

# 槍使いと、黒猫

S T R A N G E R & B L A C K C A T

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7

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# **THE SPEARMASTER AND THE BLACK CAT**

**– Yaritsukai to, Kuroneko –**

**- VOLUME 7 -**

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Kenkou**

**[ Infinite Novel Translations ]**



「んで、単にレベツカが可愛いからパーティを組んだ。  
それだけだったりする」

「……え、え!?

もうッ何をいつてるの——」





**ロロ**  
**(ロロティース)**  
シュウヤの相棒で、  
普段は触手を持つ黒猫姿。  
身体の大きさや  
細部は変化自在。

**シュウヤ**  
**カガリ**

凄腕の槍使いにして  
冒険者。  
今巻では、新たに強力な  
水系魔法を覚える。

**レベッカ**  
ハーフエルフの魔法使い。  
素直で元気な性格だが、  
仲間には恵まれて  
こなかった。

**ヴェロニカ**

一見平凡な宿の  
お手伝いさん……  
だが、その正体は  
美少女ヴァンパイア。  
身体に似合わない魅惑的な  
雰囲気をもとう。

**アンジェ**

シュウヤが知り合うとある  
ギルドのメンバー。  
気が強く、ツンケンした  
態度を取る。

**ミラ・**  
**フレイギス**

遺跡発掘局に所属する  
訳あり美女。  
シュウヤに運命を  
感じているようだが……?

STRANGER & BLACK CAT





そのモラビは、懐から、闇色の魔力を纏う短刀を取り出す。  
それを〈投擲〉してきた——。  
俺は右手と左手に魔槍杖を持ち替えながらの  
風槍流「枝崩れ」で、飛び道具に対抗——。  
左右に振った魔槍杖で闇色の魔力を纏う短刀を弾く。

# CHAPTER 104

## LABYRINTH CITY PELNEET

“Rollo, let’s enter the city.” (Shuuya)

“Nya.”

Passing through the stone gate, she walks with her black-haired paws on the soil of [Labyrinth City Pelneet].

We finally arrived, on the land where a labyrinth exists.

I wonder whether the dwarves Zaga and Bon are doing well?

Rubia, whom I left in their care, is probably working hard after becoming an adventurer.

They live somewhere in [Pelneet].

Mia is probably doing her best as an adventurer, after changing her name.

This city is also the stronghold of [Owl’s Fangs].

If the information I heard from Serva is correct, Eribol’s mansion serves as the headquarters of the [Owl’s Fangs]. It should be located in the eastern part of the noble’s block that lies in the northern part of the city.

However, there’s no need to rush.

Even if I wish to finish off Eribol, I just have arrived in a city I don’t know.

Even without me intentionally starting trouble, the other side will likely act on its’ own. Yet I am ready to crush them as soon as they appear, I suppose.

Alright, [Labyrinth City Pelneet], I am ready.

I will face you now.

I sit up straight, shoulders back, chest out and grab Rollo's tentacle reins and urge her forward.

I advance down the street, leaving behind the gate and join a crowd of intense pedestrian traffic.

I immediately came to a crossing of two broad streets.

I continue straight forward along the main one.

Behind me lies the road leaving the city, back through the stone gate from whence I had come.

The broad roads to either side, both left and right, look as if they continue endlessly as they hug the curve of the inner walls of the city.

If I go along those broad roads, I'll see the entire wall and eventually complete a circuit once around the city. But it would be a marathon! However, I won't go right nor left. Instead I forge straight ahead along the main street.

Horse Lion  
Rollodeen plods onwards.

On both sides of the street one can see vast tracts of land surrounded by walls.

As the ground rises, I see immaculate lawns spread out like an endless golf course. The houses here are built of high-class marble stones. This is where the nobles live.

More than mere **houses**, these are huge three-story mansions.

Do even royalty live here?

It seems this area on the northern side of the city is dedicated to nobility.

For a while now, there are only big mansions on massive, manicured lawns.

As many luxurious carriages are coming and going, that must be the case.

Judging by how well laid out everything is here, one wouldn't think the city had "labyrinth" in its name.

If I investigate the eastern area from here on, I may unexpectedly discover Eribol's mansion without too much trouble.

Which reminds me... even in [Hekatrail] there were similar high-class block-like streets.

Huge palatial residences with vast grounds were common there, too.

If I take out the absolutely all of the cash that's in my item box, I just might be able to buy one.

While dwelling on such things, we speed up and continue onward.

Once again I arrive at another crossroad.

Ahead and behind are the main streets, with broad side streets to the left and right.

Once more I continue straight ahead into the heart of the city.

As we travel, the scenery of vast grounds to the left and right changes.

From mansions, now huts made out of mortar and other small buildings appear, reminding me of a German village from the Middle Ages...

The noble's block seems to end here. Pedestrian traffic is higher now, and I am able to see various non-human races along the more common humans.

Seeing the figures of a jet-black giant and a small penguin wearing clothes among them, I couldn't help but do a double take.

Around here must be the city's centre of [Labyrinth City Pelneet].

At any rate, I don't have a map.

We move at a comfortable pace – should I ask someone for directions?

I'll ask that beastman-san. The cat beastman-san doesn't seem to be busy.

It scans the main street, leaning with its back against the wall of a general store.

It has the face of a beast, which is covered with fluffy looking grey hair.



It has three eyes, the third on its forehead, and has four arms.

Four longswords hang at its waist and it wears high-class armour made of thick monster leather.

Round shields decorated with small crests are strapped to the end of each of its four arms. I'm certain it is an exceptional adventurer.

...I wonder whether something like a "four-sword style" exists?

An imposing figure with the aura of a master warrior, it reminds me of the cat beastman warrior Deyma, a member of [Scales of Gaia].

<sup>Horse Lion</sup>  
Rollodeen approaches the beastman-san.

Although it may be rude to address the beastman from atop the Rollo's body without dismounting, I address it anyway.

"— Excuse me. Do you know the location of the labyrinth or the adventurer's guild?"  
(Shuuya)

Reacting to my voice, the beastman-san responds by raising its three eyes.

"Oh? An adventurer from the countryside?"

"Yes, that's right." (Shuuya)

"I see. If it's the labyrinth, it towers over everything else in the middle of **First Ring Road**. It's a tall round building. You can't miss it, once you get close. The first floor is the labyrinth's entrance hall. The adventurer's guild and the Magic Treasure Map Society are in the vicinity as well. There are countless inns, too. By the way, you are between the **First Ring Road** and the northern part of the **Second Ring Road**. If you go straight South from here, you'll come to the First Ring Road. As you see, the number of adventurers is growing, right?"

The beastman-san prompts with his eyes while smiling.

With one eye fixed on me, his other two eyes are pointing out the people those passing us on the street.

— Clearly, there are various races that appear to be armed adventurers walking about.

“I understand. Thank you for your kind advice.” (Shuuya)

“Aye.”

I start forward again after bowing and expressing my thanks.

“First ring road.”

Surely, [Labyrinth City Pelneet] is laid out somewhat in the shape of a circle.

The large outer ring, closest to the wall is the “Third Ring Road.”

The middle ring I passed just a while ago is the “Second Ring Road.”

The “First Ring Road” is a road located near the labyrinth entrance.

This seems to be the setup here.

As instructed by the kind beastman-san, I advance down the street, joining the crowd of merchants and adventurers coming and going.

<sup>Horse Lion</sup>  
Rollodeen quickens her pace and proceeds swiftly, nimbly weaving her way through the crowd.

I see, it’s over there, huh?

A throng of various races, I discover it right away.

A vast, round plaza.

The labyrinth’s entrance seems to be in the center of the circle. There I could see the tall rounded building it looked like some sort of tower.

This is the First Ring Road.

A market has been set up near the unusually thin, tall building.



It looks like all of the shops are flourishing.

I see not only adventurers, but I also spot commoners and merchants.

At any rate, that tall rounded building in the centre...

Is it fine to call it a building similar to a cigarette? It's stabbed into the ground with a slanting part protruding towards the sky and demarcated by holes at acute angles.

It looked like some ancient tower from the Middle East or Kazakhstan.

I guess it was some kind of minaret like Minar or such.

Raimon patterns have been embedded with bluish stones on its surface.

While admiring this thin, beautiful tower, I move towards the central plaza.

I have seen a similar sight in [Hekatrail].

There are several announcement stands with large signboards in the plaza. Several people blow into horns and loudly shout out information for people, one after another.

— *Large-scale recruitment has started in [Deep Lake City Luluzark] of [Oseberia Kingdom]. Adventurers, confident in their skills, gather! Adventurers that have space in their item boxes can be assigned into a special supply unit. Adventurers that do not have an item box will join the mercenary unit, but it's also possible to be employed as member of the knight order. Produce results, and you will be rewarded and offered long term employment!*

A recruitment for soldiers, eh?

You can make a career out of war?

Next, people from other announcement stands begin shouting out.

— *The Evil Dragon King that devastated the outskirts of [Fortress City Hekatrail] was slain by the Gryphon Unit attached to the kingdom's Magic Dragon Rider Corps.*

I guess this news has reached Pelneet already.

Given that they are not naming the adventurers that played an active role in that, this probably also serves as propaganda tool.

— *A large number of war slaves are available at the Korendon Slave Store. Please visit the **Korendon Company** located at the western part of Second Ring Road, if interested.*

— *The Archbishop-sama of the Aria Faith has authorized a festival of Enlightenment and Love. Lovely shrine maidens are holding this festival only for the next several days on Aria Square. Priests of Sharfa will be debating the virtues of the God of Justice with any and all willing to debate. Those with faith in the Goddess of unrestrained love, the shrine maidens await you!*

A goddess of love, huh? I remember Nicola with whom I had formed a party.

But this is quite a bit different from the teachings of the Holy Church.

If it's a religion that offers love and beauty without restraint, I am intrigued.

— *Attention, because of a large outbreak of Big Stone-Kick Birds in the Great Prairie of Oseberia be wary, as the highway towards Luluzark has been infested with them.*

— *Be careful! There have been repeated cases of theft in the southern free market.*

— *It has been confirmed that the Masked Villain Zarlp has appeared at the cemetery on the outskirts of the city's southern area, West of the magic block. Pay attention, if you see a bloody katana and fingers.*

— *We have more information to report on the murder that occurred at the home of Baronet Langhard. Once again the great female knight of [Nine <sup>White Nine</sup> Great Knights], pride of Oseberia Kingdom, has arrested the criminal. This is her third time successfully solving a murder case!*

The royal guards are completely losing face. However, the serial murder case of the three jewels in the residential area near the southern part of the Second Ring Road remains unsolved. Will this case also be successfully solved in the name of the female great knight? We look forward to finding out!.

A murder case, eh? It is a big city after all.



That could happen anywhere of course. That's what I think at least.

— A magic tool shop called **Awakening of the Truth** is having it's Grand Opening in the avenue of magic in the northwest part of Third Ring Road.

— Here is a notification from the Magic Beast Company Psion. New stock of the Magic Beast "Beiva" has arrived. To those who have confidence in their taming abilities: Please come to the "Psion Shop" located in front of the **Grand Arena** found South of Second Ring Road.

*It's possible to buy a magic beast, if one has the taming skill for it.*

— Notification from the Labyrinth Administration Bureau. A reward for a 3rd class Merit has been granted to [Blue-Armed <sup>Blue Arm Jewelers</sup> Treasure Hunters] by the Labyrinth Administration Bureau for having fully cleared the 10th floor. No one has succeeded in clearing the 10th for one hundred years!

Labyrinth Administration Bureau? Clearing the 10th for one hundred years?

A reward for a 3rd class Merit, I wonder what's that about?

Even so, those shouting out announcements are amazing.

You'd think after continuously shouting loudly, they would be unable to speak.

In addition to the announcers, there are dancers and musicians playing sweet melodies with flutes.

Gypsies and circus performers, huh?

Girls in beautiful but revealing dresses flash their belly buttons as they dance in sync with the musicians. Their dancing includes backflips, followed by dropping into nimbly to the ground into the splits, like a pair of scissors quickly opening.

You can truly say these were professionals and quite experienced at their craft.

Other dancers performed atop pedestals.

"Behold these shameless dancers! What degenerates! Such depravity! It's a perversion

of our morals! A corruption of the Holy Law! You must not graven images for yourself. Not Male, nor female figures, nor the figures of beasts...”

Is this a warning against idolatry?

I guess it’s another denomination of the Holy Church? It seems that they have various different factions even within their own faith.

A priest who fervently preaches with powerful, persuasive words enthralls those who listen to his sermon. There seem to be more believers here than in Hekatrail.

But, I have not seen a site for public executions.

Leaving the tiresome voices of the crowd behind, I survey the outer part of the plaza, the **First Ring Road**, turning completely around.

Living up to its’ name, various stores and houses line the road, encircling the outer edge of the rounded road.

I continue my observation as I guide <sup>Horse Lion</sup> Rollodeen onward.

Hmmm... There are few tall buildings.

Is that because it would disturb the scenery of the city, as in Paris?

Perhaps there is another reason, as there’s a continuous wide row of shops cluttering my view. That, and sign boards abound for various inns, general stores, weapon and armour dealers, magic tool shops, magic crafting workshops and restaurants.

One particularly large wooden building catches my eye with a signboard reading **Treasures and Maps**.

Next to it is a huge, red-bricked building that serves as the adventurer’s guild, according to the signboard.

As most of the buildings here are made wood and white stone, the adventurer’s guild’s red brick stands out quite a bit.

It is three stories tall, with a stable and surrounded by a vast plot of land.



The signboard, with its white and black border, reads **Adventurer's Guild** in huge letters making it hard to miss.

The adventurer's guild and the labyrinth's "unusually thin" tower are the only two buildings that rise above all else on this ring road.

Sure makes them easy to find, doesn't it?

It's a good sign that I've found the guild.

Next, let's look for an inn?

There are several inns and bars around the plaza.

...However, I will look elsewhere.

Since I just finished going around First Ring Road, I will have a look down other alleys, I suppose?

I choose an alley on the left side.

It's on the left-upper side of the ring road, to the North.

I follow the gloomy alley for around a kilometer... where I discover an inn with a odd vibe.

Soft light leaks out from the courtyard entryway to the left front of the inn.

The lights emanate from a small tower.

It's an artistic three-dimensional affair, encased in a metal-pole-frame. On the frame are numerous large lanterns.

I can feel mana radiate from the lights.

The inn itself is behind that objet d'art and entirely rounded, almost like an egg.

Due to the brightness of the lanterns, an interplay of light and shadows is created.

The inn's gently curving left wall being bathed in soft light creates the illusion of a **full**

**moon.**

This place has a faintly nice ambience. The well-kept courtyard is spacious as well.

I dismount from <sup>Horse Lion</sup> Rollodeen and walk towards the brightly illuminated entrance.

Having shrunk back to her small body, Rollo returns to her usual place atop my shoulder.

At that moment a sound, like a cicada is audible from the inn's entrance door.

It originates from under the overhang of the roof.

As I look at the top of the wall for the source of the sound came, I see a large cicada staying there.

A different world cicada, huh? How big do they get here...

Will there be an outburst of cicada chirring? It is summer already after all.

I'll get used to both this sound and the heat for a while.

Fully aware of the summer's heat, I arrive in front of the entrance- a black lustrous door.

There's a door plate with peculiar vermillion characters carved in wood.

**Lodging Moon of the Labyrinth** was written there.

With such an ambience, it is a most fitting name.

"Let's stay here." (Shuuya)

"Nyao."

{Okay.} (Helme)

Rollo and Helme answer casually.

I push open the stylish, darkly glimmering wooden door and enter.

The smell of alcohol assails my nostrils and the clattering of the guests reaches my ears.

The inn's interior is larger than expected. The right half seems to be where the inn's rooms are located.

There's a stairway leading upwards at the side adjoining to the counter. The huge dining room on the left side gives one the impression of a lively atmosphere.

A stage is located on the left inner part of the dining room. A male troubadour plucks the strings of an instrument similar to a guitar, playing a pleasant song.

Surrounding the stage are ten-odd square tables for dining. Some guests are drinking alcohol as they dine.

There is also a round, luxurious table for playing card games.

At the card table sit a grim-looking dwarf, a middle-aged human in military uniform, a noble-styled woman, a moustached human wearing a hat, and a woman with blue hair merrily playing some card game while huddling together.

The game piqued my interest; is it a game similar to poker?

But, my gaze shifts to the right.

There's a line of pillars and a door on the right inner side. A long bar counter is in front of the wall of pillars, towards the right.

Twelve tall chairs are lined up at this rather stylish bar.

Making full use of the space below the stairs behind the bar counter, a cupboard has been built. Barrels of Oak-like wood and porcelain containers of alcohol fill many of the shelves.

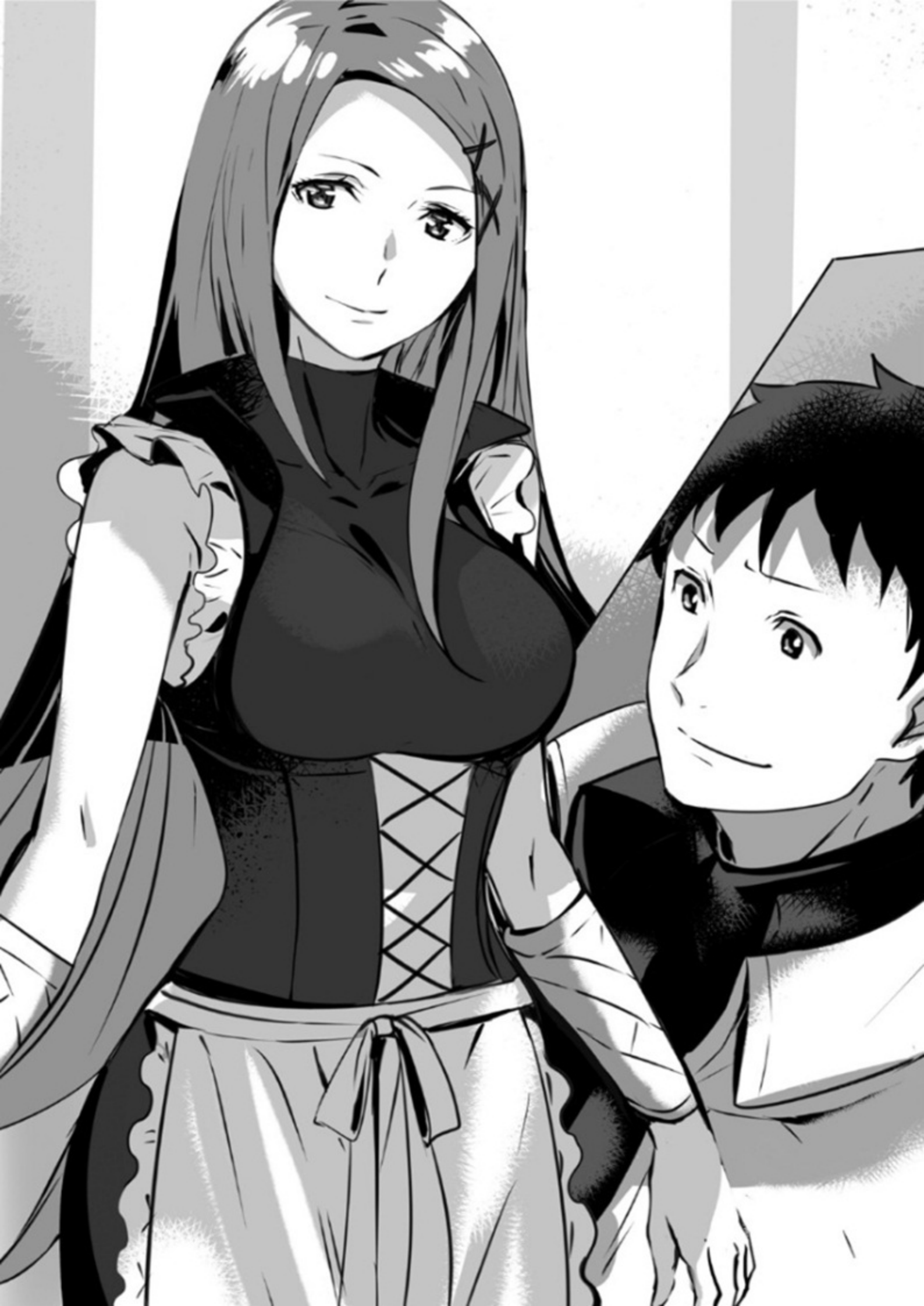
It looks like there is a wide variety of alcohol.

It feels like a nice place to have a drink or two.

As I look over the inn's appearance from the entrance, a beautiful woman approaches me from the counter.

This beauty has hair the color of honey, which spills out to the sides, tamed somewhat by red hair clips.





She has a small, slender chin and the bewitching gaze of a woman at her peak.

Her light brown eyes and nose bridge are high. Her chest is big and under her slender waist grow long, smooth legs.

Due to her red shirt clinging to her plump chest, my gaze ends up focussing there.

She wears an undergarment? She's a Big Breast-san.

Below she wears a short skirt with navy blue edges and a white apron.

If she is wearing an apron, she's one of the inn's staff, I guess? She's simply lovely.

— Oh, she's beautiful, but it's a surprise that her body is imbued with magic source.

Moreover, her magic source overshadows that of any run-of-the-mill adventurer.

{This woman is smoothly manipulating the mana in her body.} (Helme)

Just as Helme says, she's no ordinary woman.

"Welcome dear guest! We're happy to see you visit our {Lodging Moon of the Labyrinth}. I'm Mel. I work as landlady here." (Mel)

Huh? She's the landlady?

She has a somewhat masculine voice, but she's a young, beautiful landlady.

I find myself slightly aroused.

...Beautiful landlady gets NTR'ed. The lewd sex life of a pretty landlady.

Dangerous, yabai. (T/N: MC uses katakana for yabai (dangerous) here)

In an instant, several obscene thoughts come to mind...

Let's gloss over that. After adjusting my eyes upwards, I address her with a serious expression,

"...I'm an adventurer. The name's Shuuya. Do you have a free room?" (Shuuya)

The landlady also stares at me for a moment, as if judging me.

— For an instant her look turns sharp, but then she immediately faces me with a smile.

“...I do. If you stay on the first floor, it will be five large copper coins per night, dinner included. If you wish a large room on the second floor, it will be eight large copper coins.” (Mell)

Five large copper coins, eh? As expected, the price is both reasonable and cheaper than that of a high-class inn.

Checking my item box, I confirm I have several gold coins.

What day of the summer season was it again...? The third? Then, until the end of the year would be...

— Ah, right.

I have to also ask about Rollo staying with me.

“Ah, one more question, This black cat, Rollo, is with me, will that be alright?” (Shuuya)

Rollo voiced a gentle 「Nya」 without moving from my shoulder.

“Oh my, what a cute cat-chan. She’s a familiar, right? By all means, it’s fine”, Mel says.

Great. For the time being, I’ll pay the money to stay until the end of the year.

“Well then, please give me a corner room on the second floor “with this.” That should cover me until the end of the year.” (Shuuya)

I take out gold and silver coins from my item box and hand them to the landlady.

“Got it... I will receive it on deposit.” (Mel)

The landlady took my coins in a hurry. After the beauty-san bewitched me with her dazzling smile, she fills in the registry placed on the reception desk.

Vying for attention and counter to the smell of alcohol, the delicious fragrance of food wafts over from the dining room.



Rollo immediately reacts by sniffing the air.

Which reminds me, we still haven't had any proper breakfast.

I wonder if we get something to eat right now? Let's ask.

"...Mel-san, do you have anything we could eat?" (Shuuya)

Since I asked without any doubt, the landlady says that there should be something and tells me to sit down on a seat over there while waiting.

"Kazun, can you cook up some food?" (Mel)

The landlady speaks towards the kitchen.

"Yeah~, I can." (Kazun)

A stern, sombre voice replied from inside the kitchen.

"That's how it is. Please wait a moment." (Mell)

I obediently follow the landlady's words.

Sitting down on a chair at a table, I wait several minutes for the food to be prepared.

Finally the food is brought in.

"Thank you for waiting. It's meat congee with mushrooms."

The dish placed before me is wooden bowl plentifully filled with stew. They also bring a spoon and even some food for Rollo.

I immediately scoop up a spoonful of stew, filling my mouth.

Yummy. When I try to scoop up another spoonful, I discover a big, soft vegetable similar to a potato.

Squashing the potato with the spoon, I scoop up the mashed potato and bring it to my mouth.

It's soft and flaky. There's also mushrooms mixed in. The meat-on-bone is tasty, too.

As I'm eating the delicious stew...

I suddenly remember the time when I ate my first decent meal in this different world.

Reminiscing, I see Goldeeba Village in my mind.

I wonder whether Rabi-san, who always made such delicious food, is doing well?

I will be happy if my master who taught me many things, cute Leifa who was like a little sister to me, and the brawny Raglen are in good health as well.

As I recall my dearly missed days of training, I eat the stew with a blissful smile.

Once I finish eating, Mel approaches me. 「This way」, she says. It seems she waited for me to finish my meal. I am guided to my room by Mel, who brought along a young girl as helper.

Climbing the stairs that are located close to the entrance on the first floor, we head towards the second floor.

Reaching the end of the stairs, I'm led down a passage to a corner room.

A **two moons** decoration has been carved onto the room's door.

A large basket, for use as a laundry hamper, had been placed on the ground beside the door.

"Please put your laundry in this basket. This child, Iriel, will take it away." (Mell)

"Yeah. I'm Iriel. Please put your clothes inside this." (Iriel)

The girl Iriel is a waitress-san with an apron.





She has deep brown hair and eyes, and a cute smile.

There's a power in her eyes. She's a girl that looks dependable.

"Best regards, Iriel. I will leave it you at that time." (Shuuya)

"This is the room's key. And, if you tell Iriel when you want to take a bath, she will fill the large bucket inside the room with hot water." (Mel)

I'm given the key after the landlady lightheartedly explains everything.

"That's not necessary. I can fill it myself." (Shuuya)

"Oh, dear guest, you possess the water attribute, right? That's great as it will save us some time. Well then, as I still have some things to do, please excuse me. If something happens, call out to me with a **shout**." (Mel)

An actual shout... eh?

"Got it." (Shuuya)

Once she hears my approval, this beautiful landlady smiles again.

Mel returns to the first floor, leaving Iriel behind.

Will I really need to shout? Will it be that noisy around here?

While thinking about that question, I tried to enter the rented room. At that moment—  
.

"Guest~? Do you have a moment?" (Iriel)

The door is stopped by her small foot being pressed against it.

The one who called out to me like that while waving her thin arms in a less than seductive manner was none other than the servant Iriel.

"Mmh? What is it?" (Shuuya)

"Are you really an adventurer?" (Iriel)

What's up? This child is...

Once I look properly, her face is that of a grown-up?

She wears a red ring on her hand, and I can feel that it is filled with thick mana.

How does a child come to possess such a high-quality ring, a tool of magic or sorcery...

{Your Excellency, this girl's entire body is imbued with mana. I don't think she's a young human.} (Helme)

I am warned by Helme.

This *child* isn't normal, I am guessing.

"Since you aren't answering, is there anything else you need?" (Iriel)

What a brazen and audacious first impression she gives!

"No, I'm an adventurer. To begin with, why are you the one asking such a thing?" (Shuuya)

"— Humph, so you realized. Currently I'm working as a normal *servant*." (Iriel)

Only after pushing her beautiful face slightly forwards and inhaling deeply with a sniff-sniff, as if smelling my scent had Iriel stated something so deeply meaningful.

She faces me with a slightly unwomanly smile, then leaves skipping away down the passage back towards the stairs to the first floor.

What is this place?

It's fine since the landlady is a beauty, but I don't want any shady whacko girls around me...

I might have made a mistake in my choice of inns. But I already paid for it.

For starters, I might as well check out the inside of my room.

Feeling a bit dissatisfied, I enter the room.

There are four beds with small side tables on the left inner side.

Against the far wall there is a bay window with curtains attached and a small veranda beyond. A large bucket has been left on the floor.

Since the bay window has been connected to an adjoining sloping roof, it's possible to exit directly towards the top of the building.

It's a nice view since it's the second floor, but I'm slightly worried about someone breaking in.

However, I will be able to enjoy a cool breeze by opening the window while bathing. I also can observe things outside from atop the roof.

The veranda actually has quite a nice view. Even on the surface of the smooth floorboards of the veranda there is a properly depressed hole. Since it's sloped so water can drain due to the angle, I'm pleased with it.

It's smaller than the single room at the high-class inn in Holker, but the room's design is refined and tidy. The size is not bad either.

As I'm checking the room, Rollo happily plays by repeatedly jumping up and down on top of the bed, gaining little bounce from the stiff bed. All the while she's purring out 「Nyaa」 as if encouraging herself, as usual.

Since it's a hard bed, there's no flexibility, but Rollo seems to find it easier to jump on than on a softer bed.

Soon she gets bored of jumping up and down, Rollo spins around on one spot as if chasing her tail. Then she curls up and tries to sleep after settling down on the bed's pillow.

...Cute.

I gaze at this cute cat of mine as she shuts her eyes.

I'll use this inn as base, I guess?

There's that weird servant here, but it will be fine if I ignore her.



Alright, I secured an inn. Should I head to the guild now?

After I carefully check what kind of requests are posted on the board, it might be nice to search for a special magic tool shop that sells magic books, and then take a walk through the back alleys.

Well, with a spirit of *whatever will be, will be*, that is.

# CHAPTER 105

## TEST PARTY

“Rollo, will you sleep here? Or will you go to the guild with me?” (Shuuya)

“— Nn.”

Rollo lifts her head slowly and purrs with a throaty voice as if saying {I will go as well nya}.

“Nya, nyaoon.”

She opened her mouth to show her fangs, purred lengthily, quickly got up from atop the bed and came down from it.

Since she brought her paw close and rubbed her head with it, I extend my hand towards her while grinning and wondering whether her face that’s covered thickly with hair feels also as soft to stroke as her inner belly, but Rollo smoothly dodges my hand while purring throatily as if making fun of me, and runs outside.

This whimsical cat.

Once I left towards the hallway on the second floor in order to chase after the back of Rollo’s swaying body, she got on a thin handrail.

“How skilful...” (Shuuya)

“Nn.” (Rollo)

Rollo nimbly walked on top of the handrail while purring deeply as if humming a song, and then slid down towards the first floor using her butt.

Then, looking up at the closed door in front of the inn’s foyer, Rollo-san waits looking small and quiet.

When I get close to the waiting Rollo after having descended the inn’s stairway, she

skilfully stands up on two paws and presses her two front paws against the entrance door. She moved her front paws up and down as if using the door as scratching post and signalling “open, open.”

“Haha, cute. But, Rollo, you mustn’t damage the door with your scratching—” (Shuuya)

While warning Rollo about that, I open the entrance door and go outside.

“N, nya.”

Walking to the grounds which stand out due to the illuminations of the lamps, I exited towards an alley.

Once we went into the alley, Rollo, who had run ahead, transformed into the mode that possessed the mane of a lion and resembled a horse.

“Nn, nya.”

I follow her meowing which feels like she has said {Get on me here nya}.

I straddled atop the black horse Rollodeen.

After I grabbed the tentacle reins with one hand, we leave the alley and advance towards the First Ring Road.

We immediately arrived in front of the adventurer’s guild.

“Thank you, Rollo.” (Shuuya)

I descended to the ground while giving my thanks to Rollodeen.

I gently caressed the black hair below her neck with practised hand movements.

Once I do, Rollo’s bottom of the neck trembles apparently feeling good and then she returns from her horse-like mode back to her black cat mode. Seemingly wanting to return the favour, Rollo nuzzles her head against my feet.

Thereupon I turn my line of sight towards the guild.

The large, wooden double door, which serves as the entrance door of the guild, was open.

Which reminds me, I got filled with such a feeling at the time when I stepped into the adventurer's guild in Hekatrail, too.

Countless adventurers are coming and going through the entrance.

If it's like that, the interior will be packed as well.

While thinking that I really hate crowding, I passed through the guild's door and entered inside with Rollo following me.

A large hall with plenty of space extends from this side deeply into the inner part.

Boards where the requests had been posted are lining up in a row.

It's spacious, but as expected, it's crowded.

It's the usual, well-known spectacle.

The adventurers are choosing their requests in front of the boards while worrying over it.

Picking up a wooden token and walking to a receptionist; that sequence of events hasn't changed.

It's a really noisy and clamorous hustle and bustle.

I wonder what kind of requests they have...

I look at a board in front of me.

Unexpectedly there were many requests in regards to **Party Application** and **Member Recruitment**. Their number was around the same as the number of monster subjugation requests.

Recruitments for largely-built races to be used as shields, rear guards, wizards, healers, lock-pickers and those possessing skills that enable them to remove traps.

Our group has three vanguard warriors. That means we can't join a party?

Magician recruitment and so on. There's only such requests.

A great number of adventurers are intently checking the papers with those requests.

Even right next to me there was a woman holding a long wand that seems to be a magician.

Ooh, she's a beautiful child.

Because I'm looking at her from close-by, her eyes seem to be big.

Her big eyes have pretty pupils that were dyed in a light blue colour, how lovely...

Her ears are shorter than those of elves, but the ears' shape is long and narrow just like those of elves.

She looks cute.

While letting her blonde hair freely flow down towards the back on her left side, she detained the hair on the right side that flowed down towards the opposing side with an Alice band.

When I'm fixedly staring at that beautiful woman, our eyes meet.

"Umm, is there something wrong?"

The blue-eyed woman is suspicious of me.

Uhyaaa... I got charmed.

Since I surely can't say that, I will deceive her suitably.

"Ah, no, there's a lot of such requests, isn't there? After all it's my first time to come to the labyrinth city..." (Shuuya)

When I do, the woman's blue eyes shine for an instant.

With a smile she moves her small lips.

"Really? It's your first time, huh? Do you also intend to challenge the labyrinth?"

Of course, since it's my intention to do so, I return in polite language,



“Yes, that is correct. That’s what I have planned to do.” (Shuuya)

“Is that so...? Did you already find a party or a clan in the **Bar of Initial Resolution**?”

The **Bar of Initial Resolution**, eh? Is that a bar where beginners gather?

Going by its name, it feels like a bar that appears in a certain national RPG.

Let’s give her a common reply.

“...No, I wondered whether I would give it a shot solo with my familiar...” (Shuuya)

Once she hears my words, the blue pupils of both her eyes that looked as if she was squinting them brighten up.

Gazing at my entire body with her characteristic blue eyes as if she’s licking me all over, she consented with a single nod.

And then, fixing her line of sight, she once again stares at me and Rollo, who was on my shoulder, with a serious look.

She changes her expression to one similar to squeezing out her courage.

As if a flame has lit inside her blue eyes... or rather, I felt like it really got lit.

Once she opens her small lips, a lovely voice comes out.

“...Really? In that case, won’t you form a party with me as a **test**, only once and just for the first floor?”

Party. She stressed the test part, but it’s an invitation by a beautiful woman with blonde hair and blue eyes.

However, for an instant, I remember the time with Kuna who deceived me.

But, it will be fine. I will go at it with a spirit of deceiving her rather than getting deceived by her.

On top of there being many things I don’t know about the labyrinth, she’s a beautiful woman.

It will be fine to judge the merits and demerits after forming a temporary party.

“...Very well. Only the first floor, as a test. However, there are many things I don’t know about the labyrinth. Will that be alright?” (Shuuya)

“Of course. Yaa— hooray. Will you really join a party with me?”

The blue-eyed woman looks really happy with her cheeks becoming slack. She switched to a showy behaviour.

Umm, is that something to be that happy about?

Even though the looks of the surrounding adventurers are pitying for some reason...

Without minding that, I revert to a casual tone after seeing her behaviour. Let’s introduce myself?

“...Right, my name is Shuuya Kagari. Please call me Shuuya. My adventurer rank is C-Rank. And, this fellow here is my partner and familiar Rollodeen, or rather, Rollo.” (Shuuya)

“Nya.”

Rollo, who is resting on my shoulder, greets her as well.

“Ah, I will introduce myself as well. My name is Rebecca. The adventurer rank is C. Shuuya and Rollo-chan, best regards.” (Rebecca)

Rebecca, huh? Her smile is cute.

“Please take care of us, Rebecca.” (Shuuya)

“Nn, nyao.”

“Yea? Fufu, that’s a cute neko-chan. Also, my strength lies largely in fire. The attributes I possess are fire and wind. As you can see, my combat occupation is magician. How about yours, Shuuya?” (Rebecca)

“Please think of me as magic warrior.” (Shuuya)

Rebecca nods in approval.

“Hee, I thought that you are a warrior because of your large build, but you have a familiar. After all you are capable of using magic as well, aren’t you?” (Rebecca)

“...I think that I can work quite reasonably as vanguard or middle guard.” (Shuuya)

“Okay, I will leave the vanguard to you. Well, if it’s the first floor of the labyrinth, the **Envoy of Barbaroy** won’t appear either. Since we will be fine with the two of us, let’s have a try right away?” (Rebecca)

I don’t understand what that **Envoy of Barbaroy** or whatever is.

But, the conversation proceeds smoothly.

From polite language, it suddenly turned into a casual manner of speech.

But, before going to the labyrinth, I wanted to look around magic tool shops and such.

Going by the flow of the chat, that seems to be okay as well...

Should I ask her about that next?

“Wait a moment. There’s a place I’d like to visit before going to the labyrinth. Is that fine with you?” (Shuuya)

Due to my words,

“...W-What?” (Rebecca)

Rebecca shows a slightly shaken behaviour.

Huh? Did I make a mistake?

I don’t know why she feels shaken, but I will tell her about wanting to go shopping.

“Just as I told you before, I only arrived in the labyrinth city, right? Thus, I decided on an inn, but somehow I want to look at a magic tools shop in preparation~...” (Shuuya)

Hearing that, Rebecca’s expression changes back to one of relief.

“...Okay, then we will first choose only a simple request as test and I will lead you to a magic tools shop.” (Rebecca)

“Ooh, is that okay for you?” (Shuuya)

“Of course. For me it’s been a really long time since I had a party member. I will help you.” (Rebecca)

“Thanks. Then let’s first look at the requests.” (Shuuya)

“Yeah. Let’s choose C or D rank requests.” (Rebecca)

Once again the two of us look at the request boards.

