

Spear Master and the Black Cat

– Yaritsukai to, Kuroneko –

- Arc 2 -

AUTHOR:

Kenkou

[Translated by: Birdy Translations]



CHAPTER 20

DEPARTURE

“Let’s go!”

When Raguren says so we take the small path that leads to the foot of the cliff. I slowly take the first step of my journey. I push the popobumu forward.

When I’m heading toward the foot of the cliff.

“Shuuuya onii-chaaaaaan!! Work hard, nee! I’ll get ‘strong’ tooooooo!!”

Refaa calls out to me. Raguren, in front of me, immediately reacts.

“Huahahahaha.:

He seems to have heard what Refaa said and is laughing loudly. Raguren pulls the reins on the popobumu and turns around to talk to me.

“Really, that child...she seems to have been influenced by Shuya?”

“Uuh, sorry...”

“No, it’s fine. Isn’t this what that child has decided? The expression of that child when she heard that Shuya was leaving...it affected the hearts of her parents. So I’d like to grant that child’s wish as much as possible.”

I nod too.

“Isn’t that right...”

One’s precious daughter...

“Shuya will understand too if he has a daughter...”

Saying so Raguren turns back around and takes hold of the reins.

“A daughter...is impossible.”

My favorite person in the world, maybe a person I can love?

No, before that is the vampire system...

At which point, Raguren turns around and grins at me.

“Haha, how about it? How about my daughter in several years?”

“Eeh?”

“Hahaha, It’s a joke, just a joke. I won’t let you touch my daughter. I won’t recognize such a mysterious man!”

“Haha...”

What he said at the end there was kinda scary, it looks like Refaa will have some trouble in the future...

“The slope gets steeper from here. It’s better to do it in one go.”

Saying so Raguren grasps the reins and maintains the speed of the popobumu.

When the bottom is visible it suddenly becomes a steep downhill slope.

“Let’s go.”

I take hold of the reins and follow Raguren- the steep slope runs parallel to the rocky cliff face, it spins around the cliff going down.

It takes maybe an hour to reach the bottom?

Uo, narrow!

Coming into view is a mountainous area with an especially narrow and steep ridgeline.

This time it is uphill.

I grasp the popobumu’s reins and Raguren and I carefully make our way through the ridgeline.

There’s no option other than slowly guiding the popobumu one step at a time along the knife thin ridge line, making me break out in a cold sweat.

If it was just a person walking here then there wouldn’t be any trouble, but there’s no helping it.

Including all the bags the routes the popobumu can take are limited.

We are descending again.

After traveling perilous mountain paths with steep slopes going up and down we come to a scree slope with dangerous footing. *(TL: A scree slope is a hill of loose fallen rocks at the base of a mountain or cliff. It's a really dangerous area.)*

The path declines for a while and spreads out.

It looks difficult for the popobumu to walk across and it is cautiously walking across the rocks.

Once we get past the loose footing it becomes a mountain paths with alpine plants growing everywhere.

They resemble flowers from earth-

There are white flowers that resemble meadowsweet, some pink flowers that look like what were called dianthus, although they'll both have different names here.

After I pass through the area with all the blooming flowers the path turns into a steep downhill slope and it turns into a thickly forested area.

"There's a waterfall in this area of the forest. I don't think any monsters will show up but if they do would you like to hunt them?"

"Alright, is Raguren always hunting in this area?"

"That's right. Heading down this path goes to the bottom of the waterfall and sometimes I pass through elf territory."

"Further down?"

A waterfall. Imagining it from what he says...it must be a pretty tall waterfall.

"Even if I say below, it's only a sudden cliff. Later, the path also meanders, well it will be easy if we cross the waterfall after this."

"Got it."

"Ni, Nya."

For some reason Rollo also cries out in response to Raguren.

Surprised by Rollo's behavior Raguren turns around with arched eyebrows to face Rollo.

“This, Divine Beast-sama. Are you feeling alright?”

“Nya!”

When Rollo says so she flares the nostrils of her small nose and shakes her tail back and forth.

She seems to be thinking 『Fun』 and 『Want to Play』

Seeing her triumphant face, I laugh a little.

“Oh, that’s good.”

Raguren nods and smiles to Rollo.

While having such an exchange we continue down the shallow slope on the popobumu with heavy steps.

When the descent ends we have entered a forested area.

Here trees are covering and obscuring the mountains.

But because Raguren is cutting through the branches and small trees with a hatchet-like weapon we’re easily able to advance.

And then, the sound of a rambling river reaches my ears.

Raguren turns his popobumu in the direction of the sound.

It seems we’re going in the direction of the river.

I follow him. The sound increases as the sound of the rambling river becomes stronger.

Oh, I can see it. The river is filled with rocks creating a powerful torrent.

Raguren quickly gets down from his popobumu and walks to the rocky place.

When he reaches the edge he stoops down and thrusts both of his thick arms into the rapid current. Cupping the water in his hands he lifts the water up and pours the cold looking water over his face.

He scoops up the water several times and washes his face before drinking the water with great relish.

The moment looks like a face-washing commercial.

Roughly plunging his water flask into the river, the flask is dipped in torrent and scooped up.

“-I’m pretty sure that this is mountain water. I recommend filling up your water flasks here.”

“Un. I’ll do that.”

Since I can create water I am fine.

However, it seems like a spring from fresh mountain water so I’ll take some.

Imitating Raguren, I dip my water flask into the torrent. Because the current is so strong the water flask almost gets washed downriver, but I endure it and fill up the flask.

I lift it out after confirming it is full.

“I’ve already refilled my water, I’ll go first.”

“Okay.”

I went south from the riverside.

“There’s a cliff and a big waterfall ahead. And the mountain path continues in a steep slope.”

“Got it.”

As Raguren said the rivers drops over a cliff and becomes a waterfall.

A long bridge is visible extending out diagonally over the side of the cliff.

We’ll walk across that?

The bridge has been set up between rocks so that is four logs tightened together.

Even though I can see that the bridge is sturdy I feel nervous inside because I’m looking down from the cliff at the top of the waterfall.

I’ll leave it to the popobumu. One step at a time, I advance across the logs.

The rapids turn into a waterfall and the water washes away at a terrifying speed.

-The *zaaaaaa* of the rushing water is intense.

An enormous amount of water flies off into the sky as mist.

Scary. The popobumu doesn't care about my feelings and slowly advances across the log. The black cat is also on alert, unmoving.

Shishi stepping along the logs, creaking sounds shave away at my spirit.

Unintentionally I look down, I can see below.

-Uhiya.

A sound leaked out.

Raguren looks at me with harsh eyes.

I guess it can't be helped...

When I get on the popobumu I'm honestly scared.

Looking down at the bottom of the waterfall, I can see a forest again after several hundred meters.

-It is high, scary...

Water is flowing powerfully underneath the log.

Water being thrown up by the rocks is flying up in a spray making the area humid, moss is growing across the rocks and logs.

Because of the moss and moist air, I am worried the log I am walking across is slippery.

The popobumu's feet are thick.

Because they're thick I'm worried about its weight.

While holding onto his reins Raguren looks back several times, and perhaps understanding the look on my face, talks to me with a relaxed smile.

"...Be assured, the log is considerably strong."

"Un. Still, because of this guy's weight..."

Seeing me talking in a different tone than usual, Raguren smiles wider and talks to me.

“Haha, are you actually weak to high places?”

“There’s no special meaning behind it.”

Yeah, well, I am bluffing.

“Hora, you’re almost to the end of the log now.”

Oooh, I’m close.

“Good.”

Crossing over the bridge of logs safely, the steep embankments spreads out further.

The slope begins to meander.

Taking a tight hold of the reins the popobumu carefully steps forward.

The mountain path. Such an easy victory.

Speaking frankly, the waterfall from earlier was scary.

Before long, the winding mountain path changes into a gentle slope.

The slope gradually turns into a level mountain path.

Oh, finally.

The popobumu takes one last heavy step down the slope and steps onto the level ground.

Here is the bottom.

I turn my face up and look up at the path and the waterfall which falls all the way down from the top.

From the rapids at the top to the waterfall coming to the bottom I can see the water breaking off into a white mist and being blown away by the wind.

The sheet of spray looks like wings.

The updraft pulls the water off of the waterfall into a spray before it is caught again in a downdraft and descends.

Ma, the wind feels good. Is it anions?
N~ I breath in. N~fuu~ Dis feels nice.

While I breath in the fresh air and then exhale for some reason the voice in my head has a Kyushu dialect.

Raguren is waiting for me quietly.
I enjoy the beautiful view and take advantage of the scenery.

The damp rock of the cliff face nearby, the trunks of trees and shrubs are growing across the whole cliff face.
A few streams of water are visible going across the rock face and trees, the water trickling down and creating a marsh.

The wet wind blowing from the waterfall becomes the nourishment for the surrounding plants.

Nevertheless, these big tree and shrubs...

I touch a tree trunk to the side with my hand.
It is a thick brown trunk. The large trunk of this tree is growing supported by the cliff. It is to the extent that it makes the tree Shisho and I camped at before seem small.
Then, when I look across the cliff...

A small river forms its own branch and flows into the forest.

It feels like a gate into nature.
From here on is the real forest.

In the forest I can feel some presences.
I caught them with presence detection, there's a deer on the other side of the river.
It is a flock of does following a buck.

Raguren must have noticed too since he turns his eyes to the deer.

“There are deer there. But, we'll leave them for today.”

It is a face that seems to want to hunt. I ask such a Raguren a question.

“Do a lot of different animals appear here?”

“Ah, this area is full of game. There are also a lot of monster hunting?”

“Oh- it left when I talked.”

Raguren’s eyes are able to discern the location of the monster.

Several monkeys appear in the trees. They look like big baboons. They have conspicuous yellowish green hair growing down from their head.

Two big fangs are growing from the corners of their mouths.

There’s a lot of them...

*Ki, ki, gi, ga, they are crying out in excited monkey-like voices.

It’s a mountain ape. I can see several of them, and there should be more hiding in the trees...Looking at the circumstances we’ll be immediately attacked.”

After saying so, Raguren changes his weapon.

Putting away his machete he takes the big axe from his back.

“Are there any countermeasures?”

“Only aim for the ones that come and attack, it’s a brutal monster but since Shuya is here there shouldn’t be a problem. And then, as long as you pay attention to any projectiles they throw and the fangs in their mouths we should be able to win. After all it’s just a monkey type.”

“Understood.”

I take out the black spear from the back of the popobumu’s saddles and remove the cloth covering the tip. And then I hold the black spear out to the side in my right hand like a jousting knight.

Raguren kicks his popobumu with his foot to spur it on and runs ahead first.

Perhaps instigated by the movement dozens of mountain apes come out and gather around Raguren.

The mountain apes are one or two meters. Raguren swings his big axe around and easily buries it in an approaching monkey.

Where I am a monkey with a terrible look on its face attacks while exposing its fangs.

Rollo jumps out too.

I rush out while she counter attacks with a feeler bone sword to the monkey's body. As the bone sword instantly approaches the body of the monkey her body quickly shifts from the size of a cat into her black panther form.



She grabs hold of the monkey's body with her claws.

Growling, Rollo utters a crying with the instinct of a beast.

She bites into the flesh of the monkey's scruff while exposing her fangs. Her black fur covered in blood, she steps over the corpse of the monkey she killed- then jumps and attacks a different one.

Amazing...

She's not completely a cat...she really is a divine beast.

"To!"

A monkey attacks me who is watching care freely.

The mouth of the monkey enlarges in preparation to bite me.

I naturally respond with my spear like a lance and stab out with the black spear reflexively.

The blade of my black spear pierces through the head of the monkey as easily as tofu.

In the moment I was distracted by Rollo's fight I was still able to handle the black spear easily and cope with being on the back of the popobumu.

There's a different monkey to my left and it jumps to bite me.

-Reacting immediately I pull out the wet black spear and wield the spear being aware of the tight space. I knock the monkey to its knees by hitting the right side of its head with the butt end.

Consecutively, I attack one attacking monkey, two monkeys, killing them smoothly.

With a foot I lightly clap the popobumu's side with that timing, raising the speed up a notch.

Releasing the popobumu's reins I free my left hand.

While tightening both of my thighs to hold onto the saddle, I turn my freed left hand out diagonally and extend chain. The chain goes out in a straight line- when it penetrates through the body of a monkey throwing itself from a tree it travels through its back, when the chain finally pierces the trunk of the tree it stops.

In one go, two are killed.

In an instant I dismiss the extended chain.

Still, there are a lot of monkeys.

The monkey come at me one after another.

Holding the black spear in my right hand I stab, swing, and beat at the monkeys, then using <thrusting> to attack a monkey.

Then I activate <Magic Thought Guidance Hand>- the distorted magic formed from mana pulls out the kukri sword, and I direct it behind me.

The kukri sword intercepts the monkeys approaching me from behind.

In my first battle on top of popobumu my attacks all land and I am able to attack one after another.

The Magic Beast Riding skill.

I tried copying the jousting knights from the middle ages but the nature of the black spear is different, so I end up using the spear techniques I learned during my training. Ma, it is natural. There are also no fittings for a lance to rest on for the spearmanship.

And thanks to the <Chain> from the permanent <Though Guidance Chain> skill I am able to move it at will.

Even while riding the popobumu I am able to accurately hit my targets

I discover that this mastered <chain> is important tactically. Not only will it be good for attack in the future, I will be able to use it for defense, feints, and surprise attacks. I think it has become more flexible, and everything regarding this <chain> may now be possible.

The possibilities are endless. Spiral power.

Do you want big sunglasses? *(TL: Tengen Toppa Gurren Lagann reference.)*

While thinking about such an anime, with a grin I continue try to use my chain freely.

I swing my black spear freely and continue attacking the monkeys that approach the popobumu one after another.

Raguren's attacks must have succeeded as well since the number of mountain apes has decreased.

I do not if it is because the number of its companions has decreased, but a monkey that seems to be the chief of the mountain apes raises a strange cry different from the ones so far.

Is it a signal to retreat?

The group of monkeys separates from us in response to the sound.

I confirm the actions of the monkeys with Raguren.

Nodding to one another we ease up on our popobumus and come to a stop.

Checking around us I can hear a "Nn, Nyaa, Nyaa," and covered in her prey's blood, the black cat Rollo comes running to catch up with her whole body dyed in blood.

Seeing her figure Raguren's eyebrows draw together in an expression of surprise. Like that he begins talking anxiously.

"-Divine Beast-sama, are you alright?"

"Nya-"

The divine beast, also known as the black cat Rollodinu answers lightly 『I'm fine, nya』 and like a dog- shakes her whole body flinging her prey's blood in all directions.

"...Earlier, weren't Rollodinu's movement really amazing? It was just like a beast in pursuit of its game."

"Ho...As expect of Divine Beast-sama."

"Eh, she's certainly a divine beast- she's returned to her cat form now..."

Raguren also stares at the black cat in wonder.

"The mystery of Divine Beast-sama."

"Yeah."

After Raguren nods to my short reply he opens his mouth while looking around.

"-However, it's a shame to leave behind these mountain ape corpses. Shuya, will you help me collect the hides? I want to collect enough for one popobumu."

"Of course I'll help, and while we're at it we can pour the blood into this."

I hold the water flask in my hand and shake it.

"Ooh, I see, that's how it is. Then right away."

Raguren gets down from his popobumu and taking out a knife begins to quickly remove the Mountain Ape hides.

I help with the skinning with a knife as well.

Working to strip this game, I think that my hands have become considerably experienced in this.

Judging by someone else's standpoint they will see a look full of confidence.

I think I have become good even if I say so myself.

I don't say "craftsman class" to Raguren.

After finishing, I pour the blood of the monkeys into a water skin.
These three water skins are all full with blood and with water.

Blood is okay from a corpse, but the flavor declines.
After all, life blood is much tastier.

But, this time I'll endure.

It's like the difference between a sour grape and a bittersweet grape...

Once we've mostly finished dismantling the monkeys the saddle back of Raguren's popobumu has become bulky with baggage.

"Thanks for helping me collect everything. When it comes to talking it may be helpful in the end."

"Good. I am grateful for you guiding me."

"Haha, so you say? Yosh, the elven territory is ahead. Let's hurry."

Holding the reins, Raguren takes the lead with a laugh.

From there I watch the forms of monsters in a circle around us.

On the other hand, the scenery is fantastic. The sunshine filtering through the foliage exposing animals in the whimsical forest. While I am fascinated by the scenery, the popobumu's footsteps become slower because of the dense undergrowth acting like a natural fortress.

There are a lot of tall thick trees here.
I can see natural boulders and animals.

However, the path through the forest hasn't been maintained so advancing like this is difficult. The uneven terrain is difficult to traverse. Walking like this, it would have been more serious...it is thanks to Shisho.

Like this and that several hours pass and- dusk arrives.
Have we arrived at the elf domain? Raguren stops moving before a huge tree.

“The domain of the elves is from here for two and a half days. It is already dusk, so let’s camp-out here once.”

Ma, there are two days?

“Got it.”

Raguren continues talking while he gets down from his popobumu.

“At night the elves will scout, they may notice our fire too.”

They must have good eyesight to see at night.

“Do the Elves have effective night vision?”

“Not all Elves have functioning night vision, but every Elf I have encountered seems to have had night vision...”

“Hee...”

While Raguren tells me about Elves he winds the reins of the popobumu around a tree.

“Well then, I’ll look for firewood to make a bonfire and big game for dinner in the area. Since I tied this popobumu to this tree wait here for now.”

“Understood. Do you not need help?”

“I’m fine. Just look after the popobumus.”

“Got it.”

After Raguren says so, he disappears into the brush and ferns with his big axe over his shoulder.

After about an hour has passed...

Raguren hasn’t returned yet.

The area has steadily become darker.

Then, I hear swoosh coming from part of the forest. The black cat and I stare in the direction of the sound.

“-Sorry, I kept you waiting. I finished collecting firewood right away...I just, took too much game.”

It was Raguren.

On his waist, young rabbits, something like a raccoon and a beaver? A young fox? Well there are several of them.

Amazing. Raguren exceeds the level of hunter...

That is way too much game in this short time.

“Still, that’s a lot.”

“Aah, because I only have my axe and hatchet I can only aim for far off game using this.”

Raguren shows throwing a stone with a lightweight stone throwing sling.

A small leather cloth and a stone? The stone is wrapped in the leather before buzzing as it is swung and then thrown.

-With a *shu* the stone is sent flying and smashed into a tree with a dull boom.

The stone sank into the tree.

“Ooh.”

The power of the stone is great and Raguren is also really strong. One shot should usually take ten or twenty seconds. More than that, his aim accurate too.

“Its power is also pretty good. I can kill game sensitive to sound and a distance with this.”

“Amazing.”

“Haha, I’m used to hunting. Yosh, let’s prepare the meal soon. Put the firewood here, I’ll light the fire later. Besides, there are other things to do.”

From the saddle of his popobumu Raguren pulls out a bag with small whitish pieces of wood and another one with black powder, finally he removes two thin bone pipes.

A bone pipe? What is it used for?

While paying attention to the pipe I watch what Raguren does.

Raguren sprinkles the small whitish wood pieces around the camp.

Shisho did this too.

The saw dust repels insects.

After Raguren sprinkles the white powder he returns to the firewood.

There's no flint there, but the black powder from before is packed into the thin cylinder, and then the smaller pipe is inserted into the larger one and is pushed down in one go.

-The small tube is immediately removed.

Hee...

The tip of the tube has become red and burnt.

It is touched to the dry grass and ticks the was put with the fire wood before and blown on vigorously.

The fire burns and starts to spread to the firewood, becoming a strong fire in no time.

Was the black powder in the bone pipe charcoal?

Did you use the friction of the air pressure...

“Even without life magic can't it be done with one blow?”

Raguren begins speaking while moving a hand.

I skin the rabbit give him the meat.

With the meat stuck onto a knife, will it be some kind of herb this time? It is taken out. Winding it around the meat something dry is put inside the rabbit meat, and then it is all arranged on the fire.

“Speaking of magic, Achilles-shisho said that not only life magic, but language magic and crest magic are also widely used.”

“That's right, I have seen an Elf use them. After saying some words...the aria, a fireball and wind was created afterwards. There also seem to be magic material type weapons that make magic usable without an aria by using a stick a jewel or a ring.”

After all this is the fantasy route. I want to see magic.

“Indeed, magic...I want to see it.”

Which reminds me, I have never seen Raguren or Shisho use really magicy magic very much.

The only place where I have seen is when Rabbi-san uses fire for cooking, I have only ever seen life magic a handful of times.

“From now on, you will see a lot even if you don’t want to...did I burn it?”

While saying so Raguren takes the stick our food is on and rotates it expose the meat to the fire.

While turning the meat, Raguren takes out a small earthen ware pot and sprinkles it over the meat.

Then a fragrant smell drifts.

“This roasted rabbit meat is delicious~, this big bivira is good too.”

The thick meat definitely is appetizing and the tension rises.

“The bivira meat is thick, meat, meat~”

“Since the rabbit meat is finished already take some.”

The rabbit meat has been roasted well and the meat juices are dripping from the handle of the knife.

“Un, I’ll take some. What was that powder you just sprinkled?”

While looking at the meat I try asking about it.

“This? This is seryu powder. When cooking meat I sometimes use it for spice. I don’t have any ‘croke fruit,’ but I do have this which is similar. According to the Elves, the croke stuff is actually a ‘gold coin class’ good. Ma, something like that, quickly eat the rabbit meat.”

Achilles-shisho was also using seyru powder, is the Goldiba family unexpectedly gourmet?

Ma, it is natural. Always hunting for sustenance, they have mastered the recipes they specialize in.

As recommended, I stretch out a hand to the rabbit meat knife place on the fire.

Pulling away the spice grass it was bake with I bring the meat dripping with juices to my mouth.

Ooh, phuphuphu, it's hot, but it is tasty.
The seyru powder is a little savory.
But, the taste of fruit has become strong.

"Yummy...it tastes really good, but why does it taste like oranges?"

"Haha, its name isn't orange? It's called 'peri.' Ma, it's made of the dried skin of a fruit called saika. Because this also takes away the bad smell of the meat it's useful. So, hora, eat eat, and the bivira takes even better."

This fruit named saika tastes similar to oranges.

"Nya~ Nyanya!"

Rollo purrs out.
Give me! That is what the sound almost says.

"Because there is also some for Divine Beast-sama please be relieved."

As Raguren says so he carefully places some rabbit meat and bivira meat on a leaf and places it in front of the black cat.

"Nya."

Calling out happily she eats it.

He faces looks happy too.
Happily munching away. Ah, she has more meat than me...

"Hahaha, Divine Beast-same eats well."

Getting into the swing Raguren continues taking meat and placing it one after another on the leaf...

"Raguren, it's no good if you give her too much."

Ah, I said it unintentionally.

“Really I still have bivira meat.”

“Nya.”

When Rollo calls out she extends a feel to Raguren’s cheeks.

“Ooh, I’m sensing Rollodinu-sama’s feelings...”

“What?”

“Satisfied...I did it. To think it was like it...”

Seemingly satisfied Rollodinu brings her forepaw to her head and begins to scratch, *peropero* licking her foot with her tongue.

“Then, I’ll have this bivira meat.”

While I wait I steadily pack the remaining bivira meat into my stomach. It might be childish, but this roasted meat is thick and really tasty.

I bite in and chew. Yummy. The seryu powder compliments the meat. There’s still some meat left, but I am satisfied.

While Raguren smiles and laughs he scratches at his growing mustache.

Seemingly satisfied Rollo has finished *perroperroing* his forepaw clean and is turning her stomach to face the fire.

Narrowing her crimson eyes as she stares at the fire, she looks sleepy. It feels like the awareness in her eyes is no longer properly there.

Raguren gathers up the remaining meat and collects what remains from the meat of Rollo’s leaf before taking out a bag and heading over to the popobumu’s to give them their feed.

He even feeds my popobumu.

He seems to have put away the meat wrapped in the leafy herb back inside the saddle bag.

And, with a rustling sound he searches for something to take out. He pulled out a blanket.

I head over to my popobumu and go through the bag connected to the back of my saddle to take out my own blanket.
Various blankets are stored there.

Common traveling necessities...

Honestly, I have thought it many times... I am really grateful Achilles-shisho's family.

Taking out a blanket, I close my eyes with a sense of gratitude.

"Then, we'll eat the leftover meat tomorrow, should we lay down now? Sleep in preparation for tomorrow."

"Understood. However, is it okay to lie down unconcerned?"

"It's fine. I'm used to it. If something approaches I naturally wake up."

As expected of a heaven-sent child of hunting.

Destroyer-like, it is a hunter.

"That's right. Got it."

"Ah."

The conversation ends with that.

I cover my feet with a blanket while leaning on a tree.

I wrap a blanket behind around head and leave my body inside the quiet night forest.
The quiet sounds of nature are blocked out.

The wind gusting through the trees. Nocturnal animals.

The calmness of night is like one sound you feel.

The sound coming from the fire burning in the bonfire lingers in my ears.

Rollo laying by the fire raised her body and stares at me appealing for something.
Looking at the eye of such a Rollo, I lift the bottom of the blanket and Rollo scampers in.

Rollo, where you aiming for this gap?

Rollo seems to have found the gap under the blanket between my legs.

Rollo buries her body into the gap and seems to be going to sleep.

I remember cats in pots from my past life.

It is universal that cats like sitting in narrow places.

Seeing Rollo fitting into the gap I narrow my eyes as I smile.

Haha, did you fit in after all.

Yo~sh. While rubbing the head and enjoying the feeling the ears of such a Rollo I close my eyes too.

Seeming to enjoy having her ears ear rubs lightly Rollo make a purring sound in her chest, and pushes pads of her paws into the inside of my thighs like a gift in return.

The feeling of her paw pads is really nice.

Rollo the black cat repeatedly *massages* while putting her claws in and out grasping gently.

Is she remembering suckling her mother's milk?

But, there can't be a memory like that since she's a divine beast...

Ma, maybe it is an animal trait.

And like that, I who normally can't sleep very much stay like that with Rollo, and gradually fall asleep.

CHAPTER 21

ARRIVAL OF THE SAVAGE RABBIT

I wake to bird song the next morning.

Is it already morning?

Provoked by the bird song, I raise my eyes.

Birds are flying amongst the tree tops and the song of their chirping echoes about.

I stretch out a finger to the surface of the big tree in front of me while raising my body. A strange smell emanates from the tree.

This big tree, could it be around a thousand years old? Unconsciously I think about the mind boggling time this giant tree must have live for.

Big fern-like leaves grow around the base of the big tree.

A drop of morning dew drips of the end of a leaf and creates a small puddle in the depressed ground. There is a small line of ants nearby.

With only this line of ants, I am able to tell that this land is brimming with vitality.

“Are you awake?”

Raguren asks me.

It looks like Raguren just got up, too.

“Yes, just a moment ago.”

I feel refreshed even though I only slept a little.

“I’ll settle breakfast with this hard bread and what’s left of yesterday’s meat.”

“Understood.”

“Still, I thought the debonchitchi spirit children appeared here, but they didn’t.”

“Ah, the one that make the mysterious sound?”

“Yeah. It’s a sign of good luck if it appears during Shuya’s journey. Ey?”

“Can they be met if you travel for a while? Rollo is here too.”

There's no grounds for it.

"Hahaha, I guess Divine Beast-sama can gather good fortune too."

A beckoning cat?

Breakfast is finished quickly while having a silly conversation, and I replenish my blood with a sip from the corresponding water flask. In the meantime, Raguren gets on his popobumu.

"I'll go ahead a little."

He takes the reins and quickly goes ahead.

The black cat Rollo also seems to have finished her preparations and is sitting on the back of the popobumu's head.

I hurry to get onto the popobumu and chase after the back of Raguren.

Whilst I am complaining in my head about Raguren overdoing it this early in the morning I see him moving leisurely in the trees up ahead, illuminated by the morning sunlight.

"You came? We're getting closer to the elven territory, but we still have some way to go. "Let's go."

"Got it."

Raguren is plowing through the undergrowth of the forest.

The footing under the popobumu's feet changes to thick mud as we enter a valley between two cliffs.

Then we are attacked by a mosquito monster. But even though it sucks blood it is only a mosquito so it is easily defeated and we pass through the muddy area.

We encounter a bear monster bigger than a degozabear in an area where dark green forest spreads out. Its face is obviously furious, but Raguren ignores it.

It seems to have judged us as dangerous.

It avoids me same way. I keep the popobumu moving forward for the time being while being careful.

When the forested land turns into a slightly uphill slope I fight some forest goblins, but they are defeated with no difficulty and we arrive at the hill.

Even if I say hill of the forest the trees are in the way and there's no view. Without saying anything Raguren continues ahead down the hill. I continuously direct the popobumu. I keep going while avoiding the trees. Then, Raguren who ran ahead stops his popobumu.

There's a presence of magical essence, when I move to Raguren's side, and looks back at me with a stern face and talks.

-From here onward "everything is the domain of the Elves."

When I weave my way through the trees. Until now we've only passed through overgrown dark green forest, but now there is a path of compacted dirt between trees. A soil highway. The popobumu snorts softly and takes light steps. It seems to be comfortable with this.

Our traveling speed is able to increase and we advance ahead smoothly. It suddenly changes from a path of dirt to a path paved with stones.

As a result, sparks begin flying from the hoofs on the ground, and from above-

"Stop!!"

We are called out to in a loud voice. What? I look around for the voice. There in one of the big trees is a lookout constructed from wooden boards. Two soldiers wearing helmet are standing guard. The two soldiers are carrying bows and pointing arrows at us. Raguren easily locates the outpost and opens his mouth to talk.

"I am horned person of mountain."

In the babble judged to be Elven, he talks.

"What! You are one of the mountain people? Then why are you accompanied by this 'human!'"

The words are different than Raguren's, but I can understand them...
This skill is helpful.

It seems that Raguren's Goldiba are called the mountain people.

"This human, good guy. Friend of mountain people. This human wants go south. This human to country, I give passage."

He seems to be negotiating...but when the story gets complicate it becomes difficult. I'll entrust it to Raguren.

"Understood. I am not able to judge this. Wait here. Mountain person."

When one of the Elf soldiers says so he jumped back and disappeared. However, the other soldier still has his bow drawn and pointed at me.
When Raguren sees that he whispers in my ear.

"Now he will get an associate and ask for judgment."

"So, wait patiently."

After I wait for a little, the soldier who disappeared early returns with a female Elf with long bright golden yellow hair on the lookout.

"Person of the mountain, I am in charge of this area, I am called Lanfa Seyaruka. You seem to want to pass through here, but are you also one of the mountain people?"

"No, I'll stop here."

The female Elf introduces herself to Raguren in broken words, moving the long golden yellow eyebrows, her eyes becomes sharp as she opens her mouth.

"What? Only the human wants to pass through here?"

"That is right."

The Elf woman looks closer with her blue eyes.

There are feelings of doubt and discomfort written in her eyes.

Hesitating, the silence grows.

“...The people of the mountain are acquaintances through trade. Also, there is the acquaintance of the elders. I can't do it flatly. I will probably be okay. But, you cannot go through to the south. Because the eastern exit is closer, I will guide you there.”

The south is impossible. The east...

“Is that so, Elf. Thank you.”

“...Good, person of the mountain. It is because we are taken care of in our trading.”

Raguren turns back to me with a smile.

“Okay, it looks like everything will be alright. They'll only take you to the east...”

“Ah, it's fine. As long as I can leave the territory for now it's all good.”

“That's right. Then, I have finished guiding you... to here. I'm returning home.”

“Nn, Nya~ N, Nya!”

As Raguren is about leave Rollo seems to hear and jumps onto Raguren's popobumu with an unusually long cry. She quickly jumps onto Raguren's thick shoulders.

“Divine Beast-sama?”

Raguren pulls back in surprise. Indifferent to his surprised, the black can Rollo touches a feeler to Raguren's cheek.

Rollo shakes her whiskers and feels a little.

Raguren begins to blush and show a face no one has ever seen before.

“Yes. Divine Beast-sama, you also take care.”

Raguren and Rollo's gazes mix together.

It is a kitten and a very big man, but somehow the atmosphere is peaceful.

Satisfied she had conveyed her feeling to Raguren, Rollo jumps back onto my popobumu.

Uneventfully, she sits down with her head up and her chest pushed forward to display her fur.

“Did you give you good byes Rollo?”

I pat the small head and neck of Rollo before she starts trying to fix and groom her fur again. While stroking her fur, I turn to look at Raguren.

“Raguren, thank you for guiding me. Also, give my best regards to Shisho as well as Refaa and Rabbi-san. And, Raguren, la kerlada.”

Imitating Shisho, I place my hand to my chest in a mark and say la kerlada, expressing my thanks.

“Ou. I pray for your safe trip Shuya, la kerlada!”

Raguren smiles back and placing his hand on his chest in the same manner says la kerlada. Turning his popobumu around, he shows his big back and departs slowly.

Raguren. He has a simple personality of a man among men.
For this past year, thank you-

I naturally lower my head to Raguren's departing back.

When the Elf woman confirms that Raguren is leaving, she talks to me.

“...Human, come here. It is not possible to pass through the south boarder. Even if I say that, you won't understand what I'm saying.”

