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The Spearmaster and the Black Cat

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Chapter 59: Dinner Party

“Oi, oi, did you bring a slave?”

“Even if you participated in the subjugation, bringing as slave to a place like this...”

“Lower than beasts, shitty slaves...”

“-Untouchables, this is why I have adventurers.”

“Really. To give a seat to a slave.”

The female magic user slave master ignores the conversation of the distant nobles. Her long brown hair flutters behind her as she walks around the circle. She appears dignified.

Her face has an air of propriety. Her etiquette isn't bad, I eat while walking around the crowd.

The magic user woman's eyes have black makeup around them. Her eyes are chestnut brown.

Her cheeks are tinged red, bringing out the pink tones of her skin.

She resembles a famous Japanese model. Her clothing is a brown magician's robe.

While I watch her, behind her is a pair of short people.

The children who unleashed the showy ice magic during the subjugation.

The S rank twins 【Ice Mausoleum of Blue Waters】.

They look like children...

Both of them have thin white hair resembling a Buddhist monk.

There is a spiral design stretching from their necks to their heads and appears to extend to their scalps.

They look like sand art, each of the small lines contains mana.

Strange. Notably, their green eyes seem devoid of humanity.

Following the mysterious twins, Cecily and an ikemen from the griffon unit show up.

Their green uniforms have stiff collars.

They also have shoulder straps and aiguillettes.

As expected, they are picturesque.

“It’s the heroine!”

“The hero of the Griffon corps.”

“That’s the hero of the Dragon subjugation...”

“Cecily-sama.”

“Kya, Cecily-sama!”

A group of people appears, surrounding Cecily.

Seeing this, an unpleasant expression is apparent on her face.

“I...that’s not...”

Cecily tries to say something, but the ball is already rolling.

Oh my, Cecily-sama. No need to be modest.”

Due to the rumor of the “dragon subjugation” spreading, it can no longer be helped.

I felt sorry for her upon seeing this, but give priority to the delicious meal.

And then, Marquess Chardonnay finally appears.

Unlike Chardonnay’s hair style from before the subjugation, her hair is now in a vertical roll with pink ribbons to highlight the blond color.

Her clothing is clearly distinct from the other nobles. Her dress is made from sheer snowy silk and accented with pink embroidery.

Now that Chardonnay has entered, everyone’s attention is on her.

Behind on the side of Chardonnay are the always macho white-haired old soldier and the maid-like beastwoman.

Chardonnay’s servants accompany her to Cecily.

My curiosity is peaked, do I approach the spectators.

“As expected of Cecily Fadasso of the Griffon Corps. Called the ‘Hero of the Dragon Subjugation,’ are you jealous of the popularity?”

Everyone pays attention as the Marquess talks to Cecily with a smile.

The nobles surrounding Cecily bow to the Marquess and take a distance from Cecily.

“Marquess, your Excellence...to what do I owe this honor?”

“Please don’t get angry, Cecily. Can it not be helped? Haven’t you only reported one since you returned? Besides, all the adventurers you wanted to invite are here, you were eager to meet that D rank adventurer, right? Ah, they should have been promoted to C rank now.”

N? Isn’t that me?

“I see. Excuse, but thank for taking care of my personal request.”

“Fufu, it’s fine. Considering our past relationship, let’s dispense with the pleasantries today and talk like we did in the past.”

The Marquess says with a beautiful smile.

“Ha, however, this an an official celebratory dinner and awarding ceremony.”

“It’s fine. It really is fine after the success of the Dragon subjugation. You’re safe too. But, you not receiving a reward is troubling me...”

In response to the Marquess’ words, Cecily has an unpleasant expression.

“You Excellence. I...”

“Fufu, Cecily, raise your head. Let’s forget about the ‘obedience’ for now and enjoy ourselves.”

“Yes, thank you. Ah...”

N?

Then, I make eye contact with the smiling Cecily.

“-Chardonnay-sama, we’ll talk again. Then-”

Cecily abandons the Marquess and runs towards me.

Ooooo, it that okay?

Tsukkomiing in my heart, I swallow the meat in my mouth.

-I wanted to meet you. You name is Shuya Kagari? Now, I can finally apologize..."

I'll be darned, she's apologizing all of a sudden.

"Eh, yeah. I'm Shuya. No, no, don't worry about it. I got my reward from the guild."

"Is, is that so. Still..."

She seems to be depressed by the fame.

She is prideful and straightforward ...

Even if you accept it, I don't mind.

Ma, 'I killed the Evil Dragon King. Hahaha.' in an ostentatious way.

Since she didn't say it like that, I have a good impression of her.

Besides.

No matter what I say, this "beautiful woman" won't accept any of the evil dragon king's materials are a reward.

This soldier-san is way too cool.

I also don't think it's any of your business...

I feel like lightening the burden on her heart.

"...It's fine. I will understand it if it is the strong, beautiful griffon commander who is adored by the people. And I said earlier, I got enough rewards, I can eat delicious food today too, so please don't mind it."

I tried to paraphrase to the person in front of me, but it can't be helped if an unrefined adventurer does it.

Ma, I expressed myself as politely a possible, but will it be okay?

"...I see. You saying so helps me. But, saying I'm beautiful..."

Cecily seems unused to being praised, causing her cheeks to redden.

“-Some nerve, making advances on Captain?”

Nuo?

The ikemen suddenly interrupts, complaining.

“Sheridan, stop.”

Cecily tries to stop him, but ikemen-san still steps in.

This ikemen, he is the one who duel wielded and severed Daedalus’ neck. He resembles the actor from fight club.

“...I was only frank about my impression of her?”

With a flat face I return to speaking informally. However I am more concerned about the gaze of Chardonnay who is behind the young man from the griffon corps.

The Marquess is staring at me.

Moreover, as soon as we make eye contact, Chardonnay’s eyes widen, and her mouth opens.

A shocked expression is evident.

Chardonnay speaks to the white haired old man waiting behind her, then to the beastwoman maid, she turns to whisper to her.

Judging by this reaction, it would be that she has recognized me?

Leaving out the matter of **【Fadyke】**, was I just called an ordinary adventurer...

The old soldier listens to Chardonnay, he lowers his head, the swishes his mantle as he moves to follow and protect her.

Plus, the old soldier’s eyes are sharp. He is openly glaring at me.

The Marquess’ beastwoman maid-servant is glaring at me too, her arms are held up in a fighting pose.

I pay no attention to the ikemen going on about his pet theory.

It’s unfortunate for him, but I chimed in properly and answered

For a while now, I haven’t looked away from the Marquess.

With the two people following her, Chardonnay walks to the center of the room.

“-Chardonnay-sama.”

There, the master of ceremony and the uniformed servants greet Chardonnay.

In a few words, the conversation is repeated to the servants.

After the servant leaves with a message, Chardonnay pulls herself together, relaxes her guard towards me, and turns to the surroundings with a smile.

Taking a step forward.

Then, cymbals sound and everyone’s attention is focused on Chardonnay.

Chardonnay begins to talk.

“-Everyone Thank you all for gathering for today’s dinner party. This time we are celebrating the success of the Evil Dragon King subjugation. The Blue Iron Knight, all of the Griffon corps and adventurers, you all worked hard-”

Chardonnay lowers her head lightly.

The violin begins to play.

“As a token of appreciation, also as an apology for the reward, this is a reward for the adventurer clans attending here. As proof of your contributions in the Evil Dragon King subjugation, I would like to present a ring made with the material of the Evil Dragon King and a single white gold coin. And then, because a special reward was prepared for our hero of the Griffon corps, Cecily, don’t miss it later...fufu. Then, after this, don’t restrain yourself and enjoy your meal.”

Finished with her short speech, Chardonnay attendants in various places lower their heads, and music begins to play when she claps her hands.

Those attending the party give a standing ovation.

The ikemen who has been speaking harshly respond to the Marquess’ words as well and begin to clap.

Music flowing with a profound and quiet elegance starts to play, signaling the start of the real party

Chardonnay is observing the conduct of the surrounding nobles.

And, she looks at me again.

Our eyes meet.

The corners of Chardonnay's lips lift, and she laughs, and covering her mouth with a white fan she says something to the old soldier.

The old soldier nods and lowers his head, making eye contact with Marquess Chardonnay, he nods once more.

The old soldier separates from the Marques and approaches me.

On the other hand, Marquess Chardonnay's beastwoman maid-servant disappears into a back room.

For a moment, I become anxious...

That moment the ikemen of the Griffon Corps steps in front of me.

"-Oi, did you hear me?"

"Ah, aah, be done with it. I didn't hear you."

"Oh, really?"

The Griffon Corps youth becomes angry and drops the glass in his hands, breaking it.

However-I ignore him.

I'm not that worried about this man, my focus is entirely on Chardonnay now.

"Kora, Sheridan. You're troubling Shuya."

Cecily calls the man by his name and scolds him.

She makes him pick up the broken glass on the floor.

Without minding such a thing, I continue enjoying the food on my plate.

After Chardonnay's old soldier sees the conflict is settled, he approaches.

The old soldier in white armor stands out.

The soldier jii-san is honest, he speaks after bowing to me.

"You are Shuya Kagari, the adventurer who just advanced to C rank? That

Spearman?”

The way he says that has an implication.

Everything has already been discovered, so I admit it.

I speak after swallowing the last of the meat.

“That’s right.”

“Her Excellency is calling. Please follow me.”

After all, I’ve been requested.

With this development, it must be about Fadyke...

Damn it.

“...Another room?”

“Hai.”

Is it a trap? I should be cautious.

“I understand.”

I’m worried, but I get over it.

I don’t know what the Marquess is planning.

I am led by the old soldier from the hall into another room.

I am guided to a big square room.

There is something like a big circular fireplace in the center.

Instead of coals, there are bluish-purple rectangular crystals.

Pale violet flames dance in the furnace, illuminating the room.

The shade has a strange sense of modesty.

And, the pervasive scent of flowers and honey makes me feel refreshed.

My nose is filled with the smell.

While I’m enjoying the smell, Chardonnay appears with the self-possessed atmosphere of a Marquess.

However, next to her in the Marquess’ beastwoman maid, glaring at me...

The white haired old soldier moves to take up his place to the rear of Chardonnay.

Then, Chardonnay begins to speak.

“You are the Spearman and the black cat who was at that place then, correct?”

I-then, remember my first encounter with Chardonnay.

Chardonnay’s expression now is beautiful and modest, when she looked at me before...her eyes were as if she were staring down at someone who was total garbage.

-I will not forget the expression of contempt this person gave me.

“...Now that, that time?”

I speak, forgetting about etiquette.

Impudent, I expose my feelings, feigning ignorance.

My heart is surprisingly delicate.

The insult from so long ago has caused me to bear a grudge.

Also, this is a private room.

Even if I take a firm stand, there is no else here aside from the Marquess.

Seeing how I speak to the Marquess, the beastwoman maid’s face twitches.

She can’t seem to stand my rude manner.

The beastwoman maid gathers mana in her feet.

-Hee, you’re going to attack?

On the ends of both her hands, the maid has claw-like weapons attached.

Actually, with a *kakin* sound the steel claws seemed to jump out from the cover on the back of her hands. (Basically, she’s Wolverine.)

-The beastwoman turns her claws to me kicks off the ground with a shout.

“Haidara.”

Raises a strange shout, she extends each hand to deliver a punch with the

claws extending from her knuckles, aiming for my chest.

The claw jab.

-I retreat backward.

I sway slightly back and forth, continuously dodging.

‘Kiki, stop.’

Because of her subordinate’s action, Chardonnay shouts sternly.

“-Ha, however, this smell, this is definitely the right man. And, the way he treats ojo-sama is unacceptable.”

The beastwoman maid is unwilling.

The claws are withdrawn, and she retreats.

The beastwoman retreats, and immediately the old soldier who guided me here moves.

Cautious of me, he advances.

He begins to speak after stretching out an arm in front of Marquess Chardonnay to protect her.

“-Kiki is correct. He is too impudent. What he said to your Excellency. Shuya, please answer seriously.”

The old soldier throws reproachful words at me.

Being cautious, even though the one who was attacked despite being unarmed was me...

Ma, how should I answer? After all, it’s probably time.

“...You mean the ruins of the mansion outside 【Fadyke】?”

“As expected.”

The beastwoman reacts quickly. She keeps glaring at me.

“-Kiki said something about ‘smell.’ I’ve also understood ever since I saw him...is the report from your subordinate, Seme, not finished?”

Chardonnay turns to the beast woman and communicates with her eyes to

not move.

After all, they remember me.

“Ha, excuse me, your Excellency. After the Evil Dragon King subjugation, I’ve been busy in 【Hector】...”

“Hun, Seme is the captain of the 【Counter Espionage】unit...it looks like we’re going to have to have a ‘talk’ again.”

Chardonnay waves a thin arm, and the slender white feather fan whacks the old soldier’s guarding arm.

The captain of the 【Counter Espionage】 organization is called Seme? (TL: Seme means shark.)

“Ha, however...”

The white haired old soldier looks at me with an embarrassed expression unbecoming his appearance.

It must be the Marquess’ classified information.

“Good. Tell Shuya-san too.”

They’re going to tell me?

Chapter 60: Precious Clue

The old soldier glares at me as he begins to speak.

“Then, monsters started to suddenly appear in the city in large numbers. Many rare monsters were seen. While the monsters were being suppressed, one of the major dark guilds was destroyed, then a territorial dispute between the dark guild intensified. Thus, mixing in with the adventurer crowd, the ‘Spearman’ disappeared...”

The Marquess nods at the old soldier’s words.

I let the monsters escape from the underground cages I found after exploring Kuna’s home, it seems I invited even more confusion.

“-Ahuh. Ma, I understand. In addition to the dragon attack on the Vallaida Insect Shrine, he was involved with the Evil Dragon King subjugation. And, the sudden appearance of numerous monsters was a surprise. The office of the Present magic beast company was also the location of the dark guild, 【Thorny Tail】, so surely it was a clash between dark guilds. Furthermore, Kuna, an executive of Thorny Tail, died in the labyrinth. Still, as for utility value... therefore, Shark should be busy?”

The Marquess opens and closes the white feather fan in her hand.

Again, she points with the tip of the folding fan.

Does she not know that Kuna was in the labyrinth with me?

Unless they aren’t in communication with the Guild Master...

“Hai. Behind the scene, the 【Shadow Wing Brigade】was affected too...”

“That’s so. Also, there was news of trouble between the dark guilds in the entertainment district... the disparity in this information is inevitable. Shark will have to work hard in the future.”

“Ha, thank you.”

Surprisingly open. They are telling me this information on purpose?

“Nevertheless... you are called Shuya-san?”

She is asking now.

“That’s correct. But, this is Marquess-sama.”

“Be careful how you speak, human. Your attitude toward ojo-sama is too insolent.”

Kiki glares at me some more.

Again, she points those claw weapons at me.

“Kiki. You shouldn’t get angry. I’m not bothered by it. Shuya-san is that ‘Spearman’ from back then, those were the ‘Top Three of Nebulous’ who Hewso raised from a young age, he has that much strength.”

“Hai...”

The beastwoman calms down and bows to the Marquess, lowering her voice.

“Therefore, as a precaution against attacking ojo-sama...”

Chardonnay gives Kiki a sidelong glance and sigh before talking again.

“Mou, it’s already understood. However, he avoided Kiki’s attacks easily, this person’s strength is genuine. Besides, if what Cecily said about the Evil Dragon King subjugation is true, he is 【Hector’s】 benefactor. Thus, as the Marquess of Osberia and the head of the Anaheim household, is he, not my benefactor as well? Therefore, you aren’t allowed to point weapons at him.”

Chardonnay makes a flamboyant gesture.

She looks good when she scolds her subordinate.

Finally, placing both hands on her chest.

“Ojo-sama...”

Kiki says to her master and her ears flop.

You said I’m your benefactor?

It feels like this is being forced on me...

Ma, however, I was also immature.

“Wait. I was also rude. Sorry. If etiquette is necessary on this occasion, then I will act accordingly. However, is it alright now?”

“Fufufu, certainly, this is a private room. However, to protect Kiki after she pointed her weapon at you, you are kind?”

Chardonnay laughs happily.

“Not at all. Thus, I want to be straightforward, are you trying to silence me?”

“No, no, I have no such plan. I already understand that it isn’t possible. The pursuit by Hewso’s 【Shadow’s Right Hand】 didn’t seem to work... if possible, I would like you to be discreet about Fadyke, I want to remain silent, however... apart from that, as for me, Shuya-san. I want your ability.”

Keep the princess thing a secret. Jargon? This is easy to understand.

I will keep quiet, as requested.

However, she wants to scout me? That’s impossible.

“Ah, that secret, I’ve already forgotten about it, so rest assured. And then, becoming your subordinate is impossible.”

“Na, ojo-sama is inviting you.”

Hearing me decline, the beastwoman gets angry again. She seems to have a low boiling point.

Again, her voice has a Haidalla like note to it.

“...That was fast. You need no time to consider it?”

Chardonnay exchanged a meaningful look with the beastwoman and says so.

“Ah, I also decline the invitation to join an adventurer clan. Right now, I have a goal in mind.”

“Really...might I ask about your goal?”

Nnn, is talking about it fine? I guess I’ll try asking about it.

“Fine. Have you heard of Genju’s Sake Ball of Light, or the Orb of Wisdom?”

“I don’t think I have. Kiki, Shark. Tell us if you know.”

“Ha, I don’t know.”

The beastwoman responds immediately.

The white-haired old soldier is nodding.

He seems to know something.

“...You Excellency, I have heard of them. It’s a nursery-tale concerning the gods. The stories vary... things like the World Tree growing to hide the ‘Glowing Fruit.’ Arotoshu, the god of life, protects the “Liquor of the Sacred Gem,” growing in the tree. Sateyura, the god of plants, has supposedly blessed the ‘Liquor of the Sacred Gem,’ and it is said that power can be obtained by drinking it.

Ooh...this old guy named Shark. (TL: Okay, apparently the old man is the one named Seme/Shark.)

As expected of the leader of the Marquess’ counterespionage organization【Onibun】. (TL: Roughly translates to Ogre’s Ears.”

I learned several things. His worldly appearance isn’t just for show.

His words are heavy.

When I saw him before he was using a two handed sword, but now he only has a one handed sword at his waist.

I look with magic observing eye...

Mana is concentrated in his abdomen as well as in his hands and feet.

He seems capable of using fighting moji, but his true strength is unknown.

“Shark, is that true?”

“It might be. ...After all, it is a fairy tale. In the center of 【Mage Steel City Holkerbam】, there is the remain of the magnificent tree said to be entrusted by the Dryad Spirit Holker, who the city is said to be named after. The tree has withered and died now, but there may be some connection.”

Ooh, seriously? The tree died...this is important information.

It’s in Holkerbam, I think that is the next city.

“And then there are many mysterious items exhibited in the ‘underground action’ of 【Labyrinth City Pernette】...”

The underground auction, too?

With this much information appearing, I am becoming interested.

“Holkerbam is an ancient city, as old as the ancient the Great Bephallitsu Empire, and ancient Elven battlefield, marshland, Ishiba (TL: 石場 means “Stone Space” I think this might mean cave, but I’m not sure), mines, forests, plains, all surround the city in zones...ah, I think something happened three years ago?”

“Hai. There was political upheaval, the feudal lord changed.”

“Speaking of Holkerbam, the beautiful milk stones the floor of my mansion is made of comes from Holkerbam. The city’s territory is small, but masonry, carpentry, and iron working are prosperous, there are a lot of cabinet makers, so it really is enviable. Also, the magic steel can only be gathered from the dragonflies around the city. I also want it for my city. Ah, it’s tempting... actually, I think the feudal lord is a strange count who has very few followers. Bullying him...”

The Marquess is letting some of her true intent slip out.

Destroying her furniture like beauty, looking like she swallowed a bug, her undisguised ambition is leaking.

“...Your Excellency, that feudal lord, there is rumor about the ‘white tanuki.’”

“Really huh, then Maccabaeus Trading Company’s chairman Eribolu?”

“Hai.”

The Marques nods.

“Such a thing, is it related to the political overthrow? But, the white tanuki, after all, isn’t he just an upstart merchant involved in the maritime trade?”

“Who might it be, not only the leader of the navy faction but also Minister of the Navy, Marquis Langley, he seems to have a connection with multiple noble factions in addition to the Eribolu. His under the table business is on a significant scale too, certainly, although that is how he’s known, he is also recognized by the name Yazu Akira (TL: 八頭輝). Even with your Excellency’s military power fighting with him is like ‘playing with fire.’”

The Marquess is a little shaken by Shark’s words.

“...Hm, nobles connections. Since Shark says so, I’ll give up on meddling. -By

the way, Shuya-san. Returning to our conversation, I have some interest in the 'underground auction.'"

She's interested in it...

"Well, I am looking..."

"Ara, excuse me. However, it seems a fascinating thing. Don't you think the auction will be different than something sponsored by the kingdom, in the old days I remember Hewso mentioned that he participated every year..."

Chardonnay says to the old soldier questioningly.

"Yes but, dangerous things are also exhibited, because of that the dark guilds are often related. It is hard to attend in **【Labyrinth City Pernette】**. I cannot recommend it."

"But, with my power isn't it possible?"

"Hai, however, the auction opens during the harsh winter during new years. There are various events happening in the city during new years, so attending is impossible."

"...How boring. But, Shuya-san is looking for such an item."

They say such a thing.

The dwarf I helped, the story about Henkai, the talk with the witch of Sazihali, and this white-haired soldier named Shark, I was able to learn quite a few things.

The underground auction has come up multiple times.

I will remember the **【Magic Steel City Holkerbem】**.

So when I search for the sanctuary of Sateyura-kami and the withered great tree...

N? That reminds me...

God, sanctuary, Shisho told me about the places with a lot of child spirits, debonchitchi.

Speaking of the place where the debonchitchi appear...

The place where Shisho trained me, the giant tree in the forest.

Perhaps, is it related?

But, there was no precious orb on the great tree...

Nn~I don't know.

"...Shuya-san. Is something wrong?"

"No, I just heard something helpful from Shark-san. I was lost in thought."

"Is that so, I'm glad it could be useful."

Chardonnay smiles.

Yosh, with this information I was able to get a lead. Hopefully I will be able to unravel this clue.

"Un. Well then, is that all the business you have with me? Is it okay for me to return now? I haven't had my fill of delicious food yet."

"Ah, that's no good. I need to give you this reward."

Chardonnay picks up a drawstring bag and a white ring, then approaches.

"-You Excellency, you are going to deliver it personally?"

"Ojo-sama!"

"It's fine. This one has no hostility with me. Right?"

Chardonnay looks up at me with a charming smile.

Her hand extends from sleeves edged with enticing embroidery, handing the drawstring bag and ring to me.

This reward, is it the one she announced would be handed to everyone earlier?

I receive to ring and pouch.

There is a white gold coin in the bag. The inside of the bag is soft.

A small amount of luxurious cloth has been used.

Honestly, I am grateful for the money.

I am unsure of where I can sell the evil dragon king's materials at a high price.

Also, to be polite, even I with my perverse nature must bow in gratitude.

To this beauty, I show thanks for my reward.

Ma, this may also be the Marquess' way of apologizing.

She gave me a valuable lead, and I also received money. I will obediently change my behavior.

Nevertheless, this ring is well made.

It is shaped like a purple dragon.

A pair of blue eyes is depicted accurately.

I really am wonderfully made.

I stand up straight and with politeness in mind, I speak.

"...Surely, thank you. However, this is brilliant made."

"It should be. I had a magic Goldsmith make it personally."

Happy at being praised, the Marquess shows a smile.

"My goodness... it may be presumptuous, but I will use this ring habitually."

"Eeh, making such a thing is expensive. However, after receiving it, you humbled yourself so suddenly. May I ask why?"

Upon seeing the sudden change in my attitude, Chardonnay asks worriedly.

"It's to show my thanks for the reward."

"Are? The way you speak to me has become pleasant?"

"Ojo-sama? Is that okay..."

"Mou, Kiki. I understand. But you know, the man who speaks in such a curt way is suddenly gone."

"That's a matter of course. Your Excellence."

The white haired old soldier has a somewhat angry expression, rebuking Chardonnay.

"Mou, the two of you are nagging me. Shuya-san, let's return to the hall with the food. There is also the reward for Cecily. Also I will personally show you

some delicious dishes.”

I lower my head obediently.

“Ha, I understand.”

After Chardonnay says so, she guides me to the hall.

Turning back, Kiki and Shark are showing me scary faces.

I return a slight smile.

Chardonnay who has returned to the hall calls for Cecily and claps her hands.

Thereupon, a large cage is carried in.

Uha, Ah...that is Cecily’s reward.

Everyone is looking at what is in the cage, causing a stir.

Inside the cage is a young golden griffon.

Is that the griffon from before? It might be.

It must be the Griffon that was amongst the monsters I released.

Did the mother griffon escape?

“Well then, Cecily, I award you this Griffon, Hector territory, and the Flame Medal.”

“You Excellence...”

A maid in a calico apron carries an important looking medal.

The medal is handed to Cecily.

“A little while ago I happened to acquire this rare species. Cecily? Would you receive this rare species of golden griffon?”

Cecily floats a troubled face, looking at the Marquess.

The Marquess... she has had a gentle expression until now, but suddenly her expression becomes slightly angry.

“I-I understand. I accept them.”

Oh, Cecily seems to have lost to the pressure of the Marquess.

In the battle of Marquess VS Female Knight, the Marquess has been declared the victor.

Everyone sees this. This could be considered as saving the Marquess' face.

“Good, fufu, sasa, well then, please carry it-”

Then, again, the cage is grasped and carried away.

After that, the Marquess' mood becomes high and speaks to me.

She seems to want to brag about the cooking.

She points out various dishes.

There is a large baked mountain bird that smells good. Like that, from the labyrinth, the culinary academy, the Kingdom's gourmet food part has various items. Because of the cooperation with suppliers, the ingredients are fresh... people chatter with one another.

Aside from the Marquess, some Ojo-samas are talking about the happily.

Or should I say, I, from such an introduction, want to eat?

I cannot say that to the Marquess, so I force a smile and accompany her properly.

At such a time, a noble with an icy mustache speaks to the Marquess.

“Oh my, oh my, Chardonnay-sama, you are quite vigorous today.”

“Maa, Lord Fleudo Bauken.” (TL: His name is Lord Fleudo Adventure.”

“The other day you purchased ancient Rainbow's Morning fabric right away for a dress?”

“I made use of it, truly it is a wonderful material, no?”

Chardonnay says so and displays the hem of her dress.

The part she points out shimmers like a rainbow.

Heh, like fabric is like white now, and it reacts to mana...

“Hai, it's excellent. ...Something which experiences the dangerous passage at the southern ocean also pays off.”

“...Excellent, you returned safely. If I am not mistaken, you were accompanied by a large fleet numbering more than fifty, but I heard only five ships returned?”

The old man called Fleudo Bauken’s face turns aside, begins to talk about a painful memory.

“...So then. The monsters and climate are so that it is great for pirates, because we hid the whereabouts of our exploration party, almost all of the ships sinking...it was a truly savage voyage. However, we discover another land called Aesir’s Illusion Dynasty, I am proud to have brought such quality items to Osberia Kingdom.”

“Eh, wonderful, something wonderful was brought to me. However, I heard that in the Royal Capital King Luke greeted Lord Fluedo Bauken personally.”

“Hai. I was extremely moved at that time...”

As the conversation between nobles continued, I was saved.

Time to skedaddle.

“Well then, you Excellence.” I’ll take me leave.”

Speaking briefly, I bow slightly.

Hurrying I leave the seat.

The Marquess said something, but I pretended not to hear.

Immediately, the old noble begins to speak to Chardonnay again, so I easily escape.

Now then, time to relax and eat.

It is my first time having such luxury cuisine.

Let me see, something has had my eye for a while now...

Wait, this, judging by its legs, is it cooked frog legs?

Is it a rare luxury? It might be tasty...

Ma, I’ll try it. I take a piece.

I bring the cooked frog leg to my mouth.

The meat is firm, crunch.

Ooh, the meat is unexpectedly juicy.

It's a delicacy, but the flavor is rich and tasty.

The frog's breast meat is marinated in ginger sauce and has a different dry surface, again, there is a new sensation on my tongue.

It's hard to hate the frog style.

I want to give some to Rollo, too.

Ah, that's right. I have the item box.

Taking an empty plate from a table, I pile up tasty looking dishes.

With the plate piled full of food, I quickly move to the edge of the hall.

I touch the bracelet and activate the item box.

I quickly store away the plate full of food.

Yosh. I worked.

Now then, I am satisfied with what I have eaten, I also received my reward.

It is time to go soon.

I leave the party from the edge of the hall.

I walk briskly down the red carpeted corridor. I exit the mansion.

There are dozens of carriages parked around, so I board the front most one and take it to the guild.

When I arrive at the guild, I go directly to the guild master's room.

"-Ou, that was fast. You're back."

Carban is writing at his desk.

The pen in his hand is patterned.

The material looks like ivory.

"Eeh, the party is still going, but I already ate and receive my reward."

"Nya!"

Reacting to my voice, Rollo who was lying on the chest looks up and calls out.

She jumps up and clings to me.

Haha, she licks my face.

Making delighted sounds, this girl is cute.

“Yosh, yosh.”

I say while lifting Rollo.

“Rollo, I brought you a souvenir. Sit down there and wait.”

“Nya~n.”

Understanding what I said, Rollo sits down on the desk with her feet together.

A color of expectation is visible in her crimson eyes.

Haha, appealing with such cute eyes, with a smile on my face I remove the dish from the item box.

“Rollo, you eat this.”

“Nya, Nyo-”

Rollo begins to eat the food from the dinner part with impressive gusto.

“Hou, is that an item box?”

“Hai.”

“I have one too. Look.”

Carban-jii shows his item box that has a feeling of not being too rare.

A square of an uneven thick pouch. A staff is stuck in and out of it.

“The pouch, is it from Labyrinth city?”

“I was told it came from Labyrinth city, but I bought it from an acquaintance’s company. Apart from that, did the Marquess have anything to say?”

“She was trying to employ me.”

“Haha, sounds like Chardonnay-sama.”

“Declined?”

“What? Ma, there’s an adventurer like that.”

While we’re talking, Rollo has finally finished eating her food.

So fast...

“Well then, I will go back. Ah, I’ll return these clothes.

I say so and move the change out of the fancy clothes.

“That is my present to you.”

Once I am butt-nekked, I hear those words.

“-Oh? Is that okay?”

He is giving it to me but for now, I put on my new leather clothes.

My armor is tattered, but I put it on.

“Please consider this as a reward from me for the Evil Dragon Subjugation, after all, don’t I also own Shuya?”

N? He owes me?

Chapter 61: Truth and Mirror

Owes me? Wondering what he could mean I continue putting my clothes on.

I put the high-class clothes in my item box.

Then, I sit down on the soft-looking sofa and listen again.

“You owe me?”

“That’s right.”

I can’t think of a reason why...

“I don’t remember...please tell me.”

“Fumu. Before Shuya went to the dinner party, didn’t I mention Kuna and 【Thorny Tail】?”

“Ah.”

“You, didn’t she try to trick and kill you?”

I was discovered? Seen through?

“-What?”

“In my work... I deal with various races, negotiate with nobles. Can’t I easily see through someone’s lies?”

It jii-san is crafty. It seems he figured it out...

The title of guild master isn’t for show.

Being able to see a person’s heart, their intentions, is it some type of judgment skill?

I should have been acting naturally, but perhaps that was seen through. Pupils will dilate, fingers may twitch... expressions can change, is it an ability acquired through experience.

Or, is it because of the circumstantial evidence?

I cover my body with fighting moji once more, then smile and look at the jii-san.

“...So, huh?”

I say shortly, trying to convey pressure from my behavior.

I prepare myself.

My sharp gaze is directed at Carban-jii.

Carban hastily shakes his head.

“No, wait, wait-don’t be the gun. Hear me out. Kuna and I had a connection. On the surface, Kuna was a beautiful person who contributed to the guild, but in reality... she was actually one of the leaders of the dark guild, 【Thorny Tail】.”

I’m aware of that, but I make a gesture as if I was unaware.

My expression loosens, and I mutter.

“【Thorny Tail】, huh...”

Carban-jii really looks the part of the guild master, lighting a cigarette with dignified composure. Puffing a cloud of white smoke, he continues talking.

“...That’s right. When setting up the magic formations leading to labyrinths, instead of bargaining a price she asked for collateral...they were small at first, but then the conditions became increasingly difficult. It was no longer money and magic stones, it turned into intervening and concessions for the dark guilds, requesting investigations... is beyond the power of the guild. Also, when I objected to the contents of the requests, I was threatened on top of the already unreasonable demands... we had quite a hard time.”

She was able to threaten the guild master?

Kuna was likely using underhanded measures.

That being the case...

