff bothersome.”

After saying that, Rokuna started walking towards the gate while leaving the bandits just as they were.

# Chapter 23

The only way to enter the royal capital Edius that was surrounded by stone walls was to pass through the gates that were created in the four cardinal directions.

The largest one was the main gate where the front of the royal castle could be stared at, and was a place where the royal castle guards followed by the elite soldiers could be stationed.

And then, the one that Rokuna was currently trying to pass through was one of the other three gates.

Although it wasn't the main gate, as long as it had the disposition of being a place that was a vital point to the royal capital's defense, it should be a duty to be proud of... but she just couldn't feel any motivation from the soldiers.

When Rokuna approached the gate, she called out to a soldier standing there.

"Hey, can I go through here?"

"Nn? Ahh, a Human huh. You can go through. What is your name?"

Seeing the soldier answer her while yawning, Rokuna turned an astounded gaze towards him.

"It's Rokuna. That was pretty easy, wasn't it—. Is that alright? For it to be like that."

"Sure is. It's because no matter what I hear, in the end, everything will be known with this."

Seeing the thing that the man pulled out, Rokuna went "I see" and nodded.

A[Reveal Crystal]—It was an item that would display the person's Status when used.

However, with the low performance [Reveal Crystal] that the man currently possessed, it wasn't possible to see Rokuna's true identity.

**Name: Rokuna**  
**Race: Human**  
**Rank: S**  
**Level: 67**  
**Occupation: Magician**  
**Equipment: Magic Rod**  
**Magic Robe**  
**Technical Skills: Magical Power Perception E**  
**Magic Development A**  
**Chant Disposal S**

“Heeh... Ojou-chan, you’re pretty amazing. The fact that you’re coming from here means that you’re probably from the Canal Kingdom but... Are you an Adventurer or something?”

Hearing the soldier’s words, Rokuna grinned and answered.

“I’m a mere researcher. So, can I go through?”

When the soldier, who had written down several of the items displayed by the [Reveal Crystal], raised his head back up, he made a broad smile.

“Ou, of course. Welcome to the St. Altis Kingdom. Don’t get too close to the back alleys. The public order has been pretty bad lately after all.”

“I’ll remember that.”

Answering like that and passing through the gate, Rokuna gazed at the Edius townscape after reaching the plaza.

Most of the buildings were made of stone, and even the streets were paved with stone.

There were also many buildings that emitted grand atmospheres, which most likely exemplified the St. Altis Kingdom’s power.

The people that were coming and going were all Human, and there wasn’t even a figure of a Sylphid, Metalio, or Beastman.

“I see...”

Rokuna muttered “so this is the result of that Demi-Human argument thing”.

The Syphid also had a tendency to create their own communities, but that was because of the difference in the time that they lived in and the aspect that they did so reluctantly was strong, but even so, the effort that they put into interacting with other races somehow gave the potential for them to change in a good direction.

However, this spectacle before her right now was the result of elitism.

Other than eliminating that ideology, there was no way for them to improve.

“Well, that’s fine. More importantly, I wonder which way the [Steel Fish Store] was.”

“Did you say the [Steel Fish Store]?”

As she restlessly surveyed the area, a fat hand was placed on Rokuna’s shoulder.

When she turned around, there was a large muscular man and three men expressing suspicious-looking smiles standing behind him.

“We know where that is. Shall we guide you there?”

“Right, right, Kinia-san is super informed about the town, ya know.”

“Just leave it ta us. ‘Kay?”

They were clearly of the same kind as those bandits from earlier.

Although she had become sick of it, Rokuna expressed a smile.

And then, smoothly escaping from the man’s hand, she impishly thrust her index finger at him.

“Saying something like that, is it true—?”

“Ou. The [Steel Fish Store], right? The shortcut to it is this way.”

What the man called Kinia had pointed to was clearly a darkness that seemed to be a back street.

Certainly, the place that the [Steel Fish Store] was at was a back street, but she at least knew that it wasn't that way.

Thinking "there's a limit to being so easy to understand", Rokuna moved her index finger to the front of Kinia's chest while expressing a smile.

"...Do you know about the specialty of a store in the back streets called bokovokko?"

"Course I do. Come on, let's go, 'kay?"

Maybe because started to find the conversation to be a pain, Kinia tried to grab Rokuna's hand, and at that moment.

\*Zudon\* Together with that sound, Kinia's body was blown backwards.

After confirming that the other men who were standing behind him got dragged into it and fell down, Rokuna breathed an exaggerated sigh.

"I see—, so you know about it—. The bokovokko that I know of is where you beat someone up (bokoboko) with Wind Pressure Bullets until the shape of their face changes though. It must be some kind of fate that you would know about it here... I'll treat you to it. How about I give the choice of having seconds?"

The men who somehow stood up raised screams that went "hii" and stepped back.

"P... pl, please wait a moment."

"A moment... Okay, I waited."

The Wind Pressure Bullet blew the men away once again.

"Wrong, wrong! Please listen to what we're sayin'!"

"Sure, it was wrong. I don't know what was wrong though. Okay, I listened."

A Wind Pressure Bullet blew the men away even more.

"I told you to wait, oi!"

"Don't wanna."

This time, as she was about to blow the men away with a Wind Pressure Barrage Bullet—a magic that fired multiple Wind Pressure Bullets, someone grabbed Rokuna’s arm and pulled her away.

“Hold on there, Nee-san! What’re you doing. Come this way!”

“Ha?”

“Come on, quickly!”

Being pulled by a man with golden hair, Rokuna left the place that started to gather people.

Coming to a stop in a place that was about two streets away, Rokuna looked at the guy how was still too young to be called a young man.

She was called “Nee-san”, but Rokuna didn’t have a golden haired younger brother.

“Jeez, if you did any more than that, then even the security soldiers would have come flying over, you know?”

“So, you intended on saving me from that?”

“Eh? Yeah, pretty much. Was I a bother?”

Being told that, Rokuna shook her head sideways.

“I wouldn’t say that. But well, things did finish before I could break their spirits. It might’ve been better if I made the finishing blow.”

“No, I wonder about that...”

The wryly smiling boy noticed that Rokuna was gazing at him and swallowed his words.

It was a terribly serious expression.

Feeling an atmosphere he was unable to make fun of, the boy gazed back at Rokuna while feeling confused.

When he did, Rokuna quietly opened her mouth.

“You, what’s your name?”

“Eh, ah... Kain. I’m Kain Stagias.”

That name, was one that Rokuna knew. He was the young boy that Ein had come into contact with.

“Hmnn...”

Looking at Kain, Rokuna immediately noticed the size of the magical power that immanated from him.

She didn’t know about it in detail, but she was able to understand that it was most likely a distinguished amount even among those of mankind.

He might become a considerably influential person in the future, but after facing Kain like this, she didn’t feel any discomposed feelings in her chest like when she met Sancreed.

In that case, there was a high possibility that Kain was not the Hero.

Rokuna decided that for now, and talked to Kain.

“Eh— ... Um. Kain?”

The fact that she met with Kain here was actually perfect.

It was because Rokuna’s objective this time was the young girl who was Kain’s acquaintance.

“Ah, yes.”

“I’m Rokuna. I’m a travelling magic researcher.”

Seeing Kain go \*heh—\* and be impressed, Rokuna showed a smile.

Since he had gone as far as to save her, Kain shouldn’t harbor any wariness towards Rokuna. There was no way she wouldn’t make use of that.

“What I’m researching right now, is Summon Magic.”

“Summon Magic... is it.”

“Kain, can you use it?”

After she purposely asked him that, Kain expressed a troubled-looking smile.

“No, I can’t use it.”

“I see, that’s unfortunate.”

Rokuna answered, and clicked her tongue in her mind.

She thought that he would talk about the young Summon Magician girl here, but it seemed that Kain was not that careless.

Rokuna decided to attack from a different angle.

“Actually, I had heard that there was someone who could use Summon Magic in this town. Incidentally, I had hired a person who said they knew that person as my guard.”

“Eh, could it be those earlier men...?”

“No way.”

When Rokuna smiled and snapped her fingers with a \*pachin\*, a black shadow swooped down next to her.

“E, Ein!? The guard was you!?”

“That’s right. Kain, please introduce that girl to this person.”

“Eh? Eh, u—m...”

They get along quite well... is the impression that Rokuna had as she saw the two’s exchange.

There were various things that she wanted to say to Ein, but they would have to be postponed for now.

“Is there some kind of problem?”

When Rokuna asked that, Kain scratched his head looking troubled.

“Well, although there isn’t a problem, there is kind of a problem, um.”

Kain groaned “how should I explain this—”, and after he twisted his body and folded his arms, he spat out words looking like he found it painful.

“...If I increase the number of beautiful women acquaintances any more than this, my life will honestly be in danger.”

“Sorry, I don’t understand what you mean at all.”

“Ah—, in other words.”

Seeing Rokuna look astounded, Ein supplemented the conversation while looking at Kain with scornful eyes.

“This man called Kain is a genius at increasing his lover candidates one after another. Since he doesn’t show any self-restraint at all, it is the women that do the rectifying.”

“H—n. He’s like the Hero, isn’t he?”

“Ahaha, I’m often told that.”

Kain replied to Rokuna’s words with a strained laugh mixed in.

Seeking Kain reply like that with absolutely no hesitation, Rokuna suffered disappointment.

If Kain were the Hero, he surely wouldn’t make this kind of reply.

“Well, it’s fine. If you have an acquaintance that can use Summon Magic, introduce them to me. If you don’t, those fictional lovers will increase by about seven by tomorrow, you know?”

“Wait, that won’t be funny at all!”

Rokuna said “I’m joking” to the panicking Kain and continued her words.

“Time is finite and important. Please promptly introduce me to that acquaintance-san.”

“Ha, haa. If it’s at this time, I think she’s probably at the store.”

“Store?”

Ein quietly whispered to Rokuna who expressed a question mark.

“She is the daughter of the president of the company called the [Tianot Company] which has expanded its influence in the St. Altis Kingdom. They have put out a large store even in the royal capital.”

Being told that, Rokuna remembered the contents of the reports from Ein.

Sharon Tianot.

If she remembered correctly, she should have been a young lady with that kind of name.

“H—n. Well, that doesn’t matter if I can meet with her.”

Saying that, Rokuna urged Kain on, and Kain started walking while being confused.

While guiding the two, Kain spoke out the question that came to his mind.

“Rokuna-san... what, are you going to do once you meet her?”

“What do you mean by do?”

“Well, like I’m trying to say. The fact that you want to meet her means that you have some sort of objective, right?”

Hearing that, Rokuna thought “I see”.

Most likely, it seemed that Kain didn’t completely trust Rokuna.

However, that could also be said to be natural.

Considering the situation that encircled the current St. Altis Kingdom, it wouldn’t be

strange if there were people that would try and make political use of rare magic.

No, perhaps there might have already been various things that happened in relationship to that.

“Although that question is meaningless, I’ll answer it.”

That is why, Rokuna did not divulge her true objective—However, she decided to answer him earnestly.

“First, Kain, how much do you know about Summon Magic?”

“Erm... it’s more like a ritual, and currently, only specific people can use it... that’s about it.”

Hearing Kain’s answer, Rokuna nodded.

“That’s right, that is the current common knowledge. But, there isn’t any magic that can only be used by specific people.”

Magic is a phenomenon, and is something that can be used as long as specific processes and conditions are satisfied—that was Rokuna’s pet theory.

“At this point in time, the fact that it can only be used by specific people means in other words that there are conditions that only those specific people can satisfy. And then, that should most likely be something that makes it easy for them to use Summon Magic.”

Something like chants and magic formations which makes it easier to use magic.

That sort of thing most likely exists for Summon Magic as well.

If even that could be explained, then it should be possible for Summon Magic to be used by people other than the “specific people” as well.

Rokuna’s objective went even further beyond that... but she had no intention of going out of her way to explain that here.

“I will explain that. For the sake of that, I want to meet with the girl who can use Summon Magic.”

# Chapter 24

“Is that... so.”

Kain went silent looking like he was pondering over something. And then, coming to a halt, he showed a hesitant-looking expression.

“Um... I have a request for you but.”

“What?”

While hiding her emotion of “what a pain”, Rokuna looked at Kain.

“Even if you become able to explain Summon Magic... I’d like for you to not make it public.”

“...I’ll ask this for now but, why?”

This was only natural but Rokuna had no intention of making the resulting explanation public in mankind’s territory.

To begin with, Rokuna was taking action for the sake of the Zadark Kingdom, and she had absolutely no intention of contributing to the development of mankind’s technology.