Monster subjugation isn’t only requested for the labyrinth but there are also many requests for monster types that appear in the [Great Plains of Pelneet].

Rebecca and me narrow it down to monsters inhibiting the labyrinth and search for subjugation requests.

There’s only subjugation requests above C rank for the labyrinth.

The silver-fanged ogre, commonly called Volck, has been confirmed to appear starting from the second floor. The whole body of the silver Volck as raw material.

The whole body of the <sup>Golden Tyrant</sup> Gold-threaded Dinosaur that appears on the third floor and below as raw material.

This is on the third floor, too?

The whole body of the <sup>Titan Spider</sup> Ferocious Bull Spider as raw material.

In addition there are various other requests with the names of monsters written on them, but there are no requests with the familiar names of goblins and orcs...

Such requests exist for the [Great Plains of Pelneet].

The most numerous among the labyrinth requests are those for gathering magic stones. A list with the prices for magic stones was written on a big paper.

Depending on the size such as small, medium, big, very big, the prices for buying magic stones rise sharply.

In addition it seems like the types are finely split by colour and shape, but...

Something like gathering five small magic stones exists as a D rank request.

As B and C rank adventurers are expensive, they apparently demand bigger numbers of collected magic stones than larger magic stones.

There are relatively many requests besides those, such as bodyguard or escort requests.

I will try asking Rebecca.

“...Rebecca, do you have a moment?” (Shuuya)

“Yeah?” (Rebecca)

“There are no requests to defeat several goblins among the ones in the labyrinth, but for the plains outside they exists. Why is that so?” (Shuuya)

Hearing my question, Rebecca snickers softly.

“That’s because the **magic stones** are essential. You wondered why there are no goblin or orc requests among the labyrinth requests, right?” (Rebecca)

Bingo. Going by Rebecca’s explanation the reason for that seems to be quite reasonable.

I feel slightly ashamed.

Well, there’s a saying that being ashamed for asking once is the shame for one’s whole life for not asking. *(T/N: Meaning: One should actively question the things one doesn’t understand)*

“Just as you say.” (Shuuya)

“Of course a great number, or rather, an infinite number of goblins and orcs appear in the labyrinth. And, if you defeat a monster in there, they will always drop a **magic stone** that corresponds to the strength of that monster. But you know, if it’s outside the labyrinth, only few monsters possess a magic stone. Therefore, there are many requests to directly subjugate goblins outside the labyrinth.” (Rebecca)



If it's inside the labyrinth, they will always drop magic stones?

"I see, so that's the reason." (Shuuya)

"Yeah. Magic stones are necessities that become material for various things. By the way, big magic stones are called magic crystals, but most of the times they are called big magic stones or very big magic stones." (Rebecca)

Magic crystal? That possibly sounds like fossil fuel.

I feel like Master Achilles talked about that.

"Well, sorry. I ended up asking you something obvious." (Shuuya)

I scratch my head.

"No, I don't really mind. It's your first time. Shuuya, you are C-Rank, but let's get a request we can handle even as beginners on a safe floor where Barbaroy doesn't appear, since it's your first visit to the labyrinth." (Rebecca)

She places one of her beautiful, slender fingers on a request paper and taps on the board.

Just like that, she took a wooden token from the edge located below that board.

It's a C-Rank request.

**Client:** Labyrinth Administration Bureau

**Request Content:** C-Rank small magic stones. "20 stones" regardless of quality.

**Subjugation Target:** none

**Application Period:** indefinite

**Search Area:** The labyrinth's first floor ~

**Reward:** 10 Silver Coins

**Subjugation Proof:** Magic Stones

**Hints:** All kinds of monsters

**Note:** none

The client is the Labyrinth Administration Bureau, eh?

As client related to magic stones, the Labyrinth Administration Bureau comes up more often than companies.

It's a request from the country, isn't it?

"Very well. Let's take that one." (Shuuya)

"By the way, you can't accept several of the magic stone requests, okay? As it's a request for the first floor, it only applies to that floor. Though you can accept several monster subjugation requests." (Rebecca)

"Hee, I will remember that." (Shuuya)

Rebecca and me take that wooden token to the receptionist from a little while ago.

We present the wooden token and our cards to the receptionist.

Rebecca finished her procedures smoothly.

Is the receptionist whittling my card with a silver plane-like carpenter tool?

No, she scanned it. It's probably a magic tool.

It's reading the information.

It's the first time for me to see that. Is that a unique item of the labyrinth city?

"...Shuuya Kagari-sama, it will be your first time in the labyrinth, right?"

"Yes, that's correct." (Shuuya)

It looks like she knows whether I've been to the labyrinth before or not.

"One silver coin will be levied by the country. Is that fine with you?"

Is the adventurer's guild here directly managed by the country?

I guess it's a tax?

“Understood.” (Shuuya)

I reply with a concise affirmation.

I take out a silver coin from my item box and pay with that.

“Well then, is it alright for me to explain the rules of the adventurer’s guild in [Labyrinth City Pelneet]?”

Once I look in Rebecca’s direction, she nods silently.

I think she’s telling me “listen to it as I will wait.”

“— Yes.” (Shuuya)

There’s a system similar to a bank and safe-deposit boxes at work in the guild here. For a party a **message box** is available. If it’s a clan, they can use one safe-deposit box for free.

I feel like Hekatrail had something similar as well.

But, creating a clan costs 100 gold coins.

The guild basically keeps a “no-touch” policy in regards to quarrels over requests and what happens inside the labyrinth.

The receptionist’s explanation continues.

“We won’t get involved with disputes with nobles, dark guilds, murder, being killed by monsters.”

In case of unreasonable conduct; I receive the explanation “Please get in touch with the soldiers of the Labyrinth Administration Bureau” with a smile.

I listened silently.

Is that what you call an unspoken agreement? Pure strength and the words of those possessing authority, it’s the same everywhere.

The formalities after that concluded without delay.

Touching a crystal that is the same as in the other cities, the request got accepted right away.

Rebecca and me left the guild.

I guess I will ask her about the shop?

“Rebecca, it will be fine with a magic tools shop that sells magic books, but do you have any place you can recommend?” (Shuuya)

“Of course I do. — My combat occupation is magician, you know? Leave it to me. Since there’s a place which I visit quite frequently, we will head over there.” (Rebecca)

Rebecca says while skipping lightly.

The long wand that she held with her white-fish-like hand had a small red jewel attached at its tip.

Turning the long wand around like a baton, she faces me with a lovely smile.

Did her skirt roll up a bit just now?

{Your Excellency, you have formed a party with this woman, haven’t you?} (Helme)

Helme appeared in my sight while spinning around.

{Yeah, as a test.} (Shuuya)

{Is that so? I believe that you have already noticed, but since she’s great at mana control, you might say that she’s an excellent magician. However, the wand she possesses is trash... } (Helme)

{If she’s excellent even seen through the eyes of a spirit, Rebecca must be really very good, I suppose.} (Shuuya)

{Yes. I think that she will be a good member. I recommend her not as party member but as your subordinate, Your Excellency.} (Helme)

{Subordinate, huh? That’s hasty. Please disappear for now.} (Shuuya)

{Okay!} (Helme)

Even while talking with Helme for a short time in my mind, I kept looking at Rebecca's body.

I judge that Rebecca's height is between 150 and 160 centimetres.

Her attire is a blue shirt on top and a blackish cape similar to a poncho on her shoulders.

As if hiding her small chest, a flower brooch with a silver chain was fastened at her chest on top of the black cape.

A black belt with a broad chain was tied around her slender waist. Potions and an accessory case were affixed to that black belt.

Her lower body had a miniskirt with a slit in the red cloth tightly covering her hips.

As it was a mini type, her thighs were visible.

However, her underwear are drawers similar to spats.

Unfortunately I can't see her panties.

On her feet she's wearing black, long socks and platform shoes that taper towards a pointed end and that seem to be the typical footwear of magicians.

Is she really a magician?

According to what Helme pointed out, the magic source inside her body moves smoothly.

Once again turning around the long wand she holds in her slender hand, she holds it up.

I could feel a bit mana from the red jewel that has been embedded at the tip of that long wand.

"...What is it? Your look is strange, so what's up?" (Rebecca)

"Sorry. Judging from that long wand, I was wondering whether you are a magician."  
(Shuuya)



“Because I’m a strange magician, me holding a **wand** isn’t normal. So, we will head to the left-upper part of the city from here on. We will go to a place commonly called **Magic Street** although it’s a place ranging from the Third Ring Road to the Second Ring Road.” (Rebecca)

Hoo, let’s go with that.

“Got it. Let’s go?” (Shuuya)

We walk in the manner of me being guided by Rebecca.

Though I thought that it would be faster to ride Rollo, Rollo doesn’t move.

She’s resting on my shoulder. Oh well, it’s fine.

Occasionally it’s also great to have a date with a beautiful woman while walking.

“What? Your grinning, plain expression is slightly disgusting?” (Rebecca)

Ugh, she doesn’t mince her words, does she?

Disgusting, to be told that...

“It doesn’t particularly matter even if I grin, does it?” (Shuuya)

The slightly discomposed me talks to Rebecca while laughing lightly.

“Fufu, that’s true as well. By the way, Shuuya, you told me that you are a C-Rank adventurer, but where have you been active before coming to this {Labyrinth City}?” (Rebecca)

Rebecca asks while inclining her head slightly.

“I’ve been travelling. Until recently I was active in Demonic Steel-City Holkerbaum. Before that I was in Fortress City Hekatrail.” (Shuuya)

“Holkerbaum and Hekatrail, huh? You were active in such eastern regions, eh? Since I was born **here**, I don’t know any other place than this. I always made a living here in Pelneet.” (Rebecca)

“Then you have experienced and earned quite a bit in the labyrinth, haven’t you?”  
(Shuuya)

“That is...” (Rebecca)

Rebecca somewhat bends down and frowns as if it’s difficult to talk about it.

Mmh? Did I say something weird?

She walks slightly ahead.

“What’s wrong?” (Shuuya)

“Er, well... I dove many times into the labyrinth, but because I haven’t earned overly much...” (Rebecca)

“Why didn’t you earn much?” (Shuuya)

Rebecca, who had gone slightly ahead, reacts with a twitch of her shoulders due to my question and halts.

She turned around to me while donning a slightly meek expression.

— She’s peeking at me.

“What’s up? Showing such face. If you don’t want to talk about it, that’s fine with me.”  
(Shuuya)

“I have confidence in my magic skills. Even more so than the talented students that graduated from the magic academy...” (Rebecca)

“Mmh? I don’t see where the story’s heading, but...” (Shuuya)

“Well, aah, geez, do I have to spell it out? Okay, I will. You know, I’m a half elf...” (Rebecca)

A half, huh? I thought that to be the case from the shape of her ears.

“What’s wrong with that?” (Shuuya)

“Huh? Umm, that is, even when I joined parties, there were many cases where I ended

up getting expelled right away. It's said that the child between an elf and a human brings bad luck. At first I didn't care about that and freely joined several parties, but... actually, each time I dove into the labyrinth, the members of the party I entered died after falling into a trap or getting killed by monsters... at all such times the party ended up partially destroyed..." (Rebecca)

Whoa, she has no luck, does she? Even though she's a beauty, she's a woman with little luck.

"While such things repeated themselves, I got the nickname **Angel of Death**. With me just being a half elf, and because I had this rumour that doesn't give me any decent reputation following me around, I didn't have many chances to join a party. Even when I formed parties with people that didn't know anything like you, Shuuya, there were many situations where I was openly hated by the members who heard the rumours about me. Just after forming a party at great pains, the party broke up the next day or the day after that. Such stuff was an everyday occurrence to me. *Please don't come here anymore since we don't want to form a party with you*, is what I was told many times..." (Rebecca)

Something like that...

Hearing angel of death, I remember Rubia who was called a taboo child.

I wonder whether that girl's doing fine?

However, I guess discrimination exists in any world or city...

At that moment I saw that Rebecca filled her slender hand that was holding her wand with strength.

The inner sides of her lovely, golden eyebrows rise and gather in the middle.

She probably summoned her courage and told me all that while suppressing her sorrow.

It felt slightly painful... I will give her a peace of mind, I guess?

"...Rebecca, why did you tell me that?" (Shuuya)

"Currently you have joined up with me as a test, but since I thought you would hear about me from someone sooner or later, I wanted to tell you by myself before that

happens. Because you can challenge the labyrinth with ten people at once, I would hate it if you had a bad reputation at the time when you recruit or gather other members, Shuuya.” (Rebecca)

“I see.” (Shuuya)

“Therefore, if you want to refuse partying with me, I won’t mind even if you do it right away. Then we will stop the test, too. Ah, don’t worry about it since there’s plenty other adventurers who have such bad-feeling nicknames attached to them? For now I will just properly guide you to the magic tools shop...” (Rebecca)

What a fairly pessimistic thinking.

However, my side might cause Rebecca trouble.

After all I’m currently in a fight with a dark guild.

My acquaintances might get marked.

Since I can’t sense any presences inside the range of my Grasping Perception, I might be over-thinking it though.

But, if I think about those things, I will end up unable to mingle with others...

Well, if push comes to shove, I can always look for Eribol’s mansion and crush their leaders, I guess.

“...I don’t mind at all. Even I in fact, have reasons making it hard for me to form a party. Thus, I don’t care. Well then, please guide me to the shop.” (Shuuya)

Once Rebecca hears my words, she enthusiastically reveals a bright, girlish expression, but at the same time she is taken aback and pouts.

“...Really?” (Rebecca)

She asked in the shape of a question.

“Yes. Do you want me to speak openly?” (Shuuya)

“Yeah.” (Rebecca)

She probably told me after pondering about various things due to having formed a party with me.

I guess I will tell her my true lecherous motives as well?

“Alright, in that case let me lay everything on the table. Currently I haven’t thought about other members at all. I said it several times, but I’m a newbie in regards to the labyrinth here. Moreover, there’s no way for me to hate a person who has offered to guide me to a shop like this. To begin with, for me it really doesn’t matter to what race you belong. The problem is that you are a **woman**, Rebecca. If it’s a man, I think that even the story of the very first invitation would finish on the spot without it becoming inflated... Although it’s something I say myself, I like women. That being the case, I simply formed a party with you, Rebecca, because you are cute. That’s all there is to it.” (Shuuya)

“...E-Eh!? Oh god, what are you saying—” (Rebecca)



「んで、単にレベツカが可愛いからパーティを組んだ。  
それだけだったりする」

「……え、え!?

もうッ何をいつてるの——」



Rebecca's face on the spot ends up boiling brightly red just like an octopus.

Dropping her long wand that is her important tool for her occupation on the ground, she repeats the action of hiding her face with both hands.

"There's no deeper meaning, you know? Those are my true thoughts. Rebecca, you have dropped your wand..." (Shuuya)

"Ah, yeah. You delivered that in a far too straight manner. Geez, well then, since it's over there, let's go." (Rebecca)

Rebecca picks up the wand as if trying to gloss over that her face has become red, and then suddenly turns to the front again and starts walking ahead.

# CHAPTER 106

## MAGIC STREET

“Very soon. Leaving this alley towards the north, the road on the other side from the First Ring Road is called Magic Street.” (Rebecca)

After being guided by Rebecca, we arrive at the Magic Street.

“Ooh, so this is the Magic Street.” (Shuuya)

Advertisement boards emitting bluish-white lights are set up all over.

Calling it a futuristic neon city goes too far, but the contrast of blue and white made me feel the cold future of the townscape.

A two-storied building adorned with the signboard [Magic Guild] with a mark forming a wand that sheds bluish-white light.

Characteristic stores and signboards are standing in a row.

I suppose it's a view one won't see in other streets.

Or rather, I've never seen this view in other cities.

Oh, this light is...

There were electric lamp-like small posts which I had already seen once before.

“This is...” (Shuuya)

Bluish-white lights that apparently attract swarms of moths and small winged insects.

The electric lamp-like posts are continuing further inside with several of them lining up along the street as if securing a path for the pedestrians.

{If you look from close-by, it's a mysterious light, isn't it?} (Helme)

Certainly...

Even Helme apparently hadn't seen this light from so close.

Seemingly getting quite curious about the lights she sees after a long time, Rollo purrs with a 「Nn, nyao」, gets off my shoulder and approaches a post emitting a pale light.

“What’s wrong?” (Rebecca)

Rebecca asked while showing a perplexed expression.

She appears to be curious about me paying attention to the light posts.

“Don’t you think the posts releasing lights are strange?” (Shuuya)

“Those are a kind of magic posts. They have a monster-repelling effect. By the way, these being here is proof that officials of the [Magic Guild] are in the vicinity.” (Rebecca)

Rollo circles around the post with her tail standing up apparently having fun while purring with a 「Nyanya nya~」 without listening to Rebecca’s explanation.

I see, those are the same magic posts like those in the **Whirlpool Forest of Demon Fog**, aren’t they?

The ones set up in front of Sol Gustav’s home were a barrier after all, huh?

“So you’re saying there’s the guild’s characteristic **something** in those posts?” (Shuuya)

“Yeah. It seems to be barrier magic by means of magic crests and magic stones which appear in the labyrinth, but that **something** has been hidden.” (Rebecca)

“Rebecca, do you belong to the [Magic Guild]?” (Shuuya)

“No, well, I can’t join. I don’t want to either. The people belonging to it have been recruited by those possessing top-ranking Spirit, Mana and Combat Occupations like the ones who graduate as top students from the magic academy. I feel that I want to do various types of magical research, but because their various terms and rules are harsh, I don’t want to join them.” (Rebecca)

Meaning the magic guild is overly strict.

“Are there any requirements necessary for becoming a member that differ from the adventurer’s guild...?” (Shuuya)

“— Even though you can use magic, you didn’t know Shuuya?” (Rebecca)

Rebecca asks while trying to stroke Rollo’s head after bending both her knees and then her back.

“That’s right. There is no [Magic Guild] in [Hekatrail]. And if it’s [Holkerbaum], I didn’t even search for it much, with the magic tool shops being rare.” (Shuuya)

“Hmm. Well, I guess it’s reasonable since you travelled? After all there are also cases where it’s prohibited by the country to leave its territory due to belonging to the [Magic Guild]. I think it’s probably because the guild’s possessing secret sophisticated magic or because it’s used in war.” (Rebecca)

Whoa, prohibition to leave the country?

“That’s something I really don’t want. For argument’s sake, if I belonged to the [Magic Guild], would I be currently forbidden to leave [Oseberia Kingdom]?” (Shuuya)

“At the present time that’s not the case. It appears leaving the country at the time when the war with the empire was extreme was prohibited. Even so, the war is still continuing... Should it intensify once again, leaving will be prohibited once more as well.” (Rebecca)

“I see. In that case I’d like to refrain from joining the magic guild, too.” (Shuuya)

At that point, Rebecca stands up and laughs while looking at me.

“Fufu, Shuuya, you are an adventurer right? It’s alright if you don’t enter the magic guild. Well then, since the store we are headed for is over there, let’s go inside soon?” (Rebecca)

Rebecca asked while tilting her head sideways.

Each and every of her gestures are cute.

“Yeah, let’s go.” (Shuuya)

“Rollo-chan will go as well~” (Rebecca)

“Nyaa.”

Rollo stretches both her legs out in front as if straightening her back and follows behind Rebecca.

Rebecca stopped walking before long.

This is the shop...?

The shop’s exterior can be summarized into the single word **unique**.

Rebecca stretches out her hands in order to introduce the shop with its peculiar exterior.

“It’s this place. This is the store I recommend. Krishna Sorcery Tools Shop. It has various nicknames such as Unknown Magic Sorcery Tools Shop or Little-known good Magic Tools Shop.” (Rebecca)

While listening to Rebecca’s explanation, I look at its white, thick bone pillars that are stretching upwards in a spiral-shaped manner and the red umbrella roof covering it.

The framework of the front double-door had been decorated with white, helical, mysterious figures.

Even Rollo separates from below Rebecca’s feet while looking at the strange white bone material and approaches a white, big bone pillar.

She places her right leg against the pillar with a tap, pushes her paw against it without extending her claws, entangles it with her tail, sniffs its odour and, different from the act of scattering her cat scent on it, she takes a weird action similar to sniffing its unique magic scent.

“...It’s really interesting.”

I mutter quietly while looking up at the store.

“Huh?” (Rebecca)

Rebecca faces me with a questioning look due to my murmuring.

“No, it’s nothing... I want to look at sorcery tools and magic scrolls. Rollo, stop smelling its scent. We are going inside.” (Shuuya)

“Nya.”

“Weird Shuuya and weird Rollo-chan. This way.” (Rebecca)

Once she opens the door, we step inside the shop together with Rebecca.

We were suddenly greeted by a mysterious atmosphere.

The floor, the ceiling, the inner walls, the pillars and the decorative beams; all of them are composed of aged wood and building stones with geometrical patterns inscribed.

With things like trompe l’oeil that might as well belong into the modern era, despite stemming from the Middle Ages, a culture that’s outdated in modern times, I can’t say anything at all.

Also, it’s only merchandise that I have never seen before.

What caught my eyes first are hats that were decorating mannequins.

A great number of midgets that have horns growing out and look like wax models which have assimilated with the hats’ brims are squirming around and working? They were hats.

The black cat on my shoulder chases those moving horned midgets with her red eyes.

Them being hats I understand, but...

Among the small horned midgets there were also midgets with the style of bald old men.

And, they are moving while doing pantomime...

{Those are strange hats. They are small midgets, but each of them possesses rich mana. I sense the presence of spirits.} (Helme)

Helme appeared in my field of vision and explained.



“Rollo, you are not allowed to meddle with them.” (Shuuya)

“Nya.”



Looking at mine and Rollo's reaction, Rebecca laughed a bit, but she only silently watched us.

When we advance inside the store, strange things enter our sight once again.

A magical inverness coat. Although it was put in order and chic with an indigo blue colour, it was disgusting due to the white claws spreading like the feathers of a peacock from the neck to the back.

The white claws that possess saw blades are moving eerily one by one.

"Is it alright to even touch this?" (Shuuya)

"Yeah. But be careful since it's an article for sale." (Rebecca)

"Okay." (Shuuya)

Since I was curious, I tried to turn over the inner side of that indigo-blue coat.

Silver, magic letters have been woven densely into the inner lining.

Quite a bit of mana has been contained in it, thus it might be an amazing armour.

"That coat will apparently mend itself automatically even if it receives a cut. It's also equipped with the secret art of counter magic 《Anti-Justice <sup>Schaffer Sword</sup> Silver Sword》 and comes from the labyrinth just like the hats." (Rebecca)

Rebecca explained to me when I was checking it out with Magic Observation.

"You are well-informed, aren't you?" (Shuuya)

"I have visited this shop several times in the past." (Rebecca)

"I see. So, the coat not getting sold is because of its look, correct?" (Shuuya)

"Yeah, probably. As written on the wooden tag, its price is high, too. On top of its ominous look, it also has bony claws to the degree that it will become dangerous for the neck instead... I guess they can't sell it because that's fatal for an armour." (Rebecca)

"Indeed." (Shuuya)

It's certainly eerie.

Accordingly, I swapped my look to the merchandise next to it.

This is also an eccentric item.

It's a coat made out of the bristle of a black wolf or bear that looks warm if worn.

On the arm parts extending from the shoulder, there are the heads of a wolf and a bear. Those heads are moving the mouths as if they are the real, live deal.

The movements of their eyes and mouths are especially realistic.

No way, are those actually alive?

Once I approach to touch the head parts while thinking that, the mouths of the wolf and bear move all of a sudden.

— Uhyaa.

The sharp fangs growing out of their lower and upper jaws violently move up and down with a clacking sound completely as if they are alive.

Even Rollo has been surprised by those ghastly sounds.

“Are these alive?” (Shuuya)

“Kh-, shaa.”

Rollo threatens them as warning with her hair standing on end.

The claws at her front and rear paws extended and even her tentacles grew a bit. It's with an intensity that she might leap at the clacking fangs any time soon.

I can acutely sense the claws at her paws getting filled with strength through my overcoat.

“Rollo, it's okay. Calm down. This is merchandise.” (Shuuya)

Once I soothed Rollo so that she quiets down, she leaned herself against my back in a

relaxed manner.

“Hahaha, were you surprised? Everyone gets startled if they approach that equipment item without knowing about it, you know.” (Rebecca)

Rebecca laughed.

Did she watch our reactions while knowing about that coat?

Her cute gesture of sticking out her tongue a bit is lovely as well.

{Your Excellency, I withdraw my recommendation to turn her into a comrade. Making fun of the great you to whom she should be indebted, she’s currently revealing a mischievous expression. That’s cheeky. An ice spear for her butt —} (Helme)

{No, that’s not allowed.} (Shuuya)

{Okay.} (Helme)

After cautioning the angry Helme through telepathic communication, I advance further into the shop without minding Rebecca’s behaviour and stumbled once again across something weird.

That’s a light-blue, transparent fluid in a beaker?

The blue, transparent something is wriggling.

For what the hell is this thing being used?

I approach and observe it.

“It looks like a real slime.” (Shuuya)

The slime reacts towards my impressions.

The shape of the blue, transparent fluid, that accumulated inside the beaker, twists and squirms.

Whoa— suddenly it transformed into my face.

“!? It’s my face.” (Shuuya)

As if impersonating me, the fluid transforms into a surprised face, an angry face, a laughing face, a sad face and various other expressions.

The bluish-white fluid causes even further changes.

Two objects resembling eyeballs appear with a slithering.

A mouth became visible as well and it moved.

“...You, strange, mana, I feel.”

Even Rollo is shocked. Opening her red eyes widely, she sends her forepaw towards the beaker trying to perform a cat punch.

“Rollo, don’t, okay?” (Shuuya)

Once I warn her lightly, Rollo makes her ears dent and fixes her gaze on the bluish-white fluid.

“Eh!? It uses words? It’s the first time for me to see that blue one reacting.” (Rebecca)

Rebecca was astonished, too.

The beaker and me look at each other.

{Your Excellency, this one belongs to an unknown water family. You can consider it to be a part of a deeply-concentrated crystal spirit.} (Helme)

Hoo.

{This is a part of a crystal spirit? Are you saying that it’s a race resembling you, Helme?} (Shuuya)

{Yes. There are countless variations of spirits. Since this small spirit is no more than a part and as it has been transformed into a fixed state by mixing with a demon, I want to help it, but... it looks like it’s impossible.} (Helme)

...Is it a spirit or a monster? Currently I don’t quite understand which of either it is.

As I look in the direction of Rebecca,

“Usually it doesn’t show such a reaction?” (Shuuya)

“It’s the first time for me to see it.” (Rebecca)

“In that case it reacted to me, I guess?” (Shuuya)

Saying that, I turn my face to the beaker with the strange, bluish-white fluid in it.

“What are you?” (Shuuya)

“...Spirit, demon, being, water also, something that has.”

It states as such.

{It is as you’ve said, Helme.} (Shuuya)

{Yes. It has probably transformed into this fixed state due to being in this container for a long time... } (Helme)

It looks like a normal beaker, but it seems to be a magic tool?

{Helme, I’m sorry, but I have no intention to buy it. Let’s leave it alone, okay?} (Shuuya)

{Yes.} (Helme)

I finish my conversation with Helme.

“A mysterious spirit, huh? Has this strange slime talked about something?” (Shuuya)

Tilting my head, I face Rebecca with a questioning expression.

“Even if you are looking for an answer from me...” (Rebecca)

She reveals a complicated expression.

“...I guess so. Let’s go further inside?” (Shuuya)

“...Yea, let’s.” (Rebecca)



Once we separated from the beaker, the bluish-white thing lost its shape and returned to its original fluid state.

It's a really mysterious shop.

While checking the strange merchandise inside the shop with Rebecca, we proceed to the front of the reception.

Huh? There's no clerk?

There are also other customers around the rectangle table that serves as reception.

Going by their atmosphere, this might be a well-known store among fanciers.

Paintings are lined up in a row side-by-side at the upper section of the reception similar to menus in a hamburger shop.

The pictures in the paintings are only drawings of monsters, but they were paintings that splendidly captured the details just like photographs.

The figure of a skeleton that has gained a bit of weight and is holding a longsword and a shield.

A figure wearing a grey robe with a hood that has no feet and is floating in the air. It is grasping a longsword with a jagged blade edge in its pale right hand and a lantern in its left hand which grew out of its torso.

A figure with an ogre face that has a longsword stabbed into its thick chest. The traces of its severed arms are vivid, but for some reason, at the blood-smeared cut ends of those arms the severed arms are floating and holding a longsword with a black lustre.

The figure of a wolf that has a black ring around its neck.

Various monsters have been drawn as paintings.

However, there were also frames with no pictures drawn in them placed on the table.

Frames in various small and large sizes that seem sturdy and that are stained with gothic-styled, pure, black and light-brown spots.

There are also frames that seem to be made out of steel.

Mmh? Looking properly at them, aren't those spots decorations?

Do they serve as depressions for the fingers to allow one to hold the frames in their hands?

Hee, I see.

It seems to be a set up to allow carrying these paintings.

Once I check, there are parts similar to handles on all four sides of the frames. Leather straps enabling one to hang the frame on the shoulders were provided as well.

But, why are they selling something like **pictures** here?

I will try asking Rebecca.

"...Those are?" (Shuuya)

"It's equipment dedicated to magic artists." (Rebecca)

"Magic artists?" (Shuuya)

"Yes. It's an occupation that's called a rare combat occupation even among magician types. Using their skills, they can entrap monsters inside those special magic tool frames. Afterwards it becomes possible to form an enslavement contract with those confined monsters. It's a special combat occupation. Demonic spirit artists, who are called blue flame artists, belong to the magic artists category as well, but they don't use the frames, or rather they can't use them. There are also weird, peculiar items, whose meaning I don't have a grasp of, and which don't entrap monsters." (Rebecca)

She explained while looking regretfully towards the end of her speech.

It's possible that there are also things related to me here.

"Hee... there are even such things here?"

"I don't know which of them, but that **such things** is upsetting."

A customer reacted to the words I said.

There's a single customer who looked at the paintings in the same manner as me next to reception.

The appearance of the man who addressed me seems to be that of a magician, but he has a physique like a largely-built warrior.

He is wearing a black, pointy hat that has an embroidery of a large, golden eyeball added to it on his head.

His coat is a twin tunic with erratic red and golden patterns.

There were magic letters sewn with golden embroidery into the black mantle he has put on his shoulders.

His lower body is covered by lamé-styled, black-dyed long leather pants.

He wore lamé leather boots that stood out with their black and golden colours.

Since the lamé leather is tightly covering his thick legs, one will know that he's muscular.

With his entire body clad in high-class equipment, he's outfitted like a high-ranking noble.

As I'm reluctant to pick a fight with him, let's simply apologize.

"...Ah, I apologize if I offended you in any way. It's my bad to call it **such things**." (Shuuya)

I apologize.

"My, seeing that you apologized politely, it's my turn to answer to that— Oops, excuse me, I will take off my hat."

He bowed politely after taking off the long hat conspicuous for its golden eyeball embroidery.

He has a hair style of dividing his long blond hair.

The colour of his pupils is a clear blue. His round face was a combination of Humpty

Dumpty and a cow and had a relatively conceited look. His nose grew out horizontally.

His sideburns are coiled up.

It's rude, but you could say his hair style matches with his characteristic face.

"After all, if you are calling yourself a **magic artist** like us, there's a tendency to be regarded with prejudice. It results in us being called cowards that don't fight themselves as magic artists enslave **monsters**. Well, that's mostly true though.—Fufufu."

The cow-faced man brushes up his long hair with a hand.

It's an act of fixing his hair. This man is flashy with his cow face.

Although he acts snobbily, it doesn't suit him with his face being what it is.

The cow-faced man smiles broadly in satisfaction.

"Haa... is that so?" (Shuuya)

Looking in Rebecca's direction, I desperately plead 'What's up with this person?' with my eyes, but she pretends to not notice that.

As she ignores it, she winks while smiling kindly.

I returned a smile.

If I translate that freely,

"Since he's shady, I leave him to you.~"

"I'm sorry, okay?"

That's the feeling I get.

That damn Rebecca... Then,

"...It seems that you haven actually experienced a magic artist yourself. Then—"

Seemingly unable to stomach that I answered half-heartedly and averted my sight, the cow-faced man opened the inner part of his mantle while showing a prideful expression.

The proof of a **magic artist**, a painting, appears from inside the mantle.

— Ooh, I'm surprised.

Does this mantle have an item box installed?

Such magic mantles exist as well?

An item box in the inner part seems convenient.

While lightly holding the steel frame with one hand, the man shows it to me.

It's a heavy-looking frame, but it seems that he's fine.

He moves his cod roe-like lips with an eerie smile.

"How about that? It's a transcendent masterpiece, right?"

It's an exaggerated manner of speech, but the painting is amazingly realistic.

Has he really formed a contract with the monster in the painting?

It's a drawing of a monster belonging to the dog race. It possesses three heads and wears a shell-like armour with an imposing air.

It gives off the image of being the watchdog of hell.

"N, nya?"

Rollo, who patiently kept her silence on my shoulder, appears to be interested in the painting and the cow face... She purrs with a type of voice meaning {What's that nya?}.

Making her red pupils shine, she stared at the drawing while being very interested.

"Uh oh, mmh...?"

Having seen Rollo, the cow-faced man has his expression disturbed unsightly in an

instant.

Nuo? What's that about?

His expression changed all of a sudden.

The two eyes of the man suddenly become perceptive as if chasing prey...

It's a look similar to a penetrating cold that makes a chill run down your spine.

Reflexively I check the cow face with Magic Observation.

Accumulating mana in the painting and his eyes, he stares at Rollo.

Is the cow-faced man probing for something?

Rollo gazed intently at the hook nose of the blonde-haired cow face.

Who's this cow face?

At that moment Helme appeared in my visionary field.

{It doesn't look like he noticed me, but... the motion of accumulating mana in his eyes, the magic tool surrounding the painting and his mana control are quite decent. He's probably an excellent magician.} (Helme)

Seems so.

"...The painting is magnificent, isn't it?" (Shuuya)

I speak to him in order to pull his look from Rollo over to me.

"...Yes. Thank you. It's my prided slave monster."

The cow-faced man returned an acceptable remark, but his gaze was suspicious.

Seemingly being interested in me, Rollo and Rebecca, he continues to scrutinize us.

"It's a monster that looks strong." (Shuuya)

“Yes, it’s powerful. And— judging by your appearance, you are a magic warrior or **something**, I guess?”

He asked hoping I would give him detailed information about that **something**.

Is he implicitly indicating that he’s keeping mana in his eyes?

Well, I guess I will talk to him as I see fit?

“It’s a **something** similar to that, but what about it?” (Shuuya)

My and cow’s looks matching each other somehow created a dangerous atmosphere.

...After a while, the cow-faced man was the first to switch over to talking as if giving in, although it took some time.

“...So you are the guard of the ojou-san over there?”

“— No, I’m not an **ojou-san** that owns a guard. I have only guided him to this shop.”  
(Rebecca)

At last Rebecca reacted.

“Ooh, really? — Excuse me then.”

After lightly bowing his head, the cow man adds even more words as snobby magic artist.

“I have... It seems that I completely misunderstood you as her guard.”

“Well, I don’t really mind. If push comes to shove, it’s likely that I will act like a guard.”  
(Shuuya)

When I said that, Rebecca’s cheeks became slightly red.

“My... my, you are a gentleman, aren’t you? Oops, I still haven’t introduced myself. My name is Banabi Ze Kreuz. Even though I look like this, I also work as adventurer. By all means, I’m pleased to make your acquaintance on this occasion...”

A noble who is an adventurer?



“Okay, Banabi-sama, it is. My name is Shuuya Kagari.”

“Is that so? Shuuya-san, eh? *I shall remember it.*” (Banabi)

Mmh, he stares at Rollo rather than me.

“I will excuse myself at this point then. I only visited this place for the sale of the sorcery frames.” (Banabi)

While rubbing his big nose, he states that and after giving a splendid bow with his hat in one hand, he turned over his mantle and walked towards the exit.

“Haa, we got involved with a weirdo.” (Shuuya)

Banabi Ze Kreuz, the cow-faced magic artist.

Let’s remember him. I guess even if I want to forget his face, I won’t be able to.

“Rather than that, look, there are various items on the shelf over there as well.” (Rebecca)

“I suppose you’re right.” (Shuuya)

Rebecca points at a shelf that has a pile of magic jars placed on it.

Rolento tubes were displayed on the shelf.

Magic jars and magic bins made out of stone that had rugged surfaces.

I already possess those. Thus they are unnecessary to me.

“There are also rune crystals and fine powder of demonic spirit ore. Look there, although they are expensive, there are even magic stones that can produce a barrier. This way parchments that are used for scrolls have been collected.” (Rebecca)

There are various things, but I wonder where I can find the crucial magic scrolls.

“Where are the magic scrolls?” (Shuuya)

“Ah, you wanted magic scrolls, didn’t you? Then, if you call the shop manager at the reception, they will take out their stock, I think.” (Rebecca)

“Got it. I will call him as I’m looking for magic scrolls.” (Shuuya)

Although there’s no one in front at the reception, I could see a cloth curtain in the back.

Facing towards the back, I try calling the shop manager with a slightly strengthened voice.

“Excuse me~. I’d like to see your magic scrolls.” (Shuuya)

I said in a loud voice to call the shop manager.

“Nya~.”

Rollo dents her ears and shows a reaction with a feeling of saying {You startled me nya}.

Thereupon, the navy blue cloth in the back swayed and spread open. An elderly person, likely the shop manager, showed up.

The old human male walks up to me with calm steps.

# CHAPTER 107

## BUYING MAGIC SCROLLS

The elderly shop manager,

“Magic scrolls aye, ayaye aye, funpi~”

He walked over while humming some incomprehensible words.

A white beard similar to the tail of a long-tailed fowl is growing on his chin.

His wrinkled skin stands out as well. Differently from a good-natured old man, he’s a sage geezer that exudes a cunning atmosphere that he definitely accumulated over the years.

