

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 76 - Trash and Bitch

Naofumi:" Wait a second!"

An outrageous statement was just dropped.

Other countries can call heroes? There are turns?

Then that means this country did something crazy.

Naofumi:"Explain it in detail."

Queen:"Sure."

The queen's story is like this.

Damages from the wave were reported all over the world, there was a world conference and every country was represented by their king or queen. Of course there are countries that are on bad terms with each other, Melromarc and Silt Welt for example. There is a prophecy that states the world is facing its end, so their hostilities were put on hold, and the conference was complete.

During the conference, the country Melromarc was fourth in line to perform the summoning.

By the way, each hero summoning is only supposed to summon 1 Hero. In many cases, they do not even appear at all.

Of course, which hero summoned is determined by discussion with the other countries.

Naofumi:" So, how did this country manage to summon us?"

Queen:"During hero summons it is customary to use a holy relic. A time and ceremony is then decided upon according to the summoning....."

It seems the Three Heroes Church took advantage of when the queen was absence to summon the four holy heroes.

Queen:" The Three Heroes Church is a religion that has deep roots within this country, but from what I know they were very conservative. Therefore, I overlooked this unexpectedly big plan."

Naofumi:"That is quite the problem, is it not?"

To gather all the heroes are supposed to save the world in one place.

Queen:"Yes.....That lead to a lot of criticism from other countries. It was the problem I was taking care of."

Naofumi:"What were you thinking, leaving the country to a fellow who might have caused a war."

There was a big problem. The person entrusted with responsibility is horrible.

Trash:"What are you implying!"

Queen:"Silence!"

Trash shuts up after the queen's thundering roar.

Queen:"It was not a problem before. Before the waves even started I was involved in diplomacy, our domestic affairs were also excellent, and I left the country to the one I trusted as my right-hand man but....."

Naofumi:"But?"

Queen:"He died during the wave.....That person was respected by demi-humans too....."

Quite unlucky.....So is that why all that was left trash and some other useless guys?

.....As expected, that level of incompetency was unnatural.

Right now the posts within the country need new and talented personnel, otherwise things will remain the same.

Worst case was trash having all the power, and those around him never speaking up due to fear. This was such a place.

Trash:"The truth is, it just came to me to perform the hero summons, and as a matter of fact all of the heroes appeared!"

The queen slaps trash.

Trash:"Fuguu--"

Yeah, it would be weird if she wasn't extremely angry after returning to her country and finding a mountain of problems.

Queen:"Even though it was foolish I had to depend on my successor because of a useless husband like you! When he died an unnatural death you didn't even investigate. The culprit was the Three Heroes Church!"

Trash:"Gufu!"

Queen:"Furthermore, the day right after the heroes were summoned you framed the Hero of the Shield! At least doubt the conspiracy a bit!"

Trash:"Guha!"

Queen:"And yet, I even told you not to discriminate against the Hero of the shield! do you understand that those actions could have caused a war!?"

Trash:"Geho!"

Queen:"And during the end of the second wave, you intentionally tried to take away Hero of the shield's slave, which I had to arrange through a lot of trouble!"

What!?

What did she just say?

Naofumi:" Wait a minute, you set up my meeting with Raphtalia?"

Queen:"I'll explain later. Right now I'm dealing with this guy."

Uwa.....she snapped.

Queen:"While you were acting beyond your authority the nobles started planning behind your back to take power. A riot started in Silt Welt, and Shirudo Furiden started preparing for war!"

Somehow.....I sympathize with the queen.

The people you can rely on within the country are all dead and you are protecting the country alone against other countries that might attack. Amazing. I wonder what she had to go through to talk like that.

This hysteria, I only thought it was possible for women in their early twenties hitting their husbands.

I mean..... She is the mother of Bitch and Melty. Yet still looks so young.

Queen:"To cap it all off Melty wanted to selfishly meet you! I was at the limits of my patience. Therefore I set a trap!"

Trash:"Wh-What did you say!?"

Queen:"Did you even investigate the events happening around you? I let you dispatch a large amount of soldiers for emergencies! That was the start of this whole incident!"

The queen declares during her outburst.

Queen:" The Three Heroes Church is a heretical religion! Melromarc's religion is the Four Saint Faith!"

Trash:"Wh-What did you say!? That tradition was abandoned since the start of this country!"

Queen:"There are heretical religions that have no value and cause nothing but problems!"

Four Saints Faith?

Naofumi:" What is that?"

Melty:" A religion believing in the Four Saint Heroes equally."

Melty explains.

Well, now that I think about it, there should be a lot of countries that believe in the legend of the Four Heroes who saved the world.

Melty: "Even though originally the Three Heroes Church were an extremist faction that split from the Four Saints Faith.....I would explain more but I would need to start from the beginning of this country."

Naofumi: "I see....."

If Silt Welt has a religion following the shield, then it should be natural for other countries to believe in all four.

In other words, Melromarc's dispute with Silt Welt is over the Hero of the Shield being hated.

The other country believes in the devil of the shield, and our religion is correct, did that lead to the Three Heroes Church's creation?

Where was the royal family in all of this?

Queen: "Fu....."

After slapping and abusing trash for a while, the queen covers her lips with her fan and turns to me with a refreshed look.

Queen: "There are various things about Iwatani-sama's actions.....that I want to talk about it later."

Naofumi: "I'll pass..... I would rather not hear those heroic tales."

Queen: "It is necessary to hear it. Because Iwatani-sama has also caused a lot of problems."

Uh..... I wonder what they are. I would rather not hear it.

To be frank, ever since coming here I did a few bad things

Of course I am not going to reflect on it, and I do not intend to.

Queen:" For example, that incident at the demon dealer's with your demon."

Naofumi:"Hmm....."

Queen:"That uproar at the bar."

To know about so much.

Queen:" I wonder who covered it up before my husband heard."

Naofumi:"Do I get a lecture too? It's regrettable, but I am not like this guy."

Queen:" No way..... I only want you to listen."

Naofumi:" I do not think what I did was wrong either."

Queen:"I guess. Though I was able to relax a bit while staying in foreign countries thanks to your efforts. That isn't the problem."

Naofumi:"Hrmm....."

Queen:" For the time being, there a plenty of things before your punishment."

Trash and Bitch turn very pale.

It's the end of their road.

Queen:" Are you dissatisfied?"

Trash:" O-of course!"

Bitch:"That's right! Mama! I'm not to blame!"

Queen:".....Wasn't our parent and child relationship cut a little while ago? I literally disowned you. Go somewhere else.....No, pay for your crimes in the country."

The queen almost expelled her on impulse, but stopped halfway.

A sheet of paper with an amount of money written on it was handed to the bitch. The bitch turned even paler than a little while ago.

Bitch must have been spending money carelessly due to her social standing.

Bitch: "This is not an amount of money I can pay!"

Queen: "That is the price demanded from you from the guild. Trying to steal it from the treasury without permission.....You think I wouldn't notice? you will serve this country as a slave from now on....."

Bitch: "That's unreasonable!"

Queen: "If you hate it then save the world along with the heroes. I'll think about it if you play an active role."

The queen silences Bitch, and then looks at Trash.

Queen: "Why are you looking at me like I'm a different person!? You changed too, Aultcray."

Trash bends backwards.

Truthfully, there is no way this guy can go against the queen.

He should have acted more tactfully.

Queen: "Fight as a commander at the front line of this country against the wave, or lose your position and become an adventurer."

Trash: "Ku.....My wife, My queen. This one was swindled. Have mercy."

Bitch: "That's right. Mama, please postpone your judgement."

Queen:"Both your mercy and postponement are both over already.....Oh, I have a good method."

The queen beckons me over.

I stepped forwards and waited.



Queen:" Iwatani-sama, what kind of punishment do you want to give these two? You have the right to choose."

Naofumi:" Death! Capital Punishment!"

I answered almost on reflex. I must hate them unconsciously as well. Honestly, other than killing no other choice exists for me. This grudge of mine can't even be solved with death.

Trash:"Gunu! You Bastard--"

Bitch:" Stop joking around--"

The queen raises her hand and silences the two.

Queen:"Really..... you will be satisfied with just killing?"

The queen suspiciously wraps her magic around me.

A chill runs up my spine.Anoying..... I instinctively realise who I am dealing with.

Queen:"Assuming you kill them. They would be released from whatever torment or fun you would have with them, for just a moment's of satisfaction."

Naofumi:"You.....No, keep talking."

Queen:" Killing them is too half-hearted. If a dog is useful, you stroke it affectionately, keeping them tamed till death."

To act so cold despite them being relatives.....

Queen:"Please think of this as my last feelings for them."

Naofumi:"Yeah..... So that's how it is."