Saying so the Elf woman lifts her arms above her in a gesture waving to come to her. I can understand. Understanding implicitly, I tap the popobumu's side and move his reins, and I approach the elven lookout.

Looking, again I can the form of an elf nearby.

There is a tattoo on the soldier's cheeks, some kind of animal or creature is drawn in a seal.

The two people have two different patterns.

Is it a faction mark?

I do not mind the tattoo mark... staring down the Elf soldier looks at me dubiously. That's how it looks. Words,

As expected, the one who understood the conversation is comfortable, and speaking of the other-

“-I understand your words. Lanfa-san? Thank you, my name is Shuya Kagari. It’s fine to call me Shuya.”

“Na...Elven language. Besides, that dialect, it’s fluent like an old noble of Befarits?”

Then, one of the male soldiers approaches the Elf woman doubtfully.

“Platoon Chief Lanfa, isn’t it fine to just let this human go as is?”

The platoon chief Elven woman named Lanfa hears his words and frowns.

“Letting him go, is there no helping it? Did I not promise the people of the mountain directly? If it is you, could you bluntly say so to the mountain people?”

She talks in an intense tone as she coldly admonishes her subordinate soldier.

“I would not be able to.”

“Exactly. From here isn’t the south but it is immediately the eastern domain from here. One human will be okay. And then...is it because this matter is a secret for the elders?”

“Haa, I understand.”

The Elf soldier man has a dissatisfied expression but answer in affirmation.

“You said Shuya of the Humans. From here on, you will go the way I take you. As much as possible, avoid crowded areas and villages, okay?”

“Understood. I will follow you.”

As for Lanfa, when we finish talk she looks back, and from down from the lookout point out of my sight. She seems to be running back to a stable.

When she returns on horseback, she directs me from on top of her horse.

“This way. Come!”

She declares it like an order.

Lanfa shifts on the horse’s neck and canters gallantly.

“Fast...”

The horse Lanfa is riding moves steadily at first.
The mantle she is wearing fills wind and billows out.

I clap the popobumu's side to increase speed and follow.

Then I hear a strange voice.

When I look at the back of popobumu's head while running... Rollo has shifted to a position where she is embracing the back of the popobumu's head like she is clinging to it.

It is an interesting posture. Furthermore, Rollo extends a feeler.

She looks at Lanfa riding her horse as if to say "catch up to it," and uses a feeler like a whip to slap the popobumu's neck.

If I had a smart phone I would take a video.

I remember the figure of a cat stuffed into the hand bag of beer.

When I remember such a video the horse Lanfa is leading from turns aside from the stony path.

We have to deviate from the path in order to avoid elf villages.

-I run off the side of the road into the forest-

I handle popobumu so as not to fall behind Lanfa's horse, following.

Maintaining speed, I hurry to catch up, and approach the side of the horse she is riding.

I carefully look at the face of an Elf now. No, she is a beauty.

Rabbi-san was an adult woman too...

The Elf has long ears and beautiful bright golden-yellow hair.

Her eyes are blue. The tattoo of a snake stands out on her right cheek.

Are all Elves this beautiful...

At which point, perhaps noticing my gaze, she slows her horse down.

“What is it? N? You have a cat too...It’s cute.”

When Lanfa looks at Rollodinu I smile.
She muttered in a voice appropriate for a girl.

“N? Ah, this cat is Rollodinu.”

When I say that, Lanfa suddenly shakes her head and glares at me with unsparing eyes when she collects herself.

“...Really, strange human, the area of the human countries you are going to, aren’t those from 【 Osberia Kingdom 】 on bag terms with cats and dogs? War has happened in the past too. There are skirmishes taking place there now. Ma, there haven’t been any battles that stand out in more than fifty years...”

“He, such a thing... I don’t really know much about this area.”

In response to what I said Lanfa raises her eyebrows in a look of surprise.
Hou, is a human like me unusual? Thinking about something like that, I look back patiently.

“...I may doubt what you say is true, before we continue east like this, I want you to make one promise.”

“What?”

“Not only this eastern territory but that you also never return to the Elven domain.”

Elves are very insular.

Though only the Elves in here are not known...

“I agree. I promise.”

Lanfa looks relieved by what I said and begins to smile.

“Good. Then the conversation is to here. It will already take a while before we reach the eastern border.”

“Got it.”

As expected, Lanfa is a forest Elf.

She seems to know her way through the forest. While the trees grow thick, we run at full speed through one animal path after another,

I speed up and somehow manage to follow her. But, I almost crash into a branch growing out from a big trunk-

I bend my head down and am somehow able to avoid it.

“Fuu, that was close.

“Are you alright? There are only animal trails in this area. We’ll slow down.”

Lanfa seems to understand my condition and slows down her horse to wait.

“It’s hard, right? As expected when there are so many tree this densely packed it becomes difficult.”

“Really? However, your handling of the magic beast is good.”

Lanfa looks at popobumu.

“It’s because I’m ridden him plenty.”

“I see. It will be the ‘hill of the horned rabbit’ soon. After that is the eastern border to
【 Terramay Kingdom 】 ”

“The horned rabbit hill, are we already outside of elven territory?”

“Yes.”

As Lanfa continues her silly talk I begin to focus more on the reins in my hand as the hill begins to slope steeply downward.

After about three hours pass.

As the sun looks dazzling shining in the grove of tree, the forest- suddenly opens up. The giants tree feels like the gate of the Elven forest; I’ll be stepping outside the territory of the Elves.

I can see the horizon through the tree line, and a small hill right in front of me.

This seems to be the place called “horned rabbit hill.”

Since it mentions horned rabbit so that mean a monster called horned rabbit appear?

“We are here.”

“Lanfa-san, thank you for guiding me.”

“Ah, un.”

It looks like the first tie Lanfa was thanked by a human.

She is blushing red and judging by her short reply she seems to be having trouble coming up with an answer.

But, ma, she shakes her head and returns to her serious expression and says “Leave, Human.” before quickly turning back to the forest.

“Are all Elves like this?”

A reply with the amiability from the Elf woman.

I get such a cold feeling.

There’s something I would still like to but, but ma, there is nothing to be done about it.

Pulling myself together, I look at the hill in front of me.

The view from here is good too.

I wouldn’t say I’m on a mountain top, I’ll aim for the hilltop.

I direct the popobumu to the top.

When I arrive on the hilltop, a panorama spreads out in front of me.

Gently rolling hills extend out.

I can see traces of a decaying fort.

The horizon continues to a forest of broadleaf trees.

The rippling grass and flowers sway back and forth in the wind like a living creature.

There is even a signpost directing from hill to hill.

When I look up at the sky sunlight leaks through the clouds. Beautiful flowers and green grass color the ground.

-It is magical.

I haven’t been there, but it looks like New Zealand.

Splendid scenery spreads out.

The natural sounds of the wind weaves through the air. The sound of the wind is beautiful poetry.

All of the sounds and smells made by nature are shown on this abundant land.

The image couldn't be capture in an image or photograph.

My body aches as the landscape sinks into my heart.

With that timing, I pull the reins and begins to go downhill.

I open the map on the back of the popobumu's head while advancing slowly.

E~to, I'm now to the east of Terramay kingdom.

From here, I should see the Haym river if I go straight.

While I am looking at the map.

"Nya?"

Rollo makes a sound and poking her nose out from between my thighs she begins to look at the map.

Rollo stretches out one of her paws and presses her pads to a name on the map.

That is the place we should go now? I thought for a moment, but...

This time she begins to place both of her forefeet down at the same time.

Rollo plops her whole body down on top of the map.

"Nyaa"

She cries out in a small voice before calmly curling up on the map. She has occupied the map.

She is in the way, but it is kind of cute.

"O~i, Rollo-kun. I can't see the map?"

She slaps the map with her tail in response.

She is being cute, but there is no helping it.

“Does quality of the map paper feel good to touch? Ma, I want you to mind it. It seems like a really nice bed, but what happens when I put this map away?”

When I pull the map, Rollo moves her body, goes “N, Nya” and jumps onto my shoulder.

I put the map back in the saddle bag.

While smiling at the black cat Rollo who has returned to my shoulder, I move the reins and hasten the popobumu to hurry up. We come down from the gentle hill.

It may be called a hill, but grasses are growing here and there, and there are scattered trees growing here and there.



After traveling for several hours, the sun sets and night falls.

Just at that time I discover a hollow under a rock shaped like a fist striking at the sky. The ragged stone pillar standing in the middle throws a long shadow in the moonlight.

I will make camp here.

The popobumu also lowers its head and comes inside before folding up and settling down on the rocky floor.

“Is it okay?”

Hearing what I say it replies;

“Bubo”

It breathes out from its nostrils as a response.

While stroking the back of such a popobumu I takes down the back of the saddle, and remove the dried venison from the bags and feed the popobumu.

Rollo suddenly comes around the head of the popobumu, and raising her neck 『What do you do? 』 turns her red eyes to the popobumu She seems interested in staring at the dust and hair on the popobumu as it eats its meat.

I am hungry too so I eat some jerk and hard bread.

There's no wood for a fire so the only thing I can do for now is fill up with this. I tear off some of the jerky and hard bread before giving it to Rollo. After eating I take out a blanket from the back of the saddle and immediately sleep.

I remember the ancient golden coin Shisho gave me.

If I arrive at some town could I exchange it for some normal coins...They should be valuable.



The next day, I am awoken by sounds of thunder. Thunder roars in the distance before the *biri* sound of lightning is mixed in too. Dull reddish night illuminates the dark night.

Then a spirit child appears from the edge of the rocky hollow with the lightning.
...Dangling from the ceiling.

“Dee...boon...chii...”

I see one for the first time in a while. The spirit child, debonchitchi.

But, compared to the ones I saw before, this one's face is a little different. Its singing voice is quiet too.

Matching the roaring thunder and lightning, one, two, they keep appearing until there are five of them.

They are only a few of them. When I saw them before although they didn't overflow. Ma, maybe this is normal? This location isn't as abundant with nature as the one in the vast forest. There also might be monsters here.

To such spirit children, Rollo looks like she wants to play.

But, the spirit children slip around her smoothly, and float up to the ceiling to taunt her.

“Rollo, they're just spirits? It's useless. They seem to be good luck so top pawing at them.”

“Nyaa.”

Rollo's ears lay down a little. She looks back at me with an 『Understand, nya 』 face, and returns to the back of the popobumu's head.

While chewing jerky I look outside.

The morning sun hasn't risen yet. The rain has decreased a little. Little by little, does it look the rain is letting up?

Good. The rain seems to stop.

The rain water flows into ditch...

There are some puddles at the bottom.

A face appears from the rock of the hollow and I wait for the rain to stop for a while...I understand when the morning sun climbs from the other side of the hill.

Then, the time is just right. The rain stops and the weather begins clearing up.

“Ooh...”

Suddenly my natural voice leaks out.

A rainbow appears over the hill.

A rainbow makes a bridge straddling two hills, I feel like crossing it.

It is a beautiful rainbow...

A few of the spirit children celebrate the appearance of the rain by dancing at the edge of the rock.

After being released from the gloomy shadow of the rain I feel better.

I depart while staring at the rainbow.

As I advance the undulations of the hills become smaller. But, it seemed to take a few days before I arrived at the river.

As I advance quietly, I hear a high-pitched voice.

The voice is coming from up in the sky?

While looking up at the dazzling sunlight I shield my eyes with my palm.

Several hundred birds are flying.

Hoaa, that is a lot. Nn? Don't those look like cranes? Are they heading for the mountain range?

N? There is a bird similar to a hawk too.

"Na!? It's huge!"

The great bird spreads its wings a little more than three meters across.

It resembles a goshawk and a golden eagle. Is it a raptor?

N? It seems to be extending the sharp talons on its feet.

-Uo, it is making a nose dive for me!

Hurrying, I take the spear out from the back of the saddle and have popobumu run. The legs of the Steller's eagle are descending on me and flapping its wings, its eight sharply hooked talons set on the ground.

The flank of the Steller's eagle is abnormally swollen.

I thought it was an eagle, but is it different?

The wings resemble an eagle but its bear is incredibly sharp and abnormally big from the body to the neck.

As for its color a portion of its chest is unusually red. On that part only blood vessels and muscles are swelling.

There's a lump of flesh to the left and right, and there's a lot of small red muscles intertwined grossly stuck the it.

Such a fake Steller's eagle rises again. It is circling in the sky.

Somehow or other, after making a circuit, it again comes boring down.

Rollo's black hair is ruffled as she looks up at the sky following the movements of the Steller's eagle, and hisses "Shaaaa" in a threatening voice.

Then, the fake Steller's eagle swoops down not with its talons but with its beak in a nose dive.

I will meet its attack.

While riding on the popobumu I study the Steller's eagle and prepare my black spear. I stand up straight, and jump into the sky so we'll meet.

I swing up with the black spear from below and flash in a vertical line- After having its wing cut the false Steller's eagle loses its balance and crashes head first into the ground.

Because I jumped from the popobumu my aim was a little off but I managed to cut off one of its wings in two.

I land on the ground while feeling good about my ability.

Good, I am approaching the goshawk I cut.

Blood gushes out from where the false goshawk was cut, and the body is twitching in convulsions.

Let's dismantle this fellow. I take out a knife and thrust out.

-Dead.

A, I thought the lump of flesh on the false Steller's eagle was a lump of flesh but it is different.

Let alone a lump of flesh, it is actually a big aggregate of red and pink eyeballs.

This is disgusting, does it become nourishment...

When I remove it I must keep it. Will it be good if I cook it?

I suck some of the blood before draining its blood and dismantle the meat.

I tie up both talons with strings and soak them in ice with <life magic> before storing them in a bag. I pile up ice in the bag just to be safe.

Dinner tonight is Goetz.

I can still see some false Steller's eagles in the sky but they don't come to attack me.

There's a magical essence sign here-

It is quite small but there are multiple reactions in the area.

When I look the reason for the magic essence sign is a herd of rabbits.

The false Steller's eagles seem to be aiming at them.

Rabbits... I remember the old black rabbits I used to eat when I lived underground. Several such horned rabbit notice me and attack one after another.

Are the rabbits in this world actually really cruel?

Its body length is bigger than a normal rabbit.

While having such a thought I immediately react-

I thrust at a rabbit with the black tanza spear.

The rabbit lowers its head with its horn facing forward, but the black spear point skewers its body through the head. Shaking the rabbit stuck on my spear away, the rabbit is flung into the distance. Having shaken it off I rotate the black spear once- I use the butt end of the spear to deal with the nearby rabbit.

After connecting with its body rabbit immediately collapses to the ground.

Swinging the spear around to attack, all the rabbits around me stop moving.

Taking the chance, I use <Magic Though Guidance Hand>

I hold the Kukri sword in the air with <distorted mana hand> in order to protect popobumu.

After having fallen Rollo is sitting on the popobumu's shoulder opposite from all the rabbits.

I enter the fight with the horned rabbits in earnest.

More than ten horned rabbits are in the area.

Saa, I will annihilate them.

I make the black spear revolve like a folding fan.

Once I cut down the rabbits surrounding me I drive them away. I spear the rabbits with the black spear multiple times as I continue advancing without rest.

Seeming to become excited halfway through the black cat jumps down from my shoulder to enjoy the hunting, I let some of the rabbits go on purpose and she runs after them and bites down on their necks to kill them. Like this I continue fighting the black rabbits until one last horned rabbit remains.

I'll kill this fellow with a skill. -<Thrust>!

The black blade spirals toward the head of the charging horned rabbit. When the horn and black blade meet the back bone of the horned rabbit breaks at the skull and holds back. Meat and bones are all crushed.

The rabbit becomes minced meat strewn over the area.

I check the surroundings. There don't seem to be anymore rabbit presences.

A weasel-like figure shows up in the distance but it does not approach after seeing fight between the rabbits and me and runs off. Do even rabbits have territorial disputes?

From that horned rabbit. Because they look nice could I sell them?

For now, I'll harvest a little?

I choose a clean horn from one of the rabbit corpses rolling around and borrow it. When I tap the horn it makes a metallic *konkon* sound.

I also don't forget to take the opportunity to suck some blood.

The soul can't be absorbed once it dies, so the bodies are left behind. Rollo is also tasting the rabbits' blood to get a taste of their meat.

Should I also keep this meat?

I begin dismantling the rabbit meat. I cut the meat into pieces and tie it together with a leather cord.

The gathered rabbit meat could be frozen like the hawk eat. I finish harvesting put everything away in the saddle bag and after stroking the popobumu's head I climb into the saddle.

I begin to advance along the hill.

Oh, a grassy plain...

After I climb the hill I am able to check the surroundings and confirm that the scene to the left was different.

The hills full of undulating hills changes into a plain full of green, the change is too sudden.

Should I see the Haym river soon?

I see a herd that looks like wild horse in the distance.

I watch the wild horses moving around while I climb onto the popobumu and advance forwards.

Over the next day and a half, the scenery changes as I gradually advance.

I can see a big river, the Haym river.

Is it the Haym river? I check on the map.

Many branches gather from the Maheim mountain range and from one big river, the Haym river.

The Haym River is big great rive to the south of Maheim and when it is mixed with a tributary is stretches all the way across the Maheim continent.

The Haym river really leads to the sea.

Seen from where I am, if I follow the Haym river south I will appear in a delta of three countries.

I urged the popobumu forward while constantly consulting the map.

The delta is to the south, the north east is 【 Terramay Kingdom 】 and to the south east is 【 Samaria Kingdom 】 . Haym river leads to the Roderia sea beyond the continent.

The Haym river also leads west of the delta toward the Elven domain and 【 Osberia Kingdom】 as well as 【 Fort Town Hector 】 and to the southwest is 【 Labyrinth City Pernette 】 . If I go south down the Haym river, I'll come to 【Royal Capital Gurmuhheim 】 of 【 Osberia Kingdom 】 and eventually Haym sea...

Where I am, is about here...I tap on an area of the map. My finger is pointing to the east of the Elven domain.

If I follow the river south, I'll come to the Royal Capitol 【Fadyke】 of Terramay Kingdom.

Looking at the map, I advance alongside the river.

CHAPTER 22

HE THAT FIGHTS AND RUNS MAY LIVE TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY

Weeds and flowers growing along the river side a buried underfoot.

The popobumu's heavy footsteps firmly step on the flowering plants making a footprint.

The wind and weather is good.

A refreshing wind is wrapping around us.

Approaching a small hill near the river, the view spreads out more.

A branch of the Haym river.

I am able to confirm to confirm the area around and see stones of various scattered around and covered in moss that have gathered together to form the steam.

-N?

As I enjoy the scenery I detect a magic essence.

There are multiple magic essence signs...and they are coming from the river.

Because I detected magic essence coming I back away from the Haym river cautiously;

Coming down from her favorite place on the back of the popobumu's head Rollo changes into her panther form to be safe.

It feels like they're jump out at any time.

I can hear bubbling sounds coming from the river.

The sound becomes larger.

Cautiously, the source of the sound appears.

It is a large crab.

With bubbles foaming out of its mouth it rises out of the river.

The source of the bubbling must be this...

At the ends of five pairs of crab legs are twin pincers.
It looks like it will hurt if I get hit by that.
Before long, one of the bubbles floats towards me.

Immediately it attacks. Because I move while getting on popobumu, the attack natural does not succeed.

There's an evaporating sound in the place where the bubble lands.

A rotten sulfur smell drifts up.
Poison type? I don't want to receive that bubble...

Only one of the big crabs is releasing bubbles and is approaching from the side.

A bit more...coming closer.

"Rollo, separate that crab from the river a little."

Rollo remains silent and wags her tail to say "Got it."

I watch the condition of the big crab as it walks away from the river.
Then Rollo attacks it stomach with her feeler bone sword.
When her attack lands there is a *busu* sound like soft leather being punctured.

From the hole a bit of fibrous white crab meat protrudes.

The big crab desperately resists as it tries to repel Rollo's bone sword with its pincers but the bone sword penetrates its body multiple times.

The grab seems to be becoming angry, and furthermore, it is being drawn toward Rollo.

Haha, stupid crab.

I get down from the popobumu with a smile and move to flank the big crab.
I thrust out the black spear from the side while the big crab is being distracted by Rollo.

From a normal stab-<Thrust>.

It received my attack, but there is little response. I felt soft to the touch.

Going by the sensation I was able to stab the big crab's body twice, but it is still able to move.

With bubbles gushing out of its mouth it twists around with its pincer hands.

Without bother to aim it tries swinging at me from the left and right, but because I am already outside of the range of the huge claws its attack fails.

Again Rollo's feeler bone sword pierces the body of the giant crab.

The bubbling from it is directed in Rollo's direction but she simply jumps out of the way and they are only harmlessly scattered about.

The big crab tries to move sideways so that it chase Rollo with rustling motions.

This crab is tough; it is a good thing it is stupid.

Again, it is being drawn in by Rollo.

Now, should I aim for the mouth? I hold up my left hand. I eject <Chain>.

The chain cuts straight through the air. Through the bubbling mouth of the big crab it penetrates out the back of the crab's shell.

The crab twitches and falls back.

I run there fiercely.

I jump a little – and swing down the spear length-wise.

All of the pincer are severed and a huge part of the head is cut into. A yellow past like fermented soybeans hangs down from the section.

Ooh, isn't like miso mixed with crab meat.

The claws are filled with white flesh.

It looks tasty.

But, as I saw the poison spurting out I will leave it be...

While thinking about the poison Rollo howls with a "Garururu."

She reveals the shining fangs in her mouth suddenly begins to tear into the leathery stomach of the giant crab.

Thus she begins to energetically consume the white crab meat.

“...O~i, is it tasty, Rollo?”

Hearing me Rollo turns around to face me in the form of a kittens and goes “Nya, nyaa.”

“Well then, I too...”

Taking one of the giant claws in my hand I pull out some of the white meat from where I cut it. It's not animal meat, exposing my teeth I take a bite.

Mumbling I chew and taste it. This white meat is yumyyy. It is crab meat. Okkasan, this is white meat is crab.

The tension goes up and even though it is strange this is proper soft crab sashimi. *(TL: Sashimi means the meat, normally for sushi type dishes, is thinly slice. It has more to do with the presentation, I think, so this doesn't make sense to me.)*

It hasn't been boiled, but honestly...it is really good... and there is a slight saltiness.

But because there is so much I won't be able to finish it.

Chewing on the soft crisp meat, it is really tasty.

“It's good, but I want soy sauce...I really wish I had soy sauce...but I'll have to bear with it.”

Holding onto the crab claw with both hand I am sure to eat all of its slim contents.

Rollo seems to be eating the yellowish gunk and her lips have turned yellow.

Because there is so much white meat I am full in no time.

It seems to be the same for Rollo, she stopped eating and is now repeating the action of washing her face.

“Will you eat this, popobumu? Will you eat some of the white meat?”

I return to the popobumu with some of the game and try to press some of the white meat against its mouth.

Then, with a big snort it stretches out its head and takes a big bite.

Mogumogu it eats all of the meat and its small green eyes look bright and pleased.

We who have finished eat the big crab we caught hang around for a little while like this before we begin to head south again.

We travel across the grassland and hills while keeping the Haym river in sight. After eating the crab meat, the popobumu seems to have become spirited. I can hear it going “bubobubo”

The scenery changes from grass-covered plains to dirt fields. I can see a “person” plowing the field, and some sparsely dotted houses are visible.

The first human being- A human.
They look like a farmer.

There are a few wooden hills too.
And old man seems to be keeping watch from there and is sitting down with a book as he looks over the scenery.

Do they work on days with fine weather and read on days with rainy weather?

This area seems like a quiet farm village.
I see children playing with wooden sticks to the side. A cow that looks like a lunga is pulling a millstone to grind flower.

There do not seem to be any monsters or bandits in the area.
After I pass the quiet farming village I appear on wide road with ruts from carriage wheels.

The dirt here is appropriate for a highway. As I travel down the highway on popobumu, I pass people and carts transporting farm products.

In the carriages I can see humans, elves, and beast people riding.
The coachman in this case is a human and the other two are a “tiger beastman” with tiger ears and a long eared elf, there is a lot of variety. I prompt the popobumu to hurry up.

I get a strong impression from the face of the tiger beastman.

He has long whiskers like a tiger and tawny hair that looks really bushy. The human is wearing short sleeves and a hat, and to be honest, because he is driving the cart to scene is a bit odd.

With the head of a leopard or tiger, well I am reminded of a famous protagonist from a long novel.

I continue to travel down the highway as I watch people come and go. I am able to increase the speed of the popobumu thanks to where the road goes.

The road follows alongside the Haym rive so it is just right

When I cross over a hill, the river spreads out and becomes shallow enough to cross.

When I cross the shallows I can see a part of a big town. And as the clouds clear up and I can see a high tower come into view.

Amazing, such a tall tower.

With my hand up to shade my eyes from the bright sunlight I take a look at the tall tower. The tall tower seems to reach the heavens.

Is it one of the dungeons? Possibly a space elevator? It looks like the Tower of Babel, but...It is extremely tall.

Possibly, is it higher than the Maheim mountain range?

My eyes look over the tower and I remember, I cannot seem to find a castle wall. Maybe it is not visible from here.

On the map this is marked down as the 【 Royal Capitol Fadyke】 of Terramay Kingdom.

When one reaches the tower are they at the center of the capitol? The number of buildings increases the closer one gets to it, and I can see pedestrian traffic is able to come and go freely.

As I look up at the tower I push the popobumu forward, when suddenly, I hear a hard metallic sound nearby. I hear a rough male voice.

There seems to be a fight somewhere.

I get a reaction from presence detection too.

However, because there is a lot of magic essence appropriate for people in the area it is hard to distinguish.

When I activate <Smell Secretion Technique Pheromone Touch> ...I am over whelmed by the smell of blood.

It seems like this area could be dangerous.

A human with a drawn sword and a beast person with a bloody axe are walking.

The body of the beast person is quite large.

His whole body is covered in hairy armor.

I remember a character from a famous sci-fi movie.

As I pass by while observing their figures, sure enough, I can hear the voice a woman being attacked.

Should I help?

I hurry and make the popobumu face the direction of the sound.

However, everyone is gone, so it seems the victim was take somewhere.

I do not pursue too far. I just advance.

And in the evening, the traffic dwindles down to very little.

It is already night. I look for an inn...but there doesn't seem to be one.

I walked around, but there doesn't seem to be anything like an inn. Only private houses and abandoned buildings everywhere...

Trying to find one is hopeless.

There are traces of the ruins of a large estate. Crossing the threshold, I'm coming in.

The grounds of the ruins have a lot of weeds and trees growing in the back.

It was adjacent and connected to the highway.

I hide the popobumu under a tree and stop here.

I give it some feed. After feeding some jerky to the popobumu I pat the rough skin of its neck.

Then, I explore the mansion a little.

I go into the ruins with the black cat Rollo.

-There is no one.

Since there is no one here I contemplate staying the night here.

After exploring the mansion and finding an open space between some pillar I decide to make my bed there.

I spend the night calmly, leaning against a pillar and chewing jerk.

At midnight while I am sleeping lightly-there's a reaction on presence detection, I detect more than one magic essence signature as well as footsteps.

"Rollo, shhh..."

I place a finger to my lips and gesture for Rollo to be quiet.

I check with my <Pheromone Touch> skill.

Multiple humans are approaching.

Rising quietly, I watch from the shadows.

Rollo jumps to my shoulder. Listening to my instructions she waits quietly.

The members entering the mansion are hooded robes so I cannot see their faces.

Some round sources of light illuminate the mansion along with the people.

Is that light magic?

The people cloaked in hoods look around the room.

Fortunately, they don't come to where I am hiding.

Those who have finished patrolling gather in the hall.

"This is the home of a noble family who lost their position. It will be all right."

A man speaks with a voice that carries the feel of an apprentice and pulls back his hood.

The face is middle-aged. White hairs are growing from the side of his head, the man is clear cut and his eyes are sunk into his cheeks.

He is wearing hide armor that is slightly stained around the neck.

Then everyone follows the man's lead and remove their cowls. They all look like soldiers wearing steel helmets.

The young soldier opens his mouth.

"Captain, may I invite those people here?"

"Ah, make it so. ...Please mind that you are courteous?"

The leader with the chiseled features reminds the subordinate soldier to pay special attention.

Courteous? Are there big shots here, too?

"Yes."

The young soldier nods and disappears into the darkness outside of the mansion. After a moment I can see the soldier is guiding a group of people inside. Everyone is wearing a hood like those who entered earlier were.

However, judging from their attitudes and appearances they are clearly different from the helmet wearing soldiers.

They are delivering orders in a distinguished manner.

The soldiers respond to their orders and search the hall for a table and chairs before returning and setting them up.

When a desk is set up, one of the bossy people removes their hood, exposing their face.

The person has blond hair and blue fox eyes. A man with handsome features.

Tall and good looking.

His clothes look expensive, the fringed edge of his mantle is embroidered with gold thread. A fur cape is wrapped around his shoulders, and a black scarf substituting a tie is wrapped around his neck.

Something shiny is also attached to his chest.

When I look closer at the shining object I can make out a golden hand-shaped broach.

A high-class accessory.

After the blond-haired ikemen sits down on the stool his subordinates prepared he taps his finger several times on the table.

And, raising his blue fox-eyes he begins to glare at the captain for before.

“Oi, Jared! Isn’t this different from what you said before?”

The blond-haired ikemen calls the captain Jared. *(TL: His names in the raws is Garudo which sounds like Guard. I thought it was kind of funny.)*

The middle-aged captain of the mercenaries wearing brown hide-armor seems to be named Jared.

Jared lowers his head in apology.

“Hai. I am sorry. There are circumstances...this was an order his Excellency’s ‘royalist faction’ to move, I had to act quickly after receiving the communication. From his Excellency... be extremely cautious, once here ‘all of you,’ stand by until you receive an order.”

Hearing this the ikemen is completely enraged.

“What? Do you understand the circumstances! Expressly, although the court came from Samaria... there is no banquet, we meet in these ruins... Am I not one of Marquises of Samaria? Who does Prime Minister Zamdo think he is?”

Not only is that ikemen a noble, he’s a marquis?

He is definitely a big shot. That explains why there are so many soldiers.

Thereupon, a suitably showy person takes down their hood and sits on another stool. Long, swaying pure blonde hair. Judging from that appearance, a woman?

“Shall we hear the circumstances? You are suspicious.”

“Chardonnay. You say something. We, the secret bureau of the royalist faction, have already understood everything if that is the case...”

“Maa, ne. This is natural. So, is there any reason for us to be here? Prime Minister Zamdo is an insecure good for nothing. The subordinates of such a person...”

Prime Minister Zamdo?

The eyes of the noble woman called Chardonnay stares at Jared like he is garbage.

“Fu, surely, surely all of these guys can be used including for work so.”

The blond-haired ikemen talks with warped cheeks.

Jared’s complexion worsens as he is he being blamed by the two nobles.

“Hewso, do you really need to torment him so much? You might not think so, but he is a subordinate of Terramay Kingdom’s Prime Minister Zamdo.”

The Marquis’ name seems to be Hewso.

And then, the Prime Minister...

“That’s right. We are certainly in a different country, and then, although the armistice treaty has been signed, originally we are enemy nations.”

“Correct. We are here together because the relationship between the two countries is different now, will we be sharing each other’s fate?”

“Chardonnay, you are saying something like that...”

“Ara... are you surprised? Have I not invested considerable sums of money in this?”

Jared interrupts the middle-aged noble there.

“I apologize. Hewso-sama and Chardonnay-sama. The matter of this conversation...”

Hearing this the blond middle-aged ikemen, Hewso, opens his mouth and looks at him with eyes filled with fox eyes filled with unresolved anger.

“What is it?”

“Hai... His Excellency was concerned that information concerning Princess Narskeri-sama was leaked from the loyalist faction. He is concerned.”

Jared’s voice is somewhat tense.

“Prime Minister Zamdo is still worried about that matter? There hasn’t been any blundering of the details out of impatience? Even if the secret bureau has a leak the truth about the kidnapping will never come out because of all the gold...” (

Wait, what? Princess? Kidnapping? Secret Bureau? Royalist Faction?
Did a lot of these words suddenly come out?

“The surrounding masked group... kidnappers, assassins, aren’t these back room dealings your business? Isn’t ‘Nebulous’ called the **【Shadow’s Right Hand】** ? No doubt they are all excellent people.”

Chardonay says so and turns her eyes to Hewso.
She makes a bewitching smile while she plays with her blond hair.

The way this woman talks, for some reason I find it discomforting.
While unpleasant, the woman called Chardonay is a beautiful woman.

Beautiful long blond hair and porcelain skin.
She has a well-defined nose cool blue eyes, a beauty that feels like high class furniture.

The clothes she is wearing serve to emphasize on her beauty.

From the opening of the coat the collar of her black dress has pink flower embroidery, the low-cut neck line is decorated with flowers to hide her exposed chest.
Surely the clothes she is wearing is not below a precious stone. Her legs’ figure is exposed by the pants is wearing.

From her clothes give the impression of a bell rose.
She has the impression of an overbearing woman.

“That’s right. After Chardonay, isn’t the person standing behind the same kind?”
“Ara, isn’t something like this natural. Do you think I would come to the ruins of this mansion with nothing but small fry soldiers?”
“Certainly.”

Jared then opens his mouth.