He’s probably a magician, but he also looks like he practices some kenpou style.

“...I heard you, aye. Magic scrolls? Language or crests? For starters I have elementary, intermediate, advanced and extreme class, but oh well, I will bring out all the attributes that I have, aye, funpi~”

Talking in a strange and hoarse voice like a Japan snipe, the old shop manager returns inside to fetch the goods.

After a short while the cloth curtain of the partition shifts and the old man returns to the counter while bringing a package from his back room.

“Look, these are the common magic scrolls, aye.”

He stretches his branch-like, thin arms from within the hems of his robe and lines up the magic scrolls on top of the table.

“Nn, nyanya.”

Rollo jumped on the table.

Seemingly having become interested in the magic scrolls placed on the table, she eagerly sniffs the scent of the scrolls by spreading and contracting her small nostrils.

Is she checking her turf?

“Uh-oh, little one, these books are goods for sale, aye? Make sure to be careful, okay?”

Even after seeing the black cat, the sage-like shop manager spoke while looking motionlessly at Rollo with a kind gaze.

“Nyao.”

After purring once, Rollo puts her paws together and becomes a doll.

She obediently stared at the merchandise lined up on the table.

The elderly shop owner smiled while watching the cute figure of the black cat.

Just like that he extended his thin hand towards the head of Rollo who became docile and gently stroked it several times with his conspicuously wrinkled palm.

In return, Rollo purrs throatily and licks the palm of the old shop manager.

“Hya, hya... funpiipi~, how cute, aye.”

While laughing with a strange bird-like voice, the shop manager moves his gaze from Rollo to me. While naming the magic scrolls on the table, he rearranges them in order.

Elementary class: Void attribute, Light Ball.

Elementary class: Fire attribute, Fire Ball.

Elementary class: Fire attribute, Flare Needle.

Advanced class: Fire attribute, Infernal Heat.

Extreme class: Fire attribute, Flame Gatling.

Extreme class: Fire attribute, Continuous <sup>Flare Lanzard</sup> Flare Lances.

King class: Fire attribute, Explosive Fire Dragon Vein.  
Megido the Lane

Elementary class: Water attribute, Frozen Bullet.

Elementary class: Water attribute, Frozen Sword.

Intermediate class: Water attribute, Frozen Arrow.

Intermediate class: Water attribute, Purifying Water.

Advanced class: Water attribute, Water Cure.

Advanced class: Water attribute, Frozen Snake Arrow.

Extreme class: Water attribute, Frozen Dragoness.

Elementary class: Wind attribute, Air Cutter.

Elementary class: Wind attribute, Air Hammer.

Elementary class: Earth attribute, Ground Bang.

Intermediate class: Earth attribute, Hard Skin.

The ones lined up were scrolls of Language Magic.

“These are the magic scrolls of language, aye. Next are those of crest magic, aye.”

Following that, he lines up crest magic scrolls.

Fire attribute, Fire resistance.

Fire attribute, Fire Sword.  
Fine Blade

Fire attribute, Blazing Bomb.

Fire attribute, Round Pillar of Fire.  
Infernal Noah

Water attribute, Water Wall Array.  
Water Hearts

Water attribute, Water Resistance.

Water attribute, Freezing Splash.

Wind attribute, Airplane.

Wind attribute, Air Stampede.

Lightning attribute, Lightning Bolt.

Earth attribute, Grid Launcher.

“Well, that’s all of them, aye. Which would you like to have, aye?”

There’s a lot, isn’t there?

I wonder how much it would cost to buy all language and crest spells of the water attribute.

“...How much do you want for Elementary class: Water attribute, Frozen Bullet?”  
(Shuuya)

“28 gold coins, funpi.”

What’s with that funpi...

However, that price at the elementary level? It will get quite expensive.

“Then, how much would Intermediate class: Water attribute, Frozen Arrow, Advanced class: Water attribute, Water Cure, Advanced class: Water attribute, Frozen Snake Arrow and Extreme class: Water attribute, Frozen Dragoness cost?” (Shuuya)

The shop owner points at the magic scrolls while touching his white beard.

“Intermediate class: Water attribute, Frozen Arrow costs 75 gold coins, aye. Advanced class: Water attribute, Water Cure costs 180 gold coins. Advanced class: Water attribute, Frozen Snake Arrow costs 150 gold coins. And Extreme class: Water attribute, Frozen Dragoness costs 50 platinum coins.”

Whoa, they are expensive after all.

“I see. Let me calculate for a bit.” (Shuuya)

If I buy all of them...

Will I be able to buy all the water spells with one large platinum coin?

“I think I will buy **all** magic scrolls of the water attribute you are selling. How much would that be?” (Shuuya)

“Wai-!” (Rebecca)

“Funpi, what was that!?”

Both, Rebecca and the shop manager, open their eyes widely in astonishment.

“It’s common for crest spells of any kind to cost more than 10 silver coins, but... Shuuya, do you possess such a large amount of money?” (Rebecca)

“I do—.” (Shuuya)

I took out one large platinum coin from my item box.

“It’s a large platinum coin. With this I can buy most of it, right?” (Shuuya)

I place the large platinum coin on the reception table.

“...Wow! It’s the first time for me to see one. That platinum coin... it’s really being circulated... however, though the platinum coin is surprising, but you having the intention of learning all the spells is surprising as well. Shuuya, you told me that you have magic warrior as combat occupation, but is it perhaps a high-ranking magician class?” (Rebecca)

My combat occupation is ***Magic Spear Darkness Warrior***.

I learned Ancient Magic, too. You can say that I’m above a regular magician.

I can’t judge whether that’s high-ranking though.

“You could say that. That’s why I can learn magic, I think.” (Shuuya)



“I-Is that so...? But even if that’s the case, it’s unnatural...” (Rebecca)

Rebecca drew back. Her face has a cramp.

“Can you really learn them, aye?”

Even the shop manager said that in a doubting manner.

Moreover, with the shining blue pupils that are inside his narrow eyes, which are surrounded by wrinkles, he studies my entire body.

Mana gathers in his blue eyes.

“...That’s right.” (Shuuya)

This sage-like shop manager appears to be able to examine things with a type of Magic Observation.

Then, it’s probably fine with this.

I clad my entire body in mana to declare my will.

“— Fuo fuo fuo, really funpiipi, aye! I thought you were a simple youngster, but how outrageous... Alright, aye. I will sell all magic scrolls of the water attribute for that **one coin** to you, aye.”

Seemingly having confirmed my mana, the shop manager was apparently able to consent.

“Ooh, lucky~.” (Shuuya)

I look at Rebecca while being delighted, but she revealed an expression with mixed feelings.

“Shop manager, is it really alright?” (Rebecca)

She leaps at the shop manager’s generous statement to complain.

“It’s fine, aye. Or rather, it’s more than enough. That large platinum coin will become a kind of status symbol. Besides, crest spells haven’t sold here at all recently. What

seems to sell well are language spells after all.”

Even if crest spells don’t sell, they should have a **reasonable** price.

He might have made it cheaper by more than 50 platinum coins.

“Such a thing...” (Rebecca)

Rebecca murmurs softly.

However, she stared at the lined-up magic scrolls while looking frustrated.

Magician is Rebecca’s main job. It’s a reasonable combat job, I suppose.

Suddenly buying a large amount of magic scrolls in front of her was awkward, I guess...?

“Hey, I’m leaving behind the magic scrolls of the water attribute you bought here, aye. Read them if you are going to learn them here.”

The old shop manager with his white beard gathers the other magic scrolls and the large platinum coin, and carries them into the back of the shop while muttering a chain of “Funpi.”

“Rebecca, wait a bit for me as I will learn **these** now.” (Shuuya)

“Yeah, yeah. You really plan to learn them, don’t you? I will wait...” (Rebecca)

Rebecca talks while averting her face slightly as if she got fed up.

It’s awkward, but I got to learn them.

I picked up a magic scroll of language magic.

{I sense mana from all the magic scrolls.} (Helme)

As Helme says, one can reliably sense mana from the magic scrolls.

I read the magic scroll of Elementary class: Water attribute, Frozen Bullet.

I finish reading it and once I understand...

The parchment of the magic scroll I held in my hand crumbles and turns into dust.

I was easily able to learn Frozen Bullet.

It's the same as with the magic scroll of darkness I learned a long time ago.

The chant comes naturally to me as well.

Although it's not necessary since I have skills.

If I cast it consciously in my mind, it's possible to use it chantlessly.

Since I also possess the Blue Eyes of the Evil Dragon King, I can expect the power to be twice as high.

Hehe, I will learn them steadily.

I pick up the other magic scrolls one after another and read them.

I was able to learn all the language and crest spells I bought without any troubles.

{Your Excellency, congratulations. With this your options for attacking from a distance have increased manifold, too.} (Helme)

{Yeah. I will get a feeling of the spells by testing them in the labyrinth.} (Shuuya)

{Yes.} (Helme)

While nodding, I turned my face towards Rebecca.

"Sorry to keep you waiting." (Shuuya)

"Humph, I'm amazed. The learning capacity of your mental ability is high, isn't it? Even though it's been only water magic, you really ended up learning all the spells you bought... You even read, understood and learned the extreme class spells without any difficulties. Anyway, I have no doubt that your innate mana quantity is at the level of a sorcerer, or even above that." (Rebecca)

Rebecca somewhat glares at me.

She's in a bad mood...

"I'm not sure. You might be right, I guess." (Shuuya)

"..." (Rebecca)

Shit, that was a slip of tongue. Modesty is a poison.

It's become a bad habit. Rebecca is... still staying silent.

"Nya."

Once Rollo realizes that the shopping finished, she jumped on my shoulder.

"Let's leave?"

"I guess."

I pull the door of the mysterious Krishna Sorcery Tools Shop and go outside together with the grouchy Rebecca and Rollo riding on my shoulder.

I peeked at Rebecca's expression while walking on the Magic Street.

Her golden eyebrows are wrinkled up in a faintly gloomy manner.

Uh, I have to follow up here...

"Rebecca, I apologize if you took offense." (Shuuya)

"...That just worsens my mood. Though you told me that you are a vanguard, I feel like I received a surprise attack! Buying extreme class magic scrolls... which was my objective... like candy and on top of that learning the spells **without trouble**, and yet you look unconcerned? That item box is nice. That large platinum coin is nice. Shuuya, I wonder whether you are a second or third son of a wealthy, high-ranking noble who received a higher magic education?" (Rebecca)

Me a high-ranking noble? Don't make me laugh.

"No, I don't have noble origin." (Shuuya)

“Humph.” (Rebecca)

Well, I guess it’s only natural that she doesn’t believe me?

But, let’s explain it properly to her with a proper stern expression before she misunderstands something.

“I’m an adventurer originating from a far away rural mountain area. Also, that platinum coin is money I earned through **legitimate requests** as an adventurer. Can you please not say anything too rude?” (Shuuya)

“Is that... so? Sorry.” (Rebecca)

Seeing my stern expression, Rebecca’s expression turns into a startled one.

After a short break in her speech, she apologized while looking uncomfortable.

“It’s fine if I got you to understand. I acted boorishly as well.” (Shuuya)

I can understand her being angry, too.

I showed a smile in order to apologize.

“Yea, but, for Shuuya to be a water attribute user, eh.” (Rebecca)

“That’s right. Rebecca, your forte was fire, wasn’t it?” (Shuuya)

“Yes. In addition I can also use wind. I also have several tens of ***talismans***. Though, since I’m poor, I don’t want to use these overly much.” (Rebecca)

Talismans? Rebecca shows me parchments that were put together with a string that attached them to her waist belt.

Magic crests were drawn on those parchments with magic letters.

Ah, that’s how it is. It seems she calls scrolls as talismans.

“...I see. I can use magic as well, but basically this is my main weapon.” (Shuuya)

Thereupon I summon the Magic Halberd in my right hand.

“Hyaa... it’s a type of halberd, right?” (Rebecca)

Rebecca gets startled by the Magic Halberd that suddenly appeared in my right hand and releases a cute voice.

“Yeah. I have also have **various** others in addition, but being a spear user is my main job.”  
(Shuuya)

“Nnn, nya.”

“Various, eh...” (Rebecca)

In the middle of Rebecca looking at me doubtfully, Rollo descends to the ground in order to show her own power and changes into a bigger mode with a billowing sound.

She transformed into the medium-sized black panther.

While extending the six tentacles from the nape of her neck and having them float in mid air, she appeals by making bone swords appear and disappear at the tips of the tentacles.

“— Rollo-chan!? What’s this! How amazing...” (Rebecca)



“Nyaaan.”

Black Panther

Rollodeen points her face upwards and displays the triumphant look of a lion king.

“Did she surprise you? Well, since that’s how it is, you don’t have to worry about the vanguard.” (Shuuya)

“Ah, yeah. I-I will do my best as well...” (Rebecca)

Rollo shrinks in an instant.

Once she had returned to her small shape, she nuzzled her head against Rebecca’s feet who was talking as if she had slightly lost her confidence.

It looks like Rollo plans to comfort her.

“Geez, Rollo-chan, you cutie. You are too lovely~.” (Rebecca)

Unable to bear it, Rebecca caught Rollo and hugged her.

She buries her face in the inner side of Rollo’s belly and enjoys the fluffiness.

Ah~ ... she ended up experiencing it at last, huh...? If you experience that softness of the inner belly even once, you won’t be able to go back anymore...

Even though she received a cheek-rubbing attack at her belly, Rollo endured it patiently.

Given that Rebecca has a small build, the appearance of her hugging Rollo’s small body looks as if she’s hugging a big plush toy.

After a short time Rollo got apparently tired of the cheek-rubbing attack and returned to my shoulder after getting away from Rebecca by twisting her body.

“Ah, noo~ She left...” (Rebecca)

“Haha, in due time she will allow you to hug her again.” (Shuuya)

“Really? In that case I’m looking forward to it. But, Rollo-chan is far too cute~. How nice, to have a lovely familiar.” (Rebecca)



Rebecca-san looks at me and Rollo with scornful eyes.

That look is slightly scary. I can't tell her that though.

"...She's my prided partner after all." (Shuuya)

"So nice, that's really great." (Rebecca)

She shakes her head left and right, and talks while looking at Rollo.

"Rather than that, don't stop. We are going to the labyrinth, right?" (Shuuya)

"Ah, yeah. You're right. Let's go." (Rebecca)

Rebecca's mood completely recovered due to the special Rollo effect.

We returned to the First Ring Road that's close to the centre of this city.

We walk towards the cylinder-shaped building where the entrance to the labyrinth is located.

— *It's a follow-up report on the mass disappearance of the [Red Bee] clan and the [Silver Pearl] clan. What to say, it seems both clans were involved in a dispute deep inside the labyrinth. The female elf, which is the sole survivor of that dispute, seems to actually be the originator of it. I'm told that this woman will soon be executed publicly.*

They are talking about such stuff at the announcement stands.

"...It's hot and there's a lot of people."

"It's already summer. The heat will take centre stage from now on. Besides, this is the best place in front of the labyrinth. There are plenty of street stalls and thus people gather. It can't be helped." (Rebecca)

Certainly, just as she said, there's many stalls.

Various of them are selling items that will probably be useful in the labyrinth.

— The sun light is shining there to the degree of naturally toasting sunny-side-up fried eggs.

Even at this hot hour... voices appealing to adventurers and voices of vendors could be heard in the surroundings.

— *I'm a convenient warrior possessing an item box and being experienced at the second floor. It's even fine for me to work as a porter. Won't anyone hire me?*

— *If you hire me, you will be able to go to the water crystal on the third floor. It will be possible to head directly to the spring area.*

— *I'm a shield user possessing the war cry skill. Can someone please hire me?*

— *Finally it's the sale of the illusionary medicine Black Lily. It's a medicine developed by Anzu Carolina-sama, master of spirit light. It's said that incurable illnesses will vanish, if you continue to drink this illusionary medicine that surpasses any secret medicine.*

...A shady merchant is selling a weird medicine.

It looks like a pill, but I guess in reality it's a mankintan\*-like medicine? (T/N: Name of a medicine supposedly having a stimulating and detoxifying effect, made at Mt. Asamagatake)

You can expect those facts to be nothing but made up in order to sell that bogus medicine.

— *Selling maps of the first and second floor~.*

— *I'm selling maps specifying several traps on the map of the labyrinth's first floor.*

— *The complete version of the labyrinth's second floor map is being sold here~.*

— *Maps are maps, but I'm selling maps about of the level four magic treasures. Given that it's a completed and appraised map where you will discover their locations in the Death Bog of the labyrinth's second floor, you will only have to dig up the treasures~.*

Maps, huh?

Rebecca hasn't said anything, but since I think they are important to not get lost, I will try asking her.

"Don't we have to buy a map?" (Shuuya)

"No. Currently it's not necessary. Although it's important, I also possess a map as long

as it's the first floor. Since I have memorized it to a **certain extent**, it will be okay for now. There's no necessity to buy one. But, Shuuya, if you plan to dive into the labyrinth after that, I believe it will be good for you to buy one. However, if there's a party member like me, you won't require a map." (Rebecca)

Rebecca keeps walking while appealing in a *senpai manner*.

"That sounds about right, too. I might buy one sooner or later." (Shuuya)

If there's something like graph paper, I will move right ahead with the creation of a map.

But there's no way for such paper to exist here.

How nice would it be if there was an automatic mapping function...

Since a leather strap that can be turned into an impromptu rope is inside my chest belt, I believe it will be fine if we use that once it looks like we got lost.

*You over there— how about Fang Boa grilled on a skewer~?*

The vendor's voice resounds alongside a smell that stimulates one's appetite.

Meat, huh? I would like to eat that if my stomach was empty, but as it's hot currently, I want something like ice or cold juice.

Even though it would be profitable to sell such things in the current season...

*— Come and look, we have armours and weapons made in Hardland~.*

Even when I look around me, it doesn't seem like there are people selling cold juice.

One might say that there's a business opportunity presenting itself here.

*— Selling honey water! It loses out to the black nectar of the labyrinth, but I can guarantee its taste. How about 20 large copper coins?*

\*collapses\* My dream of selling cold juice fell apart in an instant.

It often doesn't go as conveniently as expected, I guess?

— *Don't you need medicine plants~?*

Oh? It's a frail voice.

The last voice is, different from the voices of the other old men, the voice of a girl?

I found the owner of that voice.

Mmh? Her eyes are white? Is this girl blind?

The girl has pure white eyes with two layers of eyelids.

She's still young, but her looks are cute and well-featured.

She holds a large basket praiseworthily with nothing but her small hands. That basket is filled with several bundles of medicinal plants.

I wonder whether she's unable to see?

Everyone is ignoring her.

Should I buy some medicinal plants since she seems pitiful?

I end up getting reminded of the match selling girl appearing in a fairy tale.

"Rebecca, wait a moment." (Shuuya)

"What's up?" (Rebecca)

Stopping Rebecca who walks in front, I ran to the girl and called out to her.

"Yo, I will take one bundle of medicine plants." (Shuuya)

"Yes! One costs five small copper coins."

Oh, it's not such a bad blindness.

She chases my movements with her white eyes while speaking with a lively voice.

"No need for the change." (Shuuya)

I take out one large copper coin from my item box and exchange it for the plants.

“Ah, this much... customer-san— thank you.”

The girl grasped the large copper coin and confirmed it.

Once I receive the medicinal plants, I start walking towards Rebecca without replying to the girl.

We headed to the cylinder-shaped building with the labyrinth entrance.

“Did you buy medicinal plants?” (Rebecca)

“Well, yeah.” (Shuuya)

“I see. One has to prepare some means of recovery.” (Rebecca)

There were other stalls as well, but Rebecca and I walk past them without stopping by.

When I get close to the cylinder-shaped building, I see that it’s unexpectedly big.

At the front of that cylinder-shaped building two sentries stood on both sides of the entrance.

“Who are the soldiers over there?” (Shuuya)

“They are soldiers of the Labyrinth Administration Bureau. There’s also a sentry unit of [Oseberia’s Royal Army] permanently stationed at [Labyrinth City Pelneet]. So far as it goes, their nominal task is to crack down on criminal acts inside and outside the labyrinth.” (Rebecca)

I say while looking at the sentries,

“Then it’s safe, I guess.” (Shuuya)

“I suppose. At least around here on the surface...” (Rebecca)

“Why?” (Shuuya)

“It’s not very often that the sentries enter the labyrinth. That’s because of the traps

and the many wandering monsters inside. Basically, it's an unspoken rule to resolve matters inside among adventurers. Thus it's better to be cautious of adventurers while passing them inside the labyrinth. Although there are also cases where there will be a trial over disputes, it might be best to remember that the most useful thing to have once it turns out like that is connections with nobles." (Rebecca)

An unspoken rule, eh...

Protect yourself by yourself, huh?

While having such a conversation with Rebecca, groups of adventurers that are a collection of capable people appeared from the entrance.

All of them are wearing something that shines in a blue colour on a part of their clothes or equipments.

"— Ah, that's the the sixth top clan..." (Rebecca)

"Oh? Sixth?" (Shuuya)

"Correct. The group that came out just now is one of the six top clans in [Labyrinth City Pelneet]. They are members of [Blue-armed Treasure Party<sup>Blue Arm Jewelers</sup>]. It seems that they returned from the labyrinth moments ago." (Rebecca)

"A top clan with around 12 people?" (Shuuya)

The <sup>Blue-armed Treasure Party</sup> Blue Arm Jewelers, eh.

Judging by their equipment and attires, they seem to have a relatively well-balanced line-up.

A warrior that has a longsword, a shield and a massive armour.

A magician in an orthodox robe with a wand.

A female thief in light leather armour with daggers visible at her waist.

A priest wearing priest's garb and holding a wand.

A largely-built magician that carries something appearing to be a large rectangular frame wrapped up in a cloth on his back.

In addition, there's a light female warrior holding a spear, and also a warrior owning a bow.

That spear-holding woman is beautiful. The female thief is a beauty as well.

My gaze focuses on the pretty ladies.

"...The number of people that can dive into the labyrinth at once is ten. Something like the members of [Blue-armed Treasure Party] being active after splitting their group into three... that's because it's possible to link up in the labyrinth at any time. Having big numbers is advantageous. They broke through the tenth floor of the labyrinth after a century. The news that they stepped onto the eleventh floor spread like a wildfire in this labyrinth capital city." (Rebecca)

If it's that, I heard about it.

It's probably big news since they expressly let the citizens know about it.

"I heard of it. There were people on the plaza behind us who spread that kind of information by shouting." (Shuuya)

"The announcement stand people, eh? Going by those news, it's the remarkable accomplishment of breaking through the tenth labyrinth floor for the first time since the clan [Azure <sup>Blue Dragon</sup> Dragon Party] led by the hero Mubran. They might be the number one clan in the labyrinth after overtaking [<sup>White Brotherhood</sup> White-bearded Comrades] in name and reality." (Rebecca)

The members of [Blue-armed Treasure Party] are reflected in Rebecca's eyes.

A feeling of yearning was clearly visible on her face.

Several of the adventurers present in the vicinity are shouting words of praise and aspiration.

However, there were also words of jealousy.

It seems that the female spear warrior and the female thief are popular among them.

There are many fellows who yell obscenities.

It's praise and slander.

Apparently the word *sexual harassment* doesn't exist in this world.

Once I looked at Rebecca, she gazed back with a quite indifferent expression, apparently not paying any attention to it.

We leave while the blue-armed group gets crowded by people.

"We should go as well?" (Rebecca)

"Roger." (Shuuya)

She proceeds to the entrance, shows her adventurer card to one of the sentries and enters.

Learning from that, I also showed my card and went inside the building.

Inside the building there's a lengthy atrium.

It has a round octagon shape.

A wide space surrounded by walls with ashen tiles.

Four thick pillars are standing, as if supporting the ceiling, at the four cardinal directions close to the centre.

Those four pillars are connected by a line that forms a tetragon. A huge water crystal was in the middle of it.

The big rock holding up the ancient crystal is big as well.

It's a big rock completely similar to a sumo wrestler.

However I wonder just how many facets that water crystal possesses... it's a really big, ancient water crystal.



Adventurers surrounded that crystal and everyone touched the crystal by placing their hands on it.

“Second floor.”

The instant one of the adventurers surrounding it said those words, the adventurers around the crystal disappeared without even leaving an afterimage behind.

“They vanished. Did they warp?” (Shuuya)

“Yeah. If you say the floor while touching that water crystal, you will be randomly sent to a room with a water crystal in it beyond the second floor. Also, the people touching the crystal together will be sent at the same time.” (Rebecca)

“Something like *second tier* will work too?” (Shuuya)

I ask something simple.

“Yeah. It will be okay even if you change the wording to some degree.” (Rebecca)

I see.

I wonder whether one will get warped to a floor, which they never visited, by designating it?

“Can you go to a floor you haven’t visited before?” (Shuuya)

“By yourself it’s impossible. If it’s a floor that a member of your party, who is touching the crystal together with you, has already visited, you can go anywhere. And if it’s just the first floor, it will react to words such as *Leap* or *Warp* and send you to a random room with a water crystal in it on the labyrinth’s first floor.” (Rebecca)

Hee, it’s quite simple to leap.

“If there’s a comrade who knows the destination, can you go there even if you haven’t gone there by yourself before?” (Shuuya)

“Yeah. You can. The warp and leap destinations on the same floor are random, but even if the first time is a miss, you can warp to the targeted crystal as long as you repeatedly leap around. There were some among the adventurers inviting others who

said something like that some time ago, right?" (Rebecca)

Rebecca asked me while seizing my eyes with her beautiful, blue eyes.

Bah, there were many adventurers on the plaza.

# CHAPTER 108

## REBECCA'S ABILITY

"...Which reminds me, I feel like they said something similar to that." (Shuuya)

"Yeah, well, now we will swiftly dive into the labyrinth by touching this." (Rebecca)

"Aye." (Shuuya)

Rebecca and I touch the water crystal.

The instant she mentioned "Leap" — we warped.

The place, where we leapt to, is an eight-sided-shaped room just like the one before the leap.

It's unexpectedly bright. The height is around 20 meters?

There are arched entranceways with no doors at the four cardinal directions of the room. Passages continue ahead within each.

A dazzling light is created by light sources in the shape of geometrical patterns, similar to those of magic crests, at the walls and ceiling.

The crystal we are touching stands towering in the middle of the octagon-shaped room.

"Today it's this place, huh...?" (Rebecca)

Rebecca murmurs a brief comment.

She surveyed the surroundings of the room we were transferred to.

She has dived many times after all, hasn't she? She wore the expression of a veteran.

She removes her hands from the crystal she had touched with a calm expression and starts to walk while holding her long wand in front of her chest.

“Are there cases where you are attacked by monsters right after the transfer?”  
(Shuuya)

I try asking while fixing my sight on her blonde hair.

“There are. But I never heard of even one occasion where monsters appear in the rooms with these crystals. But, monster killers are different.” (Rebecca)

Monster killers?

“Monster killers?” (Shuuya)

“People with evil intentions who run away while dragging along a large amount of monsters to dump them on other adventurers.” (Rebecca)

“That’s nasty.” (Shuuya)

“Yes, I don’t know about parties, but adventurers that hunt by themselves fear those people...” (Rebecca)

Rebecca’s face became pale.

It appears that she has experienced that.

“But, adventurers doing something like that will sooner or later be denounced and defeated by honest adventurers, right?” (Shuuya)

“It would be great if that was true, but I didn’t hear about it happening all that much. There are situations where monster killer’ing is caused even by adventurers who can dive into deep floors.” (Rebecca)

It’s not like there are video cameras installed. I suppose it’s a difficult issue?

“Victims are unavoidable then, right? It’s even nastier if it happens right after the transfer.” (Shuuya)

“Yeah, it’s dangerous, but in that case you can escape by transferring right away if you touch the crystal. There are almost no victims due to a monster killer right after a transfer. The problem is if it happens in a monster room connected through passages once you leave the crystal and advance further in. Since **scum adventurers**, who

possess hiding skills beyond <Hide>, and who act while filled with ill will, exist anywhere... you have to be careful. You never know what might happen inside the labyrinth.” (Rebecca)

She explained with a serious look and a sharp glint in her blue eyes.

Though the warning is accompanied by an unpleasant conversation, it still makes my heart feel slightly warm and fluffy. Rebecca is a really nice person.

This meeting with her might be a good omen for me who challenges the labyrinth for the first time.

“...If that’s the case, you mentioned it before as well, Rebecca, but the probability is high that one becomes a monster killer by just running away from monsters, even without any evil intentions.” (Shuuya)

“Yeah. I hear those incidents often occur at the warp points of the sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth floor. There are also many clans that end up eventually creating large armies of monsters by continuing to run away from monster groups without actually having any evil intentions.” (Rebecca)

“...I will remember it.” (Shuuya)

While saying that, I check out the vicinity.

The building materials of the floor and walls are big stones, huh?

They seem to form a space that covers the surface without leaving any gaps.

They look like concrete and block material. It gave the spacious room an air of being artificial.

It really gives the impression of a labyrinth.

Passing through the arched entrance way located in the direction ahead, Rebecca walks into the passage there.

The passage’s width seems to be more than ten meters.

It’s sufficiently wide.

“...I will also teach you about the Rampage <sup>Stampede</sup> Surge. It refers to the situation where large amounts of monsters spawn from passages, rooms and spaces which occurs sometimes.”  
(Rebecca)

“Ho, such a phenomenon exists, too?” (Shuuya)

“Well, it’s alright since a Rampage <sup>Stampede</sup> Surge doesn’t happen often.” (Rebecca)

Rebecca talks while smiling.

“Let’s advance through the passage this way then. Since there are stairs, I think we will run into adventurers fighting monsters after going down.” (Rebecca)

“Roger.” (Shuuya)

As she said, there were stairs leading downwards.

The stairs’ width is the same as that of the passage.

As we descended the stairs at a light pace, it became gloomy and cold.

“The temperature fell, but the labyrinth sustains this brightness?” (Shuuya)

“Correct. There’s a difference in temperature. Such short stairways are all over the place, but lighting isn’t necessary because the walls and ceiling are basically bright. However, there are special rooms, spaces, traps and passages. Since there are also cases where it becomes pitch black making one feeling chills, it’s essential to prepare light sources and heat tools that can warm your body.” (Rebecca)

The low temperature pricks my skin while I listen to her explanation.

But, this cold lets me actually feel that I’m diving into an unknown dungeon.

I even have goosebumps as I tremble in excitement.

Once we descended the stairs while I’m harbouring those feelings in my chest, we came out in yet another room.

Huh? It’s strange, but feeling the wind, it has suddenly become mild.

Besides, there is the presence of magic sources.

— I discover beasts. It is a flock of three big rats with fangs growing out.

They still haven't noticed us.

The room with these monsters in it is quadrangle.

There are passages continuing deeper inside ahead of us and on the right side.

The room's impression is dreary due to the grey stone paving.

“— There they are. The small fry monsters of the first floor. <sup>Zanbiss</sup>Big Rat.” (Rebecca)

Having noticed the monster presences, Rebecca explains.

She moved her white hands while making her beautiful blonde hair sway.

She holds out the long wand with the small red gem attached at its tip in front of her chest.

Preparing her wand, she moves her lips as she reveals a smile while seizing her targets with a sidelong glance.

“— I will swiftly get rid of them, okay?” (Rebecca)

Her bells-like voice resounds.

“Oh Fire Spirit Illness, feed on my mana and display a fraction of a fire spirit's power. Please manifest a fireball—” (Rebecca)

She started the chant of a language spell.

She spins mana and words together.

Together with Rollo I observe Rebecca's language magic.

I follow the movement of her mana with my Magic Observation.

Rebecca's mana manipulation is quick.

It's just as she said; that she has confidence in her magic.

I had understood that her mana manipulation is smooth, but...

Her actually invoking the magic is something different altogether.

{Your Excellency, she's a mana user worthy of special mention. The fire spirits are happily gathering around her. Although chanting is considered as being of lower rank, it's **obviously** different from normal. She will create a beautiful fireball.} (Helme)

Is that so? I can't see those fire spirits at all, but it seems like Helme, who is a spirit of water and everlasting darkness, can see them.

Rebecca is poor, but her real rank as a magician seems to be that of someone possessing the skills of a master in manipulating mana.

As the rhythm of the chant and the mana overlap, they vanish and sublimate into a flame.

A large fireball got completed after the flame was moulded into a sphere.

“《Fireball》.” (Rebecca)

Rebecca dons a stern expression.

Reciting the name of the spell, she released it.

Heading towards the flock of big rats, the well-kneaded fireball soars while buzzing.

The fireball crashes into the flock of big rats.

The big rat that was in the middle was completely devoured by the fireball. While turning into something black in an instant, its body scattered and vanished.

The momentum of the fireball doesn't lessen and it clashes against the labyrinth's floor. The flame spreads in a fan form with its strength reduced.

The flames also extend to the big rats in the vicinity. Their bodies got wrapped up by the fire and stopped moving.

It's slightly overkill.



What about the magic stones? But then again, I can see small magic stones sticking to the scattered corpses.

Rebecca swiftly retrieved the magic stones from the charred corpses.

So the magic stone is left behind even if the monster burns down?

Well it's unexpected, but it doesn't look like it will explode after getting in touch with fire.

"It's a good sign. We got three small magic stones." (Rebecca)

"One shot with a fireball, huh? Way to go!" (Shuuya)

Rebecca puts the magic stones into her bag while in a good mood.

"Yeah. If it's <sup>Zanbiss</sup> big rats who appear on the first floors, I can defeat them with my magic without them counter-attacking as long as I manage to get in a **preemptive strike**. However, once we advance a bit further in, it becomes hard without a vanguard as the types of monsters increase and the numbers appearing at once grow. Since you possess magic as well, Shuuya, I think that we can defeat them without getting attacked back as long as we attack together first." (Rebecca)

"I guess so. I plan to test out magic as well, but me and Rollo are basically **vanguards**. Next we will take the initiative by **going to the front**. Please also leave the search for monsters to me." (Shuuya)

"Got it. I'm looking forward to what you will show me." (Rebecca)

Seemingly having the feeling of a senpai, Rebecca hums a song apparently looking forward to judge our performance.

Inside the passage splitting to the left and right, she advances after choosing the right pathway.

When we are walking down the square passage, I once again sense magic sources.

There are several small magic sources. I guess it's those rats again.

{Your Excellency, I won't lose to Rebecca! I will show her how I eradicate them with my magic!} (Helme)

The small Helme stretched out her small hands towards the rats while assuming a <sup>Jojo Pose</sup> characteristic pose\*. (T/N: A reference to "The bizarre adventures of Jojo" who apparently assumes weird ass poses)

{No, I will do it. Helme, you will just watch, okay?} (Shuuya)

{Okay... } (Helme)

Helme vanishes from my sight while looking disappointed.

At the same time I summoned the Magic Halberd into my right hand.

"Rebecca, there are enemies ahead. I believe them to be <sup>Zanbiss</sup> big rats. Me and Rollo will plunge into them." (Shuuya)

"Okay. I will watch from behind." (Rebecca)

Let's show Rebecca a bit of our skills as vanguards.

And thus I start running—

Rollo also got off my shoulder and ran ahead of me.

She transforms into the middle-sized black panther with a billowing sound while running.

Her figure of dashing with large strides is as beautiful as ever.

I confirm the <sup>Zanbiss</sup> big rats at the location where I sensed the magic sources.

A flock of five rats.

I don't mind the <sup>Zanbiss</sup> big rats in front of me noticing my approach.

Swinging my Magic Halberd diagonally from the right top to the left bottom at the big

rat I targeted, I bisect it.

The diagonally-cut cross-section turns pitch black as it carbonizes.

When the corpse that got split into two parts tumbled to the ground, a small magic stone rolled onto the floor from within the corpse.

Rollo, who was at the right side, stabs a big rat with her tentacle bone swords and easily kills it. She starts to play around by using the corpse to roll it around similar to ice hockey.

Even as I wryly smiled at her playing, I targeted the big rat remaining on the left side.

Switching my hold on the Magic Halberd, which I lowered after defeating the previous rat, into a backhand grip, I perform an irregular golf swing.

If you put it into tennis terms, the Magic Halberd drew an arc as if adding a drive spin with a backhand and crashed into the head of the big rat.

A large quantity of the big rat's spinal fluid clung to the Magic Dragon Gem that collided with the rat's head as if grazing it.

— There are still two rats left in the back.

Being unconcerned with such gore, I rotate the Magic Halberd.

While advancing with my body in a forward-bent posture, I perform a <sup>Marseille Roulette</sup>side step rotation like the famous soccer player Zidane from a while ago. (T/N: No idea why author censored the name, but try guessing. Hint: a famous French matchmaker)

I swing down the Magic Halberd with the force of the rotation added to it onto a big rat and crushed its skull.

The red axe blade clashes with the surface of the labyrinth's floor, sinks in and a shock wave clad in flames spreads from the point of impact.

It's only for an instant, but the red crest of the Evil Dragon King I obtained after easily bisecting it with my ancient magic surfaced in my mind.

At this point I make the Magic Halberd disappear for the moment.

— Last one.

I run up to the last remaining big rat, and kicked the bottom of its stomach with all my power as if scooping the rat up with an instep kick of my Magic Step.

The big rat that was squashed with a thick sound reverberating is whirled up into the air as it had its inner stomach caved in greatly.

The first-rank mark created by the Evil Dragon King has been properly imprinted. The big rat was crushed to death making a sound of being even further smashed in the air similar to dull sword-slashing sounds.

The crushed corpse falls to the ground.

“W-Wow.” (Rebecca)

Rebecca, who had seen the chain of actions, revealed an expression filled with astonishment.

Her blue pupils have dilated.

Without paying attention to that, I recover the magic stones. But apparently the magic stones in the crushed parts of the corpses were broken. They turned into charcoal as if they burned up...

Oops, I ended up smashing them into pieces.

I will apologize about that to the spaced-out Rebecca.