Basically, besides murder and forgiving, I will grant you anything else.

Queen:"Originally the authority of the country is with the queen, but following the scandal of the Three Heroes Church, the royal family's position is being questioned by foreign countries."

Naofumi:" Crucifying two incompetents would persuade the foreign countries wouldn't it?"

Trash:"Shieeeeeld.....You bastaaard.....!"

The queen ignores trash's howling.

Queen:" Normally that would be the case. But, that does not apply to Aultcray."

Naofumi:"Why not?"

Queen:"He is a fool now, but he was amazing back in the day..... since his name is well-known outside the country, settling this by killing him is impossible....."

I don't know what this trash did, but I understand the situation.

He is too well-known.

In the first place, I thought he had too much power for such an incompetent king.

Was it due to his past actions? It seems those concerned will not stay silent.

It would be extremely interesting to look down on such a man who has been deprived of all his past glory and dragged through the mud.

Naofumi:" I understand. I'll listen to your plan,"

Queen:"I am grateful."

Naofumi:" However, I wish for these two to taste hell on earth. That is the minimum condition."

Queen:"Yes, of course..... Then what punishment would you like to start with?"

It's a good idea..... I shouldn't kill them.

Naofumi:" I'd like to start by pulling off their hands and feet....."

I see the look in Raphtalia's eyes and think about it again.

Although I have every right to do this, even I think that might be a little too far.

.....What should I do? Something that would break them.....

Still I don't want to miss this chance that has finally appeared.

Raphtalia:".....Naofumi-sama."

The bitch holds both hands in front of her and starts crying.

Wow, what a performance. If I didn't know how she truly was I would have been deceived.

I'm quite sure she approached Motoyasu with this face.

I mean, when I was summoned she was the first one to approach me.

Raphtalia:" Stop acting foolish, and please stop with this revenge. Revenge only produces more vengeance. Naofumi-sama please endure it here. If possible, be more considerate for the queen."

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.....Sigh.....

"I guess so....."

That day, messengers on Philorials ran around the country of Melromarc, reporting to every village and every town.

Messengers:"Due to taking responsibility for recent events, king Aultcray Melromarc and Princess Malty, have changed their names to Trash and Bitch forever! Anybody caught speaking the wrong names will be severely punished!"

In every signboard in every city, every town, and every village, a similar letter was posted.

Everybody who saw or heard this message, regardless of social position all reacted the same.

""""What!?""""

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Chapter 77 - Dogeza

Trash:"Who would endure something like that!?"

Bitch:"Only a devil would do something like this!"

Bitch's face distorts terribly in anger.

Wow~ so refreshing. I did not think such a moment would be possible.

Naofumi"Hahahahaha! I wanted to see that face!"

Trash:"Bastard-----!"

The names Trash and Bitch's have become official.

Naofumi:" Revenge only gives birth to vengeance..... You should endure. It is a splendid phrase. You should practice it.....Bitch."

Bitch:"Shut up! I will absolutely never forgive you!"

She tried to attack me, but the queen's assistants hold her down.

Queen:"Since Bitch can use a pseudonym as an adventurer. What do you wish to call her there?"

Naofumi:"Whore"

Queen:" Then that will be her adventurer name from now on. Other than those two names, you can not use anything else."

Bitch:"I'll kill you! Once there's a chance I'll murder you without fail!"

Wow, even faced with such killing intent, other than feeling refreshed I feel nothing else.

Oh well!

Naofumi: "Hahaha! Try it if you can. If you put a hand on me it will be capital punishment!"

Queen: "Yes, so you have been deprived of that right."

I see, if it was me who executed a part of the royal family then it would undermine the queen's dignity and authority, so she deprived me of the privilege. Well it's that sort of thing.

Naofumi: "This is so refreshing!"

Queen: "Now then, there is something that I wish to get Iwatani-sama's cooperation with."

Naofumi: "What is it?"

Queen: "During the last incident, didn't Iwatani-sama ask Trash to prostrate himself for an explanation?"

The queen's shadows and knights forced both Bitch and Trash on to their knees.

Bitch: "Stop it! Who do you think I am--"

Trash: "That's right! This one is--"

Queen: "Aren't the both of you just an adventurer and a general?"

(TInote: 冒険者と将軍 Shogun is for Itsuki, so I changed it to general.)

The queen suppresses their complaints by informing them of their place.

Queen: "Prostrate yourselves."

Trash:"What, My queen!This one is--Stop it--This one will not bow! This one will never bow! nuooooooooooooo!"

Bitch:" Stop joking around! I will never kneel for this bastard! Iyaaaaaaaaa"

Trash and Bitch were surrounded by several people, forced to prostrate themselves, and their heads are being rubbed against the ground.
A shadow in between the both of them speaks.

Shadow:"Go ahead-"

Trash:"Nuooooooooooooo!"

Bitch:"Aaaaaaaaaaaaaah!"

Trash and Bitch are yelling extremely loudly.

Queen:" Shut them up!"

On the queens orders clothes are used to gag Bitch and Trash.

Trash:"Fumuuuuuuuuuu!"

Bitch:"Muuuuuuuuuu!"

They are violently resisting with everything they have, but they are outnumbered and overpowered.

Shadow:"Please, Hero of the Shield-sama! Lend us your power!"

Shadow#2:"Hero of the Shield-sama, please fight for this country!"

Their voices are imitated by a shadow and such phrases were spoken.

Queen:" How was that?"

Naofumi:" How was that you ask....."

Being asked like that while watching them kneeling on the ground by force..... It is extremely refreshing, but.....

Although it is refreshing, the request is a little.....

Queen:"Maybe if you step on their heads?"

Naofumi:" Oh!"

Oh damn, I didn't even think of that.

Raphtalia:"Naofumi-sama"

I ignore Raphtalia's voice and trample on the Trash and Bitch's head.

Maybe Raphtalia wants me to be a hero that everyone respects.

It is regrettable, but I am part of the commoners.

It would be troublesome to be misunderstood as a saint. Well, where would you find a commoner stepping on the head of a king?

But I don't understand Raphtalia. This degree of punishment is nothing compared to the humiliation I suffered.

So, at least give me this much.

By the way, I did not stop even though Raphtalia called out.

There was a time I thought Raphtalia was another Bitch as well.

There is no reason to support Trash and Bitch, they have been agonizing us until now. This is natural.

Trash:"Muuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuu!"

Bitch:"Fumooooooooooooooooooooo!"

Regardless of how much Trash and Bitch are being suppressed and humiliated, they are still resisting.

After a while Trash quieted down so he was released.

Somehow.....He has the eyes of a raped woman, in his eyes there are tears overflowing.

Just how much were you humiliated by bowing to me?

Bitch is still resisting.

Queen:"Oh my, this amount of torture should be about enough don't you think?"

The queen raises her hand and gives instructions.

Queen:"Pick them up and throw them out of the throne room."

Shadows&Knights:"""Yes Ma'am!"""

Both of them were thrown out.

Whoa, that was a sight to see.

Besides Firo who seems happy..... Raphtalia and Melty look at me with strained expressions, I feel that my evaluation may have dropped.

They don't voice their complaints, but I can understand that I may have gone overboard.

Queen:"Anyway, in order to request the co-operation of Iwatani-sama I gave them this punishment."

Naofumi:"Well....."

There is no reason to decline since so much was already done. Against someone who can make their family do something like this, it is impossible to refuse. It's my own fault.

Queen:"First of all, did you have something you wanted to ask?"

Naofumi:"I want to ask about the Hero summoning and Four Saints Faith, the story of the legendary heroes and history of this country, how you arranged Raphtalia's purchase, and the reason you never showed yourself until now."

There are still some other things I wish to ask, but this is generally it.

Queen:"I see. Then, shall I tell you the story concerning the legendary Heroes?"

The queen began her talk.

Queen:"The story of the four holy heroes is a favourite of mine. Though it differs for every country."

Naofumi:"How is it different?"

Queen:"I think Iwatani-sama already has a vague idea right?"

At the queen's question I nod.

Queen:"You are already aware that in this country there is no story about the Hero of the shield. They were deliberately erased.

Naofumi:".....I see.

In that book I read before being summoned to this world, the shield was mentioned but not described among the four holy weapons.

I thought that was a story based on when I arrived to this world.....That book may be describing the legend of this country.

Queen:"A great achievement that the Hero of the Shield accomplished was mediating between humans and demi-humans, but that was omitted. As a result, the other heroes had a hostile relationship with him.

I see, does that mean the shield will be trusted by the demi-humans unconditionally, because he was their ally?

Queen:" As you can see, our country's principle is human supremacy, you already know how demi-humans are treated here."

Naofumi:".....Yeah"

I have been in this country for more than three months, I am aware that demi-humans are this country's slave labour.