“Hewso-sama. Chardonnay-sama. Soon there should be contact from his Highness Zamdo... we will hear the details about the preparations for the surprise apology at tomorrow’s banquet. *(TL: Surprise is in English.)*”

When the noble woman Chardonnay hears that she makes a satisfied smile.

“...Naturally. As expected. But, Prime Minister Zamdo is bad too. This is the princess of your country?”

Kidnapping a princess?

I should run away...

I activate <Hidden Body> and retreat one step, two steps.

And then-

‘-Someone is there!’

Even though I am using hidden body I was discovered

The person who spoke appears out of the darkness from behind Hewso.

They are wearing a black coat and a white mask. White mask-san turns their blood lust in my direction.

“Oi oi, is there an outsider? No one should be here?”

Blond-haired Hewso-kun is furious. He glares at Jared with a flushed face.

“Hai. Naturally...is it true?”

“Yeah. Zeefu reacted.”

“Ara, ma. This conversation... does that mean the plan has been leaked?”

White mask seems to be called Zeefu, and the mask is turned in my direction.

“Come out from that corner.”

Acha, I was seen through.

Does the white mask named Zeefu have a skill similar to pheromone touch and presence detection?

No, because I was not noticed right away it must be a different kind of perception

There are multiple magic essence reactions from presence detection around me.

Is this midnight snack part open to everyone?

However, this situation does not really seem appropriate for a joke.

I am at an overwhelming disadvantage in numbers.

I need to be prepared to escape, although I was planning on leaving...I reveal myself.

Hewso looks at my suddenly exposed figure with his slitted fox eye.

“Where are you from. Are you actually from the royalist faction?”

He asks me calmly.

“Eto, I’m just a vagabond.”

I do not intend to try and deceive them.

“How long have you been there?”

“From the beginning.”

“Since this is just garbage there’s no reason to keep it alive? Hewso?”

The noble woman, Chardonnay.

Her pale-complexioned beautiful face, a cool feeling spreads from my stomach as she takes a cold attitude.

She just called me garbage.

She called me garbage while looking down on me.

...Sickening.

“Understood. Zeefu, Apo, Yui. Kill him.”

“Ha.”

“Understood.”

“Immediately.”

Two shadows appear from the darkness and reply.

The two newcomers are dressed like Zeefu with black overcoats and white masks. Two new people. The two white masked individuals, without making a sound come to a stop next to Zeefu.

Three people in total. And then, captain Jared whistles.

With that signal, the helmeted soldiers pull out their swords, and become a wall to protect the nobles.

Several of the soldiers are slowly approaching me.

I check with magic observing eye.

The helmeted soldiers are out of the question. There is also no sign of moji. The problem is the three white masks dressed in black. All of them are concentrating mana in their hands and feet.

All three must be moji users.

However, their proficiency is clearly lacking. The transfer of mana in their body is too slow.

N, there is one person who is awfully smooth.

To be frank, since I don't want to fight...should I try talking?

"Wait just a second. Arbitrarily killing me like that, I'm unrelated. After this, regardless of what happens..."

"You know more than you need to."

Hewso says so while looking at me with cold eyes.

After giving me that chilling look, he signals Zeefu and Apo to kill me with a look.

Chi, it cannot be helped.

It looks like there is going to be a fight, holding the black spear I make eye contact with Rollo.

In that instant, Rollo transform into her larger body and throws herself at two soldiers.

At the same time, the white mask that discovered me earlier steps forward.

Zeefu kicks the ground with fighting moji enhanced legs and comes at me.

-Quick movement.

Holding a long sword in their right hand.

Aiming for my chest, the black mask called Apo runs at me too.

Similarly, they seem to be using a sword.

The black mask is aiming for my neck.

In those few seconds, I respond.

I move the black spear in a figure eight and dodge the two slashing swords.

Both of the longswords miss.

I attack while their guard is down.

I point the tip of my black spear at the white mask first.

Zeefu can't react to my counter attack with the spear.

They can only slightly shift my body.

Naturally, that is not enough to prevent my attack.

My spear counterthrusts like a drill deep into the pit the white masked Zeefu's stomach, the sound of metal being torn. Blood gushes out from the cut in the cloak.

Zeefu groans "Gwo" and retreats back in agony.

Immediately, the black mask named Apo attacks again.

I remember Shisho's words "When the spear is sealed an opening appears."

Green eyes behind the black mask are visible shifting for a moment. Apo swings down their long sword and tip slashes across my right shoulder.

I move to give up-

I move in a circle with “tiptoe half-turn” and retreat half a step.
And lifting my elbow I lift the back half of the spear.

The long sword meets the butt end from above at an angle.

Then, with a *clang, * the sound of breaking metal.

The broken end of the sword flies off in the direction of the nobles, and pierces a soldier forming the wall.

-Hii, he screams faintly.

Fu, success. Alright, I broke the long sword.

This looks easy, but it was hard.

I had to make the butt end of the black spear collide with the middle of the sword along the edge with perfect timing. This is a technique Shisho taught me, “Sword Break.”

I immediately counterattack.

Disturbed by the destruction of their beloved sword, Apo cannot match my speed.

Circling in from a right angle, I come in with a battle cry.

It attacks straight as knife.

I enhance my legs with fighting moji and kick Apo in the pit of their stomach. The kick sinks into Apo’s stomach- a dull creaking is audible.

“Gwe.”

The black mask, Apo, cries out in pain and begins to lean forward like they are going to fall.

I pull the cloak wearing black mask falling toward me and hurl them to the ground in a back throw.

But I do not end it with that.

Looking down at the black masked Apo-

Right before Apo’s skull smacks the ground I swing up the metal rod of the black spear and kick.

The thrust out black spear cracks into Apo's face.

The metal rod smashes their skull together with the black mask.
Apo's grey matter splashes out.

After all, this is "Lightning Drop."

This is one of the abstract <Spear Sparring> techniques, however I don't remember most of their names. As for the fight with Shisho, most of them were used for actual fighting.

Oh, Rollo has finished biting the necks of the small fry soldier, the fight seems to be over.

But, there is another one...the guy with the black mask.
I can see mana gathering in their feet.

This one is the shortest, and their atmosphere seems strong than the other two.

Seeing how their other white masked companion was easily taken care of, being cautious and moving slowly, they pull two unique swords from their sheaths.

The sword blades are crossed in front of the mask.
A faintly shining white character emerges the sword blades.

Those words, they look like protection magic.
The two of them have mana.

Cool.

In addition, those swords look something like a trench knife and a scull crushed for attacking with fists.
Part of the sword blade extends away from the main blade and is designed in a circular pattern.

While looking at the unique swords, after swinging the black spear to remove the blood, I assume my posture with my spear directed at the eyes.

The white mask moves first.

This guy takes advantage of their small stature and leaning comes running fast with their swords swept out horizontally to the sides.

I quickly keep the back spear pointed at their eyes- I block their attack.

The black tanza spear collides with the unique swords.

With a high-pitched *kiwi* the swords are repelled, and I respond with a stab with the black spear at the same time.

But, it is easily avoided-

The guy leans their head slightly and dodges my black spear.

Without change they move their body forward and extend out their left hand, and the silver sword stabs at my neck.

-Crap, I was careless.

One stab, two stabs, aimed at my body, at move to the left and right, avoiding the slashing swords.

As if white mask never missed they swing at my torso with the sword in their right hand, slashing down again-

This fellow is really strong.

With the continuous fight of the white mask it becomes a defensive fight for me.

Dodge. Avoid. Shift. Continue dodging attacks.

Ma, this is on purpose. This sword is beautiful.

I do not need to use my trump.

I watch it slowly and carefully, and when there is an opening in the sword I counterattack.

As the sword slashes at my black spear I easily rotate it. I wait for the attack with the two swords where the guy over swings slightly.

In one strike to the eyes, without receiving the black spear, they barely dodge it. The movement pays out though as the white mask slips to the left a bit. Swinging with the two sword, aiming with that timing.

-Here it comes!

I am aware of my grip on the black spear like holding a willow branch. Gently, I receive the sword slash- and repel it. In an instant, the sword that collided with the metal bar is knocked away. Without using <Fighting Moji> taking the opening in that moment, I kick down to the right of my opponent and hit my enemy's foot.

“Eh-”

The white mask falls off. Once again, I take once of the guy about to fall and thrown them backwards.

Like this, the nobles who were watching pleasantly suddenly stare wide-eyed. Hewso looks at me in surprises and mutters.

“T-the three strongest of Nebulous, our 【Shadow's Right Hand】 defeated so easily-”

“...I'm surprised. I want him as my subordinate-”

Is her, Chardonnay?

The noble woman says such a thing and blushes with a far off look in her eyes...

“Hewso-sama! Chardonnay-sama! Let us retreat now. I-”

The tattooed captain Jared, is it because of me? But, this guy must think it won't be much different after seeing the soldiers killed by the black cat Rollo...

“Jared. It is impossible for you.”

Hewso talks. Seeing his subordinate defeated so easily, he seems to understand my ability.

“Th...This responsibility, is mine!”

“Jared, I said...did you, no, did Prime Minister Zamdo arrange this?”

Hewso glares at Jared.

Jared hurriedly shakes his head left and right and looks at Hewso.

“It’ different, completely different! I know nothing about it. It’s true. However, this fellow, they may be a talent who has been nurtured by the secret bureau and royalist faction...”

“Jared- you are an incompetent good-for-nothing. Yet, thanks to that I can tell that you are not an enemy...”

A white haired old man draped in a white mantle with a large sword strapped to his back appears. The old soldier with the big sword bows slightly to Chardonnay, and approaches her.

“Ojou, no, you Highness...”

The old man whispers to Chardonnay and talks in a low voice.

“So. Un. Ahuh. I understand. Right away, let’s retreat...Hewso. I am disappointed we couldn’t have our talk here; it will have to wait for another time...well then. Keeki, Same. Let us return.”

A beast woman quickly appears to follow Chardonnay, and lining up next to the old soldier, touches one knee to the ground.

“Ha.” “I obey.”

The beast woman and the old soldier both lower their heads to Chardonnay and respond.

“Chardonnay!”

Are you breaking your promise with Hewso! Yelling as if to say that.

Besides, are there subordinates that seem to be strong. But they seem to have run away.

Good. As for me, I will escape.

“Then, I’ll escape to, so be relieved. I have to intentions to reveal anything. There was no meaning to my being here, best regards. Let’s go Rollo. Well, bye.”

Speaking in an easy-going tone, I bow goodbye.

Hewso and Jared glare at me, but the smartest thing to do in a tight situation is to beat a retreat.

“Hey, you!”

Strengthening my legs with fighting moji I quickly come to Rollo’s side and pick her up, and run away to where the popobumu is waiting.

CHAPTER 23

THE SMELL OF A WOMAN

I do not want to get involved with that group of people.

I sit astride the popobumu, lightly clap my foot on its side and leave. I run to the highway from the back yard.

I return to where I came from and cross the shallows of the Haym River. To get even a little distance between me and the outskirts of Fadyke, I run through the darkness.

I pass a few villages.

The morning sun eventually rises and my surrounding become bright.

Finally, I let the popobumu rest.

Which reminds me, I just killed someone for the first time earlier.

But, I feel nothing.

N? There is a magic essence reaction. I hear the sound of a horse as well.

-Is it a pursuer?

When I look back, after all it is the guy with the white mask.

That fellow, they seem to be running after me without learning their lesson.

Do they have a grudge from losing?

Persistent.

From now on, should I let the pursuer know what kind of existence I am?

Quickly, I grab the black spear from the popobumu with my right hand, and jump-when I fall to the ground I turn my spear around and assume my stance.

I will wait for the pursuer here.

“Rollo, watch for a little.”

“Nya.”

Rollo the black cat cries in a light voice to say 『Understood』 , and assumes a posture with both her back feet together on the back of the popobumu's head.

After nodding slightly Rollo moves her crimson eyes and watches the pursuing party. The white masked rider is standing on the back of the horse and holding a sword in both hands

She can stand and do that?

-Jump?

White Mask jumps while twisting her body, borrowing the momentum of the horse. Her body spins like a piece. Her twin swords spin out, borrowing the centrifugal force of her spinning.

A perfect ten-point score! Her physical orbit wants to say, and I move to ward off the slash which approaches me.

The rider less horse runs past my side.

I lift my black spear diagonally and receive the spinning blades. Sword and spear collide, and a harsh *kiin* sounds rings out many times, I handle the black spear in a circle and parry away the spinning blades.

Landing after White Mask's spinning attack was prevented, advancing while slashing with a sword, they swing their two swords consecutively.

Watching without receiving the attack, I retreat and avoid the blades.

I also thought of it last night, these swords are extremely well forged.

The reinforcement of the mana used as fighting moji is smooth, a special weapon that seems strong and releases mana.

It must be a special metal.

However, it stops here.

I bend down to avoid an attack and kick out with a fighting moji enhanced leg.

I kick the ground to retreat back and take a distance from them.

Once again, I stare at the white mask.

I stare at the eyes that are slightly visible behind the mask.

At that moment, I smile-

I will go on the offensive for a while.

Head, neck, chest, thigh, knee, I attack with the butt end of the spear, aiming for the vitals.

For dozens of seconds, I continue wielding the black spear at high speed ever-changing up down left and right.

White Mask beds down to utilize their small physique, and turning the swords in their hands to repel, quickly avoid my lunges, about half are able to be avoided, a disheveled voice going “ku” and “ha” reaches my ears.

They begin breathing with their shoulders. Is anaerobic exercise hard?

I don't use my spear martial arts in this high-speed battle.

The rhythm visibly worsens.

And, a gap is created.

I cannot over this slight pause.

-I aim at the right arm.

I shift to the attack and weave “the skill” and feint a stab to middle as I attack to the left and right.

I half step counter-clockwise on my toes.

I suddenly change the trajectory of the black spear, and hit the opponent's right upper arm with the butt of my spear.

The arm breaks and bends in as a dull sound echoes.

“Ia.”

The White Mask lets out a strangled cry in pain and drops the sword in their hand.

However, white mask continues to advance as if they were never injured.

Cutting the distance between us, they slash down with the sword in their left hand from above.

However, the attack is too weak to pass.

I elude the sword slash and catch the attack with the black spear held diagonally. While absorbing the force of the attack with the black spear sparks scatter as the blade slides down shaft.

Then they approach deliberately, and lock our weapons together.

I meet the eyes of the white mask.

I look at the eyes of my enemy behind the white mask.

Beautiful eyes- during that short moment, I feel the center of gravity of the white mask fall to the side.

The weight of the sword attack can't resist sliding- the weight of white mask falls forward.

I let them lean forward, and half-turn my body while catching white mask's body.

I take white mask's back.

Grasping the left hand of the white mask while forcibly grabbing their elbow, perform and arm lock skill with the black spear.

This is another one of the variety of <Spear Sparring> skills.

I twist the left hand with the sword up forcibly and dislocate their shoulder.

"I, gaa kyaaa."

Oh? A woman!? The white mask makes a shrill scream.

The white mask drops the last sword grasped in their left hand.

The sword pierces the ground.

I am surprised by the woman's voice, and turn them around to check.

I put a hand on the black cloak, and grope their chest over chain mail, massaging them...Fumu. These are definitely breasts.

And they are soft. Dome-shaped oppai.

As a consultant for the breast research society, I am instantly able to tell the shape of the breast from grasping it.

"Ah, let me go...what are you doing."

Since the masked woman is constricting her chest I give a weak sigh and resist.

I am feeling a “woman” after such a long time.

My crotch is hard; it is developing a peak like Mount Everest.

Because I am curious about this woman’s face, I immediately act.

I untie the mask’s string and remove along with the ragged black cloak.

I release her and step back.

And I see the woman’s face.

Oooh, surprising.

What a beautiful woman.

This beautiful assassin lady, is it niōta?

She seems to be wearing a chain mail outfit underneath the cloak.

Moreover, the length of the dress is shorter.

Her thighs are exposed, and soft look peach-colored skin is visible.

The black armor reminds me of a “kunoichi.” (*TL: Female Ninja.*)

Nevertheless, her short raven-black bobbed hair and black eyes have the atmosphere of a modern woman.

Rather than niōta, is she not closer to omika? A small face, this is a beautiful woman. Possibly the same town?

“...A woman?”

While I stare at the woman, using her broken hand, she holds her dislocated shoulder while trembling.

She is glaring at me with eyes clearly colored with contempt.

Sometimes, she looks over at the sword she dropped.

-Do you want your sword?

She is easy to read. Again, she is glaring at me.

“You, what is your name?”

“...”

Is she being silent? If I am not mistaken this one's name is Yui...

At the beginning, before I was attacked, I remember the Marquis Hewso summoning her.

“You are called Yui.”

“Na.”

Oh, a reaction. So Yui really is your name.

However, you're still giving off a blood thirsty aura.

Since she is releasing such a dangerous aura I glare at her.

“...Is Yui all right?”

“Na, why, did you stop? Why didn't you kill me?”

Ma, more than her name, I am worried about one from that place.

“When I stopped, I wanted to talk with you a little...I think it was because you're a woman? Because I heard a cute voice, I wanted to see what underneath the white mask. Honestly...I was really surprised to find such a beautiful woman.”

Yui's dark eyes wavers at my words.

“Eh, na...”

“Also, I thoroughly enjoyed your chest. You also have a nice figure.”

“Y-you are trying to humiliate me, guaaa!” *(TL: Can also mean rape.)*

Yui cries out and forces her joints to move, picks up the left sword and takes a distance.

Ue, it is painful, you should not overdo it.

Using her fractured hand, she forcibly pops her left shoulder in... I mean, she can move in that condition, she must have gone through training to deal with such considerable pain.

Ma, it is a fair argument for such a thing.

“...Oi, oi, after you selfishly attacked me, are you going to run away without permission? Besides, you should have the resolution to yield after being defeated.”

“Shut up!”

Judging from this reaction, she had no intention of losing to me.

“Even your right hand is fractured? Your left hand is hanging down painfully with no strength, are you going to kill me like that?”

“Noisy, shut up, that’s nonsense.”

Yui uses the hand of her dislocated left arm and forces her sword up. Because the trajectory of the sword is slow she cannot prove herself right.

I shift my body a little, avoid the weak sword, catch Yui’s left hand again, and rotate it behind Yui while twisting her elbow.

I pin her arm behind her back.

Yui again drops the sword she picked up through much effort.

“Itai, itai, let me go!”

“Unpleasant.”

While smiling I bring my face to her nape. Opening my nostrils, I smell the nape of her neck.

Kuwaaaaa, I cannot take it. The amazing smell of a woman’s sweat.

Her height is about 160 cm. Again, I grope her chest and thoroughly enjoy it, and I stretch out a finger to her beautiful thigh and stroke it.

“You, what a fantastic woman...you smell great.”

Yui’s body trembles with a *buru.*

Activating <Pheromone Touch>, from the smell of her sweat comes a slight sense of fear.

“This, teasing me, hentai!”

“What about it? I told you before, but after being caught by a guy you were doing something like that too, what did you think the outcome would be? Besides, you’re a woman.”

“...Are you going to quickly “rape” me and then kill me?”

“...Baka.”

I scold her unintentionally.

I tighten my strong body around Yui's tiny frame as I scold her, and then push her away to the ground.

The reason is not that I am not excited down below, and it also is not because I am a preachy character...

"Ku..."

She glares at me, but it seems she has already lost the battle of wills.

Yui's pupils turns grey and silver-white, but I ignore that and keep talking.

"You seem to be able to talk a little? So, the ones who ordered you to pursue me, were they the nobles who were in the mansion earlier?"

Yui does not answer. She is an assassin. I guess it will not be that simple.

I will ask about something more important than that.

"...suddenly, I have a slightly strange question. You, your name is Yui. So, it's sudden, but have you heard the word Japan?"

"Japan? Is it a number?"

Oh, she is looking at me with confused eyes.

However, with this reaction, after all I am not reincarnated from the same place. By chance, is it the black hair and eyes?

"No, it's the name of a country."

"I have not heard of such a country...other than that, soon, kill me..."

Yui says that like is going to cry, with clouded expression.

"Is that so? But...I cannot bring myself to take Yui's life. Though I think it is sweet, thanks."

She is a cute child, but more than that, after such a long absence of people, let alone a woman, I was finally able to taste real breasts.

As a breast revolutionary I got really excited.

I would like a partner who would let me examine them more carefully. I definitely cannot bring myself to take this life.

As I look at Yui and contemplate, Yui's small red lips tremble.

"...Mercy, it doesn't make sense."

"But, doesn't life come first?"

Hearing my words Yui long eyelashes and dark eyes shake.

Her entire body begins shaking.

Yui has a childish impression, but she is a beautiful woman.

"...Is it okay? I you release like this...I could kill you."

Haha, kill. But. Come at me with all your strength.

She will be given an order.

"...Ah, it's fine. Run away like this. Does Yui want to kill me? Once you heal your wounds, you can come at me any time. Oh, if possible, show up without the mask on, and fight me with your beautiful face exposed."

She is disgusted by my true intentions and stares at me in disbelief.

Hey eyes open wide and her mouth opens in a little "o." It opened.

I climb onto the popobumu while ignoring a Yui with such a face.

"Ah, wait."

"Ya."

I turn and give Yui a smile then wave my hand.

At which point I clap the popobumu's side and leave that place.

Fuu, I sigh.

Since there is no sign I am being chased I can finally have some peace of mind.

I am all right because there was a beautiful woman.

But, having a meeting in such a place, talking about kidnapping a princess, a dangerous keyword appeared...

Ma, it has no relation to me.

I will not intentional pick up chestnuts from a burning fire.
The future will take care of itself.

I want to become an adventurer, travel to world at my leisure, find treasure, and do it with a woman, this is the main premise.
Ah, but if a kidnapping happens right in front of me I will help. Since they are a princess they are sure to be a beauty.

However, I will not jump in after just hearing the story.

I will help those within reach with my strength, I will bring justice to exterminate enemies. (Just a thought.)

I would like to be pampered by a beautiful woman. Aside from living like that, my goal may change.

There is the promise with Rollodinu, too.

Filled with such greedy and impure thoughts, I run the popobumu.

Now then, where am I...

I ran the popobumu like a man in a trance.

I look around the area. I look at the distant surroundings.

-N?

Ooh, it seems to be a mountain high above sea level.

A considerable distance away I can see an especially high mountain range.
Since its position is opposite from the Maheim mountain range it must be Mt. Burdock in the south.

The Haym river is visible this way too. If I can see the river and that high mountain, then I can understand my rough position.

Thereupon, I see several carriages that stopped a little earlier.
They have a flag bearing a turtle insignia. Is it a trade caravan?

There seem to be multiple people as well.
I'll approach and try to ask.

"Stop there, what do you want?"

When I approach the caravan I am stopped by adventurer-like people.
The other party is cautious, so I'll speak honestly.

"I'm a traveler. I know nothing about this area, could somebody tell me where I am? I would be very grateful for any help."

As I speak humbly the three young adventures keep an eye on me, observing me.

"...Is that so, and you are alone?"

"Yes."

"Suspicious..."

The adventurers look at each other.

"Oi, for the time being, I will go report this to Broncos oji-san."

"Alright. Go."

"Un."

Saying so, one of the adventurers runs to a carriage behind them.
After a few minute, he returns with an adventurer with leader-like manner.

"...What is the matter?"

The leader-like person who asks is balding.

The thin hair on his head is pulled back and looks like a bar code, he has a sour expression.

He has a strong personality and has the study build and looks of a strong mercenary.

"...This person is a traveler. But, he's ignorant of the area and wants to hear what this area is called."

He explains politely.

“Is that so? You an adventurer?”

“No, not yet. But because I am confident in my strength, I intend to become an adventurer soon.”

When the man hears my words he smiles joyfully.

...I see, I see. Iyaa, I'm sorry for these youngsters. So you only want to know what this area is called?”

“Yes.”

“This is the southwest of Terramay Kingdom, Surbard's Earldom. And, that far off mountain over there is Mt. Burdock, home of the dragon. The river in this area is Haym River.”

After all, this is Terramay Kingdom.

The name of the mountain is the same too.

“Is that so? Thank you for your help.”

“I don't mind it particularly. Other than that, what is your destination?”

“I want to go to 【Hector】.”

“What, from here?”

He is surprised. Where is 【Hector】 ?

“Yeah.”

“Stop it. Traveling alone by the Haym River gold route is too dangerous.”

Oh, it is...

“Eto, what kind of...”

“Don't you even know that? If a Rich person is using the Haym River to get between cities, it's safe. By all appearances, you seem to have no money, and you intend to go the land route? The land route is dangerous all the way. Besides, the barony and viscount territory are places where Terramay and Samaria have had tough battles in the past. Many years have passed since such a war was fought, but it is well known that the peace and order in this area is worsening by the day. Do you really know nothing about this place?”

The balding man seems sour but oya-san is a good person.

He warned me.

“Thank you. But it is all right. I am confident in my strength.

“Fu, is that so? Confident in your strength, then I won’t stop you. Well then. If you want to be an adventurer, go to **【Labyrinth City Pernette】** . I run a bar owned by adventurers.”

A bar. The is this caravan bar-related work?

Ma, I did not hear something like that, and I am not interested right now.

Well then, I guess I will go.

“...Is that so? In that case, then-...

“Ou, good luck.”

I part from the bald fatherly character and advance to the south west of **【Terramay Kingdom】**

If I follow the Haym River to the west, I will eventually arrive in **【Osberia Kingdom】** and come to the cities **【Hector】** and **【Holkerbam】** .

CHAPTER 24

MASTER-LESS LAND X FOREST OF MAGIC

FOG X ASSASSIN

Enjoying the cool wind of spring, the popobumu steadily advances south west through the burn ruins of small towns, scars of war.

I come across a monster in the form of a goblin.
Other than that I encounter no other monsters.

I can see huge jellyfish floating in the sky, but there seems to be very few earth bound monsters.

I want to plunge into the huge jellyfish in the sky, but what do you say, when you see something really strange...I can easily accept it.

However, in place of the monsters...
There are a lot of thieves in this area, it is dangerous.

Exactly as the sour oya-san told me.

Ma, there is nothing to be done about it.
There are no adventurer's guilds in the post stations around here.
There are tattered homes, dirty bars, small stores, pawnshops and cheap inns, but I cannot make money so I can use those.
A store may be able to break one of the coins Achilles-shisho gave me.

In the first place, the towns and villages around here don't have the proper atmosphere to talk about gold coins.

Fighting and stealing are everyday occurrences in the streets of these towns, when I step a little into a dark alley I also encounter a fight.

When I found the body of a child and adult...I was really upset.

Aside from the body, it was my first time seeing the body of someone who had been killed and left alone.

Even when I ask the people in the area about the body they acted like they didn't know anything.

"Are you an official of one of the barons?"

"Fuun." "Ah, they're dead."

"...I dunno." "What's it to ya?"

Like that...

If the wind blows the bucket makers prosper.

Saying that, there do not seem to be any businesses making a profit from building coffins.

I pray that they will rest in peace.

This world is harsh...this area is very different than the one I was in after leaving the Elven territory.

So, maa, let us talk about the limitations around here.

-Naa? Unusually Rollo has gotten down from the back of the popobumu's head and is walking around the area.

While walking Rollo goes "Nya?" lightly, before returning to the back of the popobumu's head.

On such a dangerous highway, the merchants travel in groups with adventurers, and the scene is normal in the area.

Someone traveling alone like I am seems to be unusual. But, the thieves are attack without exception.

-They attack while taking me for granted.

I defeat all the thieves I come across, I know them out and leave them on the ground, then escape again.

It seems that there some merchant caravans that quietly pass through the highway at night with adventurers for protection to protect them from bandit attacks.

However, something like that does not seem to bother the thieves, it can happen at noon on the highway but it normally is at night, when a target is found they can defeat they attack repeatedly, looting as much as they like.

The methods they use to win are dreadful.

Not only the merchants and coachman are attacked, but also women, children, all are murdered without overlooking the adventurers meant to be guarding them.

...It is horrible. I heard it was a Barony but I can only think of it as a "Master-less Land." When the thieves are stronger than the adventurers, it becomes like that.

Under a cloudy sky I push popobumu over a slight hill along the highway with a gloomy feeling, and then I come across a scene that disgusts me.

Many bodies have been hung by their necks, dangling from a big tree on the hill. I am stunned. The body of the child I saw in the town the other day was only just the beginning.

Once again, I realize how cruel this world can be.

To intentionally be hung from such high branches...they look like prey impaled on thorns by shrikes, that is probably the intention. *(TL: Shrikes impale their prey on thorns and barbed wire. This serves both to make tearing their prey into edible pieces easier and also for a male to demonstrate their hunting prowess during mating season.)*

These were bandits, not thieves.

At first I overlooked it, but when it comes to this, do you have to completely abandon your optimism?

I feel indignation at the bandit's actions.

I check the surrounding area for magic essence of bandits.

Because the bandits' behavior stands out I follow them immediately.

I tail them from behind without being noticed. In a position where I could attack, I wait for the bandits to move a little.

Then, the bandits begin to move.

The group of bandits seem to be aiming at a caravan.

In the form of a raid, I attack the bandits.

Then...I knowingly kill a person for the first time.

Any sensation of regret passes after a moment.

How should I say it, killing is not good. I understand that, but I feel no revulsion from my actions.

Rather they only felt like fodder, I guess this is evidence that I became a monster. And, I need blood, so finally like the vampire I am, I catch one of the vampires alive.

I will return the same inhuman treatment to the bandits.

It is cruel, but...this is a different world.

This is reality.

I stick the surviving bandit to a tree and start to do various experiments.

Honestly, the blood of human beings was good.

While being careful not to suck too much, I suck the blood little by little.

Sure enough I suck the blood, is this harmful to humans?

I suck the blood while wondering such a thing.

There is a bite mark on the back of his neck. Even when I drink human blood, the taste doesn't give me a craving for blood.

And because there is nothing like a drug induced trip I am relieved.

No, is it dangerous when I get a taste?

I wonder inside, but because I am convinced it is inevitable I leave it.

When I am thinking about the blood, Rollo participates half-way through. Assuming her best form, she approaches the bandit while extending her claws.

She opens her mouth to deliberately show off her fangs.

The bandit becomes frightened and passes out.

After a suck a little blood I leave him be for a while.

There is no change in the bandit, even after he has been unconscious for a whole day.

When I suck someone's blood they become a member of my "Family" and transform into a "Ghoul" becoming a monster, there doesn't seem to be a novel or movie like even like this.

Even after waiting for two, then three days, he really is a normal human.

I also asked the bandit why he was running around this place like wild.

The group of bandits seem to be called 【Doldevi Gang】 .

They seem to be part of a major dark guild in 【Imperial Capitol Fadyke】 for the 【Oath of Nocturne】 .

“Only, just, we don’t hav’ that.”

“Beside, there are lots of rotten gangs.”

Even as thief has his reasons, he talks about it importantly.

Furthermore, 【Terramay Kingdom】 , 【Samaria Kingdom】 , and nobles of 【Osberia Kingdom】 , some knights, when there are those in positions to obtain information and accept bribes, after a groups grows into bandits, there is also a huge group made from banished noble families.

This was all explained boastfully.

Talking and chattering and twittering.

The strong hypnosis effect from the <soul sucking> skills appears to work.

Is it also related to permanent skill <Power of True Ancestor> too?

The bandit man does not act like he is hypnotized, he is fully conscious and talking properly.

So it is the truth.

Ma, I can easily image this fellow’s story.

As for the thing about government officials, there seems to be some corruption.

The talking continues from there.

The intervals between the cities 【Fadyke】 ⇔ 【Hector】 ⇔ 【Holkerbam】 ⇔ 【Pernette】 ⇔ 【Gurmuheim】 make up the Haym River gold route, it is not only shipping groups that use the river, but also merchant groups using the highway, the trading groups travel a lot too.

Is it this?

What the sour oyaji talked about.

Because the 【Magic Fog Forest】 is in this area, it is easy to attack the highway here, and between 【Royal Capitol Fadyke】 and 【Fort City Hector】 is on the border of 【Osberia Kingdom】 and 【Terramay Kingdom】 , all the more, it seems this area is easy to attack.

After the war the development of each country's knights has been lacking as well. However, do I need to be careful about monsters? Then the man exposes his dirty crooked teeth and talks in trivial tone.

In his words, "We're all strong enough to fight monsters, 'though the 'venturers should do it."

"We the pus that cum out from d'aventurers, normal 'venturers don't got much money. Even if dey strong, if dey want to take th'easy way, get drunk on power their skill, drunk on blood, drunk on killin'. Human trash fightin' their own blood."

"Besides, with so few monsters on the highway it's safe, an as merchants come and the economy grows, prices go down. Ma, as the money increase, don't the rivals increase too? Kekeke..."

If that's the case, there is the possibility of conspiring with merchants to consider. Most of the thieves seem to have been former mercenaries, adventurers, and soldiers.

Ma, various background...they do not have.
I did not hear too much about it.

Besides, I wanted to try the permanent skill <Head of Household> where I share my blood to make faithful servants, if they were a beautiful woman I would make them my servant right away, I stop because I thought I should still able.

The bite mark on the bandit's necks disappears immediately.

Oh, because I intend to kill you, there is no meaning behind it...

Finally, I suck all his blood and kill him.
The bandit man dries up, becomes bones, then disappears.

I take his soul with the skill <soul sucking>.