“Rebecca, sorry, I crushed the magic stones into pieces.” (Shuuya)

“Eh? Ah, well, I’m pretty sure it will turn out like that, or will it? However, that doesn’t matter. Such things also happen to first-class adventurers, is something I heard.” (Rebecca)

“I see. Then it’s okay. It looks like we will easily gather the share of magic stones for the request if we defeat monsters at this pace, right?” (Shuuya)

Rebecca answered my question while blinking in surprise,

“T-That’s true as well. To be honest, I didn’t expect you to be a warrior of this calibre, Shuuya. If you like, it would be okay to choose a more difficult request...” (Rebecca)

“Oh well, isn’t it fine? Even without taking a request, we can sell the magic stones, can’t we?” (Shuuya)

“That’s certainly so, but if you accept a lot of requests, the number of completed requests will increase as well, won’t it? However, since it’s like this now, should we try to challenge a **rare monster room** where C-class monsters appear?” (Rebecca)

Ooh, it’s a room name that really befits a labyrinth.

“Rare monster room?” (Shuuya)

“Yeah. Before reaching a rare monster room, one has to pass through several rooms where monsters spawn, but on each floor there’s a special room where several inherently strong monsters spawn. There are times when a **treasure chest** spawns if you defeat those strong monsters, and there’s the chance of a rare item being inside those treasure chests.” (Rebecca)

It appeared! The standard of a labyrinth, a treasure chest!

I wonder what kind of items those rare things are.

“Ooh~, that sounds nice. What kind of rare items appear?” (Shuuya)

“For example accessory types. On a glance they are common items, but it often happens that they are surprising items once you check them with appraisal.” (Rebecca)

Appraisal, huh? I wish I had that skill.

“Hee, so you say that there’s also cases where high-class items appear?” (Shuuya)

“Yeah. But it’s the first floor after all, so there won’t be anything that doesn’t correspond to that fact. But, you know, there are fights over that room among fellow adventurers, too. Thus we have to be careful if we head towards that room, alright? Mostly one can hunt safely by keeping the sequential order with all the other parties though.” (Rebecca)

Dispute, eh? Such developments are my speciality.

“I see. It’s fine with me. If it’s fine with you as well, Rebecca, I’d like to challenge it.”  
(Shuuya)

“...Understood. Let’s go then. Once we pass through three open spaces which are ahead of here if we continue to advance in the right passage, the room after those will be the rare monster room.” (Rebecca)

Hee, she apparently remembers the route perfectly.

Rebecca has really gone many times into this labyrinth.

“I guess you have memorized the map around this area?” (Shuuya)

“Yeah. It’s nothing to boast of, but to a certain degree it’s all inside **here**.” (Rebecca)

She raises a slender, white finger while smiling and lightly taps her own head.

“As expected of Rebecca-**senpai**.” (Shuuya)

Rebecca becomes bashful due to my light joke.

“Fufu, thanks. This is the third area of the first floor. More than ten crystal rooms to where you can be teleported have been confirmed on the first floor, but one is often sent between the first to third area. What I have memorized are those three areas. For the fourth area and above even I need a tool to not get lost or a map. Though it would be easier if I possessed a skill such as < <sup>Labyrinth Mapper</sup> Map Creator >.” (Rebecca)

She has diligently crammed a map that seems to span from the first to the third maze into her head?

I think that’s quite amazing.

Even so, there are people possessing skills to create maps? Normally it’s a safe bet to say that those are the people you’d definitely want in your party.

However, in my case I have the mirror. Since I can dive into the labyrinth for as long as I have blood, I can progress through the labyrinth perfectly fine with just Rollo,

Helme and the burning knights although it will take time without a map.

“...There aren’t all that many people possessing such a skill, are there?” (Shuuya)

“Yeah. Most of them belong to major clans.” (Rebecca)

“Figures.” (Shuuya)

Since the same big rats appear inside the passage as we continue our conversation, we advance while defeating the small fries and collecting their magic stones.

An open space that seems similar to the first room comes into sight.

We check that room from the entrance that has an arched shape.

Different from the big rats, a great number of small human-shaped monsters had spawned in that room.

In total there are 8 monsters.

“Those are *Buundel*, a small goblin type living underground. They appear in groups.” (Rebecca)

“Goblins, eh... I guess their perception range is low?” (Shuuya)

Rebecca answered my question after lightly chuckling with a “Pfft.”

“The opponents are small goblins, no? They aren’t all that formidable monsters. Their movements are nimble, but normally you won’t be noticed unless you enter the room. As they are small, their field of view is narrow. Even their thinking is just foolish. Still, they are dangerous since they are faster than <sup>Zanbiss</sup> big rats, I suppose.” (Rebecca)

“Roger. Then they are the perfect experimental subjects. Please let me handle the preemptive attack. I will test the spells I learned.” (Shuuya)

“Yeah, yeah. I will just watch.” (Rebecca)

I don’t pay attention to her becoming slightly disgruntled.

The spells I learned are as follows,

Language magic:

Elementary level: Water attribute, Frozen Bullet

Elementary level: Water attribute, Frozen Sword

Intermediate class: Water attribute, Frozen Arrow

Intermediate class: Water attribute, Purifying Water

Advanced class: Water attribute, Water Cure

Advanced class: Water attribute, Frozen Snake Arrow

Extreme class: Water attribute, Frozen Dragoness

Crest magic:

Water attribute, Water Wall Array.

Water attribute, Water Resistance.

Water attribute, Freezing Splash.

The strongest spells among those are...

The language spell, Frozen Dragoness.

The crest spell, Freezing Splash.

These two.

I decide to first test Frozen Dragoness.

{I'm happy. I will be able to see your magic, Your Excellency.} (Helme)

Helme appeared while swimming in the right upper part of my sight.

Why is she swimming with a breaststroke while showing off something similar to panties? Without mentioning my concern regarding that, I explain the magic skill.

{... That's right. I own the high-level skill <Instant Staff of Water>. For only water-attribute spells it becomes possible to use no chant and crest simplification. Therefore it should activate in an instant if I think of it.} (Shuuya)

{Yes. The mana is thick here, too. You can expect your magic output to be increased, Your Excellency.} (Helme)

I'm looking forward to that.



{Alright, I will step inside to test the magic.} (Shuuya)

{Okay.} (Helme)

Helme vanished from my sight.

Then I look at Rebecca.

“What! Won’t it be fine if you shoot the spell!?” (Rebecca)

I nod at Rebecca, who is pouting her lips cutely, with a smile. Leaving Rollo behind, I walk towards the centre of the room where the buundel have gathered.

Once the small buundel goblins noticed me approaching, they began to shout with strange voices.

— Now.

I cast the spell after assuming a pose of raising my right arm overhead.

— <sup>Frozen Dragoness</sup> «Ice Dragon Column» .

At that moment, alongside a sudden drop in the temperature of the room, a column of ice shaped like a “dragon head” is created and pours towards the centre of the room from my hand.

Countless ice fangs have grown out from the lower and upper jaw of the ice dragon. Fins are created at the rear of its head.

Showing that mouth with its sharp-looking fangs, the ice dragon head plunged forward towards the centre of the open space as if devouring anything in its path.

Due to the change in temperature, the air felt really clear.

And, while swallowing the buundel as if devouring them between its upper and lower jaws, the ice dragon crashes into the floor.

A diamond dust-like storm is created around the centre of the place where the ice dragon struck. The buundel, who were swallowed up and devoured by the magic, have

their bodies turned into ice, crumbled and got destroyed without any traces left.

I was the one who destroyed them, but it was amazing, right?

...A hill of ice columns that tells the story of its power was created in the centre of the room.

{How terrific. I don't even have any words for it. As expected of your magic, Your Excellency.} (Helme)

{You are flattering me Helme, you know? It's better if you don't praise me too much or I will end up getting carried away.} (Shuuya)

Helme quickly bowed her head in her deformed appearance.

{Ha! I'm sorry.} (Helme)

{No, don't mind it since it's not like I'm telling you that strongly off.} (Shuuya)

{Okay.} (Helme)

The deformed Helme disappears from my sight.

However, this spell, as expected, it was just right to name it Extreme class.

There's nothing to criticize about its looks and power. The range of the effect is wide, too.

Mana has been consumed within limitations as well.

However, if it's only this much, it's possible to chain dozens of shots.

“— Shuuya! You, just now, did you chant?” (Rebecca)

Rebecca runs up next to me while revealing an amazed look.

Rollo came running as well.

“No. It was without chanting.” (Shuuya)

I calmly responded.

“Eeeh!? Really, just who the hell are you!? The magic just now looked like it had the scale of king class I think. I was wondering whether you would use that unique-looking halberd as intermediary, but you fired off magic at the scale of king class without holding anything... And in addition, without chanting? A special skill possessor on the rank of having been chosen by a god or such... geez, I’ve gotten really tired of getting stunned... Shuuya, you might be able to normally finish off unknown monsters that are said to appear in the vicinity of the Ten Heavens Evil Statues, right... you could possibly even defeat Barbaroy’s Envoy.” (Rebecca)

I wonder, what’s that Barbaroy?

Though I’m also curious about the Ten Heavens Evil Statues.

Going by her reaction... I will only use safe spells at the start since I will otherwise oddly stand out.

As Rebecca says, it might be the best to pretend using the Magic Dragon Gem of the Magic Halberd as intermediary.

Actually it’s possible to manifest the hidden <sup>Ice Claw</sup> sword from the Magic Dragon Gem at the lower part of the Magic Halberd.

That or holding up the Blue Eyes of the Evil Dragon King or something like that. Let’s stop at the range of little elementary spells if I decide to use no chant.

“...Sorry. I will be careful from now on.” (Shuuya)

“No, it’s fine... it’s your true ability after all. But, I have lost a bit of confidence.” (Rebecca)

Damn it!

I ended up hurting her pride.

I have to follow up here...

“But, since I can’t use high-ranking fire magic like you, Rebecca, I will leave it to you when fire magic is needed.” (Shuuya)

I kept silent about Rollo being able to use a high-level fire breath.

“Y-Yeah. There’s that too. Leave it to me...” (Rebecca)

“Fire and wind are important, right?” (Shuuya)

“G-Guess so. You realized, didn’t you?” (Rebecca)

I humour Rebecca in a casual manner.

While replying back to her suitably, I broke the ice by melting it with the red axe blade off the corpses that have been buried in ice, and hurried to retrieve the magic stones.

Rebecca whittles down the ice with a small hammer that hung at her waist belt.

Rollo helped with the retrieval by shaving off the ice with her tentacle bone swords without using her breath attack.

Well, I guess at that scale its use is limited?

However, the room is still a bit cold.

<sup>Frozen Dragoness</sup>  
Ice Dragon Column was too powerful.

We retrieve all the magic stones inside the unpleasant cold.

The magic stones’ shape has changed from being diamond shaped in various ways.

They also had an extreme unevenness.

“We finished retrieving them. Let’s head further inside.” (Rebecca)

“Aye.” (Shuuya)

Taking Rollo along, I pass through several rooms and passages together with Rebecca.

Defeating all the small fries spawning in the rooms and passages, we collect their magic stones.

We easily finished gathering the amount of magic stones necessary for the request.

Moreover, we were able to procure extra magic stones exceeding thirty stones.

“We have enough magic stones.” (Rebecca)

“Yeah, I will use them as reference for my next dive.” (Shuuya)

“Yes, that’s a good idea. However, in your case I believe that you will be able to hunt on the third floor with leeway rather than the first or second floor, Shuuya. You will be able to earn a lot. It’s likely that you will be in great demand for parties once other people see your strength.” (Rebecca)

“Great demand... I might be happy about that, but it looks like it will get difficult then. As for the third floor you mentioned, Rebecca, the monsters get stronger the deeper the floors one goes to, right?” (Shuuya)

“Correct. They will get stronger after the inner part of the first floor.” (Rebecca)

“I see.” (Shuuya)

Should I try soloing until at least the third floor next time?

“So, don’t stop. Our targeted monster room is inside this. We have to go down this passage.” (Rebecca)

“Okay.” (Shuuya)

We advance without getting lost as Rebecca is guiding us.

We proceeded to the inner area at a good pace.

“There’s a hall ahead of here and beyond that is the **rare monster room.**” (Rebecca)

We will arrive very soon, huh?

# CHAPTER 109

## SULOZA'S OLD SORCERY SHOP

"If you enter here, it will be the waiting room." (Rebecca)

"Alright, let's go?" (Shuuya)

When we entered, there was an adventurer party apparently taking a break.

"...Oi? Ain't that Rebecca, the Angel of Death?"

"How rare. Tsk, the lousy soloer has formed a party with someone new."

What's wrong with these guys...

"Oi, oi, did she come here to hunt the rare monster? That fellow, she has a nice face I suppose, but I've been told that she's a harbinger of death if you meet her inside the labyrinth... that Wood Kulma Death God is of the same race as Eva the Death Kulma, isn't she? With her lowering our luck, it will get difficult for a treasure chest to appear."

Those assholes are slandering Rebecca with scornful looks.

I don't know about **Wood Kulma Death God**, but if they insult a beauty, I will gladly retaliate since it offends me.

"— Shuuya, it's okay." (Rebecca)

Oh ah?

Grabbing my arm as I had taken a step forward, Rebecca prevented me to act.

"Are you fine with being told such things?" (Shuuya)

"I don't mind letting them say whatever they want." (Rebecca)

Guess it can't be helped if the person concerned says so?

“I see. In that case we ignore them and go inside the monster room?” (Shuuya)

“Yeah.” (Rebecca)

Disregarding the foolish adventurer party, we tried to enter the room.

“— Just wait a moment there. To not even greet us. What, are you trying to cut the line here?”

One of the ignored adventurers ran up to us.

He seems intent on standing in our way.

The largely-build, burly-looking warrior wears a cross armour type chest armour on a leather jouse. A hand axe is visible at his waist.

“...We merely tried to enter since you guys seem to be taking a break...” (Shuuya)

I say while squinting.

“Keh! We only took a little break. That’s obvious to anyone, isn’t it?”

The large man loosens his arms while glaring at me after spitting at my feet.

Without paying any attention to it,

“Then, I will have you wait for one round.” (Shuuya)

Once he hears my words, the large man twists his face into a smirk. He moved his fat lips while revealing a contemptful expression.

“Hehehe~. That’s not allowed, you know? It’s our turn next and the turn after that as well.”

He spouted such words with a thick voice.

The fucker has an expression of purposely messing around with us...

“What’s that? You are a Jaian?” (Shuuya) *(T/N: Reference to Doraemon)*

“Giant? What’s this guy yapping about?”

I guess he doesn’t get it even if I talk about a cat robot. *(T/N: Doraemon)*

Since it fit the greedy attitude, I let it slip unintentionally.

“You guys don’t have the right to hog it to yourself, now do you?” (Rebecca)

Rebecca objects as well.

“Fuhahaha. Speaking about rights in the labyrinth? Are you an idiot? Look at our numbers. You plan to defy us? This place has been occupied by our party, the Blue Kite. If you plan to enter this room, you have to force your way through us, no, you have to remove us by **killing** us.”

Kill them to force our way?

The two of us plus one animal against eight people.

They are cocky because of their bigger numbers.

But, to threaten me is the height of sheer stupidity.

Let’s make them regret to have talked about Rebecca’s situation.

“Rebecca, there’s no problem even if I finish off these guys then?” (Shuuya)

“What scary stuff are you talking about! It is a problem. In case you killed them and someone informed the guards after having observed it, it would turn into a trial after you get caught. It will stand out as this is the first floor. The other side has many people. The other side will have an advantage in a trial if they have connections to a government official... let’s withdraw here.” (Rebecca)

It seems that she’s enduring it, but there is no way for me to agree after getting slandered.

Nevertheless, if I kill one, I guess it won’t be any good if I don’t get rid of all of them?

I check with Grasping Perception, but except this arrogant man in the middle, there’s no one with a significant Magic Combat Style either.



It will probably be possible to dispose of all of them in ten seconds.

However, since it's not like I particularly enjoy being a murderer, I will head into the direction of punishing them without killing them.

If I end up killing them by mistake, I will deal with it at that time.

I'm sorry for Rebecca who's trying to keep things down, but a bit of bullying is...

"...If I do everyone in, there won't be any witnesses, right?" (Shuuya)

"What was that!?"

The large man is surprised due to my words.

"Just a moment, Shuuya." (Rebecca)

Rebecca pulls my arm while looking worried.

"Oi, oi, do you plan to have a go with us?"

Having heard the talk, the members of the adventurer party to which the large man belongs gathered around him successively.

I look at the face of Rebecca who's grabbing my arm.

"Well, leave this to me. Rebecca, fall back to the rear, okay? Rollo, we will do it without killing them." (Shuuya)

"Y-Yeah." (Rebecca)

"Nya."

Once I confirm her stepping back, I move right away.

Without giving my opponents the time to prepare their weapons, I shorten the distance with Magic Step and lightly mow down the large man's legs with the edge of the spear butt.

"— Nuah."

Receiving one blow to his legs with the Magic Dragon Gem, the feet of the man are crushed sideways.

He tumbled down while releasing a pained voice.

Furthermore, without stopping the rotation originating from the mowing-down motion, I turn around to a female warrior while moving to the front and make her trip up.

“Kyaa—”

The woman vigorously falls down on the ground.

Once she hits her head as if crashing against the ground, she fainted.

Rollo also grows into the size of her black panther mode.

She makes the six tentacles that grew out from around her neck entangle the feet of the adventurers.

Lifting them up high into the air just like that, she played by swinging them around.

“What on earth is this!?”

“Let me gooo!”

“Hiiii.”

Although they are being played around with while dangling in the air because of the tentacles, they still have confident attitudes.

Besides, there’s those annoying screams.

Let’s threaten them here a bit.

“— You guys are way too lively and loud! Should I make your heads fly, if you don’t quiet down?” (Shuuya)

I intimidate the adventurers that are hanging in the air with a loud voice to increase the fear.



It seems to be slightly effective...

The adventurers shut up with their mouths in the shape of — and stay silent.

I talked to one of them.

“I can **finish off** all of you guys like this, but... do you have something to tell me?”  
(Shuuya)

“P-Please wait. Pweash don’t kill me...”

The hanging man was apparently scared. Leaking urine, he soaked his own chest and face.

“...I don’t mind overlooking you if you withdraw from here obediently.” (Shuuya)

“R-Really?”

“Sure.” (Shuuya)

“I-I will fall back. Please let me off since I will obey.”

“— You guys, that’s fine with you as well, right?” (Shuuya)

“”Yesss.””

Hanging upside-down, the adventurers answer in agreement.

“Alright, Rollo, release them.” (Shuuya)

Being liberated from the tentacles, the adventurers dropped to the ground head first.

“You lot, take the woman that fainted over there and the guy, who injured his legs, with you.” (Shuuya)

“Y-Yes.”

The adventurers who had stood up from the ground, look after the woman, who lost consciousness after hitting her head, and the injured large man, while hurriedly lowering their heads towards me.

“Ah, and on top of that, if I catch sight of a guy slandering Rebecca after this, I will have them taste appropriate pain, got it? Make sure to lead your life while paying attention to that.” (Shuuya)

“ ... ”

“— What about your reply?” (Shuuya)

“”Y-Ye-Yesss—“”

While looking at Rebecca...

The adventurers escaped as they raise their voices pathetically as if screaming.

The ones remaining in front of the room were only me, Rollo and Rebecca.

“As expected of you. You are strong to an amazing degree even without magic. You have strength I can’t believe to belong to a C rank. But, I was really happy. Thanks for getting angry for my sake.” (Rebecca)

Rebecca thanked me while showing a smile.

Her cheeks have a slightly red colour, too.

However, rather than that being for Rebecca’s sake, it was just me being unable to endure.

Let’s apologize.

“Haha, that’s only natural, is what I want to say for appearance’s sake, but please don’t misunderstand. Those guys included me in their threats as well, didn’t they? I taught them what will happen if they threaten someone without possessing the ability to back it by letting them experience it first-hand. Rather than that, even though you restrained your feelings, Rebecca, I couldn’t hold back. I’m sorry.” (Shuuya)

She answers while shaking her head.

“T-There’s no such thing. You don’t have to apologize. I was happy. I feel refreshed for the first time in a long while.” (Rebecca)

“Then it’s good... But that doesn’t change the fact that I ended up causing trouble for you, Rebecca, by acting selfishly even though it’s just a temporary party...” (Shuuya)

I honestly express my feelings.

Rebecca reacts with her eyebrows twitching.

“Don’t say something like that. I have told you that I was **happy**, didn’t I...?” (Rebecca)

As she reaches the end of her sentence, her voice becomes smaller. Her face becomes entirely red and she looks downwards.

“Yeah, I suppose you’re right. But did you see their faces?” (Shuuya)

Since I don’t like it if things get awkward either, I talk to her while having a little smile.

“— Yea! That was ridiculous. Unbecoming of their frame, they wetted their pants with pee. Fufufu.” (Rebecca)

Rebecca lifts her face abruptly and speaks with a smile while shaking her blonde hair.

Although her face had become red, her blue eyes fully seized me.

A blue gaze that was overflowing with her genuine wishes.

“...Or rather, isn’t your face slightly red?” (Shuuya)

“— Eeh? Rather than such a t-trivial thing, we should enter the rare monster room right here.” (Rebecca)

Rebecca dodged my question by averting her red face to the side in a huff.

Haha she ended up acting charmingly.

I ask her about the monster room without mentioning that thought.

“...So, what kind of monster comes out in that room?” (Shuuya)

“Err, a medium-sized goblin. It’s called Goblin Soldier. A goblin that possesses a longsword-like cudgel and wears a big copper armour. If you defeat it, you will obtain

a medium-sized magic stone from around its heart. Also, I mentioned it before already, but there are also cases where a treasure chest appears in this room after defeating it.” (Rebecca)

A goblin soldier, so a warrior type, huh?

“Hee, then me and Rollo step back after delivering one or two blows to it as vanguards and Rebecca’s magic will finish it off. Let’s go with that plan?” (Shuuya)

“Y-Yeah. Got it.” (Rebecca)

Rebecca replies somewhat shyly.

“What’s wrong?” (Shuuya)

“Well, I thought that you and Rollo-chan are composed...” (Rebecca)

“I’m certain that we will be able to defeat it. However, the state of a battle changes constantly, too. Currently we are a party. We will fight by adapting ourselves to the situation. Since we will be relying on your magic as well, Rebecca, we will go with that formation at first.” (Shuuya)

“Nn, nya.”

Rollo also purrs as if saying {Roger nya.}.

“Okay. I leave the timing for the chanting to you.” (Rebecca)

Thereupon Helme appears in my field of vision.

{Your Excellency, I... } (Helme)

{Helme, you will watch, alright? Study by observation.} (Shuuya)

{Yes... } (Helme)

Helme obviously feels disappointed and drops her shoulders.

{I’m sorry, okay?} (Shuuya)

{No, looking at Your Excellency's gallant figure, my mana manipulation progresses daily and I develop new poses.} (Helme)

While spinning around, she creates a new, unique pose I haven't seen yet...

She's shaking her butt splendidly like a jelly.

I wonder whether I should have rather called her Helme Touch.

{I-I see. I might borrow your Spirit Sight.} (Shuuya)

{Okay.} (Helme)

Then I finish the telepathic communication with Helme.

"...Well, let's go then." (Shuuya)

Should I go with acting as a pure assault vanguard without using any chains?

I will polish my spearmanship for the sake of taking the spear techniques that I inherited from master to their peak.

I rushed into the rare monster room while holding the Magic Halberd.

It's a room surrounded by walls in all four directions.

A medium-sized goblin was standing in a depression in the centre.

It has a goblin-like, irregular form with chiselled features.

Countless blue veins stand out on its pure green skin.

It wears a big armour that seems to be affixed by copper threads to a copper aventail equipped on its head.

It held a bumpy, thick metal cudgel in its right hand.

More or less it owns an aura worthy of its name as rare.

It looked powerful considering it's a goblin.



Once we intrude, the goblin comes attacking while raising a yell after noticing us.

The medium-sized goblin's height is around the same as mine.

Its movements are slow. It came charging while raising the cudgel overhead.

Given its recklessness, it doesn't seem to be bright.

"Rebecca, Rollo, let's go." (Shuuya)

"I know!" (Rebecca)

"Nya."

Rebecca begins to chant.

Rollo stabbed her tentacle bone swords in a counter style at the thick legs of the goblin heading directly towards us and arrested them.

The goblin has its movement stopped and pitches forward as if to fall.

With that as timing I start my attack.

Using Magic Step, I rush at the enemy in a forward-bent posture.

Rollo passed me and shortened the fighting distance to the goblin.

I aim at the right arm holding the cudgel.

I transmit power to my right arm holding the magic spear while twisting my waist. I thrust out the Magic Halberd to the front.

The spiralling red spear's <Thrusting> pierces the thick right arm of the goblin and tears off that arm in one go.

Moreover, the spiralling red axe blade majorly tears up the metal armour at the goblin's flank.

In an instant it creates incisions in the metal similar to several works of art.

Fresh blood vigorously gushed out of those torn-up armour incisions.

“Gugyaaaa.”

The goblin that had lost an arm and had its flank cut up released a scream while scattering blood.

Being in a state of *misfortunes never come singly*, further disaster strikes the medium-sized goblin.

With its thick legs being completely entangled by Rollo’s black tentacles, it fell down towards the floor as if being toppled over.

While rolling on the ground, the goblin pins down its torn-off arm stump and groans in agony.

At that timing Rollo and me would normally pursue it.

But, we deliberately leave the place and fall back to the side.

“Rebecca, use your magic now!” (Shuuya)

However, as if drowning out my words, a fireball had been already fired from behind.

While making a \*gooohn\* sound, the fireball heads towards the head of the goblin that’s lying on the ground.

The fireball directly hits its skull—.

Its head burns as if melting candy in an instant.

The flames spread to its entire body.

“Ubooaaaa.”

Once the agonized death scream vanishes in vain, it stops moving.

Only the metal armour that became black and a part of its trunks’ organs remained without burning.

One big magic stone rolls onto the ground from the burned corpse.

— Then, a sudden magic source response.

A new enemy? No sooner than thinking that, a treasure chest suddenly appeared with a \*poof\*.

“— We did it! To defeat it this quickly, and a treasure chest on top of it. Amazing, how wonderful!” (Rebecca)

Looking at the magic stone and the treasure chest, Rebecca is delighted and flips up both her legs.

“A treasure chest appeared...” (Shuuya)

It’s completely like a game.

There’s a real, wooden box over there.

“I guess it’s a **wooden** treasure chest because it’s the rare monster room of the first floor. But, I’m happy since it’s a winner after a long time, you know? Since it’s the first floor, it has no trap. I will try opening it.” (Rebecca)

A **wooden** treasure chest.

Going by her way of talking, there seem to be other kinds of treasure chests as well.

Rebecca opens the lid of the wooden treasure chest.

There’s only a small bracelet inside...

“Wow, a steel bracelet.” (Rebecca)

Going by the size of this treasure chest, I expected the appearance of gold coins piled up into a heap though.

I didn’t tell her that I was slightly dejected.

“...A bracelet, eh? I wonder what ability it has.” (Shuuya)

Rebecca drew the bracelet she picked up below her blue eyes and stared at it while looking into the circle.

Her excitement is lovely.

I also check the bracelet she's looking at with with Magic Observation.

I can feel mana from the bracelet.

{I sense mana, though it's a very little amount.} (Helme)

It's the same for Helme as well.

"...I don't know. That's why we will bring it to the antique shop called [Suloza's Old Sorcery Shop] that also serves as an appraisal store and which is located at the First Ring Road. The appraisal skill of the shop manager there is amazing. He's one of the few people in the labyrinth city that has been given the appraisal license for magic items! He's a shop manager with various rumours swirling around about him such as him possessing connections to a major company behind the scenes or him being a shadow ruler." (Rebecca)

"Hee..." (Shuuya)

Appraisal skill.

That means he's probably capable of appraising people as well.

"Well then, let's collect the magic stone and leave the room. As long as we don't leave this room after defeating it once, the next monster won't appear." (Rebecca)

"Once we leave the room, it will revive, or rather, appear again right away?" (Shuuya)

"There are cases where it's right away too. It's random..." (Rebecca)

Random, meaning there are times when it appears immediately as well?

"I see." (Shuuya)

I pick up the magic stone.

When we left the room, a different party had gathered in the waiting room.

Rebecca, who has an expression of somewhat looking in the far distance, starts to talk.

“Shuuya, we have finished the request. Should we go back already? If there was no one here, I thought that it would be nice to hunt the rare monster in succession, but since this is the first floor, it’s crowded.” (Rebecca)

“Roger, let’s go back.” (Shuuya)

We nod at each other while smiling.

We left the waiting room in front of the rare monster room.

Passing through passages and rooms by walking, we run into several parties and solo adventurers hunting.

There were many grave looks from a part of the adventurers, but without minding that, Rebecca walked happily while cheerfully showing a smile.

She seems to be really glad about the appearance of the treasure chest.

Given that monsters, in addition to other adventurers, still appeared in the passages back out, we defeated all of them and collected around 40 magic stones.

And then we arrived at the eight-sided room with the crystal.

“It’s no different when returning. While touching this crystal or the body of a party member touching the crystal, you will be teleported to the surface once you say “Return” or “Go back”. Then, touch it.” (Rebecca)

“Aye.” (Shuuya)

“Nn, nya.”

Rollo is on her usual place.

I stood next to Rebecca, stretched my arm towards the crystal as recommended and pressed my palm against the surface of the water crystal that’s like a cold gem.

“— Return.” (Rebecca)

The instant Rebecca said that, we returned to the surface.

It's the octagonal, drafty cylinder building.

We were teleported to a place close to the big crystal.

“I said so before, but we will head to [Suloza's Old Sorcery Shop] to get an appraisal before going to the guild, okay?” (Rebecca)

“Alright, but, can't you get it appraised at the guild or such?” (Shuuya)

“You can, but a specialist is better. There are differences in the level of the appraisal skill as well, no? It's not like I'm finding fault with the guild, but there's a reason why he owns an **individual store** after all.” (Rebecca)

Rebecca, who faces me with a look as if asking “You don't know something like that?”, quickly leaves outside through the entrance guarded by the sentries.

“Shuuya~, come quickly. The shop's close-by.” (Rebecca)

“Okay, on my way.” (Shuuya)

I heard Rebecca's voice from the other side of the wall.

I also leave through the labyrinth's entrance.

Right next to it, Rebecca waited for me with a cute posture appropriate for a magician having put her wand on her back.

I walk alongside the ring road together with her in a mood of this being something like a date.

The shop we aimed for was really close.

From the short tower-like, cylindrical building that serves as the labyrinth's entrance, it's nearby on the right side of the ring road, I guess?

It was a one-storey building between a blacksmith and a general store with a small site.

Although it seems to be small, there's nothing but the name of Antique written on the shop's exterior.

The wall created out of steel and bricks was decorated with a relief in the shape of a crown with three small stars attached to it.

Without touching the door knocker, Rebecca pushes the reddish-brown, wooden door open.

The doorbell resounds with a \*ring ring\*.

A brass bell with a bracket was set up at the inner part of the door.

"Welcome. Nice to have you over at Suloza's Old <sup>Antique</sup> Sorcery Shop."

The shop manager's sombre voice reverberates.

A small stairway descends from the door. The shop's inside has a long, vertical shape.

On the right side there's a counter bar similar to a coffeehouse. The shop manager, who had a monocle affixed to his head with a band, showed up behind that counter.

"— Shop manager, I'd like to appraise this." (Rebecca)

Rebecca swiftly runs down the stairway while talking quickly.

She hands the steel bracelet to the shop manager with fast movements.

"Hoo, a bracelet, huh? Please wait a moment..."

The shop manager's head has a slightly bald appearance.

It's a close haircut with grey hair growing out bit by bit.

He's bald, but refined and stylish.

He resembles that famous Hollywood actor who fought against terrorists in a multi-storey building and an airport. (T/N: Bruce Willis probably)

Lowering the monocle attached to his head down to his eyes, the refined shop

manager put it on one eye.

Bringing the steel bracelet close to the monocle, he started to peek at it.

In that instant I realized that he was manipulating his mana.

It's a smooth mana handling.

To the degree of making me immediately sense a master's skill from it.

The mana gathered from his entire body moves from his eye to the monocle. Bluish-white traces travel across the glasses' surface as if it's cracking. Suddenly the pointed end of the monocle expands.

Its appearance transforms into a monocle similar to a crooked night vision scope.

Seemingly zooming up, the pointed end of the glasses became even smaller and a small green mana light was created from there.

The small green light, similar to a laser pointer, moves while jolting little by little as if scanning the bracelet.

...This shop manager possesses the appraisal skill, Rebecca said.

It's an appraisal similar to that of a clock artisan, but I have no doubt that he's performing an extensive processing of the facts in his brain by freely using his skill.

Well then, while the shop manager is carrying out his appraisal...

I will look around inside this shop.

Caterpillar fungus and dried vegetables that look like Chinese herbal medicine are hanging down next to each other from the ceiling above the counter which serves as long reception desk.

Wooden devices, seemingly for grinding the coffee beans that had marks indicating that their inspection had finished affixed to them, or things that might be magic tools were placed behind the shop manager.

I wonder whether I can drink coffee here...



On the other shelves there are a necklace shining with white jewels, a bracelet releasing a dazzling blue light, a solemn flag, books that seem to be magic books, bundles of scrolls, a Japanese bow, a bundle of arrows with yellow arrowheads, a red knife with an irregular shape that has a red gem embedded into its haft, a huge mace that has a carving of a skeleton at its tip, a fist weapon of the pile bunker category, round shuriken, a green shining katana, a strange shield that has a living eyeball, which feels like a guard, attached to it, magic charms with lightning-styled patterns, azure crystals, minerals, gold nuggets, silver nuggets, ingots, powdered glistening things, a deep black branch, an oil that lits a green flame, many rare tools I had never seen and expensive-looking magic tool-like items exhibited. There are also many that have a checked mark on a wooden tag sticking to them.

Once I concentrate my eyes on the various magic items, the shop manager reacts.

While gazing at the steel bracelet he appraised, he makes a stern expression and says,

“This item has... magic that can display the effects <sup>Brace Up</sup>Weak Rise of Physical Defense and <sup>Mage Up</sup>Weak Rise of Magic Power. It’s a normal magic item, but it has the name **Steel Magic Bracelet** attached to it.”

“Wow. It’s not unique class, but to obtain a magic item that has two magic effects from a **wooden box** on the first floor.” (Rebecca)

Rebecca bends forward as if peeking at the bracelet that has been appraised by the shop manager.

“Hoo, this item from a wooden box on the first floor? You were blessed with luck.”

“Yeah! It looks so. Such item usually... is an item of **iron box** class that appears starting from the second underground floor, I think.” (Rebecca)

Iron box? There are various kinds of treasure chests after all.

“That’s certainly true. Then, with this, here.”

While agreeing calmly, the shop manager returned the appraised magical bracelet.

In contrast, Rebecca accepts it with her blue eyes sparkling.

“Yeah, thank you. Fufu, finally... it seems like lady luck visited me as well—.” (Rebecca)

Holding up the bracelet, Rebecca-san talks as if bragging to the shop manager.

She’s showing a delightful, engrossed expression.

She started talking while sharply glancing at the shop manager with her blue eyes squinting.

“Shop manager! Next time I will exceed the iron box and silver box, surpass the unique magic items from the admired **gold box** and get a magic item of legendary, no, mythological class.” (Rebecca)

Rebecca starts to talk with a high-tension tone.

However, the shop manager only looks at her very calmly.

“But, when will that be...? Well then, you owe me five large copper coins for the appraisal.”

The shop manager’s ignoring skill is high.

As it feels like he doesn’t talk much, he has a composed manner.

Emitting a stylish old-man-like aura, he gently demanded the money.

Moreover, his expert’s fee was cheap.

Does the price change depending on the item?

“Okay. Here’s five large copper coins.” (Rebecca)

Rebecca paid the money after revealing an expression that indicates that her interest has cooled down due to the shop manager’s calm attitude.

“Certainly, I received it.”

“It’s convenient that your **appraisal** is always quick, shop manager.” (Rebecca)

The shop manager reacts with his eyebrow twitching due to Rebecca’s praise.

The expression of the refined shop manager completely changes.

It's a happy-looking, wrinkled-up old man face, but it changed into an expression that still has some amiability.

While touching the monocle he used for the appraisal, he talks with a light smile.

# CHAPTER 110

## DISPUTE IN THE UNDERGROUND WORLD

“Yes. Beyond having a unique skill that allows me to appraise an item, I also have this special *monocle*. I’m particularly confident about appraising magic items.”

“Fufu, as usual your face is brimming with confidence, isn’t it?”

“That is so. After all, we are one of the few stores that are able to issue a **Three Stars Appraisal Proof** in this labyrinth city.”

The shop manager brags while pushing out his chin.

That monocle is a special magic tool as well, huh?

Seemingly drawing back due to the attitude of the shop manager, Rebecca falters a bit.

“T-That’s right. I will show you sooner or later that I can obtain a treasure of the level where you have to attach that **Appraisal Proof**.” (Rebecca)

It seems that Rebecca loves treasures.

“Okay. Well then, will you sell that bracelet?”

“Err, well, we still haven’t decided whether to sell it. We might come to this shop later or we might get the guild to buy it.” (Rebecca)

“Understood.”

The shop manager and Rebecca have such a conversation, but I’m curious about the appraisal skill the shop manager possesses.

I wonder, can that appraisal skill judge people?

Can he look at the status or the ability records?

It's a world where skills exist.

I'm sure that they can be seen...

Since it has caught my eye, let's try asking him.

I step in front of Rebecca and ask the shop manager.

“— Shop manager, there's something I'd like to ask regarding that appraisal skill.”  
(Shuuya)

“Okay, what might that be?”

“Can that skill **appraise people**?” (Shuuya)

The shop manager stares at me after moving his thin, white-haired eyebrows with a twitch.

Is slightly moving the ends of his eyebrows a habit of the shop manager?

“**For me** it's impossible.”

**For me**, huh?

After all, it's just as master mentioned a long time ago...

Are there people who can appraise others?

“That means there is **someone capable of it**?” (Shuuya)

“Yes. I have no definite proof, but...”