Queen:" Due to such circumstances, we have very bad relations with Silt Welt. Our countries have been fighting for a long time."

The country with demi-human absolutism, Silt Welt. These countries are like oil and water."

Certainly, making peace with them would be ideal.

Queen:"by the way, Iwatani-sama, the religion in Silt Welt is also a sect of the Four Saints Faith, and they believe in only the Hero of the Shield."

Naofumi:"I roughly guessed it, but that seems to actually be the case huh."

Queen:" Yes.....Now then, I'm sure Iwatani-sama understands how the Three Heroes Church came to be....."

Silt Welt and Melromarc are oil and water. Both have religions branched off from the Four Saints Faith, divided to the Three Heroes church and Shield Religion.

According to the Queen's story, they have been fighting for a long time.

That means.....

Naofumi:"So I was summoned right in the middle of enemy territory."

I see, I can only accept it.

It would certainly be troublesome if the enemy's Hero was being treated as a saint here.

In the Three Heroes Church, the Hero of the Shield is written to be brutal and treacherous.

Even in my world religion is the same. Every other god apart from yours is the devil.

It's quite a common thing.

Did trash participate in the war against Silt Welt? Is that why he looked at me with such hostility?

Queen:"Now, returning to the story. When the wave was upon us, the conference of every country in the world agreed. Heroes needed to be summoned."

The queen was in another country attending the world conference as Melromarc's representative, and it was decided they would be fourth to perform the hero summoning.

The legendary heroes are traditionally summoned by the most powerful countries, hero summons were supposed to be performed in Foburei.

(TInote: フォーブレイ <= If anyone has a better name let me know.)

I do not know how many were summoned. However, whichever country succeeds in summoning them will get a big lead on other countries.

However, the four legendary heroes did not respond to the summons.

As a result of an investigation, it was found out that a holy relic was required to summon the Four legendary heroes, and Melromarc unexpectedly summoned them.

It was even news to the Queen. Ignoring the order in which the world decided, and to use a holy relic for the summons.

Queen:"Let's omit my struggles and just clarify that after a long investigation it was found out that all of this was caused by the recklessness of the Three Heroes Church."

Naofumi:" I can only sympathize."

Queen:" I appreciate it."

Naofumi:"So what holy relic was used?"

Queen:"At first glance, what used was just a metal fragment. But no matter how much we try, we cannot understand it....."

Naofumi:"In other words, the reason we were summoned here is because of that holy relic?"

Queen:" Yes....."

If the summoning here failed would the holy relic be used in some other country until it succeeds?

Queen:"And so the biggest problem is, the four legendary heroes were summoned here by that holy relic."

Naofumi:".....Were only four people summoned?"

Queen:"Yes.....Therefore, that relic has become the most important item."

Naofumi:"If it is such a huge problem, did the other countries blame this one?"

Queen:" After I negotiated.....not likely. Iwatani-sama and the other heroes are greatly related in this. It would be a good idea to have a talk with them after this."

Naofumi:" Then why did the Three Heroes Church not just kill me and be done with it?"

Queen:"It is necessary to keep you alive to avoid war. They would have hope you died in a wave.....Probably."

Indeed, that is the world's enemy so the blame won't fall on the Three Heroes Church.

Naofumi:" Were they waiting for the other heroes to get stronger?"

Queen:" That also may be the case."

If I was murdered immediately there would be war. Was it because they could not cheat the other three heroes when we just got summoned?

Queen:" Well the other Hero-samas are a bit..... They do not understand the consequences of their actions."

Naofumi:" Yeah, I figured."

Those guys still believe this is a game. Only doubting visible evil and not doubting their friends.

Queen:"Of course, there were others who acted as well. There have been large quantities of invitations from each country, particularly for Iwatani-sama. There were also plenty of donations towards the heroes. But you rejected all of them."

Naofumi:"What!?"

What the heck is she saying?

Queen:"Don't you have the memory of having done so yourself? It was on the third day you were summoned....."

Naofumi:"What?"

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 7B - Agreement

I recall the third day I was summoned.

During that time I was doubting everyone after that false accusation.

Moreover, I was getting tired of people trying to deceive me by pretending to be friendly.

.....Eh?

Was there a chance that one of them actually wanted to be friends?

Everything back then that sounded good to me was just a lie for people to get close.....

Naofumi:"Do not concern yourselves with me!"

There were even some people who saluted and said he understood.....

Eh?

Then does that mean I drove away everyone from Silt Welt because I told them not to concern themselves with me!?

Because I keep rejecting people.....?

Shiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiit!

I drop on my knees and hug my head.

Queen:" As expected, I was also troubled. Moreover, Iwatani-sama was causing problems and crimes in a various places."

Naofumi:"Urgg....."

The queen was thinking of me like that. The reproach in her voice was severe.

Queen:" Well there were situations solved that were thanks to you, so I'll overlook it."

Naofumi:".....What do you mean?"

Queen:"You see, the heroes acted in order to remove the bad from this country."

If looking at the results they would be successes.

Queen:" Iwatani-sama was crucial in solving the problems the other heroes caused."

The other heroes caused problems, and I was the fire-man going around the country putting out their fires.

Queen:" After the Three Heroes Church lost power, We are asking for co-operation with the Four Saints Faith to right the lies they spread about you."

The Three Heroes Church sure didn't choose their methods.

Naofumi:"What about the other heroes?"

Queen:"As for the Spear, Bitch was with him, sword, and bow seem to have been misled by false information from the guild."

Did they just trust whatever they heard first.....?

Well, if the evidence they had to work with was little, it would make sense. Though if it were me, I would just refuse the burden. But since I don't know, I cannot judge.

Naofumi: "Then next, Raphtalia..... did you have the slave trader show me her?"

Queen: "The more correct answer would be I gave instructions to a shadow. I do not know what kind of person this slave trader is."

That reminds me, that fellow didn't talk to me like it was our first meeting.

Slave Trader: "There was a customer who wanted to enslave a hero. So I intended to approach Hero-sama with that open possibility, but I've changed my mind. Yup."

Those were the words that guy said on our first meeting.

Wanting a hero as a slave. It's funny that such a person exists in this country.

Queen: "I heard the details. Please recall and think carefully. Do you think you can buy a slave with merely 20 pieces of silver?"

Naofumi: "Well.....I don't think so."

considering the condition she was in I was not suspicious about the price, though I didn't actually check the price of any other slaves.

It is doubtful that the wolf-man's would have been sold to me for its actual price.

It seems compared to other shops it was remarkably cheap.

Seriously, that slave trader, what an outrageous fellow.

To help me and not talk about it.

Raphtalia:" Regardless of the circumstances in which I met Naofumi-sama, I am still grateful."

Raphtalia says so with a smile.

.....That's right. Even if there was something behind it all,it doesn't change the fact that I bought Raphtalia from the slave trader.

If Raphtalia wasn't there protecting my back, then it would have been dangerous.

Raphtalia probably would have died if she had not met me either.

At that time, the slaves beside Raphtalia were put there to make sure I choose her.

In the end I used most of what little money I had accumulated. Buy a slave that should have been sold.

I would have likely doubted it if I was sold an excellent slave cheaply from the beginning.

However, betraying his expectations, Raphtalia grew up to be.....First class goods.

Thinking back carefully, that slave trader really helped me.

Naofumi:"Alright, next. The reason why you did not come back to the country?"

Queen:"I think you understand from our talks. I was at the limits of my patience. Melty wanted to meet Ault.....Trash, so I laid a trap. Also,

because the preparations for cornering the Three Heroes Church were completed."

Thanks to her arrangements..... The fight swung in our favour.

Queen:"I did not think they would possess a replica weapon of the Four Legendary Heroes."

Even if I was warned earlier about the existence of such a weapon, the fight still would have been incredibly difficult.

Queen:"The pope was a foolish man..... If he changed the replica weapon to a shield to receive Iwatani-sama's attack, perhaps his life would have been saved."

Naofumi:" It can become a shield too?"

Queen:"Of course. However, the replica only had one-fourth of the original legendary weapon's power."

Naofumi:" That was one-fourth?!"

Multiplying that power by four times.....That's too ridiculous.

To be fair, if it wasn't at least that strong it would not have become a legend in the first place.

Queen:"And my husband who fought against our country's nemesis Silt Welt in the old days, Trash has become a fool due to the long peace. If he was competent, or if his old wisdom returned, I would not feel this way now."

Yeah.....I figured they did not want me to reach Silt Welt due to that kind of border security.

Is it possible that Trash was not the one that sent all the knights to the border?

Oh well. We are still in the middle of talking.

Queen:"Afterwards.....Let's see. I happened to be in range and helped out Iwatani-sama against the pope. After hearing all of this, do you still wish to go to Silt Welt and start a war?"