If Kain had said “make your findings public...”, she had thought of coming up with a reason to refuse him.

“It’s because it’s dangerous.”

“Haa?”

Being astounded thinking “what is this guy saying”, Rokuna staringly looked at Kain’s face.

Regardless of it being Summon Magic, it goes without saying that magic is dangerous.

“I’m also not very informed about Summon Magic. But, that is probably something Humans should not be dealing with. I believe that there is also the possibility of the summoned thing running wild.”

Summon Magic was literally magic that called something out, but it wasn’t really known just what was being called out.

The power of something, a hero of the past, something that lives in the country of the Gods, it was said to be various things, but there was no proof for any of the theories.

The most famous one that is called out was the Sword Spirit.

It was said to use fierce sword techniques, but even in the scarce amount of reported cases, it had an extremely varied and wide-range of forms.

At times it was a youthful swordsman, at times it was a little girl swordswoman, at time it was an elderly swordsman.

There were cases where it was a slender beauty, and there were other cases of being a giant muscular man.

Even its weapon varied from being a longsword, a large sword, and a slender sword, and even the color of its spiritual body be different like blue, red, green, or yellow.

However, the point of being extremely power was one that all of the Sword Spirits had in common.

Since it could kill even an Ogre with ease, there was no mistake that it was of the strongest classification as a swordsman.

What would happen if the magic to call out something like that were clarified and popularized.

To begin with, there was the possibility that what was summoned wouldn’t listen to the commands of the summoner.

Having seen Summon Magic several times, Kain knew this, but what was summoned undoubtedly possessed a will of its own.

Just how could it be declared that the thing that was summoned wouldn’t turn into an

enemy.

“That’s why...”

“It’s not like I’ll make it public, so you can be at ease.”

Rokuna interrupted Kain who was about to say something.

Rokuna only had one feeling—and it was “this guy sure is bothersome”.

Kain’s concern was most likely correct, but what will come of being afraid of a hypothetical story.

If one called something out and were killed by it, then their destiny only went that far.

At the moment that Vermudol spoke about the Demon God Summoning, Rokuna had long ago made her resolve for that possibility.

What Kain was afraid of the most was probably that it would be used in the war between fellow members of mankind that seemed like it would break out at any time.

If Summon Magic were to become utilized, summoned things would surely be flying wildly about on the battlefield.

And since the loss of soldiers would be reduced if summoning could be used, then any country would make use of it.

However, Rokuna’s objective was purely for an analytical study of the technique for the sake of the Demon God Summoning.

She had no interest in any ways to use it other than that, and she had no intention of assisting in the war.

“I’ve said this several times, but my objective is research. Self-satisfaction. And if you say that you can’t trust me, then it doesn’t really matter.”

Hearing those words, Kain, after being silent for a while, nodded.

“...I understand.”

At this point in time, Rokuna's stress was getting close to its maximum value.

She was on the verge of saying "don't go saying such tedious crap, you bastard".

Rokuna hated idiots that didn't think anything, but she hated guys that thought too much and made stories longer than needed even more.

Rokuna had decided in her heart that she would hit him if he said even just a little bit more, but without having to resort to that, the group arrived in front of a single building.

Facing the main road that continued on to the royal castle, it was a two-story building.

"H—n. Is this the place?"

"Yes, this is the [Tianot Company]."

Hearing Rokuna's question, Ein answered.

"Well then, let's get going right away."

The very moment that Rokuna took the initiative and was about to step forward, a voice with a cheerful tone called out.

"Huh? Kain, why are... you, ah—!"

"Uwah, Seira!?"

The one that called out to Kain was a woman with bright red hair that was like flames.

Seira Necros.

She was one of Kain's female friends that was also an Edius Adventurer School student.

"You're with Ein again... or rather, there's even a new woman!"

"Y, you've got it wrong!"

"And what have I got wrong! Even though you refused my invitation!"

Seira grabbed Kain's shoulders as he tried to run away, and started kicking him.

However, it looked like Kain purposely let himself get kicked, and it could be seen that this was Kain's own way of appeasing her anger.

"It takes a while once that starts. Let's get going."

"What's with that? Does it happen every time?"

"Today is on the lighter side."

While harboring the impression "there sure are all kinds of people in the world—", Rokuna entered the company.

The words [Tianot Company] were written on the cloth hung at the entrance, and they had to pass through that.

This was culture unique to mankind's territory, and seemed to be called a "noren" and indicated that the store was open.

"Welcome... wait, Ein-san?"

"Yeah."

The blue haired young girl that came out from the back of the store saw Ein and made a surprised sounding voice.

After seeing that she conformed with the appearance that she had heard about beforehand, Rokuna determined that this young girl was Sharon Tianot.

"Erm, and who might that person be?"

"I'm Rokuna. I'm working as a travelling magic researcher."

After saying that, Rokuna slightly raised her hand and made her greeting.

"Ah, right! I am Sharon Tianot! Thank you very much for coming to the store!"

Sharon hurriedly lowered her head and returned the greeting.

After Rokuna unseriously waved her hand and replied to that, Sharon expressed a cheerful business smile.

“And so, what might you be searching for today?”

“Summon Magic.”

“Heh?”

While regretting things with the thought of “maybe I should have asked Ein to talk about things beforehand...”, Rokuna repeated herself.

“Summon Magic. Could you— show it to me. That is the order I’d like to make.”

“Eh, erm...”

“Sharon. I ask you of this as well. Kain knows about this as well. Well... the person himself was caught by the wild boar woman earlier though.”

Sharon made a wry smile at Ein’s words, but Rokuna was bothered by something else.

It looks like Ein was fitting in more than expected but... she also thought that she looked like she was fitting in a bit too much.

After thinking “as I thought, I’ll give her a warning later...”, Rokuna noticed that Sharon was peeking at her face at some point.

“U, um...”

“Nn? What?”

“It’s, about the magic but...”

“Yup. What? Do you not want to?”

Hearing Rokuna’s words, Sharon shook her head sideways looking flustered.

“Th, that’s not it! It isn’t like that! Rokuna-san, you’re a magic researcher, right?”

“Ah—, yup. That’s right.”

It wasn't a lie.

Due to a certain Demon King-sama, she had recently been doing nothing but researching magic.

"In that case, erm... I have a request!"

"Is this a bargaining point? Go on and say it."

After Rokuna urged her to go on, Sharon nodded.

"The thing is... Please, teach me magic!"

"...Magic?"

Being told that, Rokuna remembered her talks with Ein and Vermudol.

Sharon Tianot could use Summon Magic, but she was bad with general magic... with Elemental Magic.

She had heard about that, but she purposely feigned ignorance.

"Even if you say magic."

"I, I. I am bad with normal magic! And I want to become able to use it more!"

"Well, I'm fine with that."

"R, really!?"

Determining "it won't be a problem if it's that much", Rokuna readily consented.

Things such as theories regarding the use of normal magic has already been researched even in mankind's territory. Rokuna teaching her probably wouldn't give any sort of effect on mankind's territory.

More importantly, a new question came to Rokuna's mind.

Even though she could use Summon Magic, she was bad with normal Elemental Magic.

This was an extremely curious phenomenon.

The fact that she was bad with Elemental Magic even though it should be much easier than Summon Magic made it seem that there was some kind of decisive difference between Elemental Magic and Summon Magic.

If that really were the case, the possibility that she could grab hold of a clue through Sharon was high.

While making a personable-looking expression, Rokuna was making that sort of calculation within her head.

“Well, I can’t guarantee any results though. Is that alright?”

“Y, yes!”

If possible, she wanted to take this young girl called Sharon back to the Zadark Kingdom and thoroughly test out every single possibility, but that would end up going against Vermudol’s policy right from the root.

She would verify as many precedents of Summon Magic as possible during this short stay, and accumulate data.

And for that, she had no choice but to grasp a clue for her research progression.

“...Then, that completes the contract. Best regards.”

“Yes, I will be in your care!”

Sharon gripped the hand that Rokuna held out.

Rokuna then noticed that Ein was looking at them with concerned-looking eyes.

“...What’s wrong, Ein? Is there something that worries you?”

“Eh? No. It’s nothing.”

Being asked that by Rokuna, Ein came to her senses and answered.

The current Ein read through Rokuna’s ulterior motives... and became concerned for

Sharon's welfare.

Those emotions were fine if it were as Sharon's friend, but as an undercover spy in the St. Altlis Kingdom that worked under Rokuna, they were a huge problem.

Before she knew it, she had relaxed her guard more than she had thought.

Noticing this fact, Ein felt her heart shake.

# Chapter 25

“So, could you show me Summon Magic right away?”

Seeing Rokuna return her gaze from Ein back on to her, Sharon once again made a troubled-looking face.

“Er—m... I can’t show it to you here.”

“Ahaha, I get it. I wouldn’t tell you to do something like use magic in the storefront like this.”

“Ah, no. That’s not it. Erm, just how should I put this...”

Seeing Sharon be hesitant to talk, Rokuna tilted her head.

Just what wasn’t it? It either meant that she didn’t want to use it in front of people, or that the requirements to use it weren’t assembled.

“Er—m... This is the middle of town, right. It’s peaceful, right.”

“Although I think that it’s a bit hard to say that is definitely true, I suppose it is.”

When compared to the Zadark Kingdom’s royal capital Arkverm, the public order could be said to be bad, but Rokuna vaguely nodded.

She didn’t have the time to spend time to quibble over the small details.

“Er—m, so, in other words... um. I can’t bring it out.”

“Bring what out?”

“Like the Sword Spirit... If there isn’t an enemy, I can’t bring it out.”

Hearing Sharon’s words, Rokuna went “I see” and understood.

If the existence of an enemy was the “Sword Spirit” Summon’s condition, then that was

a blind spot.

The Zadark Kingdom was peaceful.

There were monsters like Thorn Horned Deer and Charging Boars, but they were targets for hunting and weren't a threat.

Even if she were to change the other conditions and test it out, there was no way the Summon Magic would succeed.

However, it was too early to conclude that that was the only cause for failure. She needed to gather more information.

"H—n. In that case, we'll have to go to a place where there are enemies."

"Y, yes."

If it was in mankind's territory, this was a strange way of putting it but there wasn't a lack of enemies.

Having just gone outside of the gate earlier, bandits had come out, and the Alva existed as well.

"Well then, let's get going."

"Heh?"

"If we go outside of the town, then something random should come out, right?"

"S, something random you say... Eh?"

Ein whispered to the rushing Ein from the side.

"...Rokuna-sama. In this place, it is preferred that Adventurers accept a request and exterminate monsters."

"What's with that. That's such a pain—, what are people that aren't Adventurers supposed to do."

"No, since Sharon is a student of the Adventurer School, she has to follow manners as

an Adventurer...”

“...H—n”

Although Rokuna felt that this was extremely bothersome, she reluctantly turned back to Sharon.

She needed to follow the local rules out of fear of being linked to unnecessary trouble.

“Ahh, sorry about rushing you. That being said, if you can’t use it unless there isn’t an enemy, I’d like to do something about that though.”

“Ah, yes. That’s true...”

“In that case—, wouldn’t it be fine if you just take a forest investigation or subjugation request?”

Suddenly, a voice with a cheerful tone could be heard at the entrance of the store.

When they turned around, the red-haired young lady called Seira from earlier was there.

Kain was together with her looking troubled.

“S, sorry. Seira said that she would join in and wouldn’t listen to me...”

“I won’t allow you all to leave me out!”

Saying that, Seira puffed up her chest.

Rokuna observed Seira once again.

Her height was the same as Kain’s, she had short red hair and red eyes that looked like they were on fire, and she wore sectioned armor that seemed to be made of Holy Silver on her well-balanced body. Even for the spear that she carried on her back, Rokuna could tell that it was a considerably excellent weapon... but.

“This town, is the public order so bad that you can’t even go around town without being fully equipped?”

“It isn’t like that, but even if it isn’t, I won’t be able to fight when the time comes if I have a peace of mind, will I!”

“H—n. You do have a point.”

Seira firmly gripped the hand of Rokuna who nodded looking impressed.

Her eyes looked like they were moist with deep emotion for some reason.

“Right! That’s so true, right! Everyone just doesn’t understand me! Hey—, see Kain! What I was saying was correct, right!?”

“Nn—, ah—,ahaha...”

When she noticed, both Kain and Sharon were averting their eyes.

While finding that puzzling, Rokuna let go of Seira’s hands.

“...What’s going on?”

“Yes. Wearing armaments within the middle of town is seen as an act of intimidation, and since there is a fear of being connected to crimes, it isn’t recommended... that is how it is. However, for the sake of self-defense, the minimum amount of armaments are allowed.”