That piqued my interest.

“Do you know the name of that person?” (Shuuya)

“Yes, the name of that person is Fate Diviner Kazane. She's also called Madam Kazane. It looks like she's representing the [Asura Religious Organization] that believes in the God of Fate, Asura.”

Fate Diviner Kazane, eh?

Going by the image of that name...

A Ginza proprietress? The mother of a new house with only fortune tellers or is she an old-lady-like fortune teller?

In addition, a religious organization that believes in the God of Fate, Asura?

Isn't she possibly the founder since it's a religious organization?

If she impersonates a new religious movement, I have a bad premonition...

"...Sorry for just having questions, but where do I have to go to meet that Madam Kazane?" (Shuuya)

"You will find her if you go to the **Gambling District**. It's on the south-eastern side from the First to the Third Ring Road. In a corner of the **Gambling District** there's a small shop called [Path of Asura, Kazane's Mansion of Divination] which is owned by Kazane-san."

The gambling district on the south-eastern side of the city, huh?

"I see. Thank you." (Shuuya)

"Ah, let me warn you, there are many thugs and drug addicts in some parts if you are going to the gambling district... above all it's dangerous as the conflicts between dark guilds have apparently intensified."

"— Just a moment, Shuuya. It will be no good if you approach the gambling district? Just as the shop manager says, there are always some kinds of disputes over there. It's a dangerous place where murder is a daily occurrence!" (Rebecca)

Continuing after the shop manager's warning, Rebecca stops me while revealing a frantic expression.

Thugs, drugs, and dark guilds, is it?

I'd like to excuse myself from getting involved with them...

But, in the end I'm curious about her.

Should I try going there by myself later on?

"...Well, I will bear it in mind. Thanks for the warning." (Shuuya)

"Bear it in mind? It doesn't look like you understand. Even if that place has beautiful bars and stores at first glance, it's a district next to the slums and the brothel district, which continues from the pleasure quarter, and that's why it's a really dangerous place, you know?"

"Yes, yes, got it. Well then, shall we leave? Shop manager, thank you very much for the information. I will come here again." (Shuuya)

"No problem at all. I'm looking forward to your next visit."

After politely bidding farewell to the shop manager, I leave the shop.

"Y-Yeah, Shuuya, wait. — See you, shop manager." (Rebecca)

Rebecca also leaves the shop just a moment later.

Since she still has an expression that looks as if she's still eager to admonish me, I start a topic from my side first.

"Well then, how about returning to the guild and handing in the magic stones, while also validating the bracelet we got appraised." (Shuuya)

"Ah, yeah, there's that as well. Let's go." (Rebecca)

"Nya."

Even Rollo, who looks like she's resting on my shoulder, speaks up in agreement.

Like that, we head to the adventurer's guild by walking along the First Ring Road.

While walking along the street, Rebecca intently looks at the magic bracelet we had appraised, and gazes at its ring from different angles.

She's floating a smile.

Is she that happy, I wonder?

She has a happy expression just like a child that got a toy.

Rebecca matches her sight with mine.

Her blue eyes are shining... Ugh, it's a cute stare as if she's appealing to me.

"...Fine. I will let you have it. That's what you want, right?" (Shuuya)

"Yes, but, as a party we have to split..." (Rebecca)

I will say it with a gentle tone.

"I don't need it. It suits you, Rebecca." (Shuuya)

"Eh? Is it really alright with you?" (Rebecca)

Rebecca reacts with a delighted expression.

"It's fine. Aren't you showing me such an easy-to-understand expression as if you got a toy?" (Shuuya)

Once she hears my frivolous talk, she cutely puffs up her cheeks.

"Wha-, toy you say? How rude! Good grief, even if you tell me that you want that bracelet now, I won't let you have it! If I sell this magic bracelet, I will at least get 10 – 15 gold coins, you know? Humph." (Rebecca)

Going by Rebecca's behaviour, I was apparently right on the mark.

Well, I don't need something like a bracelet. I will let Rebecca have it.

But, for it to cost 15 gold coins, that's quite the price.

"...That bracelet gets such a price? If such items appear at a place close-by on the first floor, I guess it's only natural to farm that room?" (Shuuya)

"Yeah. Though it's not like a treasure chest will always appear in that room on the first floor. The shop manager mentioned it as well, but from the items coming out of a



wooden box, a bracelet treasure item is one of the better rewards, I think.” (Rebecca)

Luck, huh? My luck stat might be on the higher side.

Well, I guess it’s by chance though.

“Rebecca, you never got a similar treasure from the treasure chest that appears on the first floor until now, right?” (Shuuya)

“Yes.” (Rebecca)

“That means it’s because... Rollo and I are a nice guy and a cool cat who draw good luck to us?” (Shuuya)

“Eh~, saying that yourself? Putting aside Shuuya, it might be the case for Rollo-san! She’s a good luck cat-chan!” (Rebecca)

Only the cat? A beckoning cat? *(T/N: Those white cats who have one paw raised, often associated as good luck charm)*

Rebecca talks to Rollo, who is sitting on my shoulder, while winking.

“Nn, nyao—.”

While meowing cheerfully, Rollo extends a tentacle towards Rebecca like the tongue of a chameleon.

The extended tentacle entwined the magic bracelet Rebecca held and stole it from her.

“Nnn.”

Rollo puts the bracelet on the tip of the tentacle while releasing a high-pitched, throaty voice and looks like she’s saying {That’s mine nya}.

Her gesture is a triumphant look that’s full of mischievousness.

“Aaah, Rollo-chan, you are crueeel.” (Rebecca)

“N, nyao.”

Rebecca approaches Rollo, trying to get back the bracelet.

However, Rollo, with the bracelet put on her tentacle, jumps off my shoulder, lands on the ground and runs away at lightning speed.

“Ahaha, it certainly is nekobaba\*. Rollo is fast.” (Shuuya) *(T/N: includes the kanji for cat and shit, but means stealing/pocketing etc. — a wordplay so to say)*

Unintentionally, I end up laughing.

“How irritating~~! Shuuya, you told Rollo-chan to do that, right~? Shuuya, you idiooot.”  
(Rebecca)

Seeing me laugh, Rebecca chases after Rollo while scolding me.

We arrive in front of the adventurer’s guild while messing around.

Rollo let herself purposely be caught by Rebecca in front of the adventurer’s guild building.

The bracelet that was placed on the tip of her tentacle was confiscated.

Once Rebecca caught Rollo, she stuffs her face into Rollo’s stomach as though returning the prank.

She became a slave to that soft sensation after all, didn’t she...?

“Ufuu, how soft, waaa~” (Rebecca)

Rebecca’s tone is strange, too.

She has an expression of a cat that has been given catnip.

She seems to like the sensation of Rollo’s belly very much.

Since a while ago, she’s repeatedly rubbing her cheeks against it.

“N, nyanya.”

Oh, as expected, did she get tired of it?

Rollo gets away from Rebecca by flexibly twisting her black-haired limbs, returns to the top of my shoulder, and dives into the hood on my back.

Rather than getting fed up, she simply got sleepy I guess?

Because Rollo had left her, Rebecca's face stares at me while looking really lonely.

"Rebecca, even if you look at me with such a disappointed expression, Rollo won't come out." (Shuuya)

"Y-Yeah. I know. Now then, the guild's over there. Let's go inside." (Rebecca)

She walks ahead, glossing over it, as she pretends to be tough.

"Yeah." (Shuuya)

We enter the adventurer's guild like that.

The reception is open for a change.

Since it's not crowded, we present the magic stones we collected and our cards to the receptionist.

"Small magic stones and a medium-sized magic stone that drops from a goblin soldier. In that case, please wait a moment..."

"Yes."

As soon as the receptionist sees the magic stone, she immediately states the name of the monster.

It seems that you can guess it to some extent from the shape of the magic stone.

Certainly, compared to the small magic stones, it's big and has a different shape, I suppose.

Moreover, the magic stone that was set down... seems a bit like a goblin going by its color and shape?

Its shape is close to a face?

“...Thank you for waiting. Well then, this is the reward for the two of you. Here, please take your cards.”

We receive a reward bag that has plenty of silver coins in it for the magic stones collection request and the twenty extra magic stones.

Rebecca and I, having received the reward and our cards, left the reception.

“Let’s split the reward, shall we?” (Shuuya)

“No, I received this bracelet, right? That means the silver coins are all yours, Shuuya.” (Rebecca)

“Are you okay with that?” (Shuuya)

“Haa... you really are soft hearted, aren’t you? However, currently I have the bigger profit, no? Originally, it’s the basic method of a party to turn this magic bracelet into gold coins by selling it and to split the reward then, got it? Be careful next time~. Well, it’s the first time for you, so it can’t be helped, Shuuya.” (Rebecca)

Rebecca-senpai talks in a preaching manner while we walk inside the guild.

Although I think that Rebecca, who teaches me such things, is soft hearted as well, I don’t say anything unnecessary.

Rebecca stores away her card in the small bag that was affixed at her slender waist.

It looks like she doesn’t possess an item box.

I address her after waiting for her to put it away.

“Rebecca, what will you do from now on?” (Shuuya)

“I think I will return home for a bit. How about you, Shuuya?” (Rebecca)

I see, Rebecca doesn’t stay at an inn but in a house.

She’s living in this city.

“I will return to my inn after looking around the city for a bit.” (Shuuya)

Rebecca tilts her head and starts to talk after thinking for a moment.

“...I see. Then... the test party ends here.” (Rebecca)

“That’s right.” (Shuuya)

“Yeah. I will be happy if I can join you next time again.” (Rebecca)

Rebecca responds frankly without having any hard feelings.

That’s good. Should I try talking to her when I see her in the guild next time?

“Alright, that’s fine with me. I will rely on you again next time.” (Shuuya)

“...Got it. Bye.” (Rebecca)

Hearing my words, Rebecca showed a smile and left the guild.

I feel slightly lonely, but that’s how adventurers are.

Well then, before returning to the inn, I guess I will try going to the fortune teller’s shop I heard about some time ago?

If I remember correctly, it’s located in the **Gambling District** on the south-eastern side.

The bald shop manager mentioned that it’s dangerous because of the disputes between the dark guilds.

He said something along those lines, but if they come to spark a fight, it will be fine as long as I drive them away.

Let’s go there?

Rollo is still sleeping in the hood on my back...

But first I put the reward in the item box.

I depart by walking along the First Ring Road that’s located in front of the guild.

I head south-east.

The sunlight has gradually gotten weaker.

— Dusk, huh? Well, I don't mind if it becomes night.

Walking along the First Ring Road, I step into an alley after leaving the main street.

I don't know the direction well. Thus, I will go in a direct line through the rooftops.

I enter the alley— and extend a <Chain> towards the upper part of the building overhead.

After managing to attach it to the roof, I make the chain constrict as if pulling up.

I walk upwards by kicking the rims of the windows. I gradually climb towards the rooftop in an easy rhythm.

I check the sky from atop the roof.

As it's steadily getting dimmer, I can see the sky getting darker through the cloudy sky.

It's a beautiful evening sun. It's a casual, pretty sky, but once more I thoroughly indulge in the setting sun of the different world.

Well then, it's over there. I head towards the south-east.

Skilfully using the obstacles as if performing parkour, I move by running across the rooftops.

I advance in a pleasant mood, but a short time later— there was a response from my Grasping Perception.

Moreover, it's several magic source responses.

They are approaching from the back and the flank.

This is atop the roofs. My moving speed is considerable as well.

They are obviously chasing me. Their pursuit skills aren't the movements of amateurs either.

Little-by-little I lower my speed.

If you want to come, then do so by all means. Let's deliberately confront them.

I addressed Helme at that time.

{Helme, hide yourself by becoming a puddle. Once those fellows chasing me attack, you will launch a surprise counterattack.} (Shuuya)

{Okay.} (Helme)

Helme, in a liquid state, releases from my left eye.

Helme, who creates an artificial puddle on top of the roof, moves by wriggling like a slime.

The magic source responses drew near.

When twilight was about to vanish from atop the roof, a stranger, who wore black clothes within the darkness, appears at my side.

From behind that black-clothed fellow a largely-built, hairy beastman appears with a delay as well.

"We chased you because there was a response, but... you, to which dark guild do you belong?"

That's quite the rough voice, isn't it?

This lean-figured person's mouth is hidden by a dark veil.

The ninja-like guy looks grim.

Various names of ninjas pop up in my mind such as Fuuma Kotarou, Hattori Hanzou, Sarutobi Sasuke, Momochi Sandayuu and Katou Danzou.

Pitch black and sharp, red eyes.

Since his mouth is hidden by a dark veil, I can't grasp his expression.

"...Oi, Morabi, a guy who makes use of the rooftops ain't no amateur. He's a shady guy who trespassed into our turf, thus we should get rid of him."

The hairy, largely-built man steps in front of the ninja guy while threatening me.

This guy belongs to a typical beastman tribe I have seen before. He's carrying a katana with a big width on his shoulder.

You could truly call that a butcher's knife.

"Well that's right, but Pili, you stay silent, I will do the talking."

"Aaah? Since when did you ascend to a position allowing you to order me around?"

"Shut the fuck up. Are you getting hot-headed again? This is why I hate dealing with Sensibals."

"D-Don't fuck with me. You are always taking me for a fool like this, you bean sprout shit."

What? What's going on here?

A fight between comrades all of a sudden?

Helme in her liquid state has meanwhile moved under the feet of the men who start to quarrel, smoothly without making a sound.

"Nn, nya."

Rollo stirs as well with a feeling as if saying {I will go too nya}.

Descending from my shoulder, she turned big into the large black panther mode.

"Ah— the black cat is a black beast?... No way, right?"

"Mmh? Oi, oi, for real? It's a beast. Morabi, this guy doesn't have a spear, but is he maybe the guy the president and Serva mentioned?"

When they saw Rollo's <sup>black panther</sup> combat mode the ninja man Morabi and the fuzzy man Pili say that.

These two...

...speak as if they know about us.



As if intruding upon this chaotic scene, the other presence with a magic source, that I sensed from behind, got close.

“— Oh my... I intended to chase {Owl's Fangs}'s Morabi of the Darkness, but there's a stranger here as well?”

The one who appeared as new addition is a middle-aged man with silver, short hair.

He's wearing an old-looking priest's gown continuing downwards from his neck.

There are stains and cuts at several places. It's a gown that looks as if it will fall apart starting with the worn-down spots at any time, but I can slightly see a yellow cross symbol at a part of his chest.

Guessing from his appearance, you could conclude that he's a priest or knight of Hesliphat.

“...Bastard, you are **Mad Knight**, aren't you...? Pili, my compatibility with that guy is bad. I leave him to you.”

Morabi and Pili are from [Owl's Fangs], huh?

The expression of the ninja man Morabi becomes grim in an instant. Stretching his left and right arms to his back, he takes out the swords equipped on his back.

Mmh, those are no swords, are they? Short sickles?

Is it for the sake of getting a feel for the black sickles he grabbed from his back? He demonstrates his martial art by adopting a peculiar stance and skillfully spins the short sickles held in his left and right hands, as if turning them over on his palms.

Moreover, by uniting the hilt parts at both ends of the sickles he held in his hands into one in front of his chest, the hilts connect while making a clicking sound.

It turns into one cylindrical spear with curved cross-blades.

It looks like there are still some more mechanisms. A weapon with gimmicks included, huh?

I wonder if there's a style for spears with curved cross-blades.

“...I don’t obey the instruction of the bean sprout Morabi, but I guess it can’t be helped. Mad Knight-san, the great me will be your opponent.”

The largely-built, hairy man Pili approaches the Mad Knight by walking while holding the butcher’s knife he had shouldered in his hands.

“**Butcher’s Knife Pili** will be my opponent? My goal is to hunt **Morabi of the Darkness**, but... Morabi, I won’t let you, a monster from the darkness, get away, get it?”

The man called **Mad Knight** glares at Morabi of the Darkness and not the largely-built, hairy man.

The mad knight has an old-fashioned appearance, but his origin is from the [Religious State Hesliphat] after all, I suppose?

“Don’t go lookin’ away, you dumb knight! I will grind you into minced meat with my butcher’s knife—”

As he talks while revealing a smile, Pili displayed quickness that doesn’t match his large build.

He advances while swinging his butcher’s knife from the top of his shoulder.

— The thick blade swings down towards the head of the mad knight.

The mad knight, as if having foreseen that swift slash, steps back—

Dodging the butcher’s knife’s slash before his eyes, he falls back another one and then two steps to the rear, while he continued to evade the butcher’s knife that was released quickly as if he’s foreseeing its slashes.

He flies across the rooftop while struggling due to Pili’s butcher knife slashes.

Each time he dodges a slash, a hole is ripped open on the roof.

“...Oi, you, are you looking away without taking out your weapon? You don’t have such leeway!”

Morabi of the Darkness yells vigorously and tries to attack me with his spear which he’s holding in both hands, but—

“—aht!!?”

Morabi can't move.

Both of Morabi's feet were hold down being entwined by two water hands.

It's the hands of Helme who had turned into a puddle.

Morabi stabs the ground, where the puddle is located, on top of the roof with the edge of the black sickle rod, but the liquidized Helme doesn't get perturbed.

A chance. I move at this time.

Summoning the Magic Halberd in my right hand, I slouch and rush at the enemy.

I fire a <Thrust> — from the front, towards the chest of Morabi who can't move.

Morabi separates his hands from the black sickles that were stabbed into the roof, swiftly takes out a **black-coloured cloth** shining with magic letters from his waist and throws it.



そのモラビは、懐から、闇色の魔力を纏う短刀を取り出す。  
それを〈投擲〉してきた——。  
俺は右手と左手に魔槍杖を持ち替えながらの  
風槍流「枝崩れ」で、飛び道具に対抗——。  
左右に振った魔槍杖で闇色の魔力を纏う短刀を弾く。

The dark cloth gets spread out in front just like a cloth wrapper— it wraps up the <Thrust> including my Magic Halberd while spreading diagonally.

The dark cloth wrapper kills the impact of the <Thrust>, but is torn to pieces by the red axe blade and the red spear of the Magic Halberd breaks through the wrapping of the black cloth. It directly pierces into the chest of Morabi.

“— Guoh!”

The red spear vigorously drives into Morabi’s chest.

But, its power had waned quite a bit.

In order to not suffer a counterattack, I hurriedly deliver an improvised <sup>Trace Kick</sup> swift kick into the face of Morabi.

Morabi is released from Helme’s hands that held him down due to the force of the kick. He gets blown to the rear while bent backwards.

Just like that, his body falls off the roof as if worn-down, and crashes into the ground.

“— We will chase after him.” (Shuuya)

“Yes!”

“Nya.”

Together with Helme and Rollo, we head to the place he fell.

A black-coloured mist breaks out at the spot where Morabi was.

When we approach, the dark mist sways and Morabi appears from within while holding down his stomach, that has blood trickling down, with his hand.

“...Guha, kuho, phit, shit, I used the darkness-powered steel cloth and it still easily pierced through what was intended to be a barrier... However, that **extravagant axe spear** after all... you are the spear user and black cat who crushed <sup>Our Branch</sup> [Owl’s Fangs] in Holkerbaum, aren’t you?” (Morabi)



The ***kick's trace*** remaining on Morabi's right cheek turned into a nasty wound.

However, the stomach wound hasn't spread fully.

It looks like the spear's blade pierced him deeply, but the red axe blade only cut up the wrapping cloth, huh?

The power of <Thrust> was apparently absorbed by that defence magic item, the dark cloth wrapper.

"...Even if that's correct, what about it?" (Shuuya)

I answer calmly.

"— Guh, I was right after all. You have done me—"

In the middle of speaking, the dark-coloured veil that hid Morabi's mouth was torn apart and blood dances in the air.

It's Rollo's tentacle bone swords. They pierce Morabi's throat and face many times.

Furthermore, a cluster of ice spears thrown by Helme stabs Morabi's torso in a great number.

Without the time to learn what Morabi wanted to say, he dies on the spot.

After that, the dark-coloured mist which had been created in the surroundings vanished.

Although he tried to unleash something like a darkness technique, too bad.

This is no movie or anime.

However, I can't say that I didn't want to see the darkness technique a bit.

While thinking that, I was careless. At that moment— the mad knight wearing the old-looking priest's garb lands from atop the roof.

"— My goodness... to have easily defeated that Morabi of the Darkness, who are you guys?"

That is something I'd like to ask you as well.

It looks like this mad knight has already defeated the strong-looking hairy Butcher's Knife Pili.

The hands of the mad knight hold something I perceive as a **special longsword** that is dripping with blood.

"...Same to you, who are you? Though, it seems like they called you mad knight a while ago." (Shuuya)

Hearing my words, the mad knight stares intently at my face.

"...Certainly, I'm called mad knight and such, I guess... that name was probably attached to me since I originally belonged to the Demon Extermination Organizati<sup>Disorte</sup>, a unit directly controlled by the Vatican's eight departments, as a templar of the [Religious State Hesliphath]."

He explains politely.

As expected by his appearance, he's a man that once was a templar.

I check his face again.

White, short hair and glaring, blue eyes.

There's a diagonal scar at one of his white eyebrows. There's also a slashing scar on his fat nose bridge.

He's a rough fellow, but is this guy a member of some dark guild?

"Why are you with a dark guild, templar-san?" (Shuuya)

"I was banished by the Vatican. Me, who was devoted to his duty. It's a really messed up story. Even though I always strived to..... do my holy work."

I see. That means he did... a job that apparently got him exiled from the church.

As for the job, I can mostly imagine what it was...

“Exiled, huh? So you came to Pelneet, eh?” (Shuuya)

“Yes, crossing the desert, I arrived at the end of a journey of slaughtering to vanquish evil. In this land of Pelneet which is a paradise there are many others **church dropouts**. I was picked up by the dark guild [Eyes of Twilight] which was created by those comrades.”

Church dropouts? In other words, thugs, right?

“Church dropouts, you say? Are their numbers big?” (Shuuya)

“Rather than that, it’s you, your familiar, the black beast, and a woman? Those are faces I haven’t seen yet, but...”

The mad knight talks while suspiciously looking in turn at me, Helme who had returned to her human figure, and Rollo.

Then he touches the magic tool equipped at his own waist.

I have seen a magic tool of that shape before.

Aah, I remember...

It’s the magic tool possessed by the templars who chased me at the time when I headed to the [Great Forest of Demonic Haunts] from the [Holy Kingdom].

At the instant the mad knight saw the response of the magic tool, his eyes opened widely and his movements stopped.

Suddenly laughing from his belly, he shows a bold smile on his face.

“...This response. It makes me astonished!”

“What about it?” (Shuuya)

“That you guys originate from **demons**, just like that Morabi of the Darkness.”

Once again I’m called a demon, huh?

As expected, it’s the same magic tool as the one possessed by the knights that chased



me, including Claude.

Rather than to demons, it seems to simply react to a strong darkness attribute.

“...Demon? Don’t misunderstand. I’m a different race in every meaning.” (Shuuya)

“Good gracious! Is that the **brainwashing** done by the manipulative words of a trashy demon that took on the shape of a human?”

Haa, he doesn't listen to what someone tells him...

“I wasn’t able to defeat Morabi, but to find a replacement target this close, that’s a godsend for me. God is really watching over me.”

“No, I told you, I’m no demon?” (Shuuya)

“Shut up, you trashy demon— you, I recognise you as a **category B** demon!”

What? Recognise as a category B?

“I won’t let a demon get away. Evil one, I will have you receive judgement at the God of Light Lulodis-sama’s place! I have to obliterate the seeds of evil that infest this world!”

“Are you on drugs? Are your eyes working? Is your head alright?” (Shuuya)

“Fuhahahaha, it’s futile. It’s of no use, demon! You won’t break my spirit clothing with your demonic, small-fry magic!”

This guy is dangerous, a total headcase.

It's amusing, but the screws of this guy's head have flown to the country of light.

Disorte

“In the name of the Demon Extermination Organizati, I will begin the inquisition here  
and now! I will perish the evil! Destroy, destroy, destroy, destroy, destroy, destroy,  
destroy, destroy, destroy, destrooooooy!! Destroy, destroy, destroy, destroy, destroy,  
destroy, destroy, destroy, destrooooooy!! Fuhyahyayahya~~”

The mad knight talks calmly, laughs and then completely changes.

His eyes become bloodshot. A great number of veins pop out on his face.

Energetically swinging the longsword dripping with blood left and right, he made the blood fly and then he came attacking while raising that longsword overhead.

“Oi— please stop with the heresy or whatever. By the way, I’m not a member of a dark guild. I’m a simple adventurer—” (Shuuya)

While speaking, I continue to observe him with my Magic Observation and dodge the mad knight’s slash swung diagonally from his shoulder.

The mad knight doesn’t react to my words.

This guy, although he looks as if he has gone mad, the flow of his magic source within his body is smooth.

He concentrates his mana on the right hand holding the longsword and his two feet.

Moreover, that longsword isn’t normal either.

It’s a special one that has two sword blades which contain mana.

A magic sword or a cursed sword?

While causing an eerie, oscillating sound by vibrating the blade, the special longsword heads towards me to cut my neck and torso.

I carry out a gentle rotation and remain in a stance with my legs in a L-shape, after using the toes of one foot as axis.

I continued to evade the mad knight’s slashes.

However, it’s getting pretty annoying—

Swinging my Magic Halberd from the left, I turn back the two swords blades.

I repelled the longsword that possesses two sword points.

When his longsword gets repelled, he steps back a distance with wide open eyes.

“— I say, you surprised me. For me to make a mistake in my recognition, you aren't a category B. I have to classify you as category A. A high-level devil type, eh?”

Huh? Where did his state of insanity, that looked as if he had broken down just now, go?

The steely, sharp gaze of the mad knight, who speaks those words very calmly, changes into a gross stare that makes me sense a heavy stickiness.

I think that Helme and Rollo adopt a stance in order to attack him with his relaxed expression at any time, but apparently understanding that I enjoy watching the sword style of my opponent, they don't join in with attacks.

However, maybe I misunderstood and they are only looking for the proper timing to do so.

“...Helme and Rollo, just watch since I will handle this.” (Shuuya)

“Oh my, you are quite composed, aren't you?— Gofuo!?”

“Gioooo!”

Nuo?

Suddenly a roar booms from atop the roof. A round, black mass hits the side of the mad knight. His body is blown away while being spun around.

And, the one who got down alongside a heavy impact sound is Butcher's Knife Pili.

It seems that he was still alive.

It's a reappearance with his entire body dyed the colour of blood.

The black mass that crashed into the mad knight is this guy's projectile weapon?

It looks like he used a skill too.

“Guoooooo! Mad Kniiiiight!”

Pili yells in rage.

Just like that he ran, noisily moving his heavy-looking feet deeper into the alley to where the mad knight had been blown.

And, what remains are large footprints of blood that one can see even within the darkness.

# CHAPTER 111

## FATE DIVINER KAZANE

Pili ignores me.

The name of his race seems to be Sensibal, but that guy might actually be a mad beast.

The butcher's knife held by Pili shines ominously.

Let's leave the mad knight to his fellow madman the **hairy man**.

I immediately make the Magic Halberd disappear.

I will vanish into the gambling district just like that.

"Rollo, Helme, we will explore the gambling district." (Shuuya)

"Nya."

"Yes!" (Helme)

It's also convenient that the surroundings at a certain distance have been crowded with curious onlookers.

We leap into the crowd of onlookers and run through them, weaving our way in between the people.

Entering the shadow of an alley, we stop running and stand still.

Entrusting my back to a wall, I make Helme return into my left eye and invoke <Hide> for caution's sake.

Rollo also returns to her black cat mode.

Going back out on the street again, I advance under the cover of night while making use of the shadows and the crowd of people.

I walk around the gambling district in such a state.

Just when I was wondering if the old lady procurer, wearing velvet clothes like a rich person while holding a lantern in her hand, is leading the prostitutes in front of the beautiful bars, brothels and inns, the opposite side was dotted with abandoned buildings where vagrants that wore light, filthy attires hung out.

I realize that this district is a place where light and darkness mix together.

And then, as the name “gambling district” suggests...

People are gambling everywhere along my way.

There is a large-scaled prizefighting tournament in a tent venue that has at least six flat and broad curtains stretched out, arm wrestling, card games, janken, and a board game similar to shogi.

However, in a corner, medicine I have never seen is being sold as well.

Large colourful grains with a hue similar to candy.

On a first glance those look like confectionery, but... a drug, huh?

The drug candies are carelessly placed in a square box as if they are selling cheap sweets\*. *(T/N: dagashi... the cheap candy sold in Japanese stores (dagashiya) specializing on it)*

There's a man that looks like a drug dealer besides the square box, and evil looking men which seem to be bouncers who scan the surroundings while patrolling.

A great number of people, who appear to be junkies with dead eyes and sickly countenances, are swarming the place where that drug is sold.

It's exactly the opposite to the sensation given by a low-lying part of a city.

The atmosphere is so evil that it makes me sense a connection with the spirit world... it was a street that makes me feel a malicious air swirling about, as if it was a prison that was cut off for countless years.

In the end it's just a guess, but there might be followers of the gods of the spirit world, that have transformed this area into a feeding ground for the negative emotions that

gather here.

While enduring it, I walk as I'm looking for [Path of Asura, Kazane's Divination Mansion].

I wander around the gambling district for a few hours searching for a sign of it.

Rollo, who got tired of searching, is peacefully sleeping inside the overcoat hood hanging down my back.

It's already night, but there's no sign of it.

However, it's relatively bright.

A lot of fires are burning, placed in countless earthenware pots similar to drums.

Crowds of vagrants grill some food inside those pot fires.

A place in a corner of an alley with plenty magic light sources brighter than those pot fires enters my field of vision.

Not only vagrants but also common people gather there.

It piques my interest. I will have a look. I make my way towards that crowd of people.

Ah, a mouse race, eh?

The mice, which were put into a box made out of boards, and with six rectangle lanes separated by boards extending straight ahead, run directly towards the fodder placed inside.

In other words, it is a race with a simple setup.

In the neighbourhood of that betting race, a neat establishment has been set up.

People are eating food and enjoying alcohol at the several prepared tables. They are also trading mice to be used in the betting.

Once I prick up my ears and listen, there are no confidential talks...

There are betting race locations in all cities. There are also merchants specialised on

breeding who control the lineage of the mice in each region. Trainers and rich owners exist as well.

The inner workings are deep, just like in horse racing...

The mice's battle, that they couldn't afford to lose no matter what, took place in there.  
(T/N: Sounds like a reference to something, but can't figure out what)

While admiring their conversation, I start gathering information.

I try to start a conversation with a grim eyed, middle-aged man who stylishly wears a tailcoat and a cloth hat.

"Do you know the location of the Path of Asura, Kazane's Divination Mansion?"

Once I asked that, the refined, hat-wearing man told me with a smile.

"Ah, if it's that place, it's close by. In the past they often put out a wooden fortune-telling signboard, I think? Look, it's next to that money-exchange shop and the payout booth that has a magic lamp, the little white building over there."

Next to it? Oh, it's really there.

There's a white building next to the payout booth for the mice race.

"You are right, thank you." (Shuuya)

After lightly thanking the hat-wearing middle-aged man, I go towards that establishment.

It's a house with a white-plastered wall that's surrounded by a mud wall. There was a single door.

In the middle of the door an eye mark is embedded as a decoration.

Is this their sign?

The establishment's scale is really small.

A Romanesque building with just a white-plastered wall without any signboard.



Its width is small and it's too simple.

I might not have known that it's this establishment without being told in advance...

The people lining up at the payout booth also don't look towards the simple establishment.

Don't they predict the races' results with fortune-telling or something like that?

Well, the man just said it as well, but it looks like the establishment isn't popular now.

The eye mark located in the upper part of the door is the famous **Eye of Providence**, which is also printed on the US 1\$ bill.

It's just like a signal between friends.

The door has no hinge, and no knob either.

Since it can't be helped, I try to trace the surface of the eye mark with my index finger.

The surface has a rough, metallic touch to it.

No way, is this the bell?

With that, I try lightly pressing the eye mark in a casual manner.

At that moment, the eye mark shines, systematic cracks appear on the surface of the wooden door and it splits apart.

The door transforms into parts similar to brick blocks which store themselves away into the frame of the door, like a disassembled wooden puzzle.

Wow, it's a mystery door.

The parts which formed the door vanish as if gouged out.

Beyond the opening lies a narrow, dark green, gloomy pathway.

Just when I walk inside by taking one step, a green light pops up.

— Waah, I got slightly surprised, but it's a candle light.

Bronze-made candle holders are set up atop the wall on both sides.

The slowly swaying green flames illuminate my figure in the hallway.

It looks like the green fires were automatically lit in reaction to me entering.

A tepid wind brushes my cheeks from the corridor ahead.

While having a premonition of something like a summer horror that freezes one's spine and makes you tremble, the candles that were set up on the walls light up as I advance through the hallway.

Are there any sensors...? It's an elaborate construction.

There are two large doors black and red, at the end of the hallway.

The letters on those doors are... eh!?

It's a lie, right...? The carved letters are Japanese.

On the surface of the black door Japanese characters said: "You, who can read this, are a Japanese originating from Earth, right? Please turn the knob of this door three times to the right, five times to the left, and then push at the end."

If it was someone careful, they would retrace their steps at this point.

But I won't do something that boring.

I move the black door's knob according to the instruction.

The instant I finished doing that, the black door transforms into small square and rectangle brick blocks like the wooden door at the beginning. The blocks are automatically stored away inside the door's borders on the top, bottom, left and right sides.

The opened space beyond was a cosy room enveloped by green curtains and green lights.

There's a podium that becomes higher and higher in the centre of the room. A set of

black-lustred, solid table and chairs has been placed there.

The magic source is thick, isn't it?

On the other side of the table an **old woman** was waiting while sitting.

The green light is illuminating the old woman and the table.



That old woman is Japanese, isn't she!?

A big music instrument similar to a koto, tarot cards and an item resembling a metronome were placed on the table.

It seems to be the room of a fortune-teller, but something like a typical crystal ball is nowhere to be found.

{Your Excellency, the magic source here is strong. It seems to be something like a barrier, or a place similar to space that got weakened by a inter<sup>veil</sup>stice. Please be careful since you can also describe it as a place where the influence of the gods has increased.}  
(Helme)

The Water Spirit of Everlasting Darkness Helme that dwells in my left eye warns me like that.

{Thanks for your warning, but I will be fine no matter what might happen.} (Shuuya)

{Understood. You will make your esteemed authority known to that old woman by giving her some training, won't you? I will also train her ass—} (Helme)

{— No, stuff like that doesn't matter. I'm simply interested in her.} (Shuuya)

Since she tried to say something strange again, I forcefully interjected with my own remark.

{Okay.} (Helme)

When I'm staying on guard without entering the room as I'm talking with Helme in my mind,

"Well then, please do enter, okay?"

The suspicious old woman waiting in the room addressed me.

The tone of her voice gives a gentle impression.

There are wrinkles that stack like tree growth rings on the face of the old woman, who wears an eccentric hat while displaying a calm smile.

She holds a small branch of a sacred tree in her hand while wearing arranged shrine maiden clothes.

That branch is probably a type of magic item since it's tinged with mana.

Is this old woman more of a shrine maiden than a fortune-teller?

...She has an enlightened-like\* expression. (T/N: 菩薩.. bodhisattva... an enlightened existence)

"Then, excuse me." (Shuuya)

I step inside in a timid manner while hesitating.

Advancing up to the table, I confront the old woman sitting on the other side while standing with the table between us.

"Please sit down on that chair. There's no need to be nervous."

"Yes..." (Shuuya)

I sat down on the chair after the old woman urged me to do so.

"My name is Musa Aroman. I'm a reincarnated person. The name of my previous life is Kazaoto Marumi. A little while has passed since I changed it to simply "Kazane" after coming to this city... However, I'm surprised." (Kazane)

It's been a while since I last heard Japanese.

..."I'm surprised as well", without saying that, I return a question to her.

"...Surprised?" (Shuuya)

Hearing my simple question, Kazane places the branch in her hand on the table and starts to speak.

"That a reincarnated person, namely you, appeared who can open that black door... I waited a century for a reincarnator, but for them to appear in front of me **now**..." (Kazane)

She waited for quite a long time, I guess?

Considering that, this old woman is relatively young for having waited a century.

She doesn't look at all like she is past a hundred years? It feels more like she has lived for around 60 years.

I can feel a vivid energy from her black eyes. Mana dwells in them.

The rainbow-coloured mana emitting from her entire body swells like a surging wave.

It looks like she has mastered the basic Magic Combat Style principles.

Well, I arbitrarily consider it as an application of the Magic Combat Style, but it might actually a totally different magic system.

Without talking about her mana, I will praise her appearance for starters.

"...A century, you say? You look quite young for that, you know." (Shuuya)

"Fufu, no need for flattery, Kagari Shuuya-san." (Kazane)

Uh oh? It's my name. She said it even though I haven't introduced myself yet.

This old woman nonchalantly appraised me while smiling.

"So you can really appraise **people**, eh?" (Shuuya)

"My, did you hear about my skill from someone?" (Kazane)

"Well, yes." (Shuuya)

"I see... but, for some unknown reason I can see almost nothing but [Spear Arts Level XVIII] and [Demonic Arts Level IX]. I wonder what's that about... You don't say! A **seed**..." (Kazane)

Seed? The old woman is tilting her head to the side.

It seems there are some parts she can't see.

Her appraisal isn't perfect?

However, [Spear Arts Level XVIII] and [Demonic Arts Level IX] seem to be a part of my status.

How interesting. It appears considerably different from the attribute values I know.

“...Who knows, even if you ask me, I don’t know either.” (Shuuya)

But, I simply came here wanting to see her ability. By no means did I expect to find a reincarnator.

It exceedingly piques my curiosity.

“...Just now you mentioned a century, Kazane-san, but didn’t you meet any reincarnators during that time?” (Shuuya)

This is an important matter.

She might know whether other reincarnators exist.