Naofumi:"Hrmm....."

Even if the queen thinks of me like that, is there any reason to protect them?

But.....

Queen:"By the way, Silt Welt, or Schildfrieden, whichever one Iwatani would have went to, I will tell you the results."

Naofumi:"Hm?"

(TLnote: Sirudofuriden is changed to Schildfrieden which means Peace of the shield)

What does the queen intend to say?

Queen:"First, the Demi-human princesses, and nobles of various races will approach Iwatani-sama, and a harem will be formed."

Naofumi:"That is disgusting!"

I feel nauseous thanks to the result of Bitch's actions.

A bunch of women approaching me with ulterior motives.

Queen:" Anything you want would have been given to you. If you wanted to conquer this country the people would gladly throw themselves to war."

Hmm.....that does sound good. but a harem.....

I'll endure it.....

Queen:"Though you will be fine till then. However, for all countries and all religions, those in power will be corrupted and their beliefs dyed black."

Naofumi:"What?"

Queen:"Iwatani-sama would be risking.....unidentified illnesses and unfortunate accidents."

Naofumi:".....I don't really understand."

Queen:" It was how the Hero of the shield in the past met his end."

I would rather not hear this.

Queen:"By the way,do you remember those adventurers who lied about wanting to be in your party?"

Naofumi:".....Yeah."

It was several days after I arrived in this world.

Queen:" Their horribly disfigured corpses were discovered several days later."

Naofumi:"Ge!?"

Queen:"There was also a soldier that asked for you signature a while ago."

Naofumi:"Yeah."

I gave it to him because he asked.....No way.

Naofumi:"Did he die!?"

That fellow did his job properly. I would rather not see him meet his end like this.

Queen:"No.....But, the clothes that Iwatani-sama signed were stolen. It seems he was stalked everyday until it was gone."

Holy shit.....That's very troublesome.

Queen:"Afterwards, that clothing was found to have sold for a large amount of money in the black market."

Next time I meet him I'll apologize.

Queen:"I had to protect those soldiers who co-operated with Iwatani-sama."

Naofumi:"Ahh, are you blaming them?"

Queen:" The knight leader was attacked by someone and murdered. The culprit was not caught yet. Perhaps....."

I concluded that Silt Welt is an extremist country.

What can I say?.....Would going to Silt Welt be heaven or hell?

Of course, the queen's story may not be entirely correct.

Queen:"I think that it would be safer for you to build your own relationships that you can trust."

Naofumi:"....."

However, there is no reason to co-operate.

The pain that I have received until now is not something that will just fade away with the queen using her power, I am still not convinced.

Although I was concerned indirectly, the punishment and explanation the queen gave a little while ago was done as the one in power in this country.

Yet, she was too benevolent and showed mercy.

I admit that I do recognize her abilities, but I do not trust her.

Anything can be said.

Because it would be troublesome for them if I went to another country, I am being kept here.

If what she says is correct, then I would be highly received regardless of Shirudofuriden or Silt Welt.

There is no special reason to staying in Melromarc.

Queen:"....."

The queen is staring into my eyes while I think.

Queen:" Up until now, I have been covering for all the damage that Iwanati-sama has received until now. I understand this is a selfish.

However, to me.....No, to this country, there is no other choice but to rely on you. If I can appease your anger with my head then I would gladly pay the price. If you wish I can even change my name. Therefore, please

postpone your decision. I Mirelia Q Melromarc will take a magical contract, and vow that you will not be treated as you have been previously."

The queen bows deeply.

Melty is speechless at this scene, and Raphtalia can only watch with her eyes wide.

Firo seems to have sensed something is happening from the atmosphere.

She..... Is really only thinking about what is best for the country.

If I really wanted Trash and Bitch dead, then there is no doubt they would have died.

Is Melromarc really in such a dangerous position on the global scale?

In other words, the fate of this country has been entrusted to my hands.

If I wished I could destroy Melromarc.

But-

Naofumi: "Only once."

Queen: "What do you mean?"

Naofumi: "Your shadow has saved our lives before."

Queen: "That means....."

Naofumi: "I will believe you only once. Regardless of reason, there will be no next time."

Queen: "Thank you very much."

The queen lowered her head and bowed to me in appreciation.

This might sound good.

But I cannot go on doubting everything.

I.....No one is perfect.

The enemy of a Hero is not the country, it is the wave.

If Glass attacks while the countries are fighting each other, we will be done for.

I will not forget that the three heroes were defeated by her in the previous wave.

There is no need to forcibly increase my enemies.

The situation of being attacked from the front and behind has changed.

If I defeat the wave, then I can return to my original world.

I will concentrate on fighting the wave..... and Glass from now on.

This is actually quite a big step forwards.

Naofumi:" Are we safe diplomatically?"

Queen:"I get what Iwatani-sama is asking, for the time being all the problems have been dealt with. The only problem is not having a dependable Hero-sama. Therefore I wish to ask for Iwatani-sama's co-operation even if I have to take an oath."

Naofumi:"Are you going to punish the other heroes that you will be relying on?"

Queen:"Certainly. Due to the Hero-samas actions and assistance in subduing the Three Heroes Church their punishment won't be too severe, but I still have to punish them due to criticism from the surrounding countries are increasing....."

Naofumi:"Is that so.....that's unfortunate."

Well, I was hoping to show those fellows hell. Either way, if a chance comes I'll take it.

There are still a lot of things to discuss, but I suppose this is our position now.

Queen:" Could you keep our conversation a secret from those three? Heroes are human too. I don't know what they will do if weakness is shown....."

Certainly, there were a lot of things that probably can't be said to those three heroes.

I don't know about Motoyasu or Ren, but Itsuki might go into a frenzy. Above all, the situation around me will improve greatly.

Naofumi:"Understood. One of those guys....."

Queen:"Yeah. Afterwards, I have the responsibility to watch over."

Naofumi:"Is that so, well after this one enemy has finally disappeared....."

Queen:"I am very sorry..... Please forgive me for summoning you without permission and forcing you to fight."

Naofumi:" It's fine already. So what will you do from now on? Are you going to speak to those three?"

Queen:"Yes, we will talk about matters of your participation over dinner."

Naofumi:"Understood."

The queen gives instructions to a subordinate walks towards the throne.

Queen:"Melty.....Let's go."

Melty:" Ah.....Okay."

Queen:" Iwatani-sama, thank you for protecting Melty."

The queen lowers her head and bows in gratitude.

Firo:" Is Mel-chan going somewhere?"

As expected, Firo seems to have understood and looks troubled.

Naofumi:" The world Melty lives in is different from us. It is unlikely we will be able to journey together like before."

It was difficult to say that while I turn to the queen.

Firo:"Really?"

Firo looks at Melty who is crying.

Melty:".....yeah."

Firo:"We can't meet anymore?"

Melty:".....No. We will meet again. Many times. But travelling together is impossible."

Melty faces the queen.

The queen nods in confirmation.

Firo:"But..... I won't say good-bye."

Melty:"Allright. However, Firo-chan is always welcome."