The taste makes me feel refreshed.

But, honestly, the state of my mind is complicated.

Ma, I do not know about during a battle, but capturing and killing someone, even for a bandit, it bears down on my conscience to some extent.

Like this, I continue traveling with pheromone touch, presence detection, and using <hidden body> with Rollo, I raid thieves and bandits, exterminating them.

After exterminating today's thieves who attacked a merchant caravan, I take a break.

I check right away. Status.

Name: Shuya Kagari

Age: 22

Title: Divine Beast Contractor

Race: Rusivault

Battle Occupation: Magic Spearman : Chain User : Magic Apprentice

Physical Strength 18.2→18.8 Agility 19.3→19.8 Stamina 17.4→18.0 Mana 22.2→22.9

Dexterity 17.2→18.0 Spirit 23.1→23.4 Luck 11.0

Condition: Calm

From facing the masked professional killers before, to now, my abilities seem to have only improved a little from kill thieves.

Then I close my status.

When I examine the money and bags left behind by the dead thieves and merchants, I am finally able to gather some money.

Because I got money from the merchant I helped too, I have gold coins, silver coins, large copper coins, thus my saddle bags and magic bags have become a little heavy. Because I hated my bags being too heavy I tried to return the money immediately, but the merchants I helped suggested I stay with caravan to guard it. However, I politely declined.

In the first place I have yet to become an adventurer/

And like that, I advance to the west.

All too soon, I leave the Barony and enter the Viscount's territory.

I enjoy going to the village and staying in an inn, I buy a small backpack and jerky then squander and money and play with women.

I continue traveling happily like the past time of a noble. But thieves attack one after another outside of post towns.

Every time, I respond by slaying and exterminating them.

Then, in a bar of a certain post town, while enjoying my meal I sit next to a bar maid in a reddish brown dress pouring me liquor, and I hear a strange rumor.

“Sorgey, did you hear about the Spearman?”

“Yeah. What about ‘im?”

“These days the Barony is safe. The Spearman and the black cat, the Spearman with a black wolf companion, the wolf companion of the black cat, they seem to aim at thieves, hora, there are also people searching for the rumor.”

N? Is that us? The last “Wolf Companion of the Black Cat” name, it almost made spit liquor out of my nose and mouth.

“Ah, I heard, the Baron is searching for the rumor too. But, the owner of the rumor always seems to disappear right away and leave the area.”

“It seems like it, I want to see it. Won’t he come to this place...as a matter of fact it should be ‘you.’”

“Kakaka, and what if it really is myself-sama?”

“Eeh, that would be impossible. Baka.”

U~n, after all if Rollo is with me...

This is becoming like a historical Samurai movie.

But, the samurai in those period dramas are always accompanied by children, and it is always one person wanting to be prudent.

Not worrying over the rumor, I pass through the town in high spirits and advance...

As I traveling along the highway and pass through a thick forest, without noticing I seem to have veered off=course, the area is becoming foggy and I am in a rocky place with moss growing.

The area is deserted.

As I pass through alone, I get a weird sign, the crows in the rocky place at stop cawing and fly away at once.

Is this a sign that something is about to happen? However, here is a small mountain? The fog is making it hard to see, I seem to have travel to a place with a valley.

The fog is thick...n?

Ah, perhaps this is the placed named for the magic fog?

Having such a question, I pick up magic essence behind me.

-I make the popobumu hurry up and run.

In the place I was before- a sword cuts the air.

The bearer of the sword is a beautiful woman. Ah, it is a woman this time.

She is not wearing a mask this time. Is it because I said so?

Ma, at any rate...this beautiful kill is Yui.

Yui is holding a sword with both hands.

Bathed in the blood of her victims, there are dirty spots of blood here and there.

N, were you injured? The black overcoat is torn at the left shoulder, and I can see blood stains around it.

Her eyes are vacant with a clouded expression.

“You. After a long time. You removed the mask. But, why is your beautiful face dirty?

You seem to have been injured, and aren’t you tired?”

“...”

“Quiet again?”

Yui has appeared before me again after a long absence, and not answering my questions, stays expressionless and silent.

She is giving me a cold look.

Then, Yui’s eyes suddenly change.

Eyes like obsidian is grey from silver-white, again they return to black, the color of her pupils changes repeatedly, becoming like a shaft of wavering light, and then continues to change.

Again, innumerable small silver-white points appear moving in her eyes.

It seems like snow is scattered in her eyes dancing around beautifully in the open sky, the snow in the white of her eyes soon become pure white.

Both eyes take on a mysterious silver ting.

These beautiful eyes are wasted on this cold blooded killer.

“Nyaa.”

Rollo also leans her head to the side questioningly, and calls out at the eyes.

But, did she react to the cat’s voice... her eye color changes and there is none of the blood thirst from the other day.

“What happened? Looking at a face such as this-”

Defending against Yui’s sword- a metallic sounds resounds.

The sudden flying cut.

I stay calm and handle my black spear, I shake of the sword and prevent it.

This area is still foggy, because I cannot focus on Yui I kick the popobumu’s abdomen, and decide to advance into the to escape.

However, I come to the top of a cliff. Dead-end.

Since there is no help it, I get down from the popobumu.

Dangerous. With the fog like this I did not notice the nearby fog.

There is a sign that Yui is pursuing me from behind.

“Rollo, since Yui is coming again, please stay to side and watch.”

After I tell Rollo I wait for Yui to approach from the back.

There, Yui appears like a ghost from the fog.

Her expression seems somewhat hard.

Her eyes have returned to black.

“Yui, you look unwell? Are you okay?”

“Why are you worrying about me in this situation?”

“Haha, that’s right.”

When Yui says that, she raises the sword with both hands.
Her injured arm from before seems to have already healed.

To deal with her dual sword style, I concentrate on dodging.

Then, Yui stops swings her swords.
She crouches down and turns to the side to draw a sword, unsheathing it.

She pulls out the other sword at her waist with a quick draw.
She quickly shifts to attack with her two unsheathed swords.

But, I feel her sword strike, and avoid it.

“How, counterattack.”

After all- the blade of Yui’s sword passes right in front of me.

Two sword streaks are seen, and-
She brings back her swords and crosses them for a slash attack.

Referencing my own sword play- once again, a drawn sword attacks from the upper-
right in a line. I read the trajectory of the blade, look at the unique sword.

Such brilliant swordsmanship-

-N? It suddenly becomes sharp

-Did the sword shift?

Yui’s two sword blades move in with a blazing white light.
This seems to be a special unique stab skill’s payout.

Waeeeh- ku, my ear, iteee, I suffer a cut on my cheek and arm. My earlobe was cut and
there is a small trail of blood down my cheek, but the wound immediately closes.

It is sharp, but I can still dodge it-

“How?”

With tears in her eyes Yui appeals to me.

“No, maa, I would say that was really close. -You should be happy.”

“Ku, wha-what is it with you!”

“Mou, don’t swing those around so much anymore.”

Seeming to have been upset by my words, the point of Yui’s sharp swords are shaking. The sword attack goes wide and she completely over swings.

She keeps swinging her swords around.

Then, the dirt footing suddenly collapses.

“Ah-”

One of Yui’s feet lose contact with the earth and steps into the sky. She quickly loses her balance.

She falls over the edge of the cliff.

-Shit, I strengthen my body with fighting moji and move

I jump over the edge of the cliff to help Yui. Yui hits a rocky protrusion and her body spins around once. Blood dances.

“Yui-”

I was able to catch Yui’s stretched out hand and am falling upside down.

I can’t be concerned about whether this is a trick.

I tighten my grip around Yui’s hand while falling through the air I spin around and hug Yui’s body.

The cliff bottom approaches.

Not letting Yui’s body hit, I turn my back to face the rocky ground for impact.

My back smashes into the rock ground.

“Uga!”

Too painful, a shock runs through the middle line of my back.

I am having trouble breathing. Apart from that- I am thrown into the air, and I continue falling, rolling down while smashing into rocks.

I reach the ground after smashing into rocks several times.

Meanwhile, I do not separate from Yui’s wrist and body.

However, I lose consciousness and Yui falls without me being able to completely protect her.

I am injured and my leather clothes are torn, but I am already recovering.

I am not in pain anymore. The jacket Shisho gave me is a little ripped.

Other than that, I am worried about Yui.

“Oi!”

I hurry and call out, I pick up Yui’s body from the ground.

I look over Yui’s body dressed in the black cloak.

Her cheeks are bruised, the left shoulder of the cloak is torn away and the chain mail and black clothes worn underneath are also split.

There is a wound that looks like it came from big beast on her left shoulder. It still has blood coming out of it. A sharp rock the penetrated through the chain mail is stuck in her side.

The wound in her stomach is dangerous too, but the problem with be the lower part of her body.

The injuries on both of her legs are bad. They are bent in the wrong direction.

A bone is jutting out of one of her feet.

She is seriously injured.

Her head I was holding on to and protecting doesn’t seem to be injured.

I check her back. The bottle of recovery potion I took from a thief I killed is broken.

Shit, n, oh, there is a little of the liquid at the bottom of the bottle.

I can have her drink this, however, Yui is unconscious.
Ma, first I'll put an ear to her mouth a confirm that she is breathing.

Dangerous. She isn't breathing.
She may not swallow it properly even if I soak it in her mouth.
I think it may have an effect if I just put on her face, but it isn't a technical thing.

I decide to use the potion on the most severe wound fist.

When I pull out the rock stuck in her side blood pours out, and I pour a little bit of the potion there.

As soon as I use the potion the wound starts to look somewhat healthier, the wound empties a little.

I should sew it up, but I have nothing to do that.
There is no helping it so I wrap it with leather.
Other than that, since I can't tell if she is breathing, she will need artificial respiration.

Lifting the back of Yui's head, I secure her respiratory track.
However, if the wound to her chest is bad, will this only worsen it?
She also has wounds on her abdomen, and for a moment, I hesitate. Then, I lift up her torn chain mail and look at her chest, but the damage from internal bleeding can't be seen, eei, I will do it.

I take her small lips send in air.
Because I am worried about a possible injury, I push down on her chest repeatedly like with a baby and continue.

Just after that-

"Cohohoho, goho, haa haa."

Oooh, Yui is breathing again.

Good. I saved her. It was good that I learned EMT back when I was a student. A vague memory...anyway, she has resumed breathing.

Was the potion effective? Maybe.

“...ko, koko, Dad? Na...you.”

“Ah, it’s me.”

“U...”

I am not paying attention to Yui anymore, once I noticed, she had already passed out.

“Oi!”

I put an ear to Yui’s lips to make sure she is breathing.

She is breathing properly.

However, her forehead is too hot.

Is it because the wound on her shoulder and the one to her stomach? Or is it a cold? Which reminds me, she didn’t look well earlier. Even if I show her to a doctor at the bottom of this foggy valley...I do not understand the geography of this area well enough. In this world I should look for a magic user, someone with a healing potion, or someone who can use recovery magic, rather than a doctor.

Because the potion from the thief healed the stomach wound this is the last bit.

I look around.

Oh, I discover that the area is a scree slope.

Over the is Yui’s unique sword.

The sword blade glitters, shining white.

Since the black sheath with demon like design fell off the cliff with Yui I put the swords in the sheath and gather the two swords.

Then, I find several appropriately sized tree branches.

These seem usable.

I cut a tree branch and use it set Yui’s broken foot. I tie up her foot with leather cord wound around the waste.

First of all, I call the popobumu with a whistle.

Carry Yui’s body, while whistling, I walk.

After a few minutes,

“Pubupubo”

I hear a snort. Fast. The popobumu seems to have found its way around from the cliff top.

However, Yui is light.
She ran after me with a body like this?

“Nya nya!”

It is the sound of Rollo.
When I return to the area Rollo cries at me, worried.

“Rollo, I’m okay, but this child is seriously injured. I am putting her on the popobumu.”
“Nya～”

I handle Yui as gently as possible while I lift her onto the popobumu.
And, I check the baggage on the back of the saddle.

N~, there is only the mana recovery ririumu portion Shisho gave me a small earthenware bottle wrapped in a blanket.
The bag smells of the spice of the ingredients and salt. This bag is only clothes.

There is no recovery potion.
This is because I was experimenting on the thief and sucking his blood.
I should not have used it then; I should have kept more...

Damn it. Yui’s forehead is hot when I touch it.

Rollo licks Yui’s cheeks as if to nurse her.
First of all, should I try giving her the mana recovery potion Shisho gave me.

It may be able to restore her a little.
Yui is still in an exhausted state.
Mouth to mouth transfer, I give it to her little by little.

There is nothing ero about it.

I appeal so to Rollo, but Rollo's red eyes stare at me reproachfully.

While acting foolishly, we who placed Yui on the popobumu advance through the mist.

Even then, the fog around here is too thick...

We are lost. I aimlessly advance through the fog.

I can feel the presence of monsters all around us.

I advance through the fog while using pheromone touch and presence detection to avoid monsters whenever possible.

The area becomes dark in the evening.

Dangerous. There is nothing convenient like an inn.

There are still as many magic essence reactions on presence detection.

What is this forest, it is full of monsters.

Then I hear a howling voice call out.

Is it possible to avoid this time?

I do not want to fight because Yui is seriously injured...

Then, I discover the ruins of a small stone chapel. There is a small goddess statue inside, the neck is broken off and it also has no arms.

Creepy.

I pray to the nameless goddess for Yui's safety.

So that Yui's injuries may be healed.

Namu. For some reason I try Buddhism-style. *(TL: Namu is in Buddhist prayer.)*

N, wait, I remember a certain skill.

If Yui finally become dangerous, should I use my <Head of Household>?

Hm. If I make her drink blood and turn her into a <Servant> Yui will be saved. No, that is no good. No matter how pretty a woman is doing it by force is no good.

If you want to do it, you should ask for confirmation.

I will stop thinking about <Servant>.

While I think about such reprehensible things I pick something up with presence detection.

The magic essence is human sized. I can smell it with pheromone touch too.

This reaction is not a monster.

-It is the smell of a man.

To the side of the chapel, out of the thickets of the forest, all of a sudden a person appears.

Wearing a black robe like a magic user, and a black hood.

“Nn? That is...what?”

I can hear the robed man’s voice change in surprise.

Their appearance is strange, first of all they are a person. Lucky.

“Ooh, sorry. Have you seen my companion, Yui? If possible, could you please use recovery magic or a potion? She fell from a cliff and suffered an injury to her stomach and her foot is broken. She also has a fever.”

The hooded man who hear my appeals sees the figure of Yui lying wearily on the popobumu.

The man who sees Yui’s state is bald, their head shaved. A strange red and white mark stands out on the figure’s forehead.

What is on his forehead?

I can see that it has something to do with magic...

Mana is released from his forehead.

He looks thin and middle-aged, with visible smile lines.

Even though he is a man, there is a yellow earring attached to one ear.

“Surely there is a wound to her stomach, her foot is broken, and her arm is injured too...but she has no fever. It will be good. My home is nearby so I will guide you.”

The mark on his forehead rises from the skin.

“...Ooh, thank you.”

Though the mark on his forehead surprised me I do not show it on my face and act obedient.

“Nya, nya.”

“N?”

“Oh, you own a black cat.”

“Yeah. Then, let’s go.”

The robed man doesn’t mind Rollo anymore and begins to walk into the fog. He seems to be guiding me.

We seem to be moving uphill.

Oh? Just before the slope, a pale blue light begins to shine, and a small stone pagoda appears.

This looks like electricity.

What? Magic? There is a magic essence reaction. There is small stone stuck in the front of the stone pagoda, the pale light is coming from it.

When I stare at the artificial light the man showing us the house looks at me and prompts me “Saa, Hurry up...”

I hastily follow the man uphill.

Up the slope is a prominent stucco house.

A hut is connected to it and the whole thing is big.

“A house in such a place...”

“It’s a small house. Now, please carry your lover-san over, then you can store your bags in the warehouse”

The robed man says this and then goes into the hut.

“Tadaima. Theta. I’m back.”

When the man calls out a name a beautiful woman emerges from the entrance of the hut to meet him.

“Nya?”

Rollo is staring at the woman’s face, looking puzzled.

The woman called Theta has shiny raven-black hair.
A beautiful purple is displayed in her hair next to her ear.
She is beautiful, and her face is really place-n? What?

I look at the woman with magic observing eye.
Then I see a lump of dense magic essence sitting inside her chest.
I have never seen this before.
And, even when I use pheromone touch, the woman has no smell.

There is no smell of blood. Odd.

There is no sense of blood vessels? Why is this?
This woman, is she not human?...This is surprising.

I have to be careful...but, I will put on my poker face.
I suppress my surprised expression back to a normal one.

But, this is unusual...
I stare at the pale-faced Theta.

“This is my wife. I am sorry for my bluntness. Theta. Please go inside and bring out a bottle of recovery medicine.”

Wife!? You serious?

My poor heart, I keep being surprised.
I frantically control my feelings and do not let them show on my face.
As soon as I look, my eyebrows are twitching unintentionally.

The husband who is the master of the house gives an order and the pale-faced woman nods silently.

Theta goes into the hut without blinking her eyes. After her husband sees that he goes into the warehouse, and moves bags from the bed.

I carefully take Yui down from the popobumu's back and carry her into the warehouse.

"Please lay her here. Then, I'll go check on Theta. I'll bring the medicine."

Following his instructions, I lay Yui down on the bed.

He seems to be fetching the medicine

I must thank danna. *(TL: Danna means master of the house or husband, I'm not sure why the author chose to use it here, although Shuya may be chastising himself for thinking the guy's wife way beautiful and is now reminding himself of that over and over.)*

"Danna-san. Thank you."

"No, no, it's my pleasure."

When the shaved danna-san has an awkward smile, he leaves.

-I look around the barn.

There are only a few farming implements, most of it looks like tools related to magic. There are faded magic formations, medicinal herbs, and discarded phials...

To start with, why is there a bed in this shed?

As I am contemplating, Danna-san returns with a vial in his hand.

"Have her drink this potion."

Opening several kinds of earthen bottles, I start by applying them directly to Yui's foot and stomach.

Then I give the medicine to her lips.

On the back of the Danna-san who gave me to medicine, there is an insignia of arm holding balance scales and a wand on the messy black robes.

Is the mark a symbol of an organization?

Danna-san looks back and begins to talk with a serious look.

“With this she should already be okay. After she sleeps and gets up she should be recovered to some extent. However, the wound in the stomach is blocked, because time has passed and the bones in several places were broken, I think full recovery will take some time.”

Good. She is saved.

“Is that so. Thank you.”

I can relax for now.

The Danna in the black robes looks at me curiously.

“Still, why are you traveler-san here? Here is an area deep in the mountains, this is a place people do not drop by very often. Besides, isn't this area called the 【Magic Fog Forest】 where fog is produced? Why are you out here?”

So this really is the magic fog.

Besides I am suspicious if I am in a place like this...

However, considering you “wife” from before, you are pretty suspicious as well... Since I cannot be honest about what happened, I will make up a story.

“Eh, I heard about the magic fog and knew, but at any rate, Yui and I are in the middle of a trip from far away, so we are unfamiliar with the area. Once I had noticed we were already surrounded by the thick fog. Yui dismounted her horse and was walking carefully, when the ground suddenly collapsed...she fell down the cliff along with her bags. Quickly try to get help I moving through the fog, and then you appeared...”

Even though this is an emergency to story is not that great, but...

Does the Danna understand my motive? He nods in silence.

The Danna's eyes are still serious...he is also still watching me.

He is storing mana in his eyes. He seems to be looking over Yui and me with magic observing eye.

After looking over us the corners of the Danna's mouth crack into a weird smile and begins talking.

“...Is that so? You've been through some hardships. You may stay here until your love recovers.”

“Ooh, thank you.”

“No, no, don’t mention it, you can rest using this bed too. The shed is normally a mess, so please pardon it.”

The nearby bed looks dirty, but it looks usable.

“No no, this is more than enough. Honestly, I am thankful for the bed. I will accept your offer.”

“Well then, I’ll call you to the hut when it is time for dinner.”

“Yes. Thank you.”

The Danna’s manner is friendly; I return a careful bow. After the Danna goes back to the nearby hut, I lay down on the bed next to Yui.

Rollo comes over and we curl up together.

Confident the medicine will help Yui, I sleep comfortably.

While looks at her cute sleeping face, I begin to sleep lightly.

-Several hours later, Yui woke up.

CHAPTER 25

BLACK VIOLET

“N...here, ah, you!”

“You’re awake?”

I approach the now awake Yui.

“Do-don’t come any closer, ita, why are you here...”

Her forehead is wrinkled; she seems to be in pain.

This is what happens when you push yourself even when it hurts.

I place a finger on her lips.

-shhi, I tell her to be quiet.

Yui sees my finger and looking at my face stops talking.

“Good, listen to what I say quietly. Your foot, if you move it forcibly does it hurt?”

Yui nods.

“Now, I’ll explain the situation. First, the injury to your foot is from you fall from a cliff. A rock was imbedded in your stomach, and you also had a fever, so, you have been unconscious until now.”

Then I separate my finger from Yui’s lips.

“I-”

“-By the way, didn’t I jump from the cliff top and save you? So, your so called savior is this guy.”

Like a high-pressure salesman I talk.

“I am. But, you don’t need to express you gratitude.”

Yui responds with an upset face.

I will help you even if you hate it. I do it because I like it.

“There is no need for thanks.”

“...what kind of thing?”

Her expression does not change very much, but she looks suspicious.

“It’s because I look you. Now rest in bed.”

Hearing me Yui’s eyebrows lower and she frowns slightly.

Seeing that I continue talking.

“So, I will nurse you until you recover with the head of this house.”

Hearing what I say, she smiles.

“You, are you stupid?”

“Ah, I’m stupid. Why did I help you after the last time? Because I have a question and want to continue the conversation.”

“Ask me.”

“...First of all, it’s about this place...the forest here is shrouded in thick fog. But, you can relax. For some reason there no monsters here. We’re now in a house on a slightly elevated hill.”

Yui then looks around the room.

I continue talking without minding it.

“...So, after you passed out I wandered around the forest filled with thick fog. Luckily I happened to tumble across someone living here and they agreed to help.”

“I see...”

“By the way, I told the husband of the couple living here that you and I are lovers.”

“Wh-wh-why...”

She seems to have become upset.

Ma, that is how it is. I try to remind her.

“You helped me, a professional killer. Why would you do something like that?”

“Well, even if you ask...”

“Do you understand?”

A little forceful, I glare at her and talk.

“...I...I don't mind it.”

I do not know if my influence worked, but Yui seems to understand.
And at that moment, the master of the house walks in wearing a robe.

“Ah, your lover-san has come around.”

“Aah, uh, ya!”

Speaking lively I hug Yui.

I rest my cheek on her head too.

Her cheeks seem to be a bit red, is it a coincidence?

It looks like she is acting properly.

“Haha, good, good. It looks like lover-san is able to eat now, but since she should stay in bed I'll bring something to eat.”

“Ah, if it's alright I'll bring it.”

“Is that so? Then, please.”

After Danna-san lowers his head slightly he returns to the other room.

“Then, I'll bring you something to eat.”

She stays quiet with her head down.

Ma, her attitude is cold but I think she will eat.

I go to the next room to get food.

Rollo follows next to me as well.

The “noh mask” wife is in the next room, her posture is strait as a ruler, she is standing to the wide holding a wooden pedestal.

A wooden bowl and spoon are placed on the platter and the bowl is filled with a white soup. An appetizing smell is coming from the steaming bowl.

The smell is making me hungry.

But, the lady rather than the cooking.

The purple flower looks nice on the beautiful woman, but...

Her expression does not change, it is strange.

I am also curious about the forehead mark on the bald Danna...

This woman is far too unnatural.

The Danna pretending to not notice the woman's behavior is odd as well.

After the noh mask wife pushes the meal into my chest she withdraws.

I stand there and receive it in silence, but I am growing increasingly interested in her wooden behavior.

Rollo begins to squint her eyes and gather her legs beneath her like she is going to chase after the wife' retreating figure.

The cat seems to sense "something" about the wife.

She is definitely suspicious, but I should bring this food to Yui now.

I take the food to the room Yui is waiting in. She seems to be trying to move her body a little, and when I bring in the meal she smiles.

I place the meal on the bed.

"Sorry. But, it's until the day after tomorrow. After that much time has passed...my foot will be healed."

She should recover soon.

The potion was really effective.

"...Ah, understood. Then, would Yui like me to feed her?"

"Iii, the shoulder wound is okay. I can already use my arm."

"Is that so, then I'll go get my own food. I'd also like to ask about the area around here."

I go to the next room and the Danna-san and noh mask wife and sitting on straw cushions near the hearth with meals in wooden bowls in one hand.

Seeming to have been enticed by the smell, Rollo is sniffing around the kitchen area before walking over to the side of the hearth.

"You journey. It's not much but please sit down and eat. I also prepared something for the cat. Here you go."

The meal I am given seems to be the same as Yui's meal.

In the big iron pan in the center of the hearth there are root vegetables like potatoes simmering. It looks heavy and appetizing.

I accept Danna's offer and take a seat on one of the free straw cushions.

I comfortably sit cross legged.

"Then thanks, itadakimasu. Rollo, you'll eat too?"

"Nnnnnn."

She climbed onto my knee and making a weird sound in her throat seems to want to eat.

"Theta, get another serving."

Danna-san gives her wife an order.

His wife expressionlessly takes out another wooden bowl for the soup.

And, taking a ladle she scoops out some of the soup from the pot over the hearth and pours it into the bowl.

"Thanks."

There is a strange tension.

Bringing the wooden bowl to my mouth I break off a portion of one of the potatoes and put the spoon in my mouth.

Hot, hot. Although I feel uneasy, this soup is delicious.

I quickly consume the thick white soup filled with potatoes and white leaves.

Although Rollo's soup is hot too she laps the soup up with her tongue just fun.

Even though she is a cat her tongue does not seem sensitive to heat.

The Danna opens his mouth and exposes his white teeth.

"Traveler-san, you seem to be okay with the meal. I apologize for Theta's bluntness."

"No, no, she is a beautiful person."

His wife Theta's expression changes for the first time.

She laughs awkwardly.

It is hard to describe, but I got goosebumps all over my skin after seeing her smile with that beautiful body.

The reason is because the purple flower ornament in her hair is not very human.

She is just like a “doll”...

“Traveler, before you wandered into the magic fog and got lost, where were you going?”

“...Hector.”

“I think that is southwest from here. It is difficult to tell because of the fog, but if you head west you should be able to find the highway.”

“Is that so. Good.”

Answering casually, Danna-san winks at his wife.

Then, Theta-san suddenly stands up in the room that has fallen completely silent, and goes to another room on the other side of the kitchen.

“Oya, Theta already seems to be full. She went back inside because she felt satisfied. Please eat much of the remaining potatoes as you want.”

“Yes. Itadakimasu.”

I continue diligently eating the potatoes while I watch Danna-san’s back recede further inside.

This white leaf is good, but my tongue is a little tingly.

Ma, since this is the first proper meal I have had in a while I will eat it.

I wolf down what is left in the pan.

Eating eating.

Should I go check on Yui now? Feeling satisfied I return Rollo to my shoulder and go back to the storage shed.

Once I returned Yui has also finished eating and is resting.

“...Looks like she ate. She should recover well.”

Everything seems fine.

Good, good.

“...You’re here...”

I open my mouth while smiling wryly.

“Don’t worry about it. Right now you are my lover. Since you finished eating I’ll take the tray.”

“T, thank you.”

Rollo comes down from my shoulder and curls up next to Yui’s side like she is anxious about her. Her small face turns to Yui’s hand and she licks the back of one of her fingers.

Ah, Yui expressed her gratitude.

At least she seems to have become obedient.

Fufu, I chuckle to myself...now, I guess I’ll clean up.

I pick up the tray with the empty dishes and carry it to the nearby kitchen.

In the big kitchen there’s a cutting board on the counter next to a sack of flower, bottles of oil, vegetables, and a barrel in which potatoes are piled up.

Below there is water jug, an earthen oven built on the floor, and a heavy iron pot is already there.

Several different frying pans are leaned up against the nearby wall.

Should I put the dishes in the big jug...?

While I am hesitating about where to put the dishes in someone else’s house I hear a voice from the back room.

“Master, the remaining mana is below 30%.” (*TL: Master is in English.*) Activation limit approaching.”

“Understood. I will supply some now.”

A moment passes...

“...How’s that?”

“40% of Mana restoration completed...55% of Mana...restoration completed.”

“Ku, I’ll stop here. This is the limit of my Mana...”

“I am sorry, Master.”

They seem to be using some kind of magic.

“Because I can take that Mana recovery potion, I’m fine. But, I’m still inexperienced. Despite the Magic technology being similar to the Magic Wogan Doll, it is difficult for me to synchronize my mind with the ‘Spirit Absorption.’”

“No, master is a genius. You made me, and even led Sabido by the nose.”

“I won’t fall behind the Magic Clan. I was ousted from the clan, but I am an owner of a demon emblem mark. I am the eldest son of the Gustave Family. I am also the successor of the skill handed down generation to generation in my family. The people with the secret enchanting type skill amongst magic craftsman are few.”

“Yes. Master’s skill cannot be imitated by others.”

“That’s right. It’s probably because of my younger sister in the clan. Although the Magic Wogan Doll is made, despite this there are probably a massive amount of people that possess the required magic ore casting skill

“Master’s family? I have not met them.”

“Ah, it’s in the past. I have you now, so I don’t need anything else.”

“Yes. Master. I am happy.”

It seems like they’re flirting.

But what is this related to the magic clan?

“However, if I was the maker of the magic wogan doll I might be able to use it on you...”

“But, Wogans are scrap iron after all. Unlike me, the master must always be nearby, it will only function if it is supplied.”

“That’s right, the strong point is Theta’s magic essence conversion ratio. If the core of a berbaky and oil of a chimera to ragazer powder and the scales of an ancient dragon...”

“Yes. Surely, if it is that then output will rise 85%.”

“Ma, it will take time to collect those items. Right now there are two ‘souls’ that can be used. So let’s be patient. Theta’s magic essence tolerance should increase markedly if I incorporate those. I can’t wait.”

“The soul sacrifice, that young man, is always looking at me.”

“Yeah. I cannot allow those eyes. But, Theta is a beautiful woman. A young man like that will get all wound up.”

What...

“Hai.”

“But, the young man and woman are important sacrifices and will give power to your ‘Spirit Absorption.’ It is important that they remain healthy so the two souls can be

safely transfer to 'here.' Because, first they are paralyzed. About this time...the medicine should be taking affect and they will be collapsing."

"Hai. Master."

Spirit Absorption? Paralysis? These are really dangerous words...

This time is a dangerous magician.

Right now we are suckers coming along just begging to be parted from their money? That explains why this person lives in such a remote place. We should run away quickly.

Ah, Yui...I hurry to the nearby room.

"What's wrong? Why do you look like that?"

"Damn it. We already ate the meal; the man here seems to be a dangerous magician. I overheard them talking about "souls" and "sacrifice" and giving us paralyzing medicine. We need to escape fast, can you more?"

"Ah, my...ah, my arm is numb..."

The paralysis is already setting in.

"Rollo, go outside and be prepared to fight at any moment."

"Nya."

Rollo responds and then vigorously runs outside.

"Gu, so, sorry. Numbness..."

I should have been more careful.

"Mou, the medicine is already taking affect."

"...You, are you okay? I can move my mouth...but my arms are shaking, and there's no strength in my legs...although this feels kind of funny...it must be a special narcotic..."

"I'm fine. I just move the food...I didn't eat it."

"There's no helping it now."

"Understood. Let's leave here first. I'll carry you."

I carry Yui.

“Kya!”

“What is it lover? I’ll help. Don’t worry.”

Yui nods and falls quiet.

“Oya...are you going somewhere?”

Crap, we were caught. I must deceive him.

“Ah, Yui wants to go outside for a little while, feel the wind, look at the stars...”

“Is that so, ha, I guess our lies are mutually transparent. I can’t let you leave like this.

Theta. Block the exit.”

“Yes. Master.”

She came too. Theta is blocking the warehouse’s exit.

“Rollo!”

At my signal, Rollo springs on Theta.

“-W, what?”

The bald old man cries out behind me, but I’ll ignore him for now.

I hold onto Yui and rush outside. I run to where the popobumu is.

I put Yui of the popobumu’s saddle a bit roughly.

“Run ahead like this.”

Then I should slap the popobumu’s rear.

“Wait.”

Yui calls out.

Is she worried? But I must hurry.

“It’s all right. Believe in me. I will not let them kill you. I’m also worried about the forest, but that couple comes first. Hurry up and escape on the popobumu. I will call you back right away once I kill the couple.”

“Wait, you absolutely can’t die. If you do I will kill you-”

I ignore Yui and slap the popobumu’s rear.

With her on top of the saddle the popobumu takes off and disappears into the darkness.

It shouldn’t go too far.

...It will return when I call for it.

Now, I will return.

I return to the shed where Rollo is fighting.

When I run up the short hill to the front of the hut Rollo and Theta are in the middle of an intense fight.

The jacket around Theta’s shoulder is torn and black blood is pouring from her right shoulder. But, her quick movements show that she isn’t bothered by the injury.

Seeing the figure receiving, I am rooted to the spot.