Ein answered Rokuna’s question.

This demonstrated that she had been infiltrating for quite a long time.

“Well, wouldn’t it be fine if we have a have an unrushed discussion about that next time. More importantly, what do you mean by a forest request? Ah, I’m Rokuna.”

“I’m Seira. Well—, you see, on the way headed towards the Canal Kingdom, there’s a large forest.”

That forest was the forest that the bandits that attacked Rokuna earlier were in, and it was called the Aledona Forest.

Since it was the shortest route that connected the St. Altis Kingdom and the Canal Kingdom, the highway was created going through the forest, but the Aledona Forest

was a place that monsters inhabit.

For that reason, subjugations would be routinely performed by the chivalric order, but according to Seira's story, it seems that the monsters of the forest have increased recently.

Furthermore, she said that there was a change in the chivalric order's situation.

"There's a country called the Jiol Forest Kingdom, see. It seems that that place has joined hands with the Mazoku."

"H—n."

Rather than already knowing about that, Rokuna was someone related to it, but she feigned ignorance and listened.

Seira continued her explanation with a serious-looking face.

"The St. Altlis Kingdom is the country that performed the Hero Summoning after all. People wonder "is the king of the country called the Zadark Kingdom really the Demon King—". Or "won't they come attacking—". And so, for various reasons, a majority of the knights were sent towards being a countermeasure against the Mazoku."

"I see."

"The leader of the Peace Faction nobles is in the middle of going to the Jiol Forest Kingdom after all—. I think that contact will immediately come if something happens though..."

The leader of the Peace Faction nobles was Duke Albania, and he has had interactions with Seira's Necros Duke House.

Incidentally, Duke Necros did not get involved with politics, and was called things like being the Neutral Faction.

"...H—n, do you guys get along?"

"U—n, I guess it's a bit complicated—. Since that Nefas guy is technically my former fiance, it's not like I don't have my own thoughts about him."

Nefas was Seira's fiancé, but Nefas had a strong impression of being an unpleasant guy to Seira, and she thought of someday rushing out of her house and running away.

However, ever since the day of the Adventurer School's entrance ceremony, Nefas had subtly started to change.

She didn't know that it was that changed Nefas, but he said that he wanted to start over their relationship from the beginning. She was terribly surprised by Nefas's roundabout proposal to cancel their engagement.

After all this time, Seira was worried about Nefas, who was one she considered an undesirable friend, in her own way.

"H—n, Nefas... huh."

Thinking "if I remember correctly, that was the man that came into contact with Nino in the Jiol Forest Kingdom", Rokuna remembered the report from the other day.

However, since there was no need to tell that to Seira, she kept it down to just nodding.

"Well, in any case. I understand that the safety of the forest is being threatened because of that. And so?"

After Rokuna urged her on, Seira made a light cough and continued.

"Right. Right now where the relationship with the Jiol Forest Kingdom has worsened, the trade route with the Canal Kingdom is important. And that is why the King himself has directly made a request directed towards Adventurers!"

They were two types of requests being the investigation of the Aledona Forest and monster subjugation.

The investigation was directed towards fledgling Adventurers like the ones that attend the Edius Adventurer School and towards novice Adventurers, and was a mission where they would search the inside of the forest and the areas along side the town and road, and report the situation of the vicinity. Subjugation wasn't necessary in this case.

On the other hand, the monster subjugation would be executed depending on the information obtained in the investigation mission, and was put out directed towards

powerful people and veterans.

“See? It’s perfect, isn’t it?”

“That’s, true... If it’s the subjugation request, then it might be just right.”

Rokuna replied to Seira who had proudly puffed up her chest.

Since Rokuna’s objective was to see Summon Magic, it would be pointless if it weren’t a request that fought against monsters.

“Sharon, what do you think?”

Since it was a dangerous mission, Seira confirmed the wills of the other members as well.

“Ah, un. That’s fine.”

“Ein, what about you?”

“It isn’t a problem.”

It was decided that she would be accompanying Rokuna anywhere that she went from the start, but Ein also replied like that for now.

“Yosh, then let’s go to the Adventurer’s Guild! Rokuna-san, where’s your card?”

“I’m not an Adventurer so I don’t have one. And I have no intention of becoming one.”

“H—n. Then we’ll handle the procedures, so can we borrow Ein?”

“That’s fine—.”

After Rokuna replied, Seira started walking while taking Ein along. As for Kain, he was being pulled by Seira’s hand for some reason.

And then, Sharon lowered her head to Rokuna looking apologetic.

“Excuse me. Since we will be back right away, could you please wait for a bit?”

“Kay, ‘kay, take care.”

After Sharon made a sign, a woman that seemed like an employee hurriedly entered the counter and switched places with Sharon.

Just like that, Sharon also chased after Seira and the others.

“...They’re at the height of their youth.”

If Humans were creatures that were no more than that, things would surely be peaceful...

Rokuna muttered that in her mind.

# Chapter 26

“U, um. Well then, please come this way.”

“Ahh, don’t mind me. I’ll wait around over there.”

Saying that to the employee and waving her hand, Rokuna went out of the [Tianot Company].

The midday main street was bustling with a lot of people, and silly conversations and gossip could be heard from here and there.

Although it looked peaceful at a glance, various feelings towards the war could be felt from the all of the conversations.

Excitement, fear, delight, disgust—the reactions of the people varied.

When Rokuna surveyed the area while concentrating her focus on the clusters of voices, suddenly, something red entered the edge of her field of view.

Thinking that the one called Seira had already come back, she turned her eyes towards that direction... and was startled.

“What is that...”

Wearing full-bodied armor and carrying a gigantic battleaxe, it was a man that was bright red from top to bottom.

He had bristled up red hair, and red eyes with an appropriately intense look.

His sharp and well-ordered features strengthened his aggressive impression even more.

There were fiendish looking thorns found here and there on his red full-body armor, and it looked like one could expect considerable damage with just a ramming attack.

What was even more surprising was that all of that armor had powerful magical

power dwelling within it.

There were several ranks to typical equipment.

The lowest rank was for goods that could be made with the standard technique, “Common”.

They were goods that could be normally purchased at the local weapons store and were the goods that were in circulation the most.

The next rank is “Famed”.

They were things that possessed performance higher than Common, and were created with special manufacturing methods. Things like arms used as Magic Swords would also be categorized in this rank.

Those that surpassed Famed were part of the highest rank, “Signature”.

Things classified into this rank are not arms that have an established manufacturing method. They were super first-class goods that capable blacksmiths would miraculously produce, and they would attach their signature to those goods.

Now then, in that case, what category would the things that this red man have fall under?

With Rokuna’s diagnosis, they were most likely Signature.

The strength of the magical power kept within the equipment wasn’t normal, and was most likely on a level that would be a match for the the Northern General Altejio’s Light Burying Sword Auraal.

The problem was whether or not the man’s abilities corresponded to his equipment, but... Rokuna couldn’t really tell that.

Just as it was possible to conceal it or disguise it with regards to a [Reveal Crystal], it was possible to deceive Rokuna’s Magical Power Perception as well.

She couldn’t feel that much magical power from the man, but it was also possible that

the man was suppressing his strength.

At any rate, from the point of view of the ordinary people, it could only be described as “arms of bad taste”.

“Oi, what’re you looking at.”

As Rokuna was thoroughly looking at his armor, maybe because he noticed her gaze, the red man approached making a \*zun zun\* sound.

Rokuna, not looking at the displeased man himself, noticed that the red color of the man’s armor wasn’t a coating but the color of the metal itself, and raised a voice of admiration.

If, for example, it were with Blood Metal which was a local specialty of the Dark Continent then this color would be possible, but that was still at the stage of being taken into consideration for exportation to the Jiol Forest Kingdom, and it shouldn’t be appearing on the market in mankind’s territory.

Going “however”, Rokuna started thinking.

If Blood Metal arms were mixed in among the items that the Hero’s group brought back during Demon King Gramfia’s era, it wouldn’t be strange for it to exist here as well.

Since quite a bit of property that was in the Demon King Castle during that time was stolen, there might have been some Blood Metal equipment among those as well.

“...Oi, are you listening?”

“Ah? What. Don’t get in the way of my noble thinking time.”

“Getting in the way you say... You were the one that was rudely staring at my great self.”

“Haa? What’re you saying when you have equipment that just insists “I want to stand out” from your whole body. You couldn’t possibly think that you’re dressed plainly, could you?”

Maybe because he had a bit of self-awareness of that, the red man went \*guh\* and was

at a loss for words.

After Rokuna breathed a bored sounding sigh, she looked up at the red man who was far bigger than her.

“So you really are self-aware of it.”

“Sh, shut up! It’s not like my great self is loitering around this place because I want to!”

After the red man shouted while turning red even in the face, he cleared his throat and looked around.

“Hey, oi.”

“Don’t wanna.”

“I haven’t even said anything yet!”

“I won’t listen to the request of an idiot that picked a fight with me.”

After the man, who tightly clenched his fists and was trembling, repeatedly took some deep breaths, he formed a smile while his shapely face was twitching.

“Guu... S, sorry. I apologize, so I’d like it if you listened to me for a bit.”

“No— way. Why don’t you ask someone else.”

“Guh... Whenever my great self goes to someone, everyone just runs away! They won’t even talk with me!”

Hearing the red man’s words, Rokuna reflexively burst into laughter.

That was only natural. Just who in the world would approach a thorny, fiendish-looking man like this by choice.

Getting into a bit of a better mood, Rokuna changed her mind and decided to listen to the man for a little bit.

“Okay, okay, this kind and beautiful woman will be someone you can talk to. So? What is it?”

“...There are all sorts of things I want to say about that, but whatever. I’m searching for someone. Around here, it’s kind of, purple... they’re more like—, a fluffy, small kid... Well, I’d say they’re a bit smaller than you? Have you seen anyone like that?”

“I’m not exactly sure how I should reply to that kind of vague description...”

Although she was fed up with it, Rokuna thought back on the places she had walked to today.

However, she had no recollection of seeing a child that would be classified as being “purple”.

“I haven’t seen any. They your family?”

“No, ah— ... Well, it’s fine. Thanks.”

“I haven’t done anything though. I’ll at least pray that you find them.”

After sinking into a bit of silence looking like he was troubled as to how to respond, the red man opened his mouth.

“...I’m Olred. My great self will also pray for whatever it is that you are looking to do for as much as you have prayed.”

Seeing the response of the red man called Olred, this time Rokuna was surprised.

Just when she thought that he was a rough man, it seemed that he strangely had some sensitive parts to him.

“Really? Then we’re even in this.”

“Ou, that’s true.”

Seeing Olred heartily laugh, Rokuna giggled as if she were lured into it.

“It’s Rokuna.”

“Nn?”

“It’s because you one-sidedly told me your name. With this, the debts for you from me

have decreased by one.”

Hearing those words, Olred tilted his head.

“I had a conversation with you who was being avoided, right?”

“...Oi oi...”

“What. It seems that conversing with a beautiful woman would cost money in society, you know?”

“No, well... I guess it’s fine. Well then, my great self will be going.”

Saying that, Olred lightly waved his hand and turned around.

While looking at his back, Rokuna thought back on the person that he was searching for.

The fact that they were in this town, they were probably Human but... just what kind of person were they.

Equipment with that much magical power kept within it wasn’t something that someone on the level of the punks that attacked Rokuna today could prepare.

In that case, they might be a person with a certain amount of status.

“Well, I suppose that doesn’t really matter right now.”

Once her investigation on Summon Magic was finished, he should be someone that she would never meet again.

It would probably be enough to command the Intelligence Group to perform a follow-up survey or something in the distant future.

As she thought about that, since there was a voice calling out to her from behind, Rokuna turned around.

“Ro, Rokuna-san! Sorry to keep you waiting!”

“Yes, yes, I wasn’t really waiting for long anyway.”

Seeing the figures of Sharon and Ein running over, Rokuna expressed an apathetic smile.

Just as she was thinking “that was an unexpected way to kill time”, she noticed that Kain and Seria weren’t there.

“They’re not here, are they. Those two, did they go past adolescence and elope or something?”

“E, elope!? That’s not it! They went to get Kain’s equipment!”

“...Just the two of them?”

“U, uu... I also wanted to go, but I also didn’t have my equipment.”

“H—n.”

After Rokuna replied sounding disinterested, Sharon trudgingly went into the [Tianot Company].

Rokuna gazed at Ein who stayed behind, and talked to her with a tone as if she were talking gossip or something.