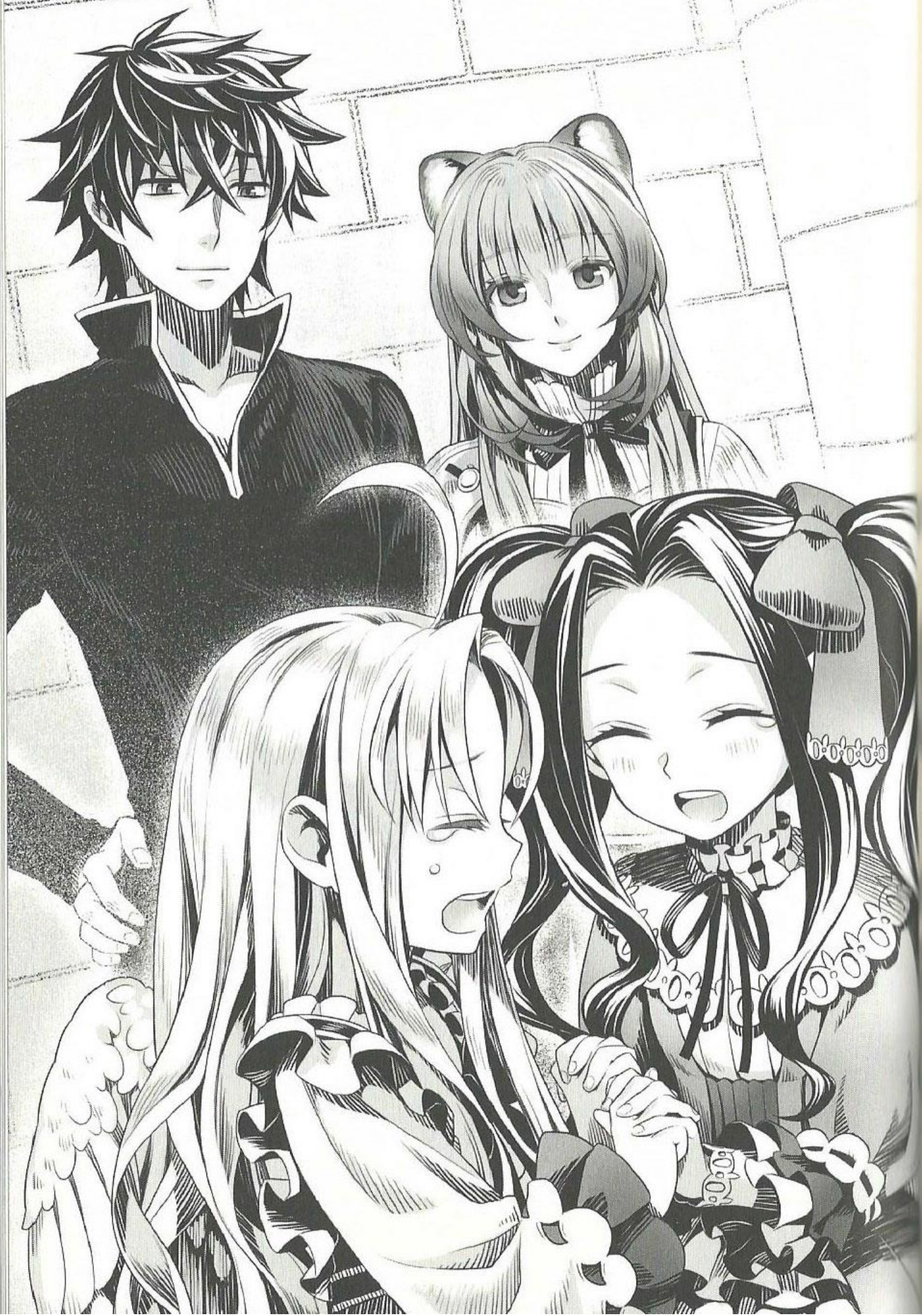
Melty tells Firo in a tearful voice.

It is a fact that our journey had a big influence on Melty.

When the waves are over I made up my mind to leave Firo with Melty.

Firo: "Even if we separate Mel-chan will always be Firo's friend right!?"

Melty: " Yeah! No matter what I am Firo-chan's friend."



It was a touching scene, but goodbyes..... I'm not sure you should be saying that now since we will still be in the castle today.

There is also no schedule for talking with the queen in the future.

But I'll stay silent.

Because this will cause both of their friendships to deepen.

Having a good friend is important, for both of them.

Raphtalia holds my hand as I watch the conversation.

I clench her hand silently and understood without turning around.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 79 - Dinner

We were being guided to dinner with the queen after resting in a VIP room. As the soldiers were guiding us, we looked around and saw luxurious tables throughout the hall.

Isn't this even more luxurious than the time Motoyasu and I duelled?

.....It took a long time.

My innocence was finally proven after so long.

I see the queen and Melty entered the hall holding hands.

The two of them approach while looking like they have something to say.

Naofumi: "What's wrong?"

Queen: "Well.....Oh dear, I'll just tell you truthfully."

Naofumi: "?"

While I was looking puzzled, the queen muttered about something being deplorable.

It seems that Bitch and Trash proposed to carry a dish from the kitchen to me.

They reflected. Therefore they want to bring me a dish as some kind of atonement.

This information is immediately heard by the queen

The two of them snatched two dishes by force in the hallway to bring to me.

This happened while the queen was in the hall preparing.

Queen: "It is an admirable attitude to carry the food."

Both of them had cold sweat running down their back as they tried to put the food on my side.

However, the queen ordered the soldiers to arrest them.

I heard the circumstances from the shadows supervising them in advance.

Trash:"Wh-What are you doing!?"

Bitch:"I did not do anything!"

They were protesting while being arrested.

When caught, their reaction is as follows.

Queen:"Yes, I pray you did nothing too. Now then, both of you..... eat a mouthful of the food you tried to serve Iwatani-sama."

Trash:"Such an impolite thing will not be done!"

Bitch:"I did not do anything!"

Their pitiful selves repeat an excuse while resisting.

Queen:"Yes, I believe you. So eat."

Trash:"That would be rude to the shield!"

Bitch:"That's right! Something that was already have eaten should not be served!"

Queen:" That's alright. Just take a bit with some clean tableware."

Trash:"Certainly Not!"

Bitch:"Disgusting!"

Queen:" Eat it!"

The soldiers force-feed the two of them the dishes they carried.

Naofumi:" So, what happened to them?"

Queen:" Trash went to the toilet, and Bitch was carried to the hospital."

Are they retarded?

Trash used a laxative, and Bitch used poison.

I should be fine thanks to poison resistance, but I don't have a hobby of consuming poison.

However, these guys aren't reflecting at all.

It would have been an excellent assassination. But their execution leaves much to be desired.

Naofumi:"They are going to be punished for this right?"

Queen:"Naturally I will. I'll give Trash and Bitch a painful experience every day until they give up."

Naofumi:"Uh huh....."

Queen:" It was good that they were caught so early. There was a chance that Iwatani-sama might have actually taken damage."

Naofumi:"I guess....."

Those guys didn't learn their lesson..... they don't deserve any praise for their tenacity.

It would be fine to be angry here, let's try to evaluate the queen's enthusiasm in punishing them.

Naofumi:" Observe them closely. If they are unhurt I will withdraw our agreement.

Queen:" Of course. Originally, the contents of their punishment would be supervised and then reported to Iwatani-sama periodically, until they stop misbehaving."

Naofumi:"Well.....That's obvious."

The queen also adds that there is always a shadow watching Bitch and Trash.

So if they do something bad then it will be reported immediately.

Each time Trash and Bitch does anything, I can choose to reward or torment.

They can even show me what's happening. It sounds very pleasant.

Queen:"Yes. So please think about the extent of their punishment. They will surely do it again. Since all attempts will be prevented beforehand, so punish them accordingly, since Iwatani-sama is necessary to Melromarc.

Naofumi:".....I understand"

The queen then declares grandly to all the visitors that have gathered.

Queen:"I, Mirelia Q Melromarc, would like to thank everyone here for participating in this event. Everybody, please enjoy the feast and have fun!"

The participants who gathered in the hall cheered, and my reason for participating in this event is completely different from last time.

Last time I participated for the money.

I understand that the country's situation will become a lot harsher in the future.

Firo:"Wow~....."

Firo's eyes shine at the amount of food put on display.

This party seems to be a restaurant style buffet.

Everything is in placed like a luxurious restaurant for the important guests.

If you still want to eat more, just head to the buffet and refill.

We were guided to our designated table with our plates full.

Last time we just stayed in a corner and ate.

Naofumi:"You may go get more food after you finish that plate."

Firo:"Really!?"

Naofumi:"There is a rule. You must maintain your human form."

Firo:"Okay!"

After devouring the expensive cuisine in front of her, Firo begins to skip towards the buffet looking for more.

For Firo is it quantity over quality?

Somehow, Firo's attitude reminds me of how Raphtalia was before.

incidentally, I look at Raphtalia.

Raphtalia:"Wh-What is it?"

Raphtalia spoke bashfully while I stared at her.

Naofumi:"Is that enough? When you're done go get more."

Raphtalia: "I do not eat so much anymore!"

Naofumi: ".....It's bad for your health. Even during forced marching, replenishing nutrition is important."

Raphtalia: ".....Haah....."

Raphtalia sighs deeply.

What on earth did I say?

Raphtalia: "Uhm.....Naofumi-sama what kind of girls do you prefer?"

Naofumi: "What?"

There isn't really any kind of girl I particularly prefer.....

I would like to avoid such a topic since it makes me recall Bitch.

Raphtalia: "Err.....In your original world, did you have someone you liked?"

Naofumi: " What are you saying? There is no one like that."

That is not my reason of wanting to return to my former world. Why would she think that?

Raphtalia: ".....Haah....."

Raphtalia sighs again.

Naofumi: " I don't really understand, but I am only returning because I want to go home."

After everything is concluded I will not hesitate to return to my original world. If I had to look for a reason.....

Then, suddenly I recall when I first arrived at this world.

Is my wish to return coming from the fact that I was deceived by Bitch?

These feelings, after recognizing them again seem to have become stronger.

Mysterious Voice:"Hero of the Shield-sama!"

Naofumi:"Hm?"

When I look at the direction of the voice, a volunteer who I recognized is heading towards us.