Since I killed Kuna, is it okay if I reveal her being a demonic being?

From seeing the jii-san’s behavior, I can decide what to say...

“...A threat? However, considering it was you, how could that happen? And then, can the adventurer’s guild actually cooperate with someone from the dark guilds?”

I ask with a doubtful expression.

“I understand, but it happening my mistake. And then, I don’t usually mind if I cross the dark guilds. Connection dark guilds spy and thief guilds is a necessary evil. However, it became a desperate situation for a different reason... Originally, there was only one metastasis formation in **【Hector】**.”

“One? There are three now?”

“Yeah. That’s right, you don’t seem to know, so I’ll tell you. Establishing a magic formation costs a vast sum of money. Ma, because the Marquess cooperated with building the magic formation, I was able to secure the funds, but some events occurred...”

Then Carban-jii takes a deep puff from his pipe with an angry glare in his eye, with a snort white smoke pours out of his nose. The way the smoke is coiling out makes it look like he is wearing it.

“...That was a cruel event. I tried to talk to Benji of the magic guild about adding another magic formation. However, I didn’t expect that all the members of the guild along with Benji would be killed by that man. Using the extraordinary magic that built this castle wall...”

Is this about Zoru Gustave?

A shadow appears on Carban-jii’s face.

His wrinkles seem to increase in number.

“With that, the only magician in **【Hector】** with the space time attribute became Kuna. I don’t know how, but Kuna had a skill that allowed her to move magic formations, the large number of magic stone was a bargain price. She pressed those large milky breasts on me and appealed.”

So that’s what happened. Part of him is an ero-jii.

So they came to an agreement.

“I see.”

“Fumu. Even if I called in an outside magician and resisted Kuna’s charm, the magician’s guild has its own hurdles. Because the person who killed several magicians from the magician’s guild came from a noble family, the incident

became a large problem. So, there was no place to request one of the rare magicians with the space-time attribute to come to Hector. Besides, no magician wanted to come to a city where the members of the magic guild were slaughtered.”

That would be unreasonable.

“Requesting a magician to establish a magic formation wasn’t possible. If we produced magic stones like labyrinth city, the story might have been different... anyhow, Kuna was chosen, and I commissioned her. Naturally, I knew she was a leader of a dark guild, but it was also a matter of urgency for the Marquess. ...So the events I described before unfolded. I regret this as well.”

I have a feeling that some parts were left out.

It’s possible that Kuna was the demonic being Zoru Gustave mentioned, making this her aim from the beginning. Kuna was the fixer in the shadows.

Kuna seemed to have betrayed Sabido, on the surface, no, in the shadows too, this is confusing. Anyway, it means the woman was full of connections.

“...Can I continue?”

“Ah, continue.”

“And then. The other day, during the war between the ants and dragons, the Marquess ended up at the guild. The labyrinth collapsed, and adventurers were angry over how many died, a disturbance was raised when the Marquess carried out the Evil Dragon King subjugation. During the chaos I got a report that Kuna died, the headquarters of the Present firm and 【Thorny Tail】 was attacked, and the monsters they caught were released into the streets, one surprising report came in after another.”

The Marquess mentioned it too. They would be even more surprised if they knew it was me and a member of another dark guild that crushed 【Thorny Tail】
...

“While investigating quietly, Shuya’s name appeared. You formed a party with Kuna and went into the dungeon? And, surprisingly, the one who returned was Shuya. When I asked the receptionist-san in charge, I was told Kuna was killed by a monster, isn’t that what you said?”

That receptionist-san was afraid of me...

I was a bit suspicious.

“...That’s right. Receptionist-san was beastwoman.”

Carban takes a puff from his pipe, nodding while releasing a puff of smoke.

It’s strange, I can’t smell smoke from the pipe. The smell is slightly sweet, a scent like perfume.

“Judging by Kuna’s abilities that not realistic, further more, it’s impossible. When I inquired, I thought Shuya was a member of a dark guild, that an assassin had disguised himself as an adventurer. I figured it was an issue of conflict between the dark guilds, so I avoided probing too deep.”

“Wait a minute. Am I not a member of a dark guild?”

I naturally bring up. Hurriedly denying.

For a moment, Carban scrutinizes me.

“...I understand. Ma, I’ll tell you. The adventurer’s guild has a noninterference rule because of the trouble... however, you took on the urgent request like a real adventurer, handling it efficiently. When I heard this from my daughter, it turned out you were the reason the urgent request succeeded.”

That’s accurate.

“N~, I did what was needed. Eris worked hard as well. Her instructions were very clear.”

“Umu, umu. That’s right. Hearing the story from Eris, I was surprised. In the end, also participating in the Evil Dragon King subjugation. And, having the ability to even subdue the Evil Dragon King. If you were a member of a dark guild, you never would have participated. I thought it was strange. Like that, I decided to ask about the main reason the Marquess had for the dinner party.”

Since he knows that much about Kuna, I should be able to tell him the truth.

“Carban-jii. What you said is true. Incidentally, if I were to say I killed Kuna, would I have to suffer some form of punishment?”

“No, rather, I want to give you money. Marquess-sama might get angry. The

price of setting up the magic formation is difficult.”

Carban-jii said lightly.

I see, then it's fine.

“In that case, I can be honest. I did kill Kuna.”

“Like I thought, that cuts the gordian knot (TL: Means “solve or remove a problem directly or forcefully, rejecting gentler or more indirect methods.”). Then, I really am in your debt-”

The jii-san put on a happy face and repeats himself.

“Oto, the debt has already been discussed, since Carban-jii is the guild mast, he should know about it. Kuna was a ‘demonic being,’ not a human. Kuna had trapped me, so I was only able to return by killing her.”

“Wh-what-”

Carban was starting to refill his pipe but suddenly leans forward in surprise.

“Nya.”

Him standing up so suddenly surprised Rollo.

Rollo jumps on the chest.

What is it? Her red eyes turn into question marks.

Aside from that, the attitude of the old man.

“...is it that surprising?”

“Wait a minute...”

Pointing a finger between his eyebrows, the jii-san sits in his chair like he became dizzy.

Is everything all right...

“...Are you okay?”

“U, umu. It's hard to believe. However...no, that smile and figure...all those lies, when I think about it... besides, her strange magic...”

How should I say it... this jii-san, he saw through me but couldn't figure out

Kuna.

Did he do something ero with Kuna?

Ma, she was good at hiding herself, those eyes, because she was boasting about the power of her magic eyes, he must have been tricked by them.

“...Ma, even if you can’t believe it, you should have though Kuna was killed by an assassin from another dark guild.”

In fact, an assassin named “Karii” already infiltrated, it seemed to have been a mission.

“Fumu... that’s right. However, when it comes to Kuna’s death, no, even without comparing, Shuya, when the thief guild spread information about you, do you think you caught the notice of the dark guild?”

“Ah, that’s right. Just after killing Kuna, a group from a dark guild came into contact immediately.”

Carban-jii nods.

“I see, that makes sense. Are you being careful? Ma, it’s none of my business... however, if that’s the case, a witness at 【Thorny Tail】 headquarters saw 【Shadow Wing】 outside... or, it could have been 【Blood Elves】, the biggest power in this city. Otherwise, 【Bell of Twilight】, 【Owl Fang】, 【Moon Ruin】...”

Carban mutters, lost in thought.

Judging by the guild master’s behavior, he doesn’t seem to be sharing information with the Marquess. Judging what Marquess Chardonnay said on the platform in Vaisu, I thought the humans were on the side of the nobles...

It seems there is an appealing difference from the guild.

Hector may be another story.

However, are the dark guilds an existence like the mafia in the country?

The police and administrators of justice in Hector are probably the Blue Iron Knight corps...

“...Na, does the country do anything to suppress the dark guilds?”

“Bu, hahahaha, you suddenly said such a childish thing?”

Carban bursts into laughter.

His muscles shake as he laughs, his wrinkles crinkle, and he continues talking with a smile.

“Such a thing is impossible. You could say it is absolutely impossible. Big and small, there are hundreds of dark guilds, publicly they are excellent trading companies, connected with wealthy merchants. Aren’t the dark guild also serving the country? It is an aspect of the public order. The thief guild is also intertwined, so everything is closely connected. There are members of the dark guild playing the part of adventurers like Kuna...”

So that’s how it is.

They are part of the social infrastructure.

Ma, in this world there are gods, magic, spirits, magic wogan dolls, the border between worlds.

The dark society is certainly complicated, the underworld...it can’t be imagined...

“...Although I say that, it isn’t given up entirely? The country purges criminal groups like the 【Shadow Wing Brigade】, Fishian pirates too are always killed. However, things don’t go as expected. The adventurer’s guild also has power, it is used. Ma, the guild changes city to city, so this doesn’t cover everyone.”

It changes depending on the area.

“...It’s complicated. However, what about the Blue Iron Knight corps stationed in the city?”

“You seem to misunderstand, the Blue Iron escort corps and the Blue Iron third cavalry corps cooperate and protect peace and order, but only in the area which can be done. Magic Drug selling, magic drug production, smuggling of prohibited goods, Illegal slavery, robbery, kidnapping, murder, when spies are found during patrols they are executed on the spot. Like that, criminals are caught every day in the city, executions and slave merchants are located in the square.”

Soldier company? Which reminds me, there was an office-like place in each

part of the city.

But, the extent of their influence...

“I see. I’ve learned a lot. Carban-jii. I will return to my inn. Rollo, let’s go.”

“Nn, Nya.”

“N, I see. Understood.”

Rollo jumps down from the chest again.

She climbs agilely into my black hood.

Like that, I leave the guild and return to inn nearby.

The cheap inn that looks like an apartment complex.

The room is the same as before, it’s small...

Because the mirror occupies the only space next to the bed, the room always feels like it has become smaller.

Rollo doesn’t seem to care about how small the room is, jumping on the bed.

She climbs from there to the mirror and turns her crimson eyes to the top of it.

Should I take this opportunity to look for a good inn?

I also want to put the mirror somewhere it won’t stand out the much. It’s unfortunate, or, I could leave Hector and go to a different city.

While considering such a thing, I relax and take off my jacket.

N~, before I sleep, I’ll check Status.

Name: Shuya Kagari

Age: 22

Title: Transcended One

Race: Rusivault

Battle Occupation : Dark Magic Spearman : Chain User

Physical Strength 19.3→20.0 Agility 20.1→20.8 Stamina 18.3→19.1 Mana 23.3→24.3 Dexterity 18.2→19.2 Soul 23.8→24.6 Luck 11.0→11.2

Condition: Calm

Skill Status.

Acquired Skills: <Throwing> : <Cerebral Demon Speed> : <Hidden Body> : <Night Vision> : <Smell Secretion Technique> : <Bloody Chain Feast> : <Thrusting> : <Meditation> : <Magic Beast Riding> : <Life Magic> : <Guidance Moji> : <Fighting Moji> : <Magic Thought Guidance Hand> : <Fairy Moji> : <Summoning Magic> : <Ancient Magic> : <Crest Magic> : <Dark Drill> : <Dark Drill • Magic Break Spear> : <Language Magic>

Permanent Skills: <Power of True Ancestor> : <Natural Demon Ability> : <Torrent of Light Darkness> : <Soul Sucking> : <Undead Ability> : <Darkness Adaptation> : <Blood Magic> : <Head of Household> : <Super Light Brain Buff Intuition> : <Fighting Moji Knowledge> : <Guidance Moji Knowledge> : <Spear Sparring> : <Thought Guidance Chain> : <Magic Crest Construction>

Extra Skills: <Language Comprehension> : <Crest of Light> : <Chain Factor> : <Cerebral Demon Spine Revolution>

My abilities improved considerably.

The series of battle with the dragons, and then finally killing the ancient dragon at the end.

I touch the title.

※ Title : ※ Transcended One ※

Contracting a Divine Beast and bilking an Ancient Dragon. Surpassing a person.

<Divine Beast Riding> is Possible.

All ability growth revised.

Divine Beast riding, there aren't any changes in Rollo.

If Rollodinu regains her true power, I might be able to ride her.

If I ride Rollo's present Black Panther form, I will only crush her.

Riding her is impossible.

Other than that, let's go to the Dwarf brother's tomorrow.

Aside from armor, I need to acquire a new spear, my skill with the sword is still low.

Ancient Dragon, equipment made from the Evil Dragon King, I should be able to make armor...



The next day, I get up around morning.

When I get up, Rollo also begins to uncurl herself. After a yawn, she stretches her back.

She looks comfortable.

The very cat-like behavior of stretching.

One by one, she shows cute gestures.

I am now healed by the cat, but it is still too early for the Dwarf brother's shop to be open, so I have some spare time.

Should I start with a portal?

I stopped after the other day's exploration.

Preparation complete, I look back at Rollo.

"Rollo, get on my shoulder, this time I'm going to do some reconnaissance. Can you be quiet?"

"Nya."

Rollo immediately jumps onto my shoulder.

And, from the item box, I pull out the twenty-four sided Zohedron Trap.

I trace the third sign and activate it again.

On the other side of the portal, the same room from the other day appears.

The room of the woman with worn out clothes.

The woman is sleeping.

Flowers are set up around the mirror for some reason...

Is this because I opened the gate so many times?

Actually, during the week before leaving on the Evil Dragon King subjugation, I opened the third and fourth gate to kill time, peeking through.

Since she's asleep, is now my chance?

I will explore a little, then come back immediately.

-Yosh, time to go.

I enter the gate.

The room is quiet, only the sound of someone sleeping.

Immediately, I activate presence detection.

Then, <Hidden Body> and <Night Vision.>

-Good, no sign of her stirring.

Other than this woman's magic essence, I can feel more outside the room.

When I try to leave the room slowly, the Zohedron Trap separates from the Parades mirror and flies over.

The many sides sphere orbits my head again.

I catch the globe, with the sphere in hand I can activate gate magic anytime, I open the sleeping woman's door and slip out.

When I walk into the boarded hallway, there is a flight of stairs leading up.

There are corridors to the left and right, and there seem to be some small rooms similar to the room I came out of.

To the right is a dead end and to the left is a large door.

Every room has a magic essence reaction.

I creep up the stairs and come out in a place like a stage. In the middle of the stage is an altar where a clergyman or father would preach.

I advance toward the altar.

Is this a chapel, a small church? Seats lined up under the step to the left.

Quietly, I come down from the edge of the altar, walking in the middle on a

carpet between the chairs.

It's snug, but the tightness isn't enough to make one feel claustrophobic.

I think there is no second floor.

Room earlier was underground, so that is likely how it is.

Two wooden doors are seen ahead of the carpet. That should lead outside.

A box for donations is on either side of the door.

...For now, I'll go outside.

It is possible to go outside without being discovered.

So, I cancel <Hidden Body.> -There is no magic essence sign.

I would like to use Pheromone Touch, but I hold back.

I look around.

An earthen road leads left and right. Tall stalks of a corn-like plant grow in fields, blocking my view.

"Nya."

Rollo seems curious in the tall plants, but I move my arm to stop her.

"Rollo, for now, stay on my shoulder so I can withdraw immediately."

Hearing my words, Rollo understands.

Should I follow the dirt road heading right for a while?

-Oh? In the distance there seem to be small houses.

It is early morning, the light becomes a sign.

This seems to be a small farming area.

My exploration switch is stimulated.

...Without walking into the fields, I turn left at an intersection and advance.

I can see small houses. I follow the path going uphill. Continuing to climb.

Light leaks out from a house uphill.

There is nothing like a signboard.

A poor farmer lives in a poor house.

The house is made of mud and straw in between a lattice of beams.

From inside the house, I can detect from magic essence signs.

Excuse me. Saying that I suddenly intrude.

It's doubtful because I plan to immediately dive into the gate...

First of all, next time I explore past the third gate, I will need to have my spear with me as my primary weapon.

-Return.

Because a gate is going to open, I walk around to the back of the house.

The house is enclosed by a wooden fence. I walk around to the back and activate the gate after confirming no one is around.

Stepping into the gate-without incident. I return to my small room in Hector.

I immediately activate the fourth gate.

It's a little dim, the rocky stretch where the witch Sazihali appeared.

No one is there. The witch has probably gone somewhere.

-Cancellation.

After I stealthily look around again, I activate the gate again.

Immediately, I turn on the fifth gate.

Complete darkness. No, the color of the soil...

The mirror seems to be buried in dirt and sand.

I cancel it and trace the sixth symbol, activating it.

This one is the same.

In the end, I look up to the tenth, but they are all buried underground.

I start the eleventh, hoping it won't be the same.

Oh, it worked.

The scene reflected in the gate looks like some kind of warehouse.

There is a lot of old looking and new looking furniture.

A crest of a snake and green rose is displayed in several places.

The only source of light is the illumination from the mirror.

The dust clinging to the old furniture is white.

There seems to be no sign of life here. I cancel and move on.

I activate the twelfth.

Oh, the view is suddenly breathtaking.

Moreover, the sky spreads out, and it is a place like an empty island.

-Amazing.

A white marble-like stone is spread out, and in the distance, there is a line of pillars made from the same material. In the middle of the pillars is something like a coffin.

The marble reflects the moonlight, creating a unique fantasy feeling.

There is no wall, in the sky to the left the cotton-like clouds are floating.

It creates the impression of ruins floating amongst the clouds.

Machu Pichu? Rapyu?

For a while, I remember a nostalgic music as I watch the drifting clouds.

No golem flying in the sky appears.

There's nothing to do, so I move on.

On the other side of the thirteenth gate is a long corridor. The Paredes mirror is in the corner of the hallway.

A red carpet covers the floor and to the right is a big curtain covering a window.

The arched ceiling is made of gray stone.

It is difficult to see on the folded yellow-green curtain, but there seem to be lines marking out symbols.

This is absolutely a rich house.

A noble, wealthy merchant, I can't be certain, but this hallway seems appropriate for either position.

Along the corridor, there is the handle to a large door.

There is no one here, but it feels like someone could walk by at any moment.

If I wait a while a maid will probably show up, I'm confident a cute girl will appear.

While having strange fantasies, I look around a little...

There's nothing to see. I decided to check the next.

I activate the fourteenth.

On the other side of the gate is snow.

There is only a little bit of snow accumulated.

It seems to be a forest, there are blocks of black stone.

They seems to be a staircase.

It difficult to see because of the snow, but the outline of the black stones looks artificial.

It looks like this used to be a stone fort.

This place looks cold, it might be a fortress of the Northern countries.

I don't see any footprints, there are no signs of monsters or people.

I cancel the portal.

Activating the fifteenth. A sheet a spray splashes on the other side of the mirror.

The mirror is near a cascading waterfall.

Around the slanting cliff, a dim sky is visible.

It's a beautiful view.

A beautiful flower growing by the cliff sways in the wind.

N~, good, the moonlight is beautiful.

The view is fantastic. I want to see this all the time.

My favorite views is this and the one on the island.

However, I need to look at the next gate. I cancel the gate-The sixteenth was a shallow sea. The wreckage of a ship spreads out.

This is on a ship?

The mirror seems to have been on a cargo ship which ran aground.

It feels like it is close to an island.

Dazzling sunlight plays across the sea floor like a jewel.

Tricorne, it feels like one of the Caribbean pirates wearing one of the hats will appear.

How far away is this place? To the south, perhaps to the east. It might be in the west.

I might be able to swim in the sea if I try. When I have spare time, I'll go swimming.

It looks like there might be a sandy beach nearby.

If it's possible, I'd like to share a romantic kiss with a girl on a sandy beach.

And then, and then, wearing a shell swimsuit... ahaha – haha-like, chasing while laughing...Gufu. (TL: The laughter was in English characters.)

Haa, I'm an idiot. Yui, Quiche, separating with them was painful, now my head has become funny. (TL: Shuya is love sick.) No, it might be because I got hit in the head by the Evil Dragon King's tail.

Now then, time to end my pointless delusions.

I cancel the gate and trace the next symbol.

The gate starts up.

The seventeenth place looks like a warehouse.

It has a strong light source, different from the eleventh.

Hanging from the wall is a sword and shield with the intricate design of a dragon carved into them.

Metal boxes are organized neatly on the floor.

An iron mannequin is to the left and a mask, armor, and luxurious clothes are set.

And, something on the right stands out.

Internal organs like the heart are wriggling in black frames.

There are human sized hearts, but also larger ones. The things like capillaries around the heart have been overturned.

It's strange, and sorta disgusting.

Still, there is an empty socket where it appears a heart is needed.

However, what is this space?

A private warehouse?

The source of light in the room is the ceiling, is someone there?

For the time being. I stare at the gate in front of me.

N~, there's no sign of anyone coming. Time seems to stop.

I dismiss the gate.

The eighteenth is another warehouse.

However, like the eleventh, it is dark. Right in front, there is something like a black box, so it is probably a treasure storehouse. So, I dismiss it.

The nineteenth to twenty-third gates are dirt and sand.

I trace the twenty-fourth symbol, and it changes from red to green...

After all, the gate doesn't activate.

Now then, now that I have quickly checked several gates, I know there are several I cannot use.

I still found several safe gates though, so it's okay.

The priority is low so I will explore some of the gates when I have time.

However, there are a lot of mirrors buried underground.

What will happen if I enter that ground...will I be destroyed if the pressure is too much?

But in my case, since my body heals I might be able to survive...

Think about it, doing so would certainly be painful.

However, if I was unable to move... being buried for centuries would cause me to undergo mummification.

I will literally be mummified with no blood...

However, this mirror, I'd like to collect several of them.

In the future, if I can collect several on scattered mirrors, I can buy a house in each of the famous cities and place a Paredes mirror in each one. I can easily travel back and forth using the Paredes mirror. It is restricted by its size, but the cost of transportation disappears so I could make a large profit through trading.

Should I resign as an adventurer and become a wealthy merchant?

Establishing You New Life in a Different World: Method VI The final sale decision.

I remember the OSakae game I loved in my previous world.

After I say so, being an adventurer is carefree.

As for moving mirrors, it would be good to secure a place where I could keep one.

I was kind of joking, but I will find a location in this area.

Will I was doing all this, it became close to noon.

As for inspecting the other side of the gates, I will do that another time.

I'm also a little hungry. It'll be noon soon, I should go to Zaga and Bon's store after eating breakfast.

Chapter 62: Happy Purchase, Happy Shopping

In the alley full of restaurants there should be a good place to eat.

“Rollo, let’s go find some good food.”

“Nn.”

Rollo only replies with a purr.

However, she quickly takes up her spot on my shoulder.

Rollo and I leave the inn behind.

I walk down the street with the bar Cherry works in.

There seem to be a lot of stores which close at noon.

Lunch time should be good for profits...

Ma, thinking with a Japanese mindset is probably inappropriate.

The gambling district appears I don’t go there.

Should I walk to the market?

Despite the time, various things are being sold there.

As I wander down the street and through the shops, I manage to find somewhere to eat.

It’s a simple street stall consisting of a curtain stretched over a thin wooden frame.

A flat curtain covers the top in place of a roof.

As a substitute for a menu, there is a black board. On the blackboard is written only food served in a pot.

I walk over.

My tasty food research committee is confident that this is a well-known hidden-shop.

Customers, merchants, and adventurers are sitting on stools, steam rises from

an iron pot placed on a small table, the hot juices from the iron pot is soaked into the vegetables in wooden bowls, the vegetables heaped in the bowls are being eaten with great gusto.

It looks yummy...

Gulping down a mouthful of saliva, I sit on one of the stools and order food.

The dish is the same as what the other customers are eating.

A brown liquid simmers in the iron pan, and there is a small wooden bowl.

Various vegetables are served in the hot pot.

The steam floats up, stimulating my appetite.

The onion-type juice is a reddish-yellow.

Or, is there a pork or poultry bullion?

Vegetables like paprika and white leaves are piled up.

There's also a blue lettuce-like vegetable. A slim root like burdock.

Ah, it's too tempting.

Immediately, I distribute the vegetables and soup in the wooden bowl.

...Chop sticks would make this easier, but there are only two wooden spoons.

I should make my own at some point...

Starting with the soup, I bring the bowl to my lips and drink the brown vegetable broth.

Ah, it's hot. However, it's yummy. The taste of Chinese cabbage spreads over my tongue.

The eat the vegetables with the soup. These vegetables are crisp and easy to chew.

Then, does the soup taste like meat? When I think so, I see there is a large bone at the bottom of the pot, buried under the vegetables.

I see. So that's why the broth tastes this way.

I bite into the meat steeped in the juices.

The meat is so tender that it practically melts in my mouth. Oh, wow, this meat is fantastic.

The texture of the meat is like chicken, similar to a chicken wing, is this the aged magic beast or the sauce?

Well, it's fine either way. It's tasty and cheap.

Fuhahaha, my delicious food committee hit the jackpot.

This shop was a good find.

I also give some to Rollo.

There's no more of the wing meat...

I devour it.

On this occasion. I order multiple dishes.

The waitress is shocked, but the silverware for the food is thrown in as a bonus, she smiles and delivers the dishes.

The iron pans carried out disappear one after another, the sales clerk looks at me with strange eyes...

However, I continue storing my food in the item box without letting it bother me.

I finish my business and leave the shop.

Passing through the market, I head to Zaga and Bon's.

The Dwarf shop is around the corner.

When I turn the corner, I see Bonn.

His kappa hair is swaying as he runs.

I shouldn't have been seen yet, but he's already noticed Rollo and me.

Smiling, Bonn energetically shouts the usual phrase.

"Enchant, Enchant, Enchant!"

"Nya, nya, nya."

This is what happens every time.

Rollo and Bonn begin their strange conversation.

...It has the atmosphere of a fairy tale.

Is Bonn actually communicating with Rollo...

Someone, interpret it!

Shouting that in my heart, I greet him.

“...Bonn, long time no see. I’m going to go talk with Zaga.”

“Enchannto!”

Bonn replies with a thumbs up.

Umu. He’s brimming with energy.

While Rollo and Bonn banter back and forth, I turn the corner and walk to the shop.

When I am about to enter the shop, Zaga appears.

Zaga is wearing a wife-beater, making his beard and chest hair stand out.

“Oh, Shuya. Here to look at armor?”

“Yeah. The spear I’ve been using broke. Also, I’m sorry...the armor you put so much work into, it kinda, I can wear it, but it’s all ruined... so, would you make something using materials from the Evil Dragon King?”

When I say Evil Dragon King, Zaga is shocked.

“-Buha... The Evil Dragon King? That means... Shuya, I heard that aside from the commander of the griffon corps who killed the dragon king, there were a few adventurers?”

“That’s right. I also received this ring.”

Saying so, I show him the ring the Marquess gave me.

“Oooooooh, the purple scale, this indeed came from the stomach of a dragon. It’s not much, but it can work as a magic defense. ...*Gulp*... It’s beautifully carved, the craftsmanship is astonishing. The inside also has the Marquess family’s crest, and Dragon Killer carved on it. ...It’s elegant. It may not have much affected as a magic item, but it was still made by a magic Goldsmith with

exceptional talent. You should treasure it. ...Take it back.”

Zaga has become unusually excited.

His eyes have an unusual excitement, his desire for the ring is visible.

However, there were words carved on the inside?

“...Understood. I’ll treasure it. I’ll wear it.”

Zaga smiles and crosses his arms.

“-Well then, the materials of the Evil Dragon King is worthy of a master blacksmith, will you allow us to play with it?”

“Ah, that’s what I want.”

Hearing my words, Zaga’s tough guy appears collapses, and he nods several times.

He strokes his beard several times, then starts to talk.

“...Is that so. Shuya, thank you. -Bon, was he lucky? A dragon. Moreover, an ancient dragon.”

“Enchant!”

“Bon, your skill is going to be necessary. Let’s do our best.”

“Enchant!”

Zaga and Bonn seem excited, holding each other’s hands and shaking them up and down.

“Then, where are the materials?”

“Ah, they’re cumbersome and big, so I’ll take them out now. Open.”

In the area in front of Zaga and Bonn’s store-I activate the item box.

Then, with a thump, I take out the Burdock’s head.

“Enchaaantoo!”

“Nuo, Oooh... this is the Evil Dragon King? Amazing. What beautiful purple scales. These are definitely the scales of an ancient dragon. Its fangs are spectacular. ...However, if it’s compared to this. That crimson horn and the blue

dragon eyes are truly unique. Also, connected to the brain stem...shouldn't there be a huge magic stone?"

His eyes, brain? The dragon magic stone?

"N? I didn't think of that..."

"Let alone a magic stone, its value will be beyond a magic gem, it will be incredible."

Judging by this reaction, it must be incredibly valuable.

-At the back.

"The eyes alone are worth fifty pieces of white gold coin. The whiskers are twice that, however, it really is the dragon magic stone in its head...the value is enough to make the War God Vaisu and Totogudius, King of the Tenth Layer of Hell get along."

"...Nii-san is right. The head of the ancient dragon exists."

Speaking in a lecturing tone with the voice of a child, the twins of the S ranked clan **【Ice Mausoleum of Blue Waters】**.

"Enchant?"

"Bon, get behind me, Shuya, are these acquaintances?"

Cautious of the two who suddenly appeared, Zaga holds his hammer in both hands to protect Bonn.

Nevertheless, why didn't I feel a magic essence until the voice sounded?

After hiding their form, their magic essence disappeared too?

"...Acquaintance? I only know them. So, you followed me while hiding yourselves?"

"Nyan."

Rollo calls out in greeting.

And, she doesn't get down from my shoulder.

She stares at the twins calmly.

"That's right. The black cat... amazing, and cute."

“Yeah. It’s as you said.”

The voices of the twins are different.

They sound cold...

“...Such a thing is irrelevant. Having gone so far, what do you want from me?”

I say wearily.

“The dragon’s eyes, we want them.”

“Yeah.”

“What?”

I push storage and immediately store the Evil Dragon King’s head away.

“Ah, it’s gone.”

“It really is an item box.”

They say carelessly. I become even more cautious.

“You intend to take the dragon’s head?”

Hearing me, the twins exchange a look and burst into laughter.

“No, it’s different.”

“We want to talk to you about buying the blue eyes of the ancient dragon.”

Oh...I over reacted.

Really, these blue eyed kids are strange.

“...Say that first. Otherwise, there will be a weird tension.”

“”Sorry.””

This time they act like children and lower their heads...

I saw them during the dinner, the emblem of their white heads their wriggling blood vessels stand out, it even continue on the back of their neck.

It is something like a blood limit? It might be a curse.

I don’t mention the strange marks, I do ask about their eyes.

“...So you want the eyes?”

“Hai.”

“That’s right. The eyes should be small when taken out. One is enough. We can pay fifty white gold coins.”

That is small?

“Nn~, I don’t understand the market price. What kind of effect do the eyes have?”

“I know. The price the twins gave you is good, the price is between forty-five and fifty-five white gold coins. Blue eyes of an ancient dragon are the most valuable, they have an effect on both water and ice type. Moreover, since they contain the magic of the water system, if a little mana is poured in, it can produce a strong water attribute magic. The eyes are a unique magic jewel.”

Zaga explains.

“That’s right. I can pay this.”

“Yeah. The price is right.”

Hou, even S rank will pay according to the market price.

Maybe I should sell one.

“...Understood. I’ll sell one.”

“Yay, really?”

“Yeah.”

“Nii-san, thank goodness.”

“Inah, take out the money.”

One of the twin says, and a chest with a white pattern is removed and opened.

Then, a jingle of white coins.

O~i, don’t throw your money around so carelessly.

There is also a white gold coin one size larger than the others.

Also, a long sword with a chipped blade and a magic jewel, I’ve seen it somewhere before...The mysterious human face pot.

The last one was seen.

Is the small bag an item pouch?

“Twins, wait a minute. Put your money and things away... Zaga, how long will it take to remove the eyeball from the head?”

“Nn~, one eye should take about ten minutes?”

That’s fast.

“I, I see. That’s quick, understood. Then, I apologize, but could you remove one of the eyes?”

“Ah, it’s not a problem. Good. Well then, come inside the shop, there is a workshop.”

“Understood. Is it okay for the twins to come?”

One nods and begins talking.

“My name is Allen, Ina is my younger sister. We aren’t twins.”

“I got it. I’m Shuya, Shuya Kagari. Call me Shuya. The black cat is called Rollodinu. Then, Inah, Allen, let’s carry out the deal in Zaga’s shop.”

“Okay. I’ll be in your care, Shuya.”

“It’s fine. Shuya, thank you.”

“Enchant!”

Bonn finally calls out.

Stretching out a hand, he gives a thumbs up.

Thumbs up.

...No one reacts.

No, Rollo punches the air with her paw.

Because she reacted cutely, I slipped a little.

Like that, I am lead through the shop to the warehouse like a workshop.

“Shuya, take it out here.”

Got it, such a big space should be enough.

“Got it, open.”

The ancient dragon head appears quickly.

“Yosh, I’ll get started. You guys, it’s going to be bright, so be careful. Bon, use light enchant.”

“Enchant!”

When Zaga tells Bonn, he puts on sunglasses to protect his eyes. He puts on special leather gloves that emit bright white light.