“Be sure to do things in moderation, okay? The one who will be in pain afterwards is you.”

“...I understand that.”

“Really? Then it’s fine.”

Hearing Rokuna’s words, Ein nodded.

That’s right, she understood.

Kain and Sharon and the others were Human, and Ein was a Mazoku.

No matter how well they got along, that was only because Kain and the others were under the impression that Ein was Human.

...If they were to learn that Ein was a Mazoku, just what kind of reaction would Kain’s

group make?

Thinking that, Ein trembled a bit.

Just as Rokuna said, Ein had gotten too close to Kain's group.

Even if there were a lot of useful things in the information obtained through that, Ein had crossed over the line that she should have drawn as a spy.

"...Ein."

"Yes."

"You are probably, trying to go down a similar path that person had taken. That is why I will tell you this now. What lies down that path... is nothing but despair."

That person—was the great Demon King Vermudol.

The Demon King that felt despair with mankind, gave up on the best conclusion, and yet continued walking as he pursued the optimal future.

Being reminded of that figure, Ein closed her eyes.

"...I understand. However, there is no way I can run away when that person didn't run away. That is why, even you are in this place, isn't it?"

Hearing that, Rokuna made a wry smile.

Having been told that, this time was where Rokuna should pull back.

Ein's loyalty had not changed and was still with Vermudol.

And since Ein herself had reconfirmed that, she could only go with it.

It was right at that time that Seira and Kain had come along.

"Thanks for waiting—, wait. Huh? Is Sharon not ready yet? Maybe we should just go already..."

“Hold on, Seira. The one who was asked to do things was me after all!”

Adding in Sharon who hurriedly came out, everyone was finally present.

“Well then, let’s go. Erm, which way was the gate again?”

# Chapter 27

“Over here, over here, leave it to me!”

Seira quickly ran ahead, turned around, then waved her hand. She truly felt like a mark of liveliness.

Kain hurriedly chased after her.

“Seira, we need to go a bit slower. Rokuna-san is here as well after all.”

“Ah, that’s right. So—rry, it’s just that Rokuna-san seemed kind of strong, so I unconsciously did that.”

“Heh?”

Hearing the words that Seira said while being bashful, Kain and Sharon looked at Rokuna at almost the same time.

Since Rokuna’s appearance was that of a scholar or Magician no matter how you looked at her, the expression “seemed strong” felt out of place.

On the other hand, Rokuna was surprised without showing it on her face.

Rokuna was a Mazoku, and a Majin at that.

When compared to Sancreed and Fainell and the rest, her physical abilities were far inferior to theirs, but it was higher than Humans.

Even in magical power, she had pride that she was considerably high in it even among the Mazoku.

It was unclear as to what Seira had meant when she said that she “seemed strong”, but it wasn’t like she was off the mark.

Just like how a strong person was able to measure their opponent’s strength to a certain extent just by looking at them, Seira might also have learned that sort of

intuition.

“I’m happy about your expectations of me, but as you can see, I’m not good with physical labor, you know? Besides, I’ve come here this time for research on Summon Magic. I would be happy if you took that into account.”

“Un, got it. Leave it to me!”

Rokuna had intended to warn her “you’ll struggle even in battle with that high tension”... but Seira shouted full of energy.

“I wonder if she truly understands...”

“Ah,ahaha... I’ll be sure to hold Seira back. It will be fine if we devote ourselves to defense as much as possible, right?”

Rokuna nodded to Kain who was wryly smiling.

There would be no meaning to this if Seira immediately crushed all of the monsters that they met.

Rokuna had come to see a precedent of Summon Magic, and it wasn’t like she wanted to see the way Seira fought.

“That’s right. This will be pointless if I don’t see Summon Magic activated. If an opponent is difficult and it seems impossible to handle, you can just leave it to Ein and study by observation.”

After Rokuna said that and sent her gaze to Ein, Ein silently nodded.

However, Kain cut in between Rokuna and Ein, and spoke with a strong tone.

“It’s fine. Please leave it to me.”

“Really?”

“Yes. I am a man as well. I can do it.”

“H—n.”

After saying that, Kain chased after Seira, and the two of them walked side-by-side as the lead.

While looking at their backs, Rokuna exchanged glances with Ein.

“...I wonder if I stimulated that boy’s pride.”

“I believe the gives off that kind of feeling in general.”

After trying to think about what would happen if Vermudol were in his place, the figure of Vermudol rapidly advancing forward in front of her like Kain was came to her mind.

“That’s a field I don’t understand.”

“He’s probably at the age where he wants to look cool.”

“H—n?”

While having that kind of talk, Rokuna’s group advanced through the town.

With Kain and Seira at the lead, Rokuna and Ein were behind them, and Sharon followed after them.

Rokuna threw an unexpected question at Sharon.

“Is that alright?”

“Eh?”

“Here’s what I’m trying to say. Is it alright for you to not be near Kain? You guys have a love for one another, right?”

“Eh... Ehh!?”

Hearing Rokuna’s words, Sharon’s face was dyed bright red.

Ein was neary making a face as if she wanted to say “acha—”, but Rokuna didn’t even put her in her field of vision.

“Eh, eh!? Is, is that what we look like!?”

“What. Am I wrong?”

After shaking her head sideways with incredible vigor, Sharon zoomed in close to Rokuna.

“We look like that, don’t we!? Kain and I are, like...!”

“Hold on, you’re too close.”

“This is really important! How do you see us!?”

“Eei, jeez! Hey Kain! Get this girl away from me!”

Rokuna tried to separate from Sharon, but Sharon strongly pressed Rokuna for an answer with strength that didn’t seem like it would come from a young Human girl.

Maybe being the thing known as the power of a maiden in love, it was a strength that didn’t lose to Rokuna.

Turning around from being called, Kain made a startled face and rushed over.

“H, hey, Sharon!”

“Wait Kain, I still haven’t heard an answer!”

“Eh? Answer?”

“Ah—, jeez. Yes, yes, so I just have to answe-mugu.”

The moment before Rokuna was about to answer, Ein covered Rokuna’s mouth with her hand.

After she flapped about and struggled against the sudden event, Rokuna then looked at Ein with upturned eyes, and Ein shook her head sideways.

“Kain, it’s fine so take her away. Sharon’s maiden box was simply opened.”

“Ah— ... Un. Come on Sharon, come over here.”

“Ah, wait, wait! Ah—!”

After confirming that Kain had dragged Sharon away, Ein took her hand away from Rokuna’s mouth.

Rokuna glared at Ein, and then breathed a sigh in the end.

While keeping a distance so that they wouldn’t be left behind by Kain and the others yet couldn’t have their lowered voices be heard, she whispered to Ein.

“So, what was that for?”

“If you were to answer that, it would have become even more troublesome. I protected you from that sort of situation.”

“...Ah, is that so. In that case, should I be saying my thanks to you?”

“No, I merely did what I should have.”

Saying “ah—, is that so”, Rokuna gazed at the three people ahead of them.

The lively Seira and the docile Sharon... when she thought that they were quite the combination, it seemed that that surprisingly wasn’t the case.

“Ah, there’s a somewhat amazing person!”

“Oh Seira. I told you that you shouldn’t point.”

Hearing Sharon’s voice that chided Seira, Rokuna looked further ahead of the two of them.

However, not noticing anyone that was particularly strange, she simply saw the gate she passed through as she came here.

“Ah, so we’re already at the gate.”

In that case, it’s just a bit more until the Aledona Forest—at the time she thought that.

Rokuna felt an uncommon presence wafting from Ein.

“Hey, what’s wrong.”

“...Rokuna-sama, stay behind me.”

“...Please don’t be so cautious.”

At the same time as that voice she had not heard before, a man clad in white armor had appeared right before Rokuna’s eyes.

“Wha...!?”

She felt strong magical power.

She hadn’t notice it until he had come this close.

Thinking “even if I had let my guard down, to think that he could hide his magical power this perfectly...”, Rokuna was surprised by the abilities of the man before her eyes.

“Eh? That person just now, just when did he get over there? Kain, did you see it?”

At the lead, Seira shaking Kain looking surprised could be seen.

From his hiding his presence and what seemed like teleportation, Rokuna analyzed that the man possessed some special technical skills.

He was a man that wore white armor that had minute craftsmanship that reached the point of being a frightening level applied to it.

Silver hair, white armor, and a white shield that he carried on his back. Even the sword that hung on his waist was white.

Only his eyes that possessed a gentle impression were a clear blue. He was that kind of man.

“...Do you have some sort of business with me?”

After the white man nodded, he opened his mouth.

“I’m looking for someone. She’s a bit smaller than you... and let’s see, she’s a young girl who is overall purple... with a fluffy hairstyle.”

“...I met with a guy who asked a similar question not too long ago.”

“Oya, is that so.”

Rokuna remembered the red man... Olred, that she had met a little while ago.

This white man was similar to that Olred.

Even the armor that he wore was most likely armaments that kept an equivalent amount of magical power as Olred’s.

“I don’t know about that purple girl. The red guy who called himself Olred should know that.”

“Oya, so that was the case. Ahh, I am Shironos.”

“Ah, really. I’m Rokuna. See ya.”

“Yes, well then.”

Saying that, Rokuna pulled the hand of Ein who still had yet to remove her vigilance and started walking, and at the moment she passed by Shironos, she whispered to him.

“You, why did you talk to me?”

“...Just because, I suppose.”

“That purple girl, just who is she.”

“I cannot answer, but she is an important person.”

Rokuna was glaring, while Shironos was making a refreshing face.

Rokuna passed by just like that, and Shironos also vanished into the town just like that.

Sharon also seemed to be thinking about Shironos for some reason, but she followed

after Rokuna and the others while keeping silent.

Rokuna went in front of Seira and asked a question.

“Is that white guy an imperial guard of royalty? Or is he someone related to the nobles of some place?”

“Eh? U—m... I don’t know. I don’t go in and out of the royal palace after all...”

“Then do you know the faces of royalty?”

“U, u—m...”

“Ah, it’s fine. This just bothered me a bit is all.”

After Rokuna said that, expressed a smile, and patted Seira’s shoulder, she sent a glance to Ein... and Ein replied to that with a nod.

Olred, and then Shironos.

The fact that people of their level were around was not in the reports of the Intelligence Group up until now.

Concealed war potential, or maybe simply unknown war potential.

Various possibilities could be thought of, but they needed to know who they were and where they came from, as well as think of ways to deal with them.

“U, um, Rokuna-san.”

“Nn?”

When she became aware of it, Sharon was gripping Rokuna’s hand.

Rokuna pulled back a bit from Sharon who was looking up at her with sparkling eyes, but Sharon didn’t notice that and spoke bluntly with a whole faced smile.

“Was it, love at first sight!? It was, wasn’t it! Even the person over there ignored us and made a straight line to you, Rokuna-san! This is destiny! Waa, so wonderful, so wonderful!”

“Haa!? Eei, let go!”

Ein hurriedly pulled away Sharon who was shaking her hands up and down while still gripping onto Rokuna’s hand.

“Sharon, calm down. That person is someone indifferent to things like love.”

“Wait Ein, I have something to talk about with you later.”

While thinking about some worries for the future, Rokuna headed towards the gate.

The objective this time was Summon Magic.

She didn’t have time to waste on things like this.

“Come on, let’s go. The forest is just ahead of here, right?”

“Ah, un. Come on everyone, let’s go!”

“S, sorry, Ein. Come on, Sharon, it’s about time that you return to normal!”

Kain slapped Sharon a bit and brought her back to reality.

Seira approached the gate guard, and talked to him.

“Oji-san, it’s alright for us to go through here, right?”

“Nnaa? Wait, geh! The ojou-sama of Duke Necros!?”

The spaced out guard saw Seira’s face, hurriedly fixed his posture.

When speaking of the Spear Princess Seira of the Necros Duke House, there were many people that knew her face, and even the duke’s dotting on her was also famous.

Thinking that he would be sacked if he were to be rude, the guard hurriedly straightened up and started to speak.

“Yes ma’am, the number of people are ojou-sama, your two school friends and...”

“And Ein and Rokuna-san over there.”

“Yes, may I ask what your objective is?”

“A request, and an inspection of that I suppose.”

The way he looked making brisk responses, he didn't seem like he was the same person as the guard that looked lazy when Rokuna had come through earlier.

“Yes, there aren't any problems! Please do take care!”

“Un, thanks—.”

“Please give my regards to Duke Necros-sama!”

The guard made a sharp salute, and Seira beckoned Rokuna and the others over.

“He said that we can pass through. Shall we?”

Passing by beside the nervous-looking guard, Rokuna's group looked up at the Aledona Forest that was in front of them.