“That’s right. I didn’t. To be precise, I guess it’s better to say that I didn’t encounter any. I guess I sometimes heard rumours of something like a summoning being carried out in the western [Radford Empire] and [Seven Flor-Seil Kingdoms], the northern [Zerubia Kingdom], the eastern [Fujique Federation] and [Gluton Empire]. This world is endlessly wide. There are as many gods as stars. There’s no limit... There are many things I haven’t heard and learned even while living for more than a century... Anyway, I have been conspicuously active for a long time of over one hundred years in this city, but I didn’t meet a reincarnator. And the only one who **boldly opened the black door** is you.” (Kazane)

Are reincarnators rare?

I suppose it’s not like people possessing memories of their previous life are born one after the other without being summoned, right?

However, not all reincarnators would necessarily aim to become adventurers.

They might have an occupation that makes use of their experiences in their previous life. Even if they become adventurers for argument’s sake, there are plenty of places in other cities where adventurers gather, such as labyrinths and towers.



Besides, there might also have been careful reincarnators that decided not to touch the black door and enter, due to being vigilant of the Japanese characters on the door.

Or rather, usually one would act just like that.

I try to ask her gently based on my assumptions.

“...Then you are saying that there are no other reincarnators besides yourself, Kazane-san?” (Shuuya)

After a silent break, Kazane-baa-san shakes her head left and right in response to my question and starts to speak.

“No, there were 120 years ago. Including myself, it’s only **three people** though.” (Kazane)

Were? Past tense...

I wonder whether there’s a common feature between those three people?

“Did those reincarnators have a common feature from their previous life?” (Shuuya)

“A few. All of them reincarnated from a modern Japan with a subtly different history. And, they suddenly remembered their **memories as Japanese** due to sickness or the impact of hitting their head in their childhood. The commonly shared points are to that extent, I think. Everyone that was born and brought up in this world, Sera, was scattered after all.” (Kazane)

Hee, scattered from birth...

Does it have no relation to something like a connection to the previous life?

The common features of the three are only them originating from Japan, though with a different history, and that they remembered their memories of their time as **Japanese** due to some kind of incident during their childhood...

Thoughts of parallel worlds, multiverses and Schrödinger’s Cat cross my mind.

It doesn’t seem like there are reincarnators who used a character maker like me.

“...Shuuya-san, judging by your dialect, I guess you lived in east Japan, the greater Kanto region, in your previous life?” (Kazane)

“Yes, I did.” (Shuuya)

“Then it’s the same as us. And your memory as Japanese came to you after you were born into this world Sera?” (Kazane)

It’s better that I match my story with hers here.

“It just came to me like that.” (Shuuya)

“I see...” (Kazane)

Does Kazane-baba remember the old days? Her gaze looked into the far distance.

“But, 120 years ago, you say? You did well to succeed in meeting with those reincarnators that were scattered at birth, didn’t you?” (Shuuya)

“Yes, I guess so. But, if you hear the reason why I met them, you as a former Japanese should understand. Will you listen to the reason?” (Kazane)

Well, of course, I’m curious after all.

Let’s listen.

“Yes, if it’s alright with you.” (Shuuya)

“Let me tell you then. At that time I was a lone adventurer active in this southern Mahaheim area. And, I heard a certain rumour. That there are unusual things in an archipelago of various countries located east of the Sarmaria Kingdom, in the unknown Azen Dynasty, a foreign civilization, situated at the end of the southern ocean... and an eastern island country. Hearing about that unusual thing, I immediately imagined that to be about Japan. I yearned for Japan. That’s why I decided to head to that archipelago of various countries. By the way, I didn’t reach the southern ocean. Since I had neither knowledge nor equipment to cross the sea, I didn’t go beyond the island group that’s connected by trade.” (Kazane)

I see, I understand.

An archipelago located in the east certainly makes one remember the island country of Japan.

“There were various problems such as fishmen pirates, but I succeeded in landing on the biggest island of that archipelago. I started an investigation of the island while staying at an inn. The ones I got to know... in the inn where I stayed for the sake of the investigation... were two reincarnators. Those two were adventurers just like me. Both were investigating about Japan, in short the strange thing.” (Kazane)

A strange thing? I guess it's foodstuff after all? She wanted something like rice.

“That's because you wanted rice or some other Japanese food, I suppose. I understood the reason. So you were always together since then?” (Shuuya)

Seemingly reacting to the word rice, Kazane-baba's tone turned gentle.

“Indeed, you are right. We discovered an ingredient that resembled “ume\*” in Japanese, called “sume” on the investigated island. In reality I wanted rice just as you said, but there was none on that island. By the way, the ones who first propagated sume on this continent were us.” (Kazane) *(T/N: ume = Japanese apricot... didn't TL it to show the similarity in the words of ume and sume.)*

Ah, Melissa talked about something like that.

An ingredient that was put into high-class soup dishes.

Kazane-baba was apparently an amazing adventurer carving her name into history.

“...For around ten years after that, the three of us went on various adventures. Because the eastern island states were dangerous due to the occurring wars between fishmen and humans, we abandoned the investigation, but we crossed the Great Goldix Desert in the northern Mahaheim, passed through the Religious State, hunted giants in the Lololiza Kingdom, hunted sacred beasts in the eastern Relic area, visited the hometown of the tiger beastmen Razeel and fought with... the Gluton Empire that possesses the Mad Seven Arms and the Fujique Federation that was overflowing with wars. The great corridor of the ancient elves, said to connect the elven imperial capital through the Mahaheim Mountain underground, which has been constructed by the Great Ancient Empire Befaritz, with this region of south Mahaheim...” (Kazane)

Kazane-baba talks while looking happy as she indulges in her pleasant memories.

“From here on out I will talk in the common Mahaheim language, okay? And then, after drifting to this [Labyrinth City Pelneet], we always worked as adventurers in this city...” (Kazane)

Kazane-baba stops talking in the nostalgic Japanese language at that point for some reason.

Though I am able to understand her as I have <Language Comprehension>.

“And then, [you lived] here for a century?” (Shuuya)

“Yes, a century. Even in this city various things happened. Challenging the labyrinth together with the adventurer clan led by the hero Muburan Klenor is a precious memory. We were able to obtain **a fortune** by successfully **earning income** with labyrinth exploration at that time. Muburan was stronger than us reincarnators... but, I guess after a time of around five years had passed, he ended up parting with the reincarnators who consisted of his friends and lover.” (Kazane)

Muburan Klenor? That name, somewhere I...

Well, who cares. Rather than that, I wonder how many things did they **earn** in the labyrinth.

“Earning an income; did you find some amazing item?” (Shuuya)

“Yes, a huge gold bar was just the beginning. At level five of the fourth floor, not just several treasure maps, a high-priced magic obi, a large magic crystal clock... not only the ruins of the Ten Evil Statues, but also, once we defeated an unknown protector class that guarded a hidden room at a place extending a room of the tenth floor, a rainbow-coloured treasure chest we had never seen before until then appeared. Inside that treasure chest were a **secret medicine** and a **seed**.” (Kazane)

A rainbow-coloured treasure chest, that’s the first time I hear of it. And also, a large clock is probably precious in this world.

Though I think it wouldn’t be strange if someone invented an analog clock by now.

I don’t quite get the part with the **seed**. If it’s a **secret medicine**, I can imagine it.

Judging by Kazane-baba’s appearance, it might be a medicine of rejuvenation?

“...A secret medicine?” (Shuuya)

“Yes, the secret medicine of rejuvenation is a medicine that extends the lifespan of a person more reliably than the blood and flesh of Glenaldo Soma Mermaids.” (Kazane)

After all.

“I see, what about the seed?” (Shuuya)

“Are you interested?” (Kazane)

What is it? To put on airs.

“I am.” (Shuuya)

“Fufu, as a matter of fact, the item na... name, which has a deep connection to us, is Reincarnation Seed of Dimension Tearing.” (Kazane)

Uh oh. That is certainly...

“Is that item actually like a fruit?” (Shuuya)

“Yes. Its size is around that of a pineapple. Raimon\* patterns were placed on its round surface.” *(T/N: These keep appearing on various things like the labyrinth tower throughout the novel, putting a tooltip for the term since it's a hassle to find a simple English explanation as I tried before)*

“Did you use that reincarnation seed or whatever?” (Shuuya)

“No, as the name is scary, we didn't do anything with it. Besides, even utilizing the power of my skill that's related to god— Asura, I didn't learn anything but its name, similar as with you... it's too eerie. However, Sugisaki and Rinko were different...” (Kazane)

Was there a dispute between the reincarnators at that point?

Though it's insensitive, let's ask her.

“Excuse the rudeness please, but didn't you challenge the labyrinth actively together with the reincarnators, who were your friends, for many years? Why did you split up?” (Shuuya)

Kazane-baba speaks with a shadow hovering over her face.

“...Though I didn’t really want to talk about it. I will explain since you are a person from Japan... Like everywhere, it was troubles between men and women. In the end I got rejected and bid farewell with Sugisaki. Seeing Sugisaki getting along and hugging Rinko from nearby, I got jealous. There was frustration as well. That’s why it turned into a huge fight... Those two had sex with each other for a long time while hiding it from me. That’s what it was about. Well, this late in the game, I couldn’t forgive them I guess, but since he was a man after all, I gave up... but...” (Kazane)

Two women and a single man, huh? It didn’t result in a harem.

Though they were fellow Japanese in a different world, they seemingly didn’t get along.

“But?” (Shuuya)

I prompted her to continue.

“I couldn’t forgive them for arbitrarily selling the Reincarnation Seed of Dimension Tearing. What if the universe ends up collapsing due to this dimension tearing apart after using that item... with a name like Dimension Tearing, much less to say, by someone unknown who my power can’t reach? We might vanish. And yet, Sugisaki and Rinko, for the sake of money, for the sake of their own desires, sold it to a famous dark guild nesting in the Elephant God City, in the western Radford Empire.” (Kazane)

For real?

# CHAPTER 112

## THE LANCER OF CHAOS THAT WALKS THE PATH OF INDISCRIMINATE SLAUGHTER

“You are saying that they sold an item that might destroy the world for the sake of money...? Where is that item?” (Shuuya)

I speak while looking directly into Kazane’s black eyes.

“Of course I chased after it. To get back the Seed of Dimension Tearing. But, when I got in touch with the dark guild, they had already... it was sold to a wealthy, major merchant of the [Seven Flor-Seil Kingdom]. And then, it was stolen by another dark guild, went through the hands of several wealthy merchants, etc... I completely lost track of it. As one would expect, even if I were to utilize my skill, I can’t search all life-forms. However, thinking back on it now, I guess I have my current position because of my experiences and personal connections... And, even the crucial Reincarnation Seed of Dimension Tearing might have simply been an item to summon a reincarnator. Since the world is even now continuing to exist, and moreover, if I consider it very carefully, there’s no way for something that will destroy the world to have been put into a treasure chest. I think I might have trusted my own power too much...” (Kazane)

An item that summons reincarnators? Certainly, the possibility for that is high.

It might be the reason why I was summoned, but well, Kazane’s theory is quite plausible.

“So, what about the two who sold it?” (Shuuya)

“The two of them left this city after getting enthused about entering an exploration clan called [Fortress] or something like that. I haven’t seen them since then. I haven’t heard of them for more than a hundred years... Though I believe that they are still alive just like me since they have used the secret medicine, too.” (Kazane)

I see. The secret medicine seems to be an item that prolongs one’s life after all.

Besides, Fortress?

Oh? That phrase, exploration clan... somewhere... Aah! I remember.

The adventure memorandum written in that literary fragment that was originally within the item box.

Err, you don't say...!

Does that mean that those two reincarnators were the members mentioned in that literary fragment?

In that case they have already died after getting devoured by giants, right?

...Amen.

"...Hm? You make an expression as if you know something?" (Kazane)

Whoa, this old woman, Kazane.

I guess this woman, no, old hag is not one to be taken lightly.

For her to guess my feelings from my expression!

Can she actually read someone's mind or something like that!?

"...No, it's just that I heard a clan name resembling that somewhere..." (Shuuya)

I try to say while squinting slightly.

"Really? Fufu, ah, please don't make such an expression. Just because I possess the extra skill **Lineage of Asura**, I still can't read someone's **mind**. But, you know that several such skills do exist as well, don't you? Fufu."

It appeared. I see. An extra skill.

**Lineage of Asura** was mentioned several times when I was creating my character. I remember that name was there during my skill selection.

**Lineage of Asura** is a type of appraisal skill?



Really, I wonder what would have happened if I had acquired that skill.

Things might have turned out completely different.

I might have become an ero religious founder that established a religion worshipping a boob goddess after creating a boobs faith by making use of the knowledge of the boobs research society which increased its techniques from 156 to 157?

If I had been transmigrated into the vicinity of the Holy Kingdom at Fortress City Hekatrail... no, it's no use even if I delude myself.

I had my encounter with my partner Rollo while experiencing a painful underground life.

And, encountering spearmanship after being saved by master, experiencing a livelihood surrounded by the gentle Goldeeba family; for sure it's because it was a journey where I experienced various meetings and farewells that... I have become what I'm now.

I ended up getting slightly influenced after hearing Kazane's story.

Besides, skills that read one's mind, huh?

Moreover, several of them...

Master Achilles told me about it a bit before, but as expected, I guess such special skills exist, don't they?

Transmitting perverted stuff to the mind of the other party is a bit scary, but it seems to be interesting.

I want to try meeting those skill-possessors.

"...Is... that so? You're saying that you can appraise a person with that **Lineage of Asura**?" (Shuuya)

"It's an ability of Fate God Asura. I can **see** the fate of those I look at by making the status display. You are a being that is a chaotic mix." (Kazane)

A being that is a chaotic mix?

Um, in any case, she thinks that I might be something like that.

“Chaotic mix? What do you mean...?”

“The amount of information is too small, seeing as I can’t view much of your information. Even the reincarnators, to whom I bid farewell one hundred years ago, had been accompanied by risks, but I was able to see everything clearly. But, only you and the seed...” (Kazane)

“You weren’t able to see clearly, you mean?” (Shuuya)

“Yes, speaking figuratively, I suppose it feels like you were born into this world **all of a sudden** after distorting fate.” (Kazane)

All of a sudden, eh?

Well, it’s just as she says though.

“That’s why I’m a chaotic mix?” (Shuuya)

“Yes, correct. I’m sorry if you took offense. I have continued looking at others throughout many years, but for the power of Fate God Asura to not get through; Kagari-san, you are the **first** living being.” (Kazane)

The power of a god doesn’t get through?

To begin with, even the time when I came to this world was abnormal.

Although it’s the same with me possessing the memories of my previous life, I think it’s because I was born after sitting on that weird chair and using a character maker.

Reincarnation or transmigration, you might say both are correct and incorrect.

Truly a chaotic mix where right and wrong, good and evil are squirming while joined by light and demonic.

I’m sure even the gods of this world are confused.

“...I see. It’s not like I particularly took offense.” (Shuuya)

When Kazane hears my words, she smiles a little.

“Fufu, that’s great. So, can I start the divination any time now? I can offer astrology that makes use of a horoscope I continuously researched for many years.” (Kazane)

Horoscope?

Astrology, she says... she researched divination similar to the one on Earth on this planet?

“Horoscope? Are you saying that it has some kind of connection to magic?” (Shuuya)

“Yes. Different from earth, there are two moons here. That completely changes the zodiac signs, doesn’t it? However, countless stars exist even in the night sky visible from this planet, and thus there are constellations. It still has a long way to go before leaving the stage of research, but I have created my own star chart. I discovered that the group of constellations has a connection to the power of the gods which actually reside in these stars. I put divination that makes use of other elements into practise as well.” (Kazane)

While talking fluently, Kazane opened her narrow eyes widely as if scanning me.

My figure and a green light is reflected in her black eyes.

...It causes a mysterious atmosphere.

It’s truly gave her the impression of a diviner.

{Your Excellency, this old woman seems to even sense my existence.} (Helme)

I see. It feels like that’s possible.

{Helme watch her closely.} (Shuuya)

{Okay.} (Helme)

Although it’s called divination, you never know what might happen in this world.

And, I’m only interested in the appraisal skill.

I will stop it since I don't have any interest in divination.

"Right now I don't need it." (Shuuya)

I refused.

"I see... why did you come here then?" (Kazane)

The face of Kazane cramps a bit.

I will answer honestly since it looks like her mood worsened.

"...It's because I wondered what the phenomenon of people appraisal is about. I only came here because I'm simply **curious**. After all I was told that it's possible if it's **this place** by a certain item appraiser." (Shuuya)

"...Really?" (Kazane)

"Yes. By no means did I know that a reincarnator is here... and that there were other reincarnators, even if that was 120 years ago." (Shuuya)

Right after I finished saying that—

I sense a fluctuation of magic sources from behind Kazane.

Moreover, it's several.

I turn my look at the rear of Kazane right away.

I can't see anything but a green space...

"— Kagari-san? Did you never hear the words *Curiosity killed the cat*?" (Kazane)

I spontaneously got goosebumps.

As if obstructing my view, Kazane mentions a Japanese proverb while looking scary.

To kill a cat... did this old woman mention that after noticing... the black cat sleeping inside my overcoat's hood on my back?

Or does she simply want me to stop looking whether there's someone behind her?

The responses that were behind Kazane have already vanished.

I only perceived an instantaneous fluctuation, thus I don't feel them any more.

...It's on my mind, but...

It can't be helped since Grasping Perception doesn't function overly much in this room that's exceedingly overflowing with a magic source.

This is a first.

According to Helme's warning, this place might be a special space.

However, I have one more method to search for enemies.

It's <Inhalation of Odour Technique> of the vampire lineage.  
Pheremone's Touch

This is an enemy search technique of a special <skill> that differs from Grasping Perception which belongs to the category of <Magic Arts> skills.

Therefore, if I use that skill...

I will be able to completely disclose the fellows lurking behind Kazane and around here.

However, it might be better to not use this skill.

After all I will be troubled if I get once again somehow misunderstood as vampire, won't I?

Ah! I suppose it's no misunderstanding though.

The fact of me belonging to the vampire lineage doesn't change.

But, my thoughts digressed.

Well, becoming defiant here and using it is also an option, but I don't know whether these people are enemies or allies. It might also be something I better shouldn't know at this point in time.

I judge that I shouldn't use the skill this time.

"...Haha, it's a type of proverb, right? I like trivia, so it's something I have heard before." (Shuuya)

Without showing my thoughts on my face, I let my gaze wander all over in order to deceive her and gave her a safe answer while scratching my head.

Hearing my words, Kazane reveals a relieved expression for some reason.

"...That's right. Well then, just now it was turned down, but should I tell your fortune?" (Kazane)

Geez, how pushy.

But then again, I was aware of her smiling a bit.

I don't know whether it's because of the nature of her job, but this old lady is awfully zealous about divination.

Kazane lifted the corners of her mouth and revealed an eerie smile.

The line of sight of her characteristic black pearl pupils is pointing towards the tarot cards that were placed on the table.

Does she tell someone's fortune with these?

Whoaa! What the hell! So much mana...

A ring similar to a dark red sun and a camel-coloured skull have been drawn on the surface of the cards with a delicate brushwork.

Ripples of mana that turn into belt-shaped lines surging from the surface of the drawings were visible.

It's a thick mana to the extent of feeling sinister.

For me to not have noticed it until just now despite the cards emitting such mana...

At that moment Helme appeared in my field of vision.

{Your Excellency, I didn't discover these unique space and circumstances either. It's very likely some kind of weapon.} (Helme)

I'm sure.

I will decline once more because of my bad premonition and as there's Helme's advice as well.

"A divination is unnecessary." (Shuuya)

"Is... that so?" (Kazane)

Kazane places her palm on top the round skeleton magic tool similar to an egg and a metronome which was standing next to the tarot cards while talking in an unnaturally doubting manner.

She activated the magic tool.

She also applies a hand to the the strings of the koto that spanned between the dragon's horns and the cloud horn. *(T/N: These are specific koto terms. The dragon's horn (ryuukaku) is at the top part as saddle of the bridge, whereas the string nut is called "cloud horn" (unkaku). Check "koto" on wiki.)*

Matching with the clocking movements of the metronome's bone needle swaying left and right with a "tick-tack-tick-tack"...she pulls a string with her beautiful nail which causes a peculiar tone.

The bridges supporting the strings gave birth to high and low musical intervals.

Each time they are pulled by her pretty nails, the strings are tinged in an ominous black-coloured light. The lantern that has been installed at the dragon's tongue\* repeatedly flickers in black and yellow. *(T/N: Another koto term)*

The koto's melody erased the metronome sound.

Strange waves of mana and sound reverberate as well.

{— T-These are psychic waves? But, they are repelled since you are resisting them.}  
(Helme)

As Helme says, I have a feeling of sparks scattering in front of me with crackling sounds.

Once I thought about shaking them off a bit since they were annoying, it caused a wrap phenomenon\* with a bam and it became quiet. (T/N: *rappu genshou* = one of the things called psychic or supernatural phenomenon considered to “create and reverberate a certain kind of sound from a space, where nothing exists, or a room with no one in it”)

{... Amazing. You easily repelled it completely. Your Excellency, in case of a counterattack, leave it to me. I will train that cheeky butt of the hag. With a freezing, no, lukewarm stake... } (Helme)

{— No, just watch.} (Shuuya)

{Okay.} (Helme)

It was apparently repelled, but that just now were psychic waves?

That damn old hag, she tried to charm me or she intended to swindle me, right...?

I stand up from my chair.

“...With this I will go back.” (Shuuya)

I tell Kazane expressionlessly.

It was over already, but the clock sounds and the psychic waves, which are similar to mana waves with the tone of a koto, have a strange charm that draws one in, to the degree of wanting to keep listening to them for the whole time.

Kazane is lost for words.

Showing a pale expression, she keeps blinking, twitches and her hands are trembling.

“...R-Really? How regretful. Then, the exit is that way.” (Kazane)

Was it unexpected to her for the magic to get repelled?

Even her appraisal, which is an extra skill related to an absolute god, was practically repelled.



In the end there's no way that normal magic or skills of humans will affect me.

And, this is equal to having started a magic attack against me.

It's a sneak attack during a friendly chat.

Thus, should I beat up the hag and kill her?

But, the fact of her trying to win me over with a brainwashing-like charm in a womanly roundabout manner can also be called an expression of her not intending to be hostile.

Oh well, it's the first time. She immediately cancelled the mind magic and showed an expression of regret. Though the world is a different one, she's still a Japanese person.

Let's turn a blind eye just once.

"...Then, *see you*." (Shuuya)

Stressing the end of the sentence like that, I turn around.

I open the door that was in the back and left the room.

Just like the time when I entered, the green candles lit up.

I move my feet swiftly as if turning those lights off and was able to go outside.



"For him to be a reincarnator..."

The old woman Kazane muttered while looking at the exit of the room.

The green curtain behind the old woman swayed and a group of figures wearing white masks and black clothes appeared in succession.

The shape of the masks on their heads are moulded like foxes with a white color.

They are simple items that have a red, round mark between the eyebrows.

As if worshipping Kazane, all of them simultaneously kneeled down on one knee and

bowed their heads.

A person standing at the head among the bowing, black-clothed figures lifts their head.

That person didn't wear a mask, had features that made it easy to identify her as Asian-styled woman and had a round failing mark imprinted on her forehead.

That woman gets up and approaches Kazane.

"Dear mother, is that man the one you previously mentioned as the **lancer of chaos** who walks the path of **indiscriminate slaughter**?"

Kazane looks at that woman while sitting.

"Yes, Mirai. That's how it is. It was in accordance with <Foresight>. There was a revelation that my <Lineage of Asura> mostly won't get through that **indiscriminate**. But, for the other party to be a reincarnator..." (Kazane)

Kazane keeps repeating the same words while obviously looking worried.

She revealed a troubled expression that befits her advanced age and turned her face away from the woman called Mirai.

"Dear Mother? That reincarnator, does he have any relation to my father, Sugisaki Ryou?" (Mirai)

Mirai asks in order to pull back the averted gaze of the old woman to herself.

"There's no way. His real name is Keith, however it's been a hundred years ago when I parted with Sugisaki..." (Kazane)

"That's right, isn't it...?" (Mirai)

Mirai murmured in a whisper and a shadow appeared on her face.

Kazane sternly looks at the face of the depressed Mirai.

"Mirai? I told you before, didn't I? *Stop being fixated on the past*, you father Sugisaki is named a **framework** for reincarnators like the one who just now came here, but they are completely unrelated." (Kazane)

“Is that so?” (Mirai)

Mirai asked while lowering the ends of her thin eyebrows.

“Yes, it is.” (Kazane)

“Understood. Excuse me.” (Mirai)

“It’s fine. But for the **lancer of chaos that walks the path of indiscriminate slaughter**, whom I had foreseen, to have appeared in front of me in reality is in any event proof that the **calamity** has started.” (Kazane)

“Then, should we inform **Adolian**-sama of the [Eight Lights]?” (Mirai)

“That’s how it will be. However, even if we report to him for the sake of protecting the auction as guard, we have to gather more information... He won’t understand with just telling him **lancer of chaos**.” (Kazane)

“Yes.”

“Therefore, Mirai, I have a task for you. My power won’t get through the **indiscriminate**. Chase after Shuuya Kagari, the **lancer of chaos**, who will become the next key to the word of **slaughter** and investigate him.” (Kazane)

While saying so, Kazane strengthens her gaze at the woman called Mirai.

“Yes, understood.” (Mirai)

Mirai with the conspicuous red mark on her forehead acknowledges obediently.

She placed her hands on her chest and bowed her head as if praying.

“But, make sure to be careful, okay? That man has [Spear Arts Level XVIII]. This level is one that exceeded my imagination... it’s the very first time I have learned of such level existing since my birth. You can truly call it a level surpassing god. You might call him the strongest lancer in this world.” (Kazane)

“Yes. I was astonished as well. It’s not a level I can possibly match with my [Dagger Arts Level VI] which were appraised by you, dear mother... in addition, it’s a level far surpassing those of the superior divine king-ranked fighters, who are active in

competitions, which you told me about quite a while ago, dear mother.” (Mirai)

Kazane quietly nods at Mirai’s remark.

“Also, the unknown skill called [Demonic Arts Level IX], if that’s a skill system that surpasses [Magic Arts], [Sorcery Arts], [Mana Manipulation], [Curse Techniques], [Summoning Magic], [Crest Arts] and [Ancient Magic] which a wizard owns... you can assume that person to possess a mental strength and mana that exceeds an archwizard. Besides, he seems to have noticed your guys’ existence in this barrier room with its abundant magic source and the unsteady interstice, you know? That’s not normal. Though he glossed it over in a hurry...” (Kazane)

The mask-wearing people stir due to Kazane’s words.

Mirai was of course equally stunned.

“Eh? Really? Even though we should have completely erased our presences, he perceived us? What a presence search ability...” (Mirai)

Kazane nods agreeing with Mirai while starting to speak.

“Right. That man had an aloof attitude, but I could sense **something** else within his eyes. He even realized the type of magic of my **Magic Talismans, Wicked Koto** and **Evil Spirit Sound Waves** by looking at them with a glance and dealt with them. I went as far as attempting the **brainwashing** used for the religious organization... it seems he has trained his mental strength considerably as he easily saw through it and repelled it. What a formidable opponent.” (Kazane)

“For dear mother to fail in this absolute space and for you to fear him, he’s definitely an opponent possessing a **mental strength** and an **observing eye** to that degree, isn’t he...? I will be careful while approaching him.” (Mirai)

A tense air was set adrift due to the points mentioned in Mirai’s speech.

Kazane answers after gulping down her saliva in the middle of Mirai’s words.

“...Indeed, provoking that lancer of chaos is definitely not allowed... I deeply regretted having tried to brainwash him in the middle of it... fortunately, I understood through the koto’s sounds that he wasn’t angry... if he had been angry, I would have left this city and escaped to a far, far place, even further away than the Elephant God City.”

(Kazane)

“Dear Mother...” (Mirai)

Mirai sees Kazane’s state and the color of her face pales.

“Mirai, you are the leader of the **War Foxes** of the Asura Religious Organization. Therefore I won’t worry too much about it, but... I ask you to monitor Shuuya Kagari properly! I don’t care even if you do with organizations besides him as you please, but consider hostile actions towards him to be equal with death. To the bitter end it’s a surveillance. Or get in touch with him and come up with an idea how to build a connection with him.” (Kazane)

“Yes!” (Mirai)

“Then go.” (Kazane)

As Kazane’s words resound, the masked group vanishes.



If I go out through here, I will probably be outside the sphere of the gambling district.

As one would expect, the main street is bright. Magic lights are everywhere.

I walked through the bright streets, moved from the northwest to the north and came out at the Second Ring Road.

The First Ring Road is around the corner.

At that moment I sensed presences following me from behind.

A group of magic sources, huh? Not again...!

Dark guild [Owl’s Fangs]? Or another dark guild?

Fran’s thief guild? People related to the religious organization from just now?

It’s a chance. I don’t know whether the other party is male or female... Should I use <

While thinking about that, I pass through the First Ring Road and enter the northwest alley where my inn is located.

{Your Excellency, some time ago you had talked in a different language... } (Helme)

Helme appeared in my field of vision.

{Uh huh, it's Japanese. Just remember it as a special language. That old woman is a reincarnator. I guess you can call her someone whose soul's origin was a different dimension.} (Shuuya)

{How mysterious! Talking about an item said to tear dimensions, is she a person surpassing even god!?!} (Helme)

Helme-san shows a surprised reaction while adopting a weird pose.

{I'm someone like her as well.} (Shuuya)

{Huh!? Then you are a god after all, Your Excellency?!} (Helme)

{No. I am me. I'm a simple woman-loving man who is a spiritually immortal\* Light Demon Lucival.} (Shuuya) *(T/N: Author uses here a term signifying the oneness of Brahman and Atoman, 梵我一如(bonga ichinyo). Google it, if interested)*

{... Your Excellency, woman-loving I understand, but I won't be able to comprehend even if you tell me difficult concepts.} (Helme)

{In short, I'm no god. That hag is no god either. But I guess there's no mistake in her appraisal skill being the highest-ranking appraisal directly controlled by god— Asura. In this world there might be only one or two appraisal skills that can match up with that.} (Shuuya)

{I see. So you let her go because she's a hag owning an excellent skill, right? Do you intend to make that hag into your subordinate?!} (Helme)

{That might happen if I really aimed for a woman-loving skill... oi, what are you planning to make me say!?!} (Shuuya)

{... Your Excellency, you arbitrarily... } (Helme)

{Sorry, I'm just kidding. You just looked silly. I don't think that I will turn the old woman into my subordinate. In the first place, currently I'm an adventurer.} (Shuuya)

{Okay.} (Helme)

While talking telepathically with Helme, I keep track of the presences tailing me from behind as before at the same time.

They only follow?

It doesn't look like they are coming to attack.

When I'm walking through the alley while hesitating as to whether I should use < <sup>Pheromone's Touch</sup> Inhalation of Odour Technique > or not, Rollo, who slept at my back, starts squirming around.

Rollo woke up.

"Nn, nyaa."

While purring, Rollo moves from inside the hood to my shoulder.

Jumping down from there, she landed on the ground, extends her front paws as if saying {Yaaawn, I slept reeaally well nya} and stretches herself.

"Rollo, we are very soon at the inn. You can go play around here freely, okay?" (Shuuya)

"Nya? nya."

Rollo meows and runs in the direction of the inn.

"Uh, I hope she will be able to find a cat friend in this neighbourhood..." (Shuuya)

I head towards the inn while smiling.

I ignored the presences in my back and opened the inn's door that had a woodcraft plate with [Lodging Moon of the Labyrinth] written on it.

Thereupon a beautiful singing voice resounds in my ears.

I went to the dining room as if naturally being lured by the clear tone.

A blonde elf stands atop the small stage.

Hee, an elven songstress, huh?

The dining room's guests are lost in her beautiful singing while staring at the blonde songstress.

Even the people playing card games are seemingly unable to concentrate on their game. They shift their gazes towards the elven songstress every now and then.

The male troubadour, who performed here last time, isn't present.

I wonder whether he got fired?

Certainly, the the singing voice of this elven woman is amazing. It's absolutely superb.

The lyrics told a story about a large deer and a fawn falling in love after meeting in the vicinity of a large spring on a mist-laden early morning.

Somehow it directly stirs my heart. The timbre goes through the hearing and directly heals the mind.

She's a beauty. Her two mounds are large and splendid, a big-breasted type woman.

She's just like a diva.

The singing of the elven woman is beautiful as well. There are accessories at her ears and neck, mmh? The blue gem of the necklace that is twined around her neck is shining?

I guess some kind of magic gem as those often found on magic wands and such?

Once I checked the bottom of her neck with Magic Observation, I discovered that it reacted to her singing voice while intensifying the mana at her neck as it was releasing ripple-like mana to the surroundings.



{Your Excellency, this singing voice is released through mana. It might be a kind of spell.} (Helme)

Hoo, if the spirit Helme says so, it's likely true.

{There comes no harm from it, right?} (Shuuya)

{Yes. It seems to be the singing voice of a fairy. It triggers a good feeling.} (Helme)

I see. I considered her natural voice to have a magical attribute, but for it to actually be a magic singing voice, eh?

She heals the adventurers through her song? Is this actually a service of the inn?

The song's magic seems to have a satisfactory effect.

Even in my previous world, different frequencies apparently could have a healing or unpleasant effect, right?

Has this song an apocalyptic sound as the ending?

I remember such occult-like stories existing.

...For a while I am enveloped by the singing voice magic.

The wonderful show ends. When I try to sit down on a seat to order food, I am called by a guest who played a card game.

"It's been a while. I wonder whether you remember me?"

"Hmph, it's been a long time, hasn't it, lancer?"



It's a middle-aged man possessing sharp, deep brown pupils and sunken-in eye sockets.

A man with a trademark-like mustache while wearing a long hat.

And, in addition, a blue-haired woman?

Those eyes and mustache... I do remember!

I recalled.

The guys of the dark guild that invited me in Hekatrail.

"...Yes, I remember you. You are the people I met in [Hekatrail], aren't you?" (Shuuya)

"Correct. I'm happy. You were able to remember us, huh...? After that we have heard **rumours** about you, the lancer."

Rumours, eh...

I wonder whether those are about the Evil Dragon King subjugation or the Holkerbaum case?

"You know, even if I'm told that..." (Shuuya)

"Well, don't say that. Won't you sit down and have a chat with us while eating to celebrate the reunion with your **old friends**?"

"Sit down just like Papa told you!"

Who's an old friend of yours!

He has a broad smile plastered on his face, but it's a questionable expression and he's too much of a dandy with his curled mustache.

But, well, that doesn't mean that we will fight. Guess it's fine?

"Sure, let's have a chat as **old friends**." (Shuuya)

I tried getting on with the invitation.

“Oh my, you are also quite eager, aren’t you, lancer? How unexpected.”

The blue-haired woman with the foul mouth, huh?

To be honest, I forgot the name of this woman, but since her hair and face are pretty, she has left an impression.

If I remember correctly, she used a blue, special longsword.

“So, **why** are you guys in this city, and moreover in this inn?” (Shuuya)

I immediately try asking about the crux of the matter.

“You know, due to certain twists and turns...”

“That’s right! It was an ordeal.”

Hee, it looks they also had various <sup>of a dark guild</sup> deep stories to share.

Oh well, I guess I will listen to them while eating my food.

# CHAPTER 113

## THE TRUTH BEHIND THE OLD-FRIENDS-GAME

The man with the conspicuous mustache keeps gossiping while devouring the food on his plate.

The blue-haired woman sitting next to him doesn't touch the food on the table and glares at me with half-closed eyes.

Why is this woman so irritated?

Avoiding the scary eyes of the hysteric woman as much as possible, I give noncommittal answers here and there, while enjoying the delicious vegetable dish that used something like beans sprouts, with a kind of ginger taste that grew on me.

I wish he would get over with the gossip and get to the point.

Should I speak up first?

"...Hey, don't you think that it's fine for you to tell me the reason why you are in this city any time now?" (Shuuya)

I say while looking displeased.

"You're right. Let me first tell you my name."

There was that as well, huh?

I somehow remember the nicknames and aliases of these people, but I still don't know their real names.

"I'm called Paulsen Valmask."

Valmask...

I recall having heard that suspicious word somewhere.

Oh well, I guess I will remember it sooner or later...

“If Papa has introduced himself, I have to do so as well, right? I’m Angie Eagbayn. Just let me tell you, if you sully Papa’s honour like the other day, it won’t end nicely for you.”

She yaps loudly.

But her voice is very cute.

It looks like I hurt the honour of this **Papa** or whatever without me knowing.

Is that the reason for this woman glaring at me?

Her surname is actually Eagbayn, so it doesn’t seem that they are really father and daughter.

“...Well, I will introduce myself too. Shuuya Kagari. Please feel free to call me Shuuya.”

“Understood. Shuuya-san it shall be then. Then I will tell you the reason why we came to this city, from the start to the end. It happened soon after we met you in [Hekatrail]. I think you know already, but we used to belong to a dark guild called [Bell of Twilight]. But, by now... with only me and Angie... the reason why it ended up like this is the result of a dispute with [Bloody Long Ears of the White Whale].” (Paulsen)

Did their numbers decrease because of a guild war?

“Correct. Even the place where we lived was burned down...” (Angie)

“Angie? Right now **I** am the one explaining.” (Paulsen)

Being coldly admonished by Paulsen, his companion, the blue-haired woman, looks as if about to cry.

“Papa... got it.” (Angie)

This Angie-or-such-called woman addresses Paulsen with Papa, but their surnames are different. So it’s only that woman calling him **Papa** on her own accord?

Or, is it some kind of play?

“As Angie says, our office, well, it was a normal bar where we made a living with normal gambling, but it ended up getting destroyed by fire after we suffered a raid by [Bloody Long Ears of the White Whale].” (Paulsen)

Meaning, it’s hectic between fellow dark guilds, too.

“My condolences, is what I should be saying here?” (Shuuya)

“What! That attitude is—” (Angie)

Angie’s spikiness\* bursts forth. (*T/N: From tsun, or better known in the term tsundere*)

It looks like this girl doesn’t like my blunt attitude.

“Angie, it’s fine, so be quiet.” (Paulsen)

“Y-Yeah...” (Angie)

She’s really submissive to **Papa**, isn’t she?