Ah, these two,one of them was the one that asked for a signature.

Naofumi:"I'm glad to see you safe."

SoldierA:"You have nothing to worry about.....That's not it."

I look at the soldier who received the signature.

Naofumi:"Were the clothes that I signed stolen? My bad."

The soldier shakes his head.

SoldierB:"It's all right."

Naofumi:"I see, if it's fine then I won't worry. So how did the signature get stolen? What happened?"

It seems to be a group of from the extremist country.

He got caught up in this unfortunate event.

Naofumi:"Can't be helped. Extend your hand."

SoldierB:"Yes?"

It's not the best thing I can give, but it can't have an actual form.

I shake hands with the soldier who wanted a signature.

SoldierB:"Ah....."

I wonder what the standards for handshakes in this world are. It would be bad if this was rude.

Naofumi:"I apologize for troubling you. I am grateful for your co-operation given the circumstances. Forgive me with this for now."

SoldierB:".....Okay!"

The soldier nods very joyfully. His cheeks are dyed red.....

This child is probably one who believes in the Four Saints Faith or the Shield Religion. That's probably why he wanted my signature.

.....I hope some dangerous guys don't want the hand that I shook.

Was this too rash?

Naofumi:"If there is an opportunity I'll thank you properly."

Soldiers:""Okay!""

When I was about to speak.

Mysterious Voice:"Naofumi!"

Naofumi:"Hm?"

Motoyasu walks towards me while fuming.

.....Haah.

Soldiers who realized the situation rushes to stop Motoyasu.

Soldiers:"Please wait!"

Motoyasu:"Out of the way!"

The soldiers were knocked away and Motoyasu continued on.

Motoyasu:".....Let's duel!"

Naofumi:" What's with you suddenly."

Did you suffer an illness that forces you to fight me at every feast?

Motoyasu:" I heard about it! That you changed Mein's name selfishly!"

.....Haah. Were you seduced by Bitch?

Bitch is clinging to Motoyasu while crying.

Bitch:"Hero of the Shield-sama selfishly asked mama to change my name without permission....."

Her acting isn't very good.

Hm? Looking carefully, Bitch's equipment is different from before.

All her luxurious equipment is gone, all that's left are cheap products.

Oh, was her equipment seized by the queen?

Well that's too bad!

Motoyasu: "Why are you acting so childish?"

Naofumi: "Hahahaha!"

Motoyasu: "It's not funny! Such a pitiful name!"

Naofumi: "I know right!?"

This is the consequence of Bitch's deeds.

I mean Bitch was carried to the hospital earlier as a result of her actions.

Motoyasu: "If I win change her name back."

Naofumi: "I already beat you--"

Motoyasu: "This time is different."

Naofumi: ".....I guess so. You are that kind of guy."

I have no reason for fighting at all.

I'm also getting a bad feeling.....

The crowd parts and the queen walks in.

Motoyasu: "Queen-sama! Please grant a duel between Naofumi and I!"

Motoyasu seems to think the queen would do the same thing that Trash did.

Queen: "I will not."

Motoyasu: "Eh?"

Motoyasu expresses his surprise and seems flabbergasted by the queen's words.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 80 - Invigoration

Queen:"Kitamura-sama, do not get Bitch's name wrong."

Motoyasu's mouth is hanging open in astonishment.

What did you think would happen?

Queen:"As a princess her name is Bitch, and as an adventurer she is known as Whore."

Motoyasu:"Wha.....You! Are you really a parent of Mein?"

Queen:" Yes, that's right. But that was her previous name, now she is Bitch."

The queen instructs the soldiers with her eyes.

Bitch was peeled off Motoyasu.

Bitch:"Wait! What are you doing! I am--"

Queen:" What is a mere adventurer saying? You have no authority here."

Motoyasu:" What are you doing to a girl!"

Queen:"Kitamura-sama..... If you do not address her correctly, every time that you call her incorrectly I will have to add another burden for her to shoulder."

Motoyasu has an unbelievable face and glares at the queen.

Queen:"There were many reasons to change her name. First of all, she falsely accused Iwatani-sama of rape, and then pettily took advantage of

her younger sister Melty's life and death crisis, there are various other reasons but these are the main problems. It is already a rather weak punishment."

Motoyasu:" What are you saying!?"

Queen:"I believe you would want to thank Iwatani-sama for this lenient punishment."

After not getting what he wanted, Motoyasu glared at me in displeasure.

Motoyasu:"The brainwashing-"

Naofumi:"There was no such power."

Queen:"Yes, That's right. Do not be deceived by false rumours spread by the Three Heroes Church. Iwatani-sama has gained the trust of the people with his own strength."

Naofumi:"That's right."

It seems that the queen is getting slightly irritated.

Since her daughter's reckless behaviour is uncontrollable.

Did she not learn her lesson?

Though I still don't believe in her completely, the queen is really quite pitiful.

The queen raises her fan upwards.

Queen:"I declare that any allegations that have been placed on Hero of the Shield Iwatani Naofumi-sama about raping adventurers to be nonsense!"

Applause breaks out.

When I glance at Motoyasu he is looking around the hall restlessly with an incredible expression.

Motoyasu: " You, you think this is funny?"

What? You still think I'm a sex offender?

Is your desire for a harem so strong that it doesn't matter what a woman does?

Queen: " Now then, Kitamura-sama..... Please use her correct name.Keep in mind that every time the wrong name is used, her debt to the country will increase."

Motoyasu: "Stop joking around!"

Motoyasu glares at me for some reason.

Queen: " Iwatani-sama is not related to this. Now, call her name."

Motoyasu: "Wh-Who would call her that!?"

Queen: "Then I shall separate you and Bitch, and she will have no way to repay her debt.Isn't that right, Iwatani-sama?"

Naofumi: "Mhmm"

Queen: "This child--"

Bitch: "No, no way!--Motoyasu-sama!"

Bitch notices the situation deteriorating and begs Motoyasu for help.

However, everybody except for Motoyasu understands this is only for self-protection.

There is no way she could change so quick.....

Motoyasu: "Gu....."

Queen:"Kitamura-sama should understand. Because she was born a coward, and grew up looking down on others."

Motoyasu:"She is not like that! This guy is the evil one!"

Motoyasu points at me and declares.

Do you even understand that the ground you are standing on is gone? Are you still blindly believing the lies you were fed?

It would be fine to leave it to the queen. But, maybe I can solve this without violence.

Naofumi:" Very well. If you want a match so badly, I'll keep you company."

Queen:" Iwatani-sama.....Is this fine? It is fine to fight each other to prove who is correct, but killing is forbidden."

Naofumi:" Yeah, I understand. But, this is one-on-one."

After being struck in the back from magic.

Motoyasu:"That's a given!"

Naofumi:"Well, it can't be helped if you want to fight. But, stop and think for a second. Who was it that you could never land a finishing blow on?"

Motoyasu was a little startled and continues to stare at me.

Naofumi:" If you seriously fight me without your companions, can you win?"

Motoyasu:"Ku....."

Naofumi:"By the way, I can heal myself..... I'm sure you can imagine the outcome in a war of attrition."

Though at that time I couldn't attack, unlike right now.

As expected, Motoyasu's fighting spirit has been dampened thanks to that experience.

Naofumi: "Hey, if you've given up just say her name."

Motoyasu: "Shit....."

Queen: "If you do not say her correct name then I will separate you two."

Bitch: "Mama!"

Motoyasu: "Ah....."

Bitch shouts at the queen with a mortified expression. Motoyasu murmured inaudibly with an expression full of distress.

Motoyasu: "Whore....."

Bitch: "Shield! I'll never forgive you!"

Naofumi: "Say what you want, Bitch!"

The queen gives instructions to release Bitch.

Queen: "That's enough, please understand that you cannot make absurd demands against Iwatani-sama by abusing your power any more. Because my policy is to treat the heroes equally."

Motoyasu: "What about this is equal!?"

Queen: "Oh my. Did you think I would just overlook the misfortune that Iwatani-sama put up with while I wasn't here? Did you ever treat all the other Heroes equally?"

Ren and Itsuki approach while this was happening.

Queen:"Hero of the Sword-sama, Hero of the Bow-sama, please understand. My daughter, Bitch falsely accused Iwatani-sama. As her punishment her name has been changed to Bitch. This was the result of sympathy as well."

Ren:"Ah.....Sure"

Itsuki:"U-Understood."

Queen:"Please treat the current situation as repaying Iwatani-sama for his past troubles. Since the rest of you hero-samas have already received plenty of preferential treatment compared to Iwatani-sama."

The queen said I would be receiving preferential treatment only for now.....But these fellows don't look convinced.