# Chapter 28

“Yosh, Seira and I will take the lead. Sharon and Rokuna-san will be behind us... and Ein, can I ask you to be vigilant in the rear?”

Everyone nodded to Kain’s instructions.

The Aledona Forest wasn’t at the level of the Great Jiol Forest, it was a fairly deep forest.

Rokuna’s group entered the Aledona Forest, then left the highway and went deeper into the forest.

“So, what do you plan on going up against in this forest?”

“Erm—, let’s see, it’d be the Elements. I want to try and increase the sighting reports of Earth Elements.”

Elements were monsters that had no definite form.

It was easy to confuse them with the Mazoku Amoeba who similarly had undefined forms, but Elements weren’t Mazoku, but close to phenomenons that magical power induced.

Magical power existed within nature as well, and sometimes, sites where it was abnormally thick would occur.

It was an Element when that magical power had gathered too much and resided in surrounding substances... that is how it was described.

If it resided in earth, it was an Earth Element.

If it resided in water, it was a Water Element.

If it resided in wind, it was a Wind Element.

If it resided in fire, it was a Fire Element.

In addition to these fundamental forms, there were various forms and names such as the Sand Elements that resided in the sands of the desert.

However, the act of absorption was a common trait for these Elements.

When they discover a living creature, they would try to take in its magical power.

It was unclear why they didn't absorb it from inorganic substances, but since Elements didn't have souls, wouldn't they be instinctively targeting living creatures with souls and be trying to obtain a soul... that sort of theory also existed.

Elements become enlarged from absorbing the magical power of nearby living creatures, and since they greatly disturb the ecosystem, they are monsters that cannot be left alone.

"Elements huh..."

While walking behind Kain and the others, Rokuna recalled the eastern region of the Dark Continent.

The vegetation raised there also stock up on magical power, and since they will start moving on their own once they cross over a certain degree of it, a phenomenon similar to the Element transformation as mankind calls it would occur, but they weren't existences as troublesome as the Elements.

After thinking "by some chance, the difference in soil might be related...", she noticed that Sharon who was walking next to her was looking at her direction.

"Nn? What?"

"E, erm... It's about magic."

"Ahh, about Elemental Magic?"

Being told that, Rokuna started to be troubled on how she should explain it.

Elemental Magic was the standard magic used, and in cases where simply "magic" was said, it was typically recognized that Elemental Magic was being talked about.

In addition, there was magic such as Summon Magic and the Mazoku's Transfer Magic, but they were grouped as being rare or minor.

Furthermore, there was also Original Magic like the one that Fainell created, but in order to go that far, extraordinary talent was required to use it.

However, Elemental Magic didn't need talent, and as long as there was a chant or a magic formation, it was more difficult to fail.

To say that that was her weak point, it made it seem like it was merely a problem with her magical power.

"Nn— ... From what I can see, the problem is with your magical power itself."

"Ah, yes. I was told that by someone who was a magical power examiner as well."

While holding a bit of interest in the words magical power examiner, Rokuna started thinking.

If there wasn't a problem with her magical power, there might be a problem with her imaginative power.

However, that should be able to be resolved with the chant.

"You make the chant, right?"

"Ah, yes. But the result is small."

Hearing that, Rokuna remembered the story she heard from Vermudol.

It was said that Summon Magic couldn't be used by people with the talent for regular magic... or so it seem.

"U—n... First, I can't make a judgement unless I have you use Elemental Magic. Why don't you try using Light Magic?"

"Ah, yes. Erm... O light, gather and become a radiance that illuminates the black of night... Light."

At the same time as Sharon's chant, a light about the size of the tip of her pinky finger

appeared in front of Sharon.

“Erm... I did it.”

“Un, you did.”

While looking at the unreliable light that floated there, Rokuna started to ponder:

In the activation process just now, there wasn't any sort of problem.

However, the movement of magical power from inside of her body was mostly not carried out.

This was something that was normally impossible.

In a magic's chant, just how much magical power would be use... that much was included in it as well.

Unless one purposely suppressed the magical power included in the chant, or if the magical power of the person in question was extremely lacking, the phenomenon of there being almost no movement of magical power wouldn't occur.

Most likely, there was some sort of primary factor other than those that was obstructing the movement of magical power.

“Nn—. Let's think about it after I see the Summon Magic.”

“Ah, yes...”

Making a sidelong glance at Sharon who was visibly dejected, Rokuna developed her investigation even more.

If there was any primary factor that inhibited that, it couldn't be anything but Summon Magic.

However, is it really possible for special magic to be the primary factor that obstructs other magic?

“I found it...! An Earth Element!”

Hearing Seira's voice, Rokuna raised her head.

What was ahead of Kain and Seira's vision, both of whom had readied their weapons, was something that looked like a clump of dirt.

Its wriggling form reminded her of Amoeba.

"Yosh, then it's your turn. Can you do it?"

"Y, yes!"

After readying her staff, Sharon commenced her chant while looking at the Earth Element.

"My fragile self implores."

Together with her chant, a light was lit in the blue jewel that was attached to her staff.

That was proof that magical power was moving to the staff's blue jewel through Sharon's chant.

A large amount of magical power was smoothly flowing to the point that the time that she used Elemental Magic earlier couldn't even be compared to it.

"I implore a sword. I implore an agent. Although my body is fragile, my heart is stern. My heart has become a sword, and desires a time to be wielded. Therefore, o agent, come forth. I implore that you be here to execute my will."

The Earth Element repeatedly expanded and contracted as it tried to take in Kain and Seira, but they easily evaded it.

And then, a blue radiance appeared in front of Sharon, and started flickering.

"...That just now."

Rokuna noticed.

The blue radiance that appeared in front of Sharon just now, it wasn't Sharon's magical power.

It was something different.

The magical power that was pulled out from Sharon was still dwelling within the blue jewel of Sharon's staff.

That blue radiance in front of her had appeared from some different place.

"Come forth, Sword Spirit!"

Together with those words, all of the magical power was pulled out from within the staff's blue jewel, and the blue light that was flickering in front had converged and took the form of a person.

It was a gorgeous male swordsman that wore loose clothing.

He languidly readied the double-edged one-handed sword that he held in his hand, however, he didn't have a single opening.

His whole body uniformly shined blue, and it was clear that he wasn't a person.

He was someone, that carried the sword made with Sharon's magical power.

That was without a doubt an agent, and the executioner of Sharon's will to attack.

Seeing the Summon Magic in practice, Rokuna understood.

This, was different from existing magic.

What Sharon had produced with her magical power, was only that sword.

That someone who was called a Sword Spirit, was not an existence brought forth with magic.

Composed with extremely high density water magical power, the light of an unshakeable will could be felt.

After the Sword Spirit looked at Rokuna and sneered, he turned towards the Earth Element.

"That guy... he noticed my gaze..."

Leaving the surprised Rokuna as she was, the Sword Spirit ran in between Kain and Seira, and swung his sword.

Every time the Earth Element was cut up by the sword that shined blue, its body would lose its shape, and that part would return to being a mere lump of earth.

If the sword that the Sword Spirit wielded were to be compared to something, it would probably be a Water Magic sword.

However, since that sword was actually water magical power itself, its might was probably on a different level.

“I see, it’s strong... Plus.”

Having turned the Earth Element back into lumps of earth, the Sword Spirit turned to Kain, expressed a smile as if he were making fun of him a bit, and even shrugged his shoulders.



“It has a terrible personality, doesn’t it.”

At the same time she was exasperated with the Sword Spirit’s attitude, Rokuna felt a shudder.

There was no mistaking it—Summon Magic, was without a doubt magic that performed a “summon”.

The Sword Spirit emitted a radiance and vanished, and some magical power returned to within Sharon.

Seeing that, Rokuna formed a hypothesis.

The reason why the might of Sharon’s Elemental Magic was low even though she had the magical power for it.

The reason why a large amount of magical power moved smoothly when she summons the Sword Spirit despite that.

And then, the phenomenon of the reflux of magical power which was impossible in Elemental Magic.

“...Sharon, this is a hypothesis but.”

“Eh, yes.”

It was purely a hypothesis, but Rokuna thought that she wasn’t off the mark by all that much.

“The reason your Elemental Magic is weak, is due to the Summon Magic.”

Most likely, for the sake of calling something out through Summon Magic, Sharon’s magical power was being seized beforehand.

And since she had no choice but to use Elemental Magic with that remaining magical power, its might would end up being weak no matter what she did.

“Eh, ehh!? Then, my Elemental Magic, will it remain being weak?”

“Only if you leave it as is.”

It wasn't like there weren't methods to fix it.

For example, if tools and magic formations that had the effect of amplifying magical power were to be used together with it, then it should be possible to raise the effect of her Elemental Magic.

But unless they did something about the seized portion, it wouldn't be solved on the fundamental level.

"U—n. Sharon, were you bad with Elemental Magic since before you could use Summon Magic?"

"I, I don't know... Since the first magic that I used in my life was Summon Magic."

"H—n?"

The question was "was the "seizure of magical power" done by someone?"

If Sharon herself had unconsciously done it, there was room for improvement.

However, if that thing called a Sword Spirit is doing it, it will probably be difficult to solve.

"Can you call out other things?"

"Ah, y, yes!"

"I see, I'll be expecting something good."

After considering the seizure of magical power and the appearance of something that was summoned possessing a will of its own, it seemed that there were a lot of risks to Summon Magic.

The fact that Rokuna was unable to perform a summoning until now, it might instead have been a good thing.

Up until now, she had conjectured that Summon Magic was something that made practical use of the theories behind Transmission Magic, but she now understood that it was completely different.

Since Sharon had shown no signs of making precise calculations in regards to the location like Transmission Magic did, it probably means that calculations were unnecessary in Summon Magic.

“Hey—, let’s go on to the next place.”

“Yes, let’s. Let’s move on quickly.”

Hearing Seira’s impatient-sounding voice, Rokuna said that and smiled.

# Chapter 29

“...Rokuna-sama.”

“Nn?”

Ein whispered to Rokuna, who had started walking once again, from behind.

Maybe because Sharon, who was walking nearby, was nervous, she had no signs of paying attention to them at all.

“The signs of the forest are strange.”

“Signs? Ahh, I see. You were originally from the Lulugal Forest, weren’t you.”

The Lulugal Forest that was in the eastern part of the Dark Continent was the largest forest in the Dark Continent.

It was a place that many bird-type Mazoku, which Ein was before her evolution, lived in, and the monsters that lived there excelled in forest battles, and there were many who were sensitive to the flow of magical power in the forest and the changes in the atmosphere.

“And how is it strange.”

“There are no signs of living creatures.”

Hearing Ein’s words, Rokuna stopped and called out to Seira and the others.

“...Everyone, can we stop for a bit?”

“Eh?”

“Heh?”

Seira and Kain stopped and turned around to face Rokuna, while Sharon, who didn’t hear her, bumped into Kain’s chest.

“Heh? Ah, hya... s-s-s, sorry Kain!”

“Sharon, were you deep in thought again? You can’t do that, it’s dangerous out here.”

Kain caught Sharon in his arms with a look that said “it can’t be helped”.

“U, un...”

“U— ...”

Seira glared at the two of them like that, but it was something that didn’t matter to Rokuna.

Rokuna clapped her hands and drew their attention.

“O—kay, that’s far enough. You can do that sort of thing slowly later—.”

“There is no later!”

“Okay, let’s put an end to all of that sort of stuff too—. This Onee-san already has had a full stomach on that bittersweet youth—.”

After Rokuna warded off Seira’s displeasure, she put up an index finger and gently brought it to her mouth.

Be silent for a bit.

Understanding the meaning of that gesture, Kain and the others stopped talking and listened carefully.

A blowing wind shook the trees of the forest, and only a \*zawa zawa\* sound resounded.

Kain made a face that said he suddenly realized it and then whispered.

“This forest... was it always this quiet?”

“Eh, huh. Now that you mention it...”

The voices of the living creatures that should be heard in the forest, like the birds and the insects, couldn’t be heard at all.

“Wh, what’s going on?”

Rokuna received Sharon’s gaze, and after slowly putting down the hand she put on her mouth, she expressed a fearless smile.

“It’s simple. Right now, the things that should be in this forest aren’t here. That’s all there is to it, right?”

As for why those creatures weren’t here.

What should be remembered here is the ecology of Elements.

When Elements discover creatures, they would perform the act of absorption in order to take in their magical power.

In other words—

“Could it be... an Element...?”

“Eh, but, but! It’s strange that there aren’t any creatures at all! According to the request document, it was only recently that the Elements were sighted...”