Magic glasses as well as leather gloves.

Then, a chisel that shines like gold is removed from his waist and handed to Bonn.

Bonn calls out “Enchant” repeatedly.

A dense aura of mana floats around his body, and an ecstatic expression is on his face, white light comes from both his eyes.

A floating crest appears, then the crest floats to the back of his arms.

Bonn laughs and approaches Zaga. The tools in Zaga’s hands are both releasing mana.

Releasing mana-Zaga’s tools blaze brighter.

Amazing, an enormous amount of mana is overflowing from Bonn.

So much that I can feel its weight.

As expected of Bonn.

The twins are also surprised, their eyes widen and mouths drop open, staring openly.

Zaga, using the shining chisel, dig out the area around the eye.

The mana released while working is strange.

...After around ten minutes, it seems like the mana permeating the chisel is dissolving the area around the blue eye, Zaga works carefully under the dazzling light.

Zaga removes the blue eye.

The eye sends out a blue light.

The removed eye becomes small.

Really small. It surprised me.

The white of the eye is gone, only the colored part is there, and it fits in the palm of my hand.

Then, Inah smiles and approaches with an item pouch.

“Here’s your money.”

“Alright, I’ll count it.”

There are fifty-five gold coins.

I put them in the item box.

“The transaction complete, you can have the blue dragon eye.”

“Yay, Inah!”

“Hai, Nii-san.”

When the twins have the blue eye in their hands, their faces light up with smiles.

“Good. However, during the Evil Dragon King subjugation, Inah and Allen released such a powerful ice magic, is the dragon eye really necessary?”

“Yes. You can’t be satisfied with that. Our attribute is water. We want the full water system. This eye of an ancient dragon, with its magic reinforcement, you can defeat the ten wicked images.”

“That’s right. The eyes of this old dragon, with their effect, a strong magic can be released from the eyes without an aria. A powerful magic beyond magic jewels can be released.”

The twins smile as they answer.

Are the “Ten Wicked Images” the thing I have?

Ma, there is probably a reason to fight these guys.

“I see...”

Such a thing, attribute, I'm water attribute too.

That means by using the blue eye, I can release water magic?

Gufufu, I'll keep the second one for myself.

"N? Shuya, what is it?"

"N, nothing. I had a pleasant thought...Zaga, can I order a weapon and armor made from this material?"

"Ah, of course. It's possible."

Then, the twins talked.

"Shuya, our business is finished here. May we meet in the future."

"Bye bye-"

A magic formation appears under the twins and expands.

The magic formation moves and their forms become thin, gradually disappearing.

"Uhyo."

"Nya."

Surprising. Rollo jumps at the after image.

-Rollo lands on the ground. She sniffs around the area for any strange smells. I look toward the doorway.

The smell still seems to be here.

"An invisibility spell. They appear to be high leveled magicians."

Invisibility?

"...At any rate, S rank adventurers. The name of their clan is 【Ice Mausoleum of Blue Waters】. Are those children some kind of grave keepers?"

"Hou, they really are highly ranked. I've heard that name somewhere."

Zaga thinks for a moment and strokes his beard.

"However, this is my first time seeing that magic. Being able to disappear like that..."

“It is an excellent magician who can use that. Apart from that, what kind of weapon and armor do you want?”

I wonder if it's possible.

However, the optical camouflage was deep blue.

It looks kind of futuristic, it reminds me of Ghost in The Shell.

Also, The Invisible Man. ...I'm getting more ideas.

“Oi, did you hear me?”

Zaga stares at me.

“Aah, sorry. For the spear, it would be ideal if it was the same weight as black tanza spear I usually use. As for the armor, I would like it to be mobile like last time as well. There's a helmet too. The wrist of my left-hand needs to be open still, there should be a hole there. If you feel like it, a pair of gauntlets too...then, since there's no helmet I would like a hooded jacket, knives, and a belt to put them in.”

I show Zaga my left wrist, and gesture with my hands.

“...Understood. The spear first. Although you said spear, there are various options this time around. If I use that whole crimson horn, using the bones of the ancient dragon I can make an incredibly strong shaft.”

“Hee...”

Zaga continues to explain excitedly.

“Working the magic stone will be difficult, if I think of a halberd, using the crimson horn should work. The crimson horn is hard but also has a strange softness. It is also incredibly sharp and possesses the fire attribute. It should make a matchless halberd. I can use the back end of the dragon magic stone to make it a cane. This is the hardest part. It's able to transmit magic really well still. By the way, how is the power of the blue eye?”

A considerable weapon seems to be completed.

“...So a spear cane. Good, the form is ideal. However, is the dragon magic stone harder than common metal?”

“Umu. It is normally very hard to shape. ...Its hardness is superior to chitajarmid ore, famous for its hardness.”

It seems like tungsten or titanium?

“...Then, it will take some time.”

“Isn’t that normal? However, isn’t this head fantastic material?”

Zaga responds with a laugh.

“Ah, that’s right.”

“Then it’s fine. Its teeth are usable too, and the scales can be removed. And won’t Bonn be helping? It will be done remarkably quick. Its use is luxurious, but does it really matter?”

“Enchant.”

Bonn smiles confidently.

I respond with a strange smile too.

With a smile, I begin to talk while nodding.

“...Zaga and Bonn are the best, so it’s good.”

“ ... ”

“ ... ”

Zaga’s shoulders shake a little.

Tears collect in Bonn’s eyes.

“N?”

“Don’t you understand this is such a wonderful thing! It is the simple happiness of a craftsman... Yosh, wait a moment.”

Zaga collects spear weapons and brings them to me.

Halberd, Lance, Pike, Trident, Long Stake, Sickle, he continues bringing out common long spears and a variety of spear weapons.

“Choose from these which length and weight are sufficient. I’ll use it as a reference.”

Zaga is pushing me to choose one, full of excitement.

“...Alright.”

I choose properly, swinging them around.

All of the spears feel too light.

After all, the black tanza spear was heavy.

The one with the best balance is the ax spear.

The halberd shines with a silver color.

The speak head has an ax attached, and there is a butt attached to the end.

“The weight of this almost exactly right.”

“Hou, the halberd made of jellium. It looks like silver, but that’s wrong. This is called silver crystal steel. It is often mistaken for silver magic steel. It’s famous for being produced in large quantities from the jellium monster.”

Silver Crystal Steel?

It seems to be different from common silver.

Ma, silver would be too soft.

“...There’s such a monster.”

“That right. So would you like the new weapon to have a spear tip and ax blade?”

The joy of a new weapon...

“Yeah. That will work.”

Zaga scratches on parchment with a pen.

Taking down notes.

He has already entered craftsman mode.

He’s become sharp eyed, the hard expression on his face makes him look cool.

His thick dwarf eye brows are scrunched up.

“...Then, a full set of armor, it’ll use plenty of bone and scales from the

ancient dragon. Including Bonn's enchantments, it should be finished quickly. The mantle, I may be able to acquire a special coating from an acquaintance if I sell the scale."

"Enchant."

Leave it to Bonn. He jumps with his short legs as if to say that.

As if he heard music with a good beat, he begins dancing on the spot stretching both his hands out.

Rollo seems unable to resist the strange rhythm and jumps off my shoulder, moving the Bonn's feet.

Jumping and dancing together.

They create a strange view...

Encha, Enchant ♪ Haha, Enchant ♪

He seems to be saying.

...I'll leave Bonn and Rollo alone.

"...The armor and overcoat will be great."

Without minding the dancing, I think about the armor and accidentally speak frankly.

"No, it's not. A magic tailor can use dragon whiskers to create the highest quality clothing, incredible clothes can be made...but I make awful clothing. So I have to sell the scales and buy the material for the mantle."

Zaga apologizes. It's a matter of his pride as a craftsman.

It's enough for me to follow up.

"...I see I entrust Zaga's judgment as a craftsman and merchant when it comes to producing materials and buying and selling."

I speak carefully, communicating my trust in him.

Zaga's eyes widen, and his expression softens somewhat.

"...Ouyo. Trusting. Really, quaking at my age..."

Then, he ultimately enters work mode.

“The fangs can be processed into the halberd blade, no, the crimson horn can be used...after all, what matters is the strength...”

Zaga draws a picture while muttering.

He works fast...

“...How long will it take?”

“Around ten days.”

Oh.

“Understood. Ah, until then will you lend me this halberd?”

Returning to my regular manner, I point at the halberd.

“Ah, take it.”

“Then, what will the price of the new armor and weapons be?”

“One large gold coin I’d like to say, if the material sells, I will make a lot of money. So, I don’t need to price it now. Besides, the weapon, the armor made from the scales, a lot will be left over. I will sell a little so that should cover the cost?”

A lot of money. I can’t completely imagine it.

“Understood. It ‘d be nice if you didn’t sell the blue eye. Anything else is fine.”

“Hahahaha, what are you talking about? I don’t mind. All business, ‘Happy Buying, Happy Selling.’”

“Enchant!”

Zaga’s generous behavior, he says a moto I don’t understand.

Bonn also goes next to Zaga and begins preparations. He cries out in a happy voice.

Hm, I’ll leave them to it.

Us,

“Rollo, let’s go back.”

“Nn, Nyao.”

Rollo purrs.

She seems disappointed about leaving.

With such a Rollo, I leave Zaga and Bonn's shop.

As I walk, I look at the condition of the silver halberd I borrowed.

The sharpness of the tip...it looks really good.

-I wave the halberd around, slashing down.

Now then, what to do next?

Should I go to Holkerbam with the withered great tree that the Marquess' subordinate mentioned?

There, I might find a clue about "Genju's Sake Ball of Light" for Rollo.

However, before I go, I need to wait for the items I ordered to be finished.

Ten days until the gear is finished.

What to do.

Should I explore the gates again?

I'd like to be the same adventurer class as Shisho, should I accept a request to raise my rank?

Chapter 63: Peru Hekarain Corridor

I'll go to the guild today.

First, I touch my storage.

The usual display window appears.

I put the silver crystal halberd in the item box.

I click on the person mark in the upper window.

The window changes and the deformed alien screen appears.

The black tanza spear use to be registered in the upper right, but its name has disappeared.

The broken tanza spear was lost during the Evil Dragon King subjugation and since it didn't return to the item box this much is natural.

I register the silver crystal halberd in the blank on the right.

Equip Silver Crystal Halberd in right hand? Y/N

I select Y.

Yosh, it's registered.

With this, I can take out the halberd instantly.

I dismiss the window and go directly to the adventurer's guild.

I enter the guild and walk to the place where the boards are lined up.

I'm getting a fresh start as a C rank.

I should be able to handle these requests until I get the new equipment from the Dwarf Brothers.

I'll spend some time looking for the right request.

I look over the boards the adventurers are lined up in front of.

Oh, this request. The time period is just right.

Client: Pisard Trading Company

Request Contents: B Rank Request, Search the Peru Hekarain Labyrinth and collect jellium bones.

Application period: The last fifteen days of spring. Departing this afternoon.

Subjugation Targets: Main Goblins, Orc, Jelliumbon.

Habitat: Peru Hekarain Corridor

Reward: 15 gold coins.

Subjugation Evidence: Goblin Ear, Orc Ear, Jellium bone.

Precautions: In the Corridor Labyrinth, traps require attention as well. Jellium bones appear inside the labyrinth. Defeating them is difficult, so bring someone with a magic skill or priest type.

Note: Please gather in front of “Sukaue Pub” if you’re accepting the request. Furthermore, High Ranking clan 【Aria’s Wanderer】 will be participating as a leader. The purpose is to collect Jellium bones, each person is expected to collect five kilos.

Any more collected will be a special bonus. Also, if any black kotobuki grass or ririumu crystal is obtained, I will buy it at a high price.

Furthermore, an Orc Ear is a silver coin, and a Goblin ear is five large copper coins.



Forty-five days of the Taurus of spring... How many days is that now?

Until now, I haven’t paid too much attention to the dates...

There is a huge calendar posted near the reception desk.

I’ll look at it.

...Today seems to be forty-five days.

The last day of the request. I still have time. Let’s take this.

“Rollo, let’s take this one.”

“Nya.”

Rollo stares at the request paper.

She can't read it...Following her gaze, the edge of parchment is torn and shaking...

I see.

She wants to play, smiling at Rollo, I take one of the wooden tallies from below the board and bring it to the reception desk.

The big-breast receptionist-san who has always taken care of me isn't there, so I go to the beastwoman with dog ears.

"This request."

I hand over the tally and my card together.

"Hai. Then, place your hand on the crystal."

"Okay."

The request is accepted smoothly.

I need to ask about where the meeting point is.

"Excuse me. Where is the Sukaue bar?"

"It's across the street. On the other side of Babon shop."

"The other side. Thanks."

Oh. It was on the other side of the street.

Right in front of me. I retrieve my adventurer's card and leave the guild.

I check the card while walking with Rollo.

The request is long, but I'm not worried.

I have plenty of food store, and there is also warm soup in the item box.

I make the halberd appear in my right hand and lean it against my shoulder.

I cross the street and arrive a Babon's.

There should be a bar behind it.

I check my card first.

Name: Shuya Kagari

Age: 22

Title: Dragon Killer

Race: Human

Occupation: Rank C Adventurer

Clan: None

Battle Occupation: Spear Officer : Chain User

Completed Requests: 9

My completed requests number nine. Ooh, I have a title now.

I also got the right from the Marquess, alongside the rumors...

Now then...

In front of Babon's, instead of going in I walk along the right side of the building.

There is a space in the alley with a building appropriate for a pub.

Adventurers are standing around so this must be the place.

I make my way in that direction.

"Taking the request?"

The one who calls out is a Dwarf with the bearings of a warrior.

He is wearing a Norman Helm from the middle ages, the kind that covers the nose. His hair is in braids all the way to his side burns and collected into bunches with metal fittings. He has a jaw protector called a beaver hanging from his neck.

The Japanese version of a face guard.

I can't remember what its name is.

Although I say that, the weapons and armor in this world don't necessarily have the same names.

I can't make out the Dwarf's face because of the helmet, but his brown eyes

are striking.

His body is clothed in chain mail, the ax hanging from his hip contains mana, and his left-hand holds a round steel shield.

The Dwarf seems to be an experienced soldier.

I ask.

“...That’s right. This is the last day, but is it okay?”

“It’s fine. Did you accept the request in the guild?”

That’s right.

“I did.”

“You’re kind of close to the deadline, aren’t you? It’ll be the noon deadline soon. We probably can’t hear it from here, but the church bells should be ringing soon.”

After saying so, the Dwarf shields his eyes with his hand and looks up at the sky.

I watch the sky too.

Rollo also looks at the sky, similarly drawn in.

The sun is at its zenith.

The Dwarf looks back and speaks.

“...That’s the bell. Then, I’ll introduce myself. I’m Shuya Kagari. Just call me Shuya. C rank adventurer. The one at my feet is Rollodinu. Call her Rollo. She’s my Familiar.”

The Dwarf looks at Rollo and nods.

“A spear and a familiar. We’ll be working together. Shuya. I’m a Dwarf. (TL: Something formal greeting preceded by “Dwarf”) I’m Igu, B ranked adventurer (TL: Author getting lazy on the names.). No need to be so formal.”

Once Igu and I greet each other, the other adventurers assemble.

“Yo, Igu, a new adventurer?”

The one who speaks is a tiger beastman with a long neck.

“Ou, that’s right.”

“Nice to meet you, I’m Shuya.”

The tiger beastman and Igu seem to know one another.

“I’m Albert Cheida. I’m B rank, like Igu. I’m from the Fujiku Federation, you already know my tribe name, we’ll be working together from here on. You seem to be a spearman? Your armor is beat up, but I can feel the aura you give off.”

The tiger beastman’s realistic nose twitches.

Aura?

Ma, I smile politely.

“Uhh, there’s such an aura?”

“Nn, Nya.”

When I ask, Rollo calls out from my feet.

Is she curious in the tiger beastman’s face?

She’s staring at Albert’s face.

Ma, it’s life like. It looks like the combination of a human and a tiger.

Azora was a rabbit beastwoman, but his face was still closer to human, but this tiger beastman is closer to an animal.

Brown and white hair mixed with ochre, the white whiskers on either side of his nose are very tiger-like.

Despite that, he speaks the same language...

“...That’s right. I have the unique “smell sense” of scouts. I can pick up the smell of a person with a strong aura. I’m not much use in battle though. I’m better suited to searching for enemies and disarming traps. I specialize in daggers and this bow.”

Then, Igu interrupts.

“Agaaiin. That sense? Isn’t that the sense that’s only useful in one way?”

The Dwarf makes an indecent hand gesture and teases Albert.

“Honestly, however, I, unfortunately, can’t retort...” (TL: I didn’t mean to do this, but now it’s captain kirkified.) “Hahaha, that’s right. You’re the razor beastman responsible for impregnating barmaids.”

Heh, Razor. Is the tiger beastman race called Razor?

“That’s a lie, nothing but a rumor. I only enjoy conversation.”

“Hou, at the bar the other day, Eyo was talking about it. ‘Rumor says, Ai-chan, is very beautiful,’ did you go out with her?”

“Uoo, Eyo... huh, why, Igu hearing such a story.”

While such a silly conversation is developing, a woman wearing the robe, seeming to be the leader, speaks up.

“Everyone, it’s time to leave soon, please gather.”

“Hai.”

“Ou.”

Igu finishes his conversation with Albert and walks over to where they’re being called.

I follow along.

It seems several people have taken the same request.

The woman wearing a priest-like hat steps forward.

“I am Sokura Torutsetta. The leader of the adventurer clan, 【Aria’s Wanderer】. For this request I will act as the leader. As written on the request form, the goal is obtained Jellium bones. When fighting the Jelliums, please leave weakening them with magic to me.”

Igu raises his ax in greeting.

“Understood. My ax will crush the enemy into fish paste.”

He declares forcefully.

“Hai. I have high hopes for you, Igu-san. Then, everyone, keep in mind that a Jellium’s head is its weakness. Furthermore, you will also be fighting goblins and orcs. For those, I will leave it up to your judgment. And then, a prayer before we

transfer. It's expected the assemble again. Then, let's go register at the guild as a party."

Those in the area nod to what Sokura-san said and begin to walk towards the guild.

I've heard of 【Aria's Wanderer】.

The members all wear uniforms.

That robe, it's made from a special material. Magic characters are embroidered in black and reddish-brown, imbued with mana.

Because the collar of the robe is lower cut I can easily see her chest. (TL: There he is.)

A normal sized pair of hills. The appearance is a little bold, like a priest.

Under the long skirt is a long hakama.

Only Sokura-san, the leader, has a slightly different appearance, wearing a yellow and red band like a muffler around her neck.

Her eyes are green. She has a babyish face and a small nose.

The woman looks cute.

The blood vessels in her thin hand are visible as it holds on to a large staff.

The staff is designed to look like two intertwining snakes.

While I'm checking out Sokura-san, she speaks.

"Excuse me. Are you Shuya-san, the Spearman?"

Nn? She knows my name?

"Hai. I am."

"I was right, the black cat on your shoulder is right, but your armor was ragged, so I wasn't sure."

Ara? This, what is she talking about?

"Um...somewhere?"

Seeming unconfident, Sokura bows and responds.

“Sorry, that was abrupt. I saw you during the Evil Dragon King battle. I was doing support in the back, so I remember well the role 【Crimson Tiger’s Tempest】 and Shuya-san played.”

“Oh, that time.”

“Yes, also, Shuya-san is one of the ‘Dragon Killers,’ only he is a solo adventurer, none of the clans have a “Spearman” that powerful? Competition has been going.”

Eeh, such a thing?

I did decline Crimson Tiger’s invitation...

“Haha, such a thing...”

“Nn, Nya.”

Rollo puts on an encouraging face and slaps my shoulder with a paw.

“Hai, that’s right. That’s our aim, too.”

“Eeh?”

“I’m joking. However, you live well during the Evil Dragon King subjugation.”

She says jokingly with a serious face. Then returns to normal.

“Haha, it was quite a fierce battle. I was on the brink and fought hard.”

She nods, convinced by my words, the answers with a sinking face.

“Yes, it was a hard-fought battle. Many of my companions died...”

“...My condolences. I was able to meet Azora and her magic beast...”

-The image of Pau and Azora dying.

Sokura-san seems to notice the change in my expression and puts a smile back on, continuing the conversation.

“...Well then, we’ll end this dark line of conversation and return to the request. You can speak casually. We’re an A ranked clan, but all of our members are rear guards.”

“I understand. I’m confident in my spear, so leave it to me.”

“Hai, well then, let’s go.”

“Ou.”

As the leader, Sokura-san goes through the procedures at the guild.

She writes down the party name as Aria’s Wanderer and registers.

From the transfer point in front of the guild, everyone metastasizes together.

We arrive in a large underground corridor.

The place the magic formation is place is a wide circle.

It looks like it used to be a quarry.

Statues of different gods are lined up along the walls.

There are ascending stairs at the back.

While I am looking around restlessly, Sokura raises her voice.

“Well then, everyone. Please wait a moment. This is necessary to return safely.”

Sokura-san says in a quiet tone.

She walks towards a goddess statue along the wall.

Some people are kneeling down and praying before the goddess statue.

It’s not only priest and shrine maidens, but there are also knights and adventurers praying.

So it’s the same in this labyrinth?

I can’t hear from here, but Sokura-san begins chanting.

I hear an unfamiliar language magic.

The other members or Aria Wanderer do the same.

After chanting, they bring their hands together like Christians and pray.

A few minutes later, they return.

I’m curious, so I try asking about it.

“Prayer?”

“Yeah, that’s right. It’s a prayer to Aria, the goddess of love. Even though it may look like this, there is no need to waver in the labyrinth.”

Oh? What?

“No times to waiver?”

“Yes. All the members of 【Aria’s Wanderer】 have the skill <Reincarnation>, so we can rest easy.”

Hoo, a spell and a skill at the same time...

Ooh, therefore, the statues of the gods are placed at the beginning of the labyrinths.

Is this a benefit if you believe in one of the pantheons.

Should I pray for good luck with women? Hehe.

“”Thank you, Aria, Goddess of Love!!”

As if sensing my impure motive, such a cry comes up from behind making me jump.

It came from two of the clan members of 【Aria’s Wanderer】 behind Sokuro.

Sokuro-san continues talking.

“Everyone, the protective magic is raised on everyone.”

She raises her large staff.

“...Goddess Aria. With my mana’s cornerstone, bestow a safeguard- 《Shield of Aria》”

As soon as the spell is cast, the staff’s two snakes start to wriggle.

Two pairs of shining eyes, an illusion of a pale goddess appears over Sokura.

When the chant ends, the snakes return to their original shape.

Oooh.

Somehow...it looked similar to the goddess statue.

Including me, a pale shield floats around the heads of Sokura’s party members, it disappears when it sinks into everyone’s bodies.

There is a feeling when the magic takes hold.

It feels like a force field...

A pale layer under armor and clothes, it floats on the surface of the skin.

This is awesome.

I don't completely understand the scale of this kind of magic, but 【Aria's Wanderer】, and Sokura-san in particular, truly are high ranking adventurers.

However, The goddess Aria, it is difficult to accept the idea of adventurers fighting monsters with the goddess of love, like a oxymoron?

A simple question comes to mind.

“Sokura-san, I have a question, do you mind?”

“Hai. What is it?”

“Why do you worship the goddess of love by fighting?”

Sokura answers my ignorant question with a dotting expression.

“That...I do know the teaching of Aria-kami. The famous prophet Raze said ‘because there is love, there is war.’ Raze-sama roamed while teaching Aria-kami's faith before finding sacred Cordelia, following such doctrine, those of us who become priests of Aria-kami wander everywhere, spreading the word. The teachings of Aria-kami are to fight. Therefore, it's natural for people to fight monsters and vice versa-”

The sermon I didn't need continued.

I saw the name Raze in a book before.

...I advance in the labyrinth while the conversation that sounds like religious brainwashing continues.

Like that, Sokura leads while preaching, and begins searching the corridor.

Fitting for the “Great” in great corridor, the underground corridors are so big that giant trees could grow here. They were supposedly dug out by ancient Dwarfs, although who and for what reason hasn't been explained, the only thing known is that the corridors stretch all way to 【Labyrinth City Pernette】.

So, it seems to be related to the name Peru Heka Rain.

We continue through the underground corridors.

There is a geometric pattern on the stone wall, releasing white and purple light, providing a faint source of light.

There are a few dark areas, but there is light coming from stones shaped like plants so it is possible to advance.

Some traps with ejecting stone spears and rolling rocks are discovered, but Albert plays an active roll. The traps are all dismantled.

Like that, it is quickly the third day.

Most of the monsters appearing are goblins.

The adventurers easily wipe out the goblins.

The third day passes.

Dismantling traps, killing monsters, we advance deeper into the labyrinth.

Thus, Sokura gives the party instructions.

We are to take a break.

Food time.

I move to a corner and remove fresh soup from the item box.

I eat rice together with Rollo, a big stupid grin on my face.

While I am like that,

“Shuya, always...don’t eat in secret.”

“Moreover, you have an item box... every single time it smells so good.”

“I’m only able to eat hard bread, salted meat, and dry vegetables.”

Igu and Albert, unable to stand their meals, bemoan their discomfort.

It’s become a little awkward, I should share some...

“My bad. You want a little?”

“Oh, really?”

“Shuya, you’re a good person, let’s be friends.”

“Well, I-I want a little soup too...”

Ara, even Sokura wants some.

Ma, it’s fine. I still have plenty of food. I start taking some out.

“Ah, good. I’ll take some out now.”

Like that, I occasionally share some food during meal time.

The meal ends, and for several hours Igu removes his helmet and lies down.

Rollo, curious, creeps up on Igu.

“What’s wrong, kitty?”

Igu shakes his dreadlocks and looks at Rollo.

The metal fitting binding his hair make a tinging sound.

“Nyao.”

Rollo seems focused on Igu face, no, on his hair. She moves her face close to the metal fitting and sniffs them.

Ah, if you’re going to do that-her face.

Flehmen response. (TL: Felines have an olfactory organ on the roof of their mouth, so they’ll sometimes bear their fangs so it can get a better smell.)

“-Bu, fuhaha, Igu, the cat says you smell bad.”

Albert laughs, spiting out the tea he was drinking.

“Wh-what, this black cat, it’s being mean.”

“Nn, Nyaon.”

Although it smells, Rollo takes another sniff.

Again, she shows the same face.

“Fuhaha.”

I laugh too.

“Fuun, everyone is laughing, even if this hair stinks I won’t cut it...”

Igu stops talking.

As if to say sorry, Rollo licks the dwarf's hand.

"...Kitty, you like me?"

"Nyao."

"Fuun, kawaii."

Igu's mood improves and he begins to play with Rollo.

Like this, we become friendlier with the adventurers.

The hunting team advances.

Chapter 64: Jellium Bones

The fourth and fifth day pass.

As we advance deeper into the labyrinth, we reach the point where we encounter Orcs.

This is my first time seeing an Orc.

It has a pig face. It has the characteristic nose and large lower lip.

The fangs stick out from its mouth.

They seem to be a variant Goblin, slightly larger than normal ones.

They wear armor and fight with weapons.

They seem to be more intelligent than goblins, hiding before attacking in groups.

However, I have presence detection.

Presence detection discovers the Orcs' magic essence first, and I alert everyone.

So, we advance without receiving the surprise attack by the Orcs.

"This is nice, I can take it easy thanks to Shuya."

Alberto says while scratching his beast nose.

He flicks snot of Igu and laughs. (TL: Ugh, gross.) There is now a magic essence behind a pillar in front of us I think it's an Orc.

With the silver shining halberd in one hand, I advance carefully.

I make eye contact with Rollodinu.

Rollo takes on her panther form and goes around the back of the pillar.

She chases out the hidden Orc.

Surprised by Rollodinu's sudden appearance, the Orc shouts and runs out from behind the pillar.

-Now.

I run and release a <Thrust> with the silver halberd at the escaping Orc.

The Orc has a chest plate made of steel, but the spear head of the halberd pierces through, deep into its chest.

Blood flows down the shaft of the silvery halberd.

“-As expected. You can collect the ear.”

Igu says so and approaches the Orc I killed, cutting off its ear as evidence.

“Hyu~, fast. I didn’t have the chance to act again. Isn’t Shuya’s perception abnormal? His detection ability surpasses my race’s ‘odor perception.’”

Albert leans his head the side and whistles, praising my presence detection while approaching with his dagger drawn.

“Ah, I have an ability similar to that, but, Albert... I think more orcs are hiding. There are a lot of stone pillars...”

Once I get his attention, Albert looks to the front.

“You’re right...be careful.”

The stone pillars scarcely dot the corridor. The wind blowing through creates an atmosphere of ancient underground ruins.

Oh, there’s another reaction.

Albert seems to have noticed the orc too, readying his weapon.

His tiger face is focused and his nose twitches.

The sharpness of his eyes carries the savagery of a beast.

He is staring in the direction where presence detection discovered a magic essence.

Heh, this is the odor detection skill.

Albert uses the packed physique of a tiger beastman, quietly approaching the pillar’s shadow.

His footsteps are silent. Incredibly nimble... Oh, Albert bends his head to avoid something, then jumps like a ballerina. (TL: That mental image.)

An arrow. The arrow strikes the ground where Albert was standing.

The orc has a bow.

However, Albert is a beastman. The superior light warrior. His movement to avoid the arrow was smooth and natural. It was fast too.

-Then, Albert suddenly raises a strange cry.

He makes the sound intentionally, running behind the pillar.

“Ga-”

Then, the orc scream is heard.

It seems that Igu cut it off and they killed it.

Albert appears to have intentionally attracted the archer’s attention.

Igu collects the orc ear and returns.

“There we go, take it.”

Albert laughs and says to Igu.

“Fuun, of course. Albert. You’re a regular ‘pig killer.’”

“Pretty much. I tried to adjust the timing for Igu o-san.”

This tiger beastman and dwarf seem to have worked together before.

They have a mutual understanding.

“Not half bad.”

“Oh, Shuya, since that’s the case is there any reason to come?”

“That’s right. We’re the only vanguards, everyone behind us are magic users.”

We continue advancing along the aisle of stone pillars.

From the sixth day forward, it becomes nothing but Orcs.

At first, there were encounters of two or three, but it evolved into full battles over time.

Orc ears pile up.

They seem to be roaming patrols of orcs, this is probably their territory.

There are still interspaced sources of light in the stone corridor, so it's still possible to see, but there are times when there is no light.

I have night vision, so I don't have to worry about it, but Sokura has the magic users create spheres of light.

So now, because we're advancing in the dark, the rear guard is sending the spheres of light to illuminate the way ahead.

Thereupon, the guiding light spheres show a scene different from before.

-A large hole, no, it's more like a cliff.

The ground has collapsed, and the passage in front of us is enveloped in a shroud of darkness.

Albert runs ahead and investigates around the large hole.

"...As you can see, the right of the hole is a cliff, if you fall you will surely die."

"I see, we'll have to detour then?"

Igu looks to Sokura, seeking instructions.

Sokura thinks for a moment then speaks.

"Nn!, that's right. Albert-san, is there a different way?"

"Wait a minute."

Albert goes to the left ledge, walking lightly.

Stretching his head over the edge, he looks down the hole.

"...Oh, it's the same. Here. The stone wall has been carved out and reinforced with wooden boards."

"Oh, you found something."

Igu runs towards Albert.

"Then, everyone, the path is narrow, but we'll go this way."

Igu also checked, there seems to be a way.

I move to the left edge with everyone and look below.

The left wall is carved out, creating a path.

There's also a ladder built in, so Albert climbs down it.

The board and stone path is reinforced with rope.

The deep hole is pitch black, the bottom is hidden from sight, so the right side is dangerous.

I wouldn't like to walk on the right side.

"It's alright." (TL: This feels like a trap.)

Albert went down first to ensure it was safe.

The ground of carved out stone seems to be sturdy.

"Then, we'll advance."

Sokura speaks up.

Everyone nods and climbs down the ladder.

Albert leads the group along the small path.

From the carved out path on the left, the right side of the abysmal hole spreads out in darkness.

The dark right side of the hole is dotted with lights far away.

The wooden boards creak with each step taken.

They're reinforced...But I still feel uneasy.

"...There are torches..."

Albert also sees the distant lights.

Those distant lights could be expected considering there was a path carved here.

I can understand how enormous the labyrinth is.

I look away and continue down the path.

Then, there is a reaction from presence detection.

A fight on this narrow path.

"There are multiple orcs ahead. They've noticed us!"

Albert shouts a warning and fires his bow.

An Orc finds an arrow in its eye and screams, clutching its face, before knocking into a companion and tumbling into the darkness with them.

“The Vanguard will hold here.”

Igu says with a daring smile.

With the hatchet in his right hand and the round shield in his left, he dives into the crowd of orcs.

Rollo follows with me.