Theta’s arm transformed to a point like a sword. When the word arm collides intensely with Rollo’s feeler swords they make a hard sound as they are repelled and the collide again. They have each other in check. The purple flower ornament in Theta’s hair is shaking as she moves around.

Rollo shows a glimpse of the divine beast.

Powerful, throbbing limbs. Four claws scratch the ground and a cloud of dust rises. Sharpened claws swing at Theta’s feet. Theta receives a big cut above her knee, but doesn’t seem to feel any pain. She quickly counter attacks with her sword arms and tarts running after Rollo. Rollo calms down and dexterously avoids Theta’s attack.

Theta runs after Rollo who runs away.

The fight shifts from the entrance of the hut into a large garden.

I can see the fight from the little light leaking out of the shed, since it is night outside, when the fight shifts to a dark place, I can no longer see the fighting figures of Theta and Rollo, I can only hear the sound of a bone sword colliding with a sword.

I activate <Night Vision> and ensure my vision.

The fight between Rollo and Theta seems to be equal.

There,

“What on earth are you?”

The bald man approaches shouting with a torch in his hand.

“No, what, you mean...”

“You ate a lot of the food with the special medicine in it. Yet you can still more easily...Are you not human?”

“Whaaaat?”

Ma, he is right.

“Besides, that black beast injured my wife, Theta.”

What? This old skin head in a robe...

His expression gradually changes.

Did too much blood rise to his head? And then did I anger him?

“Theta, that? Your wife...isn't she just a doll?”

When the skin head man hears my provocation his face distorts and a blood vessel on his face pops out. It attracts attention to the unchanging mark on his forehead...he leans his head forward, and bares his teeth with a growing light of insanity.

“Aaaaah? What did you say!?! My wife Theta, isn't a doll!!”

He speaks in a rough voice while spitting saliva.

“Is that so. Then that means, Theta isn't human.”

“Joke later-”

The bald skin head man mutters angrily and throws his torch into the nearby garden.

A small light source is created in the darkness.

The light of the torch casts the bald man in creepy shadows.

The right hand of the bald man is held out, and touches a fingertip to a ring on his left hand. At that moment, the ring reacts.

The helmeted black skull ring shines, flickering between black and red as two strings appear from its eye sockets. The threads extend into the ground, and the ground it touches suddenly begins to melt? Before long the ground begins to make a sound like boiling lava and the air begins to fill with a black and red smoke.

What appears from the smoking ground is two skeletons, one of red bones and the other of black bones.

He summoned these guys, skeleton knights.

The skeletons are only made of bones, but their formed ribs are large and their forms look like a soldier or knight. They have a long sword that shines with a black luster in one hand and a shield in the other.

The two skeleton knights seem conscious.

Though their bones creak, they move to protect the skin head who summoned them.

-I look with magic observing eye.

They seem to have come from the ring.

The ring contains mana. The thread coming from the ring seems to be mana.

They are connected to the skeletons. There also seem to be rings that hold mana on his other fingers, shining faintly.

The bald man is wearing a lot of magic tool rings.

As I am looking a strong voice comes from behind the bone knights.

“...Bone knights, protect me and attack when you see a chance! I don't care if his soul isn't captured!”

As the bald skin head man issues out his order with a burning heart he appears before one of the bone knights, letting his robe billow.

He turns a hand to me and points. N, he's storing mana in his hand? From a ring shaped like a beast a fireball is suddenly created.

-Swiftly.

I quickly drop down and the fire ball flies over my head. The fire ball hits the ground where I was and explodes. The darkness suddenly becomes bright.

That moment- A blade of mana comes from a different ring? But it flies. I hurry and swing down the black spear at the mana blade. The mana blade is broken by the black spear, divided-the wind blade goes to the left and right. A trace of a sword cut marks to ground to the left and right and a cloud of dust is kicked up.

Yes. I was able to cut the mana blade.

“What!? To move so fast, to see the wind blade in this dark night...you, after all you aren’t an ordinary person. Perhaps the guild?”

So it really was a wind blade.

Because it shines with magic observing eye I can still see it at night.

Besides, what guild?

“...No, I’m just a traveler.”

Unlike the question that appeared in my heart, I answer normally.

“Fu, maa-”

Ue, another fire ball.

Like that, I continue avoiding flying fireballs and wind blades.

He shoots the magic continuously so I have to be careful.

They are endless. I move and knock down wind blades.

Since it has come to this should I use <Cerebral Demon Speed>? The bald man saw that I stopped moving, and thinking it is a chance, the corners of his mouth lift in a smile.

He holds up a different ring.

Then with a *pika* and a blinding light and intense pain runs through my body like my heart is freezing.

Ita- There's a rumbling sound in my ears and the smell of burnt meat flesh reaches my nose.

I am also surrounded by smoke. There is a black scar spread from my stomach to my chest.

It buurns, that guy, he used lightning this time. Too fast, all the rings on his hand seems to be magic rings.

Not needing an aria is too inconvenient.

Indeed, I can smell my flesh burning...

Making a crackling sound, some of the leather clothing has been burned to cinders, and part of my body seared black is visible.

But, despite how it looks, the condition of the burn was healed in an instant.

Only the black tiger leather jacket I received from Shisho is intact.

"I did it, I did it, I did it. Pitch black."

The bald man is hopping from foot to foot turning about in a dance.

His face is pale, and because his lips are discolored abnormally red, with the corners of his mouth pulled back he looks just like a clown.

This man is a crazy bald clown.

Without delay- I yell out.

In response the robe wearing man's expression collapses and he lets out an ugly "Uiiii!"

I will kill him with one blow.

I eagerly thrust out my black spear.

-A metallic sound.

My stab is blocked by a shield. The shield the black bone knight is using.

"-Ooh, quickly, bone knight!"

The bald man cries out as his expression shifts.

As he recovers he puts on a weird smile while he spits out saliva.

I smile back.

Decent reflexes- I move to the next action while thinking such praise. First, I activate <Magic Thought Guidance Hand>.

I make a fist with “distorted mana hand” and hit the red bone knight.

With the red bone knight unable to hold up its sword after the sudden blow from the mana fist it retreats.

I activate <chain> on my left hand at the same time- the chain first goes for the black bone knight that prevented my stab with its excellent reflexes.

The black bone knight cannot keep up with the chain’s speed.

The chain drills through the black bone knight’s jaw faster than a bullet, shattering it. Like that, I change the trajectory to smash through the head of the black bone knight and then destroy the neck and spine one after the other.

On the other hand, the red bone knight struck by the big mana fist from <Magic Thought Guidance Hand> has an indent in its chest, touching one knee it is downed.

Big mana fist. It is strong.

The red bone knight with the caved in chest somehow rises, and approaches while holding its shield.

I send the Kukri sword to such a red bone knight.

But, since the red bone knight was injured so much already, I turn it into training and hold the kukri sword with <Magic Thought Guidance Hand>.

I swing I move the kukri sword over to the red bone knight with a shaky sword attack.

The red bone knight holds up its shield and it turns into a defensive fight.

Now then. Without overlooking the gap in its defense I point the black spear at its lower body and fire of <Thrust>!

The twisting black blade penetrates through the thick foot bone, destroying it. -Next I destroy the thigh bone. Then I destroy the back bone followed by the sternum.

The red bone knight immediately collapses. Its knees give out and it falls to the ground.

Furthermore, the chain that destroyed the black bone knight goes around and around to the red bone knight and penetrates its head.

I crush the bones into pieces.

The kukri sword, together with the chain and spear smash all of the red bone knight's bones with synchronized attacks.

Finally, the bones pieces are crush and strewn about.

After having beaten the bone knights in only several seconds the bald man raises a frightened voice, and with a dumfounded expression his teeth chatter.

That face, I am going to punch it.

I ran at such a bald man.

Leading with my left shoulder, I hold the black spear in my right hand and deliver a shoulder tackle with a shout.

“Hiia.”

As expected, the bald man is a magician. Raising a ring with a scream he releases a fireball to counter attack.

While advancing I use <Thrust> to break through the middle of the fire ball with the black spear.

I dispel the fireball by destroying its core with thrusting.

To the bald man, from the fireball he just released, my left shoulder appears.

-It is over with this.

Once again, taking strong steps, I <thrust> at the chest of the bald man.

That moment, “-Master,” Theta leaps in from the side to the bald man.

The sound of meat tearing echoes out, and together through Theta's back, I go through the heart of the bald man.

The two skewered people fall down like marionettes with their string cut.

“Ma, st, er...”

“Shi, shi, Theta...gufu.”

He is trying to talk but blood over flows from his mouth.

“...So. Zoru. D, dear...it’s enough.”

Then, the purple flower next to Theta’s ear falls next to Zoru’s face.

“This violet?”

“Gua, th, that’s right. A purple flower...eh, w, well, remember, Theta?”

The Zoru that is spitting up blood opens his eyes wide when he sees the face of his wife, Theta.

“Oh well...fufu, maybe this is the whim of god?”

“It’s you. It’s you...Theta. Her beauty is one that doesn’t fade away like a purple flower...”

“Zoru always says that, you gave me the violet...”

Are you serious?

I sneak around and look at Theta’s face.

Then, the face of Theta which had looked like a doll face had turned into the face of a really beautiful woman.

Ooh, that’s amazing.

Theta has had her chest penetrate by the black spear, yet she is smiling without showing any signs of pain, looking over her husband Zoru affectionately.

From the wound in her chest, black blood flows out unceasingly.

The black blood pours down the black spear then over Zoru’s robe and mixes with his in the mud, at last the black blood even ran down the affectionate eyes.

Theta’s black tears mix together the tears on Zoru’s cheeks, the darkening tears flow over his cheeks, along the ground, and finally dyes the fallen violet black.

“...Theta. I wanted...gu.”

Blood pours out of Zoru's mouth again.

"Zoru."

Theta shakes her head to Zoru's words.

To bring her body closer to her husband's, she pushes herself along the black spear stuck in her chest, so that they may hug while each other's blood pools.

When Zoru is hugged by Theta, and evil spirit slips out, and his insane expression changes to a gentle one.

"Zoru. Remember how we always strolled along the riverside of the Haym?"

"Ah...I remember well."

"Fufu, me too. ...my last moments are good."

Theta drops her neck, and closes her eyes weakly.

As blood flows from Zoru's mouth, he blinks gently, and looks at me.

"Theta. -There is...more...traveling."

Patching together those words...he dies with his eyes still open.

He died...

Rollo also seems to have noticed and turns her red eyes questioningly.

After a short moment, while trudging along feeling empty, she rubs face head against by head, back and forth.

Ah, Yui...

Taking care of Rollo under my feet, I return to the place where I separated from Yui.

Whistling, I look for the popobumu.

I whistle over and over again and search.

Then the popobumu returns while snorting "bubobubo"

"Yui! Are you all right?"

"...I'm okay. My body is numb and I can't move...but you're all right."

“N? Were you worried about me?”

“Baka...if you're like that, should I kill you?”

Again, she says something like that.

She needs punishment, I sentence her to a bottom massage.

“Kya, he, hentai!”

“Hahaha, when you say something like that, aren't you supposed to say I can never be a bride?”

Her face turns beet-red.

“Yui, your body shivers when I hold you.”

“Aan. Baka.”

It might be a result of the battle ending, but I repeatedly rub and massage Yui's buttock. Pulling myself together, I ask about how she is feeling.

“Which remind me, Yui's important swords. I left them here. I made sure to recover them.”

“Un...”

“Well then, take a rest, I'll take care of the bodies in the garden.”

“Understood.”

I take all of the valuable rings from the corpse's fingers.

There was no ring with the water attribute, but there was a ring with the darkness attribute.

I will test this ring later.

I dig a hole in the ground, and make a simple grave for Zoru and Theta.

I put a ring on the gravestone, and place the violet dyed black with blood as an offering.

Even though I killed you...

Seeing these two at the end affect my heart some.

I go to my knees, and pray Japanese style.

CHAPTER 26

NEW FOLLOWERS X INFORMATION ABOUT SEBDOLA'S SPIRIT WORLD

Immediately, I decided to try out the skeleton ring.

A jet black skull. The helmet covering it makes the design look strong. It has a pair of small red jewels embedded in the eye sockets for eyes, the red eye jewels glitter.

For a moment I remember the program about special effects that I watched in my previous existence.

The talking ring that comes out of the golden ki○.

I put the skeleton ring on my finger.
Nothing happens at first.

Zoru touched it with a finger.
I guess I will try that. Will it react if I will it?

While pressing a finger to the "ring" I try to channel power to it.
The moment I try to will it- my mana is lost and the ring splits open.
The skeleton ring shakes with a *buru*.
Without thinking I stretch out the hand wearing the ring.

From the red eye jewels in the sockets of the skeleton ring two strings stretch out, two thin line of red and black expand into the air, completing an arc the land on the ground.

This is how it happened when Zoru did it.
The bone knights appear to be summoned.

Rollo's fur begins to bristle in surprise.

Meanwhile, the ground where the threads landed begins to boil.
Boiling loudly, the air fills with clouds of smoke.

Once the smoke is blown away by the wind, the figure of the bone knights becomes visible.

※ Pikon ※ <Summoning Magic> Skill Acquired※
※ Pikon ※ Conditions for Magic User Met ※ Battle Occupation Class Up ※
※ Magic Apprentice Class Up to Magic User ※

Ooh, I became a magic user and acquired a skill by summoning the bone knights. The summoned bone knights stand still, unmoving.

Maybe I need to give them instructions.

“Oi, move to the right.”

Responding to my command, the bone knights begin to move to the right. It also works when I tell them to move to the left.

When Rollo sees the strange movements of the bone knights her tail puffs out and the her on her back stands up.

Crouching, Rollo begins to slowly and cautiously approach the bone knights. And then, she delivers a cat swipe to the tibia bone and escapes, demonstrating boxing hit and away. *(TL: Rollo is so cute. Also, “Hit and Away” was in English.)*

“Haha, you don’t need to be on guard. Rollo, these are like pets. It’s okay.”
“Nya.”

Rollo the black cat hides behind my back while returning her puffed out tail to normal.

I should look for an explanation of the skill.

“Skill Status.”

Acquired Skills : < Throwing> <Secret> <Cerebral Demon Speed> <Blood Banquet>
<Thrusting> <Meditation> <Magic Beast Riding> <Life Magic> <Guidance Moji>
<Fighting Moji> <Magic Thought Guidance Hand> <Fairy Moji> <Summoning Magic>

I check <Summoning Magic> *Click*

※Summoning Magic※

High levels of mana and mental fortitude are required for a summons. If conditions are met, by using a special dark magic tool as a medium to cross over the threshold, it is possible to summon an existence designated to the magic tool from a different dimension. Also, by performing a naming ceremony and consuming one's own mana it is possible to cause a further evolution of the tool.

So the black and red bone knights are the designated existences of this magic tool.

A naming ceremony.

Even if it is mentioned I do not know what it means.

Since it is special should I name it?

While thinking something so casual I touch a finger to the bone ring-

“Black Zemeckis, Red Admos.”

Without putting too much thought into it, I speak the names I chose smoothly, and then, Again, the ring reacts.

The ring I am touching suddenly draws up my mana.

Eh, uo, the ring transformed?

As a wave rises the ring begins to mold, covering the dark skull and helmet, moving and changing.

This, did it only suck in mana?

The change stops after the foundation of the ring covers from the first joint of my finger to my nail.

The design of the helmeted skulls has changed; the helmet has become more elaborate.

It feels like the light shining from the red jewels in the eye sockets has increased. At which point, the eyes begin to actually shine.

Two thick red and black threads spring forth.

The thick threads that came from the ring stretch out to the bone knights, the thick threads connect with the stomachs of the bone knights and the thread changes into a bold line.

The thick line is just like an umbilical cord. It looks like a blood vessel.

Think of the line like that, it begins to pulse and beat *dokudoku.*
Every time it pulses the bone knights lean back *dokun* in response.

Is it giving them nourishment?

The moment I ask such a question,
-Uha, a rib protrudes from the chest. There is a round hole in the chest of the bone knight, opening to the left and right.
The ribs branch off to the left, right, up and down and begin to dance like a peacock's feathers, the hole in the chest begins to breath like the bellows of an accordion.

Uhi, what...

The bone knights seem to still be changing.

From the breathing hole, something new like big bones and steel and flesh are produced.

Then like watching a rewinding video, new flesh begins to be produced.
Furthermore, black and red steam begins to rise from the two regenerating figures and obscures them so that I can no longer see.

I make out something like an evaporating sound.

"Nya, nya, nyaaa."

Becoming excited by what is happening Rollo cries out several times and turns around me, round and round.

The evaporating sound fades and when the smoke blows away the figures of the bone knights appear.

The two bone knights go to one knee and lower their heads.

Is it done now?

Just now, wasn't a considerable amount of mana used?

After a long time, I once again taste bile in my mouth.

The feeling is slightly better than when I used fairy moji for the first time.

"Your Highness, the Boiling Black Knight, Zemeckis. Is here."

"You Highness, the Boiling Red Knight, Admos. Now, here. Give us any order."

Uhaa, they talked...

These guy, they're intelligent?

I look at the bone knights that introduced themselves.

Their frames are pretty thick...

Their chests have changed into a rough armor made of bone and muscle.

A black and red thread connect to the respectively named bone knights, and on their head their cheek bones thicken out and become like a thick helmet.

Their shining red eyes do not seem to have changed.

"The bone knights scale-upped. This ring is awesome..."

While looking at the changed helmeted dark bone ring, when I mutter, the Boil Black Knight immediately reacts.

"You Highness, the ring has changed from the Darkbone Helm, it is now the Dark Hellbone Knight ring."

"Hou, with such a name...this ring I transformed, the name changed too. Well, you were bone knights until a little while ago."

This time the Boiling Red Knight responds.

"Your Highness. We will no longer be low-class bone knights anymore. With his Highness' naming ceremony, I was granted the name Admos-"

"I am Zemeckis."

The two bone knight, no, now they are Zemeckis and Admos.

They are name a gave them based on feelings, but they match quite well.

“Okay then, Zemeckis and Admos. Thank you for your work from here on out.”

The dark bone knights respond to me with voices full of fighting spirit.

“-Ha.”

“Haha-”

They lower their skulls in harmony with a *gotsu*

“So, the ‘naming ceremony,’ is that the reason my mana was consumed?”

“That is the reason.”

“That is the reason.”

They speak in harmony with deep bass voices...

“So, you two are people that live in a different world?”

“Yes. Rather than living, I exist. That would be correct way to say it.”

“By the way, is the world you guys come from something like the world of spirits?”

(TL: Back in chapter 16 I translated something as spirit world, but that wasn't right, it was more like boundary of gods. In this chapter the world of spirits is 魔界 or “makai” and can also be translated as hell. I may decide to change to translation to hell depending on how it is used in the future.)

The boiling black bone knight, Zemeckis answers my question.

“Yes. The Spirit World, Sebdola, is one of the godly domains bordering this world, Sera.”

So that is how it is.

But, this world, Sera? This is my first time hearing about it.

I ask them for more details.

“Is Sera the world we are in now?”

“Yes. That is correct.

“Then, once more. There are different godly domains?”

I can predict the answer, but I ask anyways.

“Yes. The one we know of is Seurosu’s Domain.”

Yup. After all, this is how it is. So, like heaven and hell?
Shisho mentioned it before.

“...Are there other worlds like that?”

“I have heard that other dimensional worlds exist, but I do not know the details.”

I direct my eyes to get a response from the Boiling Red Knight.

“Similarly, I do not know.”

Anyways, other than different dimension, different worlds seem to exist.
In essence, not only heaven and hell, but other worlds seem to exist too.

“Then, does a God exist in each world?”

“Hai.”

“That is correct.”

“Ho, I wonder what they look like. Could I summon them?”

“...Having summoned you two, could I summon a god from their world? Is something like that possible?”

“It is physically impossible.”

“Impossible, but... this Sera? The gods seem to want to influence this world, and they seem to have rules.”

Boiling Black Zemeckis talks with a deep solid voice.

“Yes. Certainly. The things ruling Sebdola have feelings beyond obsession for this world, Sera. they desire faith and want sacrifices made to them. And, they live off of feeling like fear and hatred.”

Boil Red Admos continues talking this time.

“Also, by tempting magic user there are gods that try to create ‘wounds’ in the veil to create slight connects between their worlds and the world of Sera. The gods send their retainers through the wound to this world. In addition to letting you summon servants, every person who uses a magic tool or demon tool is destined to be tempted, resulting in indirect domination. Or, there are god that directly scheme by suppressing and completely dominating the mind.”

Hee, these are dangerous beings.

Though I say they are dangerous, I am already an existence people would call a demon.

“Well then, since you feed off of negative feeling, do you also want to take over my mind?”

In response to my question the expression the bone lips of the boiling knights break and crack apart, pulling into a grotesque smile, it answers by moving its strange bone lips.

“No, such a thing cannot happen. We are certainly beings that exist in Sebdola’s world of spirits. Negative feelings can become power. However, we cannot even construct psychic waves, much less attack using magic. There are numerous demonic existences there so the ‘connection’ with your Highness is the same in the world of spirits. ‘His Highness’ surpasses god and when we pass over becomes the greatest existence.”

So the reason I can feel their loyalty is because of our strange connection.

“Our existence was created by His Highness.”

The voices of the boiling black and red bone knights overlap once another.

“For a retainer His Highness is absolutely unmatched. We boiling knights live on the mana supplied by His Highness.”

I can tell these are their true feelings.

Is this because of the “connection?”

“I see, understood. But, I was able to summon you easily, yet summoning gods is impossible.”

“Yes. Gods are powerful and complicated. Our existence is equal to dust when compared to their magic essence. We are not something that can be compared to gods. His Highness possess our magic essence inside the ring type dark magic tool, the dimensional veil can be crossed using the ring as a medium to transfer us Dark Hellbone Knights.”

The Boiling Red Knight talks while looking at my ring.

“Hou, the reason is related to magic essence. Then it must take a strong power to pass through the dimensional veil?”

“That is correct. The dimensional veil is called the dimension boundary; it is said that it repels powerful existences like gods. So it is impossible to directly summon a ‘god.’ However, depending on the circumstances...”

Is it hard to say? The figures have fallen silent together.

“Didn’t you just say it was impossible?”

I remember the words “physically impossible” but do not mention them.

“That is correct. However, if severe conditions are met it is possible for a ‘condensed portion of a god’ to appear.”

“What condition?”

Like before, the Boiling Black Knight, Zemeckis, talks first.

“As far as we know...the first is that the summoned god controls a very large domain in Sebdola. Second, the god must hold the majority of believers in Sera, adherents, you must have fanatics.”

The Boiling Red Knight also talks.

“Third, a strong dark magic to must be prepared that has more influence on the spirit world than the dimensional veil. Fourth, massive amounts of magic essence, souls, and feeling of fear and hatred must be poured into the dark magic tool, and finally, the fifth is to complete a ‘ceremony,’ then it is said that one may summon a god.”

Basically you need vast amounts of intermediaries and other things.

“Huh, even if I go that far, one part...”

“Correct.”

“Yes.”

“But, what we talked about before, you said there are magic users who make ‘wounds’ in the veil that create a way to Sera from the world of spirits? Please expand on that, don’t evil gods appear?”

“Impossible. In the first place, making a “wound” from this world is already nearly an impossible feat. And, even if a wound is made it cannot be widened.”

The Boiling Knights continue talking.

“The races with small amounts of magic essence are chosen from Sebdola and sent to this world. Besides, the “wounded place” in the spirit world with become an area highly fought over, it becomes the source of fights between gods and lords. Without arranging the conditions, we listed before, even if a god tries to force their way through the wound, energy disperses in the dimensional veil between the world of Sera, so the god’s power would be substantially reduced. That will lead to the annihilation of the god.”

Ho, something like that can even happen to a god.

However, about the wound in the dimensional veil.

Considering the image of a link, is it unrelated to the Zararapu ring I saw underground? (The Sci-fi Star Gate.)

I do not understand it, but I will try inquiring about it for now.

“This is sudden, but does Sebdola’s spirit world have anything to do with a black Zararapu ring?”

“A black Zararapu ring?”

“I do not understand.”

Neither Red nor Black seems to know.

It seems unrelated to the gate underground.

“Deep underground I once saw a black ring. It was something like a gate, there should be countless ones in this world...”

“Such a thing in Sera...”

“I do not know.”

They do not seem to know about the black rings.

Demonic beings should appear from Zararapu.

“Does Sebdola’s Spirit World not have such a black ring-like structure that can warp?”

“There is not.”

“There is movement magic using transfer formations.”

There is magic for it, but there are no black rings.

“There isn’t, some guys called demonic creature seemed to have appeared from the black ring, do you really know nothing?”

“I do not know of it. That there is such a structure...”

“Demonic beings...I could guess...it may be demonic beings from a different dimension world.”

A different dimension world.

It is possible.

Ma, even if I conjecture there is no point in it.

I will try return back to something basic.

“Understood. Thank you, and now, are you aware that you are summoned by this ring?”

“Yes.”

“That is correct.”

“You were summoned this time, but do you have trouble crossing the dimensional veil?”

“It is alright. As we said before, we are connected to His Highness and have a special ‘way’ to cross over.”

After all there is such a feeling.

But, it is a little difficult to understand. Special?

“You already talked about us being connected, but what about the special ‘way?’”

It was the boiling black knight Zemeckis that answered my question.

“It is because of the summoning magic and the ‘naming ceremony’ His Excellence performed. In addition, it is because of the ‘mana’ which is the power of His Highness.”

Mana.

“As proof of the abundant mana His Excellence permeating the magic tool it has changed. The ring reacting and changing is proof of the mana His Highness gave to us. Thanks to you, as well as us becoming strong, in Sebdola the magic tool the symbol of the Dark Hellbone Knights was driven into the ground and created a small domain in the spirit world. Furthermore, in that domain only we are able to easily pass through the dimensional veil, and we may keep the strength we have in the spirit world when we come to the world of Sera. Is it called a ‘way.’”

With this dark magic tool wedge I created the way.

...A domain?

“E~to...in the first place I do not understand the spirit world very well, what is a domain?”

“In the spirit world it could be called territory, when a domain is secured in the spirit world it becomes relatively easy to pass through the dimensional veil to this world. Things like sacrifices, hatred, greed, lust, fear, and piety all become easier to secure along magical essence and souls.

Hou. Sacrifices...

“Those ‘sacrifices’ have a great influence in Sebdola. Anyway, it is because negative feelings in Sera become an important source of nourishment. for those that reside in Sebdola.”

Their energy source, nourishment. Something like food.

“...Easy to understand.”

The Boiling Red Knight begins to speak instead.

“The negative feeling creature is Sera hold, piety, magic essence, souls, all are food for us, these offerings all become the source of the activity in Sebdola. Devils, Evil Spirits, Demon People, Shadow Wolves, Shade Moths, Undead, Wicked Souls, Kaima, demonic beings, evil gods, etc, demon armies of man-eating fiends fight day and night, no, there is only night, they fight to expand the domains in Sebdola.”

Offerings in the domains?

They seem too occupied to be worried about here...

“With a domain, the world of any place is busy.”

“-Yes, it is in a condition of conflict between lord yoji and feudal lords.”

“I see, because of that with the situation in Sebdola...”

“Yes, from the start, I was an existence at the end of the end of the world in Sebdola. However, after His Highness gave us names, our existences have changed into the vanguard of His Excellency’s retainers. Thanks to that, we are no longer existences living at the edge. In Sebdola we can now easily slaughter ‘first class warriors’”

Even if you say first class warrior I do not understand.

“That is correct. We are now the vanguard of His Excellency’s household. In this world and in Sebdola, we will follow any order.”

I can also give orders in Sebdola...I am suddenly told.

I can become the King of Sebdola! No, that is impossible, wrong.

...Sebdola, seems complicated.

Ma, it will be said that the talk about gods has no relation to me.

“...By the way, the conversation suddenly changed, but can you fight?”

“-Ha.”

“Any order.”

“Then I want to see your power right now. I will you have you accompany me in training- Rollo, will you behave yourself? You can go back to Yui.”

“Nya.”

Rollo replies simply and shaking her rump in the air walks over to the garden and begins digging up the garden plants.

Making a small indent in the dirt she sits her own butt down.

Then I can hear *shaaaa* her peeing.

Rollo has an indescribably expression on her face.

After she finishes peeing her gets up and kicks dirt pack over the spot to clean up. She then returns to the storage shed Yui is in.

Cute.

“...Well then, is it fine if I break your bones?”

I pull myself together and ask the Boiling Knights.
Then the Boiling Knights quickly respond.

“It is okay, there’s is an interval, but even if we are broken we perpetually restore with His Excellency’s ring. Even if I separate from His Highness, I will automatically return to Sebdola and when His Highness ‘wills’ us to the ring, we will immediately return from Sebdola. And, again as long as you touch the ring and will it while saying ‘come’ we will appear after a brief interval.”

“Understood. Then, shall we start training?”

And thus I fight again the Boiling Black Knight Zemeckis and the Boiling Red Knight Admos.

There is a tremendous difference in their strength from when they were bone knights. The deep black and bright red bone armor is hard and their reflexes are fast too.

Their skill with the long sword and shield leaves me speechless in admiration. When one extends the long sword the other one goes around to defend with the shield. The quality of their combination is abnormally high, their movements respond to one another wonderfully.

Obviously, they are stronger than the monsters I have fought so far.

With the appearance of a monster and the skillful movements of a knight. The quality of their movements let you feel that they are students of the school of sword and shield.

The extent of their sword skills is not that much.

Comprehensively their strength could be said to be a little more than Yui.

The Boiling Knights are finally shattered and the training finishes.
I finger the ring and will (come) but the bone knight did not return.

Is it because an interval is required?

Ma, they do not need to come back, if they return, their strength is sufficient.

Well then, I learned about Sebdola, and it dragged on a little.
Time to return to Yui.

CHAPTER 27

BATH X COOKING

When I return to the storage shed, Yui is trying to move her body with a frantic expression.

“Rest in bed.”

“Ku, un.”

“I’ll help you.”

I pick up Yui’s body and lean her against the wall next to the bed.

“N, thanks.”

“Good. There’s no need to thank me every time.”

“Nya.”

Rollo licks Yui’s arm in concern.

“I guess I’ll check this house. The owner was like that. There should be something valuable here. Besides, wouldn’t there be another recovery potion to cure Yui’s body?”

“That’s right. If you find anything bring it to me, I can distinguish between medicines.”

“Understood.”

I go into the next room after covering such a Yui in a blanket.

The room Zoru and Theta talked in is a room fusing magic and pseudo-science.

There is a big bookshelf set up in the bottom left corner in an “L” shape, and on a nearby shelf is a big ceramic pot, along with things like medicinal plants and minerals like magic stones also on display.

There are a lot of ceramic potion bottles lined up on an oak desk, and a powdered aluminum-like substance is spread around where an azure mortar and pestle are placed.

Ceramic bottles similar to round bottomed flasks are lined up around and connected to a black triangle shaped apparatus with cracks in it.

There is a bed in the middle of a rectangular magic formation.

There are apparatus and equipment used for some kind of procedure or ceremony, as well as something like a black hearth made of metal.

However, they do not feel like they are used for blacksmithing.

A magic formation that has lost its light is written nearby on the floor.

There is a study desk in the right corner, and placed with it is a high quality chair that looks comfortable.

A small treasure chest is also underneath.

-Treasure chest.

I stoop down and open the lid of the treasure chest.

It is not locked. It immediately opens with a *paka*

Inside is one of Zoru's black robes, several silver and gold coins, multiple rings, white chainmail, and black boots.

Packed into the right corner of the box are a bunch of bundled papers written with magic characters.

All of the articles seem to contain mana. (well this change should be okay)

This is treasure. Since I will inspect all these later, I close the treasure chest.

When I stand up, a book with a leather cover comes into view.

In addition, on the desk as well is a high quality quill pen with a metal handle engraved with antique designs in a ceramic case. There is also an ink plate.

This book, nothing is written on the surface of the leather, but it is pinned shut. Maybe this is a diary?

I sit down in the high-class chair, then open the book and turn a page...



○ Month ○ Day

Theta has fallen ill.

I will buy one of the purple flowers Theta likes tomorrow.

I only study by myself.

I will spend time with my wife in the future.

○ Month ○ Day

My wife has surrendered to her disease; her stamina is gradually declining.
Her face lit up and looked so happy when she saw the purple flower.
She needs to be cured soon...

It has been several days, but she hasn't improved at all.

It is strange. Medicine and recovery magic do not work.

Why, why must my wife suffer!

Is it my fault? Is it because I have devoted my whole life to making magic skill rings?

Alia-sama, god of love, please, cure my wife!

Spirit of light, is Ilodis, the god of light, really looking over us?

○Month ○Day

Shit, shit, shit,

...Theta died.

Don't fuck around. Too heartless. This world is cruel.

After all, a good god, wouldn't...

○Month ○Day

I will take back my wife.

A container can be made with magic gold workings to preserve my wife's corpse.

It could be a god, it could be a demonic being, but I don't care.

First of all, I need to collect information...

I am the eldest son of the Gustaves family. And, Zoru Gustaves is a first class magician of the magic guild in Hector.

Using this background, I collected information from every corner I could find.

I checked with the head of the Gustaves family and was able to get strictly prohibited secret documents about Magic Wogan Dolls.