Seira flusteredly took out the request document, and started reading it.

“See, I knew it...!”

“Could you lend that to me for a bit?”

Rokuna received the request document from Seira, and checked the contents.

### Request Contents: Subjugation of Earth Elements

Over the past few days, the reports of sightings of Earth Elements in the Aledona Forest have increased.

The results of investigations, a minimum of at least four Earth Elements have been confirmed.

The Guild has determined that this is an urgent situation that concerns the safety of the region, and is making a request for their subjugation.

Furthermore, at present, the request will be recognized as having been completed if the subjugation of at least one of them is performed and reported, but until it has been confirmed that the Earth Elements are completely exterminated, this request will continue its invitations.

“I see. Various parts are written slyly.”

By putting out the request, they could externally demonstrate that they are contributing to the region’s safety as the Adventurer’s Guild.

And towards the Adventurers, while the “recognized as having been completed if the subjugation of at least one of them is performed and reported” part is telling them to not push themselves, the “at least four” and “until it has been confirmed that they are completely exterminated, this request will continue its invitations” parts represent the fact that they don’t know the complete picture of the enemy’s fighting power.

Even in regards to the time they broke out, it only said “over the past few days”, and there was no telling when specifically they started to come out. In reality, far from “over the past few days”, it meant that there was the possibility that they were there for much longer before that.

“Th, then, does that mean that the Elements have turned into something even more terrible?”

“There is the possibility of that.”

Rokuna made a nod to Sharon who had signs of being frightened.

Rokuna didn’t know just how many living creatures there were in this Aledona Forest.

However, if a whole forest’s worth of creatures were thoroughly swallowed up, there might be a staggering amount of Elements, or there might be a special Element that possessed mighty magical power.

“...Rokuna-sama!”

At that moment, a gust of wind blew.

No, it wasn't wind.

It was wind that contained magical power... a Wind Element.

It cut across as if to obstruct Ein's path as she tried to rush over to Rokuna.

And then, soaring up into the air, it established its aim on Rokuna.

"There's no need, Ein."

Expressing a fearless smile, Rokuna stopped Ein.

The Wind Element charged aiming at Rokuna.

—But, right before it could collide into Rokuna, it was repelled by a transparent barrier.

The Wind Element soared up once again, charged at Rokuna and was repelled over and over again.

"Okay, okay—y, what're you doing. Since I went through the trouble of becoming the bait, get to bringing this guy down with Summon Magic."

"Eh? Ah, y, yes!"

Having been stunned with a surprised face, Sharon hurriedly readied her staff.

"...I who runs on the earth implores."

While the sounds of the Wind Element's charges resounded, Sharon readied her staff and desperately concentrated.

A light was lit in the staff's blue jewel, and Sharon sensed that a large amount of magical power was being taken out from within her.

"I implore an arrow. I implore an agent. Although my body is bound to the earth, my heart is free and fierce. My heart has become an arrow, and desires a time to be fired. Therefore, o agent, come forth. I implore that you be here to execute my will."

The light lit in the blue jewel strongly glittered, and just like the Sword Spirit from earlier, the blue radiance that appeared in front of Sharon repeatedly flickered.

“Come forth, Bow Spirit!”

The blue flickering light converged, and took the form of a person.

Wearing cloth clothes that seemed easy to move in and what looked like leather armor, it was a man in the prime of his life.

What he held in his hand was a bow.

The arrows made with Sharon’s magical power was put into a quiver on his waist.

That Bow Spirit had a blue brilliance, and really was someone called out from somewhere that wasn’t here.

“Heeh... Even the nature of the magical power is different from earlier. If said in Human terms, it’s a different person.”

While hearing the repeated sound of the barrier being hit, Rokuna muttered.

The reason why the Wind Element was targeting Rokuna was simple. It was because Rokuna looked like the one with the largest amount of magical power among those here.

Rokuna had suppressed her own magical power to mankind’s level, but even so, she towered above the rest.

So from the Element’s point of view, Rokuna looked like the most delicious one there.

Right now, Rokuna was deploying an original magic, which combined Attack Guard and Magic Guard, called Vale Guard.

Since it was invoked without a chant, it should look like she had used Attack Guard to Kain’s group.

Since she didn’t which one of Attack Guard or Magic Guard would be able to defend

against the Wind Element's attack, she used Vale Guard, but it seemed that Attack Guard would have been enough.

“Bow Spirit, please... beat up that Wind Element!”

Receiving Sharon's words, the Bow Spirit turned towards the Wind Element and nocked an arrow.

Normally, there should be no way an arrow would be effective on wind, but what the Bow Spirit fired was an arrow of magical power.

The magical power arrow that the Bow Spirit fired didn't allow time for the act of absorption, and had the amassed magical power shave and pierce through the Wind Element.

As the Wind Spirit flew up to the sky above Rokuna as if running away, the Bow Spirit continued to fire arrows at it in no time at all.

“...I knew it.”

Seeing that, Rokuna breathed a sigh.

The Sword Spirit and Bow Spirit that were called out with Sharon's summoning were combat experts that possessed weapons loaded with magical power.

The weapons depended on Sharon's magical power, and Sharon seemed like she was presenting her own magical power to them as if it were an armory.

They would probably be powerless if her magical power were to run out, but in that case, they would most likely not answer the summon itself, and if she ran out in the middle of battle, their figures would probably vanish.

In that sort of meaning, rather than the Bow Spirit that steadily expended magical power in the form of arrows, the Sword Spirit seemed more user-friendly.

Perhaps, the fact that the user offers up their magical power up to them might make

Summon Magic viable.

If this was to be applied to the Demon God summoning, what should be done—

Just what should be offered up in order to have the Demon God respond to the summons.

To begin with, just what kind of person was the one who had created Vermudol who was the Demon King.

When Rokuna had started to sink into her sea of thoughts, the Wind Element was already annihilated, and the Bow Spirit had also vanished.

“Fue— ... Summon Magic really is amazing.”

“I, want to be able to use Elemental Magic more as well though...”

Sharon made a wry smile in response to Seira’s words of admiration.

For Sharon, since she probably somewhat felt that she didn’t win with her own strength, that could probably be said to be only natural.

“Don’t worry about it. You’ll be able to develop even more from now on. I won’t be taking responsibility for it though.”

“Ehh, isn’t that where you’re supposed to say “I guarantee it”!?”

Sharon made a retort to Ein’s words.

“In that case, Kain, you guarantee it.”

“Me!?”

Rokuna gazed at Kain’s group being boisterous looking like it didn’t matter to her.

She had a general understanding of the theories behind Summon Magic, but even more research was needed to be able to put it into practical use.

Why did the Sword Spirit and the Bow Spirit answer Sharon’s summons?

Why was there no precedent of the manifestation of Summon Magic among the Mazoku?

She couldn't help but feel that it wasn't simply the presence or absence of an "enemy", and was something different.

Something that Sharon had, and the Mazoku didn't.

As she was thinking that, Rokuna suddenly noticed that everyone else was looking at her.

"Nn? What?"

"See, she really wasn't listening."

Seira let out a dissatisfied voice with a look of exasperation.

"Rokuna-sama, it seems that they wish to hear your opinion in regards to withdrawing."

Hearing the words that Ein whispered, Rokuna thought "I see".

The expected situation of the forest, and even more unexpected appearance of the Wind Element had occurred at the same time.

It was only natural that Kain's group would consider withdrawing.

Rokuna was also thinking that it was best to ask Sharon if it was about time for them to head back.

"Let's see, in that case..."

"I would like you to wait on that withdrawal."

Interrupting Rokuna's words, a voice they weren't familiar with resounded.

Making a \*gashari\* sound, the figure of a man wearing blue armor appeared from the shade of the trees.

"There is something I would like you all to assist me with. Sorry, but could you at least listen to what I have to say?"

# Chapter 30

“...You are?”

So as to protect Seira who was beside him, Kain stepped forward.

His wariness was laid bare, but that couldn't be helped.

A man who was blue from top to bottom had appeared all of a sudden.

Swept back blue hair. Blue eyes that gave off a strict impression.

And then, vaguely sinister blue armor.

Powerful magical power could be felt from the longswords that hung from both sides of his waist.

From an ordinary person's point of view, he would be at the level of a “suspicious fellow”, but even that alone was enough of a reason to be cautious of him.

But... the method of vigilance that Kain's group used wasn't ordinary.

Not just Kain, even Seira, and of course Ein had extended their hands to their own weapons.

He should have naturally noticed their vigilance, but the man showed absolutely no signs of being perturbed and opened his mouth.

“I am Brutus. Just as I said before, there is something I would like your assistance with.”

“Something you want assistance with... you say?”

In response to Sharon's words, who was hiding in Ein's shadow, the blue man who called himself Brutus nodded.

“An important person, might be somewhere in this forest. I want you all to help me

search for them.”

“Eh!?”

The one who reacted first to those words was Kain.

In this forest where powerful Elements were lurking, someone might have lost their way.

Thinking that that was very dangerous, he surely felt that they needed to save them.

However, with the fact that the possibility of it being a trap having vanished from his mind, Kain was a hopelessly good-natured person.

“W, wait a minute, Kain. To begin with, we haven’t heard who that important person even is, nor why they are in a place like this...”

“Right, that’s a natural doubt.”

Brutus responded to Seira’s words which were said while she pulled on Kain’s arm.

“However, I am sure they are within this vicinity. My companions are searching within the town... but this forest is too vast for me to search it alone.”

Hearing about the search inside of the town, Rokuna opened her mouth.

“So hey. Could it be that the person you’re searching for is a purple, fluffy girl?”

“...Could it be, have you met her!?”

Brutus raised a voice of surprise, and his eyes sparkled.

“We haven’t met with her. I heard about her from a red armored guy and a white armored guy.”

Hearing those words, Brutus became visibly dejected.

Looking at his appearance, it doesn’t seem to be an act... is what Rokuna determined.

Of course, it only looked like that, and while that may be, she couldn’t definitely say

that it wasn't a trap.

"...The one I am looking for is certainly that person."

"Let's go search for her right away."

Kain said that and urged everyone on.

Hearing that it was a girl, he probably increasingly thought that they needed to save her.

"That's really helps. Well then, I'm counting on you."

Saying that, Brutus turned his back towards Kain and was about to head into the forest.

"Eh, wait!? Aren't we going to search together? Besides, are the traits mentioned earlier the only traits your going to give?"

"It's inefficient to move as a group. You'll understand once you see her. Plus, time is limited. Well then, I'm relying on you."

Answering like that to Kain, Brutus vanished into the forest.

Seira hit Kain's shoulder as he was flabbergasted.

"Come on, Kain. Get a hold of yourself."

"Eh? Ah, un... He was a kind of amazing person, wasn't he."

Kain said that and breathed a light sigh.

At any rate, now that they accepted, they had no choice but to search for that girl.

"Erm... Rokuna-san. This has turned out quite different from how you wanted things at first but."

"I don't particularly mind."

"Eh, th, thank you very much."

Saying “you don’t need to thank me”, Rokuna waved her hand.

It wasn’t like she was doing it out of good will.

The red knight, Olred.

The white knight, Shironos.

The blue knight, Brutus.

The existence that those three knights, who were most likely considerably strong people, attended to.

She had grown an interest in who that person was and where they came from—that was simply all there was to it.

Were they unknown war potential from somewhere among the four major nations of the Shutaia Continent, or were they war potential of some other small country?

For the sake of the Zadark Kingdom from now on as well, if it was something that she could quickly grasp an understanding of, then she should do that.

“Purple... huh.”

“He did say that we’d understand once we saw her.”

Seira nodded to Kain’s words.

“That’s true. In any case, we need to hurry and find her. Sharon, you think so... too?”

When Seira turned around seeking agreement from Sharon, Sharon was still hiding behind Ein.

“What’re you doing?”

While burying her face into Ein’s back, who was making a troubled-looking face, Sharon was trembling a bit.

With Sharon like that, Ein called out to her with a look that said she had no choice.

“...Sharon. He’s gone already.”

“U, un... sorry, it’s just... that person’s eyes were scary.”

“His eyes?”

Kain made a curious-looking face.

Certainly, he had eyes with a strict impression, but he didn’t seem that scary to Kain.

Seira seemed to also have the same impression, and exchanged glances with Kain.

However, Ein had noticed.

They were eyes just like the ones that could occasionally be seen in the Humans of the St. Altis Kingdom.

Eyes that were differentiating something.

It seemed that Kain and Seira hadn’t noticed, but Sharon was probably sensitive to that sort of thing.