But rather than that, I guess I will ask about the dispute between the dark guilds.

“So, didn’t you try to strike back after getting attacked?” (Shuuya)

“Of course, we immediately went for a counterattack. We killed the members of [Bloody Long Ears], that had attacked us, together with a mysterious dwarf who was the **impetus**, and raided several of their bases. However, our side had small numbers and the opponent is a huge organization. Naturally, the outcome was obvious. We ended up being cornered, resulting in many of our comrades dying... parting with the dwarf, who fought alongside us on this occasion, we got in touch with an **old acquaintance** and decided to leave the city... and so we are right now in this inn located in [Labyrinth City Pelneet] and assist the dark guild [Remains of the Moon (Moon Remnants)] to which our acquaintance belongs.” (Paulsen)

I can agree with that.

So, they joined [Remnants of the Moon]?

But, I’m bothered by that mysterious dwarf who was the trigger.

“...What about the dwarf said to have been the impetus?” (Shuuya)

“Umm, if I remember correctly, he introduced himself as **Hankai**.” (Paulsen)

W-What was that!?

“To begin with, that large-scaled conflict only started because that dwarf took refuge in our bar while being bloodstained.” (Paulsen)

Hankai...

“And, the pursuers of that dwarf were [Bloody Long Ears]. Those guys fired spells into our bar with no questions asked. From then on it... developed into a flashy dispute. The bar ended up burning down completely.” (Paulsen)

No way, right...?

“Can you tell me a bit more about that dwarf’s characteristics?” (Shuuya)

“Yes, sure. It felt like rather than possessing a grudge against [Bloody Long Ears], his resentment was pointed at elves. He didn’t seem to be that well-informed about dark guilds. He said “I met guys who I know” while revealing a ferocious smile. He roared “A war against the elves is possible again” while smiling happily. At any rate, he was a cheerful fellow. He possessed a special magic item, a hatchet that returns to his yellow-shining tekkou straight after throwing it. His axe techniques are magnificent. He slaughtered all the skilled [Bloody Long Ears] members by himself...” (Paulsen)

I see...

That confirms it. It’s the dwarf Hankai who I saved.

“I see...” (Shuuya)

“Do you know that dwarf?” (Paulsen)

Paulsen asked with an air of curiosity.

That’s right. I know him. Well, let’s be honest to them here?

“Yeah. I believe him to be my acquaintance.” (Shuuya)



“Hee, you know that onion-head?” (Angie)

Angie rudely talks about his characteristic with a cold tone.

Certainly, Hankai had an onion-head.

“...If it was a dwarf with **such** a head shape, then it’s definitely the guy I know.” (Shuuya)

“Is that so? No wonder that he was that strong. I never expected him to be your acquaintance.” (Paulsen)

Indeed, it’s a small world.

“But, your friendship doesn’t run deep, does it? At the time when he came across our dark guild, you had already parted with that dwarf, right?” (Paulsen)

“Huumph. How about that! Aren’t you actually connected to some guild to set us up?” (Angie)

The spiky Angie narrows her eyebrows and says that in a fit of anger.

“...I have aspirations, but I won’t waste my time with such small-minded schemes... I belong to the group of people that likes to handle things physically, you know.” (Shuuya)

Stories about famous military thinkers and generals such as Sunzi, Kuroda Yoshitaka, Sanada Masayuki, Flavius Vegetius Renatus, Niccolo Machiavelli, etc., which I loved in my previous life, cross my mind.

I wonder whether those resourceful generals have also been enveloped by the vortex of this world.

“...Certainly, you don’t look like that type of man.” (Paulsen)

Paulsen thoroughly examines my face...

...and gave a frank reply.

I wonder if I am being praised or slandered?

“Papa, you believe this guy?” (Angie)

“Yes, I do. Angie, you are still inexperienced, so I think you don’t understand, but Shuuya-san should be more acquainted with **blood** than you.” (Paulsen)

Nu? Acquainted with **blood**, he says!?

Do they maybe know that I’m a type of vampire?

Is he pointing out the fact of me being a bloodsucker?

Or, is that a jargon for being skilled at killing?

“Eh? Papa, you are saying that he’s Papa’s kinsman?” (Angie)

Angie is speaking with an expression full of surprise.

She moves her face and line of sight to compare the faces of Paulsen and me.

Oi, oi, come again? Paulsen’s kinsman?

If I remember correctly, Paulsen’s house name was Valmask.

“...No, he’s not my kinsman. Thus, why does Shuuya-san carry the **smell of blood**? I wanted to know the reason.” (Paulsen)

Paulsen asks directing the question not only at Angie but to me as well.

A-Aah... I remember.

I recalled the words of that beautiful vampire hunter.

What was the name of that fellow again? Anyway, it should be the Valmask house that the vampire hunter pursued.

Umm, the name of that hunter is...

Nora. It’s Nora Eagbayn.

Just like Angie’s family name, Eagbayn.

That means...

Is the family name of this blue-haired girl the same by chance?

Still, Angie's and Nora's hair colors are different.

No, even so, there's a limit to coincidences.

Nora spoke about her younger sister.

Is Angie possibly Nora's sister?

Is that why she was nearby at that time?

...Surveying the vicinity, I activate Grasping Perception in a casual manner.

Those in the surroundings are normal.

Will that vampire hunter Nora suddenly appear here or something like that?

It doesn't look like it will turn into such a drama-like... heated development.

There's only guests who keep having meals and friendly chats.

Should I use <Inhalation of Odour Technique> to add fuel to the fire?

Let's stop here. Currently I'm listening to their story.

{Your Excellency— these two are cladding their entire bodies in mana and they have plenty of mana, too. Please be careful, I think the woman has adopted a stance allowing her to start combat at any time.} (Helme)

Helme commented while dancing in a corner of my visionary field.

{I know. Helme, thanks for always.} (Shuuya)

{Yes. Thank you very much.} (Helme)

Helme vanishes from my sight.

Once again I looked at Paulsen.

Even when I inserted a long break of silence, his calm manner hasn't fallen apart.

Contrary to Angie, it appears that he doesn't want to have a hostile relationship with me.

"...Smell of blood?" (Shuuya)

Since there had been a break, I deliberately tried to play stupid.

"Shuuya-san, *I'd like you to not underestimate us* too much." (Paulsen)

Whoa, I take back what I just said.

Alongside those provoking words of Paulsen, the atmosphere of the inn also changed...

There's a honed bloodthirst from one, two, no... even more people besides the two in front of me, huh...?

Haha, nice work...

It looks like the members of the dark guild concealed themselves in the vicinity.

Those damned fellows are blending in between the guests that are happily eating their meals while cutting bloodthirst loose here and there.

Perchance, are those guys [Remains of the Moon]'s Moon Remnants?

Even though there's a crowd of other normal guests in the inn...

But, if they are eager for a fight, I will take up the gauntlet.

"...I'm not particularly making light of anyone. If you still want to have a go— I don't really mind, you know?" (Shuuya)

Alongside that remark loaded with bloodthirst, I deliberately released a large amount of mana differing from my bloodthirst and Grasping Perception.

Rollo is taking a stroll right now.

Thus, even if I pick a fight, I have to finish them off by myself, I guess.

I got ready to allow me using the chains, magic, light spears, magic hand guided by thought, the Magic Halberd, and throwing at any time.

“W-What did you say?” (Paulsen)

“— Kya, Papa, this guy is all pumped up!” (Angie)

Angie, who immediately felt the mana, says while bending her body backwards.

Paulsen was surprised as well.

It should be quite ordinary mana though?

Paulsen’s composure fell apart.

I speak while examining their state.

“Err? I’m— just sitting though?” (Shuuya)

I adopt a banzai pose by raising both my arms.

“— Kuh!” (Angie)

Upon the nonchalant act of raising my arms, Angie overreacts.

She leaps away from her seat to get some distance.

“The ones who released bloodthirst first was your side, right?” (Shuuya)

I say coolly while lowering my arms.

Paulsen’s expression becomes stiff, but he’s still sitting on his chair.

“So, is that it for the old-friends-game?” (Shuuya)

“...Sorry. It was our blunder. We don’t want to fight against you.” (Paulsen)

Paulsen’s previous attitude was apparently fake.

But,

“The girl over there seems to have a different opinion though?” (Shuuya)

Angie has drawn the blue longsword that was affixed to her waist and took up a combat stance.

It’s something I have seen before. The unsheathed, special longsword’s blue blade is vibrating and made a pleasant-feeling, high-pitched tone of \*kiiin\*.

“Angie, put away the weapon.” (Paulsen)

“Papa, this guy’s dangerous! You felt the mana just now, didn’t you?” (Angie)

At that moment an enraged Helme appears in my field of vision.

{Your Excellency, will you permit me to submerge this fussy, little pest in water?} (Helme)

Whaaa! Scary!

{N-No, leave her alone.} (Shuuya)

{I understand... } (Helme)

Helme disappears while looking disappointed.

But the eyes of Helme, who showed up for just an instant, were dangerous... her bluish black eyes glared hard, and became bloodshot to the point of blood streaming.

Honestly, my spine froze.

“...I’m telling you to put it away because it’s fine.” (Paulsen)

“Ah, yes...” (Angie)

Following Paulsen’s strict words, Angie stores the weapon in its sheath.

Well then, I can imagine the answer, but let’s make him say it?

“So, I wonder, can I have you **clearly** state the meaning of smell of blood?” (Shuuya)

“...Yes, so, Shuuya-san, you are a vampire, right?” (Paulsen)

It's a fairly straight punch.

Doesn't he care about the surrounding looks?

I think vampires are a subjugation target for adventurers... I survey the vicinity, but there don't seem to be any guest looking this way or listening in on us.

Although I believe them to be guests, but are all of them actually people of the dark guild?

However, my race is Light Demon Lucival.

To be precise, I'm not a vampire, but...

Oh well, I guess I will advance the talk by getting on with his assumption...

"...Why do you think so?" (Shuuya)

"It's because I'm a **clansman of a branch house** that directly sprung forth from the **Valmask House**, one of the Twelve <sup>Vampire Lords</sup> Founding Clans who joined the flow of the founder. That's why I immediately know about the smell of blood. I knew **since long ago** that you are always carrying something that **contains blood**, Shuuya-san. Besides, you used <sup>Pheromone's Touch</sup> <Inhalation of Odour Technique> several, several ten, no... several hundred times in that city, right?" (Paulsen)

Sheesh, as expected of a vampire, eh?

Does he originate from the place that seems to be the vampire's head temple, the Valmask house?

He knows about the skill <sup>Pheromone's Touch</sup> <Inhalation of Odour Technique>...

"You were aware of it up to this extent? I certainly used that skill." (Shuuya)

"Indeed, that skill is so-to-say a marking indicating the turf of a vampire. It's equal to displaying one's own power to other blood-sucking races, therefore..." (Paulsen)

Ah damn, I messed up. So that's how it was?

But, there's no way for me to know about such a vampire rule.

“That’s why, Shuuya-san, I’d like you to tell me your real name. Currently it should be impossible in this South Mahaheim area for vampires to be born, except at the Valmask main and branch houses.” (Paulsen)

Paulsen’s eyes are tinged with indifference, but he uses a serious tone that befits a well-mannered gentleman.

It would also be fine to tell him the truth, but even if I tell him the exact details, he will probably not believe me, so I will dodge the issue as fits.

“...My name has been this name since a long time ago. To be honest, I absolutely don’t know about such or such house. I simply heard the name of the Valmask house from a vampire hunter, our natural enemy, when I was attacked by her.” (Shuuya)

“A vampire hunter that knows of the Valmask house...” (Paulsen)

Paulsen mumbles while obviously letting his dread ooze out.

“...You did well to survive and come back, didn’t you?” (Angie)

Angie shows her unrest by gulping down with her throat.

Mmh? There should be more than plenty of adventuring vampire hunters.

That means a professional vampire hunter is a troublesome existence to the extent of making Paulsen scared. Normal adventurers don’t compare with them much?

Nora Eagbayn, who attacked me by mistake, might have been first class as vampire hunter.

“...I dodged her skilfully, indeed. So, about my house lineage; my father and mother died when I was still small to begin with. I don’t know about our history. Maybe, just as you say, I’m originating from a different region.” (Shuuya)

Most of it is a fabricated, imaginary story.

But, it’s true that my parents have died.

Therefore it’s not that wrong.



“...Is that so? In that case you might be from a distant branch house of the Valmask house or a house lineage besides them. Having said that... besides the main house, no other house but the founding Pylon House in the distant southern major power Sevenfolia comes to mind...” (Paulsen)

The southern major power Sevenfolia?

I hear of it for the first time. I guess it's a quite distant country?

Rather than that, I will ask a trivial question to the spiky, blue-haired Angie.

“Who knows? Even if you lecture me with some unknown house lineages, it won't become clear to me. Putting that aside, Angie, you are Paulsen's <follower>, aren't you?” (Shuuya)

“Yeah, but what's up with you casually addressing me without honorifics!” (Angie)

Angie complains with a small voice.

“— It is as you say. Angie is the one <follower> with whom I shared my blood.” (Paulsen)

Once Paulsen calmly mentions that in a gentleman's manner, Angie's attitude up until now completely changes and shows an unspeakably, overflowing smile.

She gazed at Paulsen's refined face while revealing an entranced expression.

It's mortifying but adorable.

“...You have only one <follower>?” (Shuuya)

“You are asking something strange, you know? That's only natural.” (Paulsen)

Huh, for me it's different.

As my <Suzerain of Household> can have three <followers>.

Despite being a type of vampire, it seems different.

“Sorry. There was no closely-related vampire near me...” (Shuuya)

I intended to phrase it casually, but Paulsen, who heard my words, suddenly stares at me with a compassionate look.

It's the weird look of a mother, no, father.

"...I see, that means you haven't received any education as a vampire... you don't **understand** the true nature of the blood magic's **blood mana** apart from the skill, do you?" (Paulsen)

I have learned blood mana as skill, but certainly, I still don't grasp it fully.

"— Wait a moment, is that story really true?"

It's not Angie's voice.

I turn my sight towards the location from where I heard the voice.

Huh? The maid Iriel is standing there?

"Ve-, n-no, Iriel-san, shouldn't it have been entrusted to me to get in contact here?" (Paulsen)

Paulsen looks at the maid Iriel and is unusually discomposed.

It looked like he made a mistake about her name.

"Excuse me. But, I'm reeeally interested in him..." (Iriel)

Talking like that while licking her lips, Iriel approaches me.

"Iriel, stop it. I told you that it's not allowed at this place, didn't I?"

The one who stopped Iriel was the landlady Mel.

Mel swiftly moves behind the girl.

She grabs the shoulder of the girl and holds her back.

Because the long, slender and well-proportioned legs of the landlady are clad in thick mana, she's quick.

“— Shuuya-san, good evening. And, Paulsen, Angie, I’m sorry, but from here on I will handle it with the original method of [Remains of the Moon]. Also, since this place here is inconvenient, I wonder— whether the three of you can come to the back?” (Mel)

The landlady Mel says in a calm tone.

She turns her face away and looks at a door located in the right back of the dining room with a sidelong glance.

It looks like she’s telling us to go there.

“Me too~?” (Iriel)

Iriel asks Mel with a childish expression.

“I think that’s only natural, now come, follow me.” (Mel)

“Yees~. Ufufu.” (Iriel)

Iriel looks at me, laughs and walks towards the door.

She’s a child, but her burning gaze was slightly scary.

Does that mean that the landlady Mel and the girl Iriel are members of [Remains of the Moon]?

Aah, that’s why Iriel said something with such profound meaning at the time when I chose this inn, I suppose...

{Your Excellency, are you going to follow them?} (Helme)

{That’s my intention. If it turns into a battle, it’s fine for you to look for an opportunity and then jump out from my eye.} (Shuuya)

{Yes. Please leave it to me.} (Helme)

I follow as I’m guided by Mel while communicating with Helme through telepathy.

Once I open the door that was in the back of the dining room, I am greeted by a spiral staircase leading below.

Paulsen and Angie go downstairs first.

“We are going below?” (Shuuya)

“Correct. We don’t plan on doing anything to you. Come in.” (Mel)

The inn’s landlady Mel says so, but...

Well, I guess I will go forward? I descend the stairs.

At the end of the stairway there’s a narrow passage. Paulsen and Angie wait at a big door.

Mel and Iriel proceed to that door and start fiddling with the two-moon object that was the door’s decoration as if turning a clock with clattering sounds.

A dial lock, huh?

In the end, at the moment when something that was a large moon broke down into pieces within the two-moon object, the lock opens up while making a clanking sound.

The big door, which is similar to a bank’s safe door, causes a heavy sound and naturally opens.

An underground space spreads out beyond the door.

“Come on, enter.” (Mel)

Mel’s words echo in the open space.

While nodding, I go through the door and enter the underground space.

A dry air with no wind.

And, it’s neither wide nor narrow.

A round table and chairs that seem to be used to hold conferences are placed in a slight depression in the centre.

There’s a statue modelled after a white cat at the deep ceiling. It is a round magic light source with its figure being covered by one paw.

The unique illumination shines throughout the circular underground room.

Smithing tools are placed at the rock wall on the left side as if surrounding the depressed, central area. Big shelves, which have bulky medicinal plants and vials apparently used in alchemy stacked up, are lining up along the wall in rows.

At the wall in the back a statue of a goddess, which wore a crown of thorns like Christ on her head, had been created by carving it out from the rock wall.

She holds two moon gems in her hands and is hoisting them up towards heaven.

On the left and right of the goddess statue there are dark holes continuing further down underground.

The right outer edge has an ascending ledge stairway. Since it's continuing towards a protruding space that looks like a lookout, there apparently are still many more passages beyond that.

But, for such hideout-like place to exist in the basement of the inn...

"...I wonder whether you could sit down?" (Mel)

Following Mel's words, Angie and Paulsen sit down on chairs next to the table in the centre.

As I was told, I approach the table with its beautiful green tablecloth and sit down on a chair with a back that was crafted out of wood.

# CHAPTER 114

## DARK GUILD [REMAINS OF THE MOON]

*T/N: Short note about the speech style of some characters appearing in this chapter: Veronika is a self-important, flamboyant character that talks quite colloquially. Benett is a boyish character using manly words as woman in a rough manner.*

---

Suspicious looking characters, likely fellow members of Mel and Iriel's dark guild, each appear from different passages.

One of them is a person with a large build that looks like a cook, and possesses a leopard head.

Another has scaled skin on their face which is covered by the hood of the robe they are wearing.

A female light warrior with longish ears and blonde hair, who carries a unique-looking bow.

Belatedly a white cat accompanied by a black cat appear as well...

Huh? Or rather, when I say 「Rollo?」, Rollo purrs,

“Nn, nyao.”

and then jumps off the top of the ledge stairway as if flying through the air.

She lands on the round table.

As she briskly walks with small steps on top of the table, she returns to my shoulder.

“Rollo, you came to this place as well?” (Shuuya)

Rollo taps my shoulder once with her paw as if saying “Correct, what about it?”

“Magit, come over here.”

The white cat approaches Iriel, who called its name, while walking elegantly.

I guess she’s Rollo’s new friend?

The white cat is similar to a pet cat.

There is a collar with something like a round, emerald jewel on the cat’s neck.

{Your Excellency, I feel an enormous amount of mana from that emerald jewel.} (Helme)

Helme, who appears in my field of view, quickly warns me.

{You are right. I didn’t notice due to the cat’s cuteness. Well done, Helme.} (Shuuya)

{I’m happy to be of service to you! Do you wish to see my new pose of delight?} (Helme)

Her spirit-like figure has already taken a <sup>New Jojo Pose</sup> peculiar pose which exhibits her small butt with its blue, leafy skin and soft elasticity... I can’t even retort anymore.

{... No, well, let’s do that another time.} (Shuuya)

{Okay.} (Helme)

While I’m having a weird exchange with Helme,

“...Magit, you befriended that black cat properly?” (Iriel)

“ ... ”

Iriel lifts up the white cat with both her hands and starts to talk to it, but the white cat stares into Iriel’s face in a sullen manner, though it probably doesn’t mean that it’s in a bad mood.

And, since it seems to dislike being lifted up, it averts its face, gets away from Iriel after wriggling with its paws and jumps on top of the table.

She goes away while throwing a glance at Rollo.

“Geez, stupid Magit.” (Iriel)

“— Leader, what’s the reason for calling us?”

As if ignoring the fooling around of Iriel and the white cat Magit, the person with the leopard head, who’s wearing an apron, faces Mel and asks that question.

Mel is the leader?

Then it means that the inn’s landlady is the guild leader of [Remains of the Moon]?

Like a leader, Mel looks at everyone and opens her mouth,

“Kazun, sorry for disturbing you during work, okay? The reason why I called all of you is because I want to introduce you to this person—” (Mel)

While Mel says so, her demeanour softens, she calmly stretches out her arms and points her gaze at me.

“This person is Shuuya-san, **that lancer** who became a rumor in the underground world a little while ago.” (Mel)

Due to her stressing the word **lancer**, the gazes of all the members present focussed on me.

A gossip in the underground world, huh?

“Hoo...”

The person with the scaled skin mutters while staring at me with a sharp glint in their eyes.

That look from below their hood is eerie.

It’s completely a look of appraisal.

“This guy has...”

Even the leopard-headed cook checks me out while muttering this short comment.



Somehow, you know...

I am spontaneously introduced to a weird bunch, but I wonder, what is those guy's objective? An invitation to Remains of the Moon or such?

"So, I wonder, do you have some kind of business with me?" (Shuuya)

"I only wanted to introduce you to everyone. But as for Veronika..." (Mel)

Veronika?

Mel looks at the little girl Iriel as if waiting for something.

This employee's real name isn't Iriel but Veronika?

"Yeah, I do have business with you. At first I left it to Paulsen and Angie, but... after hearing your conversation from the shadows, I got really, really interested in you. That's why I wanted to talk a lot more with you, you know? Although I was stopped by Mel, I can't hold back my urge—" (Veronika)

Saying that, blood spills out and she suddenly transforms?

Abruptly at the end of her sentence, Veronika shapeshifted.

The hair ornament of roses which she wore as a girl changes into a peculiar hair style.

Her appearance also changes from the classic lolita waitress outfit to her being clad in a black gothic mini dress that seems to be made out of velvet.

Her eyelashes grow long and the reddish tinge of her cheeks increases. Her rouge lips glitter brightly with a nice, glossy lustre.

It brought about an allure.

Even the shoes she's wearing turn into small, bright red heel boots, just like her hair ornament of roses and her lips.

The girl stands on top of the table while revealing an ecstatic expression.

It was a quick transformation. It happened in the instant her red blood was released.



That girl draws closer while making a clicking sound that reverberates with her heels as she walks on the table.

{Your Excellency, do we attack her?} (Helme)

Helme is the same as ever.

{No, I think it's fine since since there's no bloodthirst. We will wait and see what happens.} (Shuuya)

{Yes.} (Helme)

The surrounding people also watch in silence.

Once Veronika stops in front of me, she pushes out her face, sniffs with her small nostrils and inhales my scent.

"Wheee, how strong... a male's blood. Moreover, stronger than that of a founder. A pureblood's purity. An excellent scent." (Veronika)

Strong... she looks like a pervert, doesn't she?

For the time being, let's ask her about her name.

"Your name isn't Iriel? Just now you were called Veronika." (Shuuya)

"Yeah. My real name is Veronika. Iriel is my name as the inn's employee, okay? Once again, best regards, Shuuya." (Veronika)

Once she introduces herself like that, Veronika takes a little distance from me and smiles pleasantly, just like a girl.

While in that state, she grabs the edges of her black dress on top of the table and makes a courteous bow befitting of a lady.

Let's greet her without taking any risks?

"Alright, please take care of me." (Shuuya)

"Fufu, so, a while ago you said that you don't know about blood magic, but is that really

true?" (Veronika)

Somehow I got the feeling that she's making fun of me.

"That's correct." (Shuuya)

"So it was true, eh? Then, then, I will teach you about **blood magic**, and in exchange, how about you joining our dark guild [Remains of the Moon]~?" (Veronika)

She will teach me? This child is a vampire?

The magic that changed her clothes just now is nice. I guess that's how it is after all.

Certainly, I believe that I will be able to become much stronger if I learn blood magic. But I don't want my freedom to be restricted by entering a dark guild.

For now, I will put on hold whether it's good or bad to join them and bring up the topic with Paulsen.

"I guess you talked to me with the same intention, Paulsen?" (Shuuya)

"No, my intention for talking with you was to try asking for your cooperation rather than inviting you, but..." (Paulsen)

Paulsen says while faintly moving his curly mustache and looks awkwardly at the face of the leader and landlady Mel.

Noticing Paulsen's look, Mel begins to speak while smiling bitterly as she apparently guesses his sentiment.

"...Oh well, since Paulsen and Angie were your acquaintances, I asked them to negotiate with you." (Mel)

"Though I did oppose cooperating with you, let alone inviting you." (Angie)

Angie squints her eyes and looks at me.

I could clearly sense the rage overflowing from her gaze.

"Just wait a moment? Right now I'm the one doing the direct negotiations!" (Veronika)

On top of the table Veronika stamps her foot slightly unsuitably for a woman.

But can this childish girl really teach me blood magic?

“To begin with, are you actually able to teach me blood magic?” (Shuuya)

“Fufu~n. You don’t even know that, do you? You have a nice scent, thus I will make an exception and tell you, Shuuya. Since long ago, it’s a standard practise for the relatives of a vampire to teach them about blood magic, you know. I’d say, they take care of the vampire’s studies from the blood flow manipulation of the first, second and third gate up to the creation of a unique skill.” (Veronika)

Blood flow manipulation? Hee, I see.

This child seems to be a vampire after all.

“Ah, this look, are you doubting me? That’s definitely not allowed! Making light of me due to my appearance is nooo good. Even though I might look like this, I’m an offspring of a Valmask branch house that is much older than that of Paulsen, alright? I don’t really want to talk about my age much, but... I have passed more than 300 years! You might consider me to be of equal rank with a founder.” (Veronika)

Whoaa, what a surprise! An old loli, eh?

In contrast to that, she acts quite comically.

She said that she doesn’t want to say it, but hasn’t she actually mentioned her age by herself?

Though, since I can’t say that,

“...Is that so? You have me surprised.” (Shuuya)

“Right? But don’t tell other people about it. It’s a secret, okay?” (Veronika)

Veronika winks.

“...Alright, got it.” (Shuuya)

Veronika nods and performs a tap dance on top of the table while crossing her legs

and jumping slightly.

“— Fufu! And then, then...” (Veronika)

She flexibly moves her small limbs and adopts a pose while flaunting the curve of her bent-back waist.

From such seductive, distinctive stance she turns her small face in my direction.

“— Will you enter our [Remains of the Moon]?” (Veronika)

She asked with a sweet voice.

“To be honest, I’d like to be taught blood magic. But, I’m an adventurer. I don’t have any intention to join a dark guild. Though I might consider if it’s just cooperation as mentioned by Paulsen.” (Shuuya)

When she hears my words, Veronika suddenly stops dancing and links her arms just like that.

“Huumph.” (Veronika)

Expressing that, she stares my way with her cheeks puffing out in discontent.

“I’m fine with that. Veronika, you don’t mind, do you? There will probably be many chances to invite him from now on, right?” (Mel)

Gently persuading Veronika, Mel talks while showing an expression similar to that of a mother.

“Yeah, if Mel says so, we will do just that.” (Veronika)

Veronika consents obediently.

Veronika’s appearance is that of a little girl, but does she have a parent-child relationship with Mel?

Veronika is 300 years old... in that case, Mel’s a vampire? Or a simple acquaintance? I don’t really get the nature of their relationship.

It looks like Mel is giving the orders, but there were also times when it felt as if Veronika's right to speak is above Mel's.

"...Veronika, you are a good child. Then, Shuuya-san, it's fine for me to judge that you will be cooperating with our Remains of the Moon, isn't it?" (Mel)

I believe that I told them that I would think about it though,

"Wait. Even if you call it **cooperation**, I'd like to refrain from following your guys' orders. I believe you know about it from the rumors about me, but my destiny is tied with [Owl's Fangs]. I'm pretty sure that it will result in a fight against them in the near future. So we can have a talk if this takes the shape of a **cooperation** with [Remains of the Moon] in this conflict." (Shuuya)

Hearing my words, Mel agrees humbly.

"Indeed, of course we won't do something like giving you orders. There's no problem with our **cooperation** taking the shape you mentioned. I'd like to say that it's give-and-take, but, I guess it's rather at the level of us wanting to help you with your fateful connection with them. We have an ongoing dispute concerning the Flavor Block with [Owl's Fangs], and there are also other parties fighting against them in other blocks." (Mel)

Mel says so with a smile and words that show her conviction.

A turf war, huh?

"Understood. Then I'd like you to let me use the inn here normally from now on as well." (Shuuya)

"That's only natural. I have accepted your money after all, Shuuya-san. Although we are a dark guild, this place is an inn, you know? Ah, also, since I didn't introduce our members present here, I will catch up on that now. The largely-built, leopard man <sup>Sebaka</sup> over there is our cook. His name is Kazun. He's a top-notch warrior and his skills as a cook are first-class as well." (Mel)

He is proudly introduced by Mel.

This huge leopard man's race seems to be called Sebaka.

The leopard man with the name Kazun stands up and opens his beastly mouth.

“Dear guest, please treat me favorably. Since I’m always in the kitchen, come there if there’s something I can help you with. I will also keep you company if you got free time.” (Kazun)

This grim beastman is the cook?

His dishes are definitely delicious.

Let’s greet him suitably.

“Please treat me well on that occasion.” (Shuuya)

“Next, the one wearing a robe next to Kazun is an alchemist and maji\* tamer of the <sup>Karamnian</sup> scaled people. His name is Zeeta.” (Mel) (T/N: 蠱... something that bewilders or leads astray)

Mel next introduces the person possessing a scaly skin.

His race appears to be called Karamnian.

It seems that he’s not a lizardman or such.

“Thank you for giving me an introduction. I’m always staying in a room of this underground headquarters. Raising maji, I’m allowed to use Veronika-san’s bone servants and repeatedly perform drug experiments. If it’s about using various potions, I will sell them cheaply to you.” (Zeeta)

As might be expected from a maji tamer, a locust-like demon is perched on a shoulder of his robe.

“Zeeta-san, it is. Got it.” (Shuuya)

“The one sitting opposite of him is an elven thief and light warrior. She possesses the nickname of **Shadow Archer**. She’s mainly in charge of reconnaissance and her name is Benett.” (Mel)

“How weird. He ain’t no newcomer, rite? Gotta greet him?” (Benett)



The elfen woman called Benett takes a haughty attitude.

She responds as if it seems to be a bother for her.

“Benett?”

Mel stares at the elf with half-opened eyes as if scolding her.

“Gotcha. As leader said, I’m a light warrior. My strengths lie in spying, scouting, archery, lock-picking and trap-discovery. Also, I’m somewhat capable of appraising items.” (Benett)

Hee, a light warrior that can use archery, huh? Her name’s Benett.

She’s a boyish blonde with a unkempt, ruffled hair style.

Her face is rectangular with her cheekbones growing out to the side, she has eyes that look slanting and an aquiline nose, but I suppose it’s a moderately well-featured face.

Her figure looks agile and she’s wearing a jacket that had throwing knives equipped.

She looks like a skillful woman.

Let’s give her a gentlemanly bow and greeting just in case.

“Please treat me well, Benett-san. You are a skillful woman, aren’t you?” (Shuuya)

“Bwha\*, Benett “san” he says...” (Veronika) *(T/N: Short burst of laughter)*

Saying that, Veronika points at Benett and laughs.

“Vero-chin? You find my name ridiculous?” (Benett)

“Noo, sorry, okay? However, it’s the first time for someone to call you like that, Bene-ane! It was somewhat funny.” (Veronika)

“Humph, even I got startled. Treatin’ a woman like me just like a noble lady... seems stupid. Well then, looks like the introductions are finished now. I will go back to my previous cleaning of the **trash outside!** (Benett)

For some reason she got mad and left this place with swift movements.

“I’m sorry. Because Benett always behaves like this...” (Mel)

Mel shows a troubled expression as she says those words.

Well then, I wonder whether they will let me go back to my room before troubling me with even more stuff.

“No, not at all, I don’t mind after all. I’d like to go back soon as well.” (Shuuya)

“Is that so? Then go back from the place where we entered.” (Mel)

I readily got their approval.

It looks like it’s fine to go back now.

Then I guess I will accept their offer and excuse myself for leaving first.

“Yes, pardon me for leaving.” (Shuuya)

I face everyone and after bidding farewell with a light bow, I turn on my heels and leave the room.

Advancing through the short passage with Rollo on my shoulder, I climb the spiral stairway I descended previously.

I come back to the inn’s dining room.

It’s peaceful as the number of guests has decreased.

Only several guests amusing themselves with a card game are left behind.

While peeking at their hands, I cross the dining room, go up the stairs close to the entrance door and hurry to my room.

As soon as I return to the room, Rollo jumps on the bed.

She plays by jumping around as usual.

You still love doing that, don't you?

Gazing at the figure of Rollo adorably jumping up and down in a frantic manner while smiling, I take off my overcoat and remove my armor as well.

In the end I got carried away with the flow and formed a collaborative relationship with [Remains of the Moon], but I guess that's fine?

Well, what will be will be?

After changing into my leather clothes, I throw myself on the bed just like that.

I will look at my skills and take a break at the same time.

[Status]

**Name:** Shuuya Kagari

**Age:** 22

**Title:** Super-Warrior of the Water Goddess

**Race:** Light Demon Lucival

**Combat Occupation:** Magic Spear Darkness Warrior – Chain User

**Strength:** 21.1

**Agility:** 22.1

**Stamina:** 20.1

**Mana:** 25.9

**Dexterity:** 20.0

**Spirit:** 26.9

**Luck:** 11.2

**Current Status:** Calm

If I leave luck out, my parameters exceeded 20 in average.

At that point, I shut my eyes...

I'm woken up from my drifting into sleep by the presence of a magic source.

Mmh, the door's opening quietly?

"Oi, who's there?" (Shuuya)

"Ah, I was found out? Hehe~." (Veronika)

How fake. It's Veronika.

"What do you want?" (Shuuya)

"Yeah, why did you refuse my invitation a while ago?" (Veronika)

Haa, this girl, she's deliberately asking even though she's aware of it, isn't she?

Man, close the damned door.

Good grief, I got mixed up with a weirdo...

"...I told you before as well, didn't you listen to me? I hate being ordered around! I-h-a-t-e-i-t. Do you understand?\* Did you understand?" (Shuuya) *(T/N: Do you understand? in English)*

Since she's obstinate, I emphasise it in English unintentionally.

"Fufu, you are using some strange words there, but don't be so irritated. But, you know, I'd like you to properly understand my real intention, alright...? Well, you can also say that it's Paulsen's intention as well, but..." (Veronika)

Veronika approaches while talking suggestively.

"Mmh? What do you mean?" (Shuuya)

Saying that, I get up.

"For a vampire the act of teaching someone blood magic also carries the meaning of being family, having a deep affection, friendship, love and such. That's why Paulsen's servant, Angie, was so irritated. You understand, right?" (Veronika)

Ah, a sort of... jealousy?

That's the reason why Angie interacted with me while being irritated, huh?

But, I don't really need love from a man. It's limited to beautiful women.

"I didn't know that. If it's an emotion besides love, I will be honestly happy. I would be grateful, but in your case, you put up a condition like *Won't you join our dark guild?*,

right?" (Shuuya)

"I said so previously, but it doesn't matter anymore. Currently it's just us **two**. I want to talk with you as an individual with no relation to [Remains of the Moon]."  
(Veronika)

Oh, now she revised it.

Not like I particularly mind though.

"Then I don't mind at all. So, what do you want to talk about?" (Shuuya)

"Oki. It's a question, but why are you as a vampire doing something like being an adventurer, Shuuya? I'm not sure what you heard in the labyrinth city, but from our point of view, they are natural enemies at the same level as vampire hunters, right?"  
(Veronika)

Certainly, there are such adventurer requests.

But, if I tell her that I'm no real vampire, I wonder, will she believe that I'm saying the truth...?

Oh well, I suppose I will explain.

"...Let's see. It's difficult to speak about, but I'm not exactly a vampire." (Shuuya)

"W-What was that?" (Veronika)

When she heard that, both of Veronika's eyes became red and veins surfaced at the outer corners of her eyes.

Fangs grow out of her mouth.

It's an expression befitting a vampire, but I can also sense unrest in it.

"A lie, it's a lie! I won't be deceived. This strong smell makes me recall the pure-blooded quality of a founder. For this smell to not belong to a vampire is absolutely impossible!"  
(Veronika)

Veronika strongly denies my words.

“Well, even if you say that...” (Shuuya)

“I mean, this smell is... definitely a scent resembling m-my **Slot-otousan**...!” (Veronika)  
(T/N: left the otousan (dad) here cause changing it sounds weird, but it's the same dad in the next line)

Is she confusing me with her dad?

“...I'm really not a vampire. But, I guess I have to regularly take in blood just like you and your friends, Veronika. Will it be easier to understand, if I call myself a vampire half?” (Shuuya)

“I see... so you are a dhampir, right?” (Veronika)

No, in reality it's different, but should I really name myself with the race Lucival?

“To be precise, it's something else. My race is Lucival.” (Shuuya)

“Huumph, what's that? I can't believe you.” (Veronika)

I'm sure you can't.

“If you don't trust me, I guess we end it at this point. Please get out.” (Shuuya)

“Wait, if you allow me to drink your blood, this strong blood... then I will believe you.” (Veronika)

Whoa, I guess only a vampire is forthcoming like that.

I don't mind allowing her to drink it, but I have the light attribute, don't I?

If I let a vampire of darkness drink my blood, it will develop into something serious...

The other party is one of the leaders of a dark guild.

If I end up injuring her, I might get stuck with fighting against everyone of this dark guild, no?

Besides, the matter of me possessing the light attribute, which is one of my advantages, will come to the open as well, won't it...?