Motoyasu is standing worryingly beside Bitch while she looks at the queen with an unpleasant expression.

After Ren and Itsuki confirmed the situation and figured out it was all under control, they just stood there with unreadable expressions.

Rather, a feeling of "That's right....." could be felt from them as they look at Motoyasu and remember him being favored.

Queen:"Bitch. I'll be adding to your punishment seeing as the change of your name was not completed thoroughly, and that brought trouble to Iwatani-sama."

Bitch:"Shut up! Do not call me Bitch!"

Queen:"It seems you haven't reflected in the slightest.....It can't be helped."

The queen claps her hands and a wizard brings a familiar ink bottle to her.

Motoyasu: "Wh-What are you going to do!?"

Motoyasu notices the threatening atmosphere and raises his voice.

The soldiers hold Motoyasu back while the magician begins the ceremony on Bitch.

The queen pricks her finger with a needle and drips her blood on the ink. That is.....I see, so that's what is going to happen.

Bitch: "N-No! Release me!"

As expected of Bitch, she also knows what is about to happen.

She violently struggles but the soldiers keep her steady.

Although Motoyasu doesn't understand what is happening, he recovers and readies his spear.

Motoyasu: "Stoooooooooooooop!"

As if they would.

Naofumi: "Shield Prison!"

While controlling my anger I change to the Wrath Shield and trap Motoyasu.

Bitch: "N-No! Stay away! Who do you think I am!?"

Queen: "Aren't you just a plain adventurer? No wait, you're a criminal. This is punishment for the failed assassination attempt of giving poison to Iwatani-sama."

As the queen is reminding Bitch, she gives the signal.

Ink is dropped onto Bitch's chest, and a pattern is carved there.

Bitch: "Kyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

After Bitch screams for a while, then the pattern disappears as if it was never there.

It's different from Raphtalia's. Raphtalia has a tattoo, while nothing can be seen on Bitch.

Queen: "This is a high-class slave crest. Usually it's not visible until the conditions are met, and when it appears, punishment is dealt."

Something like Firo's demon crest?

Queen: "The condition is attacking Iwatani-sama. Whether by direct attack with magic or indirect attack with poison, nothing is allowed!"

Bitch glares at the queen with watery eyes.

Motoyasu: "Mei.....Whore, are you all right?"

Motoyasu is released from the prison, runs up Bitch and holds her.

I wonder if that was a smart decision. After receiving a serious counterattack, Motoyasu and Bitch must be extremely frustrated.

Queen: "Now then, shall we get down to business?"

Ren:".....What would that be?"

What a quick change of gears.

Is this the dignity of a queen?

Quite nasty.

Ren and Itsuki's expressions are also cramping up.

Queen:"Yes, I think Hero-samas would enjoy this news very much."

What the queen is going to say?

While holding some doubts I listen attentively to the queen's story.

Queen:"A country that is off the coast.....Cal Mira Island has become active.

I request the participation of all Hero-samas."

.....What island? How is it becoming active?

""Uooooooooooooo!?"""

The three of them have gotten excited.

Motoyasu.....are you forgetting Bitch?

You were looking extremely mortified a little while ago.

Naofumi:" What's that? Is there something there?"

Queen:"Since Iwatani-sama does not know I'll explain. That island is only active once every 10 years, there is a phenomenon where experience earned in that area greatly increases for that time."

The queen's long story summed up is like this.

The island called Cal Mira Island is famous as a holiday resort, and various devils inhabit the location.

It is also famous for adventurers who want to Level up quickly, during its active period every 10 years.

It seems this event will greatly help the four Heroes who are a bit weak right now.

Queen:" Of course, we have already borrowed the island. Everyone, please participate."

In online gaming terms would this be an event dungeon?

Do the enemies have an extremely good Experience to strength ratio?

If you are a gamer you would be extremely pleased with this event.

If anything.....

Queen:" Preparations have been completed already, and I would like Hero-samas to participate as in a big event."

Naofumi:"Event?"

Ren:"What will we be doing?"

The queen answers after hearing our questions.

Queen:"It is just Hero-sama's will be having a staff and information exchange with each other at Cal Mira Island. Of course, only if all four of you agree."

.....

""""What-----!""""

The queen drops quite a ridiculous request.

The next day.

Trash:"Nuooooooooooooo!"

The queen is torturing Trash by freezing him in front of me.

While looking at Trash's pained face, I feel refreshed.

Queen:"Seriously.....Iwatani-sama sure is resourceful."

After hearing the story of Cal Mira Island, I agreed so that we could increase our levels.

According to my conversation with the queen, Cal Mira Island is also a great location for hot springs.

Moreover, it seems the hot springs have a healing effect on curses.

But there is a bad problem.

Even if I am good, Raphtalia and Firo still haven't Classed Up yet and cannot gain levels.

When I told the queen, she brought Trash and such a situation happened.

After Trash finally confessing due to being frozen.

Queen:" It can't be helped. Please start your journey after receiving Class up at the Hourglass of the Dragon's Era for your companions."

Naofumi:"Are you not coming to the island?"

Queen:" I have some internal affairs. Instead, I will be dispatching the shadows."

Well, I figured.

Naofumi:"Speaking of which, why are we doing an information and staff exchange.....?"

It seems the atmosphere has become unpleasant.

Queen:"Did you not like the idea?"

Naofumi:"Nope, I hate those guys."

Queen:"You might be able to learn a different method to get stronger from the information exchange with the other Hero-samas."

Naofumi:"Well....."

That is one possibility.

What can I say.....It would be a problem to beat those guys without the Curse Series though.

It should only be a matter of time before those guys obtain their own Curse Series, though they will be quite behind.

I don't like it, but it might be helpful.

Naofumi:"Why do we have to exchange personnel?"

Queen:"So that you can take into account how their companions fight when working together."

Naofumi:" Is that it?"

Queen:" No, this also doubles for information exchange. If they are careless you might be able to learn how they get stronger."

I should consider this very carefully. The reverse is also quite possible. But if I consider the wave, it s important for all of us to get stronger. In the future when we will be fighting together, it would be helpful to know how these guys fight.

Queen:"For Trash to have such a good idea."

Naofumi:"This was proposed by Trash!?"

Queen:"Yes, though originally the plan was to give preferential treatment to Kitamura-sama."

I see.

In order to steal information from the other heroes.

What a cunning old man. This Trash.

Though I don't think I was included in the trip to Cal Mira Island.

Queen:"With that said, will you be going?"

Naofumi:"It's a good idea. It may be beneficial."

Queen:"I do not know how much aid money I can provide to Iwatani-sama yet since the treasury count is still incomplete. Please look forward to it after returning."

Naofumi:"I'm assuming that living expenses there is already paid for."

Queen:"Of course, those expenses have already been prepared. Now then, shall we go to the Hourglass of the Dragon's Era? Since preparations are completed, let us make a magical contract there."

Naofumi:" Understood. Let's go."

Raphtalia:" Okay"

Firo:" Okay~!"

By the way, Firo slept with Melty last night.

Melty wanted to sleep in Firo's feathers..... I remember the teacher who walked in on that in the morning and screamed.

And so, with the queen and Melty, we headed towards the Hourglass of the Dragon's Era.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 81 - Class Up

When we arrived at the Hourglass of the Dragon's Era that sister at the reception desk before was gone.

Naofumi: "Where did that other sister go to?"

Sister: "She was arrested because she was part of the Three Heroes Church."

Oh, so she was labeled a criminal.

Well she was infuriating anyway. Too bad.

Naofumi: "Now what? Can we go Class Up?"

Queen: "First of all, please tell me who wants to do a class up."

After listening to the queen I look at Raphtalia and Firo.

Though we have already decided which Class to take, there is no telling what might happen.

Firo: "Okay~! Firo wants to go first!"

Firo raises her hand and declares that she wants to go first.

I look at Raphtalia and she nods.

Raphtalia: "Then Firo will Class Up first."

Firo: "Yay~!"

Melty: "Firo-chan do your best!"

In her human form Firo steps forward with a pitter-patter.

Sister: "Please get into a comfortable position, touch the Hourglass of Dragon's Era and focus your consciousness on it."

Firo: "Like this?"

Firo reverts to her demon form and slowly touches the Hourglass of Dragon's Era.

The sand near Firo's wing shines and ripples.

Queen: "Now then, let's proceed with the Class Up ceremony."

On the queen's orders the soldiers surrounding the hourglass pour some kind of liquid into the grooves the shape of a magic square etched into the floor.

Firo: "Huh? What is that sound?"

Firo strains her ears.

Queen: "Concentrate"

Firo: "Okay~"

Firo shuts her eyes and spreads both her wings.

The hourglass continues to glow, and the magic formation on the floor also starts glowing.