She was frightened by that gaze that had probably never been turned towards her up until now.

“..Well, just as that guy called Brutus had said, time is limited. Let’s keep going.”

While Rokuna said that, she thought about the man called Brutus.

Including the two she met earlier... the men called Olred and Shironos, this was the third one.

Since both the royal capital and this forest were considerably vast, it was hard to believe that she had met the three of them by coincidence.

If it was just one or two... in other words, up until she met Shironos, that could have been the case, that is what she thought.

However, the meeting with Brutus changed Rokuna’s thoughts.

If the coincidences happened three times, then it was inevitable.

The meetings with those three, there was something they had in common.

As of right now, the one who met the three of them was Rokuna only.

...In other words, there should be something that Rokuna has.

“Rokuna-sama, watch out.”

Ein changed Rokuna’s direction when she was about to bump into a tree.

Submerged in her sea of thoughts, Rokuna didn’t notice that at all and continued thinking.

To begin with, were those three looking for the “purple young lady” without any leads at all?

If Rokuna were those three, what would be a lead?

Her presence?

No, putting aside the forest, there were too many people in the town, so that wouldn’t be a lead.

How about relying only on her appearance?

Certainly, they had mentioned the trait of a “purple young lady”, but in that case, that wouldn’t be a reason to come into contact with Rokuna. Rokuna’s appearance was quite different from the description of “purple young lady”.

“Rokuna-sama, excuse me.”

Ein lifted Rokuna up.

However, Rokuna still didn’t return from being submerged in her sea of thoughts.

Then, what about magical power.

If those three possessed the Magical Perception ability like Rokuna, and the “purple

young lady” was a person that possessed a large amount of magical power, then it wouldn’t be strange for those three knights to chase after that and meet with Rokuna.

However, even if that were the case, they still should have determined that she wasn’t the one the moment they saw her.

As she thought, she didn’t know the reason why they came into contact with her.

“Hey, has Rokuna-san not noticed?”

“Most likely.”

Ein answered Seira’s question while carrying Rokuna.

“...I’m a bit jealous.”

With sharp ears, Seira and Sharon caught Kain’s small mutter, and glared at Kain.

The location was changing... however, with the scenery of the forest not really changing for the better, Rokuna didn’t notice.

The reason why they contacted her, they were probably hoping that Rokuna possessed some sort of information.

That is what it seemed like after seeing that blue knight... Brutus’s reaction.

In other words, there was the possibility that Rokuna had come into contact with the “purple young lady”, that is what it meant.

“...I suppose, it really is the magical power.”

Since those three knights shouldn’t know that Rokuna possessed Magical Power Perception, they probably didn’t think that Rokuna had contacted the “purple young lady”.

In that case, the “purple young lady” possessed Magical Power Perception, and there was a possibility that she had contacted Rokuna, that is what she thought.

If the “purple young lady” was lost or something, and she was also searching for the three knights, Rokuna would be caught in the young lady’s Magical Power Perception,

and the two of them would have met.

If the three knights hypothesized that and contacted Rokuna, then things would be consistent.

However, Magical Power Perception should be a rare technical skill to begin with.

Most Mazoku had acquired the Presence Perception technical skill, but there weren't that many that could do Magical Power Perception.

If Magical Power Perception wasn't a rare technical skill for mankind, then some reconsideration would need to be made in regards to mankind's war potential... but there haven't been anything like that in the reports up until now.

"Fuumu... Nn?"

Returning from her sea of thoughts, Rokuna finally noticed that she was looking up at the sky.

She then confirmed that she was being carried, and that the person carrying her was Ein.

"...Erm, what is this?"

"It was because it seemed that your mind wasn't here."

"Ah—, really. Thank you."

"No problem."

Saying that, Ein was about to gently put Rokuna down, but her arm was grabbed by Rokuna.

"Is something the matter?"

"Well, since this is super comfortable, can I just stay like this?"

"...If possible, it would really help if I could put you down though."

Going \*tsk\*, Rokuna clicked her tongue and got down.

After looking around, it seemed that they came to a place considerably far away from the place they were at earlier.

“So, going by those looks, have you still not found her?”

“That’s right. We’re having a rough time.”

Nodding to Seira’s answer, Rokuna tried focusing on Magical Power Perception.

However, with Rokuna’s technical skill, she wouldn’t be able to sense her unless she was fairly close.

It wasn’t something convenient enough to be able to automatically perceive things in the far distance.

Seeing that it wasn’t any good like she thought, Rokuna breathed a sigh.

“Well then, this time, let’s go this way...”

Right at the moment Kain said that and pointed in a different direction.

Suddenly, Kain turned towards a direction different from where he was pointing to as if he were snapping to it, and fixated on it.

“Wh, what’s wrong?”

“I heard it...”

Without answering Seira’s question, Kain muttered that.

After Rokuna expressed a question mark and looked at Ein, Ein also silently shook her head sideways.

“...It’s over here!”

“Eh, wait!?”

“Kain!”

Seeming like Seira and Sharon’s restraining voices not entering his ears, Kain ran in a

straight line into the forest.

“...We’re chasing after him!”

With Rokuna’s words, all of them started to run chasing after Kain.

# Chapter 31

“O... 000000!”

What Kain heard was a howl that shook the forest.

A crushing sound reverberated, and the trees shook.

That was clearly the sound of battle.

“There’s no mistaking it...!”

Kain was convinced that his own senses were right, and ran.

At the place he continued running to, Kain saw something rampaging while destroying the forest.

Something humanoid that looked like it was made of hardened dirt.

However, it wasn’t the sort of thing that was called a Golem.

The humanoid’s faintly flowing surface reserved the Element’s trait of not having a definite form.

That’s right, it was most likely correct to classify that as an Earth Element.

It was clearly not normal, and even Kain was able to understand that this was what a “powerful Element” was.

And then, that Earth Element was currently in the middle of battle with something.

“...”

What was silently confronting the Earth Element, was a young girl that had a single long sword at the ready.

What covered her body was purple clothing that didn’t have a single stain on it. It had

a form similar to a dress with a lot of frills.

The young lady's hair was purple with light waves.

Her purple eyes that were reminiscent of amethyst gazed at the Earth Element in front of her.



“0000... 00000000!”

Together with a howl, a rock that was the size of an adult’s head appeared in front of the Earth Element.

And then, the rock that was fired at high-speed rushed at the young lady in order to crush her... however, the young lady wasn’t perturbed by that at all.

“Kuh...! I won’t make it in time...!?”

There wasn’t enough time for Kain to reach the young lady’s side.

Even so, Kain continued running with all of his strength.

After that young lady turned her gaze to that Kain for only an instant... Her mouth expressed a small smile, and evaded the rock that was approaching her with a magnificent step.

If those movements were to be compared to something, they were like a dance.

Matching her garments very well, they were elegant movements that could only be described as magnificent.

Having no signs of being bothered by the rock that smashed the ground, the young lady provocatively smiled at the Earth Element.

Filling the distance between her and the Earth Element with steps that looked like a dance, she unleashed a high-speed thrust.

However, the young lady’s attack was repelled by the Earth Element, and only the sound of a collision that went \*giin\* resounded.

After evading the fist that the Earth Element unleashed as a counterattack, the young girl fell to the back while making her beautiful steps.

“...Hey you! Are you alright!?”

Finally reaching her, Kain stood in between the young lady and the Earth Element.

Kain unsheathed the Hard Sword Tilnok from its scabbard, and glared at the Earth Element.

After the young lady showed an expression that said that she found that to be surprising, she expressed a thin smile.

“Yes.”

“I see... I’ll be backing you up but, do you have a problem with that?”

“...If I were to say that I did have a problem with ht, would you leave?”

During their conversation, a cluster of rocks was formed in front of the Earth Element.

However, through an Attack Light that Kain fired, it immediately crumbled.

“I won’t leave, you know?”

“Ara, how selfish.”

“...I might be!”

Saying that, Kain readied the Hard Sword Tilnok, started running, and approached the Earth Element.

“O light...!”

Responding to Kain’s words, light magical power dwelled in the Hard Sword Tilnok.

With the Hard Sword Tilnok that emitted a dazzling light, Kain slashed at the Earth Element.

“U... Ruorururuu!?”

Maybe having felt a threat in that radiance, the Earth Element hurriedly evaded the sword.

Seeing that behavior, Kain expressed an expression of surprise.

“This guy... could it be that it has an ego!?”

Elements were close to being natural phenomenon.

If that were to have an ego, then that was no longer a mere natural phenomenon.

If spoken in terms of Mazoku, it was something close to turning into a Majin.

The Earth Element had achieved what should be described as an evolution.

However, Elements didn't have souls to begin with.

They didn't but... what if one had succeeded in taking in a seed of life by taking in other living creatures.

"An intolerable creature. A life that must not exist... It might be something like that, couldn't it?"

As if reading Kain's thoughts, the young lady muttered.

The young lady then unleashed a thrust at the Earth Element that tried to make an attack from Kain's blind spot.

As expected, it was fruitlessly repelled, but it was enough to stop the Earth Element's movements.

"...Sorry, you saved me!"

"Pay attention, got it?"

The young lady grinned.

Before Kain could reply to that, a vigorous voice resounded.

"Fire... Chaaarge!"

A spear clad in flames approached the Earth Element.

However, although it was grazed by it, the Earth Element evaded the spear with astounding evasive power.

“Kain, are you alright!?”

A Sword Spirit ran past beside Seira as readied her spear once again, and it unleashed a slash on the Earth Element.

As the Earth Element just barely evaded even that and tried to move into an attack, Ein, who had went around to its back, slashed the bottom of its neck.

“Tsk...!”

Seeing that her blade was fruitlessly repelled, Ein took some distance while clicking her tongue.

Ein specialized in the sword, but she couldn't use a Magic Sword, and attack magic wasn't a strong point of her's either.

In other words, Ein didn't possess an effective method of attack against this Earth Element.

“So its defensive power has been raised to a huge extent. What a troublesome opponent.”

The Attack Fire that Rokuna fired made a violent explosion on the Earth Element.

“OOOO... Ruarururuu!”

The Earth Element raised an anguished voice, however, by making some of the magical power that it amassed burst, it blew away the fire that covered itself.

“...H—n, you're pretty good.”

After saying that sounding impressed, Rokuna was about to cast even more magic... then came to a complete stop.

“Ah, crap. There'd be no meaning to this if I do it—.”

She could use any amount of magic to defeat that Earth Element, but she wouldn't achieve her objective like that.

If it was this sturdy, it would surely become a good guinea pig for Summon Magic.

Thinking that, Rokuna shouted.

“Sharon, listen to me carefully! This guy’s movements are fast and its solid... However, that isn’t all!”

“Eh, wh, what do you mean?”

“Heeh...”

Kain was surprised by Rokuna’s words, while the purple young lady raised a voice of admiration.

“That guy is a fusion of Earth and Wind! It should be reading movements to a certain extent with wind! If you have a guy that uses Wind, then summon them!”

“I, I can’t do that!”

“Why not!”

“I, I. I can’t call out anything but things of the Water Element!”

Hearing that, Rokuna realized.

In the data of Sharon’s Adventurer card that Vermudol said he saw, she had heard that she had this kind of technical skill.

God of Water’s Divine Protection.

“...So that’s how it is.”

A God’s Divine Protection—That was the key.

Summon Magic was in other words magic to manifest a god-like existence.

That Sword Spirit and Bow Spirit were either retainers of the Gods, or a fragment of the Gods’ power... In short, this is how it would turn out.

To use Summon Magic, a contract with that god-like existence would have to be formed, and some compensation would be required.

In the case of that Sword Spirit, it was magical power in order to create that sword, and in the case of that Bow Spirit, it was magical power arrows.

Those portions of magical power would be seized within Sharon as compensation that was determined in the contract.

Since the compensation was too heavy with the magical power amount that mankind possessed, that was the reason why Summon Magicians couldn't use Elemental Magic very well.

The reason why they couldn't summon the God itself is most likely due to reasons such as a limit to their magical power amount and the compensation, that is what Rokuna had concluded to.

However, the magical power problem could be cleared if it was Rokuna who was a Mazoku.

All that was left was the divine protection but—this was something she couldn't do anything about.

Either she had to think of a way to obtain a divine protection... Or, she had to get someone that possessed a divine protection to use Summon Magic.

I wonder if Vermudol has one... is what she thought, but after thinking that she couldn't allow Vermudol to use magic where even the compensation was unknown, she reconsidered.

And then, Rokuna was about to be submerged into her sea of thoughts, but she remembered that they were in the middle of battle and restrained herself from doing so.