I don't want that.

"It's not allowed." (Shuuya)

"Why!? It's not like you lose anything—" (Veronika)

Saying so, Veronika came trying to cling to my arm.

I swiftly avoid her by rotating my feet on top of the bed as if doing a break dance.

"— Wait, wait, do you want to get injured?" (Shuuya)

"Injury? Me, a vampire? To dislike it to such an extent, how weird. What are you hiding?" (Veronika)

Haa, it can't be helped...



At that time, in the basement of the same inn.

Benett, who finished her work, suddenly appears out of the shadows.

At the same time the magic candle of the candle stand that's placed on the table reacts. Its swaying brightness was able to completely lighten up the face of the guild leader of [Remains of the Moon], Mel.

Mel opens her mouth.

"Welcome back, Benett. So which organization's trash did he bring along?" (Mel)

Benett answers while wiping her blood-stained dagger with a leather cloth.

"...It was an unusual group. They covered themselves with **white fox masks**. It's the first time for these guys to invade our turf, isn't it?" (Benett)

"If we speak of white fox masks, it's the **war foxes** who are followers of the [Asura Religious Organization], I think?" (Mel)

While putting the knife into her chest belt, Benett nimbly placed her waist with a

“Alley-hop” on top of the table and addressed Mel while twisting her body.

“— That’s them, I guess. According to common knowledge, they are one of the guard groups of [Eight Lights]. Usually they are a group that won’t meddle in such conflicts and rather stand on the side of arbitration. Mel, don’t you think that it has become slightly suspicious?” (Benett)

Benett lifts one eyebrow and speaks.

Upon that question, Mel crosses her arms, displays a pose of thinking and then opens her mouth.

“...Let’s see. Diviner Kazane of the [Asura Religious Organization]. The one behind her is one of the [Eight Lights], Adolian who leads the [Assembly of Stars]. But, I don’t understand why he would meddle with **him** who’s a mere adventurer, albeit a skillful one. Adolian’s dark guild [Assembly of Stars] has its stronghold in [Elephant God City Regeepick] located in the western imperial domain. No matter how renowned [Eight Lights] might be, in the end they are no more than a nominal organization for the two days concerning the underground auction. No way! Are they genuinely expanding to this [Labyrinth City Pelneet]? I wonder whether they intend to create a new turf...” (Mel)

Befitting a guild leader commanding a dark guild, Mel tries to investigate the war foxes’ reasoning for behaving like this from their background.

“I wonder about that. Or they caught sight of pursuers, who might have followed the lancer besides the war foxes, by chance? I can think of [Owl’s Fangs] or the master spies of the thief guild [Gate of Dark Evil]. But, hell, these guys never invaded our turf directly...” (Benett)

Mel nods at Benett’s information, and rearranging her long, seductive legs which she stretched out smoothly, she starts to speak.

“Apart from it being reasonable for [Owl’s Fangs] who are shaky after suffering a hard blow, [Gate of Dark Evil] might feel uneasy as well. They are a major thief guild, thus they are probably desperate to obtain information about **him**.” (Mel)

“Mel, you really intend to add him, err, **the lancer and the black cat** to our friends?” (Benett)



Upon Benett's question, the guild leader Mel shifts her eyebrows faintly in a manner of asking "Is it unexpected?"

"Indeed. Are you against it, Benett?" (Mel)

"No, I always welcome strong guys. However, despite being a single adventurer, he's making too many enemies. For him to not only have connections with [Owl's Fangs], but even [Asura Religious Organization] and [Assembly of Stars], possibly he might have plenty of other enemies besides those. There might exist a deep darkness around that **lancer**, no?" (Benett)

Once she finishes her words, she pushes out her rectangular chin that was fully pointed at Mel as if stressing her point.

"I know. But, even though you call it darkness, the person himself is an inhabitant of a deep darkness at the level of charming Veronika, right? Fufu." (Mel)

Mel separates her crossed arms, lifts the corners of her mouth and smiles happily.

"Mel! You know I wasn't joking around, don't you?" (Benett)

Benett's look was filled with anger.

Seemingly filling her neck with power, the muscles become visible.

"I'm well aware of that! It's alright. Even if not only [Owl's Fangs], but also the [Asura Religious Organization] of the [Assembly of Stars] and other dark guilds became our enemies for example, we have the special Magit and Veronika, who's called **Shinigami of Fresh Blood**, among us [Remains of the Moon]." (Mel)

"Putting aside Magit, hmm, you mean that Vero-chin? That child is certainly close to invincible, but she has weak points too, you know? You should also include **Mel the Flash**, who's in front of me, in that lineup, shouldn't you?" (Benett)

"**Benett the Shadow Archer** too, right?" (Mel)

Due to Mel's words, Benett acts as if she feels embarrassed and averts her eyes.

"...I-I'm not someone that significant. Well then, I will go check the perimeter—" (Benett)

Benett vanishes in an instant.

“Ah— geez, she’s fast, that’s why... the nickname of Flash probably fits Benett better.”  
(Mel)

# CHAPTER 115

## BLOOD MAGIC AWAKENING

“I won’t care even if you get injured, okay?”

I summon the Cursed Sword Beat into my left hand while pressuring her with my glare.

Its naked, dark red blade shines.

I press the cursed sword’s point against the skin of my left forearm and gently cut the skin until close to the wrist.

Blood trickled down from the slit in the shape of a red line.

The top of the bed is dyed with bloodstains as the blood drips down.

“Nyao, nya~o.”

Seeing blood stream down from my arm, Rollo purred worriedly.

I make the cursed sword vanish and put up a smile.

“— Haha, Rollo. I’m fine, so go sleep over there.” (Shuuya)

I stroke the head of the adorable Rollo, who stares at me with an anxious expression, with the palm of my left hand.

“Putting that aside, Veronica— look, here’s your blood. You should suck it after touching it with a **finger** first for caution’s sake.” (Shuuya)

While making a strict expression that completely changed from a smiling one, I held out my forearm with the dripping blood to Veronica.

“Fufu, geez, pulling such a grim face, the bed will end up dirty, won’t it? — Well then, let me dig in at once~.” (Veronica)



Veronica has a calm expression.

Stretching out a white, slender arm, she touches my blood with her fingertip.

At that instant, there's a sizzling sound of evaporation.

"Hyaaaa— ooouch." (Veronica)

Throwing her arm in the air, Veronica raises a voice filled with pain.

Her fingertip was burned and is now inflamed.

Whoaaa, as I thought...

My blood contains the light attribute as well.

Does it have the same effect as holy water? Although I'm not sure, it seems to be a powerful poison for vampires.

Veronica panics.

She waves her hand with a flapping sound and retreats.

In a hurry I release water from life magic at the part that was scalded with pinpoint precision.

I rinse off Veronica's finger and include her arm as well.

"You understand with this, right? I'm a type of vampire, but I'm an existence that can also be said to be your guys' natural enemy. By the way, there's no one who knows about this matter. Originally it's information I'd like to keep hidden. I'd like you to consider this as me returning the favour by showing my will to form a bond of deep affection and friendship with a beautiful child like you, Veronica." (Shuuya)

After hearing my words, Veronica furrows her eyebrows and glares at me with her vampire-like, bloodshot, red eyes.

"Ouch! Such a terrible way to return a favor..." (Veronica)

You know, even if you say something like that, it's the result of you wanting to drink

my blood, isn't it...?

However, I will apologize.

"Sorry. Does it still hurt?" (Shuuya)

"Of course it does! It hurts, but honestly... I'm surprised..." (Veronica)

Veronica's fingertip swells up with a red color similar to the aftermath of a burn.

"Look, I believe I did warn you more or less." (Shuuya)

"— Yeah. I never imagined that it would really be blood that exceeds holy water, alright~? However, thank you for properly advising me to only touch the blood first. I was almost about to drink it..." (Veronica)

While blowing on her painful fingertip, Veronica looked at me and thanked me.

Certainly, if she had drunk it, it would have likely ended in her death or a serious injury.

"It's okay. If you had brought your mouth close to my blood, I would have kept you away with my hands." (Shuuya)

"Really? But, for my <Blood Solution> skill to make a mistake, that's really surprising! Since your blood's scent is completely like the that of Slot-otou-san's blood, I might have mixed them up unconsciously." (Veronica)

Getting mixed up with Veronica's father, huh?

She's a vampire. For her to go as far as making a mistake, my blood probably resembles her vampire father, Slot, quite a bit.

I'm a new race, but also belong to the vampire species.

I can understand her guessing wrongly.

"...Oh! But with that, will you still teach me blood magic despite this situation?" (Shuuya)

"Yeah, I will. I definitely don't want you to become my enemy." (Veronica)

Both her eyes are still dyed with blood, but the creases on her forehead have vanished and she has a somewhat frightened expression.

“Me neither. And so, please teach me at once.” (Shuuya)

“That’s fine with me, but I don’t think that you will be able to remember all of the blood magic all of a sudden? Though I believe you can learn it right away as long as it’s advice about the **First Gate** by an experienced person. It might be impossible to learn the **Second Gate** and the **Third Gate** for a dhampir.” (Veronica)

There’s also the possibility that a half-breed can’t learn them?

“I don’t mind.” (Shuuya)

“Understood. Well then... put this on.” (Veronica)

Veronica passed me a special-looking bracelet, which hung at her waist, with a size that seems to fit on my upper arm.

There are blades on the inner side of the bracelet.

“This has blades in the inner part?” (Shuuya)

“Yeah, there’s a pull switch at the front, right? If you operate that switch, it will become a device that shoots out multiple inserted blades from the inner part of the ring.” (Veronica)

Once I pull down the switch located on the surface of a leather cloth, the blades spring back.

When I put it back into the upper position, the blades appear.

Its structure seems to be unexpectedly complicated.

The inner blades that minutely jump out are a combination of various sizes and are intermingled in a complicated manner. Each of them branches into interlaced nails.

It looks like they will considerably bite into my skin once they pierce it...

She’s telling me to get injured by wearing this on my arm?

“Apart from the bracelet making me bleed, what kind of name does this tool have?”  
(Shuuya)

“This tool is a training item that has the goal of making you constantly aware of **blood magic**. It’s a tool used by novice vampires and as such its name is **Virgin Blade**.”  
(Veronica)

It’s a plausible name.

I imagine an iron maiden.

But, it perfectly suits the name of a very masochistic training device.

“If you continue training by equipping that bracelet, you should be able to reach the point of freely handling the basic blood flow manipulation, the **First Gate**.” (Veronica)

Is it absolutely necessary to go through such painful experiences?

While thinking that I really don’t want that, I immediately equip the bracelet on my right arm that has become naked.

“You don’t have to make such an unwilling expression. In the past it was much crueler.”  
(Veronica)

“Hee, did they use a different tool in the past?” (Shuuya)

“Yeah, right. It had the figure of an iron man piercing your entire body! Compared to that, this is much more comfortable, no?” (Veronica)

Wha, isn’t that truly an iron maiden?

“Ah, wait, if you do it here, you will end up dirtying the floor, right?” (Veronica)

“I guess so. I will do it above a bucket.” (Shuuya)

I headed to the veranda located on the bay window’s side while having the virgin blade equipped around my arm.

Given that a bucket for bathing has been set up on the veranda’s planked floor, I enter that bucket.



“Oh my, what splendid, first-rate member and nice butt. How cute~.” (Veronica)

“Hey! Don’t mess around. So, to use this bracelet, it’s fine to cause bleeding through it, right?” (Shuuya)

{To admire Your Excellency’s butt, this vampiric loli hag shows a lot of promise.} (Helme)

Helme praised Veronica.

“Fufu, that’s right.” (Veronica)

This loli hag looks at my nether region and butt, and laughs...

I’m slightly bothered by her lewd gaze, but I touch the **Virgin Blade** bracelet and pull the switch up.

Blades extended from the bracelet, pierced the skin of my arm and sunk into it.

— Ouch! Immediately blood is overflowing from around the bracelet.

The wounds tried to heal themselves at once, but since the blades have cut very deeply into my arm, the pain continued.

Ow, ow...

“You will become aware of the blood magic, the path of blood, in this state. It might hurt, but do put up with it. You should be able to slowly grasp the sensation of blood flowing from the wounds. Steadily strengthen that sensation, alright?” (Veronica)

Veronica’s smile seems to be filled with sarcasm.

“Got it.” (Shuuya)

I operate the switch many and many times over.

However, the wounds regenerate right away. The blades biting into my arm are pushed back and they automatically return inside the bracelet.

Each time for several hundreds of times I keep pushing them back in through the bracelet’s switch, and I make the blades eat into my flesh continuously.

I have lost a large amount of blood.

The blood that flowed down from the wounds accumulated inside the bucket.

I really dislike the pain, but I will stick through it...

“...Yeah. That’s the way. The blades pierce deeply since they are small and sharp, but since your body will end up regenerating immediately after all, everyone hates it at the beginning...” (Veronica)

It’s very unlikely for me to be able to understand a sensation or such due to the pain, but...

“Don’t make such a face. I’m sorry to say, but until you can grasp the sensation, you will taste that pain over and over again.” (Veronica)

“Can’t be helped...” (Shuuya)

With this and that, after continuing the training with the very masochistic training device for several hours, at the moment I barely succeeded in being conscious of the sensation early in the morning,

Piiiing ✂<Blood Path First • Gate>✂ Permanent skill acquired.

Piiiing ✂<Blood Path Second • Gate>✂ Permanent skill acquired.

I was able to obtain permanent skills.

As I obtained the skills and became aware of the blood path, I comprehend the skill <Blood Magic>.

Moreover, I understood about myself as well.

This is amazing.

Certainly if one does not practise by continuously tasting the painful experience created by this **Virgin Blade** bracelet, it would be impossible to completely learn <Blood Magic> that’s related to delicate blood manipulation.

I feel the blood flow circulating through my entire body.

I am able to grasp the arteries connected to my heart in real time, the veins that are twisting and curving just like little bows, and the fine flow lines inside the veins that are promoting the blood flow.

I can naturally **understand** all of them.

How mysterious.

I comprehend that the blood flow that's circulating through the entire body naturally carries nutrients and oxygen to the entire body by making those circulate throughout the body.

I can even grasp all the things contained in the blood that are abnormal through the sensation.

Blood is alive. This is immortality, huh?

Blood is rich?

This point is completely different from humans, isn't it?

I clearly understand that my insides belong to a new race.

I guess everything's outdone by special blood.

Blood is truly a special juice.

I think stem cells, white blood cells and red blood cells are usually different.

I feel the desire to thoroughly examine them under a microscope.

I might be able to discover something that surpasses nano machines that were made to further evolve into natural killer cells.

I'm able to manipulate that special blood.

Once I became aware of it, I was capable of **absorbing and releasing blood** at every place across my whole body.

This is the essential point of the **First Gate**.

The absorption and release of blood is under my complete control.

“It’s a success.” (Shuuya)

“Huh? You already... succeeded at it?” (Veronica)

Veronica looks surprised.

“Seems so...” (Shuuya)

I murmur while looking at my own bright red blood that accumulated plentifully in the bath tube.

And then I directly absorb that blood through my feet and retrieve it.

The blood is directly sucked up through the skin of my feet.

“...I can’t believe it, but it seems to be the truth. I think the **Second Gate** is right around the corner too?” (Veronica)

Veronica says while watching the blood vanishing from the bucket.

Well, I suppose I ended up opening the second gate as well.

“Umm, I already acquired the Second Gate.” (Shuuya)

Once I casually mention that, she got surprised and made a reaction similar to folding her small body down.

“— Eeeh? Already? Even though one normally acquires it after growing and sucking blood for a long time. Ah, does that perchance mean that you already obtained some unique skill that manipulates blood with blood magic? Then you are after all an ancestral, pure, founding vampire? Oh, but, the order of things is in reverse then, no...? I don’t understand...” (Veronica)

Even while being surprised, Veronica stares at my genitals.

Or rather, there’s no such skill at my genitals, you know?

It’s definitely not a magical penis!

I can tell it's not truly such an indecent topic, but a manifestation of her doubts after seeing blood being absorbed through my feet.

It's a slightly itchy feeling.

But, <Blood Magic> that I consciously use through this first gate has also aspects that are similar to the <Magic Combat Style> which is a different skill.

I control it through the blood flow and the details of the veins.

Something like cladding my body with mana feels close to the blood vessels spreading throughout it.

Well, enough of that... there's something more important.

It's about me being able to use <Blood Chains Banquet>, my biggest and strongest offensive skill, at any time without going through a painful experience. This is a really big deal.

Fu, fufu, fwuhahaha~!

I loudly laugh like a vampire in my mind.

The quickness of <Demonic Brain Speed>.

The destruction of <Blood Chains Banquet>.

Those two turned into special finishing moves I can use with a body of flesh and blood.

If I combine them with the spear skill <Darkness Drill – Magic Spear Break>, it becomes three.

However, I will lay off using those until I encounter a strong enemy who can deal with my blood chains.

I will seal it, just like before. First I will develop the spearmanship techniques I learned from master.

Towards a new height of martial arts, the limit of military arts and becoming a peerless lancer...

But I will experiment with the magic I learned and also the fake chain spear. Magic Combat Style, Guidance Sorcery, Sage Art... I really want to use such things as swords, shuriken etc. too...

Well, at times I'm going to have love affairs, but I think that's okay.

I will definitely not forget the spirit of La Keralda I learned from the Goldiba family and the heart of a martial artist I was taught by master.

{Your Excellency, congratulations.} (Helme)

When I'm delighted, the deformed Helme appears in my line of sight.

I start a telepathic communication with the adorable Helme.

{Aye! Did you watch the whole time, Helme?} (Shuuya)

{Yes!} (Helme)

{I see, sorry for the trouble. The absorption of blood indeed became easy.} (Shuuya)

{Yes. As expected of you, Your Excellency. But please absorb the blood recovered by me as well, okay?} (Helme)

{I know that—} (Shuuya)

Since I am in a good mood, I grab Helme and fill her with mana.

{Ahn! Y-Your Excellency?} (Helme)

Having disappeared, Helme spoke to me in bewilderment with a pleased voice.

{Well, don't mind it. I suppose it's because you are skilled at flattery, Helme. It's a reward.} (Shuuya)

{Hauuu.} (Helme)

I'm very happy that my finishing moves increased.

I end up unintentionally becoming overly excited.

Well then, since it's somewhat unpleasant to be naked, I will wear some leather clothes.

"...Somehow your smirking expression is weird. Are you alright?" (Veronica)

"Yeah, I'm fine. There's no problem." (Shuuya)

Just as I finished putting on leather trousers, I replied while doing a thumbs up with a clearly triumphant look towards Veronica's face.

"Good grief, don't I look like an idiot for being surprised? But, grats on mastering the First and Second Gate." (Veronica)

Without reacting to my triumphant look at all...

Veronica completely changes from her previous charming attitude of wanting my blood and answered coldy while looking listless.

"Thanks!" (Shuuya)

"Later the scent of your <sup>Pheromones' Touch</sup> <Inhalation of Odour Technique> should evolve as well. I think you didn't realize until now, but after that you will be able to grasp the turf of a vampire." (Veronica)

I wonder whether something like conflicts of blood exist?

"Turf, huh? Veronica, have you changed the area around here into your turf?" (Shuuya)

"Of course. You have to be careful, since using it frequently is the same as declaring that you want to take the turf. Having said that, there are no house members of the twelve founding houses in this city. The Valmask main house is in the capital. In the past there were more branch house members, but now it's just me and Paulsen. There are also times when wandering vampires arrive here, but the dropout from the church <sup>Mad Knight</sup>, our natural enemy, is in this city after all..." (Veronica)

Him, huh? Though I don't know whether he's alive or dead.

"I see, I will remember it." (Shuuya)

"Yeah. You might have already experienced it, but the risk of being chased by vampire

hunters has risen sharply and there are also cases where we get tracked with special magic tools.” (Veronica)

She kindly teaches me various things.

I guess Vero-chin is my senpai as vampire.

I have to put my gratitude into words.

“...Thank you for many things, Veronica-senpai.” (Shuuya)

“Fufu! You are welcome, kouhai-kun.” (Veronica)

Veronica begins to dance while whirling around sideways on the spot.

“And, do you have two or three more of this bracelet?” (Shuuya)

“— I do. You want them?” (Veronica)

Veronica stops dancing and looks at me with a questioning expression.

“Yeah, they got an interesting structure, you know?” (Shuuya)

“I see... did you maybe end up addicted to a weird hobby?” (Veronica)

Veronica-senpai laughs at me with a feeling of making slight fun of me.

“You know that’s not right. I’m on the aggressive side.\*” (Shuuya) *(T/N: She indirectly calls him masochistic and he answers indirectly that he’s on the sadistic side)*

“Hmm, that splendid first rate member isn’t just for show, eh...? \*Slurp\*” (Veronica)

She looks at me as if she can see through my leather trousers. Her gaze is dangerous stuff.

“Yeah, yeah, just give them to me.” (Shuuya)

“Sure. Wait a sec, okay?” (Veronica)

Veronica takes out a necklace.



She took out the items smoothly from the necklace.

Hee, such type of item box exists as well, doesn't it?

"An item box, huh?" (Shuuya)

"Correct. It's a cheap item that can be called one of the simpler item boxes, but if it's a big-sized item box, it will end up costing a large platinum coin. I'm fine with an item box around this size." (Veronica)

It seems there are various types.

Given that she threw two Virgin Blade bracelets to me, I catch them and put them into my item box.

"Shuuya, yours is a small bracelet, but is it a superior big-sized item box?" (Veronica)

"Well I wonder about that. Even though it may appear like one, its capacity is limited." (Shuuya)

"Ah, I see. I guess in that case it's a medium-sized item box. It's nothing special then." (Veronica)

After noncommittally nodding since I don't know even if I'm told something like that,

"...So, the following Third Gate is?" (Shuuya)

"Because the Third Gate is about selecting a characteristic, personal skill, there's nothing for me to teach you anymore now that you acquired the Second Gate— Besides, look, it's already morning. I'm sleepy..." (Veronica)

Veronica releases a big yawn.

Being lured in, I yawn grandly as well.

Certainly, it's already bright outside the window.

The first cock crow resounds from outside.

The sounds of a cicada can be heard as well.

Is it possibly the cicada that's kept by Zeeta?

At that moment, the light of the morning sun shining brightly through the window illuminates the doll-like face of Veronica.

A beautiful silver powder generates from Veronica's face that's illuminated by the morning sun.

It gets reflected beautifully, but huh?

"Putting that aside, say, are you alright with being flooded by the light of the morning sun?" (Shuuya)

"Oh, fufu, you don't even know that? — It's the effect of the me and this ring possess." (Veronica)

Veronica, who has a drowsy-looking expression, completely changes.

Flaunting the ring with its red gem she has put on her finger, she reveals a proud smile.

A skill, huh?

<sup>Vampires</sup>  
"We grow as we pile up on years. For a vampire who has lived around 100 years, something like the light of the sun is no problem. Though it might wear them out within limitations." (Veronica)

I see.

If they pile up growth, skills and magic tools, the effect of the sunlight will completely vanish...

"I didn't know. That beautiful ring seems to be a high-class item." (Shuuya)

"Uh huh. As expected of you, who possesses a scent similar to otou-san. You have a discerning eye. You know, this is a memento of Slot-otou-san who made me into a vampire." (Veronica)

It was a memento? I ended up asking her something unpleasant.

"I see, I'm sorry." (Shuuya)

“No, I don’t mind. Cause it’s a memento of Slot-otou-san who saved me when I was about to die. I’m happy to receive praise for this precious ring... However, at the same time it did remind me of the **detestable enemy** who killed tou-san.” (Veronica)

In an instant her eyes transform into bloodshot eyes filled with hatred.

However, that he was killed is even more unpleasant, isn’t it?

“I-I see. I brought up the topic, but if you don’t want to talk about it, you don’t have to, okay?” (Shuuya)

“Pupu, what a ridiculous expression. It doesn’t really matter. Shuuya, you are weirdly fussing about it, aren’t you? Might as well go ahead and tell you. The enemy who killed otou-san is one of the vampire lords of the Valmask main house, Lunz Lavoire Valmask. His nickname is Lunz of the Blood Law. It’s Sir Lunz who belongs to the main house’s [Blood Court].” (Veronica)

Main house, eh? Though I don’t quite understand [Blood Court] or such.

It is a feud between fellow members of the same house?

“Something like disputes between fellow vampires exists?” (Shuuya)

“Of course they do. For a race that has many enemies and few numbers it seems to be a stupid story, but the main houses of the the twelve founding houses are relentless in upholding their noble laws as vampires. In contrast to that, the branch houses are basically free-spirited. Friction is born from that and there are ugly fights between fellow house members. In addition... I stole...” (Veronica)

That’s how it is, huh? Well, I can guess the rest.

“Ah, that’s right. If it’s your blood, Shuuya, it looks possible to **eradicate** the <sup>Valmask</sup> main house that dwells in the capital Glomheim.” (Veronica)

Veronica talks while looking joyful.

“What are you saying. Destroying a species or such is too dangerous. Certainly, I won’t hesitate to become someone atrocious for the sake of my friends, but at the current point in time I don’t have any reason to do something like that. I won’t expressly do

such dangerous stuff... or rather, weren't you sleepy?" (Shuuya)

Veronica nods with her eyelids looking heavy.

"Y-Yeah. Fuuaaah. That's true as well, isn't it? I will go sleep in the basement... see ya."  
(Veronica)

Once again she releases a big yawn while looking drowsy.

I am lured into it once again as well.

Despite being a vampire, she apparently gets sleepy.

She's different from me in that aspect, too.

Ah, I wonder, but is she maybe sleeping in a coffin?

"...See you." (Shuuya)

Without asking anything unnecessary, I bid farewell to Veronica.

She nods with drowsy eyes.

She turns around with shaky-looking motions, opens the door and leaves my room.

Pheew... in a certain sense I spent a fulfilling night.

Someday there will likely come a time when the **Virgin Blades** I stored away a while ago will come in handy.

It should become necessary at the time when I create a <Head Servant>.

Therefore I will seal them in my item box until then.

Well then, I don't want to sleep, so let's get up.

Today... what should I do?

First, aimlessly wander around this area.

Second, once again go around the shops located at the First Ring Road, or search for something like a market and do some window shopping to find delicious food and rare items.

Third, in accordance with my main objective, take a simple request, challenge the labyrinth and earn some money for the sake of a house and plot of land, even though I still don't know how much they cost.

Fourth, march into the headquarters of the dark guild [Owl's Fangs] and massacre Eribol and the leaders. Or crush their branch's turf.

Fifth, search for the dwarven siblings, Zaga and Bon, and meet with Rubia. Or search for Mia, who might have changed her name?

Sixth, use the mirrors and gate magic to take a walk and have some adventures in unknown areas outside of Pelneet.

Seventh, spend my time idly by playing with a cat toy and Rollo.

I hesitate whether to do three, four, five or seven, but I will stick to the basics here.

Let's go with three.

Apart from going to the labyrinth, a map isn't necessary, right?

Even if I get lost in the labyrinth, I can probably return at any time as long as I leave a mirror here.

There's the <sup>Magic House</sup>magically-built home as well, but I guess I will use it if other adventurers do so as well.

Let's stay safe and seal it away, in case they don't use one.

Alright, now that I have put my plans in order to some extent, I turn my consciousness towards Helme and start a telepathic communication with her.

{Helme, we will head into the labyrinth.} (Shuuya)

{Understood.} (Helme)

The personified Helme appears in my field of vision while turning around and around.

{Helme, you probably want to leave my eye and fight as well? But, well, I think it will be alright with Rollo and me. The burning knights will be there in addition as well.}  
(Shuuya)

{N-No waaay... } (Helme)

Helme-chan hangs her head, looking as if the characters for “shock” have appeared over her head.

{In that case, do you want to come out in the beginning?} (Shuuya)

{It’s fine. Recently I have developed nice poses on this side, so I will stay put.} (Helme)

Helme moves her arms and butt comically and says something like that while showing a cute reaction.

{I see. But, since your Spirit Sight is convenient, I’d like you to lend me your strength when necessary, Helme.} (Shuuya)

{Okay. I shall eagerly await Your Excellency’s order.} (Helme)

{Aye.} (Shuuya)

Once I finish the brief telepathic communication with Helme, I take out the **Mirror of Paledes** from my item box. I place the mirror in a space next to the bed.

Tracing the surface of a symbol of the <sup>Trapezohedron</sup> 24-faceted orb with my thumb, a gate is invoked.

I confirm that the mirror is shining.

I plan to invoke it inside the labyrinth at some point in time, but let’s test it here just in case.

Entering the invoked gate, I was able to leave through the mirror.

The orb, which was the source of the gate, is embedded in the mirror.

And, just as usual, the orb disconnected itself and the Trapezohedron started to revolve

around my head.

With this I will be able to directly return here from the labyrinth.

I equip the cuirass then and there, and put on the violet armor.

I put on the grey overcloak that releases a faint violet light, and equip the chest strap.

“— Preparations, all done. Rollo, we will go to the labyrinth after I get the requests.”  
(Shuuya)

After grabbing the orb that was revolving around my head, I spoke to Rollo.

“N, nya.”

I store the 24-faceted orb in my chest strap.

Rollo gets on my shoulder.

She nuzzles against my cheek as if greeting me.

I leave the room after stroking the head of such a cute Rollo.

I close the lock and peek down on the dining room on the first floor through the handrail while walking through the inn’s hallway on the second floor.

There are many guests eating a breakfast in the dining room.

There are also drunkards who have fallen prostrate with their face on the table.

I wonder whether we should eat as well, but there are likely places to eat something in front of the labyrinth. While thinking that the inn’s cooking is good, I walk along the handrail, descend the stairs and leave the inn after uneventfully opening the entrance door.

I hurry through the alley that continues into the First Ring Road.

After I look around while hurrying, Rollo has already transformed into horse-size.

Running up to <sup>Horse Lion Mode</sup> Rollodeen, I jump lightly and mount her by saddling on her black

torso.

At the moment I got on her, a tentacle tightly stuck to my nape, two tentacles turned into reins and appeared in front of me.

I grab the reins and we swiftly run through the alley.

“Rollo, the guild’s first, okay?” (Shuuya)

“Nyaa~.”

The black cat proceeds while purring something similar to a lazy “Gotcha nyaa.”

Her unusual speed is amazing.

Despite quite a few people coming and going, she smoothly slips between them and moves without bumping into anyone.

In the blink of an eye we leave the alley, enter the ring road and arrive in front of the guild.

Once I dismount from her, she shrinks from her horse lion size into that of a black cat.

Just as usual, Rollo jumps on my shoulder.

She comfortably sits down while spreading her body’s weight from the right shoulder to a part of the chest belt and the hood on my back.

I step into the congested guild.

Passing by in front of the boards, I look around, wondering *I hope that Rebecca’s around~*

I search for the figure of a short female magician... but, she doesn’t seem to be present.

I had planned to greet her, but, if she’s not here, it can’t be helped.

Like that I advance to in front of the boards.

I look at the list of request papers that are posted on the boards.



I look for requests inside the labyrinth.

As it's only natural to get a magic stone request, I will this time carefully search for a monster subjugation request as well. I will choose them while taking their floor into consideration.

First are the requests on the second floor.

Second floor:

“Bat Ant” – All raw materials of bat ant types.

“Tree Demon” Treant – All raw materials.

“Shelled Worm” Roll Killgin – All raw materials.

“Fire Wolf” Galsol – All raw materials.

“Blaze Wolf” Big Galsol – All raw materials.

“Quick Demon” Hobgoblin – All raw materials of hobgoblin types.

“Headless Warrior” Deadman Soldier – All raw materials.

“Silver-Fanged Ogre” Volck, popular nickname: Silver Volck – All raw materials.

Next, the requests for the third floor.

“Large Phantasmal Mushroom” – All raw materials.

“Giant Toad” – All raw materials.

“Tree Demon” Treant – All raw materials.

“Shelled Worm” Roll Killgin – All raw materials.

“Headless Warrior” Deadman Soldier – All raw materials.

“Decaying Knight” Zombie Knight – All raw materials.

“Silver-Fanged Ogre” Volck, popular nickname: Silver Volck – All raw materials.

“Black Centipede” – All raw materials.

“Golden Steel Dinosaur” Golden Tyrant – All raw materials. *(T/N: Appeared as Gold-threaded Dinosaur in chapter 105, probably the same. Author changed the name though)*

“Pumpkin Head” – All raw materials.

“Black Sugarwater Snake” Sugar Snake – All raw materials.

“Blue Nectar Stomachless” Slime – All raw materials.

“Black Moss Tiger” Ralhapuck Tiger – All raw materials.

“Greenish Black Steel Tiger” Gelad Tiger – All raw materials.

There seem to be many monsters who appear across several floors.

Requests for the fourth floor

“Giant Toad” – All raw materials.

“Steel Praying Mantis” Mantis Golgan – All raw materials.

“Gigantic Snake” – All raw materials.

“Poisoned Arrow Hood” Vizorm – All raw materials.

“Black Blade Alligator” Black Sword Crocodile – All raw materials.

“Sour Bone Swordsman” Crash Swordsman – All raw materials.

“Black Moss Tiger” Ralhapuck Tiger – All raw materials.

“Ferocious Bull Spider” Titan Spider – All raw materials.

“Sky-shadowing Swamp Hand” Shadow Hand – All raw materials.

“Swamp Lizard” Gulzong – All raw materials.

As stated, those are the various requests for the different floors. There are still many more requests of monster types I haven't chosen.

There are those of the fifth floor as well, but since I believe that I won't dive that far this time, I excluded those.

Moreover, I discover the name of the boss class in the notes.

It's the guy who Rebecca mentioned occasionally.

The name is **Barbaroy's Envoy**.

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It randomly appears on the second floor and below.

A special guardian class – unique monster.

It's a lich type monster with an appearance close to a decaying knight.

And, at the time of its appearance, an eerie low bell sound will resound without fail. It's famous for creating a stream of freezing water on the ground.

If you confirm these phenomenons, we recommend running away.

Without a specific area of appearance, it wanders inside the labyrinth like a ghost.

There's no report of its subjugation in the last one hundred years. It was subjugated once one hundred years ago. A high-ranking, big, statue-shaped magic stone was confirmed, but its revival was verified several days later.

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That's what's written there.

I guess even I would run away if I encountered it with a BGM playing in the background.

But, I feel like I want to try fighting it.

There appears to be no reward even if you defeat it, but there's at least the magic stone, right?

I will remember this Barbaroy.

Thinking that I will choose from among the request I found just a while ago, the exact point of appearance isn't written on any request as they only list the floor.

Should I suitably pick from among the monsters appearing on the second floor and accept those requests?

**Client:** Sabient Company

**Request Content:** All raw materials of the C Rank Bat Ant

**Subjugation Target:** "Bat Ant"

**Application Period:** Indefinite

**Search Area:** The labyrinth's second floor

**Reward:** 1 Gold Coin per whole body

**Subjugation Proof:** Whole body, magic stone excluded. Negative assessment for many wounds

**Hints:** There are reports of them appearing in big numbers in the area of the second floor.

**Note:** Several types have been confirmed among the bat ants.

Five wooden tags of this request.

**Client:** Gotez & Roze Armor Shop

**Request Content:** All raw materials of the B Rank Quick Demon (Hobgoblin)

**Subjugation Target:** "Quick Demon"

**Application Period:** Indefinite

**Search Area:** The labyrinth's second floor

**Reward:** 15 Gold Coin per body

**Subjugation Proof:** Whole body, magic stone excluded. Negative assessment for many wounds

**Hints:** There are reports of them appearing in the mine area of the second floor. Be aware of their swift attacks using arms.

**Note:** Their strength is the highest class among the monsters of the second floor.

One wooden tag of this request.

In total I have six wooden request tags.

The quick demon has a high value with its 15 gold coins.

Since I can't accept more than one magic stone request, let's do a medium magic stone request that has a bigger reward than a small magic stone request.

**Client:** Major Premiere Company

**Request Content:** B Rank medium magic stones. "Ten stones" regardless of quality.

**Subjugation Target:** none

**Application Period:** Indefinite

**Search Area:** The labyrinth's first floor ~

**Reward:** 50 Silver Coins

**Subjugation Proof:** Magic Stones

**Hints:** All kinds of monsters

**Note:** Mainly possessed by monsters appearing from the second floor and below.

I decide to accept this magic stone request.

Holding the six subjugation and the magic stone requests, I return to the receptionist.

Since it's slightly packed, I line up in the queue and wait a bit.

Finally it's my turn.

"I'd like to take these requests." (Shuuya)

I submit the wooden tags and my adventurer card.

"Okay. Umm, what about your company?"

"I'd like to take them as an individual, but is that not allowed?" (Shuuya)

"...It might be possible if it's the great plain, but the second floor of the labyrinth as solo, and moreover, to finish this amount of requests? You will die, you know?"

"Nn, nyao, nyaon nya."

The human receptionist warns me like that with a serious face.

Rollo, who is on my shoulder, launches cat punches into the air as if complaining to the receptionist.

"...It's alright. I'm confident." (Shuuya)

“Fufu, what a cute neko-chan. I can see your paws~.”

“Ahem.” (Shuuya)

I deliberately cough as if my throat’s clogged up.

“...Ah, yes, since you are a person holding a title, you might have confidence, but...”

The receptionist returns to her job, looks at my adventurer card and looks at me in worry.

I’m happy about her worrying about me, but I wonder whether she can give me the approval already.

“How much longer?” (Shuuya)

Squinting a bit, I make a smile in the shape of an arc.

“Ugh, g-got it.”

Oh, I can almost hear the sound effect of my smile succeeding on the persuasion.

Did my cold smile turn into a weapon?

I place my hand on the crystal and the requests are accepted.

I have her return my adventurer card.

I check through the card with a glance.

**Title:** Dragon Slayer

**Race:** Human

**Occupation:** C Rank Adventurer

**Affiliation:** None

**Combat Occupation:** Spear Warrior – Chain User

**Completed Requests:** 19

I turn on my heels while putting away the card, which I check with a casual sidelong glance, in my chest strap, and left the guild just like that.

I advance along the First Ring Road which is the central area of the city.



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