Ma, my own family has massive pull with the secret art magic engineers who use magic ore to create magic dolls.

I paid a large sum of money for information and searched the magic shops in 【 Hector 】 .

I was able to acquire several documents about using summoning magic to forcibly obtain a departed soul.

Thinking about it now, I have been making rings as a magic goldsmith since I was young, studying the magic and skills related to being a magic engineer handed down in the Gustaves family, it may have “all” been for my wife.

Letting a mineral and a high-density crystal core fuse as a body’s core, dissolution is stimulated and a weak spirit can be sealed.

This skill is inherited from generation to generation and the person with it has a special mark on their forehead.

I have hated the mark since I was born, but it is different now. Thanks to it, I can save my wife. Things like the glory of a magic goldsmith no longer matter.

I shall use the skill with all of my heart, soul, and mana to save Theta.

○Month ○Day

I was finally able to get the foundation for the technique of the magic spirit doll.

The dedicated skills, high-density crystal, wood, metal, monster materials, all the necessary small articles.

Besides an enormous amount of mana, the person’s corpse and a soul all being indispensable requirements, Baikal the god of death and Milady governing over life are also related.

What I am doing incorporates arts that the magic guild and holy church consider taboo, unlike the Magic Wogan Doll.

Fortunately, the church in this city is small in scale.

There's also only one bishop. But, I will have to fight against the magic guild and adventurer's guild.

Moreover, I must gather information...right now, anywhere is good. I listen to rumors, dark parties, and maybe I should look into the dark guild in this city.

○Month ○Day

While collecting information from the dark guild as well as the thief's guild I discovered that there is a demonic being in 【 Hector 】

Isn't this laughable?

A demonic being has always been living side by side with people in this city.

I came into contact with the demonic being and established a relationship. Moreover, using this relationship I was able to directly make a contract with the master of the labyrinth.

There was an easy condition.

Information on the Magic Doll, summoning magic, instead of information about spirits, a ring of the Darkbone Helm, the item necessary for reviving a dead person, I was even able to get "Spirit Absorption" concerning gods. (Is it "For my information on the Magic Doll etc, I received a ring with the Darkbone Helm etc" something like a trade?)

The ring seems to be able to summon a decent soldier from hell.

But, the ancient charm is more important than the ring.

With this my studies will progress further.

○Month ○Day

I pray to Beikala with hatred and love, using my life, a soul is offered. (later on it's said that he offered his own hatred, love and soul to Beikala like a sacrifice? "It was worth sacrificing my love, hatred and soul.")

I give a portion of my wife's body to Milady, and give it the blood of my relatives. "Spirit Absorption" is totally different from the Magic Doll. By inserting a soul, it can be changed into magic essence to become powerful.

This is a magic tool related to Milady and Beikala.

There seem to be other evil god tools, but I'm unable to use them.

After studying in this condition for a while, a monster with bone wings sometimes comes to my room.

It is the master of the labyrinth; it doesn't seem to trust me very much.

Fu. Shit, it's a demonic being, but...fufufu, ma, it's fine.

If it's this, I can revive Theta.

My wife...endure a little longer.

When I next take out the preserved corpse of my wife, I will have to chop up Theta's body. (guesswork but should flow as well)

○Month ○Day

It's finally completed. Theta.

But, it doesn't even twitch...

Rotten flesh and spirits are still required in large quantities for Theta.

The power to control the related attribute still seems to be insufficient.

I must be careful when using "Spirit Absorption" ...it is brittle and fragile.

○Month ○Day

My research in 【 Hector 】 has been exposed to the master of the magic guild, Benji Zengare.

As expect of those impressive people who built the castle wall. It was unreasonable of me to expect to remain hidden.

But, when there was a fuss, I tricked and killed a number of the guild, including Benji.

Buahaha, ahahahahahahahahaha.

Serves you right! This is what happens to those who interrupt my research.

My reasoning is steadily declining.

There is no one who is able to stop me. A dejected heart completely swallowed in darkness.

After that members of the guild have been attacking one after the other, but I have killed all of the would-be avengers.

Because I have the ring of the Raijuu I am able to handle them relatively easily.

(TL: Raijuu, not Riajuu, is a mythical beast that descends from the sky with a thunderbolt. I choose to use Raijuu.)

Fuhahahaha, this is perfect, their souls and corpses are exactly what I needed.

○Month ○Day

Finally, yata. I did it.

Theta moved.

It was worth sacrificing my love, hatred and soul.

She has no memories of her life time...but my wife revived.

Although, we can no longer stay in our birthplace, 【 Hector 】

Because having slaughtered the members of the guild I am going to be pursued by the holy knights and adventurers of this city.

I have been exiled by the Gustaves.

Somewhere, I must move my base...

Then, I close Zoru's diary.

The man called Zoru seems to have become extremely violent.

In this disgusting diary, is it the violet, was it that love that drove him to do such things?

Sighing I shake my head side to side and stand up from the chair.

I turn my eyes to the bookshelf.

In the magic user's room there are a lot of magic related books.

I am interested in the books, but for now,

"Medicine..."

While muttering quietly, overlooking the gold wrought items on the left side of the room I move to the front of the book shelf and the desk.

Potion bottles lined up in a row.

Now, which one should I take?

I return to the room Yui is in with the ceramic bottles.

When I return Yui is looking at Rollo with a gentle smile.

Her smile is cute.

Once she notices me her face turns serious again.

What, this gap. Smile at me sometimes too.

With a strange determination in my heart I approach her with the bottles I am carrying.

"-Yui, I brought a lot of bottles. Hey, these all look the same, but do you know which is which?"

"N, I can tell. Let me smell them."

"Got it."

I open the ceramic bottles one at a time and bring them close to Yui's nose.

I give her a little whiff one after the other.

“The one just now is a recovery potion. And I think the first one is a first-class recovery potion. The others are bad. Oh, this one. The next one is odorless. Hey, this might be the medicine that paralyzed me...the antidote is the next one.”

I smell it too...I cannot tell.

“Amazing. You really can tell by the smell.”

“It’s because I sometimes use them in my work. For assassination...”

“I see, that makes sense. So, will you drink this recovery potion with this antidote?”

“Ah, I’ll leave it to you.”

“A~n”

When Yui hears me she looks at me in confusion. (didn’t make sense to smile though...)

“N?”

“It means ‘open your mouth.’”

“Hey, this is my limit.”

Being convinced, Yui opens her mouth a little.

She seems to be able to move the muscles in her face a little.

Ma, that makes sense if she can speak.

I tip the thin rim of the bottle to her tongue and pour the liquid into her mouth.

“Yosh, drink it.”

“ ... ”

She nods in silence.

“Then, I’ll lay you back down...”

Holding Yui’s head, I lift her body and lay her on top of the bed.

After I put her down I leave the storeroom.

I will move the popobumu I had left alone.

Connected to the popobumu's mouth is the lead which is tied to a tree next to the entrance of the storeroom.

And, I use the ingredients in the kitchen and mix together the potatoes and leaves to make feed for the popobumu and put it in a wooden bowl.

I do not forget to remove its saddle and carry the bags into the storage room.

Once I return to the storage room and the baggage in order Yui is already sleeping.

I appreciate Yui's cute sleeping face.

Not making a sound, while walking slowly- sit on the next bed and appreciate her sleeping face again.

Rollo has also curled up and gone to sleep.

I lay down while being satisfied by such a figure.

I spend the night with my eyes closed for a while until I naturally become sleepy.



The next morning-

I wake up early as always.

The usual way.

When I get up Rollo as always raises her face and looks at me.

-Rollo.

Without me noticing she fell asleep under my feet.

I smile at such a cute Rollo.

Now then, I will get undressed. There is a hole in the leather clothes where the lightning struck with burns surrounding it. I remove the leather clothes that have become little more than rags.

I strip my upper body and carry my black spear in one hand and the kukri sword in the other to go outside to the front of the garden.

In the garden I do some light spear training exercises, finally ending the training by flinging the spear into the ground in a big attack.

After I am satisfied with my morning training I put out the popobumu's breakfast and return to the storage room where Yui is laying.

She is already up and is trying to forcibly move her body while her upper body is trembling.

"Yui, you're able to move a little now?"

She hears me asking about her condition and for a moment, has a joyful expression.

"...Ah! Ah, only a little. But, like this..."

"You can't expect a full recovery in just one day, can you?"

I lean the black spear against the wall while talking.

Now then, I will enter the bath.

I look for a bucket in the room.

"You're...naked?"

"Ah, I was training, oh, ata ata..."

There is a big pail sitting in the corner.

I carry it to the foot of the bed.

"N, what?"

"It's for a bath. Bath. I sweat a lot."

While I explain I pour water in with Life Magic and clean the pail.

"A bath..."

She mumbles. A bath shouldn't be uncommon.

After I finish cleaning the pail I fill it with hot water and then strip down naked before putting a foot in the hot water.

"Fuu..."

-It feels nice.

I wash my face with the water and pour hot water over my head.

I take some gyuza grass out from the bags and turn my back to Yui. *(TL: Gyuz grass is soap.)*

I rub it between my hands as I wash my whole body, starting from my face.

Rollo splashes the surface of the water *pasha pasha* and plays.

I catch Rollo by the scruff of her neck and her body stretches out as she is lifted, this is for the sake of making her nice and clean.

“Nyaa ~ Nya.”

Rollo calls out like that at first but then seems to understand and behaves herself. She closes her eyes and is quietly washed by me.

When I finally say “done,” Rollo jumps into the hot water and begins to swim splish splashing.

Yui looks at us and talks.

“Is that soap?”

“Not exactly, but it’s similar. It removes dirt.”

With a smile I step up out of the tub and approach Yui, naked.

“W-why are you coming over here naked?”

“Well, Yui needs to take a bath.”

“Eh?”

The nostrils on Yui’s face move making them kunkun.

“Don’t you smell a little? You won’t be able to get stains out if you stay like this.”

“Uh, but, no.”

“Arguing is useless.”

“Hii, i, iyaaaaa-”

Yui exclaims.

I remove her jacket by force.

I removed her black clothes and chain mail leaving her buck-ass naked.

“He-h-hentai!”

“Shut it. I won’t deny it, up we go.”

I lift her light body and hold her in a princess carry.

I carry her like that to take a bath in the hot water.

“Do you understand that a body needs warmth? It may help the paralysis.”

“Kill...”

“Maa, maa, it’s fine. I’ll wash your body.”

I layer some leather clothes on the edge of the pail and lean Yui’s head against them.

Stabilize. Using the gyuza grass I wash all of Yui’s body.

Fuu, I am getting a little excited. Her crotch is fuzzy.

“Oi, there’s no ulterior motive, I’m not a monster.”

“N, hey, is that the important symbol of a man?”

Yui is clearly staring at my crotch.

“Are you going to attack me?”

“No, no, it’s not that. I won’t embrace a woman who doesn’t want it. So relax.”

“You, aren’t you excited though...”

“Hey, it’s a man absolute justice, an uncontrollable physiological phenomenon. I can’t help it because Yui is beautiful. It’s normal if I am rubbing breasts, this has been decided by the gods.”

“B-beautiful...because it’s like that, you say you won’t attack me?”

She seems surprised by what I said. She is quiet for a time and stares at me.

“What? Do you want to be attacked?”

“It’s absolutely different, I mean, bringing your face close naaaaaa”

“Shush, you seem to be fine. Either way, are you able to move?”

“What, the heck are you doing!”

“Even if you say that, oh, that reminds me, I never told you my name. My name is Shuya Kagari. -Your future husband, the name of your lover.”

“Bullshit, what husband, lover, hentai erection man!”

A~h, she got mad. She is really angry.

Ma, that much is normal.

However, if it was not for me you would be dead you know?

...I do not say that.

You should hate me if you hate me.

I like this woman. I am just helping her.

“...Ahaha, fine. I’m a hentai.”

While laughing I carry Yui in my arms, “Baka, stop it. Hentai.” as she nags me I wipe her body down with some leather, and dressing her in some of my clothes I lay her on top of the bed.

When Yui finally seems to have become quiet she glares at me while turning the other way.

“Oi, don’t get mad at me. Now, I’m going to get us something to eat.”

Because there are potatoes and edible herbs in the kitchen I begin to cook something with those.

After peeling the potato skins she is still in the same state as before when I return for the seasoning in the saddle bags...

I go through the bags without minding it.

While I am going through the bags I come across some jerky, the rabbit meat I hunted, and the meat of the false hawk.

I am a little hesitant about the false hawk’s meat...

Though I will not know unless I eat. I will eat it. (some kind of idiom?)

I take the meat to the kitchen, beat the meat lightly, cut it finely with a knife, and lightly salt it.

Then, because I found something like an oil that tastes a little like white wine, I pour a little of the oil into a frying pan and place the finely cut meat in it, lightly frying the surface of the meat.

After that, I mixed the seared meat together with the potatoes and a garlic-like herb to take care of the smell, and transfer them from the big frying pan into a pot. (added hyphen, should improve readability)

In the iron pot I stew the meat along with the potatoes and vegetables after adding water and liquor on the fire-lit stove.

After a little while it is done, along with the lightly-salted soup made with jerk, the barbequed chicken, and rabbit meat.

The bitter flavor of the herbs mixes well with the meat in the soup.

I was worried about the liquor, but it seems to have softened the meat and taken care of the smell so that it tastes really good.

I share it out the wooden bowls and dishes and carry the food on platters.

“Yui, food is done~”

“...”

She looks back but stays silent. She is still glaring at me.

“The taste is okay. It feels like a simple pot luck. For now, try and taste some, hora, open your mouth.”

“Fu, why, pot luck? N?- It smells good.”

She was still in a bad mood, but as soon as she smelled the meal her attitude changed completely and improved.

I bring a spoon to her small ero mouth and feed her.

I am relieved that she is hungry. She eats it with great relish.

“It’s good, but it’s hot.”

In the blink of an eye everything on the platter has been eaten.

“You still want to eat?”

“Uun. I’m already good, thank you for the meal. But, go away now.”

Go away...

CHAPTER 28

MAGIC DOCUMENTS

In Zoru's study, no, I should call it a magic laboratory,

I have returned here.

I could be said that I escaped from Yui.

I put Yui in the bath like yesterday, and afterwards she was in a bad mood and grumbling during breakfast.

Because of that, I ran away to escape and have come to this room.

Ma, I also came here to get medicine for Yui.

There is some medicine placed on a shelf.

Her mood will probably improve if I give her this medicine...

Alongside the medicine there are a lot of magic books piled up.

The books are full of thick parchment that looks to be high-quality.

There is a book that was sticking out of the shelf and fell to the floor.

Because I discovered the thick book was a commentary I placed the book on the stand holding the medicine and return to Yui.

"Is this enough for the medicine?"

I have Yui smell the bottle and confirm it.

"This is right."

"Drink up."

"N."

Like the other day I insert the mouth of the bottle between her two small lips and have her drink.

"Thank you."

Some liquid is dripping from her lips. Erotic.

“That appearance. Since there was a magic book I brought it.”

“Mm.”

I show her the book, but she doesn't seem interested and returns a short answer.

“You don't seem interested. I'm excited though.”

“You're weird.”

“True, other than that are you feeling the effects of the medicine?”

“N, un. It's definitely working. It's just a little, but I can move my arms and feet now.”

Just as she says, joints have a much greater range of motion than yesterday.

Her arms and feet are shaking, but they are moving.

“Oh, good. Since there is still quite a bit of medicine we should be able to manage.”

“...Aah, looks like it.”

I am pleased, but Yui seems a little dissatisfied.

“So, since I am going to read this book, if your back becomes itchy tell me. Since there is also a bottle prepared for pee, I will help with that too.”

“-I don't need to, I peed earlier in the bath. At that time...I will tell you if I want to...”

“...O-okay.”

I speak bluntly.

However I am embarrassed.

Her face is flooded with shame, and after staring at her for a moment I put the magic book on the bed top.

On the cover “Complete Works of Magic Foundation” is written.

Reading between the lines I devote myself to reading.

The surface of the paper is rough. I take a look at the first item.



For magic users “regular training” is required.

If one has the aptitude to handle mana, they should be able to acquire the Battle Occupation, Magic User, even immediately.

And, I want to say to people who have publicly become magic users.

Magic User is the foundation for the “Great World of Magic.”

Daily training. Accumulation of varied experiences. The effort from acquiring the Magic User job will bring one a step further. Furthermore, if a magic book is read then the Mage, Dark Magic User, Magic Swordsman, and Apprentice Scholar Battle Occupations can be developed. This is dependent on the individual, disposition, and experience and if battle occupations fuse then they diverge even further.

The number of battle occupations is vast and infinite.

Someone who does not understand may ask a teacher. In short, you should learn it when you develop in the relevant Battle Occupation you trained for. This is surely a matter that lets you feel the favor the Refoto-sama, the god of jobs.



Shisho taught me most of this...

I turn the page.



For example, if it is for the Mage system one will diligently study and aim at Magician Apprentice. General, a Magician Apprentice is an existence equal to the students of Great Magicians. Of course, if one have the talent and ability, the apprenticeship can be passed using dark magic tools, then directly becoming part of the “magician” system. (I have personally seen students with the talent, and often of the magician system) Above Magician Apprentice is Black Magic, Magic, those who learn magic are often called “magicians.” It is only the Battle Occupation Magician being explained here, but magician is not the name of those individuals, Magic Scholar Teacher, it is sometimes recorded in battle occupation as Magic Bushi.

Mainly, a magician has a class.

A low ranking magician is third class.

An average magician is second class.

And a high-ranking magician is first class.

Many first class magicians are employed by royal families, or become knights, staff officers, or royal court magicians. (It is said that there some odd people among the last group) A job above such a magician would be a Archmage or a Great Sage. However, the power mana of Archmages is considered a threat by royalty and nobility. Because they have the power of magic there are many magicians murdered by royalty and nobility. This happens because Archmages are existences that can usurp the authority of a king. The organization that was established to prevent such reckless use of power is called the **【Magician’s Assembly】** .

The **【Magician’s Assembly】** is a meeting of powerful magicians that manage the magic guilds that extend to every place.

However, I am afraid to say the group is not such a monolith. In reality, there are different guide lines for the magic guilds in each area of every nation. Is it a magician sense “freedom” or perhaps their “pride,” I do not know, but...among them, there are people living a life that belongs to their nations and are subject to the “ambitions” of nobles. There are also magicians that become outstanding adventurers and travel often. As a result it is questionable whether name of the Magician’s Assembly is able to function as an umbrella to shield Kings and Rulers.



“From an Apprentice Magician. Royal Court Magician, this my first time hearing about the Magician’s Assembly.”

Muttering I flip through the pages.

I pay attention to the explanation part of the magic book.



The next thing you should learn is magic characters.

Magic is learned when magic characters are read and understood. After being read magic characters will then instantly crumble and disappear like dust. This is known to all people using magic. However, not everyone who can read magic characters is able to learn magic. To learn magic a person’s mana and mental power is required.

If mana and spiritual strength are high, it is possible to read and understand advanced magic characters. Then “comrehending” magic may be possible.

There are also time when “comprehending” magic characters does not happen...this is another topic.

To create Magic Characters, with some funds and through examination by “Circle of Ernst” only those recognized by the circle’s “Magic Refining Teacher” are allowed to produce them. (Even if I say it is allowed, an exclusive Skill is required and it consumes vast amounts of Mana. Because of this the number is naturally small, but...here magic interests happen and noble powers are brought into question.)

The scroll is one particular way to produce them, and there are no special limitations on this method.

And then, when magic character do not exist, it is right, it should be not be magic learned from a book it is “using a magic construction book.” (What is called a Magic Construction Book...is a type of banned book, and because the Holy Church is annoying I cannot write about it here. Sorry.) Magic Character are the foundation, they are long-lasting, and the paper will not degrade until the book no longer reacts to mana. Even if a book that no longer responds to mana is read, magic cannot be learned. It becomes an ordinary book. No longer reacting to mana, they are mainly ancient magic characters.

However, about ancient magic characters, the stories about “Ancient Magic Characters” differ. There are magic character left over from the ancient eras that have not stopped responding to mana, there are still somewhere in this world.

At first glance, it only appears to be an old book, it is troublesome...

Excuse me, if some one acquired ancient magic characters was able to “analyze and comprehend” everything, the value of the “ancient magic” learned will be immeasurable.

“Note: Contact the person who understands at Ernst University, Pubramanti.)

Such ancient magic characters may be found in historic ruins. If discovered and verified as the genuine article it will be worth a vast amount of money. (By the way, it is to the extent that I who am writing want it. Note, If ancient magic characters are found contact Pubramanti at Ernst University.)

The classification of ancient magic characters is difficult, strange iron can be sold to a magic tool shop yet what about something so “rare.”



There are a lot of notes in this book from a person called Pubramanti. He seems to really want ancient magic characters.

What I look at next is “The Difference Between the Language and the Crest,” it is about “Effective Magic Formation Construction” with crest magic.

I have heard about it from Achilles-shisho, but this is the first time the book has mentioned it so I will check it for the time being.



With Language Magic one gives praise to the spirits or gods, to use the magic one chants an aria.

Lower magi is classified into three kinds, Elementary, Intermediate, and Advanced. Higher magic is classified into four kinds, Powerful Class, King Class, Emperor Class, and God Class.

Low rank magic has little power, minute mana consumption, and the aria is short. Higher magic uses the power of multiple spirits and may offer prayer to more than one god, as the aria grows longer the mana consumption also increases.

The contents of arias are all similar but will change depending on the god and various changes. An unknown phenomenon occurs where power seeps across the dimensional boundary into this world, it is said the breath of the God of Magic “Shikishiki” is being used, but it is not known for certain.

On the other hand, there are neither low rank or high rank magic crests.

Crest magic is the concentration of mana in one’s fingertip which is then used to create the magic circle. With magic circles, by including complex systems like magic characters and symbols a magic formation is completed, it then becomes “crest magic” for the first time. Because of this the degree of difficulty is high and the power of the world’s “laws of nature” can be used to create big magics.

“crest magic” can be called a part of “free magic.”

(Being called free, there is a connection between ancient magic and crest magic...)

The time it takes to construct increases as the complexity of the magic formation grows.

The mental image of the magic formation needs to be flexible and mental power is needed as well as having vast mana consumption.

But, it should be simple as long as it is invoked once.

The rest is dependent of the person's talent. Excuse me, if crest magic is used it will be magic much stronger than language magic.

Language magic is one's own voice, using natural magic essence, spirits, and gods as a source of power, crest magic is magic that constructs a precise magic formation and absorbs the surrounding magic essence and one's own mana. Consequently, crest magic is difficult.

There is a way to save time if a magic formation is prepared ahead of time using magic printing. However this is bordering on "enchanted magic." So I will omit it.

Unlike language magic, crest magic directly interferes with to "laws of nature." This "natural law type" is pure magic, those of the "spirit user school" love spirits, there is a three way factional struggles amongst those of the "holy magic school" that love the gods.

(A god school is a god school, because they are innumerable...it is a totally worthless story. Am I not in a school? Without undergoing strange influences would the students reading this be here?)

With both language and crest magic they will become useful only after growing. It is best the steadily training.

But, this is really a generalization. Skill, Spirits, Gods, it is good to remember the conditions for magic growth change with the factor of the dark magic tool.



After that i can no longer understand the contents of the book.

About how to draw out simple magic factors from the 24 dimension worlds, interference with the brain boundary and interference with mana collection conflicts. Among other things, it goes on to an astronomical summary and may as well be greek.

I quickly flip through the pages until I come to the end of the book.

There is says “Complete Works of Magic Foundation” written by the Sage Pubramanti of Ernst Magic University.

The Sage, Pubramanti.

At any rate...

“Magic characters disappear once they’re read...”

“For a while now you’ve been mutter, is that thick book so fun?”

Yui seems interested in the magic explanation book.

“It’s fun. Do you want to look?”

“A little...”

I go over to her side and show her the thick book I was reading.

“Mu, it’s too difficult. Yo- Shuya, aren’t you a Spearman, not a magic user?”

(TL: Yui starts to call him “you” again but stops herself.)

Oh, this is the first time she said my name. It makes me happy.

I am interested in the difference choices I have. There are no shortcuts in learning a language, but even if I cannot learn it right away, I would like to get some information. I want to see it even if I can’t learn it.”

“There are no shortcuts in learning ...I haven’t hear this before, but you’re greedy.”

Yui glares at me with scornful eyes.

“Yui, wouldn’t you work hard to improve you sword skill?”

“I would do my best...”

“It’s similar to that. In addition, Yui’s sword arm is considerable. You have been training hard.”

“...In my case I have been training since I was young...to learn the sword.”

Yui’s eyes seem to sink for a moment...was it hard?

“...Is that so. Sorry.”

“Why apologize?”

“I reminded you of something difficult from your past...”

“...Haha, such an imagination, truly a ‘odd man.’”

...Her eyes seem irritated.

“Your active imagination is bad!”

I laugh at the body of Yui being being poked.

“Nana, rubbing me like that, Aaan.”

Suddenly the breast saint appears.

“Ahaha, how’s that~, making a fool of me, I’ll punish you with breast *pafupafu*”

“Hii au, bad...”

“Fumu. All right. I’ll permit it.”

“Fufu.”

Oh, a cute smile.

“That smile is nice. It’s cute.”

“Baka, don’t say that with a straight face...go away.”

“Ah~yeah, yeah.”

Ma, Yui is in a bad mood so I will return to Zoru’s magic room.

This time I take out the equipment in the treasure chest.

I am able to get some things I can equip.

The black boots have metals fittings with a crow on both sides, and since they seem to be my size I try them on.

I wear the crow boots, immediately.

A purple light shines from a slanted quilting design.

These are magic boots.

The eyes on the crows also glisten for a moment.

Then, the quilting design disappears and they return to black boots.

When I walk...the sound of my foot steps are gone. These seem to have a silence effect.
There is also a deodorizing effect so the smell of my feet is also gone.
Not that I think my feet smell particularly bad.
It's because they are boots, I do not smell them intentionally.

Next, I look at the rings.
Didn't this Zoru Gustave say something about being a ring craftsman in the diary?

...There are several rings.

There are several colored jewels in some of the rings.
I can cast magic without an aria using these rings, they seem convenient.

...A red, white, and yellow ring.
I can expect it to be fire and wind attribute, but I do not know anything more detailed.

There is no ring of the water attribute.
The only rings of Zoru's I seem able to use are those of the darkness attribute.
I might be able to sell some of these rings in some town.

Only three of the collected rings are suitable.
I leave the white chainmail alone since it is not in my size.
I hold onto the black mace.

I put on the black robe with the boots.
I return to Yui dressed like that.

I activate the <Hidden Body> skill.

Heh-heh, I will surprise her.

"Yui."
"-Kya!"

When I appear suddenly Yui almost falls out of the bed in surprise.

"You surprised me."

I help support the surprised Yui's body lay her back down gently.

"I didn't notice you. You're wearing a black robe..."

"I took it from the treasure chest in the back room. Oh, do you know what this mark on the back is?"

I show her the back.

"It's an exclusive symbol used by the **【Magician's Guild】** "

So the arms with the scales and staff really is the symbol of a guild.

"An exclusive symbol, thanks."

According to the diary.

Zoru Gustave was a member of the Magic Guild.

So I throw off the robe I put on.

"Was that Hidden Body earlier?"

It must have been strange that I appeared without sound, so Yui asked.

"These boots helped. They're something I got from the treasure chest."

I show her the boots.

"Magic Boots. Such high-quality equipment...the person Shuya defeated was a powerful 'magician'..."

"Seems like it. The guy used several different kinds of magic. Fortunately, he only fought with the magic in his rings."

As I speak calmly she has a confused look on her face and her vigor fades.

"..."

In the end, she falls silent.

Lowering her eyes, a shadow falls over her face.

"What is it? Did Yui's condition worsen?"

“-It’s different. Don’t come here. Don’t bring such an unpleasant face close to me.”
“I’m sorry you feel bad. What, I was worried and wasted your time. Suddenly become tsun, then I’ll look around the area, unless you need to pee or something, I’ll go outside to hunt with Rollo.”

What is it? She suddenly became all tsun tsun. *(TL: Tsun as is tsundere.)*
I will go hunting to relax.

“Nya.”

Rollo’s red eyes dilate at the word “hunt” and quickly jumps to my shoulder.

I pass through the arched door.
The area around the hunt is still filled with fog.

The fog has not cleared because I killed the couple.
However, there is a dramatic part of me that expected the fog to disappear like that.

The circumstances do not seem to be so nice.

I walk down the hill while thinking such a thing.
Through the small lighthouse giving of the pale blue light at the bottom of the hill, I invade the forest.

I will start searching within a range where I will not get lost.
As soon as I enter the forest I feel a monster’s magic essence response with presence detection.

All of a sudden I am already approached.
I take up my black spear and stand calmly.
I wait for the source of magic essence reaction to appear.

Rollo jumps off my shoulder too.
In preparation for hunting sharp claws extend into the group from both of Rollo’s paws as she assumes her black panther form.

Then, the source of the reaction appears.
The figure of a huge mantis with weak mana.
It is a mantis, but the figure is slightly white.

Two big sickle arms like steel beams stand out.

The white mantis' head is triangular.

It seems me with the compound eyes on the sides of its head, and then-the white mantis jumps at me.

-From overhead the two sickle arms swing down a "descending punch attack."

(TL: Punch is in English.)

Immediately, I I thrust out the black spear in response.

The descending sickles are repelled by the upper section of the black spear.

Without pause I evade, moving in a circle.

Chasing after my evasions, again and again the sickles are swung down.

The mantis' sickle is fast-

I quickly move the black spear and parried the sickle at an angle.

Fast and heavy.

The weight of the sickle makes it feel like an aluminum bat.

The collisions make a dull sound, I hear a collapsing sound.

The mantis's big sickles swing down one after another like industrial machinery.

One blow, two blows, gradually from the attacks raining down from the left and right

I am forced to retreat.

However, as I retreat I keep hold of the black spear like a willow branch and aware of the semi-circle I deal the descending sickles.

Gradually, I become accustomed to the movement of parrying the big sickle.

The action of repelling the sickle becomes compact.

The sickles slash through the branches and leaves of the surrounding trees, innumerable leaves dance through the air.

With the timing, Rollo flanks the mantis.

A feeler bone swords pieces deep into the mantis' abdomen.

When I let Rollo quickly strike with her feeler I move closer to the mantis' flank and grab the claw on its forefoot, I run though the front cutting the mantis' flank while making use of my physical strength.

The mantis' body is slim.

The flank of the body is cut straight through.

Green blood and abdominal juices splash out of wound, and the mantis dies.

The abdomen is soft?

Kon-kon. *(TL: Tap-tap)* I tap the arm of the fallen mantis with the spear, but it does not move.

Unlike its stomach its sickles are hard like metal.

For the time being I retrieve it. I leave behind part of the corpse too.

Then I use presence detection. I sense the surroundings.

There are monsters' magic essence reaction everywhere.

Furthermore, I also activate <Pheromone Touch>.

When I sense the smells I can understand the forms of the monsters I detected one after another.

A mantis, some kind of large beast, the figure of a small person, etc. All monsters.

There are also several winged woman-like monsters in the sky.

Of the various monsters in the forest the beast type monster seems to have reacted the the corpse of a mantis quickly.

-Gaooooooooon.

Oh, roaring sounds are coming from all around me.

I make eye contact with Rollo whose feelers are swinging aimlessly.

"Rollo. You may hunt as you like. But don't go too far. Come back here if you finish hunting."

"Nya, Nyaa."

Rollo calls back happily with a rumbling sound in her throat.

Being especially happy she extends a feeler to my cheek.

『Hunting』 『Hunting』 『Fun』 『Play』

She communicates such feelings repeatedly.

With a smile, nodding with intention, Rollo runs off lively into the forest.

“Oh.”

A pale-blue saber-toothed tiger appearance from the opposite direction Rollo left from.

It has long ears and there is a pale edge around the tiger like face.

Its fur is white until blue begins to mix in under its chest.

Its tail is split into two.

The huge fangs under its lips look sharp.

Its size is slightly bigger than the Zerri tiger from the forest near the Goldiba home.

For a tiger it might be said that the color of its fur is beautiful.

However, the image is ruined by the black gill-like protrusions under its whiskers.

While the two part tail of the tiger sways back and forth.

“Gaoooo-”

It rushes at me with a threatening roar.

The gills split down the middle to reveal sharp thin bone tusks.

Are you going to stab me with that?

The crossed fangs leap out faster than a vaulting horse as it jumps.

It dodges the descending spear.

The blade of the black spear stabs through the back of the blue and white tiger and its charge adds to the damage, carving out meat and bone.

The back bone is cut so deeply that it is completely torn through.

Even having its spine severed the blue and white doesn't run out strength until half way through.

After coming to a stop and collapsing forward it no longer moves.

I confirm the unmoving corpse.

Taking out a knife I cut up the tiger meat and harvest it. I remove it's saber-teeth. I pull out the unpleasant bone blade from its gills and collect it.

Lastly, I active <Magic Thought Guidance Hand>.

I make it easier to dismantle by holding its hind legs with the "distorted mana hand" and then skin the tiger.

While I work on dismantling I wait for Rollo to return with game. Oh, a little surprised I admire her figure a little.