"...If you really can't do it, then tell me! I'll go ahead and blow it away with the forest!"

Since it would put an end to it with a single attack if it were an attack that the humanoid Earth Element couldn't avoid even if it read the wind or something, that was the easiest way to do it.

However, Kain and the others hurriedly shook their heads sideways.

“It, it’s fine! Please leave it to us!”

“Really?”

The young lady giggled as she watched Kain vigorously nod.

“...Well, I suppose it’s about time to conclude this.”

“Eh?”

Hearing the young lady’s mutter, Kain turned around.

After turning her sword towards the Earth Element, the young lady made a clear declaration.

“...O darkness.”

Darkness dwelled in the young lady’s sword.

Since Darkness Magic was once suspected of being a connection with the Mazoku, it was a magic whose users had completely disappeared.

Even now, there wasn’t anyone that would voluntarily use it.

The thing that the young lady had manifested was a Darkness Magic Sword, which could be said to be the height of Darkness Magic.

“So you were a Magic Swordsman...”

“That’s right. More importantly, we’ll attack it all at once.”

“Eh?... Ah!”

Hearing the young lady’s words, Seira shouted sounding as if she realized it.

“I see. If we attack from different directions, then it can’t avoid everything!”

“That’s only if the opponent doesn’t fly, though?”

Seira flinched for an instant at the young lady’s words, but immediately moved to the

Earth Element's back.

Maybe because the Sword Spirit also understood that, it took up a position in a different direction than Kain and Seira.

"Let's go, everyone!"

Having no way of avoiding the attacks that came from multiple directions that were unleashed simultaneously with Kain's shout, the Earth Element returned to being a lump of earth while raising a voice that resembled a scream.

# Chapter 32

In the forest after the Earth Element had completely returned to being a lump of earth, only silence remained.

“...Good job.”

After the young lady said that, she sheathed her sword into its scabbard.

With the battle done and taking a rest, Seira’s group finally calmed down and looked at the young lady.

Purple hair with light waves in it. Purple eyes that seemed like amethyst.

Clothes that resembled a purple dress that didn’t have a single stain even after having been in the middle of battle.

That figure of hers made her seem like she was the ojou-sama of a respectable family somewhere.

The sword that hung on her waist was also beautiful, and from what they could tell from the earlier battle, she definitely had skill with it.

“Erm... you’re the person that the person called Brutus-san is looking for, right?”

Kain asked that to the young lady while being mostly convinced that she was.

“Ara, you know of Brutus?”

“Ah, un. We met in the forest, you know?”

“I see. I supposed I’ve cause him to worry... I’ve done something bad.”

After saying that with a face that didn’t seem like she was sorry about it at all, the young lady made a quick peek at Rokuna, then looked back at Kain.

“That, sword of yours...”

“Eh?”

What was at the end of the young lady’s gaze was the Hard Sword Tilnok.

The young lady thoroughly observed every nook and cranny of Kain’s sword while being silent.

“Is there something wrong with Kain’s sword?”

Without answering Seira, who leaned forward and tried to join the conversation, the young lady continued to observe Tilnok’s sword blade while it was in Kain’s hand.

“U, um...?”

Becoming unable to endure the silence, Sharon called out to the young lady, but as expected, the young lady didn’t answer.

After observing the sword for a while, she suddenly went \*ha\* and raised her head.

“You use quite the interesting sword, don’t you?”

“Eh?”

“I felt like I had seen it somewhere before... but it looks like it was just my imagination. Thank you.”

Kain was expressing a question mark, but the young lady forcibly put a stop to the subject.

Hearing that it was an interesting sword, Rokuna also possessed an interest in Kain’s sword, but Rokuna didn’t know what was good or bad about swords.

If it was just about the magical power that was kept within them, then the sword that the young lady possessed had a much higher amount though.

“I thank you all for assisting me as well. I need to do something to show my gratitude, don’t I?”

“No, it’s fine. It’s not like we came here for the sake of receiving something like that.”

After Kain answered like that, the young lady made a face that looked like she found that to be unexpected.

“Ara, in that case, why did you assist me?”

“In order to save you.”

Hearing Kain answer without hesitation, the young lady asked a question with an expression that looked like she was having fun.

“...Is that, because I am a woman?”

“It doesn’t matter if you’re a man or a woman.”

“Fuun?”

Seira cut in between Kain and the young lady, who was giggling, with a face that went \*mu\*.

“...If you plan on making fun of Kain, I won’t forgive you.”

“Seira.”

“B, but Kain!”

Since Kain pressed down on Seira’s shoulder and stopped her, Seira turned a gaze of protest to Kain.

And when Kain shook his head despite that, Seira quietly left from being in between them.

“I am sorry, I had no intention of making a fool of you, you know?”

Seeing that exchange of theirs, the young lady spoke out words of apology.

“Un, I know that.”

“Is that so. That makes me happy.”

Seira, who looked vexed as she watched those two have that kind of conversation,

found that Sharon was hiding behind Ein, and then quietly went beside her and clung onto Ein's back.

"...Just what is wrong with you all..."

Although she breathed a sigh, Ein remained just letting the two of them do as they liked.

For Seira and Sharon, who were considerably obsessed with Kain, that young lady's existence was surely bothering them... that is what she understood.

"Even though they just met, she's being like that with Kain..."

"B, but. What if this actually isn't the first time...?"

"What do you think? Ein."

"...Don't ask me."

Ein answered Seira and Sharon, who were whispering behind her, without turning around and with an exasperated voice.

However, noticing that Rokuna was approaching her, she softened her scowling face.

"Is there anyone that knows that face?"

Being asked that, Ein's group once again looked at the young lady's face.

"U—n... I don't, I suppose. I think there'd be rumors going around if a person like that was around."

"Me too... I don't know her."

"Same here. I have not seen her before."

Seira and Sharon didn't seem to have idea of who she was, and Ein answered like that to Rokuna as a report from her position as a spy.

"Fuun...? I wonder what her name is."

“Ys.”

The young lady looked over their way and answered Rokuna who muttered that.

“Nn?”

“I would be delighted if you called me Ys.”

“Asking us to call you that...”

“We are the thing called comrades in arms, aren’t we? So let’s get along without reserve.”

Saying that, Ys went into a smile.

For Rokuna, she had no intention of being a comrade in arms with her, but she made a vague nod.

“I know about this. When one gives their name, it’s etiquette to give your own name in return, right?”

Ys expressed an impish smile, and urged their self-introductions.

“I am Kain.”

“...I’m Seira.”

“I, I am Sharon.”

While the three of them were making their self-introductions, Rokuna started thinking.

Somehow, things were feeling off.

A Human with a position that didn’t come out to the public all that much... could that be it?

“It’s Ein.”

“Rokuna.”

Confirming that the self-introductions were done, Ys nodded looking satisfied.

“And so, Kain, what did your group come to this forest to do?”

“Erm... a request, I suppose. We are Adventurers after all.”

“Is that so? Shall I help you out?”

Hearing Ys’s proposal, Kain shook her head sideways.

“We’re already done with it. It was after that when we were asked to search for you by Brutus-san.”

“I see. In that case, it was thanks to Brutus that I was able to meet with all of you.”

“Nn... That’s true, I suppose?”

Hearing Kain’s words, Sharon and Seira tightly gripped Ein’s clothes.

“...Oi, my clothes will stretch.”

“Uu...”

“That Kain, jeez...”

Seeing that two of the showed signs of not listening to her at all, Ein breathed her nth sigh today.

On the other hand, Rokuna was thoroughly observing Ys.

The purple young lady Ys, no matter how she looked at her, was a normal young lady.

The clothes that she wore seemed to be an order made dress for battle use, but it was an article where only some magical power could be felt.

The sword that she possessed was probably a Signature rank just like what the three knights had.

She could feel somewhat strong magical power from Ys herself... but it was within the bounds of common sense.

Summing it up, she was a young lady stronger than the average person.

Including the strength of her equipment, she was probably a bit stronger than Sharon and Seira here.

“By the way, your group has found me like this but. What shall we do after this?”

“What, you ask... We’ll go to where Brutus-san is...”

As he started saying that, Kain realized.

Even if they were to try and take her to where Brutus was, it wasn’t like their group had agreed on a place to meet up with him.

Not having a method to contact him either... They had absolutely no way of joining up with Brutus.

“If we have Ein go like whoosh, wouldn’t she be able to find him right away?”

Hearing Seira’s irresponsible words, Ein frowned and sought help from Rokuna.

Rokuna reluctantly gave her a helping hand.

“Wouldn’t it be fine to just wait in town? That blue guy’s companions are searching within the town, aren’t they?”

If they were to be at a store on the main street, then they would probably find them immediately.

If a young lady with an appearance that stood out this much, they would be able to tell it was her right away, and even with those knights with such flashy appearances, it would be easy for them to find them.

“Un, that might be good.”

“Yup, yup! That’s amazing, Rokuna!”

Kain and Seira approved of the idea, and even Sharon was looking at Rokuna with eyes that said she agreed.

For Rokuna, she felt troubled over being praised for something of this level.

“Well then, come with us to...”

“No, I am sorry. I am thinking of remaining here.”

Ys interrupted Kain’s words, and smiled.

Not thinking that she would ever say something like that, Kain was surprised, and stared at Ys.

“I still have a couple of things I need to do. It looks like things are safe already, and Brutus will come looking for me. It isn’t a problem.”

“B, but...”

“Kain.”

Ys brought Kain’s face close.

And then, bringing her own face close to his, she shut up Kain’s mouth with her own mouth.

“Ah, ahh—!”

Seira shouted, while Sharon repeatedly gaped her mouth open and shut.

With them pulling with all of their strength, the hem of Ein’s clothes was stretched, and turned into something pitiable.

“Wha, wha...?”

“I, hate unreasonable people, you know. So, listen to what I say, okay?”

Taking her hand away from Kain, Ys said that with a smile, and then she turned Kain around and, \*don\*, pushed his back.

“Next time, I’ll go to the town. Let’s meet again, okay?”

Kain stood stock still while his face was bright red, but he came back to his senses from being hit by Sharon and Seira.

“Kain, you idiot! Womanizer!”

“Oh Kain, you...!”

While chuckling, Ys gazed at the scene of Sharon and Seira pulling Kain.

And then, she turned her gaze to Ein and Rokuna who had stayed there.

“Is that alright? They’ve left, you know?”

“...Right.”

They were bothered about what kind of business this young lady who named herself as Ys could have in this forest.

However, right now, Ys was refusing communication with her whole body.

It would be simple to have Ein keep a lookout on this place... but for some reason, the image of that succeeding couldn’t come to her mind.

“You, just who are you really?”

“I’m Ys. That’s how I introduced myself, isn’t it? More importantly.”

Ys said that, and put more strength into her smile.

“Same to you, who are you? This is my first time seeing a person that possess such strong magical power like yours, you know?”

“I’m Rokuna. That’s how I introduced myself, isn’t it?”

“Fufu, that’s right. And that’s why, it’s fine just like that, isn’t it. Everyone has a secret or two.”

Rokuna clicked her tongue in her mind.

This young lady called Ys, even if she hasn’t noticed as far as Rokuna being a Mazoku... she had seen through the fact that she was a somewhat unique person.

Furthermore, she made a threat saying that it was needless for them to investigate

each other.

“...Hey, isn’t that true?”

“...That’s right.”

Right now, even that was fine.

What Rokuna should prioritize right now is the research on Summon Magic.

In regards to this young lady, she could do as many follow-up surveys as she liked later.

Ein wasn’t the only member of the Intelligence Unit in the St. Altis Kingdom after all.

“...Let’s get going too, Ein.”

“Yes.”

And then, Rokuna and Ein turned around.

Seeing their backs head to the exit of the Aledona Forest, Ys waved her hand.

“Bye bye, be careful.”

Until she could no longer see Rokuna and Ein’s backs, Ys continued to wave her hand.

After confirming that both of their presences had vanished, \*fu\*, her smile instantly vanished.

“...Brutus, you’re there, right?”

“Yes, I am here.”

Answering Ys’s call, the blue knight—Brutus stepped out from the shade of a tree.

Without turning to him, Ys breathed a sigh.

“When I see a chance, I will contact that man called Kain once again.”

“...As you wish.”

After Ys turned a hand towards the lump of earth at her feet and fired an Attack Dark, it swallowed up the lump of dirt along with the ground and annihilated it.

“Just you wait, Vermudol. The one to destroy you... will be me.”

There was no one other than Brutus that heard that mutter.

With there being no other living creature other than those two, Ys's mutter was swallowed up... by this Aledona Forest.



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