“Rollo, be careful of the cliff. Don’t fall, okay?”

“Nnn.”

Rollo responds with a purr.

Igu is fighting on the left side.

Then, I go to that side～

It can’t be helped, I’ll take over the dangerous right side.

It’s narrow, so I can’t swing the halberd here.

-I concentrate on piercing.

I move carefully with the gaping void on my right. I go the help.

Rollo uses her small body to distract the orcs.

Also, she thrust her bone swords at the orcs, creating openings.

An Orc distracted by his pained foot finds a spear head in his throat.

“Igu, leave the right side.”

“Fine, but don’t fall.”

He understands.

As Igu advises, I am wary of the drop on my right.

The fall over the cliff edge is shrouded in darkness.

After all, I’ve already experienced that once—

Being careful as not to fall, I knock the Orcs into the pit.

Rollo stabs and entangles orcs' feet, disrupting their movements.

I can hear Sokura chanting in the background, probably some kind of support magic.

I don't worry about it use the halberd's range.

With the large ax blade, I'm cutting off the orc's feet and pulling them down, stabbing them in the neck, striking overhead, easily slaughtering the orcs.

Oh? Suddenly light wraps my body like silk.

I can also hear a whizzing sound.

It's a support magic, but I don't think much has changed.

However, it seems to affect the other body guards.

The speed Albert and Igu are slaughtering the orcs has increased.

They advance while scattering orcs. The number of orcs continues to decrease.

Before long, we reach the end of the narrow stone passage.

We were able to handle all the orcs while staying on the path.

We immediately climb the ladder in front of us.

The frozen corpses of the pig people litter the path we crossed, their weapons and armor scattered.

"It kinda stinks..."

"Year, however, they're subjugation evidence, Shuya, let's cut their ears."

Albert and Igu remove the orc ears while looking dissatisfied.

"Okay."

I help too.

It's wasteful, but we don't collect the weapons and armor of the orcs.

Both their size and quality make them worth very little.

It's worth some money because they're made of iron, but the reward for the

quest is gold, and the baggage is limited.

Igu explained it; "It's normal for the largest luggage to be food."

I could probably collect them all with the item box, but it has a capacity, so I refrain.

After collecting the ears for subjugation evidence, the corpses are rolled into the pit. We walk towards the ladder on the stone wall.

"It seems to end here. Let's climb."

"Ou."

"Let's go."

The corridor continues at the top of the ladder.

"Nn, I thought it would be a similar corridor..."

Albert says while looking at the passage.

I'm looking further ahead as well.

It's true. It's the same stone as the corridor, but it's become wider.

It shouldn't be a perspective trick.

"...I understand. Let's advance carefully."

"Roger."

Everyone nods at Sokura's reassuring words.

Thus, everyone advances into the open space cautiously, their heads on a swivel.

Oh, there's a magic essence reaction.

And the sound of lots of swords.

When I look in the direction of the sound, I can see orcs fight with white glass humanoids.

"Oi, Jellium bones and orcs are fighting, I hate big orcs."

While speaking, Albert prepares his bow.

An arrow is removed in preparation to attack.

That's a Jellium bone? It's different than what I expected.

I thought they would be similar to the boiling knights.

Instead, they look like a science fiction doll made of glass and crystal.

"We'll let them weaken the Jellium bones. Kill the orcs first."

Sokura gives commands.

Three of the nearby Aria's Wanderer clan members raise their staff weapons.

"Understood."

"Got it."

"Roger."

The vanguards respond shortly.

Albert fires his bow and Igu shouts while kicking off the ground with his short legs.

Rollo and I follow Igu and aim for the Orc on the right.

As she runs, Rollo's form expands.

However, this is the form of a small wild cat, giving preference to mobility.

She extends a feeler, entangling the foot of the orc fighting the Jellium bone, Rollo must have noticed where I was looking because she goes for the orc I am going for.

There is no escape for the Orc.

"Rollo, nice." (TL: Nice is in katakana.)

The orc hits the feeler Rollo has wrapped around its foot with its weapon, but the feeler doesn't break.

I gift my ax blade to the hunched over orc.

The orc's nose is destroyed, its face split in half.

After Rollo sees that I killed it, she moves to the next orc.

Everyone is killed.

The orcs react to our sudden appearance, but the Jellium bones don't seem

bothered.

Like a machine gone out of control, it continues attacking, swinging its long thin board-like arms.

While avoiding the glass arms, I go for a strong looking one wielding an ax.

The orc's head, chest, hands, and feet and all armored so its defensive ability is high.

Thus, I aim for the unarmored parts of its body.

Looking for the gaps in its armor, I thrust the halberd, but the large orc shifts a little, preventing a fatal wound.

The large orc lifts the ax with both hands.

The continuous thrusts of the halberd are blocked, but the orc begins to show signs of fatigue, no longer to keep up.

The orc is panting like a pig.

I don't let the opening pass.

I aim for the joint of the orc's muscular arm and pulverize its elbow.

Then, it is quickly killed.

The ferrule of the halberd slams into the left side of the orc's stomach.

"Gobaaa."

The armor was dented, so the damage passed through.

The orc recoils in pain.

-Then I swing the silver ax up.

The large orc raises its left arm to block the attack.

-Caught.

Drawing an orbit from the feint, the halberd slashes lower, cutting into the knee.

The leg is sliced clean through, but it feels different than the black spear, I get a feeling from the cut.

Furthermore, I twist the blood coated halberd and bring the butt end up between its legs.

The long metal shaft draws a vertical line, crushing the orc down.

The one-legged orc falls on its back.

I take that opportunity to jump-moving to crush the orc's head.

I cover the distance with fighting moji enhanced legs.

The orc's metal helmet gives and I hear its skull collapse. My foot print is left behind.

While standing over the dead orc, I see a fight to my left.

Igu's powerful figure. Using his ax and round shield, Igu is toying with the orcs.

That dwarf. The short figure of Igu.

However, it looks like a scene from a movie.

He moves like one of the Spartan soldiers repelling a million man army in a canyon with three-hundred people. (TL: Author said Ancient Greek Spartans, but the Spartans weren't Greek.) The movie re-enacting the war of Thermopylae.

Looking at Igu's shield, the ellipse part is cut.

-Stopping the attack with his shield, Igu responds with his ax.

This time he delivers a left hook with his shield, straight into an orc's face, finishing it with his ax.

His style is simple, yet none of his movements are wasted.

Like that, orcs are being killed one after another.

Alberto is attacking an restraining orc from the back with his bow.

He aims for head shots.

Though, the orcs block the arrows many times, demonstrating their intelligence...they are kept in check, making it easier for Igu to fight.

At that moment, I see a curtain of pale flames from behind striking the

enemies.

Oooh. Amazing.

The flickering curtain of flames covers the orcs.

The moment the oiling pig bodies of the orcs touch the blue flames-they light up like torches.

Just like that, the fire spreads from their pig heads over their bodies.

Ready made roast pork.

The smell of burning flesh...doesn't it smell good?

They seem to be weak to fire.

“Serupi, Kyurupi, good job!”

“”Hai.””

Sokura praises her clan members.

The clan members are taciturn, not speaking very much, as expect of A ranks.

When the orc's bodies turn brown in the flames, a pale light falls on Igu's body.

Igu is cut in several places, but they recover to the point of being scars where ever the soft light is absorbed.

The magic not only attacks enemies but heals an ally's injuries.

While I admire such a convenient magic, I catch sight of Rollo's fight.

Stabbing with her bone sword, not over looking openings, aiming for vitals, after weakening the orc she goes for its neck, tearing off chunks of flesh with her claws and teeth.

A few moments later, the orcs are wiped out.

All that remains are the three Jelliums bones.

That moment, Sokura shouts from the back.

“We'll weaken the Jellium bones with magic! Draw their attention. They'll stop moving when their brain is destroyed, please help!”

“Understood. Let’s do this gooooooraaaaaa!”

It seems Igu is going to act as the decoy.

-He raises a war cry.

Finally, I hear Sokura begin the chant...

This howl, it seems to be an aggro pull.

The three Jellium bones all focus on Igu.

Their aggro is all drawn in at once. (TL: Author doesn’t say aggro pull, a more accurate translation would be hostility, but it doesn’t translate well, and “aggro” fits Spear Master’s theme.) Now that they are focused on Igu and I can get a good look at them, they have angular edges like machines.

With a question floating in my head, the barrage on Igu begins to increase.

One of the Jellium bone’s swipes its board arm down.

After that, several white thorns jut out.

Igu uses his round shield to repel the thorns. Loud clangs ring out.

While Igu is repelling the projectiles, the Jellium bones approach with creaking steps.

The thick arm board swings down at Igu.

The three humanoid glass machines try to crush Igu from above and each side.

Igu dodges one attack and blocks the other two with his shield and ax.

He is able to defend against the combined attacks of the heavy glass humanoids.

I follow Igu up by releasing a <thrust> at the back of a glass humanoid.

However, with a big dong, it was repelled.

There is only a little hole in the back of the glass.

It looks like glass, but as expected of Jelliums. They’re hard.

It seems this halberd is made of the same metal.

A red effect then hangs over the body of the Jellium bone.

It seems to be magic.

“-They’re weakened. Do it now. Destroy their heads-”

After Sokura speaks, Albert immediately fires arrows.

The sound of gusting wind follows the arrows.

When the arrow head meets the jellium, its head shatters.

One after another, arrows pierce the Jellium bones’ heads. The three machine like Jellium bones stop moving once their heads are destroyed.

Then, its form starts the collapse, its limbs separating one after another.

“Hyuhoi. Did I do good this time?”

Albert’s tiger nose twitches and he puts on a bragging face.

“Kakaka, good job.”

Laughing but looking angry, Igu reacts in a way difficult to understand.

The wrecked remains of the glass humanoids are what interests me most.

This glass like bone, there is a good amount.”

“That’s right. It is probably more than five kilos.”

Igu is talking with me.

“Hahaha, it’s a massive amount. The contents of the request are filled with this. Let’s collect it and return to the metastasis formation.”

Sokura, out of breath from running over, speaks.

“Understood. Let’s return.”

So, everyone gathers to collect the contents of the request, then we return down the route we took, killing monsters along the way.

I thought we could use magic to return quickly, but that doesn’t seem to be the case.

According to Sokura, when the skill is used, you’re able to use the goddess statue like a beacon, guiding the way back. She says with exaggeration.

In the end, we return by foot according to her instructions.

I could return directly with the gate, but I adjust my pace to stay with everyone.

Even if I return quickly, the equipment I requested isn't finished yet, besides, working as a party in the field I've been able to see these adventurers are sincere, I would like to see it through to the end.

As Sokura said before, they seem to understand what path to take, without taking detours, after ten days, eleven days in total, we return to the metastasis formation.

No one died on this trip, so everyone is happy they could return.

The request was also a great success. There will also be a bonus for the reward.

Including the gold coin bonus, each person should receive twenty-seven gold coins. Plus, twenty-six silver coins and five large copper coins. I put them all in the item box.

Everyone with smiling faces disperses to party.

Igu and Albert head straight for the pub.

Sokura and the other members of Aria's Wanderer want to gather as a clan and head to the same bar.

Sokura asks if I truly don't want to enter their clan?

I was invited with a smile, but I politely rejected.

However, while taking a break, after diving into the labyrinth for eleven days, wiping away the grime with a damp cloth, but not taking a bath, it should be fine. I probably smell.

Ma, Sokura is wearing perfume.

Suddenly going straight to the bar...it's fine.

It's the impression of a veteran adventurer.

While contemplating, I look at Rollo.

She looks back at me with her lovely crimson eyes.

-We'll bath when we return.

"Nn."

Hearing the voice of my heart, Rollo purrs.

"Rollo, we stink, should we bath?"

"Nn, Nyan."

Rollo raises a spoiled sound and jumps.

She returns to her regular place and rubs her head against my cheek.

It seems Rollo is asking for a bath.

The lovely feeling of her whiskers... with a smile, I kiss her small head.

The smell of an animal, it's cute.

I return to the cheap inn while flirting with Rollo.

Chapter 65: New Weapon and Armor

Today I go to the Dwarf Brother's store.

More than ten days have passed, so my equipment should be finished now.

The equipment is made of the material from the Evil Dragon King.

I'm excited to see what kind of equipment it will be.

One could say I feel naked right now.

I summon the brilliant silver halberd I borrowed and leave the inn with Rollo on my shoulder.

I pass through alleys and small side streets.

When I pass one area-oh? Magic essence.

I detect a presence behind me.

Judging by the movements of the magic essence...I can expect them to be skilled.

Even when I change the speed I walk, the presence behind me remains at a fixed distance.

I've refined the sensitivity of presence detection recently so I can sense finer details.

A dark guild? Or one of the Marquess' spies?"

Or maybe a vampire hunter?

Ma, if it's an ordinary spy, I'll just leave them alone.

I'll hurry to the store where my things are waiting.

Like that, I turn the corner to the dwarfs' store and am welcomed by Bonn running over.

"Enchanto!"

"N, Nya."

Rollo cries out.

Jumping from my shoulder, she runs to meet Bonn.

Again, such a strange world...

However, like before Bonn seems to know when we're approaching.

Perhaps, does he have an ability like presence detection?

But from the black cat and the innocent face, I can't imagine that.

But, maybe?

The enchanting magic Bonn used the other day was fantastic.

His eyes shone, the mana overflowing from his body.

While thinking about Bonn, I walk towards the store.

Thereupon, one carriage is stopped in front of the shop.

A luxurious carriage with an armored horse.

Men are carrying the tools and heavy materials of the smith out of the shops and into the cart.

Going by their leather clothes, are they manservants?

Are Zaga and Bonn moving?

"Bon, Rollo, let's go to the store."

"Nya."

"Enchant."

Inside the store is a wooden crate with a magic formation carved into it, the materials of the smith are piled up around the shop.

They seem to be in the middle of moving.

The door inside the disordered shop opens.

Zaga comes out.

"Yo, Shuya. The equipment you prepared is ready."

"Oh, Zaga. Show me."

...I'm excited.

"Got it. Get a hold of your excitement and wait a moment. Bon, stop playing with Rollo and help."

"Encha."

Oh? The word stopped mid-way?

There seems to be a subtle difference from "Enchant."

Bonn runs after Zaga.

After I wait, Zaga and Bonn return holding baggage to their chest.

Various items are placed on the big desk.

Interested in what's happening, Rollo begins to move at my feet.

Looking up curiously, she sniffs up and down... Keeping her eyes of the two dwarfs. Seeming to want to touch the new items, she jumps on the desk. She brings her nose close to the new items, inspecting them.

Are you curious about their smell?

This time, she prods with the pad of her foot.

"Rollo, don't touch yet."

For now, I'm careful.

"Nn."

Rollo purrs while looking at me, then withdraws her paw.

She sits with feet together, motionless.

She curious, but she's enduring.

At any rate, this is the new spear.

...The spear is a halberd.

I can tell that the equipment made from the Evil Dragon God is excellent.

Its color is mostly purple, and it's beautiful.

The spear head and the butt, both have attachments to make them weapons.

The flat ax-like blade also comes to a point like a spear.

The large ax blade shines red and releases mana.

The sharp looking spear head is also red, but the pointed end is somewhat black.

It looks heavy.

Looking at this halberd, it appears similar to Sangokushi's weapon. (TL: I think this halberd is the kind made from two separate blades, the spear, and the ax blade, but I'm not sure.)

The powerful general wielding eighteen kilos of halberd.

The long metal purple bar holds the ax blades and sharp spear point.

In the middle is a partial hand grip.

The grip is black. It's probably the leather of a monster.

Also, there are metals fittings for a harness that can be removed.

It was made diligently.

The butt end of the spear is a little different.

There is a large rectangular blue crystal.

Its four corners are enclosed by purple scales like teeth.

The contrasting purple and blue are beautiful.

The blue gem sticks out from the enclosing purple scales, shining with a bluer light.

This part with an enclosed crystal is clearly a staff.

And, to the end of the red ax blade, the mana from the blue crystal can be felt.

"...Amazing, amazing, Zaga, this spear."

"...will you name this magic spear cane Burdock?"

"That feels right. I will probably go with that."

I immediately respond.

Without delay, I try using this magic spear cane, Burdock.

I place the borrowed silver jellium halberd on the ground and wrap my hand around the magic spear cane on the table.

Ah, this, as soon as I held it, I somehow understood.

This is my primary weapon.

I move the spear up and down, getting a feel for it. -Weight, balance, everything is perfect.

Rollo follows the movement of the spear head, her small head bobbing.

“-It feels good. The point of the red halberd looks sharp, and the blade on its side is large. The long purple metal bar is surrounded by a grip. And, on the butt end is the large green crystal. Everything is amazing.”

“Good, good. You like it.”

Zaga looks excited, showing a pleased expression.

Hehe, such an incredible weapon.

A smile invades my face.

“-I am extremely pleased. It’s because of Zaga and Bonn as well as the material.”

“Gahaha, you flatter us.”

Zaga laughs.

Moving the magic spear cane, the metal catches the light coming through a window, and I see the pattern like the ripple of the sword.

“...This large red blade also looks sharp.”

“Umu. As you can see, the large blade uses part of the red horn. It will produce a fire attribute attack if hit. However, the most brutal part is the rectangular blue dragon magic stone on the butt end.”

Zaga’s eyes are sharp, he points to the back end and explains.

“This.”

Surely, it’s blue. This large crystal.

“That’s right. If you inject mana into the crystal, water attribute magic can be released, stronger than a magic gem. However, even greater than the magic is the hardness of the crystal and its flexibility. If someone uses the crystal as a mace, it will be an even more brutal weapon.”

Hmmmm. Zaga said it’s brutal, but it looks beautiful.

“Filth will also be removed if mana is injected, so maintaining the blade is unnecessary. Furthermore, its strength has increased because of Bonn’s enchantment, so you won’t have to worry.”

Ooooooh, what a convenient function.

All right, all right, all right. After hearing that, the tension increases.

“...Wao, really. This anticipation is incredible. Now I want to test it.”

“Wait, wait, don’t be so rushed. Besides, you haven’t seen the armor and overcoat?”

Zaga seems pleased by my reaction, smirking while he talks.

“N, Enchanto...”

Bonn nods his head and pats his belly as if to say “Calm down, youngster,” patting me on the back.

This, it feels like Bonn-kun is advising me.

Ma, I won’t think about it.

“...That’s right,, I want to put it on. First is this purple scale mail with the striking design of a dragon. The gauntlets also look good. The purple thigh armor is also reliable. The purple boots connect perfectly with the shins. These grieves. The light gray overcoat is also subdued.”

Like that, I take off the ragged armor I’m wearing, remove the arm guard and cuirass I’ve been wearing for so long, and install the new items.

“Ooh, it’s suitable, like a purple knight.”

“Enchant.”

It seems I’ve become a purple knight.

It fits around the hips. As expected of Zaga and Bonn.

They made the armor from the commander ant, so I already recognized their mastery, but this made evaluate them in an entirely different light.

It is truly beautifully made.

The bones of the ancient dragon are used in the curve of the chest and other places, making it sturdy.

It's probably closer to full armor than scale mail.

On the left side of the chest, there is an engraving of a purple dragon, drawn in a dark purple possessing the luster of the halberd, outlined in silver.

The material of the evil dragon king was used as a lining, it feels soft like rubber.

There is a hole around the left wrist, and the purple armor on the back of the hands is good.

Moreover, they resemble thimble gloves.

I can open and close my hand with no discomfort.

This, doesn't it fire you up? I want to make a pose.

The simple construction of the right vambrace.

From from right wrist to the shoulder it exposed the skin... But I think it will be good.

On the other hand, the scaly armor on the left arm is characteristic.

The hole where the chain ejects looks like the mouth of a dragon.

The tail of a purple dragon curls up my arms to cover my left shoulder.

Solid shaping.

Not only the appearance was taken into consideration, like the vambrace, but it also has a guard that takes range of motion into account.

To make such a thing in around only ten days, they are overflowing with ability.

There is a leather belt around the back, I adjust it to make sure it is around

the hips.

A part of the left is also worn. The overlapping purple steel curraiss.

The purple scales were used abundantly.

The ankles to the toes are also well armored.

“The scales and bones of the evil dragon king are used, so its strength is foremost. You should also try wearing the belt on the back and this overcoat.”

“Understood.”

The overcoat is gray, but in the light there is a slight purple sheen.

An emblem resembling a cross and book is embroidered on the chest.

I wear the gray overcoat. I run my fingers over the smooth cloth.

I tug one of the corners deliberately.

Despite its appearance, the cloth is durable, and it also feels nice.

The interior also feels cool for some reason.

There’s also a hood behind my neck, it’s designed in such a way that the hood is striped with ashy purple.

The gray overcoat wraps around so it can cover everything.

And, finally the chest belt.

I rotate it from the right shoulder of the overcoat to the chest.

The belt is fastened at a slant.

Knives can be stored here, and there is a large number of square pockets.

Small items can be kept in these pockets.

The bag substitutes for a backpack, and there are metal fittings where the weapons can be attached.

I probably have the appearance of a veteran adventurer now.

“Fumu. Won’t travelers be able to see you’re not a person to mess with?”

“Enchanto.”

“Nyan.”

Rollo raises a voice too, gets down from the table and rubs her head on my purple boot.

Since it's a new item, is she attaching her smell to it?

When I'm looking at such a Rollo, Zaga opens his mouth.

“The specially made cloth the overcoat is made from used a special silver thread extracted from the viscous liquid of silver voruku. Along with a special thread and advanced sewing techniques, a lot of time and effort went into making that. It has physical and magic resistance. And then, did you notice that the inside is cool?”

It seems to be.

“Certainly, it is cool. Is this magic?”

“That's correct. It's thanks to wind and water magic. It's connected to the black embroidery on the chest. That emblem is the crest of the god of wisdom's blessing. The origin seems to be modeled after Iliad-kami's saintly corpse fabric, ma, this is a replica since it used wind and water magic, but the effect is still considerable for the person who wears it. Using Bonn's unique enchanting, powdered dragon scales were infused into the fabric. It feels like cloth, but its defense is higher than the maximum grade of metal armor.”

Hoaaa, amazing.

I don't know what silver voruku is, but it sounds good.

And the cooling magic is perfect.

“...Iya, this is extraordinary. Feeling cool while wearing armor will be good.”

“Right? In fact, the most expensive one including the defense is the overcoat. I got it from a large trading company, but I'm glad you're satisfied too.”

“Or course. I'm completely satisfied.”

“And then, so it doesn't get in the way during a fight, the overcoat can slit open and be pulled back. Although, that will make the defense in the front fall.”

I see, it's not a soft rubber rail (TL: Beats me), I move to fold up the cloth.

I don't think rubber is used, but it is made cleverly.

It's completed here by the fabric and embroidery. The craftsman who made this is another expert.

"Lastly, there is the blue ancient dragon eye and the scales of the ancient dragon number several hundred. Parts of the teeth were used and sharpened into daggers. The long fangs were made into simple long swords. There are multiple small fangs, but their lengths all made different daggers. I also sold some of the dragon whiskers, but some are left over. As for the meat, tongue, uvula, cheekbones, jawbone, ears, and the portion of sales sold, they came to ten white gold coins and thirteen large gold coins."

Oh, wow, large gold coins.

Moreover, large gold coins are worth a hundred with gold coins.

Thirteen of them, fantastic.

It's such an amount, but captain Cecily refused the reward.

Honor over money, the hero who chose her duty.

If it's like that, I can understand her bitter expression at the dinner party.

Her pride is strong enough to refuse a reward from the Marquess.

Though she isn't convinced, she'll continue being called the hero of the evil dragon subjugation.

However, maa...

"...That's an enormous amount of money.

"Yeah, I was able to sell the tongue, jawbone, and ears. However, the one that sold the highest was the ancient dragon whiskers. It's something that isn't typically sold on the market. I talked with underground auction about it. It seems to be a unique item. An acquaintance who works at a large trading firm told me. From what I hear, even if the market prices fall this will still be the price."

The staff of a large trading firm? I heard him mention a large trading firm before...

Zaga has a good acquaintance.

Maa, the craftsman who makes such an article...

Frankly, they should have good connections.

"...That's surprising, however, for everything and anything, thank you."

"Iya, iya, to have a non-noble customer like Shuya, it's my pleasure."

Zaga laughs unusually.

"I see, however, so much money..."

"Fumu. However, top rank adventurers working with large trading companies will handle more. Ma, it shouldn't be strange for Shuya to become rich. There are still some scales and fangs yet to be sold."

Saying that I take a look at the gold coins and the fangs and scales.

"...The remainder isn't actually that much. Zaga, Bonn, thank you. You can even sell the raw materials for proper equipment."

"...Don't thank us so many times. We're the ones who want to express our gratitude. For such great material, not even 【Labyrinth City Pernette】 could produce something so amazing. You let us dwarf brothers handle it. Shuya, thank you. Besides...weren't our gains also considerable?"

"Haha, that's right, we both benefited."

We both smile and laugh.

"Ah, there's something else we'd like to request."

"Enchanto."

Bonn says as if to communicate "That's right."

I smile back at Bonn.

And, after placing the scales, fangs, and gold coins in the item box, I remember the carriage stopped in front of the shop.

"...That reminds me, there's a wagon out front, are you going somewhere?"

"We're going to move to 【Labyrinth City Pernette】 and join a dwarf clan there. We're able to afford it thanks to Shuya. Our work should increase

in【Pernette】. However, the main reason is that we want more excitement. The materials from the ancient dragon stirred mine and Bonn's heart. So, we're thinking of making our name for ourselves in 【Pernette】 where there is better material.”

Is that so...

Ora, getting excited. It's like the Monkey King, trembling with excitement.

It's natural for craftsmen.

“Starting anew. Congratulations. So you're heading to Pernette right away?”

“Ah, our work here is over. It's still going to take a little time. Also, I was waiting for Shuya.”

“Enchanto.”

Bonn answers enthusiastically.

“That's right. ...perhaps, I might go to labyrinth city Pernette one day.”

“Hou, as expected. We'll give you a discount when you come to our store.”

“Haha, I'll look for you then. I'm looking forward to your success.”

“Gahahahaha, I'll be waiting.”

Zaga smiles and shakes his mustache.

“Well then, I'll go. Rollo, let's go.”

“Ou, see ya.”

“Enchanto, Enchanto!”

Zaga casually raises a hand, Bonn raises both his arms and pumps them.

I understand he is saying Bye-bye.

After waving back, I leave the dwarf's store.

Now then, I've got my new equipment...

Should I resume traveling with popobumu?

Or should I use the third gate to contact the local people there?

I will return to the Inn first and then decide.

The shadow follows me still. I don't worry and hurry to the inn.

All the way to the inn, I feel the magic essence following behind me.

Keeping a fixed distance, no contact is made.

As expected, when I return to the inn, the presence disappeared, but...

Ma, I won't worry about it.

I place the magic spear cane Burdock in the item box.

I have to register it so I can summon it whenever I want.

First, I take out one copper coin and press storage.

First of all, I place the magic spear in the item box. (TL: Author writes Magic Spear Staff every time, but I'm going to use Magic Spear because it sounds better.)

Next, I press the person symbol.

As always, the outline of a deformed alien is displayed in the window.

The magic sword Bitou is shown in my left hand, in my right hand is a blank space.

I press the blank, and the magic spear Burdock is displayed.

Right away, I register Burdock in the blank for the right hand.

Equip Magic Spear Burdock in Right Hand? Y / N

Of course, I select Y.

I close the window and summon the magic spear.

-Summoned in an instant, the magic spear settles in my right hand.

Perfect. For a moment, I dismiss the weapon.

Now then, should I go to Holkerbam or investigate the gate locations?

I'll decide with a coin toss. (TL: Okay, so I did translate that right.) Heads is Holkerbam. Tails, gates.

I flip the coin and grab it out of the air.

When my hand opens, the coin is showing tails.

So, I decide gate first.

The lady who lives in the underground church, I will try to contact the locals.

Traveling to Holkerbam is postponed.

I take out the Zohedron Trap.

I trace the third symbol and activate the gate.

The scene on the other side of the gate appears, and the woman is changing her clothes.

When the woman notices the light coming from the mirror, she quickly grabs the front of her dress, covering her small breasts.

She corrects her clothes and arranges her hair, then approaches the mirror and bows.

Like that, she brings her hands together and begins to pray.

I think I surprised her...

I'll go through the mirror.

Chapter 66: The Unwanted Child of Berutzemu Holy Church

“Rollo, let’s go. We’ll talk to this lady a little.”

“Nyaa.”

Rollo mews her understanding and stares at the light of the gate.

Yosh, let’s go.

-Immediately I just through the gate and exit the mirror, the woman is calling out Ilodis-sama.

She is in the middle of prayer.

She opens her eye and sees I who have come through the mirror. The young woman’s eyes narrow and she ceases praying.

And, the instant our eyes meet-

“Kyaa-”

“-Sorry.”

The woman raises a scream.

Moving quickly, I step forward and place my hand over her mouth.

“I’m not going to do anything. Will you please be quiet?”

I say such criminal sounding words.

She nods, her small body trembling.

It seems she understands.

I remove the hand covering her mouth.

“Eto, first of all, hey. Good day.”

“Nya.”

She blinks and looks toward Rollo.

“Ah, hai. Kitty-chan? Eto, good day. Are a messenger from God?”

She wonders if I came from God, well, I did come out of a mirror.

I can understand this.

“...No, it’s different. I’m an adventurer. And then, for now, I’m the owner who uses this mirror.”

“An adventurer? I was rude. The mirror has shined in the past days, someone finally appeared from it, I thought it was a miracle...I thought you were a messenger from Ilodis-kami, descending...”

She says things related to the church, her eyes going back and forth between Rollo and me.

“I’m not someone so impressive. I’m sorry for surprising you. First of all, I’ll introduce myself. My name is Shuya Kagari. Call me Shuya. Then, this black cat is Rollodinu, she’s my familiar. You can call her Rollo.”

“I see. Then, Rollo-chan and Shuya-sama. I am Rubia, the unwanted child.”

Unwanted child? For the moment I just nod and look around the room again.

“Rubia, pardon me, but will you tell me where this place is?”

She raises her head and makes eye contact.

This child is a little taller than 150cm?

“Okay. This is the Holy Church in the **【Town of Beltozam】**. It’s a place far southwest of **【Sect Capital Hesliha】**.”

【Sect Capitol Hesliha】... I remember hearing about it.

“Sect Capitol Hesliha?”

“The sect capital is where the holy pope of **【Holy Capitol Hesfurato】** lives.”

“Ah, I see.”

I remember the country’s name.

A little while ago, the beautiful vampire hunter who attacked me.

Her name was Norah Egbain.

Norah told me.

There is a cathedral in the sect capital on a different scale than the church in Hector.

So, the church here is far to the north of Hector.

It's an area on the other side of the Great Gordekus Desert.

"...Ano, is Shuya-sama a famous magician?"

"Iya, I'm nothing like that. Rubia doesn't need to speak so formally either, just talk casually. And then, I'm not some famous magician. I can use magic, but my occupation is a warrior."

"Really? Using such a mirror-"

Rubia stops talking midway.

The twenty-four sided Zohedron Trap separated from the mirror's top and is revolving around my head.

It drifts around like always.

"Ah, I was surprised you again. Sorry."

A little embarrassed, I grab the Zohedron Trap out of the air and place it in the small pouch on my belt.

"I-it's okay."

"Then, this mirror is your's?"

"No. I heard that it was donated to the church in the past, but I don't know the details."

Hmm.

At any rate...it's strange.

I've been using presence detection this whole time, but there is no magic essence nearby.

There were several reactions the other day, what's going on?

I'll try inquiring.

"...I see. Now, is there a Priest in this church?"

“There’s no one here other than me right now. ...Priest-sama went with the other deacons to 【Forton Mountain】.”

Forton Mountain. A pilgrimage?

I think I understand, but is it normal to leave one person behind?

“Rubia, why are you here alone?”

“I...”

Rubia’s face drops.

N? Is it hard to talk about?

“If you don’t want to then I won’t force you to talk about it. I want to look around this town, so I’m going to go outside.”

I say so and try to leave Rubia in the room.

“Ah, please wait. I’ll go too. I’ll show you around.”

“Well then, I’ll leave it to you.”

The church hasn’t changed since I scouted it last time.

I go up the stairs from the corridor, then appear on the platform next to the altar.

There is the chapel in the center and rows of benches.

Passing through the benches, I head to the exit while observing the religious art on display.

Outside there is still a corn-like plant growing.

Rollo jumps from my shoulder and runs into the field.

“Rollo, don’t eat anything in the field, alright? Don’t destroy anything.”

“Nnn, nya.”

“Rollo-chan is energetic. However, it’s strange. That a person and cat appeared from a mirror...”

We take the dirt road and walk away from the church while talking.

“Haha, that’s true...by the way, this town is called Beltozam, right? Is it far

from the capital?””