I do this because she has the corpses of two tigers hanging from the bone swords of her feelers.

She is carrying another corpse in her mouth.

The tigers seems heavy, she looks like she is struggling.

Rollo purposefully brings the corpses to me as the proud result of her hunting, looking at me with her red eyes.

Her cute red eyes seem to be saying "Praise me, praise me."

"Good job, you did great."

"Nyaa."

Delighted by my praise she extends a feeler to my cheek.

『Prey』 『A lot』 『Happy』 『Fun』 『Play』 『More』

Her feeling are conveyed in sequence.

The praised Rollo seems to be having fun, she is running and jumping round and around with her tail standing up lik the handle of an umbrella.

"...Haha, but we're already finished hunting. Let's go back."

"Nyaa."

She answers quietly like she is disappointed she cannot continue hunting.

"Rollo, please carry the corpses to the hut. Let's surprise Yui."

“N, Nya nya.”

Again, Rollo stabs her feelers into two of the corpses and after picking up the other in her mouth she walks to the house at a decent pace.

I return as well.

When I enter the room Yui is sitting on the bed with her mouth open in surprise.

She is surprised by Rollo’s figure...

But, her bad mood seems to be gone.

“Um, this black cat? Did it kill those tigers?”

“That’s right. This is Rollodinu. This is my partner as well as my pet.”

“Like a familiar?”

“N~, something like that?”

When I incline my neck questioningly,

“Nya.”

“It seems to be the case.”

“...When I attacked Shuya, why didn’t you make it attack me?”

“I had no intention to kill Yui, so I had Rollo watch. I gave Rollo an order at the start.”

“I...mercy from the start...”

Oh my, she became depressed.

“Don’t be so depressed. Do you want me to rub your breasts again?”

“Iya, ah, saying that, are gunna tickle me?”

“Oho. Tickling your breasts to massage them is supreme, even you, would want to taste the skill of the 156 hands from the breast research society?”

“What is the breast research society...”

Yui’s eyes sharpen for a moment but then she laughs.

“Don’t you know! Why I think breasts are beautiful? It is the romance of a man to pursue the holy meeting.”

“...My head is hurting, so go away now...”

Ku, narrow minded.

Hmph.

Like this our life as false lovers continues...



One week passes.

Yui is recovered so that she can walk. But, her physical strength seems to have fallen, her arms also still feel a little numb and shake.

Naturally, she is not even able to use her sword.

“You seem to have already recovered considerably.”

“Un. For all of you help...thank you.”

Yui’s expression softens.

It is different from the stolid expression she normally has, this one is a soft cute smile.

“Ou. That expression is good.”

“You, Shuya is kind...even though I’m an assassin...being so honest now...”

Even though you are praising me you are looking down.

“Oi, again? My gold finger...”

“-Stop it. I understand, haahaha, so stop. I’ll kill you.”

“Un. That’s better. That’s the spirit. Hahaha.”

“Fufu”

After all, that smile is the best.

“Well then, I’ll go to that magic room.”

“I...will make some dried fish and the tiger meat Shuya ate the other day.”

“Got it.”

I return to Zoru’s magic room and begin to search through the treasure chest again. I take out the bundle of magic characters that were written and look over them this time.

It is bundle of scrolls.

With only a little mana someone can use magic with this.

After one use they become dust.

Zoru seemed to have been a magician and there are various scrolls.

However...most are fire and wind, only two scrolls are darkness attribute.

One called Reckless and the other black arrow.

I will use them one day, for now I'll conceal them in my bosom.

However, if I keep them stored away I may forget to use them.

Next my gaze moves to the bookshelf, I take out one book after another and read them.

There are some documents about Dark magic Wogan Dolls and old golems.

A skill called Ore Casting seems to be required to make the a doll.

In order to make a magic doll various monster materials are required along with a crystalline lens, minerals, wood and leather. The technology the make ancient golem solders, among other things.

There is a memo Zoru wrote down in the margins.

A large amount of souls and magic essence is required.

Sacrificial offerings need to be made to Malady and Beikala.

Particularly, the key is large amounts of souls ad magic essence.

It is also written that "Spirit Absorption" is required.

There is a description about Spirit Absorption.

It is one of the magic tools introduced by demonic beings.

It is something that can gather a person's soul and magic essence to create vast amounts of energy.

Using it is difficult. If it is damaged even a little the soul and magic essence will discharge out and it will stop. So it was written.

I remember a similar description in the diary.

I put away the book I read.

When I am choosing the next book I discover a book inserted deep into the bookshelf.

When I grasp the book in my hand there is a mana reaction.

Oh, are these magic characters?

The characters I read on the cover are different from those on the other ones.

The letters are different. It seems old, they are blurred and indistinct...

I can make out the title as "Black Lump."

I check on Yui before heading to the garden.

CHAPTER 29

PAINFUL PARTING

Yui talks to me when I return with the book.

“Ah, Shuya. Dry fish is impossible here. It gets wet because of the fog.”

“There’s no helping it. You have to cook it to preserve the food so it can’t be helped that it is dry.”

“It’s easy if one can use magic.”

“A, speaking of magic. I discovered Magic Characters here. See?”

I hand the old book to Yui.

“N, this? I can’t read the characters, oh, I can feel mana in this. But, the contents are incomprehensible. I can’t read these characters. It’s different from the elf language...and though it’s similar to ancient dwarf I think it is different. I haven’t seen these characters before.”

“Is that so, I’m able to read them.”

“Eh?”

She returns the book to me.

“I’m going to conduct a few experiments. I’ll go away...”

“Eh? Experiments?”

“Nya.”

Yui lifts Rollo and back away from me.

“So, watch.”

Even though I cannot understand the visual forms of the characters I can easily read the thanks to the <Language Comprehension> extra skill.

The title is Black Mass.

The title is simple.

I begin to read the Magic Characters for 《Black Mass》

I thought it a little earlier, but it is strange. This book.

I can feel mana from the magic characters.

When I open the book and begins reading the characters, the characters I read begin to give off white light.

Before long the characters I did not read begin to shine and flicker.

What is this?

The shining characters lift off the page and project into the air, the ages of magic characters turn automatically and the shining characters floating in the air move the same way.

Ooh, amazing. Characters...

The white light is nearly colorless.

But, the shining characters gradually turn black and erode.

A string of black characters floating in the air begin to give off a peculiar shine.

“What is...this?”

A curious expression plays across Yui’s face as she mumbles.

Being carried by her, Rollo is staring at the floating characters. The characters are reflected in her red eyes.

Docile against Yui’s wonderful breasts, without playing, she seems to be watching the course of events.

A short time later, the string of floating characters begins to vibrate.

Then they suddenly swoop to the ground.

No, the characters turn to me.

the characters turn sharply and collide with my forehead.

The floating magic characters are ab, sor, bed.

“Uo...”

The characters entering my head one after another.

As the darkly shining character string enters my head, the shapes and characters of a geometric pattern for a magic formation is spontaneously engraved in my mind.

The construction of the formation together with the method to regulate mana, I understand the sensation of how to construct it.

It is a strange sensation, the feeling of my mind's consciousness being opened-
The umbrella of my senses all being opened at the same time-
However, I cannot completely understand it by myself.

It is a half-finished feeling, I suck in a breath, the sensation is like the naturally pulsing blood...

From the times I learned a skill, a deeper place...
I feel like it is being engraved into my mental heart.

For a moment- I look at both my hands with magic characters.
I take a deep breath in through my nose, then let it out through my mouth.

With this magic characters being supported by me, in order to finish their function, they are rotting away.
Finally, I have the fleeting feeling of sand running through my fingers.

※ Pikon ※ <Ancient Magic> Skill Acquired ※
※ Pikon ※ <Crest Magic> Skill Acquired ※

I concentrate on this magic, ignoring the skill acquisition sound in my head along with acquisition characters displayed in front of me.

I understand. I see...this part is necessary.
I feel that I have realized something.

I will test it out immediately.

Just to be safe I activate the <meditation> skill and replenish my mana.
And I close my eyes and concentrate mana on a finger-tip.

Raising my right hand, I draw a circle with a finger- a character string is joined together.
This circle being drawn is a centralized type- the construction of a magic formation.

“Amazing...Magician...”

Yui mutters “magician,” referring to me.

I think of a question, but for the time being I focus on the magic.

I add the magic symbols I learned one after another to the circular magic formation. The scale the geometric pattern I am drawing is small, I compose the magic character formation.

I freely tamper with the meaning one by one.

At the same time my mana is being expended.

“The beginning is according to the basics in the book...but the name is changed.”

Muttering so, I finish meddling with the magic formation.

Floating before my eyes is an oddly shining black magic formation.

(TL: In this case black is referring to the color of the formation, not the type of magic.)

Black Mass-

“ 《Dark Bullet》 ”

At that moment- an intense, a black mass appears from a rough, intense distortion in the magic formation. Furthermore, mana is taken from the magic formation.

The black mass plunges into the ground in one breath.

-DOG00000NN!! The collision happens with a thwack and an intense shock wave.

Like a small meteorite.

But, my body feels heavy- I am attacked by a sense of listlessness.

It is a strong sense of exhaustion...

It is not to the extent of fairy moji or the naming of the bone knights.

Surprised by the loud sound, intense shock wave, and the cloud of dust Rollo jumps out of Yui’s arms and for a moment is suspended in the air with a foolish appearance.

Rollo is like that but she lands on the ground safely.

However, her red pupils are dilated and the hair on her back is standing on end.

With funny movements she is sidling along with crabish movements.

Yui is staring at the hole in the ground with a look of stupefaction...

A big hole has been created in the ground of the garden.
A one-meter hole. It seems to have pierced through the ground in a pinpoint.
Around the hole the earth is rolled up in a circle, several layers over and over again,
small cracks are spread out.

“Hey, this is pretty powerful if it lands a direct hit.”

Moreover, I can still tamper with the ancient crest magic some more.

Ancient crest magic is amazing.

The <Language Comprehension> extra skill is also helping.
Since I can normally read ancient characters I am able to acquire ancient magic and
crest magic in no time.
At first, I chose it because I wanted to understand people other than humans...
I was really lucky. Lucky.

“Shuya...you, who are you? Not only the spear, but to use magic...”

Her eyes have become completely frightened; her eyes are shaking.
And then, like the other day...the look in Yui’s eyes has begun to show signs of
changing.

The color transitions from black to light gray.
Before long they have changed into the white snow scene.
A little silver is emitted from her vacant eyes, strangely.

“Yui, your eyes...”

“Ah, don’t look!”

She covers her eyes with her hands and looks away to hide them.

“N, Aah. However, I’ve already seen them...”

Yui speaks embarrassed words while turning her back.

“My eyes. They are hollow and abnormally empty...”

“Is that so? It was fantastic and beautiful...”

When she hears what I said Yui's should move a little, startled, time passes.

"...Only Shuya. To say such a thing."

Yui says so and looks back, showing her face.

Traces of tears can be seen on her cheeks. She finished crying...

Even though they are such beautiful eyes, she seems to have a problem with it.

"Beautiful. Once before...you showed me those eyes."

"Un, thanks. That was for the sake of chasing Shuya."

Chasing? Some kind of ability.

Then, a change happens in Yui's eyes.

"Ah, they're turning back."

"Fufu."

She seems embarrassed, her shy figure is unusually cute.

"In order to chase me, those eyes are special eyes?"

"So. These are the eyes of Beikala. They are nicknamed "Death Eyes" and are good for tracking. The target I catch with these eyes once with be bordered red for 'eternity,' where ever they go I can follow. It's a 'game' for me. two times, three ties, every time I see the target again, my assassination ability improves."

So that means, I am bordered in red all the time?

"So, uh, do they change all the time?"

"So. Most of the time I activate them consciously, but sometimes when I feel fear it activates automatically."

Yui seems happy and her cheeks relax. She seems to be in a good mood.

"Is that so. Then I scared you. Sorry. But, such important information...is it okay to tell me?"

"Un. I am already okay with the problem that is Shuya. Aren't you actually a magician?"

"No, n, well now I can't deny it...I became a magic user. In other words, my foundation is well rounded?"

Scowling, Yui looks at me with a pair of doubtful eyes.
On the other hand, having already calmed down, Rollo has arranged her front feet and upper body properly and is being well behaved like a doll.

She seems to be listening to mine and Yui's conversation.

"...It was a phenomenon I have not seen. I have not seen characters float when you learn magic. Such a phenomenon happens with neither language nor crest."

"That's right..."

"You're hiding something?"

"It seems to be ancient magic."

"Ancient Magic!?"

It was written in an ancient magic book.

With this response, it seems certain it was a valuable magic book.

Ah, Yui's eyes changed again.

"...It's a shock when the woman I love is afraid so many times."

To my casual sudden confession, Yui's shaking white eyes are trembling.

"...You love me?"

"Aah, would I have nursed you if I didn't like you?"

"That, well..."

As she mutters Yui's eyes return to normal and her face blushes red.

I open my mouth to disturb the delicate moment.

"Yui, did you say that you grilled meat earlier? Now, let's finish."

"N, that's right."

Like this, the pleasant days that nobody knows passes immediately.



Furthermore, one week later-

Yui's body has become able to move freely.

Looking healthy, she also shows her cute lively smile.
Her physical condition also seems to have improved.

Is the gyuza grass good for the skin in the bath? It is somehow charming.

I am still eating the meat that was barbequed in the garden with relish.
For a little while, I look at the condition of the meat being brought to my mouth.

When I look, a smiling face is returned.
Things have progressed really well.
In various way, I fought to “massage” Yui’s body.

Talking with Yui has also become fun...
Once she recovers completely, the period of pretending to be lovers will end, and it will return to antagonism.

Honestly, I like this woman.

But...even though I do not want to, we must separate.
There are times when I am hot-blooded.
If I am not mistaken, Zoru said I can reach a city if I go west.

Assuming I will leave tomorrow, once, I should talk to Yui...

-N? A magic essence reaction.

A magic essence reaction from above where the fog is spread out.
Because the visibility is poor I cannot really distinguish it...

-It comes.

A human type creature with bone wings growing from its back breaks through the fog to the ground.

With pale skin and unkempt thin blond hair, it has abnormally large black eyes and blood sucking fangs are visible on both sides of its mouth.

Its hands and feet are humanoid, and the projections on its back are sharp and have taken the form of weapons.

But, my eyes are attracted to the clothing like armor in its hands.

It is a novel design. A bone pipe extends from the upper part of both shoulders into a thin line and wraps around the lower back as bone armor.

The small bones jutting out of its back form wings.

Such bone wings appear like blades of innumerable collected bone splinters.

On the other hand, the legs of its lower body are thin and bird like, similar to a goose.

The strange person in front of my eyes clearly is not human, but its small cotton swab like lips move.

“...Oya, it isn’t that magician.”

Peculiar, their voice has an empty quality.

“Aah, what are you?”

When I ask Yui grasps a sword in both hands, activates her death eyes, and then her eyes change into “Beikala’s Eyes.”

Rollo moves into a blind spot so she can throw herself at any time.

I grasp my spear and adopt a natural posture.

It is a posture that can shift to fighting anytime.

“The woman’s appearance is different too? What happened to Zoru Gustave?”

“More importantly answer the question. Who. are. you?”

I activate magic observing eyes and presence detection repeatedly.

I raise my voice as I talk to the “Dark Eyed Bird Man.”

“Sa~”

The moment I say so the dark eyed bird seems to deceive, lowering its hands to its waist.

It instantly pulls a bone sword out of its body and it about to attack.

Immediately, Yui fights back.

I rotate to the side in order to attack and thrust out.

Yui's sword collides with the bone sword wielded by the dark eyed bird.

Yui's sword repeatedly collides with the bone sword, clashing together hard sounds ring out.

Yui continues attack with her one sword two swords, and then the dark eyed bird wields two bone sword, accurately defending against Yui's attacks.

With a good rhythm the hard sound of the two colliding bone swords and Yui's swords is audible, they take distance from each other and hold.

"You fight well for a human girl, no? However-"

It then opens both of its bird eyes and raises its arms above its head, at the same time its bone wings open up and it flies away.

I do not understand how its bone wings can use the wind, but quickly increasing its speed it attacks Yui.

Yui somehow manages to deflect the high speed bone sword with her swords, but she completely falls behind.

Taking this as an opening, it folds its bone wings behind its back and they transform into a spear bone tail with a sharp point. The transformed spear bone tail draws a low arc and pierces through Yui's foot.

Blood spills out of Yui's foot as it is sewn to the ground.

The Yui that has become full of openings.

The dark eyed bird sees the immobile Yui and the moment it is going to stab with the bone sword grasped in its thin hand-

"With this, todo-"

-Think I will let you!

I kick the ground with fighting moji enhanced legs.

Quickly closing the distance with the dark eyed bird I attack its side with a thrust from my black spear, I stab into its intestines.

It is blown off to the side, and staggering with a "Gua," it cannot help also issuing a brief scream. However, it still hasn't collapsed yet.

Furthermore, the pursuing feeler bone sword of Rollo pierces through its thin bird leg, leaving behind a hole.

“You should regret that you laid a hand on the ‘woman I love.’”

Spitting out a small speech I eject <chain> towards the crown of the black eyed bird’s head.

At the same time, I activate <Cerebral Demon Speed>

The same moment I eject chain through the head of the stumbling dark eyed bird, I who sped up at that moment release <Thrust> from point blank range.

Even if the chain pierced through the head of the black eyed bird, until <Cerebral Demon Speed> ends I consecutively shoot <thrust> like an electric drill, over and over.

In an instant the armored breast bone of the dark eyed bird is smashed and its body it crushed like trash.

Finally, as if brushing off of the dust, I rotate the spear to cause a strong wind, and I look back toward Yui.

“Yui, are you okay?”

At the moment she appears to be more dumfounded than concerned with her injured foot, with her small mouth open she has a peashooter face.

“Yui?”

“Ah, aah, un. I’m okay. Thank you for helping me. Also, since my life was saved...kya, it hurts.”

“Rollo.”

“Ah, it’s fine. Fufu, thank you. Rollo-chan.”

Rollo licking the wound on Yui’s foot made her scream.

Rollo seems to be worried.

How do you say, licking the blood...

Yui has a gentle smile on her face, and consoles the Rollo who was behaving in such a way by stroking her head.

“Rollo, licking her blood is no good. Rather, I...”

I do not say that I want to lick it- I hold myself back.

“Eh?”

Yui is looking at me with strange eyes, so I hurry and deceive her.

“No, no, that is, medicine! I’ll go get a potion.”

“Ah, un.”

When a potion is sprinkled over the wound on her foot it immediately closes up. I give her a potion just to be safe.

“With this it should be alright. It was good there were a lot of potions.”

“...Un, but, the demonic being from earlier...it felt like it was an acquaintance of the magician that used to live here.”

Yui speaks while looking at the deformed dead body of the dark eyed bird and calls it a demonic being. I check the corpse, there is nothing.

Which reminds me, there was something written in the diary about that.

“...Dead men tell no tales, but there was a description about the bone wings in Zoru’s diary. And then, the demonic being has no possessions. There is only the bone sword.”

“We shouldn’t be attacked by a different one again, but...”

“Surely, the possibility is there. It may be better to immediately leave this place.”

“Yeah.”

Did you hear what I started to say earlier...

“That, reminds me, wasn’t the sword handling a little while ago very sharp? Has your body already completely recovered?”

“Eeh, I’m cured...”

Yui’s expression suddenly stiffens.

“Is that so...that’s good, you feel good...”

“What do you want to say?”

“Since you have recovered, I was considering leaving here tomorrow morning.”

“...Na...wait, are you saying Shuya will return to antagonism with me?”

“It’s up to Yui.”

After a short moment Yui eyelashes begin to tremble and she adopts an angry expression.

“...I must kill Shuya, it can't be helped, but I don't want to kill you, but even so, unfair, unfair, unfair!”

Her voice is unusually rough, and her reaction is one that is not normally shown by a woman of her age.

haha, even though it's a frantic face it's still cute.

...Then, should I invite her?

“...Na, if that's the case, why don't you travel with Rollo and me?”

“ ... ”

Yui stays silent.

Are you going to hold out a little more?

“I am looking for a certain treasure artefact for Rollo. Well, Yui could travel. Wouldn't it be fun if you were with us...How's that? Will you come together?”

After I look Yui in the eye, her face looks like she is going to cry and she evades my eyes.

From her profile I can see one tear stream down her cheek.

Aah, I made you cry.

“...I want to go. But, I'm sorry. It's impossible...the organization won't allow it. I must protect the Furgman Family. For the sake of my father who is bed ridden with illness.”

The organization, the Furgman household.

Because of the family name I too would be worried about my father.

There is no helping it. I'm sorry.

It is disappointing, but I have been rejected.

I thought of confessing and being rejected several times, but I do not want to taste it in any world.

“...I won't force you.”

I try to be a little tough, and do not show it on my face.

“...Shuya.”

Yui is suddenly there, removing the black clothes she is wearing.

“Oh...”

And then, she throws aside all of her clothes with determination.

“Strangely I want you hear it without thinking. Before we separate, I want to thank you. I’m not Shuya’s ‘loved one’ ...I know that. But, if it’s still okay...I want you to hold me.”

Yui speaks while making a tight fist.

But, her voice is soft like the feathers of a small bird, floating on the wind.

However, loved one? There is no such person...

Other than such a thing, is Yui’s naked body. Always so beautiful.

Naturally, I stare at her body.

The skin the nape of her neck is shining white with sweat.

Clearly taking in her elegant collar bone, and immediately below, double hills of a moderate size that are so magnificent as to make a famous photographer groan.

The finely arranged hair of the secret flower garden truly seems like Yui.

The thin firm musculature of her waist that continues to the white peach of her thighs down to her tiny feet is seductive.

“...Yui, you’re beautiful. ...But, I have no loved one?”

“Eh, but, the necklace...”

“Ooh, this. I picked this up a while ago...baka, did you misunderstand? Hora.”

I instinctively pull in the too cute Yui and hug her.

And, naturally, once again the same words are spoken.

“Beautiful, a cute person.”

I am a man, too. Not eating the meal set before him is a man’s shame. I will accept.

I undress immediately and put my hands around Yui's waist to hold her.
Once more I strongly hold her close.
Yui, with her face buried in my chest, looks up at me and for a moment, her eyes close bravely as they swell with tears and grief.

I steal away Yui's lips.

"N, for today, I'm your lover..."

Shed tears fall from her face and hit my cheeks.

"Aah..."

Yui's coquettish figure is branded in my eyes.
Bring our bodies leaning close to each other, running my eyes over her I covet her small lips exhaustively.
Entwining our arms, our bodies seek to come together and surrender themselves to our desires.
Our hearts melt together as we love and are loved in return for countless hours, to the extent the Rollo is astonished...I am not sure, but the love affair passes through the night and follow until early in the morning.



Rising early, the blood of deflowering is left on the bed from our repeated love-making.

She's still sleeping. It is because we did so much yesterday.
The stamina of that one was inexhaustible too...

The loose sleeping figure of Yui.
I look at her lustrous skin and check her beautiful sleeping face.
I can detect the lingering scent of a woman, the feeling I had revives...

Isn't Yui well? I am going to speak, but I stop myself.

I myself, because my resolution might waver.

Controlling my emotions, I write a message on parchment with a quill pen.

I tore this paper from the diary in the study.

Finally, I put near the letter I wrote all of the money Zoru had along with five pieces of the ancient gold I got from Shisho.

With painful reluctance, I break away...

I speedily leave the hut after arranging my equipment.

CHAPTER 30

INTERMISSION-YUI

Part 1

Author's Note: This is Yui's perspective. It will return to the usual story after a little.

The assassin wrapped in black clothes, in pursuit of the Spearman, pauses in front of the Magic Fog Forest.

The Magic Fog Forest, it is a place filled with dense fog, and there is another name for it in the area, the 【Surface Labyrinth】. Not only travelers and caravans, but even thieves avoid this famous area where monsters appear.



I have to the front of the forest where the thick fog spreads out.
Here is the Magic Fog Forest

I turn my eyes between the thick towering trees.
A red line is clearly visible.

My <Beikala Eyes> extra skill, I never lose my prey.

I am certain that the “Spearman” went into this forest.

Hewso gave me an order, telling me to “kill” the spearman.
At the same time, it is an order from the dark guild the 【Shadow's Right Hand】.

It is dangerous but I no choice other than to go. However, I feel uneasy.
The strength of that spearman was not ordinary.
At first he appeared to only be an ordinary vagrant...but when we fought, I quickly lost.

That experienced handling of that man...

A little, I remember that way of walking from somewhere, but he was too strong. The two people the spearman killed in 【Senapa】 were reputed master assassins. Named after the Nebulous water dragon that savaged seas of Samaria they were called the 【Three Best of Nebulous】 all having mastered fighting moji, Zeefu the Reclusive Sword, and Apo the Flashing Prison.

These masters were defeated in an instant, and I too was dealt with easily, in the end I was sent flying with a kick.

I fight him again, but my arm is broken and I lose.

I have failed twice now.

Moreover, he gives me mercy there saying life comes first.

When it is discovered that I am a woman my chest is groped and I am made sport of.

And, that man, said I am “beautiful” ...

Aah, already- to forcibly forget, I shake my head side to side.

I must not mind it forever.

I need to get a grip. I slap my cheeks.

Kill order. The orders of the dark guild are absolute.

I must kill that spearman or I will not get a big pay day.

Without money I also cannot acquire my father’s medicine.

Again, I look up the forest covered in fog.

The red line marking the spearman spreads out inside.

Even if it is the “Magic Fog Forest” it does not matter.

Engraving such resolution into my chest I plunge into the Magic Fog Forest.

Using the <Eyes of Beikala> I chase after the red line.

The forest becomes foggier and the white fog obscures my view.

The noises also become terrible.

As I advance though such a forest- in the hazy fog in front of me, did something move?

That moment, a blue and white tiger with fangs attacks me.

Hurrying, I block the bite of the tiger with a sword.

I perform a kick back from the tiger and immediately withdraw.

However, there is the figure of a monster I ran from earlier, the silhouette of a huge mantis ripple in the white fog, waiting.

The sickles of the big mantis are big.
Aiming for the feet, I go down the notched blades of the mantis descend.

Hurry to the side I try to dodge the sickles but I am not fast enough.
The sickle grazes my right foot.
From the calf of right foot blood dances.

“Ita.”

Ku-The sickle is sharp. It attacks again.
My foot hurts, by I run away.
Without thinking about the direction I desperately run through the fog.
I see a thicket so I jump into it to hide.

I look around the area from the thicket.

Fortunately, there is no sign of the monster chasing me.
Ku, as soon as a feel relieved there's a *zuki* pain from my right leg...I can kind of see
the bone from the wound.
The wound is deeper than I thought...I need to take medicine soon.

I choose a high-quality heal potion that is placed in my bosom and bring it to my
mouth.
Gaku, gaku, I drink it down and the wound on my leg is immediately restored.

This medicine is high-class.
This is special medicine provided by the organization for work.

However, this was my only bottle...
I cannot be injured from now on.
At any rate, the visibility in this forest is bad and the monsters are strong.
No, it is not only that, without resting for too long, I need to continue chasing that
“spearman.”

Was my choice a mistake...
That moment-with a sound of pushing through the trees from behind, a blue and
white tiger appears.

“Kya!”

I am pushed over onto the ground by the tiger.
Again, this is the tiger from earlier.
Without howling it widens its mouth.

It has sharp fangs like sabers.
Saliva drips from the fangs.

The tiger growls and moves to bite the scruff of my neck.

I cannot be eaten- hurriedly, while keep the sword in my right hand level, I push it into the tiger's mouth.

It cuts through in a straight line from there and the tiger as if reading my movements, closes its mouth and blocks the sword with one of its fangs.

With its powerful jaws the tiger is try to bit through the sword.
The sword has been caught tightly between its sharp teeth.

If it was a common sword it would break. However, I look at the sword blade caught and being bitten by the tiger and feel relief.

The magic characters shining on the sword blade show white.
This sword is not an ordinary sword...appearing is Samaria legend, their names are from the twin demon grade demon beings Azeros & Vassage.
It was from the Samarian Merchant Fiver Fingers Drui Risaloma, I received them when I assassinated Drui at the request of the organization.

The blue and white tiger snorts violently, together with the shining sword, it hurries the defeat me quickly and attacks the sharp sword with its teeth greedily.
The smell of the beast is sent to my face with a *bua*
Then, the upper part of the gills on the blue and white tiger, transforms suddenly and splits- a slender shard protuberance protrudes from inside.

Eh-I quickly move my face to the side.
The sharp protrusion grazes my cheek, cuts my hair, and buries it in the ground.

Dangerous-
This tiger does such a thing- moreover it stinks.

But, such a smell vanishes as a pain runs through my left shoulder.

The sharp claws on the paw the tiger is holding me down with cuts through my black clothes and penetrates my chain mail digging into my living flesh.

I discover blood streaming down my skin.

I change the pain into my strength and counter attack without becoming flustered.

I hold my left-hand sword in a backhand grip.

I deal a heavy blow to the jaw of the tiger from below with the sword blade.

I kick the tiger's body with a knee and make the tiger lean back. Using this moment I pull on the sword caught in the tiger's teeth and slip it out.

-I strengthen my body with <Fighting Moji>.

I stand up and spinning my body to the right I activate the skill, <Dancing Decapitation>

The effect of the skill increases the speed of the revolving blade and it sinks into the tiger's necks, burying itself in the scruff.

From there, the rotating slash continues through the bloodied blue and white tiger...and its head falls to the ground with a thump.

Blood gushes out from the severed neck like a spout and my whole body is sprayed with blood.

Ha, ha, ha, I am worn-out.

I must leave here quickly.

Not paying mind to the blood and dirt I leave the place while gasping for air.

I run into the fog, chasing the spearman. For a while I continue killing the monsters that appear while I wonder the forest.

At such a time, I finally manage to approach the targeted spearman.

The "red line" that leads to target thickens further.

-I approach with silent footsteps.

-I activate <Fighting Moji>

-Storing mana in my feet, I circulate and store mana in my hands.

Yosh, now!

-But, I am easily evaded and my sword only cuts through air.

“You. It’s been a while. And you’ve removed your mask. But, why is your beautiful face dirty? And aren’t you also injured and worn-out?”

To discover my position so easily...

“ ... ”

“Quiet again?”

Confusing me...again this spearman talks to me.

I must not mind it.

I will “kill” this person.

I activate my extra skill, <Eyes of Beikala>

Again the spearman is bordered in red.

“What happened? Looking at a face such as this-”

In defiance of the spearman’s words I immediately leap at him.

I attack, swinging down with Azeros held in both hands to bisect him.

But, there is only the feeling of hard rock being cut.

A metallic sound rings out, both of my hands with their slightly raised physical ability are numb.

When my sword is easily stopped by the black spear my power is lost and I am mowed down.

The spearman pulls on the reins of his magic beast and escaped.

Ku, you will not escape.

I immediately run after him.

The place the spearman runs to is a dead end overlooking a cliff.

Was that guy waiting for me to come to the cliff?

Baka, to intentional wait. I will definitely kill this guy here.

“Yui, you look unwell? Are you okay?”

Again? This spearman...

“Why are you worrying about me in this situation?”

“Haha, that’s right.”

I push the <Fighting Moji> skill to its limits and slash out.

On the way I shift to attack with dual swords.

I slash diagonally from the right with the <Dark Feather Drawn Sword>

Eh!? It was easily dodged.

If that’s the case, attacking with a sword from each side, <Dark Bisecting Shadow>!

Ku, I was dodged again-

This fellow, again dodges over and over. Why-how are such movements possible!?

“W-why, counterattack.”

I feel anger towards the spearman who does not counter attack.

But, none of my attacks are successful.

Even an attack using a skill cannot graze him.

I got the “Dark Dual Heavy Sword Master ” occupation, but this, my attacks...

I resolve myself.

I will use my secret technique.

The mana consumption is big and it places a heavy burden on my body.

In the state where <Fighting Moji> is activated-

-I pour mana into the two swords, Azeros & Vassage.

Here, <Dark Henpensi>-

Relying on the magic swords, a lunge of inconceivable speed.

This cannot be dodged- I did it; I could feel wounding him for the first time-eh?

This fellow, did he see the sword line?

The spearman moves his head slightly aside and continues dodging the lunge.

He avoided the stab from my secret technique- how?!

In the end he sometimes shows a smiling face.

S-such...avoided easily.

Towards the spearman whose movements have transcended those of a person, I fly into a rage and petition him.

“How?”

“No, maa, I would say that was really close. -You should be happy.”

Be happy- he said something strange again!

“Ku, wha-what is it with you!”

“Mou, don’t swing those around so much anymore.”

I am upset by the spearman’s words.

This is the “first time” for me.

Continuously avoiding my attack like this, even avoiding my secret technique, I am even teased and attacked with “words” rather than with the spear.

As a consequence of using my secret technique my body loses its strength.

Oops My foot-snarled, by the time I notice it is already too late, as I fall from the cliff my view sinks.

“Ah.”

I fall.

So-a sudden sock runs through my body and my view rolls.

Ite, ite...I seem to have hit my foot on a rock.

Ooh, I, here- At that time as I have begun to give up, I find that the spearman has grabbed my arm.

The spearman has a desperate look on his face.

However, he seems to be trying to save me.