“On foot, it takes more than ten days. Mount Forton is closer.”

Assuming I walk four kilometers an hour on foot, the time you can walk is from seven in the morning to ten at night...generally, it should be three hundred kilometers to the holy capital.

If it's by horse, I will probably arrive sooner.

“...I understand. Thank you. I keep asking questions, but is there an in here?”

“There is. If you keep going you come to a highway that leads away from the town, the inn is near there.”

It's far away?

“That is really far away.”

“Is Shuya-sama from the city?”

She seems to be making a decision.

“You could say that...why?”

“It's normal for a countryside inn to be on the town outskirts. When there is a highway inside a village, the amount of farmland and pastures decreases, it's easy for fields near roads to be destroyed. Also, it makes it easier to defend against monster attacks and bandits.”

Heh, so that's the reason. So that's how this area is organized.

Near Fadyke and Hector, the cities had towns next to the highways.

Ah~, so that time, there was dangerous from bandits...

Ah, I may be misunderstanding, full towns and villages like Beltozam may exist in distant regions this way.

“...Sorry, I understand now, I'm used to the city.”

“Fufu, like I thought.”

Rubia smiles.

The hair hanging over her shoulders is cute.

Clear blue eyes and golden hair.

Her skin is tanned, and she looks a little childish, but she's a beauty.

The combination of her golden hair and long ears makes her look like an elf.

However, she has no Elf Crest on her cheek.

And, her simple dress is covered with black stains and dirt.

It's a waste with her beautiful face. She's like Cinderella before meeting prince charming.

"...Rubia, what kind of life do you live at the church?"

"Eto, I'm Priest-sama's maid. I have the Deacon battle Occupation, I'm good at recovery magic, so I'm able to heal injuries and illness. I also help do physical labor and subjugate monsters."

She does a bit of everything.

Such a conversation continues.

"Priest-samaaaa."

A child runs out shouting.

N? The child is crying.

"Fay, what's wrong?"

"Ah, is Priest-sama not here? But, but, you're the magic girl, aren't you? Ritt jumped the fence and hurt their head."

"I understand. Let's hurry. Shuya-sama, I need to handle this."

Rubia speaks with a serious expression. After apologizing she runs off with the child.

I'm curious, so I follow her.

After running up the hill, we arrive at a place with tall fences with waist high flowers that look like sun flowers.

There is a boy crouched on the ground.

"Ritt, are you okay? You'll be fine once magic is used?"

“Uu...”

The boy is bleeding from his head, but he looks conscious.

Rubia places her hand over the kid’s head and starts using magic.

“Grand Heal.”

Eh!? No chant? Rubia’s eye change from blue to red.

Furthermore, over her head a goddess carrying a staff shining with bloody light appears.

The goddess has three eyes, her face has an affectionate expression.

Rubia’s thin hand shines red, and the boy is wrapped in light.

The light covering the boy suddenly disappears.

I saw the figure of the goddess for a moment...I’ve seen her somewhere before.

“What, where am I?”

The boy stands up as if nothing had happened looking perfectly healthy.

The wound on his head has disappeared.

“Ritt no bakaaa.” (TL: I prefer the Japanese of this phrase.)

Fay smiles and clings to the boy Ritt, hitting his chest.

“Huh, Fay? Ah, Witch Rubia.”

Ritt looks at Rubia with a dubious expression.

She healed him, yet he’s looking at her that way?

“Ritt, you fell and hit your head, weren’t you injured? Fay came to get me.”

Rubia seems unbothered by the child’s hateful glare or being called a witch, she only looks at the healed child with a gentle expression.

“Ah-”

Finally remembering, Ritt touches his head, seeing the wound has healed.

“Ritt. Mou, don’t climb the fence again.”

“Un...”

“You should thank Fay.”

“-Fay. Thanks. You saved me. Witch Rubia too, thanks.”

“I’m happy to have helped you. Magic girl, thank you.” (TL: Can also be translated as “Young Witch” but “Magic Girl” sounds kinder which I think is the purpose.)

Fay hugs Ritt.

Looking embarrassed, the boy stops talking.

“Fufu, now, you’ve thanked me enough, so return home.”

“Ha~i.”

“See you later~ Magic girl~.”

The boy and girl run away happily.

I’m curious about this whole magical girl thing...

I look at Rubia’s face.

Why, what?

I don’t know why this woman is called a witch.

Rather than a witch, she should be called medium or shrine maiden...

Why a witch?

Since I can’t ask directly, I’ll ask about the goddess with the bloody staff that appeared when she used magic.

“Rubia is amazing. The one who appeared earlier looked like a goddess, is she related to your using no chant? An ability?”

“Ah, uh, hai. A goddess? I don’t understand, but is it good for a magic user to use no chant? I’m surprised. It’s natural to not need a chant when using recovery magic.”

“Heh, it’s an amazing ability. Despite that, why are you working as a deacon instead of a Priest?”

“That...”

She’s struggling to look me in the eye.

I’m curious. I’ll try asking.

“I’m sorry if I offended you. I don’t know much about the church, so I assumed someone with such an outstanding ability would be a priest...”

“No. Being a Priest is unthinkable. I’m an unwanted child. I’m happy just being able to live in Beltozam’s Holy Church.”

Aside from that, what is this unwanted child...

“Unwanted child? What is an unwanted child?”

“Eh.”

“N? What’s that reaction. The only thing I can see is an ordinary beautiful girl.”

“Su-such a thing. That’s the first time...You should have seen my eyes turn red earlier, and haven’t you seen my long ears?”

Even if her ears are a little long, compared to Quiche, they’re still shorter.

“Still. What’s wrong?”

“...”

N, she looks down and says nothing.

Her cheeks are dyed red. Such a cute reaction, I’m worried about her being called a witch and unwanted child.

This child lives in a place where persecution and slurs are common.

“Th-thank you...”

“Iya, this is nothing to thank me for...”

Ordinary words come out

“That’s not true. In my entire life, you’re the first person who has spoken to me like this.”

I’m curious, so I’ll try asking a little.

“Really? That’s horrible. But, why did the color of your eyes change? Why are your ears long and you’re called an unwanted child? Those kids were calling you a witch.”

“It’s true. I’ve been called a witch for as long as I can remember. I can use recovery magic without an incantation, so I’ve been treated as a heretic. My eyes changing color is probably proof of being descended for demonic beings. My long ears are evidence of the blood of elves, so I was abandoned and left to the church.”

What? (TL: Written in English) I unintentionally respond like a foreigner.

An unwanted heretic witch child since she was a child... Incredible discrimination, oi.

However, it’s not surprising for a world with slavery.

Rather, isn’t being left at a church better than being sold into slavery?

“...So your eyes and long ears are the reason you’re hated?”

“Hai. In this country, an ‘elf’ is someone with ‘demonic being blood.’ I’m a taboo existence in this country, the Holy Church keeps what of me and waits for Ilodis-kami to pass judgment. Then I may be sold as a slave or burned to death by the Holy Knights.”

Oi, oi, being burned to death, is this a witch hunt...

Like the Salem witch hunts or Jeanne d’Arc.

“Perhaps, is Rubia a half elf?”

“My mother and father appeared human. So I don’t think I’m mixed.”

A person? Is this atavism?

“Appeared” ... Going by her phrasing, her actually parentage may be unknown.

Or, does she really have the blood of demonic beings?

Yui said she had the blood of demonic creatures, but she never said anything about this kind of discrimination.

Norah said there were people south of the Manheim mountains who believe in a multitude of gods, in Hesfurato it seems to be a social system.

“...Hou, this country treats elves and demonic beings the same way.”

“Eeh, Hai. A long time ago, the war with the 【Great Empire of Befarittsu】 occurred, the elves slaughtered their way through the humans living here... I don't know anything more detailed.”

History repeats itself. Huh.

“Other countries are tolerant of elves, as someone who has traveled from far away, you're surprised, right? I've heard of fights breaking out on the borders when elven adventurers try to enter without knowing. And, the elves are caught and turned into slaves. ...It's rare for someone to be left at a church like me.

Uhee, discrimination nation. (TL: I'm clever.)

“The Holy Country doesn't seem very sophisticated...”

“Isn't it horrible? However, the people in this church raised me kindly. They're taken proper care of me.”

The church looked after her? Gentle? Even if she says such a thing, I can feel no kindness when I look at Rubia's clothes...

I have begun to pity her.

“...That's good.”

Pitying her, only shallow words comes out.

For example, since I have gold can't I take her out of this country?

Among other things, taking her away might be irresponsible...

“...Hai.”

“Still, why were you left behind?”

“It can't be helped. The pilgrimage was important for priest-sama. They left this place to me. They were going to be gone for a long time, so they asked me to house-sit the whole time.”

“What for? The whole time?”

“When the Priest-sama of a local Holy Church goes on a pilgrimage there have been cases where everyone abandons the area. I was told. So, I stayed here to

protect...”

While Rubia has such a forlorn expression, Rollo finally return from running in the fields.

It’s different than the Christian church I know.

Normally the local community is a serious matter, the pastor works hard every day for the collective good of the members.

Maa, thinking with a modern image might be pointless.

“Nya.”

While having such foolish thoughts, Rollo suddenly springs.

Using her feelers, she climbs the cloak to my right shoulder.

She is slowly master the use of her feelers.

Her landing surpassed that of a gymnast.

N, or should I say. She’s getting my new cloak dirty.

“...Rollo-san. Your paw pads are dirty.”

Saying so, I grab Rollo by the scruff and hold her away.

Like that, I lower her to the ground.

“I’ll wash you, so stay still over there.”

“Nya.”

I remove a leather cloth from my bag and produce water with life magic.

I wipe each of her paw pads.

However, curious about flowing water, she begins swiping at the water playfully.

“So cuuute~, and funny too. Rollo-chan.”

After cleaning her up, I carry her back to my shoulder, where she climbs into the hood.

“I’m not normally like this, but this cloak is new.”

Anyway, it hasn’t even been an hour, but it’s already dirty.

“It’s beautiful. Is the embroidery on the chest Iliad-sama?”

“Oh, it is. You recognize it.”

“Hai. It’s unusual in this country, not many believe in gods other than the god of light.”

So, monotheism?

The fundamentals of Christianity, or the basic teachings of Islam?

“...Really? If I wear this overcoat, I’ll be persecuted?”

“No, no, it’s not like that...although, you might...”

So...it’s possible.

The Holy Country is scary...

So living here while denying god, using the heliocentric theory, it becomes like Galileo?

Still, it’s possible.

The church’s elf child, the only other options the witch girl has is slavery or being burned alive?

If I am discovered, because of my demonic being-like aspects the pope could dispatch holy knights to hunt me.

The pope’s forces should be a dangerous group...

I don’t like this country.

Well then, for now, I’ve figured out this place’s name, I should return.

I intend to go back to the Inn, but in the distance...

...Meh.

After hearing about the story of persecution, my motivation to keep exploring has disappeared.

“...Well then, for now, I’ll return to the church.”

“You don’t need to go to the inn?”

“Un, well, it’s okay.”

“Understood. Let’s return.”

And, we follow the dirt road back to the church.

However, several magic essences are surrounding the church.

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Chapter 67: Crimson Line Coiling the Wind

The source of the magic essence is several dozen men wearing leather armor with metal rivets.

They each have a light expression and are standing around the church with a hand resting on their longswords.

What's going on?

Judging by their armor and the way they carry themselves, they aren't soldiers.

Then, we are noticed by the bearded middle-aged leader of the group.

While flaunting his sword around, he opens his mouth to speak.

"-Oh, you're here. Those long ears. It's no mistake. There's a man I don't recognize too?"

"Good grief, they were outside. We were supposed to search inside the church."

It seems there are more inside the church.

A large number of men come from the entrance.

"You guys, don't damage it."

A sulking man wearing a beret in the middle of the group issues instructions.

"This blond hair, long-eared child. Are you called Rubia?"

The beret wearing man seems to know of Rubia.

The dark blue beret of a cross emblazoned on it, indicating a militia or country.

The lines of his face are sharp, his eyes are big and his skin tanned.

He also has a big nose, his earlobes are enlarged like those of a Buddha statue.

The mustache is plastered with black ink, connecting it to his sideburns.

Only this beret man is wearing armor that gives off a sense of formality.

A thick black and white collar is gathered around his neck, his chest plate is marked with a slightly faded black and yellow crest.

A yellow cross stands out of the left side.

Judging by his atmosphere, this man is an officer?

His hat and armor are different from the other people. He's the leader?

"Eh, you know my name? Who are you?"

"It's our assignment. We're employed by a slave trading company. For now, will you come here?"

"Disgusting."

Helpless, Rubia has an expression like a newborn faun.

Seeing a girl with such a face, I'll help.

-Rollo.

I look to the black cat, and Rollo jumps down from my shoulder.

Transforming into her other form, she runs behind the men.

I open my over coat and extends my arms encased in purple armor.

The magic spear burdock appears in my right hand.

The sudden appearance of the weapon in my right-hand causes a stir amongst the soldiers of the slave firm.

I look around with magic observing eyes.

The beret man's face twitches a little.

Mana is accumulating in the hands and feet of this captain.

He can use a fighting moji-type skill.

I move in front of Rubia to protect her and take a step forward.

"...This child says she doesn't want to. I won't allow you to kidnap her."

"What? You plan to fight this many people?"

I reply with an innocent expression.

“Ah.”

“You understand? As you can see, we are 【Sand Falcon】 and received approval to 【Apprehend People】 by the slave system of the country.”

As evidence, he displays a parchment with a seal imprinted on it.

Apprehend People, Sand Falcon? I’ve never heard of that.

The desert country is involved?

I show an amused expression.

“...What about it?”

With a low tone, I stare at the beret man.

“Hou, such a fool... Still, you’re in this country. Since you’re protecting an elf in the 【Holy Church’s】 country, that makes you a heretic too. You’ll be fighting the 【Holy Country Hesfurato】 the 【Holy Church】 and 【Brimang Slaving Firm】... Are you okay with that?”

The beret man is casually threatening Rubia and me.

This system has been established thoroughly in this area.

“...I don’t care. As for the slave system, well, it doesn’t matter. Rather, I’d like a slave, a beautiful slave I can flirt with. ...However, I’ve gotten to know this child. Now, I can’t abandon her.”

“Shuya-sama...”

From being me, I hear Rubia’s gentle voice.

Just a minute, I’m hustling them.

My justice boner is throbbing. (TL: “My justice is throbbing” is the actual line, but this is better.)

“Ha, aren’t you a little green? Captain, such a conceited youngster, I’ll kill him quickly.”

“Yeah, yeah.”

“Captain, rather than capture him, shouldn’t we just hit him?”

The surrounding men are getting worked up.

Hearing this, I laugh lightly.

They're eager.

For now, I'll give them a warning.

"I'll give you one warning. If a single person raises their hand, no matter their position, everyone will die. If you beat it, then everything will be finished."

Thus, while giving my warning, I rest the magic halberd on my shoulder and begin to move the finger on my left hand.

The moment I begin moving.

"Koitsu, you a fuckin' fool? Be-"

Oh, someone responded.

With a furious expression, he approaches, spit flying from his mouth.

"Taste this."

Another reacts as well.

Drawing their long sword, they come running at me.

-They seem to be lacking in self-control.

Despite the captain's grandiose title of **【Sand Hawk】** and **【Person Apprehending】**, they're nothing more than rubbish.

-This is an excellent opportunity to test out Burdock.

I change my grip and sweep the crimson ax blade sideways.

The moment the men are close enough-I thrust the magic spear forwards.

A line of coiling crimson wind.

The ax blade collides with the enemy.

A sizzling sound arises afterward.

The two people are immediately sliced in half, their internal organs dance through the air.

The smell of burnt flesh can be detected.

Zaga told me the “Crimson ax blade” produce fire attribute, but I didn’t expect this much.

Looking where their bodies were cut in two, there are burnt sections.

“-W, what...”

“Hiaa, just like that, two people...”

“He’s not an ordinary Spearman. Weren’t his movements strange?”

“...I, I couldn’t see his halberd move.”

“Oi, oi...”

“Captain Zenbi, this, this is bad...”

I ignore their small fry banter... I reassess the feeling of Burdock.

I spin the halberd around, checking its balance. I toss it between my hands to check its weight, again, I turn it from my left hand back to my right.

Finally, extending my right arm-firmly, I stop the movement of the halberd.

Extending my empty left hand, I take my stance.

“It’s quite sharp. Its balance feels good as well.”

I suddenly smile.

...However, I don’t face them.

The men in front of me, they couldn’t actually see the nature of the attack that killed the first two people.

Even once I stop spinning Burdock, they stand, petrified.

These guys, why are they standing around?

Are they stupid...

“Rollo.”

Hearing my words, Rollo move immediately.

She approaches from behind the stunned men, silent like an assassin, extended her feelers and piercing a soldier’s skull with a bone sword.

He dies simply.

Staying low, Rollo moves to her next target.

Aiming for the leg of a defenseless man, she swipes with her claws at the back of his knee, leaving his flesh hanging in strips.

“Ahhhg, guua-”

Continuing, she wraps a feeler around a leg of the injured man, pulling him to the ground.

Like that, she tears into his throat while releasing a feline roar.

At such a time, Rollo is running through the enemy group, keeping them disorganized.

“Shit, surround!”

A man launches a counter attack, aiming the tip of his long spear at Rollodinu, but she easily slips around the attack, actually moving close enough to attack him. Thus, with fangs barred she leaps.

Again, she goes for the throat, tearing out his windpipe.

“Bogyaa!”

The man drops his spear and collapses, clutching his neck.

Of course-I join the fight.

A slanting blow of the ax blade cuts into a man abdomen, then I spin around to the left.

Forcibly pulling on the Crimson halberd, it is ripped from the man stomach without slowing me down.

Then, to the right a man has drawn his sword, aiming for my neck.

I spin the magic spear in my right hand. The red ax blade moves, knocking away the man's sword.

The man is bent backward, exposing his chest.

Back, I present the crimson spear point to his open chest.

The hole where the spear punctures his chest begins to sizzle and his leather armor bursts into flames.

“-Higyaa!”

The burning man screams and writhes in pain. His arms twists, trying to call out for help...

But no one can save him, once the flames grow he breathes his last breath and falls.

The other people didn't burn like that, so it seems to be something that happens occasionally.

Seeing him be burned to death, the surrounding men stop moving.

They're full of openings. Distracted people.

I lean forward, aiming for a nearby man. His head like a base ball, I smack him with the butt end. Delivering a home run, the blue magic dragon tone destroys his head, splattering brain matter.

The dense blood and brain matter whirls through the air and blood gushes out of his neck.

Blood lands on my face. So, I swallow the blood.

-Yummy. I taste the lukewarm blood.

The blue magic dragon stone is also dyed red.

The magic dragon stone is hard.

Its brutality is different than Zaga's description as beautiful.

I have such a thought while displaying a blood stained smile.

The men who can see me become frightened.

Was the attack too powerful and scared everyone?

“Uaaaah, ba, bake-”

“Hihiiii.”

The 【Slave Takers】turn around and escape in every direction.

My face covered in blood I chase after the escaping men.

-I swing the magic halberd to remove the gore stuck to the blue magic dragon

stone.

The butt end of the shaft catches the leg of an escaping man, tripping him.

A finishing blow.

Burdock is spun around and stabbed into his head.

Of course, it's the blue magic dragon stone.

The fallen man's head is pulverized.

"-Shit, don't run away. It will make it easier to kill."

"Ha, hai."

"Don't run away! It's just one Spearman and an animal!"

Captain Zenbi seems to be in charge, he yells out commands to the company.

Somehow or other, the men preparing to run hold back.

However, it doesn't matter.

This time, I change to spear's aim.

"Normal" Spearman. With this spear, I'll kill all of them-I am not kind, I smile a wicked grin.

A man frightened eyes extends his spear.

-What is this, moisture, sluggish, slow, it's too slow! The wooden practice dolls of the past were faster!!

While remembering the Goldiba's "Dancing Prison," I avoid the man's spear thrust with a half toe-turn.

I enter the Spearman's range while turning, give a cross counter, and deliver the crimson ax blade to the man's shoulder.

The red ax blade sinks to the middle of the enemy Spearman's chest.

"Higyabababa.

The Spearman makes a strange sound that isn't a scream.

Dark blood spouts from his chest.

The blood that touches the crimson blade evaporates, the smell of iron fills

the air.

Such a thing-I pull out the crimson ax by kicking the cowardly Spearman's chest.

And, I swing the magic halberd to secure this section of the battle field.

-A thrown knife appears.

-The timing is just right.

Turning so fast as to look like a purple blur-I spin burdock like the blades of an electric fan.

The thrown knives are repelled, bouncing away.

After repelling the knives, my partner is a soldier different than the one who threw the knives, actually throwing his longsword.

Is throwing away your weapon okay?

As a matter of course, I repel the long sword.

I ignore the man who threw the knives.

I turn to the man who threw away his long sword and kicks the ground with fighting moji enhanced legs.

With the explosive acceleration, he is instantly in range of my halberd.

I activate <Thrust> and the power spreads up from my legs through my arms.

The wind is dyed crimson and purple.

-The first time I've used a skill with Burdock.

The thrust easily pierces through the man's leather armor, creating a circular red wound.

"Higo-"

The man's face twists in agony, his knees hit the ground, and his body convulses.

With his arms stretched out to either side, he stops moving.

At that moment, the famous scene from the Platoon movie is recalled.

However, with the next scene, the memory is completely dispersed.

The circular crimson wound in the immobile man's chest becomes thick, blood burst out like a broken balloon and the wound catches fire.

The flames bloom like a lotus and the wound is in the shape of a crescent moon.

It's because I added the "twist" to <Thrust>.

It seems to be because of the halberd's spear head and ax blade.

There is the sound of collapsing.

I turn in the direction of the sound.

Just now, Rollo killed the man who threw knives at me.

He is writhing on the ground. He is trying to staunch the blood flowing from his neck.

With this, only the captain is left.

"Hi-"

Rubia has become frightened.

It can't be helped.

"Wha..."

Captain Zenbi has become frightened, looking like a little girl.

Seeing the gruesome scene, it's not hard to imagine why.

"Now then, Captain Zenbi, about your slave firm, will you tell me why you're here for Rubia? I'll decide what to do with you depending on how you answer."

Captain Zenbi's will to fight vanishes, his long sword leaves his hand and his face is full of worry.

【Sand Hawk】 is the name of a professional unit that catches slaves for **【Brimang Slave Firm】**.

It would seem Brimang Slave Firm is one of the few trading companies with permission from **【Holy Country Hesfurato】** to hunt down slaves.

Creating slaves, the country allows those with a “slave hunting license” to capture those with demonic or elven blood.

Not only 【Holy Country Hesfurato】, they also cross the border into the southern desert of 【Amefu Founder Country】 and kidnap those with elven blood in the oasis cities, turning them into slaves.

However, as 【Amefu Founder Country】 doesn’t often allow it, this rarely happens in the open.

He tells me all this boastfully.

I try asking about Rubia.

“How did you know Rubia was here?”

“From the Priest. Also, this town 【Beltozam】. The Priest told us about it all.”

Hearing what he said, Rubia shows an expression of disbelief.

“You lie, Donnet-sama, Priest-sama would never do such a thing.”

Upon seeing Rubia’s expression, Zenbi makes a twisted face.

“Iya, you know this person? The man who introduced himself as Donnet had blue eyes, he was wearing the green vestments only priests of the Holy Church are permitted to wear.”

“Th, that...”

Zenbi’s words corner Rubia further.

“Priest Donnet-sama said, he had been in contact with the Pope of the Holy Church, that he had obtained permission from one of the Cardinals. He was complaining about getting rid of the person with elf blood he’d been protecting.”

“Priest-sama...”

Rubia looks like she will start crying.

“I was directly asked by the Priest. While he was away at Mount. Forton, take care of Rubia, the fair-haired girl with elven ears. He paid in gold, so I remember it well.”

“Uwuu...”

The shock is too much, she breaks down in tears.

“Do you have something against the Priest? Ma, I didn’t know about it...”

“...I don’t understand. Priest Donnet, I’ve been his maid for more than eight years...”

More than eight years, did something happen in that time?

How old is Rubia...

“For that reason, we came here to capture this woman. -With this, I’ve said everything I know.”

“I see. Understood.”

Well then, time to resume experimentation.

I ready Burdock.

Instead of the sharp end, I point to blue magic dragon stone.

I try using the magic dragon stone.

“Ma, wait a moment...will you help me?”

Arguing about it is no use. ...Should I take care of Rubia first?

“Rubia, go somewhere else. You don’t need to see this.”

“Ha, hai.”

She wipes away her tears with a dirty cuff and takes a distance.

“-Then, I told you everything, wait, even if you kill me, someone else will come next.”

I ignore him and pour mana into the magic spear.

As I originally stated-No mercy.

That moment-the magic dragon stone begins to shine, a pillar of ice is forcefully shot.

Zenbia is unable to react.

Or should I say, neither could I.

The icicle extends, piercing through Zenbi's brows.

His head is torn off and pinned to the church's wall.

Moreover, the icicle pierces through the wall.

Blood gushes from Zenbi's severed neck.

The body collapses powerlessly.

"Amazing, it's an ice magic wand."

I extended too fast, did I use too much mana?

The shaft of ice is still attached to the magic spear.

When I break it off from the spear it melts away.

Cold air lingers behind.

I was able to experiment a few times.

It seems I can adjust this ice shaft with mana.

I put in too much earlier.

"Hia!"

Rubia falls back with a scream.

I want to experiment with the magic spear more, but I put it away and approach Rubia to wake her up.

"...Are you okay? I scared you."

"...Sorry."

Her hands are trembling and she looks at me like I'm a monster.

It's understandable. Seeing such a cruel act, I understand why she is treating me this way.

However, such a thing doesn't matter right now.

"Rubia, what will you do now? As of now, it's only a matter of time before the other people in town find out about this."

"I, I..."

She falls silent.

Being betrayed by the priest and her fear, she's confused and can't settle on anything.

This child is already being chased.

I would like to help...

I think she can escape through the gate.

However, I've never taken someone else through the gate.

I don't know if it'll work, but I can try.

"Rubia. Would you like to leave here?"

"From here... leave?"

"Yeah. However, it might not work."

"Leaving... not work?"

"Yeah. Using my magic."

"...Hai. Please. If I stay here, I'll certainly become a slave, so I want to leave immediately.

...Her frightened expression is gone, and she is staring at me.

In that case, it's time to leave.

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Chapter 68: In One's Mind Exists a Small Church

“Got it. Then, how old is Rubia?”

“Thirteen.”

Thirteen years old, she's young, but it should be fine. (TL: What should be fine, Shuya? What are you thinking?) I don't know when people are considered adults in this world, but I can judge the age of a single person.

“I see. I feel bad. However, things might be difficult in the future? Do you still want to go?”

“Hai. It's fine. I understand.”

She said it's fine, but I'll support her for a little.

“...Alright. I'll take care of the bodies first. Will people be gathering at the church first?”

“No, they should know the Priest isn't here, it's only in cases where someone is hurt, like the children earlier.”

“I see, then, I don't need to rush. I'll dispose of the bodies. Rubia, go get your things together and wait in the church.”

“Hai.”

Then, I take care of the bodies.

Rollo helps, so I quickly carry the corpses into the field.

After burying the bodies in a hole, I return to the location of the battle and clean up the blood and gore with water from life magic.

The smell is still here, but it's mostly clean now.

Ma, this should be enough.

“Rollo, let's return.”

“N, nya.”

Rollo perches on my shoulder, and we return to the church.

“Rubia, I’m done.”

When I return, Rubia is praying to the cross in front of the altar.

“God is heaven, all the world is in your heart...”

Oh? Anne of Green Gables?

A coincidence perhaps...

But, even under these conditions, this child is praying.

“...Do you have all your things?”

“Hai, I only have two sets of clothes.”

In Rubia’s hand is a sleeveless underclothes like dust cloth.

“Just that?”

“Yes.”

Seriously? What kind of frugal life has she been living...

Her life is going to change after this, one more time, I reconfirm her feelings.

“Rubia, if you leave you may not be able to go to church anymore?”

“It’s fine. Since I was born there was a small church in my heart, it follows me and helps guide my path.”

Rubia laughs. It feels like there’s a halo around her.

Her smile cleanses my heart.

Lead by the small church in her heart... Her faith is deep.

Isn’t this child able to become a priest?

I’m a little impressed.

...Well, such a thing is inconsequential.

I activate the gate.

“...I understand. I’m going to activate the gate, so wait a minute.”

“Oh, hai.”

I remove the twenty-sided sphere from my pocket and trace the first symbol.

The gate activates.

“Wa~”

Rubia looks more impressed than surprised.

“Rubia, give me your hand.”

“Ah, hai.”

I hold her delicate hand.

The calluses on her palm tell me how hard she’s worked.

However, they’re so small it seems they’ll break at any moment.

“Let’s enter.”

Rubia looks at me, eyes full of determination, and nods.

I nod back and take her through the gate.

I’m able to safely pass through with Rubia.

We arrive in **【Hector】** at the same time.

...Fuu. The gate worked.

I manage to return to this small room.

I was a little worried, but we can still pass through. Ma, I’ve also move will Rollo, so I figured it would work if we touched.

“Nn, Nya.”

As always, Rollo jumps to the hard bed.

“Rubia, this is **【Fort City Hector】**. It’s south of where you’re from. Past the desert and Manheim mountain range, this is the southern country of **【Osberia Kingdom】**.

“...Ha, hai. Here?”

She’s turning her head restlessly, looking at the small room.

“It’s a small it...sorry.”

If I think about it, Rubia lived in a smaller room...

“Ah, that’s not what I mean. Sorry. This is 【Osberia Kingdom】... I only know it’s the name of a distant country. -Ah, this mirror is the same.”

“That’s right.”

The Zohedron Trap floats around my head again.

I catch it and put it in my chest pocket.

“There a church here, but even with your eyes turning red and your long elven ears, you won’t be discriminated against. I don’t know much about the area, but you can probably like freely.”

“Is that so...Shuya-sama. Thank you. It’s all thanks to you. To be capable of using such transfer magic...”

It is helpful...

I’d like her to not talk about it.

Ah, don’t tell anyone about it. Let’s keep it a secret?”

“Hai. I understand. I won’t tell anyone. It’s a secret.”

“And then, I’ll give you money, you can spend it how you want.”

Saying that, I take out two magic bags and several gold coins.

“Eh, this, these gold coins... I can’t take this much money.”

“It’s fine, I’m rich.”

“Nya~”

Rollo calls out and lifts one foot, slapping the bed.

“Rollo also approves. Receive it obediently.”

“...Hai. However, only, this...”

“Haha, maybe. It’s different? Rollodinu has such a cute face, but she understands our conversations.”

“Nn, Nya.”

“Really? What a beautiful Kitty-chan.”

“Aah, she’s my pride.”

Nya.”

One by one, Rollo replies.

“Fufu, but, Shuya-sama...”

After Rubia laughs, she suddenly looks down.

“N?”

“Why, why are you helping a woman like me?”

That’s...

Ma, I’ll be honest.

“I’d be happy if you grew into a beautiful woman in the future. If I’m a dirty man don’t help, there’s also the possibility of neglect.”

“...Is that so. In that case, please use this poor body freely.”

Saying that, Rubia’s face turns red and she begins to remove her dirty clothes.

-Uhya, who taught this woman?

Even as a joke, she grew up in a church...

“Wait-you misunderstood. Surely, Rubia is beautiful, I’m also interested in nudity. Rather, there’s a tent. However, it’s mostly because I wanted to help.”

Rubia has a confused look on her face.

“Eh? Tent?”

Ugu, I said something indecent... (TL: The word is 毛ヅコ入, I think the author is referring to the bulge a boner makes in your pants.)

By no means, is it an evil god? A tent won’t form.

I repeat this chant in my heart.

“Ah, iya, that is, ah~ it’s fine. So, please get dressed. Good?”

“Ah, hai. Is it really okay? I heard that men in post town would be happy if you do this...besides, this is all I can offer...”

So? It seems the drunkards in the post town said some unnecessary things.

“It’s fine. I won’t ask too many questions. And then, not to mention talking

about killing, a girl should value her body more. Men are savages. Shouldn't you be more cautious? You should only act that way towards a person you like. Rubia should save herself for the future..." (TL: Heh, Shuya won't fuck underage girls, that's good to know. Also, turning down a thirteen-year-old girl makes him sound like the dense protagonist of a harem anime...")

I try to explain with words soaked in embarrassment.

I expressed my feelings, but by the end, my face is flushed red, and I have to turn away.

"Fufu, Shuya-sama is surely from Illodis-kami, I was sent a child of the light."

Rubia's face blooms with a heavenly smile.

She turns to me in a pose of prayer.

Worshipping like that, it's not right...

"You don't need to do that, please stop worshipping me. Yosh, next we'll go shopping, then I'll give you a tour of **【Hector】**."

"Hai, I understand. Thank you."

"Got it. Let's go."

I accompany Rubia out of the cheap inn.

We walk down the main street, and I introduce her to the side streets with the food shops.

Next, I show her around the big market.

"Today is the special day of your arrival in **【Hector】**. It's my treat."

"Hai."

I buy kabobs from a street stall for Rubia.

I hastily stuff the tasty-looking meat in my mouth.

I also buy the mysterious soup filled with vegetables and some sweet fruits.

"This city is enormous. This place is flooded with the people living here...this is the first time I've eaten such tasty food."

"Is that so. Good."

“Hai.”

Her smile is cute. She should adapt well to the city life.

“Well then, I’ll show you place anything can be bought. You’ll be safe there even if I leave you.”

“Eh, Shuya-sama? You’re going to leave already?”

“Iya, not just yet. There’s a shop in this direction.”

I understand Rubia’s worried expression.

However, I harden my heart and ignore them. I grip Rubia’s hand and guide her to Babon’s store.

“You can get anything here. You should find necessary items.”

“Hai.”

On Rubia’s back is the sword, shield, leather armor, brushes, hardware, clothing, belts, and simple food all bundled together.

“Rubia, you bought a lot of different things...”

Wait, does she plan on becoming an adventurer?

I should ask...

“Hai, this should be the bare minimum I need to prepare...”

“I see. Is it too heavy?”

“It’s fine. I did a lot of work in the church.”

“I see, then it’s fine. Then, I’ll keep guiding you. I think you should stay in this city...”

“?”

“This way. Let’s go.”

I guide her to the dwarf brothers’ shop.

The only acquaintances I have a good relationship with are these two, I can only ask Zaga about Rubia.

-N, again, there’s a presence following me.

Ma, they're keeping their distance and showing no sign of attacking.

Rubia is here this time though...Honestly, I don't want them to attack.

I hurry to the Dwarf store.

When Rubia and I come to the shop, Bonn runs out to welcome us.

And, Rollo runs up like usual.

The carriage is still in front of the shop, so there is still some time before you move.

"Enchanto."

"Nyaa, nya."

Haha, they're still at it.

The shared space between Rollo and Bonn.

Rubia stares curiously.

"Bon, I have business with Zaga. I'm going to the store."

"Enchant."

"Rubia, come with me."

"Hai."

Saying so, Rubia accompanies me into the shop.

"Oh? If it isn't Shuya? What is it? Equipment maintenance? It's too soon for that..."

"Yo, Zaga. I'm not here to talk about weapons or armor today. It's sudden, but this child, I would like you to take care of Rubia."

I can trust Zaga and Bonn.

In reality, there will be trouble if I try to take care of someone. That's what I think.

However, it's dangerous with me, and I still have my objective.

I'm reluctant, but it's the right thing to do.

I'm irresponsible.

I'm an irresponsible guy escaping from his responsibilities after saving a girl's life.

"...Nou, wha, what?"

"Shuya-sama?"

Rubia suddenly looks at me concerned.

Uh, sorry...

...Rubia, this Dwarf is Zaga. The one outside is Zaga's younger brother Bonn. These brothers are blacksmiths. Their skills are top-class.

"Oi, oi, what is this all of a sudden. Shuya. Introduce this child to me?"

"Ah, I'll be relying on you. I won't ask you to make her a full-fledged smith. I'll also leave gold with her. Only, trouble will surely follow me in life..."

I lower my head and ask for help.

Zaga looks at Rubia. He seems to be thinking.

"Uh, Shuya-sama. I'm alright."

"However, is it fine to leave this to an acquaintance?"

"Hai. So..."

Hai, you're called Rubia? I'm Zaga. The one outside is my younger brother, Bonn. We'll be looking after one another from now on."

Oh, Zaga accepted it easily.

"You're accepting?"

"Of course. I can't refuse Shuya's request. The other day, I gained a lot. Besides, I feel like our relationship is important. Bonn also has his connection with the black cat, I also have a hunch that we Dwarf brothers will be doing a lot of business soon."

"Is it really okay?"

Rubia's expression is different than Zaga's stern one, she seems surprised.

"Ah, we're still planning on moving to **【Labyrinth City Pernette】**. If it's fine, I'll still take care of her."

Yes, it's fine. Thank you in advance."

With an excited expression, Rubia thanks Zaga.

Then, Bonn and Rollo and to the shop.

"Enchanto."

"N, Nya."

"Bonn, we're going to be living with this girl, Rubia. Say hello."

"Encha? Enchant."

Bonn looks at Rubia and smiles warmly.

Eyes sparkling, he walks up to Rubia and greets her with a thumbs up.

"-Um, please treat me well. Bonn-san, Zaga-san."

"Encha."

"Of course."

Zaga explains about Bonn.

"Then, Rubia. I'm mostly a blacksmith, but I'm also a bit of a merchant. What can you do? Do you have any unique abilities, is there something you want to do?"

"Hai. I'm confident in my recovery magic. And then...I also want to become an adventurer."

Rubia turns around in the middle and stares at me while she finishes.

Like me...

That recovery magic should be useful in a party. It may be a good choice.

In that case, should I give her a parting present?

"Hou, an adventurer. 【Labyrinth City Pernette】 is the best place for that. There are a lot of people and adventurers there. Everyone from rookies to veterans. You should be able to manage. We'll do as much as we can to support you, right Bonn?"

"Enchanto."

Good. It'll be fine.

I'll give this Rubia.

I open my item box and remove the long sword made from the ancient dragon fang.

"Rubia, if you're going to work hard as an adventurer, this sword should come in handy."

"Ou? That is..."

Seeing the ancient dragon long sword, Zaga is surprised.

I look at Zaga and nod.

"Thank you. However, is it okay?"

"Ah, work hard. Well then, I'll take my leave now. If fate allows, we may meet again in the future."

"...Hai. Shuya-sama. Thank you, truly. ...Someday, I hope to meet you again."

After bowing deeply, Rubia raises her head and stares at me fiercely.

Her eyes are begging me not to leave.

She's hot-blooded.

"...Ah, again. I'll meet Zaga and Bonn too."

"Nya."

"Hm."

"Enchanto."

Rollo and I depart from the Dwarf brother's shop, leaving Rubia behind.

One day, I'll go to 【Labyrinth City Pernette】, and we'll meet again.



Now then, should I go see Popobumu once again.

If I go to Holkerbam, I'll need my ride.

I go to the stable next to the guild.

The magic essence is still following me.

I ignore it and walking towards the stable.

Oh, I found Popobumu.

Rollo promptly jumps onto the back of Popobumu's head.

She curls up on top of his head.

"Bubo?"

"Yo, Popobumu. It's been a while."

"Bubo!"

Hahaha, he seems fine.

He's breathing excitedly. I pat his armored skin.

I'll get on.

"Yosh."

It's been so long that I get on without a saddle.

My muscle memory instantly orients my body

Thump, thump, a pleasant feeling.

"Ah, mister. Did you bring that magic beast here?"

A stable hand who likes Popobumu spoke up.

"That's right. He's been under your care until now."

"No, no, he's energetic...I'll be lonely, but you'll take him out to move now?"

"Bubo."

Popobumu replies to the stable hand. (TL: I want a chapter of Popobumu's adventures in the stable. My headcanon is that he uncovered corruption and brought the perpetrators to justice.) Haha, Popobumu likes the stable hand too.

I ride Popobumu back to the inn.

Now then, for a little while, I'll seal off the other side of the gate.

Probably until I arrive in **【Holkerbam】**.

I tap the storage icon in item box and place the Paredes Mirror inside.

Then, I leave the room before checking out of the inn.

I receive a tangerine-like fruit from the surly innkeeper.

The fruit is called saika.

Like the inn's name.

Rollo narrows her crimson eyes when she sees the Saika then ignores it.

I put the fruit in a pocket of my chest belt then mount Popobumu.

Ah, before I go to **【Holkerbam】**, I should return to the guild.

If there's a request regarding Holkerbam, I can kill two birds with one stone.

I'll decide after looking at the requests.

I return Popobumu to the stable next to the guild.

The stable hand makes a strange face, but I don't mind it and enter the guild with Rollo.

I check the request board.

Requests for Holkerbam...

Most of them are as caravan guards. Just C and D rank requests.

Client: Luxor Commercial Firm

Request Contents: C Rank, Caravan Guard to Magic Steel City Holkerbam

Time Period: Last Day. The caravan is leaving this afternoon.

Subjugation Target: N/A

Habitat: N/A

Remuneration: One Gold Coin.

Subjugation Evidence: N/A

Additional Information: Transportation will be over land, so be on the lookout for thieves and monsters. Departing from New Town's north entrance near the harbor. Look for a green flag with the crest of a horse and sword.

Note: Three wagons and two covered carriages. Each can fit six people. There is no extra room. However, horse and magic beast mounts are required. There are various products like food and gold works, so you will be required to protect them from thieves. Furthermore, this paper will be removed in several hours.

This is the highest ranking request going to Holkerbam.

The remuneration is small, but shall I take this one? Getting such a reward from a C rank request...Although, it will contribute to my number of achievements.

I've decided.

I take the wooden tally to the reception desk.

The healing big-breasted receptionist-san isn't here, so I hand my guild card and wooden tally to another beautiful receptionist.

The request is accepted immediately, the back of the guild.

I board Popobumu and check my guild card.

The number of completed requests in ten. It keeps increasing.

Now then, I'll soon say goodbye to 【Fort City Hector】.

In the end, I never hear breast receptionist-san's name.

Ah, I wanted to bury my face in those breasts...

Chapter 69: Mysteries, Exceptionally Beautiful Adventurer

I receive a caravan guard request headings towards 【Magic Steel City Holkerbam】, but I have yet to arrive at the meeting place.

I'm leaving the city, so I need to prepare to travel.

There are still the hotpot meals, but I'll start with food.

I leave the overcoat's front open while ridding Popobumu, leaving my purple armor exposed.

On top of Popobumu's head, Rollo extends her feelers to cover his eyes, playing a trick.

"Rollo, that's dangerous, stop."

"Nn, nya."

Rollo retracts her feelers then angrily bends over backward, looking at me upside down.

It looks like she's going to lay on her back...even if she looks at me with those cute eyes I won't be scared.

After a while, we arrive at the market. Every race is mixed together here.

I get down from Popobumu and guide him with the reins while searching street stalls.

Thereupon, not a street stall, but something like a flea market with a big carpet spreads out in front of me.

I'm a little curious, so I approach.

In addition to the thick carpet, there are also plenty of flat porcelain pots.

Oi, these are all small.

A tiger beastman wearing a turban is sitting cross-legged on the carpet.

The aura around this beastman makes me feel like he'll remove a flute and

have a snake dance out of a pot.

“Welcome, these bottles are made of fujiku-”

“They’re little, I see.”

“Ou, we can’t compete with the selection of the Gaumonku Firm, but even though what I carry looks this way, people will still buy.”

Without playing the flute, the tiger beastman shopkeeper energetically recommends his wares.

I can make water, is this porcelain container helpful? If the price is reasonable, I may buy it.

I purchase all the shallow jars.

I stack them together and place them in the item box.

“Thank you, I’m from the Fujiku Union, (TL: Something about showing one’s face in public) Purple Knight-san, thank you.”

Tears gather in the corner of the tiger beastman merchant’s eyes, but a smile stretches across his whole face.

“No, no, well then.”

I depart with a smile on my own face.

Next is there.

The street stall I’ve liked recently catches my eye.

A simple store with curtains.

However, it’s a nameless shop that serves delicious hot pots in secret.

I order multiple meals and replenish my stock.

What shall I buy next?

After all, I should get bread.

There are various foods lined up to be sold in bakeries.

This baker has a few types of bread lined up on his shelves. There are hard rye breads lined up. There’s also a round brown bread, but all of them look

similar and hard.

It will be hard even if I slice it, but I may be able to use it for a sandwich, so I buy some.

Then, I find some seasonings, cheese, a ham-like meat, and Lunga meat. I can use them in dishes sometimes.

I also need vegetables and mushrooms.

Moving to the next shop, I buy lettuce, a vegetable similar to paprika, and put it all in one bag with the meat. Then, I store the big bag in my item box.

This much food should be enough.

I check the small items I placed in my chest belt pockets.

Magic bottle, a magic bag with pocket change, everyday leather clothes, hide cloth, various potions in a small strong box. A wooden toothbrush is also in one of my pockets.

These items are some of the things I bought.

At any rate...this earthen magic bottle is great.

Kuna's notes said it was made from an ore only produced in the labyrinth city.

It's perfect for preserving water and blood, so it's something I'll need when traveling.

I open then close the magic bottle before storing it.

Ah, I need to get soap, I've already used up my Gyuza Grass.

Soap is a luxury item.

Babon didn't have any for sale, there seems to be a shop that sells soap... I might have to go to the noble district to find some.

I mount Popobumu and leave the market, heading to the noble district.

After a short time, the appearance of the people walking along the street becomes improved.

They are probably nobles and merchants.

Popobumu's weight causes his feet to create a scaled mosaic where he steps.

The ground is white too, so it gives off a high-class air.

The number of shops along the street increase as well.

There is a signboard with cheerful decorations on it.

【Shuhareru General Goods】

“Shuhareru works with thirty high-class craftsmen. Quality is guaranteed.”

【Kira Joselie Fortune Teller. Guidance from Ashura-kami, God of Destiny】

“Madame Kazane won’t lose. Cheapest fee south of Manheim.”

【Jill’s Magic Gold Shop】

“Rings for those who travel the world.”

“First Place in Osberia Kingdom’s 589th Art Competition, Nominate Accessories on Display.”

This is the equivalent of Ginza in Japan or Paris’ Eight Avenue. What’s it called?

Among the high-end shops, I stop Popobumu in front of Shahareru’s General Goods shop where many customers are coming and going from.

I don’t need to find parking on the street.

I get down from Popobumu and approach the shop on the pretty tiled ground. Pushing open the door with a glass window, I enter the store.

A pleasant smell comes over me. The inside of the store is overflowing with smells.

The aromas give this shop a sense of cleanliness.

I begin searching right away.

The items being sold in the General Goods shop is an assortment of clothes, cloth, and small articles.

Oh, there’s also a pocket-size brush that looks high-class.

I’ll buy this for Rollo.

I pick a brush up.

I look at the other shelves.

Heh, there's a wide variety.

Metal hair clips, a medicinal ointment for skin, etchi shaped sticks, small whips, back scratchers, leather straps, incenses and fragrant flowers, there are even incense pots for sale.

It smells nice.

Rollo seems to be interested in the smell. Her nose twitches as she sniffs.

"Rollo, behave yourself, ah, I'll buy this too."

"Nnn."

Her only reply is a purr.

It seems like she's saying 『Nyunderstood』

I grab a back scratcher with a leather wrist strap and continue my search for soap.

Soap, soap, aha!

In the area soap is being sold, there are a noble woman and a maid browsing.

It seems noble women buy soap as well.

This one is assessing its quality.

The woman has a purse dangling from her chest.

The woman picks up one of the soaps and hands it to her maid.

That purse around her neck looks like Borsa from the middle ages.

I'm not sure what it's called here-while having such thoughts, I pick up a bar of soap.

The only kinds of soap here are enormous ones the size of tofu.

The only colors are green and white.

I might as well buy a lot of it.

I pick up a crate containing ten bars.

"Welcome. -Ma, you're buying this much. Thank you. Wooden stick, leather

strap, five large copper coins, the brush is one silver coin, the soap comes to ten silver coins.”

The stick and leather strap is five large copper coins, the brush is one silver.

Well, the wood grain of the stick looks good, and there are silver fittings, it’s also really smooth. It’s high quality.

I can see the effort the craftsman put into this.

However, the brush and soap are each a silver coin.

Isn’t it more expensive than one night in a luxury inn?

“Silver coin?”

The words slip out accidentally.

I remove the silver coins from the item box.

“Hai, certainly. Then, I’ll give you a service, three leather clothes from the country of Samaria called ‘Mermaid Leather.’”

Uh, service is good, but mermaid? Skin?

“Mermaid...”

“Hai. It’s the skin of a monster that is only found on the shores of Samaria.”

Oh, good. It’s a monster. Is it some kind of rhinoceros or alligator?

I recall hearing that those in Samaria eat mermaids, for a moment, I wonder if the owner of this mermaid skin was beautiful.

“Will you take this?”

“Ah, un. This is fine-”

Saying that I place the box with the cloth and soaps in my item box.

I put the brush in one of my chest pockets.

When the saleswoman sees me use my item box, her eyes brighten, and her mouth drops open in surprise.

This young sales clerk, her hand moves to cover her open mouth. Her conduct is refined. The way she moves has a sense of elegance.

“Well then.”

I leave the high-class shop and mount Popobumu.

Next, then. From the box...I remove the evil dragon king's blue eye.

The surface of the gem is smooth and comfortable.

I place it in a pocket of the belt strapped across my chest.

Once I have time, I'd like to test out what kind of magic this eye can use.

Its power should be lower than the ice magic from the dragon magic stone on the magic spear...

After I check my belongings, I urge Popobumu forward.

I cross the drawbridge entrance of Hector.

Then, I pass through the poor district of New Town on my way to the harbor.

I'm a little worried as I do.

The presence is still following behind me.

For the time being, I continue forward while shoulder the magic spear, being wary of my back.

The magic essence behind me moves expertly, neither too close or too far behind.

The person who has been tailing me recently is the same person...they're skilled.

However, if they're willing to follow me even once I've left the city... how convenient.

If the foot traffic dies down, I'll be able to get a look at them...

I'm worried about the person following me, but I end up reaching the port without incident.

The view isn't much different than my first time here.

Goods are being loaded onto boats with pulleys, a large gangway is lowered to the shore, people are coming down into Hector.

If the ship is being used to that extent, it is probably a large scale maritime trading company.

Now then, rather than the ship, I'm looking for a group of wagons.

On the request notice, I was told to look for a flag with the "Crest of a horse and sword on a green and black flag."

-There are flags of various trading firms flapping in the wind.

A yellow tiger symbol, a red and white spade flag, a white flag with slanting green lines, a green turtle insignia, an ivory star, a maiden symbol bordered in crimson...

I can also see the figure of adventurers mingling with the trading caravans.

Oh, there it is.

Two covered wagons and three regular carts.

There is a green and black flag with a horse and sword standing on one of them.

Many adventurers are standing around it.

Only ten-ish people are here.

Goods are being loaded onto the wagons one after another.

It seems there precious metals, fruits, and vegetables. Items made from gold and silver reflect the sunlight. Valuable looking minerals are being loaded too.

Minerals, gold, vegetables, fruit. Their cargo is all over the place...

There are also wooden barrels being carried into the covered wagons.

I slowly approach on Popobumu while investigating, then stand where the adventurers are gathering for several minutes.

Before long, the presence that was following me has disappeared.

Instead, adventurers wearing black overcoats and dark brown hoods are appearing, seeming to be here for the same request.

I'm a little suspicious...But they join the group of adventurers waiting, perhaps they're typical adventurers.

Once the adventurers are gathered, a merchant wearing a turban appears from the covered wagons.

Once the merchant checks over the adventurers, he gets down from his wagon and opens his mouth.

“...I am Tajiki of the Luxor Trading Firm. I am in charge of this caravan. All you adventurers should have received the request. Please work as our body guards. As for who will be leading and other things, please decide that amongst yourselves. We'll follow your directions, so-”

His name is Tajiki. His manner of speech gives me a good impression of him.

His large brown turban is worn naturally.

It makes it easy for him to move.

Ma, we'll be traveling, so they are probably focused on wearing clothes that are easy to move in.

On that big turban of his looks expensive, it appears to be packed with something.

A brooch covered with jewels is displayed.

Maybe, that turban is full of candy...

While I'm having strange delusions, Tajiki returns to the carriage and says something to the coachman.

Then, several people appear in front of the waiting adventurers.

Gesturing with his hands, a person with a loud voice speaks.

“-I'm the leader of the C rank adventurer clan 【Twilight Road】, Kens Ritomanen. We have eight other members.”

Kens-san is wearing chain mail under soft leather armor. He's taller than me and has a feather sticking out of his hat.

There is a long sword sheathed at his waist and a circular shield on his arm.

Orthodox equipment.

The representative of different adventurers steps forward then.

“I’m from the D rank adventurer clan 【Fadyke’s Fang】. We have five members. My name is Rize Dozetti.”

The man who calls himself Rize has a spear.

The blue leather armor he is wearing looks easy to move in.

“...I’m the B ranked adventurer, Fran, I’m participating solo.”

The adventurer who called themselves Fran.

While speaking, they remove the hood attached to their black cloak, exposing their face.

The people begin to chatter noisily.

It seems to be unusual for a high ranking solo adventurer to be a woman.

A woman. Aside from that, what is...that...

Something strange is happening around Fran’s shoulder.

It’s the body of a semi-transparent hawk?

Rather than transparent, it gives off a slight fluorescent color.

N, iya, it’s fluorescent when I use magic observing eyes, but without them it’s invisible. There are moments when light refracts, showing something is there, but if I’m not paying attention, I miss it.

...Is it some kind of magic beast Familiar?

“...I’m the leader of the C rank clan 【Fist of God】, Gomez Delon. There are four members including me.”

While I was staring at the strange creature, the next adventurer identified themselves.

Gomez Delon.

His entire body is round, his neck thick with muscles.

He is wearing metal vambraces on his thick hands, each one has three sharpened metal shafts on the knuckles.

Are those pile bunkers? Only for use in close combat.

They're cool. They aren't covered with soot or the smell of dead flesh.

These people including Gomez are the only few who can use Fighting Moji, although none of them can use observing eyes.

No one else notices the invisible hawk of Fran's shoulder.

"C ranked adventurer...Thomas Guraser. Solo adventurer."

The one who identifies himself as Thomas has his face covered by a dark brown hood, his equipment can't be seen.

"C rank, solo, Rocha."

They're wearing the same dark brown mantle.

Their face is also covered by their hood.

All the members identify themselves, aside from me.

This is a C rank request, so we don't need to give our rank, but it seems everyone is doing it.

I take a step forward and briefly introduce myself.

C rank adventurer, Shuya Kagari."

After I speak, Kens-san of 【Twilight's Road】 begins to speak again while making sweeping gestures.

"...Everyone has introduced themselves, right? Well then, the leader should be the highest rank, Fran-"

"Iya, I'm a solo participant. It will be better if I follow. I'll obey instructions."

Lifting an arm to stop Kens-san, the woman with the strange creature on her shoulder named Fran interrupts.

Her hair is red, almost crimson. Her eyes are brown.

Her cheeks are spotted with freckles.

I can't see what equipment she has become of the cloak, but I can two sword hilt on her back.

Mysterious, who is this adventurer?

She is wearing a belt similar to mine.

It is likely attached to the swords on her back.

The mana circulation of her fighting moji is also smooth. The B ranking isn't for show.

The invisible hawk on her shoulder sits still.

“Understood. Then, I'd like to choose one of the higher C ranks, any opinions?”

No one says anything.

“I'll take your silence as acceptance. Then, as the leader of 【Twilight's Road】, I would like to take charge of the guard request. -Is everyone okay with that?”

It's admirable for him to take on the role.

His name, Ritomanen, feels like the name of an old soccer player.

“Rize of 【Fadyke's Fang】. No objections.”

“Thomas, solo. It's fine.”

“Fran declined already. Of course, I approve.”

“Gomez from 【Fist of God】. I don't mind either.”

“Rocha. I'm a solo participant, but I approve.”

“Um, I'm Shuya, a solo. I approve.”

We approve one after another.

“Understood. Then, I'll take charge. 【Fadyke's Fang】 will be middle guard, 【Fist of God】 will be rear guard, as for the rest of you, get your favorite position. Then, let's go.”

“”Ou!””

Carefree, everyone consents to the agreement.

They shout their reply.

The adventurers from the large clan 【Twilight Road】 begin advancing.

The leader, Kens goes to the lead wagons and speaks with the coachman.

Then, Kens-san raises and arm and starts directing energetically.

Following the covered wagon the merchants ride in, the horses neigh, and the caravan starts advancing.

The adventurers move to enclose the wagons.

A large numbers horse and magic beasts stir.

Their heavy foot steps blend together loudly.

Most of the adventurers are using horses, but there are a few riding magic beasts.

Including me, there are four people.

Two of the people wearing dark brown cloaks.

Rocha and Thomas.

They're solo participants, but they each are riding two legged dinosaur-like magic beasts, so they seem to be acquainted.

They don't speak to one another, but their clothing and mounts are the same.

The other is Fran, the high ranking adventurer.

She's is riding a magic beast similar to Popobumu.

Pubooo, it makes a call like that.

However, when I look closely, I can see it's different from popobumu is coloring and form.

It seems to be the same family though.

The invisible hawk on her Flan's shoulder flies away, it disappears for a moment, but after searching, I can see it flying low alongside Fran, following.

The clan members entrusted with vanguard advance.

The highway in this area is maintained, so we're able to make good time.

The caravan protected by so many adventurers advances, kicking up a cloud of dust.

I look back.

The high walls of the fortress look small. They're already far away.

-Good bye, Hector.

-Goodbye, Quiche.

-Goodbye, Rocket Breasts. I smile translucently.

Also, everyone from Crimson Tiger, Oppai receptionist-san, Marquess Chardonnay, Rubia, Cecily from the Griffon Corps.

Every one of them, beautiful women.

Their smiling faces are preserved in my memories.

Still, we may meet again.

The first day passes while I have such thoughts.

The caravan advancing on the highway until evening, only once night falls does the leader stop.

Kens-san seems to be good at his job. His casual gestures make him look like a cool leader.

I want to try making those gestures. So, as I'm thinking, Kens-san rides his horse in my direction.

"We'll stop and rest here. The clans can take the watch, solo adventurers can decide on their own. We'll leave tomorrow morning."

How carefree.

Everyone spends their time freely.

However, they still gather around the wagons, it seems to be their role as guards.

At any rate, this is my first guard request.

I don't know what to do, so I try to match everyone's atmosphere.

The clans gather together the solo adventurers share campfires.

However, everyone has been quiet since we stopped.

So, I spend my time alone.

The attitude is completely different from the adventurers I took the last request with...

I watch the members who continue silently.

Without removing the swords from her back, Fran carefully eats a biscuit.

Time passes in the silence.

The adventurers on guard are dozing, falling asleep.

Then, movement late at night...

Fran, originally near a campfire, sneaks away from the wagons.

What is she doing, While wondering, I return to the area where Popobumu is waiting.

“Rollo, I’m going to use Hidden Body for a while. Stay here and keep watch.”

“Nn, nya.”

Rollo has already curled up in a ball on Popobumu’s head, mewling a reply with a slap of her tail.

Rollo looks really sleepy.

Well then, I’ll chase after Fran.

Thinking something may be wrong with the redheaded woman, I leave Popobumu and chase after Fran.

Moving with <Hidden Body> and <Night Vision>.

I can see Fran’s back.

She keeps her head on a swivel, walking cautiously.

I follow her far from the caravan.

Once she reaches a place where the grass grows waist high, she stops and looks around again.

Wait, is she going to pee?

My <Hidden Body> skill eludes Fran’s perception, she’s not aware of me.

There’s good affinity between the <Darkness Adaptation> Permanent Skill and

he <Hidden Body> skill.

Darkness is my home. However, it feels like I'm becoming a pervert.

N, I don't actually feel it, pervert,...While I'm considering such a thing...Oh, good, she moves her arm.

She's not peeing.

Am I regretting it? ...I have a strange thought.

Fran is writing something on a small piece of paper?

Furthermore, after rolling up the slip of paper, she opens a tube attached to the invisible hawk on her shoulder.

Is the hawk for communication?

After stroking the invisible hawk's head, it screeches.

The fluorescent bird spreads its wings and flies into the night sky.

The red haired woman named Fran, is she working as something other than an adventurer?

Is she a spy for a dark guild?

Perhaps, is she the one who was following me?

After seeing the hawk off, Fran returns from the brush.

Should I show myself and question her?

Should I ignore her and continue the request?

Even if I question her, she'll just feign ignorance.

-I've decided.

I'll see how things are. It's still the first day.

I creep.

Unnoticed, I return to Popobumu and Rollo.

None of the other adventurers are behaving suspiciously aside from Fran.

Ma, that's natural...

They're supposed to be working as guards for the merchants.

I may be the only one who needs to mind their surroundings.

I make out Popobumu's face.

Now, I can cancel <Hidden Body>

Popobumu has folded up his legs and gone to sleep.

When I return, he stretches his neck and looks at me with his small eyes.

"Did I wake you? Don't worry, get some rest."

"Bubo."

Time passes while I sit next to Popobumu. After all, sitting cross-legged is easiest. I place both arms behind my head and look up.

Dark blue like an eggplant. White clouds drift through the sky.

The clear night sky is beautiful compared to the sky during the day.

-The stars are beautiful.

The colorful stars are sprinkled across the dark blue sky.

I wonder if somewhere out there is a solar system with a third planet named earth.

Iya, there shouldn't. When I first transmigrated, I came to another dimension, an entirely different space, so there shouldn't be.

Inflation, background space radiation, the amount and expansion rate of dark matter.

The Higgs Boson particle should also be different.

There are gods connected to the stars, unknown space creatures living on satellite planets, around some star there might be an advanced civilization.

Ha, I let my mind wander.

The night sky is too beautiful...

I, who transmigrated, even though I've grown, am still a trifling existence in comparison to the endless stars. The world is wide.

While I stare into the endless night sky, I don't neglect to observe my surroundings.

While I'm contemplating, Rollo gets up.

With sleepy eyes, he climbs on my thigh.

The one is adorable.

I stop looking at the sky and enjoy stroking Rollo's fur.

I brush her obsidian coat with the expensive brush.

A beautiful, happy purr comes from her.

Brushing the cute Rollo is fun.

Ah, I take out the back scratcher and leather straps for Rollo.

I can make something with this.

Like a Pythagora Switch (TL: There's a Japanese children's show called Pythagora Switch, it's mainly puppets, but they also feature Rube Goldberg Machines/ Heath Robinson Devices <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6eXeUfaliXQ>) while humming the song from the construction show for children...I tie a strap to the wooden stick first, and my simple foxtail is complete!

To take out the Cat Robot from the four dimensions futuristic magic bag, I raise the homemade foxtail to the sky. (TL: I deserve a cookie for translating that line.)

Rollo immediately looks up, surprised by the string swinging from the stick.

Yosh-we'll play with the homemade foxtail.

"Nnnn."

Rollo purrs without gathering herself, following the string with her head.

Haha, she's totally entranced by the string, trying to bite it, she jumps up.

Ah-she cut the string.

Right as I pulled the string, she caught with a claw and tore it off.

However, as for this, I'll make a new foxtail.

“Haha, Rollo.”

“Nya, Nyaon, Nya.”

She runs around in circles after the new Foxtail.

Rollo chases quickly after the new foxtail.

I'm a Rusivaul, because my body has the abilities of a vampire, I can compete with Rollo who is also faster than she should be, although I'm a hundred times faster, probably because I turned the foxtail Rollo's attention turns and she begins walking in a strange direction.

It's like the fairy tail blackening.

“Sorry.”

“Nyao.”

As soon as I slow down, Rollo jumps on the string.

She recovered quickly. In no time the leather strap is merely a bundle of fibers...

When I let go of the foxtail Rollo also bites the wooden rod, holding it her mouth a swiping.

And, after a satisfying kick, she puts it in her mouth and places it on my knee.

In front of me, Rollo gathers her feet together like a doll and stares at me with crimson eyes.

Is she asking for something?

“You still want to play?”

“Nyaon, nya.”

It seems she wants to play.

Thus, although the fog thickened, I continue playing with Rollo through the night.



The morning sun. The milky white fog is still here, but there is enough light to see the highway. The way ahead is brightly lit.

The Wind is picking up too, so the fog is split.

The scenery of the fog mixing with the morning light is beautiful.

Fantastic and pure. A pleasant side wind is blowing.

It's probably the wind blowing from the Haym river.

I'd like to stay at a calm pension with such a view, I take deep breaths...It feels nice. I wish all morning were like this.

The other adventurers enjoy the pleasant morning with me, quickly finishing breakfast and departing.

I follow the caravan from the back on Popobumu.

It's only noon. The sunlight is dazzling. The period of broad daylight.

When we pass an area with large gray rocks on either side, the voices of the adventurers in the vanguard reach me.

Screaming.

Chapter 70: Ambush - Raid

“Uaa-”

“-Enemy raid!”

What? Enemy?

Someone rides up on a horse before being struck by a large black arrow and falling.

Arrows, fire arrows, and magic fire balls come flying.

They are outside the range of presence detection.

The surprise attack is coming from the left.

-Shit, filled with anger, I look for the source of the hail of arrows.

There is a group in dark brown.

There is a magic user casting fire balls and a light soldier using a bow.

I see someone walking in a strange enormous armor.