“But, why, why, why-

The spearman not only grasps my arm; he holds my body close.
I unconsciously remember the figure of my strong father hugging me.

Again, I receive a strong shock.
Then, I lose consciousness.



When I come around the spearman is in front of me.
It seems like I was saved...and then, I lose consciousness again, the next I notice I
laying in an unfamiliar bed.

Even though I am a hit man I was saved by my target...how worthless.

There is a small hole in my stomach, and my foot seems to be broken.
In addition, my whole body is creaming at me.

The spearman explains that he saved me, as I talked when I wanted to, after taking his
behavior into consideration, I acknowledge it.
His goal is probably my body since he is a man.
But, the situation seems to be that I am pretending to be the lover of this
spearman...there is no helping it since I cannot carry out my job with my body in this
condition.

However, someone I am trying to kill is the one who is taking care of me. I am amazed.

Therefore, I endure being lovers.
Fufu, he tried to save me even though I tried to kill him, what a funny man.

“...I...I don’t mind it.”

After I consent a robed man who I think is the owner of the house walks in.

“Ah, your lover-san has come around.”

“Aah, uh, ya!”

At that moment, the spearman hugs me.

For an instant, I dumbfounded.

For some reason I hug the man’s body in return...I feel the warmth of this man.

“Haha, good, good. It looks like lover-san is able to eat now, but since she should stay in bed I’ll bring something to eat.”

The man who offered a place to stay has a shaved head.

N, is that a magic crest mark on his forehead? Is he from some noble house?

But, a noble would not live in a place like this.

His eerie eyes are bothering me.

“Ah, sorry. If it’s alright I will get it.”

The spearman separates from me.

“Is that so? Then, I will return.”

I watch the weird bald man walk away.

But, I...wonder what it is.

I was suddenly held a little while ago.

Such a spearman carries a meal.

Fuun, nevertheless the kill target has not changed.

But, I will express my thanks.

“Sorry. But, it’s until the day after tomorrow. After that much time has passed...my foot will be healed.”

The man’s eyes open a little wide. He is smiling.

“...Ah, understood. Then, would Yui like me to feed her?”

“Iii, the shoulder wound is okay. I can already use my arm.”

“Is that so, then I’ll go get my own food. I’d also like to ask about the area around here.”

The spearman smiles, unconcerned. What a strange man.

I begin to eat after smelling the provided meal.

It is delicious. A proper meal after such a long time...

After a short time, the spearman comes back.

“...Looks like she ate. She should recover well.”

Ordinary. Don't look at me with such a “smiling face” ...it this fellow okay? Am I not the killer aiming for your life?

“...you're here, I...”

“Don't worry about it. Right now you are my lover. Since you finished eating I'll take the tray.”

This man, is he joking?

“T, thank you.”

However, I still respond properly.

The spearman goes into the neighboring room to put away the tableware. His countenance has changed completely when he returns.

“What's wrong? Why do you look like that?”

A strange face.

The spearman laughingly explains hurriedly, and as I listen I notice that my body is feeling odd.

My hands are trembling.

“Ah, my...ah, my arm is numb...”

“As expected. Rollo, go outside and be prepared to fight at any moment.”

“Nya.”

The black cat answers shortly and energetically runs outside.

I should have been more careful.

“Mou, the medicine is already taking affect.”

I seem to have somehow been poisoned by the landlord.

Not noticing something like that...I am not qualified to be a killer.

Before eating I can discern medicines from their smell.

The poison was an unscented type.

At any rate, it is a strange poison. Losing the sensation in my body will not kill but, besides, I can move my mouth. Is this a special paralytic poison?

I do not know of such a poison.

There should be some reason for giving us a special high-quality poison.

Yet, the spearman seems to be okay.

“...You, are you okay? I can move my mouth...but my arms are shaking, and there’s no strength in my legs...although this feels kind of funny...it must be a special narcotic...”

“I’m fine. I just moved the food...I didn’t eat it.”

“There’s no helping it now.”

“Understood. Let’s leave here first. I’ll carry you.”

The spearman carries me.

“Kya-”

“What is it lover? I’ll help. Don’t worry.”

Will my *doku-doku* be noticed...

Then-

“Oya...are you going somewhere?”

“Ah, Yui wants to go outside for a little while, feel the wind, look at the stars...”

The spearman moves to leave the room as he carries me.

“Is that so, ha, I guess our lies are mutually transparent. I can’t let you leave like this. Theta. Block the exit.”

“Yes. Master.”

A robed bald man with a magic crest on his forehead.

He gives instructions while smiling.

The woman called Theta seems to have blocked the way in front of the spearman.

I am being carried over his shoulder so I do not know what is happening behind me.

“Rollo.”

The spearman cries out.

The woman called Theta seems to be fighting with something?

Taking this chance, the spearman jumps out of the room while holding on to my body. I can see the Theta woman fighting with some kind of animal to the back.

-Ah, is it the black cat?

Does the spearman have a magic beast obeying him?

Or is it a summoned familiar?

The robed bald man shouts after us in a voice bordering on a scream.

“W, what?”

Such a voice quickly becomes distant.

The spearman has incredible physical strength.

He is maintaining this speed while holding me.

I am put on his magic beast and he immediately orders “Run ahead like this.”

“Wait.”

I feel anxious and call out to the spearman.

“It’s all right. Believe me. I will not let them kill you. I will call you back right away once I kill the couple.”

“Wait, you absolutely can’t die. If you do I will kill you-”

If I can move...



After about thirty minutes.

I learn the irritation of riding on a magic beast but since I cannot move my body there is no helping it, so I wait.

After a few minutes I hear a whistle.

The magic beast hears it and responds with a *bubo* before it begins to advance towards the sound.

Again, I hear it. The magic beast snorts and runs.

This child, it is an intelligent magic beast.

“Yui! Are you all right?”

The spearman is alive.

“...I’m okay. My body is numb and I can’t move...but you’re all right.”

“Oh? Were you worried about me?”

“Baka...if you’re like that, should I kill you?”

He speaks like he is bluffing.

Then, the spearman, approaches me while smiling, and running his fingers over the butt of the me who cannot move, he massages and rubs.

“Kya, he, hentai!”

“Hahaha, saying such a thing, aren’t you supposed to say you can never be a bride?”

Really...I can’t believe him. This man. A lecher.

“...”

We are returning to the shed from earlier while I ride on the magic beast.

“Yui, your body shivers when I hold you.”

“I. An. Baka.”

...Again, he touches my butt. Mou, this lewd man.

But, this man lays me in the bed gently.

“Which remind me, Yui’s important swords. I left them here. I made sure to recover them.”

The horny man's handsome face is destroyed, and smiles many times while talking, but rather than the swords that are my important weapons, my head is filled by this ero man groping my butt.

"Un..."

"Well then, Yui should rest her body. I'll go put the bodies in order. The elaborate day that called him master is also torn up."

"Understood."

My body is still paralyzed and I cannot move at all.

The spearman...does not come back inside until later.

I can hear the sound of intense battles...is there still someone there?

...Still, that spearman has not come back.

On the other hand, the black cat comes to my side.

-It licks my arm.

Seeing my expression, it seems to have made some kind of judgement.

Is this young black cat worried about me? It's cute.

When the spearman returns safely he corrects my posture.

And, he seems to have gone looking for a recovery potion inside the house.

After a little while the spearman returns with some bottles and plays with the black cat.

I check them by their smell and take the medicine.

But...my recovery is slow.

The poison paralyzing my body seems special.

It seems it may take several weeks before the poison wears off completely.



When I wake up the next day the spearman is gone.

Fufu apparently...it seems he left me.

Aaah, shit, I cannot move my body. I...

Then the spearman comes back. Naked from the waist up...

“Yui, you’re able to move a little now?”

“...Ah! Ah, only a little. But, like this...”

Ah, damn it.

For a moment, I have I have a happy look on my face.

“You can’t expect a full recovery in just one day, can you?”

Noticing my expression, the spearman’s eyes move restlessly. He seems to be looking for something in this storage shed.

“You’re...naked?”

“Ah, I was training, oh, ata ata...”

N? Under this man’s face, there is a necklace covering his chest.

Furthermore, it is decorated with white butterflies.

-Ah, perhaps, that might be an ancient white star stone...one is given as a promise of love in an old Elven legend, the famous Nepua Highsent.

Why, it is a jewel that comes from the ancient Great Empire of Befaritsu...

Does he have an Elven love...?

Even as I look at this naked man he works without intention.

He drags a big tub out from the corner of the hut.

“N, what?”

“It’s for a bath. I sweat a lot”

The spearman seems to be taking a bath. He seems to be a tidy person.

“Bath...”

And, after cleaning out the tub, while muttering “such a thing” to myself he begins to fill of the tub with hot water using life magic.

He really seems to be taking a bath one way or another.

He takes out a strange mugwort-like dumpling and as he rubs it between his hand it bubbles.

He also washes the black cat.

At any rate...his tempered body...

His chest is thick, and the muscles on his arms are big too.

The muscles on his back- N? What?

There is a small design on his lower back.

At first, I thought it was something like a tattoo...

The mark is a black mark with three black points like animal's paw-print.

The one on his butt looks like light blue tears.

Nevertheless, he is washing awfully carefully...

When I look at the spearman-

By force, I am bathed.

I try to refuse, but I am undressed and carried, naked, to the tub.

I see the pride of a male for the first time there.

The spearman must be excited; his penis is standing tall.

However, such a thing...the ero man washes my body, my chest is rubbed, and I am thoroughly washed down there.

At that time, he tells me his name, but he has a lover, and also because I do not want to be played with I respond with mean words.

...What a strange ero man.

He said I am beautiful, that I give him desires...

Maa, my face is a little well proportioned...

And this fellow, with such an ero expression, is a lewd man.

But, despite being lewd he behaves strangely.

At present my body is paralyzed and I cannot move.
Because of this, the spearman could attack me at any time and violate me.
Occasionally, he acts lewdly and does things like touching my breasts and hips but he does not act violently.

He does nothing like that at all.
Surely, it must be because of the feelings for the person of that necklace.

...He unexpectedly shows me a gentlemanly side.
Like this, he brings food and medicine to my mouth for me to eat every day, he also washes my body, and even helps me when I need to pee...

Judging from the spearman's name, Shuya Kagari, he must be from a low class noble family.

That must be the case.
He keeps himself clean, and seems interested not only in the spear but also in magic.

He easily reads several books on magic that I cannot understand and find difficult, he lets me read the magic books several times but it was too difficult.
His intelligence seems to be high since he reads such difficult books happily.

Just who is Shuya?

He doesn't seem to have an adventurer's card.
Despite that he seems awfully strong.
When we fought, he showed me mercy time and time again.

I know that, so I become depressed and unintentionally begin taking it out on him.
It was decisive when Shuya came back from hunting.

I knew because I had seen it fight a little before, but when the black cat came in dragging the tiger corpses with on the end of its feelers I was really surprised.
If this black cat had fought alongside of Shuya when I attacked, it wouldn't even be a fight...

The black cat is called Rollodinu.

It's cute, round red eyes have small dark spots inside.

It is cute, it looks unexpectedly thoughtful and anxiously begin to lick my body, so I stroke its head.

It is a really cute cat.

However, when I saw its form as the larger beast figure, honestly, I was scared.

When I am becoming accustomed to such a life with the black cat and Shuya...

Little by little, my body becomes able to move, and begin to talk more and my smiling face keeps growing.

When Shuya approaches, my chest throbs.

I, this man...

But, it is different when it is time for the bath. I always become sullen.

My body is washed. I endure because I cannot move...but, that...I am so embarrassed I could die...

Maa, it is fine. If I completely recover...

Since I will kill him.

No...if I am honest, already...

For me...impossible.

Can't kill...father...

Part 2

I was born on a cold winter night.
I seemed to be born with strange eyes.

Unique eyes, with no pupils.
I was named Yui.

My eyes hid a special power.
<Eyes of Beikala>

Commonly known as Death Eyes. They hold the power of Beikala, the god of death.
It is thanks to a special skill called an “Extra Skill.”

My house holds the family name, Furgman.
It is a small noble family that has been serving Samaria Kingdom since ancient times.

We seem to have descended from demonic beings.
So those of the Furgman lineage possess special skills by our nature. and using this power have become distinguished through military service over many a battlefield.

However, the glory did not continue for long.
After repeated wars with 【Terramay Kingdom】 the head of the Furgman household was sent by 【Samaria Kingdom】 to advance on the large country, 【Osberia Kingdom】 , when suddenly they reconciled with one another.

When the war that had worn on for countless years finally ended...
The small military noble family loses their important post and declines.

The Furgman’s territory was small and they were not a rich family.

The family’s finances declined during father’s generation, they called themselves nobles but they lived a life full of poverty.
Still, Father Karudo and Mother Saki worked desperately to revive the Furgman family without complaint, acquiring the daily necessities.

At such a time they received a good sign.

Father is employed for his martial arts prowess by a great noble family.

It no different from the old days when the Furgman family was a small noble house. However, the lineage of the military family has been passes down.

In fact, To-san received it strongly.

Exceling in martial arts, he trained me since I was young.

I say that, but I am also smart and tough. And yet, the features are handsome.

Indeed, my father is attractive. Although his personality is a bit feminine no one says that.

However, the good times did not last forever...

My mother collapsed unexpectedly and died of an illness.

My father had no time to grieve, he became busy with his new work and was spending increasing amounts of time away from home.

Even if my Father's work was favorable the Furgman house's finances was in a terrible state. Our condition of being one step away from losing their gentry granted by Samaria Kingdom.

Always living on the edge.

The circumstances are so severe, but To-san continues teaching me the basics of the Furgman style sword play.

It is a military art that adopts the beneficial aspects of the three big schools, Flying Sword Style, Absolute Sword Style, and King Sword Style.

It may be mocked by the swordsman practitioners in the area, but those people understand nothing.

These days, the faces the instructors and Father surprised by ability is increasing, the joyful expression are increasing.

I was happy to see the figure of my father being happy.

Once, father returns to the house covered in blood, causing me to panic.

To-san has a serious expression and begins to explain.

"Yui, do not speak until I am finished I entered the dark guild, I dyed my hands with unknowable darkness through assassination work."

To-san talks, unusually upset.

“I have dyed the proud Furgman family is darkness.”

Hugging me, he explains while crying.

I entreat him strongly “It’s okay. No matter what happens, I will not come to hate To-san. Instead, because I am strong, train me even more.”

To-san nods in silence and accepts my desire.

And, when the work with the dark guild is finished, severe training begins

I am very happy because the time I am able to spend together with my father has increased.

To-san is very strong and strict.

Injuries are a daily occurrence.

However, I desperately continue the harsh training.

As I continue the severe training to-san is amazed by my growth.

It appears that the lineage of the Furgman house has a strong influence on me.

The battle occupations Soldier, Swordsman, Dual Swordsman, Heavy Soldier, Light Technique User, Bow User, Light Soldier, Sword User and Assassin are acquired one after another.

And, I learn the special secret art of wearing mana, “Fighting Moji.”

This grants physical ability.

I had trouble at first because it uses mana, but how great is it that it can increase a soldier type’s speed?

I was happy once I wore Fighting Moji.

In this way, the art of the sword and assassination is instilled strictly by Father and my talent blooms.

-Innate talent.

My father looks at me, and about the time three months has passed I begin training with genuine swords.

In the middle of training, my eyes repeat a shaft of light.

<Eyes of Beikala> – I use them.

The <Eyes of Beikala> is a skill related to the god Beikala.

The other person I look at becomes bordered in red, they become “marked by the god of death” and it does not disappear.

When fighting someone who has that mark, every aspect of my physical abilities doubles.

My father has a stunned face, and opens his mouth to talk.

“Yui. Those are ominous eyes. However, when you use the eyes, the quality of your movements changes. They become terrifically sharp. If you match it with fighting moji you will become one of the top-class assassins is 【Samaria】. As expect, my daughter is of the Furgman house. Regarding the god of death, a benefit is a benefit. Yet, your eyes will become troublesome because of the Beikala fanatics. Be careful when you use them. Learn to control them better.”

“Yes-”

To-san talks truly happily.

So. These eyes of mine are strange. These eyes have the power of the god of death. When I come to master this power, the training with father becomes even more severe again.

-I feel scared...

At that time, I notice that my eyes changed on their own.

“N? Your eyes changed again?”

“Eh, oh, un.”

I am trying to control them, but for some reason they activate automatically when I feel fear.

But, this is convenient for the present me.

As much as my abilities become strong.

Training with such a father, we approach the verge of killing each other.

But, such a life does not continue for long.

My father, proud of his strength, is one day injured carrying out one of his duties.

The injury is a serious wound.

I get a heal potion and a priest at the church to look at it, but it cannot be completely healed with recovery magic either. The injury is not a normal cut.

Black flecks appear on his face and skin, there are things that look like countless tiny magic formations around the cut.

Such a wound...I have not seen...

It as if he has suffered some kind of cursed wound...

Surely, the duty my father received was no ordinary responsibility.

Because if it, To-san is suffering an illness.

Everyday his condition becomes worse...

At such a time, there was good news. I found a magic medicine that worked on to-san.

However, the price is abnormally high.

Regardless, it is the only thing I can rely on, so I have come to depend on the expensive magic medicine. Since he cannot go out to work, the Furgman house goes into decline.

As a result, I followed the natural course of events and entered the dark guild in father's stead.

And then I met Hewso-sama, a person from a great noble house in **【Samaria Kingdom】**, I formally swore an oath of allegiance to the dark guild and arrived at the present.

Therefore, I must carry out my duty to save my to-san.

But, like this, it is impossible...

Mou...I keep going back and forth.

I need to pull myself together.



Seven days have passed living with Shuya and the black cat.
I am able to stand up now.

Shuya, these seven days...has truly taken good care of my body and cherished it.
In order to cheer me up he intentionally says playful things and does acts foolishly. He has cooked, and eased my body.

He is not only a gentleman he is also kind.
And he looks at me with tender eyes.

The cold eyes that froze when I first confronted him, without showing it entirely he not only hears my trifling story but he returns it with a smile, and treats me as a woman.

My obstinate posture begins to “warm up for the first time.”
One such day- I was talking naturally about my father.

I should be disqualified as an assassin-
However, he listens in silence, and “Understands” me.
He talks about himself too. There seems to be a Shisho-san.
They must be very strong. I cannot begin to imagine someone strong than Shuya.

I am able to pass time with the black cat peacefully. Rollo is cute, when she runs and plays she extends of feeler and conveys her feelings.

What a mysterious cat.

She seems to be a familiar. When the cat or maybe the magic beast conveys her feeling, I do not hear them...even if she’s cute, fufu.

And then, Shuya goes into the hut to the study almost every day.
He goes to look for a book.

I want to do something to help Shuya, so I talk about dried meat.

However, it is no use.

The air here is thick with fog and it is unable to dry. *(TL: Okay, so I made a mistake in the last chapter. I thought Yui was offering to make Shuya some food from the dried meat, apparently she was offering to dry some meat to preserve it for him. Some of you may have caught that, but since I didn't realize it the translation there is off.)*

After a little while, Shuya returned.

“Ah, Shuya. Drying the food here isn't possible. It becomes moist because of the fog.”

“There's no helping it. There's no choice but to properly cook and dry it.”

“Un. “It's easy if one can use magic.”

“A, speaking of magic. I discovered magic characters here. See?”

Shuya has a joyful child-like expression and shows me the book of magic

“N, this? I can't read the characters, oh, I can feel mana in this. But, the contents are incomprehensible. I can't read these characters. It's different from the elf language...and though it's similar to ancient dwarf I think it is different. I haven't seen these characters before.”

“Is that so, I'm able to read them.”

“Eh?”

He can read this? This ancient language?

“I'm going to conduct a few experiments. You should back up...”

“Eh? Experiments?”

“Nya.”

Since the black cat is also there, I pick up Rollo-chan and take some distance from Shuya.

“Un.”

Shuya returns a short answer-

Eh? The characters are floating...

I do not know about this. I have seen when magic characters are read and learned, but I have never seen the phenomenon I am looking at, the characters are shining and floating.

“What is...this?”

The characters then begin to vibrate and are sucked into Shuya's head.

“Uo...”

For an instant, is he okay? I am about cry out, but Shuya nods with a look of ecstasy, he takes a deep breath and seems to be okay.

Finally, the old ancient characters in Shuya's hand disappear. He then raises his right hands and tries to do something.

In front of his right hand, he draws a circle with his finger-

Magic...

With the motion of tracing his finger with a trail of black light he constructs a magic formation.

“Amazing...magician...”

This magic formation, is Shuya a “magician?”

“”The beginning is according to the basics in the book...”

Shuya mutters.

“ 《Dark Bullet》 ”

The moment the magic's name was declared-

A lump like a distorted black stone emerges from the magic formation...

I have never heard of such a magic.

Let alone magic user, after all he was of magician class...

Dispelling such feeling from me, the black mass produced by magic collides with the ground- the earth is gouged out and a great gust of wind is produced as fragments burst out.

My hair sway from the shock of the wind.

Rollo-chan is surprised too. She jumps.

With such tremendous power, there is the collision sound of intense deep bass.

What earth-shattering power. That big hole...

“Hey, this is pretty powerful if it lands a direct hit.”

For a brief period, I am left speechless by the magic.

This power, I have begun to fear Shuya for a reason other than his martial arts.

And, I ask the question I thought of immediately.

“Shuya...you, who are you? Not only the spear, but to use magic...”

“Yui, your eyes...”

“Ah, don’t look!”

Oh, I am embarrassed.

“Aah. However, I’ve already seen them...”

Such eyes...

“My eyes. They are hollow and abnormally empty...”

“Is that so? It was fantastic and beautiful...”

Eh? My eyes, beautiful...

This may be the first time some has said such a thing...

Even To-san only called them eerie.

“...Only Shuya. To say such a thing.”

I am so happy that near naturally begin to flow.

“Beautiful. You showed me those eyes once before.”

“Un, thanks. That was for the sake of chasing Shuya.”

The fear from before fades away.

“Ah, they’re turning back.”

“Fufu.”

My heart is light. I feel like I can tell Shuya everything.

“In order to chase me, those eyes are special eyes?”

He asks with a smile.

“So. These are the eyes of Beikala. They are nicknamed “Death Eyes” and are good for tracking. The target I catch with these eyes once will be bordered red for ‘eternity,’ where ever they go I can follow. It’s a ‘game’ for me. Two times, three times, every time I see the target again, my assassination ability improves.”

I naturally confess my most important secret.

“So, uh, do they change all the time?”

“Yeah. Most of the time I activate consciously, but sometimes when I feel fear it activates automatically.”

“Is that so. Then I scared you. Sorry. But, such important information...is it okay to tell me?”

Certainly...but, it is already fine.

“Un. I am already okay with the problem that is Shuya. Aren’t you... actually a magician?”

“No, n, well now I can’t deny it...I became a magic user. In other words, my foundation is well rounded?”

Just well rounded, it is not convincing.

“...It was a phenomenon I have not seen. I have not seen characters float when you learn magic. Such a phenomenon happens with neither language nor crest.”

“That’s right...”

There is probably still something else.

“You’re hiding something?”

“It seems to be ancient magic.”

“Ancient Magic!?”

Ancient Magic-

I have heard rumors in 【Samaria Kingdom】 and 【Terramay Kingdom】 that such a thing really exists in 【Labyrinth City Pernette】 and the tower town 【Senapa】 , is it something studied in 【Magic City Ernst】 to the far north.

I am understanding less and less. Shuya...

“...It’s a shock when the woman I love is afraid so many times.”

Eh? Eeeh, woman he loves?

My feelings of fear and the answer to my question are blown away by his words. Love, hearing his words, reality all comes crashing down, and my heart swells.

“...You love me?”

“Aah, would I have nursed you if I didn’t like you?”

“That, well...”

I am happy. My heart might really break.

Doku-doku. What do I do? I...

“Yui, did you say that you grilled meat earlier? Now, let’s finish.”

“N, that’s right.”

Unintentionally, my words are tense.

It becomes awkward.

Shuya is roasting the meat without minding it...

I spend that day trying not to look at Shuya too much.



Every morning Shuya gets up early in the morning to train.

Always naked above the waist...he returns to the room to wash off his sweat.

He takes a bath even though I am here, but his muscles really are wonderful.

He is tall, black haired, and dark eyed.

His face is ordinary, but that is irrelevant.

On his chest there is a white cross mark coiled with chains.

There are two necklaces around his neck.

It is the same white star stone from before.
His lover, what kind of woman is she?

Ah, Shuya's butt, wonderful, coming up.

When he sees me staring he asks "Do you want to go in together?" I reply "I, am already okay," rather stiffly, then I throw the paring knife in his direction.

It is easily dodged.

There is also a day where Shuya goes *kon-kon* with his nose and his eyes become bloodshot.

Honestly, I was scared.

And, all too soon the happy days pass, and ten more days are gone.

I have already healed completely, but I remain silent.

Eating together every day, happiness.

To change the mood, we can eat outside today.

I feel like I am living as a "woman" for the first time in my life.

His eyes that stare at me. His face is flat, but I think it is well proportioned.

I make a cute smile.

Shuya returns a smile too.

However, Shuya is avoiding my eyes today.

That moment-

That? Shuya makes a grim face and looks up at the sky.

Thereupon, suddenly, above, from the magic fog, a demonic being appears.

The demonic being comes down to the ground. The demonic being has wings of bone.

It is a gargoyle type; a kind I have not seen.

I am on guard. I grasp the leather wrapped handles of my swords and stand.

It has big black eyes on pale skin. It has legs like a bird.

The demonic being begins to talk.

"...Oya, it isn't that magician."

“Aah, what are you?”

While Shuya talks I activate the <Eyes of Beikala>.

I become battle ready to be able to attack with my sword at any time.

I hold a sword in both hands, adopting a fighting stance.

Shuya is talking, but not being careless since he is hold the black spear, so it is okay.

“The woman’s appearance is different too? What happened to Zoru Gustave?”

“More importantly answer the question. Who. Are. You?”

Shuya talks threateningly.

The demonic being is coming!

“Sa-”

I activate <Dancing Decapitation> at the same time the demonic being is about to hit Shuya.

Aiming at the demonic being- it starts to attack first.

-Rotate and slash.

A revolving slash with a sword in each hand, <Dancing Decapitation>.

Tens of time, hard sounds- chi, it was defended against.

However, as I land and slash diagonally from the shoulder- I give it <Dark Feather>.

-<Dark Feather>

The sword like moves towards the neck but they are deflected by a bone sword,
With that timing I dodge the large bone sword.

-Again, it was prevented.

This demonic being is strong, I take a distance for a moment.

“You fight well for a human girl, no? However-”

The demonic being talks to provoke me.

As he said, the quality of his movements suddenly rise.

A bone wings extends out to the left and the right, and physical speed of the demonic being suddenly rises.

The demonic being with its sudden increased speed slashes out with its bone sword. The bone sword attack is intense, fast- shit, there is no opening for me to counterattack-

-Ite, eh? This, this was the wing of bone?

My foot has been impaled by a bone spear. Too quick to follow the demonic being extended the wings on its back into a bone spear and used it to attack- I cannot move, the demonic being's attack is coming!

The moment when I thought I would be pierced-

That, the demonic being, blown off!?

Aah, Shuya helped! -Rollo-chan!

The demonic being collapses to the side and groans slightly.

There-

"You should regret that you laid a hand on the 'woman I love.'"

Woman he...loves. The woman he loves. Waa...

Shuya extends a chain-like projectile from his hand, I cannot confirm it with my sight since it moves so fast, he attacks repeatedly, and easily kills the demonic being.

-Amazing movements. But, what was that chain?

Other than that, he said lover again...

Happy...

"Yui, are you okay?"

He loves me...

"Yui?"

I approached the Shuya with a questioning face.

Hurriedly, I smoothed over my dazed expression.

"Ah, aah, un. I'm fine. Thank you for helping me. Also, since my life was saved...kya, it hurts."

Rollo is licking the wound on my foot.

“Rollo.”

Shuya got impatient.

“Ah, it’s fine. Fufu, thanks. Rollo-chan.”

Rollo-chan. Fufu, cute. I pet her.

“Rollo, licking her blood is no good. Rather, I...”

“Eh?”

I? What is it?

“No, no, that is, medicine! I’ll go get a potion.”

“Ah, un.”

Shuya is strange.

But, he is kind. He has me drink a potion again.

“With this it should be alright. It was good there were a lot of potions.”

Other than that, the demonic being came here intentionally, it seemed to have a relationship with the landlord here.

There are many humans who connect to demonic beings in **【Samaria】**, but since I have the blood of a demonic being in me it is not a strange thing at all...

“...Un. But, the demonic being from earlier...it felt like it was an acquaintance of the magician that used to live here.”

When I tell him my casual impression he goes to investigate the body of the demonic being.

“...Dead men tell no tales, but there was a description about the bone wings in Zoru’s diary. And then, the demonic being has no possessions. There is only a bone sword.”

“We shouldn’t be attacked by a different one again, but...”

“Surely, the possibility is there. It may be better to immediately leave this place.”

“Yeah.”

Shuya looks over at me with a meek face.

“That, reminds me, wasn’t the sword handling a little while ago very sharp? Has your body already completely recovered?”

I have a bad premonition...

“Eeh, I’m cured...”

“Is that so...that’s good, you feel good...”

He seems to have the intention to talk about something that is hard to say...

“What do you want to say?”

“Since you have recovered, I was considering leaving here tomorrow morning.”

...What...Please do not say you will leave.

However, I cannot say such a thing...

“...Na...wait, are you saying Shuya will return to antagonism with me?”

“It’s up to Yui.”

Why, why? Unfair.

I, even I...Baka Shuya!

“...I must kill Shuya, it can’t be helped, but I don’t want to kill you, but even so, unfair, unfair, unfair!”

My feelings explode, I speak of all of my repressed feelings.

He looks at me with a gentle expression, and after begin to start talking.

“...Na, if that’s the case, why don’t you travel with Rollo and me?”

“...”

Travel together-

“I am look for a certain treasure artefact for Rollo. Well, Yui could travel. Wouldn’t it be fun if you were with us...How’s that? Will you come together?”

Treasure, travel...

It is hard work; I have never considered that until now.

I want to stay by his side. Close to Shuya...

But...

"...I want to go. But, I'm sorry. It's impossible...the organization won't allow it. I must protect the Furgman Family. For the sake of my father who is bed ridden with illness."

"...I won't force you."

Shuya's eyes look down with a regretful look.

Even I do not want to leave. The man I came to love for the first time.

But, he is the one I have to kill.

If we separate, finally...

There is Shuya's lover. There may even be someone he loves.

I...

"...Shuya."

I take off the black clothes I am wearing.



“Strangely I want you hear it without thinking. Before we separate, I want to thank you. I’m not Shuya’s ‘loved one’...I know that. But, if it’s still okay...I want you to hold me.”

The words catch in my throat like lead, but I put forth my courage and confess.
Such an I, will he accept me?

Shuya...stares at my body.
I, my mind and body tremble with joy.

“...Yui, you’re beautiful. ...But, I have no loved one?”
“Eh, but, the necklace...”
“Aah, this. I picked this up a while ago...”

So, that...
Good.

“Baka, did you misunderstand? Hora.”

Shuya pulls my arms and hugs me-
He holds me to his chest. His chest is warm.

“You’re cute.”

He says next to my ear. Happy.
The center of breasts ache.

Shuya undressed and hugs me strongly.
The muscles of his chest are wonderful too.
I suddenly look up at Shuya’s face and close my eyes.

I experience Shuya’s lips.
The gentle kiss focuses on the upper lip.

“N, for today, I’m your lover...”

I am overwhelmed by feelings for what cannot be,

“Aah...”

Our lips again and again, my feeling are building up.
And, I am held so that it is not possible to think of anything.

But, the next day.
When I get up Shuya is no longer there.

-This might all right.

Uun- actually sad-
I feel a gaping hole open in my chest.

I want to spend more time with Shuya.
-I hold to embrace more.

The feelings I had yesterday fill up my heart.
Suddenly bringing my legs together on the bed, I cross my hands between my knees.
A tear drop flows from my eye down my cheek.
Before I notice the top of the bed is wet.
I want to see Shuya. However, our lives are certainly separate.

My hands are wet with blood.

I only obtained temporary happiness, I should be satisfied.
Surely, if Shuya stayed, I would behave like a spoiled child to that man.

So, I lift my head and stand up.

N, a letter?

I see a letter written on a piece of parchment and a lot of money left in a small storeroom.



To Yui

This money is for your father.
It may not be enough, but this may help with the expensive medicine.

I also left ancient gold. It may be possible that it is worth a lot?

By the way, if you'd like to kill me, come again. Because I will always be waiting.

PS: Can you walk properly? Your agonized face was good, but haha, your sleeping face is cute too.



...Baka Shuya.

But, thanks.

...Let's meet again. The task is failed. I am resigned to receiving to disgrace.

I am disqualified as a hit man and an assassin, since I love the man I am supposed to kill more, the order is impossible.

I do not know what kind of treatment is waiting for me with Hewso-sama and the 【Shadow's Right Hand】 but I will return.

Beside, with this ancient gold, I may be able to save my father if it sells well.

Then I will wash my hands, Shuya...

Uun. I do not know yet.

I take these thoughts without and go.

I will return to Samaria.