Is that iron helmet a mask? A little taller than three meters?

They're taking a stance, drawing their longbow with a thick arm.

Perhaps, is that a magic wogan doll?

I saw soldiers of iron during the Evil Dragon King subjugation.

It seems this is the one firing the thick black arrows.

With slow movements, the iron creature shoots another arrow.

Again, one of the adventurers is pierced by iron.

The iron creature appears slow, but its accuracy is unquestioned.

The members of 【Twilight Road】 were acting as vanguard, so the giant arrows, regular arrows, and fireballs removed adventurers from their horses, causing them to escape in every which direction.

After the horses escape, only the dead adventurers remain on the ground.

The body of Kens, the leader of Twilight Road is among them.

A thick iron arrow is embedded in his chest.

He died the moment his heart was pierced.

The thick iron arrows also struck the wagons, breaking off the wheels.

Its frame is tilted, resting on the road. The goods being transported are spilled over the ground.

The horses that were harnessed to the wagons have away as well.

The thick iron arrows have stopped flying, but the regular arrows and fireballs are still falling.

A fireball directly hits the covered wagon the merchant was riding in.

The coachman is killed by a stray arrow.

Without its driver, the covered wagon crashes into the rocks and goes up in flames.

Arrows hit the harnessed horses so go into a panic and break free of their restraints, running away.

The caravan stops moving.

This surprise attack was planned like they knew the convoy would pass through here.

Angry voices rise from the adventurers.

However, only one of the covered wagons hasn't been attacked.

There, the adventurers from 【Fadyke's Fang】 are acting as middle guard, defending.

They seem to have blocked the big iron soldier's thick arrows.

Several people are running away, eluding the fireballs.

N, what? Those two? The two adventurers in dark brown robes are doing something else. They dismount their magic beasts, draw knives, and attack the members of Fadyke's Fang from behind.

Seriously-we're being betrayed.

That moment, I remember what happened yesterday.

That adventurer woman sent a communication with her invisible hawk.

However, the female adventurer removes a bastard sword from her back and moves to protect the last wagon.

The red-head isn't betraying us? She's not the enemy right now.

The sword she is using resembles a bastard sword.

It's a one handed sword like Bitou.

While I look at Fran the two traitors in dark brown respond with throwing their knives, they're fast, two more people are killed.

Their skill with the sword is as deadly as their ability with knives.

They definitely have the throwing skill.

Their movements are fast and their aim accurate.

A thrown knife lands between the brows of an adventurer using a bow.

Without their bow user, 【Fadyke's Fang】 can't counterattack, so they can only be cut down one sided.

However, I'll make them regret this. (TL: Booyah.) I aim for the person with the long sword.

I extend my right hand, and after the magic halberd appears as I swing with the crimson ax blade, then I slap Popobumu and instantly arrive at the dark brown cloaked man.

At the same time, the crimson ax blade hits a boulder sticking out of the ground, sparks scatter-a trail follows like a firework.

The man in the dark brown robe turns around when I arrive, but it's too late.

The flaming crimson blade severs the man's head.

The severed head flips through the air.

The dark brown hood is stained with blood, the body collapses like a puppet with its strings cut.

“Na-Rocha, shit!”

Angry with me for killing their companion, they begin shouting.

-Rocha.

It seems they didn't give false names.

The screaming man removes his hood exposing his face.

He is fair-haired and blue eyed, a handsome man.

I glare at him.

Such a gaze is ignored. Make Popobumu detour around.

-I check my surroundings.

The people launching the surprise attack are on the right side as well as the left.

On the other hand, the surviving adventurers have gathered around the covered wagon, creating a barricade.

I should return and see how things are going.

-I sent Popobumu to the wagon.

After leaving the covered wagon, the surviving adventurers have understood what is happening.

Fran is leading several adventurers with good builds.

They are protecting the members around the carriage.

"Someone betrayed us. This attack was planned."

"Shit, what luck. N...we're surrounded, oi, is that a Wogan?"

"It is. ...This is the worst case scenario. For so many thieves to appear..."

I see the group is releasing attacks from the wagon's shadow.

The magic Wogan doll and dozen of people dressed in dark brown robes approach.

We're completely surrounded.

As I look at enemies, I find the person who glared at me earlier.

Ash blue eyes. The traitor has rejoined his group.

However, fire balls and thick iron arrows have stopped.

The covered wagon has been left intentionally.

Now then, seeing as it can't be helped, let's hear what they have to say.

"You people, you okay?"

"Ah, the rear guard is fine. However, the wagons are destroyed, this is the only one left."

"Adventurers, help us..."

Then, Taijiki appears from in the covered wagon.

His expression is haggard.

It seems he's alive.

"You're alive. Leave it to us, we won't surrender to thieves. The members of 【Fist of God】 are all resolute. Na, you-"

"That's right." "As expected of Gomez." "We'll defend to our death."

Including the leader, there are three members in 【Fist of God】 who can use magic.

"You can smile under these circumstances? I admire your enthusiasm, but do you have countermeasures?"

Fran has taken a defensive posture, speaking caustic words with lowered eyebrows. Still, 【Fist of God's】 leader doesn't look upset and answers seriously.

"Sheila, can you spread the defense wall immediately?"

"Yeah. I can set it up."

"Captain, what about me?"

"Gio, stay by Sheila's side. -Fran, aren't you a B rank adventurer? Sheila will create a defensive magic circle, until then I'll fight-"

Sheila's magic chant cuts him off.

"-The magic lasts five minutes. The time shortens when attacks are received."

"That's right. Do you have some kind of trump?"

“Iya, I don’t have an area attack skill, but I’m confident in my ability with this long sword. If it’s one on one, I won’t be defeated.”

He says to Fran with a hint of confidence.

“Is that so, the answer is natural for a B rank. Don’t I have confidence too? However, we’re outnumbered.”

After Fran talks to Gomez, she nods her head and turns her gaze to me.

-Fran?

Her freckled face squints a little, she’s a beautiful woman.

She says she is confident in her ability with the bastard sword and her left arm.

On her left hand is a red leather glove with a button, her arm is covered in white gauze from her wrist to her shoulder.

Does this have something to do with a skill?

It may be related to her handling the invisible hawk.

However, the transparent bird left and still has yet to return.

Fran looks at me too.

Our eyes meet silently, then I turn to look at Gomez.

Because of the protection of Gomez’s magic user, Rollo and I should be able to move on our own.

Ma, I don’t know if these guys would survive, but I’ll give my opinion.

“I have a plan. Plan B.”

“Plan B? N, what kind of plan? I think...you.”

“C rank, Shuya.”

“Is that so, you can use B rank Fran? So? What is it?”

I meant something different, but it’s fine.

“Iya, Rollo and I will attack. At that time, you maintain the battle formation, your magic user-san can set up the defense circle. Can the barrier be

maintained until my black cat and I break the encirclement?”

“Are you an idiot?”

“Iya, I’m serious? I’ll do it regardless of what you say.”

“-N, wait, I’ll take part in the plan.”

Fran seems to agree with my plan B.

“Oi, oi, you agree with this guy’s idiotic plan B?”

Gomez half laughs as if saying a joke.

“That’s-”

When Fran speaks, a thick iron arrow pierces the covered wagon.

“You’re surrounded, surrender peacefully!”

A thief with a deep voice speaks.

“-Is that so? Fran agrees with me. What about you?”

“Ku...”

Gomez looks at the members of his clan.

Everyone trusts Gomez, they wait for his command.

“Fine-please, take care of it.”

Appearing determined, Gomez replies.

Yosh, we’ll be doing some work.

-I look in Rollo’s direction.

“Nya.”

Rollo turns her crimson eyes to me. She’s sitting on the back of Popobumu’s head, but she appears ready to go.

“Well then, Fran and Gomez, thank you.”

Saying so, I guide Popobumu and charge to the left.

There are many enemies on the left.

With Burdock in my right hand, I urge Popobumu to go faster.

“Rollo, can you hold of the big iron soldier?”

“N, Nyao.”

“It’s slow so its legs should be its weak point, I’ll leave it to you-”

While saying so, I fix Burdock to the right.

The crimson spear head pierces the chest of a dark brown robe in front of me.

The crimson spear goes straight through.

With the corpse stuck to the spear head, without slowing down, I continue to charge into the enemies.

-Rollo jumps off.

She runs while her form changes, and like I said, ignores the small fires, charging for the magic wogan doll.

Seeing Rollodinu in the corner of my sight, I extend my left hand and eject <Chain>.

The range and speed of the <Chain> skill have become comparable to a bullet.

-Buzzing as it flies, the chain creeps across the ground.

The chain pierces the foot of a bow man and wraps around his leg like a snake.

I lift the living bow soldier and slam him into another bowman.

Then, using the impact, I let the chain entwine the other bow man.

-Thus is the birth of a meat wall.

Living flesh hammer, just kidding.

Once room has been created, the warrior in dark brown cloak shout and approach. Good force. However—

I throw the slightly burnt corpse attached to the halberd at the charging men.

The corpse and halberd collide with them. Somersaulting down, I move away from Popobumu’s stomping feet.

Even as I hear something squish-I jump.

Popobumu charges away from the people.

An assassin type soldier tries to take advantage of the opening after I land, approaching with a dagger in each hand he tries to stab me in the back.

-The daggers glimmer.

Back stab? However, I activate a certain skill.

The next moment, the daggers fall from the man's hands, and he is blown away.

I made a fist with the <Magic Thought Guidance Hand>.

The assassin's face is caved in.

I pick up the dead man with my distorted mana hand.

I make the corpse float in the air behind me. (TL: Shit, Shuya.)

Now, I have two meat walls.

Next, a magic user sees me and tries to launch fireballs. GOOOOOO, it approaches loudly.

Unconcerned, I respond—

I move the chain so the fireball collides with the meat wall.

The fireball extinguishes. The man hit by the fireball is slightly charred, his leg looks like it is about to come off, so I remove chain entwined around it.

This magician?

I glare at the magic user who threw the fire ball.

Holding a staff. -I aim for the magic user.

Using fighting moji enhanced legs, jump, hop, step.

Firing <Chain> into the ground midway, I move fast.

That moment-I go straight to the magic user.

I use the momentum from charging at him. Slashing down with the magic spear, I bisect the magic user's head.

However, unusual-the magic user's response.

Using his staff, he tries to block the crimson ax blade.

However, the moment they meet, the staff is sliced in half and set aflame then the magic user's head is bisected.

The crimson blade sinks into the magic user's head, sizzling sounds are heard, and the smell of burnt flesh wafts from the wound.

The smell endures.

I kick the corpse and remove my halberd, then spin the magic spear.

-An arrow comes flying.

It lands with a dull thump.

-The arrows hit the two meat walls behind me.

One of the two meat walls is held in the air with <Magic Thought Guidance Hand> so without magic observing eyes the opponent doesn't understand what is happening.

The face of the man who fired the arrow is filled with astonishment.

It's only natural.

I have no intention of letting the bowman fire another arrow.

I use fighting moji enhanced legs again, closing the space with the Bowman.

Without slowing down, I <thrust> the magic spear-

<Thrust> while twisting, the piercing skill.

The spear head and adjacent ax blade pierce forward, twisting.

My opponent meets a miserable end.

The crimson ax blade tears the wound in a circle. A big circular flaming wound is created.

The leather armor quickly peels away leaving behind a burning wound shaped like a crescent moon.

The Bowman's eyes open wide as he looks down at the fatal wound.

" ... "

At a loss for words, he says nothing.

He simply falls forward.

Now, I've finished killing the enemies around me.

I don't see any near by enemies or detect any presences.

There's more space to work now, so I run after Rollo.

She seems to be facing off with the Wogan doll properly.

The feelers are entangled around its legs, making the gigantic figure fall over.

Dragging like that...she approaches.

Why is Rollo dragging such a heavy object to me?

Moving the iron creature side to side, its like a toy being pulled by a string...

Dust is being kicked up.

I can hear the screams of the dark brown thieves.

Several people around the iron warrior have collapsed, dead.

Ah~, the enemy's final pitiful moments.

"Nya, nyah."

After all, Rollo calls out while she drags the magic Wogan doll.

She caught her prey, so she wants to show off. (TL: I love Rollo.)

"I troubled you. Rollo, you can do what you like now."

The magic wogan doll is currently a broken down mess.

Oops, it's still moving.

Its surface is deformed like it's been smashed into trees, its form is like a bloody iron man.

Ma, I'll deliver the final blow.

I aim at the dented metal head.

Dropping the crimson ax blade down, I destroy it.

A silvery black fluid flows out of the head.

So, I try to look at Rollo, but she's already run off in search of new prey.

She's switched over to a chasing game now.

The dark brown cloaks have all turned away and are fleeing, one by one they give a bone sword in the back.

That...

One of the people in a dark brown cloak doesn't flee but turns around to face Rollodinu.

There is only one thief remaining.

Alone? Isn't he brave?

They throw off their hood. Eh? They're a woman?

"Ahhhhh, Tutto-"

Tutto? The hell is Tutto?

|

Chapter 71: Magic Mark

A strange voice. But, Totto?

I ready my halberd, but the woman ignores my stance.

Oh? She's looking towards the broken Wogan doll.

What is she doing?

The woman looks at the broken wogan doll with a sad expression, then she bends over and places her hand on it.

That instant, the woman's hand brightens.

Black spider-web like lines spread out from her fingertips. Eventually, her skin becomes completely black except for her white fingernails.

At the same time, the broken sections of the wogan doll shine, they wriggle like slime mold, the broken metal parts sprout metal threads that join them together.

What? Joining? The metal is regenerating?

Was that woman's shining hand a magic skill?

Her light brown hair is blown to the side by the wind.

Her eyes are dark brown. There is a seal carved on her forehead.

Mana faintly emits from the seal.

N? That design on her forehead, somewhere...then Rollo returns.

She is going to kill the woman with her bone sword.

"Rollo, wait."

'Nya."

Rollo stops and retracts her feeler.

I want to question this woman.

"Oi, woman, what are you doing?"

“Shut up, I’m healing!”

“That magic wogan doll?”

“That’s right, aah, the iron crystal core is destroyed, I was too late. My Totto. This was everything I had...such a thief group, my last moments... sa, kill me.”

The woman looks at me, tears streaming down a face full of despair.

After all, it’s the characteristic seal on her forehead.

“I haven’t decided if I’m going to kill you yet. What’s your name?”

“...I, Misty... Misty Gustave.

Gustave?

Perhaps...she’s from the same family as the magician Zoru, from the magic fog forest?

The shape of her seal is different from Zoru’s, but it’s in the same place. Besides, she has the same eyes.

“...You’re from the Gustave house? That explains why the band of thieves had a magic wogan doll.”

“Shit, that’s right. Since you know of the Gustave house you’re from hector, right? Then I wish I could kill you.”

The woman speaks with a voice full of malice.

“Iya, it’s not my home...”

Ara? I thought since you know the name of my house...then, pardon me. I got you caught in my revenge, I may look like this, but I used to be a noble in Hector. That shitting older brother of mine and that shitty Marquess took everything from the Gustave family.”

Older brother. After all, she’s probably talking about Zoru, the man I killed.

The magician living in a forest with the doll shaped like his wife.

It matches what was written in the journal.

She bears a grudge against her brother, a grudge against Marquess Chardonnay for destroying her house, Hector, and maybe even a grudge against

the kingdom.

“...I’m not interested in the things that happened here. Aside from that, drop any kind of weapons you have, also give me any money you have...”

I feel sorry for her, but I’m not going to let her threaten me.

“Weapons, uh, this sword. I’ve spent all my money. Everything was spent on Totto.”

The woman drops her sword with despondent expression and raises her hands in surrender.

“What about the bag on your back?”

“There’s only food, clothes, a sewing kit, and tools.”

I look at the bag, but she doesn’t take it off.

“Well then, cross your arms behind you and turn around.”

“You aren’t going to kill me?”

“Ah, not at the moment? Turn around.”

“Shit, I got it.”

Then, I construct a magic formation.

The formation magic I’ve only used once appears.

I finish it right away.

I fix its form. Mental image.

<Dark Shackles.>

Dark shackles appear around her wrist.

“Na, this is magic?”

“Yup. They’re restraints. They’re for you.”

“-Shit, damn it, the parts of the magic doll are still there.”

“Do you understand your position? Now is not the time to be impatient.”

Thus, against her will, I grab her waist and throw her over my shoulder.

I whistle for Popobumu.

I place her in the saddles before getting on myself.

“Kya! Just, just a little, I’ve been reduced to poverty, I am a lady, so could you handle me a bit more gently-ah, why is that cat there? Ah, shit, its paws stink-”
(TL: How dare you.) I ignore her.

Rollo playfully pushes her paws against Misty’s face.

I would tell her to keep going, but there are still adventurers fighting, so there’s no time.

“Let’s return to the other side. Misty, stay still. Rollo, get ready.”

“Nya.”

“What do you mean stay still? I can’t move even if I want to.”

I ride Popobumu back towards where the adventurers are still fighting.

I look ahead as I ride.

There is a dome of earth around the caravan.

Protection magic.

The thieves group’s magic users are launching fireballs at the earthen dome.

Whenever the dome is struck the layer of earth thins, leaving behind a hole.

I hurry towards the adventurers who have been protecting the wagon.

“-Sorry for the wait.”

I imitate the plucky voices of store attendants.

“Oooh, Shuya, you’ve already taken out the enemy. We’ve been defending like we said.:

Gomez says with a shake of his weapon.

“Is that so, I took a captive, so I’ll leave them here. I’m to take care of the guys firing magic, so caring for this woman.”

“Understood.”

Gomez quickly acknowledges.

Well then, guess I'll finish this.

I speak to Misty.

"Misty, I'm going to leave you here."

"Eh, wait."

I drop her near the wagon before the dirt dome.

"-Ouch. Shit."

"You surprised me-"

Gomez looks at Misty in surprise, but I ignore him and urge Popobumu further.

Like that, I go around the earth dome to the side where enemies are firing magic.

The enemies are in sight.

-Two bowmen in dark brown robes.

-Each one has a scimitar.

These are the traitors. The adventurer with grayish blue eyes.

-There are two magic users to the side.

Aiming for one of the magic users, I take advantage of Popobumu's momentum.

Like a medieval jousting, I release a battle cry.

Piercing with popobumu' momentum.

-I penetrate the magic user's chest.

After the fleshy sensation is transmitted through the halberd shaft, the magic user is sent spinning through the air.

Popobumu doesn't slow down.

A magic user throws a wind blade in our direction.

However, that wind blade can't track us and hit the ground after we pass.

"Aim properly!"

The blue-eyed man shouts at his companion while I turn Popobumu's reins to go around clockwise.

I wave the magic spear stained with blood and stretch out to the side.

The crimson ax blade shines under the sunlight. I glance at the magic user who shot the wind blade and slap Popobumu's stomach.

I aim for the magic user running on the side. The magic user tries to flee, but there is no time, so he is cut down by the magic spear. His body is cut in two.

The two bloody sections of his body fly past my eyes.

I've dealt with the troublesome magic users.

-Then, a nimble arrow.

Rollo and I jump to dodge, but the arrow strikes popobumu's rear end.

Popobumu shouts, bubububu. Then he runs away.

It must be because of the arrow, Popobumu is moving faster than usual.

-Will he be okay? As I fall to the ground, I confirm Popobumu's circumstances.

He's running away spiritedly.

On the other hand, Rollo rushes toward to man who shot the arrow.

She's fast. Then, I stand up and look at the blue-eyed traitor.

If I remember correctly, his name is Thomas Gura-something or other.

"What did you..."

He says disjointedly.

His face is full of fear.

"I am Shuya Kagari. You are Thomas? You actually are working with the thieves. It must be thanks to the unreasonable guard request."

"-You know, phooey-this should have been an easy job, but because of you..."

Thomas pats his chest and gulps.

His death is inevitable.

"Very bad. However, I only made the sparks, right?"

“Chi-”

Thomas moves his hand to his chest, and I mirror his actions.

Like a shootout in an old western-I reflexively raise my left hand and eject <Chain> from my wrist. The chain penetrates Thomas’s right arm, and I control it.

Moving the chain, I wind it around his body.

“Now then, I’d like to hear why you chose to attack us.”

“Guh, stay away.”

I tighten the chains around Thomas’ chest.

Several throwing knives fall out.

“Maa, if you don’t talk you’re going to die...”

Speaking ruthlessly, I take Burdock’s eye of its pocket.

“Hiii.”

I inject a tad of mana.

A blade of ice flies off the blue dragon eye.

It stabs Thomas’ earlobe, freezing it.

“Hiiiiieee, co, col, no, it hurts!”

Rollo returns.

She seems to have taken care of the bowmen.

“Sa, you’re the only one left? Do you a taste of this ice blade again?”

“Hiii, I, I understand... I’ll ta-talk, so stop the magic... this thief group is scraped together. We’re employed by the dark guild, **【Owl’s Fang】**.”

Ho, such a group.

That, somehow, isn’t this like when I questioned to thief from before?

This job is related to the dark guilds...

“...now that you mention it, why is this thief band in this area?”

“Sa, it was an order. We were supposed to attack the caravan that passed through here. I was meant to pose as an adventurer who survived the attack, then file a false report with the adventurer’s guild. And, the job was gathering information on the target trading company.”

Treacherous waste.

How many adventurers are like this person?

“Trash. So it was an order from 【Owl’s Fang】?”

“Oze and Jane.”

Oze and Jane. The names of a man and woman?

The adventurers in the wagon are gathered together.

“You’re here too.”

“Mou, it hurts. Be nicer.”

“Noisy...however, this woman, she has the magic seal of a magical engineer?”

Gomez grabs Misty by the arm and drags her along.

“Magic seal?”

Gomez points at Misty.

“On this woman’s forehead? This magic seal is evidence of a superior craftsman, but it’s also unique to a small handful of nobles, what is a noble doing entering a thief band?”

Gomez looks at Misty’s face, but she turns away and falls silent.

“...”

“Don’t you think? He, maa, this one belongs to Shuya. I could try to interfere, but betraying that guy...from what I hear, is that guy a member of a dark guild? That would explain why the thief band is so formidable.”

“I’m irritated. You prayed on fellow honest, hard-working adventurers... I haven’t been an adventurer for long. Still, I can’t allow it. Captain Gomez, I want to skewer this fellow.”

Gomez’s female magic user companion says with a glare.

She's angry.

Things are getting tense.

"Well. We don't know any of the clans who were killed, and people die in this line of work. Moreover, we're in the middle...this one can be let off."

An ogre-looking companion standing next to the magic user speaks.

Everyone in **【Fist of God】** wants to kill Thomas.

"I agree completely. However, Shuya is the one who caught them. It's up to Shuya whether or not they die. ...I'll leave it to him.

Gomez, **【Fist of God】** and the red-haired Franc talk.

Everyone was entangled in this mess by Thomas' betrayal and bloodthirsty angle gazes.

"Is that so. So, Gomez, I'm able to decide?"

Gomez looks at his clan members and nods.

"-That's right, us from **【Fist of God】** were saved by you. Judgment is up to Shuya."

As for Franc, the most senior at B Rank, I look to him for confirmation again.

"That's right, I agree with Gomez. I'll leave it to Shuya. They can be treated as a crime slave and sold to a slave merchant in a city. There should be recompense for that. However, this guy is a traitor. I wouldn't mind if he died here. If you kill him, the clans whose members were killed will probably reward you too."

Franc talks as he puts his bastard sword away.

Well then, I'll decide.

"Is that so. Then I can do what I want?"

"Yeah, do as you wish."

"Understood. Then bring over the shackled woman."

"Heh-heh, kill this woman too. Roger."

Gomez seems to have misunderstood, he tosses the woman with the magic

seal over his soldier and carries her back.

Franc and the clan members follow him.

Hearing the current conversation, Thomas who is bound hand and foot becomes frightened and starts to cry.

“Auaa... uuh, wa-wait, do-don’t kill me!”

“I was thinking about the woman, but you man, did you think being so selfish was good?”

I dismiss the chains wrapped around Thomas’ body.

Then I transmit mana through my finger to the blue eye.

Multiple tiny ice blades are created.

Like a machine gun, they pummel Thomas’ body.

Blood gushes out where he is struck, but almost immediately ice spreads out.

His flesh and blood freeze, turning him into an ice sculpture.

The adventurers and merchants are behind me, so I don’t use <Soul Sucking>

Breaking off some of the frozen blood, I discretely collect some in the magic pot.

It’s a bloody sherbet.

The belted bag on Thomas’ back didn’t freeze, so I check its contents.

...There is food and gold inside, and for some reason, even though he was a man, there are several wooden brooches.

I look at the back and see the **【Owl’s Fang】** and the words “The Hungry Owl Flies.”

Some kind of code? They’re also in the shape of an owl so this must be **【Owl’s Fang】**’s insignia, it’s probably used as identification.

I’ll take them.

I collect the owl brooch. Put it in my chest pocket.

Then I look for Popobumu who was struck in the behind by an arrow.

-I whistle several times.

Popobumu shakes his head up and down, going bubobubo as he returns.

The arrow struck his rear, but it doesn't seem to hurt.

He looks a little funny, like a soldier who ran away from the battlefield, but I should pull it out... I pull out the arrow carefully.

I collect the arrow properly, I don't think it's poisoned...but I have no way of knowing.

I pour a recovery potion over the wound to heal it.

There's a bit of a scar left, but his butt is shaking fine, so it should be alright.

After I finish treating Popobumu, I return to the place where the wagons fell.

Then, all of the members of Gomez's clan collect the useable good from the thieves bodies and some of the baggage that spilled onto the road.

I'll help.

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Chapter 72: Spirit Experience from the Magic Doll

Gomez is collecting the scattered baggage.

Fran is also stripping the valuable from the people I killed.

The surviving trader Taijiki is timidly approaching the corpses, helping to loot them quietly with a negative expression.

I carry a jute bag in my arms and load it in the carriage.

I brought it to the cart...but the metal parts of the wheel a broken.

Can this be repaired? I pick up one of the metal pieces on the ground.

Then, I hear Misty's voice.

"I can fix it."

She says confidently.

Like the magic wogan doll, I guess we could try.

I remove the shackles and free her.

Immediately, the crest on Misty's forehead glows.

She extends a blackened finger towards the broken metal.

Interesting. The moment she touches the metal.

I was standing a little away, so I approach to get a better look.

When Misty's finger touches the metal, branches like blood veins stretch across the surface, forming a small magic formation. The metal starts to wriggle like a living creature, creating threads to bind the broken pieces.

Oh, it only took a handful of seconds of she touches the metal.

So strange...

The broken metal joins together, and the wheel is repaired.

As expected of one who can create magic wogan dolls.

"Hyyu, that woman. Don't ya think? Shuya had a reason for not killing her. Oi,

everyone, the cart is fixed. These bags can be loaded!”

Holding a bag, Gomez whistles and shouts happily.

“Really? Then, I want to collect the pieces of the magic wogan doll, is that alright?”

Misty says confidently.

“Ah, it’s fine, however. In regards to fixing it, didn’t you say the wogan doll was broken?”

“I-I know...don’t look at with those scary eyes. Generally... it’s a small lump of dark green steel and yellow magic steel, the iron crystal core is broken otherwise it could be regenerated.”

Scary eyes...I just looked at her normally.

Misty says some unknown metal and collects it.

The parts she picks up are small.

Dark green metal and glowing yellow metal fragments.

In a short moment, she has gathered a small lump of metal.

The metal at her fingertips suddenly returns to a normal color, and she places it in her toolbox.

Her movements are professional. They demonstrate considerable experience.

The inside of her toolbox is full of special metals.

Letting her live has its appeal, kill her would be regrettable.

I can try asking her about what I don’t know.

While I’m thinking, Gomez has collected the scattered luggage and finished loading it on the repaired cart.

Oh, the horses increased.

One of Gomez’s clan members is returning with the horses that escaped.

The horses are connected to the wagon.

Also, the thieves’ belongings are gathered in one place.

They're discussing the shares.

I join them.

"The thieves had decent enough equipment and gold."

"Looks like it. From the magic users, I gathered a staff with a magic jewel of wind and one of fire. There are twelve silver coins."

I as well as Thomas place the gold coins we collected in the sack.

The goods collected from the thieves and dead adventurers can become good gold.

Furthermore, because the thieves' headquarters was nearby, besides the silver, copper and gold coins, the swords, spears, axes, bows, arrows, staffs, complete set of leather armor, and shields will be shared equally.

However, I took a captive, so I'll decline.

Should I speak?

"Everyone, listen. I got the woman this time. So, you can have my share of the things gathered from the thieves. The reward from the commission is enough for me."

Hearing what I said, Gomez's eye open wide.

"-That's incredibly generous?"

"The magic woman will sell for a good price, isn't this quite a lot? You're different from captain, I might fall in love."

"Certainly, however, Sheila. I feel bad comparing captain Gomez to the god rank magic spearman Shuya-san."

"Isn't that right? That retreating figure...it's also totally influenced."

"Eh, Shuya-san also has that amazing black cat Familiar, I wouldn't want to steal from its owner. Doesn't he look cool...I couldn't complain no matter what happened."

"Y-you people, I'm different? Then... doing as you please... this isn't how professional adventurers should act."

Gomez tries to act tough, but his attempt is weak.

“I don’t care. Gomez, may I share with your clan?”

Fran agrees as well.

“That’s right. I agree. However, Shuya. If you say you want gold later, it’ll be too late~.”

“Haha, I understand.”

“Well then, let’s get this split up.”

The spoils are divided up equally.

The result is that Gomez’s horse is bulky with baggage.

In the end, Gomez places their portion of the spoils in the repaired cart.

Fran has a strong magic beast, so it should be okay.

Once the preparations are finished, Gomez speaks.

“Friends can pick up the cards of adventurers who died.”

“Alright, something like a funeral.”

“Fu, saying something like a priest. We are adventurers who stand next to death. I think it’s a cheap request and part of the job’s pride. It seems cold, but rather than spending the time mourning, finishing the request of protecting the merchants is more important.”

I see.

I didn’t actually see him fight, but I can tell from how he talks to his clan.

I learned the feeling of an adventurer.

“...Adventurer, huh?”

“AH, so, let’s leave soon?”

That’s right.

It’s my own fault, but I don’t like this place filled with corpses.

“Roger.”

I reply immediately.

“I can go anytime as well.”

“Fran, you take the lead this time.”

Gomez wants to leave the position of leader to the B-Rank Fran this time.

“...Understood. However, there aren't many people. It will probably go from now on.”

“It's because of that.”

After Gomez agrees with Fran, he looks at me.

“I'm fine as well.”

“Understood. Then, everyone, we're leaving.”

“”Ou.””

Like that, the caravan begins to advance.

The loaded cart and covered wagon start to move. The beastman who was acting as coachman died, so one of Gomez's clan members took over.

Fran and I take the lead while Gomez follows behind.

Rollo sits on the back of Popobumu's head while I hold the captive Misty from behind.

We spent how many hours glued together.

“Is it okay for me to keep sitting here?”

Misty's hands are still restrained.

She seems to not be satisfied with how she is sitting on Popobumu.

“That's right. Do you need to pee?”

“N-no.”

“Is that so, you're a bit close, please endure.”

“...Fuun, my butt feels weird.”

This feeling on my crotch is uncomfortable.

I just need to endure.

“Noisy. Should I drag you by a rope?”

“I don’t wanna, I’ll die if you do that.”

“Since that’s the case, even if there’s an ulterior motive, please endure. (TL: There’s a play on words here, ulterior motive can also be penis) What about the situation now? You’re going to be sold as a slave, isn’t there the possibility you’ll be sold as a sex slave?”

“Uh, I, I don’t want that... Haa, why, such a thing...shit, shit, shit...”

Uhe, she’s moping.

She keeps muttering shit over and over...

“Oi, stop saying shit. You were supposed to have been nobility...”

“It can’t be helped, it’s a habit...”

“Habit...”

“-Yeah.”

Suddenly, she turns around to glare at me.

...I don’t want to talk about shit, so I should change the subject.

That’s right. I’ll ask about the magic doll.

“Moving on, I’m curious about the tech behind the magic doll. Rollo took it down, can you make a wogan doll like the one that fired the giant bow?”

“I can only make it if I have a lot of money. To start with, it can be done with the workshop of someone related to nobles, borrowing a workshop, using the money to build one, making tools, and having access to large amounts of high-class materials.”

A facility, equipment, and materials are necessary.

I’m interested in the magic wogan doll, but it’s impossible unless one is rich.

I’m curious about the internal structure of a magic wogan doll, it’s something different.

Iya, initially, I don’t need to get caught up in this medieval world, there may not be anything like a machine.

She's an expert, so I'll try asking a little.

"...Hou, a load of money. I want to hear about something technical, how is a magic wogan doll controlled? Does it have a circuit based CPU to control it? Can the golem only follow the instruction given? Or, does it surpass AI, does the magic doll possess a sense of self? The magic wogan doll you made was slow, but wasn't its aim really good? Does it have special sensors built it? And then, can you make the magic doll move faster?"

I rapidly unload all my questions.

"..."

Misty turns back around and looks down to think.

Fallen silent.

"Oi, why are you quiet."

"You, who are you?"

She suddenly jerks her chin up and turns around.

We're stuck together, so her face is too close.

-Her face is pretty. I unintentionally stare at Misty's face.

After all, this woman came from nobility.

She has powdered makeup on, and I can smell perfume.

Her arched black eyebrows are nicely shaped, her dark brown eyes are big.

Her red lips are small, the corners of her lips raised.

Misty's is smirking.

I seem to have aroused her interest in me.

That reminds me, I didn't give her my name.

"...I'm Shuya Kagari. C Rank Adventurer. I have no other title."

"Hm...Shuya, I'll be in your care."

"Ah, yoroshiku. Then, my question..."

-I understand. I'll answer. However, isn't Shuya smart? Honestly, I was

surprised. An ego, soul, magical life I know, but Shi-Pi-Yu (CPU), E-Ai (AI), PuRoGuRaMu (Program), Denkikairo, Sensor, it's my first time hearing these, you suddenly pulled out words a magic engineer might use...to start with, ordinary adventurers wouldn't say those things."

"...Such a thing doesn't matter."

Misty's eyes narrow.

She then continues with an expression that says it can't be helped.

"Hai, hai. Then, first is the command system. However, it can somewhat be manipulated by the craftsman. How long the command is depends on the 'master's mana quantity' and 'perseverance,' then, then, the person with the unique comes, furthermore the material is the 'high-performance iron crystal core...' for example, the white core furnace Kirianohas. An exclusive furnace for the white core kiriano. A military's arsenal. If you have those, I could make another like the one you broke. If I have even higher-class materials and a composite furnace, because the size of the command can be extended substantially, perhaps a high-level magic doll that imitates life could be created..."

The creator's mana reserves, perseverance, even then it's useless without the unique skill.

Extraordinary, what I broke was the white core kirianohasu high-class military weapon. It was a battle so it couldn't be helped.

"...That is, it seems to be amazingly expensive. White core furnace, wielding a military-grade weapon, isn't that a lot?"

"Of course. It's not only the military, but there are also nobles with them too. Nobles need to display their power after all. So, it costs a lot of money. This furnace isn't one used for casting or blacksmithing, it needs to be made with special materials and a unique smithing skill."

How complicated, a skill is needed to make the furnace.

Blacksmith, money, etc., it's profound.

Then, I remember the strange furnace at the back of Zuro's house.

Was that a specialized furnace...

“Hou...”

It's difficult, so I make an understanding expression and mutter.

“After that, it's difficult, and costs a lot of money, but making a small wogan doll is possible. The efficiency is affected by the materials. Lastly is the soul. To start with, making a magic doll with a strong ego is impossible. It's unreasonable. It will faithfully listen to the master's commands... I said it before, but it's imitation. It may look like it, and it may feel like, but it's not realistic.”

An ego is impossible...I guess?

In Zoru's diary, he wrote about creating the magic doll that imitated his wife, Theta, but he didn't completely use techniques for making magic wogan dolls.

Did he get them from the deal he made with Seventh Demon General Sabido?

The technical aspects may have been similar, but Theta was able to maintain an ego through spirit absorption, sorcery, spirit techniques, magic, sacrifices, a catalyst using a summoned demon, accessing the spirit world among other things, crossing the veil into the spirit world, preparing a ritual, reviving the deceased = gathering souls, they might be possible to summon.

The Theta from then certainly had an ego.

That expression at the end was a real woman...

However, all those events were a god's bad joke. Asking about that would be wasteful.

“...Unreasonable. Of all the geniuses who make magic dolls, such ones were made. Have you heard of them?”

“...You were quiet for a long time, what were you thinking ”

“Don't mind it, answer my question.”

“Ah, your eyes are scary again. They don't exist. My former older brother was someone said to be a genius... still, it was unreasonable. His specialty was a master magic goldsmith...he had a unique magic crafting skill called amudo, it

was a skill that could make the magic wagon dolls crafted by other magic engineers look ordinary...”

I know about Zoru already, but I’ll try asking.

“You older brother, he was Zoru Gustave.”

When she hears me, Misty twitches.

“-After all, you know the name of my house, you know about my screwy older brother, so, the source of the massacre, the A class offender who disappeared... my famous older brother. That guy, the Gustave House... If I can find him, I’d like to kill him with my own hands...”

If I tell her I killed her older brother she might receive a shock.

I stay quiet...

“I see, other than that, I want to hear more about magic wogan dolls with a high-class mind.”

“...I’m also interested. I’ve said it before, even if I made the highest class magic wogan doll, giving it a sense of self is impossible. The size of the imperative statement is limited.”

Should I keep asking Misty? When she said that, she has a tired expression.

However, she continues talking.

“Isn’t this a normal conversation?”

“Certainly...god, demonic beings, god relics, if you use a special magic tool. But those are completely different fields so I wouldn’t know. If something like that could indeed be made, wouldn’t history be different? ...Ma, still, it’s probably impossible. Even if I prayed to the mechanical Kami Dues Ex Machina, such a miracle wouldn’t happen.” (TL: Heh, the god of machines is called Dues Ex Machina)

The name of a god I haven’t heard before appears.

Zoru didn’t write about a god of machines in his journal. I remember the names of the god of life and death and the god governing demon life were written. Such a god wasn’t in the picture scroll Kuna had either. Is it a god from

a different dimension?

We advance while I listen to a lecture of Magic Wogan dolls from Misty.

-Several hours pass.

Fran runs to the front.

“Time for a break. Everyone, feed your own horse or magic beast.” (TL: Normally “mina” is used for everyone, but “各自” means “every individual”)

She lifts her hand and hails everyone.

I was called the same way and match everyone’s pace to take a break.

I give popobumu water to drink and feed him dry grass. Popobumu snorts happily as he eats.

Oh, someone is coming.

I noticed, but I rub Popobumu’s neck without turning around. Someone speaks from behind me.

“Excuse me.”

“N?”

The one speaking is the merchant Taijiki from the Luxor trading firm.

I turn around, he is lowering his head several times.

I understand he’s not trying to flatter me, but it is instead the merchant’s peculiar attitude.

His expression is filled with desperation. This is probably a good person.

“Thank you very much for this time. I won’t forget this favor. And then, when we arrive in Holkerbam, please come to Luxor trading firm. Almost certainly, chairman Dominica will be happy.”

I probably won’t go.

However, I’ll give a passable response.

“If I find the opportunity.”

“Hai, I understand.”

After talking with Taijiki for a while, he lowers his head several more times and returns to the covered wagon.

After the caravan finishes its break, we advance west.

A milky-white thin fog is gradually produced by people.

The visibility has become poor.

However, even though the visibility is poor, Gomez who has taken over the lead from Fran continues charging through the fog.

Is Gomez in a hurry?

While staring ahead, suddenly—? The humidity suddenly increased?

The sad, cold air brushes my cheeks.

Somehow, a warm wind is blowing from behind.

Furthermore, the sound of wind is hidden.

A gray lump bordered by milk-white fog wriggles.

And then—it chases after the caravan!

“Shapushi!”

Fran shouts.

And, the tepid wind bays and goes mad. I can feel the lump of grudges, ominous, gloomy voices float around.

“Ignore them! Escape from the fog, don’t fight it! Run, so they don’t possess you!”

“”Roger.””

In response to Gomez’s hoarse shout, the caravan speeds up.

I clap Popobumu’s side and speed up.

I can feel Misty trembling.

Before long, the milky-white fog surrounding our bodies disappears.

The squirming fog that was chasing the caravan screams before receding.

Even though the eerie fog is gone, the caravan maintains its fast speed.

Gomez is desperate to escape.

Then ground has changed into a shallow marsh, we rush to an area dotted with sparsely growing white birches.

Popobumu cautiously steps on the muddy ground making squishy sounds as we advance.

The breathing of the horses and magic beasts are rough.

The caravan then relaxes and slows to a walking pace.

Gomez sighs before talking.

“Fu, the Shapushi from earlier are troublesome. They disappeared with the fog, but...”

I agree and nod,

“Those gray lumps of fog felt strange.”

“I can still hear the sounds...if someone has the light attribute, it would be easy, but we can't use it, and Shuya must not have it either, right?” (TL: Uh, yeah, sure.)

The light attribute surely is possible. I don't know any.

“It's impossible.”

“I can't use it either. For the time being, I have holy water, but there isn't much. Escaping was the right choice.”

The red-haired Fran says in irritation. If a B ranked adventurer is behaving this way, the Shapushi must be dangerous.

“You need holy water? As expected.”

“Ah, it's from experience. I only happened to have it...I remember that this is a historic battleground. I don't know what happened, but honestly, it was eerie. Did you not advance earlier? Gomez was leading.”

Fran's face stiffened during the thieves attack, an expression of fear rises smoothly. Gomez nods with a bluish face.

“...That's right. I understood. We should continue. We're already on the

eastern side of Holkerbam. There are stone statues with large heads in the swamp. Around here, in addition to the Shapushi, there are goblins and orcs. However, if they aren't in the way they can be ignored. The luggage is full, so moving is given priority."

The pale looking Gomez says while scratching his beard.

Thus, while watching the surrounding, grasping the reins with one hand, I run forward.

We gallop forward.

After a little while, a highway appears.

The soil doesn't change much and remains muddy. I thought that it would be troublesome if goblin or orcs attacked because of how slow we are.

I can see a goblin in the distance, but fortunately, they don't attack.

Nevertheless, the unpleasant mud remains, and it becomes a slight upslope.

The gentle upward slope continues.

Our footsteps are soft so the rising slope feels refreshing.

Before long, we arrive on a big hill. The Haym river is visible from here.

On the right side of the hill, there are stone statues with giant heads buried in the ground.

-The view is beautiful. My hair sways in the wind.

The caravan follows the highway leading from the fill while enjoying the view.

And thus, evening passes, and it becomes night.

"It is another day to Holkerbam...we'll camp here tonight."

"Roger. I agree-"

Fran agrees with Gomez's plan then stares at me with brown eyes.

"Got it. We'll stay here tonight."

I respond to her questioning look and agree.

"Well then, you prepare for camping."

“Ou.”

“I’ll use magic.”

Gomez quickly instructs a companion.

Each member of his party acts swiftly.

A female magic user turns on a lamp and Gomez removes several poles from his luggage to assemble something.

He stabs the iron bars into the ground and makes them intersect.

A fireless lamp is connected to the intersection of the rods.

It feels like a pale fishing fire.

Then, Fran finishes setting up camp before saying she’s leaving for “scouting.”

She mounts her magic beast without waiting for a response, clapping the magic beast’s sides, she heads in the direction of the ruins of the stone heads.

She heads for the stone heads.

They were probably modeled after Elves. The heads all have long ears.

I’m concerned about what Fran is doing...

I don’t chase her.

Anyway, she’s probably waiting for the transparent hawk.

Is she following me? She may have participated in this quest by chance, but someone has been following me, and it’s probably been her.

Different from my expectation, this time it might actually be flower picking (Nature Calls Me)...

Now then, I guess the pheasant should be done soon.

Chapter 73: Giant Magic Steel Dragonfly

Time to eat.

Stones are piled to stand up two iron bars. A large black pot is hung from the iron bars over the fire.

A wooden bowl is filled with hot water and placed it to the side.

A large onion, green pepper, and fish are put in the hot pot, then I watch the brown juices boil.

It's making me hungry.

The smell of the steaming vegetables and salt drifts.

I'll be a little extravagant today.

Taijiki wanted to offer his gratitude and opened his supplies to prepare food.

Everyone eats, drinks, and sips the hot soup.

I can take a fresh meal out of the item box when I want, but that's not important, everyone is eating happily, so I keep them company and smile.

The red-haired Fran is smiling too.

The invisible hawk is perched on her right shoulder.

She came back from reconnaissance a while ago with the hawk on her shoulder, she may have been able to get in contact.

I appreciate the beautiful smiling woman.

Then,

“...Shuya, you've already seen it, but there is more than just goblins and orcs here. From here on out the Giant Magic Steel Dragonfly (Alloy Dragonfly) appears.”

Gomez emphasizes the name of the monster with his beard soaked in soup juices.

Fran's face has recovered...Ma, as we're talking we get on topic.

“...What are they?”

“You don’t know? This place is famous. It’s an enormous dragonfly monster. You can acquire magic steel if you defeat one. They’re famous for their magic steel armor.”

Ah, that reminds me, Marquess Chardonnay mentioned them.

“A giant dragonfly? I haven’t seen one.”

“Is that so. Unfortunately, once the marshes increase you’ll see more than your fair share. Also, we’ll probably encounter adventurer clans hunting them.”

Eating a cabbage-like vegetable, Fran joins the conversation.

“...Magic steel armor? I’ve heard rumors that half of Holkerbam’s adventurer clans are employed by trading firms.”

Gomez and Fran seem to know a lot about magic steel.

“It can’t be helped. So many giant dragonflies breed in the marshes regardless of the season, and except Osberia, it’s the main export. Adventurers gather where there is money to be made. Right?”

“Where there is profit there are merchants.”

“So that’s how it is? Gahaha.”

Gomez and Fran repeat their Q&A while laughing.

I leave my seat while they’re talking.

I return to Popobumu with a sauce plate.

I am worried about my prisoner, Misty.

Her hands are tied behind her, sitting on Popobumu’s back she is staring at the Hayme river while behaving herself.

Rollo is sleeping above Misty’s knee on her robe.

Rollo looks extremely attached.

When I approach, Misty looks in my direction and speaks.

“Hey, we’ll be in Holkerbam soon, what are you going to do about me?”

“What to do, should I kill you? Sell you? This is hard~.”

“...I’d appreciate it if you didn’t kill me.”

Her gaze falls on the ground.

She mutters with a distant expression.

Ma, I mentioned killing her, but I have no intention of doing so.

She’s a criminal, but I’ve killed and tortured humans before.

However, I can’t say I’m perfect, I’m a blood-sucking monster after all.

I’m similar to a person, but my existence deviates from standard logic.

Besides, she’s a beautiful woman. (TL: There’s the Shuya we know and love!)

She’s also a skill holder, and I learned interesting things from her.

I’ll probably keep her alive. Ah, that reminds me, I have the permits for a slave trainer that Kuna had.

So, should I enslave Misty?

Speaking of slaves...

The slaves sold in Hector all wore a black collar.

Those should be sold somewhere-

“-Shit, hey, say something, don’t just stand there being quiet.”

Misty disturbs my line a thought.

She appeals with desperate eyes.

“Ah, I was thinking about something. Sorry. After all, I won’t kill you.”

“Then you’ll make me a slave?”

Enslavement...

Mmm, talking like this is unreasonable.

I did kill her brother...It doesn’t sit well with me.

I’m particularly worried about enslaving her since she keeps dropping shit, shit, all the time.

I could release her already. I'll think about it.

Besides, I keep thinking about how beautiful she is. (TL: Shuya, EXPLODE!)

Oi, that's important to me. (TL: Uh, sorry.) I'm happy to meet a beautiful woman, but...I guess that's it.

I'm okay with unquestionably killing someone if they aim for my life.

I could let her go.

"...Depending on the circumstance, I may let you go."

"So...eh? That, really?"

"Yeah."

"You'd let me go? It can't be, you've fallen for me? Are you after my body? But isn't it obvious I would sell for a lot with this seal on my head? This skill is proof that I used to be a noble. If you sold me I would go for at least five white gold coins..."

Misty appears upset.

Her brown eyes are darting back and forth while she talks.

I wouldn't want to sell her although the price would be high. I guess the appeal is the opposite...

Such a trivial thing, it doesn't need to be said.

"...Fine white gold coins, that certainly is a lot. I would be right to sell you. However, as of now, I have to say over your life-and-death. So, I can sell or kill you at my own convenience. Moreover, I have money. I don't need to sell you. Plus, I'm a man, so of course, I'm interested in your body. However, I won't force myself on you."

"Uh...weirdo... I can tell from the purple glitter on your grey overcoat that the cloth is extremely high-quality. ...You wiped out the thieves group, that spear ax isn't an ordinary halberd."

"That's right. Because of that, I can afford to let you go, but..."

Misty looks at me as what starts to find hope.

“What?”

I meet her eyes, raise a finger and speak.

“First, don’t look for revenge. Second, don’t enter a thief group. Third, you can go to any city aside from Hector. Fourth, do not try to kill me. By the way, next time you attack me I won’t hesitate to kill you.”

“Is that enough?”

“It’s fine. However, can you really stop looking for revenge?”

I focus on Misty’s eyes.

She silently returns my stare until she is forced to look away.

“...What you said might be impossible. I am known as someone from the Gustave House. The nobility from Gustave had everything stripped from us, and we were driven out of Hector... my father and mother died in despair. It’s all because of that older brother. I want to find and kill him. I also want to kill the nobles of Osberia who destroyed the Gustave house. I especially can’t let the Marquess get away...the people living in Hector are horrible...haa, it’s no use, no matter what, I can’t let go of my hate.”

She’s honest about her hate.

“It can’t be forgotten?”

“Oh well...the chains of hatred are coiled around my heart.”

Misty’s brown eyes are burning.

Indeed, deep in her eyes I can see a swirling black chain.

“Honesty. You could have lied though.”

“You spoke kindly about releasing me... I didn’t want to lie to you. I wonder about that?”

“Haha, it’s an extremely admiral feeling.”

“It seems like I’ll become a slave, shitty woman, my hobby of listening, letting it escape, I heard something kind after such a long time, the kindness made me waver.”

Misty's face turned red.

"If you have such feelings, I feel like you can forget vengeance...."

"...Perhaps. There might be other roads."

It feels like the chains of hate disappeared from her eyes.

Then, even if it's a lie, isn't it okay?

Even if 【Osberia Kingdom】 is damaged, I don't serve this country.

This isn't definite proof, but I want to believe her.

"That's right. I believe Misty can find other roads. Like, an adventurer?"

"Adventurer..."

"Ma, it's an example. I'll let you go tomorrow when we arrive in 【Holkerbam】."

"...Thank you. Giving me a chance to restart...I really couldn't have argued if you killed me."

"It's fine. Sleep soon, ah, wait. It's cooled down but eat this. It's good."

I say so and temporarily remove her shackles, then hand her the pot filled with food.

"U-un."

I decided to free her, besides there's are a lot of things I don't understand about slavery. Well, I could have the merchant Taijiki teach me about buying and selling slaves.

I walk away from Misty toward the covered wagon Taijiki is in.

"Taijiki?"

"Hai."

Taijiki appears from the covered wagon.

"I have a few questions, is now okay?"

"Eh, hai. It's fine. I'll come out in a minute. -So, how may I help you?"

Taijiki comes down from the wagon and speaks.

“It’s sudden, but I have some questions I’d like to ask.”

“Eh, since it’s Shuya, you can ask anything.”

“...If I were to sell the prisoner I took, what slave merchant would you recommend?”

“A recommendation. That, after all, you should go with a slave merchant from a larger firm. Still, if you’re going to sell...I would like you to sell to my trading firm. After all, my life was saved by Shuya. I can ask the chairman to buy her for a high price.”

Is that so. He can’t recommend a specific firm.

“I see. I’ll remember that when I sell. And then, what are the qualifications of a slave dealer?”

“The country provides a license. If you have the qualifications, you can participate in slave auctions, and other transactions with slave traders are possible. They’re first class since you can’t buy or sell slaves at a slave trading firm if you’re a first-time customer.

First-time customers are refused.

I remember playing with an apprentice geisha-san.

“There’s such a store, huh? How does enslavement happen? And then, I would like to hear how one becomes a slave trader.”

Taijiki nods and quickly continues his explanation.

“To directly perform an enslavement you need a document of contract, a collar of subjugation, and the blood of the master and blood of the slave are dropped on the collars. In regards to slave merchants, the subjugation collar, the person, and the documents are held, if you already belong to a trading firm, you can be considered a slave merchant.”

It’s useless unless there’s a trading firm because they’re professionals.

This is enough from the perspective of a customer.

“...I see, for example, saying I had a slave, could I sell them to a different adventurer without going through a merchant?”

“It’s possible, but the private selling and purchase of a slave isn’t realistic. A new collar of subjugation is needed, and the documentation and collar are expensive if one doesn’t belong to a trading firm. Also, if a slave resides in a city without permission they are penalized by the government.”

“Application? Sounds complicated.”

“It’s alright because when a slave is bought from a merchant who belongs to a trading firm all the government procedures are handled.”

“Ah, it’s like that.”

With the blank subjugation collar, qualification certificate, and required slave documentation, after all, I’ll need to leave it to a slave trader if I don’t enter a firm.

I won’t be able to enslave someone easily.

It’s too much to do myself.

Still, in distant lands, there may be places where the slavery system is different than this.

In the end, I ask about this area.

“...I understand. I heard what I wanted to know. Thank you for taking the time to teach me.”

I politely lower my head to Taijiki-sensei.

“No, no.”

“Well then, see you tomorrow.”

When we arrive at the city tomorrow, I will let Misty go.

I walk away from Taijiki using <Night Vision>.

I walk along the night bank of the Haym river.

Pale and purple flowers dot the green shores.

The evening Haym river... a gentle breeze caresses my cheeks.

A refreshing cold stings my cheeks.

Guess I’ll sit here.

I choose a suitable location where no flowers are blooming.

I take a blanket from a bag, place it on my waste, hug my knees and enjoy the temporary break.

Rollo has come to my side.

She sits beside me quietly.

The chilly evening wind from the Haym river brushes her black fur.

We enjoy a beautiful night sky under the moon together.

The dark blue sky has two moons. The bigger one is missing.

However, because the way the light shines from the fragmented pieces of the moon, it creates a beautiful sight.

The moonlight is reflected on the river surface.

Silver ripples of light flicker.

Rollo watches the silver river expressionlessly with her bright crimson eyes.

Clouds cover the moon, and the river surface darkens.

Once the clouds flow and the moon returns, the river surface glitters silvery again.

Rollo has been watching the scene expressionlessly and now looks around her little head.

Like this, with the moonlight from the Haym river illuminating Rollo, I fall asleep.

In the morning, Rollo and I are woken by the sound and fresh wind blowing over the Haym river.

It's still dusky.

When the morning sun rises, everyone starts to get up and prepare breakfast.

"It's simple soup."

"Roger."

I eat breakfast and make small talk with Gomez.

Once breakfast is finished, everyone gets their things together and prepares to depart.

Again, we are advancing west.

We are heading down from the kill we camped on last night.

The scenery changes.

Until now the stone statues have been to our right, but now it ultimately becomes a swamp.

The earth is wet like the bank of a salt lake.

As we continue through the marshland, big mushrooms begin appearing.

The giant mushrooms grow in patches.

They seem to be an endemic species that inhabits the part of the swamp.

Large pink and purples mushrooms are mixed in with the rest.

The mushroom umbrellas have purples spots.

...I wonder if they're okay to eat. (TL: Ah, Shuya. I love this simple side of you.)

Then, the fog clears and sunlight covers the area.

Just as I look at the bright sky, In front of me, a flock an enormous jellyfish is swimming through the air.

The big jellyfish have tiny ones following them like parent and child. (TL: I've been playing Skyrim, and this reminds me of the netches from the Dragonborn DLC.)

They gather together and move in a spiral.

There are also giant dragonflies in the sky, some having stopped on top of the large mushrooms.

"That's a giant dragonfly."

Foggy marsh, giant mushrooms, jellyfish and dragonflies in the sky.

The whimsical scene is happening in front of me.

I wish I had a portable camera to record this.

A pleasant smell is coming from the mushrooms.

After entering the boggy marsh, the speed of the caravan has decreased, but I prefer it this way.

I move popobumu to the side of the road, closer to the mushrooms, and enjoy myself.

I also reach out to touch the mushroom.

It feels interesting.

A bit similar to a shiitake? Its tenderness is right, and it smells like a shiitake as well.

Then,

“This smell is so good.”

“Ooh.”

“It really is.”

“Oooh!”

Many shouts are raised—

At that moment, I hear it from a new person riding on a white robot...

With a shout, several dozen people have started running at a giant dragonfly.

The ground is muddy, but they move fast.

Several people fire arrows at the giant dragonfly. There seem to be magic users at the back too.

The magic user starts chanting an aria.

A chain is visible on the back of the arrows. It appears to be a mechanism.

The group of adventurers cooperates smoothly.

“Oh, they’ve started. Those giant dragonflies are the specialty of this area.”

Gomez says.

Of the arrows loosed by the adventurers at the dragonfly, only some have

stuck. The giant alloy dragonfly flies away and appears the counter-attack.

It uses its giant flapping wing to hover in the air and fires small thorns at the adventurers from its mouth and tail.

However, they're experienced, so warriors with large shield stand side-by-side and deflect the needle attack.

"Now, spread out!"

The leader shouts a command from behind the line of shields and several arrows are released dragging a considerable iron net behind it.

The giant dragonfly's body and wing are entangled in the net sending it crashing into the marsh, but even though it is caught in the net is continue to struggle and shoot needles out of its mouth. It will probably break the net.

-The magic chant now ends, and an icicle missile strikes the entangled giant dragonfly.

"It's not over yet!! Force, Riot! Vanguard attack! Aim for the head!"

The leader issues instructions.

Two massive warriors with a longsword and an ax step forward and run at the immobilized giant dragonfly and land a single blow at the base of the head.

The giant dragonfly tries to struggle, but the warrior's skill with the sword and ax is fast.

The giant dragonfly is decapitated by the combined attack of the ax and sword.

The headless body convulses at first but gradually stops twitching.

"Yahoo, we killed it! This is our second successful subjugation today! Collect it quickly!"

The giant dragonfly corpse is dismantled by several people.

A big pipe comes from the alloy dragonfly's torso? Things like that are removed.

The head, wings, and everything is collected. A significant amount of materials are removed from a single one, and it fills a whole cart.

“Collection is almost finished.”

An elf woman who appears to be the leader of the collection party shouts.

“Fuhaha, haha, is that so! Aside from the collection party, shall we move on to the next?”

“Got it.”

“You guys, get more excited! At the end of today, we’ll bag five of them! - Move out.”

The warrior leader is short.

People who appear to be from the same clan are chatting, they get on small non-thoroughbred horses and walk off while laughing.

“Follow leader.”

“We’re making money!”

The group is excited.

It all happened in a moment...

That was the giant dragonfly Gomez said is hunted.

A little shocked by the hunt, the caravan continues west at a comfortable pace.

I was enjoying touching the mushroom along the way, so I wasn’t bothered, but it seems everyone is upset by this mud.

The muddy road follows the Haym river through a marsh, but the caravan patiently endures.

Popobumu splashes mud as he walks, but his steps feel somehow heavy.

Do you also have the mud? I pat his neck reassuringly.

The mud eventually decreases, and we enter a grassy plain.

The road becomes solid earth, and we advance easily.

-Oh? I see something.

The city walls of Holkerbam are coming into view.

The walls are low. When I see the city walls in the distance, Fran speaks from the back of her magic beast.

“Is this Shuya’s first time seeing the 【Magic Steel City Holkerbam】?”

“Yeah.”

“In that case, would you like me to give a brief introduction?”

Fran says with a radiant smile.

Her transparent hawk is flying low near her.

“Ah, please do.”

“Understood. Holkerbam is situated south of the Haym river, the marsh and forests we passed through are the east-north-east of the city. There is an enormous quarry to the north and to the town of Pernette is to the west, there are farms and graveyards on the road to Rad Pass.

“Quarry?”

I remember Marquess Chardonnay saying something along those lines.

“That’s right. There are requests for adventurers at the quarry and where trees are harvested. Harpies come out of the quarry, goblins in the forests, orcs, Nogu, and other monsters like the Shapushi.”

“Heh, it must be hard to not find a job.”

“Haha, that’s true.”

On the Haym river to my left, I can see a boat advancing.

Groups of armed adventurers and other caravan pass on the other side of the road.

Magic beasts pull wagons filled with farm products.

Flies and insects are swarming around the horses and magic beasts pulling cargo to the point that I feel sorry for them.

Various people are using the road.

There are snails with large gray shells loitering around in the plains and marsh on the right side of the road. There are also adventurers fighting those

enormous snails.

Battle cries are audible.

Rollo is also looking at the giant snails, her crimson eyes are dilated, and she is crouching, preparing to go hunting.

It looks like Rollo wants to play.

However, we're still on guard duty.

"Rollo, hunting selfishly isn't good? The people fighting aren't having a hard time."

"Nya~."

Rollo responds with her ears folded back.

Those ammonite or snail type monsters.

Still, the nearby people transporting goods don't seem concerned.

With that many adventurers participating, still...

I can see Holkerbam's eastern gate.

As we approach the east gate the number of peculiar buildings increases.

They're tent-like buildings.

They resemble Mongolian Yurts.

Domesticated animals are visible as well. It's a cow. Lungas. Two heads.

It has a lot of breasts.

It seems to be a favorite domestic animal.

In the tents with domestic animals on the grass plains east of Holkerbam, there are also tiger-faced beastkin. (TL: I'm changing beastman to beastkin)

There are merchants wearing fur mantles set up in front of the tents and announcing their wares.

All over, there are tiger beastkin trying to sell their wares to the caravans and travelers entering the city.

Amongst them, I pass in front of a tiger beastman vendor speaking

energetically.

“Come! Gaumok Store’s goods, good from far past Hector and 【Fornium Volcano】, from the far eastern country 【Fujiku Commonwealth】and 【Lerwick】. Come and look at Gaumok Store’s goods!”

The Yurt behind this tiger beastkin is noticeably bigger than the others.

It seems like a gathering of merchants and traders.

Instead of entering the city, business can be done here?

We ignore the merchant and continue toward the city gates.

There are blue flags on either side of the gate flapping in the wind.

The flags have a horse, eagle, and dragon drawn on a shield, each one wearing a crown.

There are two guards in blue armor below.

Passing through. The guard sees us, but we don’t make eye contact.

We pass through with the other travelers.

At last, we arrive in Holkerbam.

“We’re here.”

“Everyone, it was a difficult request.”

The merchant Taijiki apologizes.

“Oh, wait for a little while we remove the baggage.”

Gomez’s clan members remove their luggage from Taijiki’s wagon.

“Thank you. Now, someone from my trading firm is coming.”

“Understood. Still, we can just take it down.”

As Gomez works, those from Taijiki’s trading firm gather.

She is wearing a turban around her head.

There are plenty of people, so the cart a quickly unloaded.

Taijiki hands the wooden request board to the person from the trading company who came to assist.

The lady who came to help receive it and lower her head before disappearing into the city.

“Everyone, I am having someone from the firm submit the completion tally to the guild when you return to the guild you can receive your payment. In that case, I am going to deliver the good to the trading firm. Everyone, thank you for your work. Another chance. And then, Shuya-sama, I’ll wait for you to visit Luxor. Then.”

Taijiki connects the covered wagon and cart and leaves.

“That merchant really likes Shuya?”

“Seems like it.”

I don’t intend to go, but I nod.

Then, a member of 【Fist of the War God】 behind Gomez opens his mouth.

“Captain Gomez. It’s only natural. Even we are grateful to Shuya-san, I was waiting at night...”

I splendidly ignore that.

I don’t make eye contact...they didn’t approach, only looking at my crotch making me feel a little scared.

His name is Gio... an existence scarier than any of the monster that has appeared.

“Isn’t Gio passionate? However, Shuya-san wasn’t there...shuddering.”

“Ah, don’t you think? And if a thief is caught at the same time, you’ll probably be killed-Shuya, thank you.”

Gomez and his clan members thank me.

His rough fatherly character comes out, and I can see he is an excellent clan Leader.

Them looking at me is embarrassing.

“Iya, that was just luck.”

Embarrassed, I try to brush it off.

“Hahaha, you’re being modest about that spear handling? You’re a truly a strong person, a man among men...then, we’ll all receive our reward from the guild, everyone okay with that?”

Gomez laughs heartily and looks at his member with a heroic character.

“Agreed.”

“I’ll come.”

“Captain Gomez, I’ll look for an inn.”

“Oh, let’s rendezvous. -Fran and Shuya. We’re going to the guild, let’s meet again.”

“Understood.”

“Alright.”

Gomez and the members of **【Fist of the War God】** leave.

“Is Shuya going to the guild too?”

Fran asks.

“Ah, I want to look around to city a little, so I’ll go later.”

“Is that so...I can show you around?”

While holding her red hair that sways in the breeze, Fran suddenly says such a thing.

Her red hair sways and she gives off a lot of sex appeal.

However. I’m planning on releasing Misty, she would be inconvenient...

“I’m just taking a look. It’s not necessary.”

“...Understood. Well then, I’ll go to the girl first as well.”

“Ah, see you later.”

Fran makes a thoughtful face before turning around.

Well then, I’ll release Misty somewhere.