Firo stands in the center, and is being surrounded by light.

Queen:" Now, please choose your future possibility."

Firo:"Ah, Something popped up"

Firo mutters with her eyes closed.

The icon in Firo's view also appears in mine, a class tree appeared.

Queen:"Since she is Iwatani-sama's demon, you must choose."

Naofumi:"Ah, is such a thing even possible?"

All the possibilities of Philorials and their various abilities appear.

However.

Naofumi:"What Firo wants for herself, may not be what I choose."

If I don't choose, does it automatically pick the demon's choice?

I press the decline button on the screen.

Firo:"Wa! something came into view!"

It was probably what appeared in front of me earlier. It might be due to the influence of the demon crest.

Firo:"Which one to pick~....."

With her eyes closed Firo happily picks her possibility.

I'll allow Firo to decide for herself, since this will affect her whole life.

That's right. I'll tell Raphtalia the same.

Naofumi:" Raptalia, I will let you and Firo choose whichever Class Up you want yourselves, since I will be leaving the world after the wave is over. It will be fine."

Raptalia:"As long as Naofumi-sama chooses, it will be good....."

Naofumi:"Nope."

Raptalia:".....I understand."

Raptalia mutters while seeming dissatisfied about something.

If I decide selfishly and they don't like it, then it would be rough for both of us.

I want them to choose for themselves, because I trust them.

Now then, I wonder what Firo is going to choose.

Firo's ahoge is growing and shining brilliantly.

Naofumi:"Eh?"

The light shines brighter and buzzes, and then with a flash it was gone.

I was momentarily blinded.

When my vision recovers, I look at Firo who is blinking repeatedly. Her appearance.....There are no big changes.

But, her ahoge has become more luxurious, now it gives off the feeling of a mini-crown.....

Queen:"It seems the Class Up was completed successfully."

Naofumi:" I see."

I check her status. The ★ has disappeared wonderfully.

Her stats have nearly doubled.

Isn't this too amazing?

Melty: "Firo-chan is amazing!"

It seems Melty is pleased that Firo has powered up.

However, Firo has a delicate expression while walking over.

Firo: "You see.....Firo wasn't able to choose....."

Firo mutters, looking like she is about to cry at any moment.

Naofumi: "What went wrong?"

Firo: "Firo wanted to choose the one that can spit poison. But what came out was not what was selected."

Naofumi: " I saw your ahoge shine brightly."

Firo: "Mu....."

Melty is coaxing the depressed Firo.

Naofumi: "Then, next is Raphtalia."

Raphtalia: "O-Okay."

Before it even starts I'm getting a bad feeling about this.

Raphtalia touches the Hourglass the same way Firo did.

When the light shines, the soldiers pour the same liquid inside the magic formation.

As I thought, an icon pops up in my view again.

Now then.....pushing the refusal---

At that moment, Firo's ahoge splits in two and one enters my view.

Naofumi:"Wha!?What is this!? You bird!"

Firo:" It's not Firo!"

Not Firo you say!? Are you telling me that your ahoge can act independently?

Raphtalia's eyes open wide and she stares

Raphtalia:"Naofumi-sama!?"



The ahoge lands on the pop-up, disappears, and reveals a possibility that didn't exist before.

Light flows from me to Raphtalia.

Raphtalia: "Kya!?"

Raphtalia screams.

And the light disappears.

Thick smoke covers the room. This is quite different from Firo's.

The smoke clears up.....

I watch Raphtalia coughing. There are no apparent changes other than her hair colour being a brighter shade compared to before.....

Naofumi: "A-Are you alright?"

Raphtalia: "Oh, uh yeah. I'm fine....."

What happened? I worryingly check Raphtalia's status.

.....Just like Firo, the ★ disappeared and her stats have nearly doubled.

Raphtalia: "What happened?"

Naofumi: "I have no idea either. The Class Up was chosen by itself.....I had a bad feeling, but there seems to be no problems."

Queen: "I see, that's fine then..... I wonder what chose the Class Up without permission?"

Naofumi: "What are you talking about?"

Melty: "Uhhh you see. I think Firo-chan's ahoge did it-"

Melty retells her story about meeting the Philorial Queen.

Queen:"I see, I would have liked to meet the queen of Philorials too."

Naofumi:"That's not the problem right now."

Is the queen's hobby searching for legends?

Wait wait, this isn't the situation to think about those things.

Naofumi:"I wonder why. I was uneasy and thought that there might be some abnormal transformations!"

Raphtalia:"Yes, me too. Though I had a feeling my body was shrinking, but that doesn't seem to be the case."

Firo:"Master~, what are you saying?"

It seems something absurd in the world occurred.....

At any rate, there is nothing we can do about it, and nothing bad happened.

Maybe it was due to my luck finally turning around.

Naofumi:".....Don't worry about it. Anyway, how are your abilities and conditions?"

Raphtalia:"I feel that power is surging through my body."

Naofumi:"I see, that's good....."

Queen:"Is it due to the Queen Philorial feather?..... I don't know what it was, but it seems to have chosen for you. I'm sure that you will be unable to change it."

The queen regretfully informs us.

Queen:"There are specific items that you can use during Class Ups to get more benefits. I pray that was a good thing....."

Naofumi:"Yeah....."

Queen:"So how much did their abilities grow?"

Naofumi:"Their abilities almost doubled."

Queen:"Doubled!?"

The queen is surprised.

Perhaps this is way better than usual?

Maybe it's due to the Philorial Queen's feather. If the growth rate is high, then I am glad.

Queen:"Originally.....any item that would increase the growth rate by 1.5 times is already amazing. They would generally be very strong."

Naofumi:"Is that so? Then this is great."

However, both of them have a delicate expression.

I understand your feelings.

Class Up----I am familiar with that since in games you should be able to choose your own.

Naofumi:"Well.....Do your best."

Raphtalia:"uuu.....somehow I'm feeling quite melancholic."

Firo:"Firo too."

Melty:"Cheer up, Firo-chan."

Like this, our Class Up was complete.

Queen:"Next is the contract."

The queen shows a contract written on parchment to me.

Queen:"Please read it."

Naofumi:"Sure....."

The contract contains the following:

1. If any situation occurs that would harm the Hero of the Shield, the country will stop it at all costs
2. The country will co-operate and arrange preparations for the Hero of the Shield against the wave.
3. The Hero of the Shield will receive various preferential treatments.
4. Nothing is demanded of the Hero of the Shield except for fighting against the wave.

Lastly, the country will take responsibility when the contract breaks.

I request for a copy of the contractual document.....For insurance. So a copy of the parchment was given to me.

The contents are very advantageous for me.

I confirm many times that there are no play on words or contradictory terms.

I feel that I may have went too far, but after inspecting it for a while there were no abnormalities.

Naofumi:"Well, this should be fine."

Queen:" Then, please finish the seal with a drop of your blood."

I poke my own finger with a knife and write my name in blood on the parchment.

The queen does the same, and the parchment begins to shine in the middle of the magic formation.

The light disappears and a golden bracelet appears around the queen's arm.

Queen:"If the contract is broken, then it will punish me accordingly. Please rest assured."

Naofumi:" Understood. So I guess it's official now?"

Queen:"Indeed."

There is a feeling of relief.....

Naofumi:"I should reconsider exchanging companions on the trip....."

Queen:"Please consider carefully."

Seeing as I am having trouble deciding, the queen answers.

Naofumi:"Hm?"

Queen:"If it goes well wouldn't Iwatani-sama be able to increase his companions?"

Naofumi:"Ah.....So that's what you mean."

This could be a chance for all the heroes, including me, to find out how the other hero companions operate.

Queen:"The Hero of the Shield is already not associated with anything evil. There may even be some companions that are dissatisfied with following their chosen hero."

Naofumi:"In other words..... a repicking from the first day....."

I am still holding a grudge from when no one helped me.

There is also no way I will lose Raphtalia and Firo thanks to them being slaves.

Queen:"Even if Iwatani-sama is not aware, some of the hero companions have already been changed. So, it might not be a bad idea to try it out."

Naofumi:"Change? Who went to who?"

Queen:"Every Hero-sama. More or less, compared to before their party is a little different....."

Since I never took a good look, I did not notice it.

What can I say? The companions of those fellows must have sobered up. Their true colours must have shown.

.....That reminds me, that man in Motoyasu's party disappeared.

I thought he was just hiding and waiting for a chance, but he did not appear at all.

Well, as a man in Motoyasu's harem it was probably hell for him.

Besides, I feel that each Hero had an increase in companions.

Definitely. There are people who become friends in the middle of a trip.

If an adventurer, villager, knight, or magician has talent then they would be scouted.

It's a common development that happens in my favourite mangas and light novels.

I see. I am the unorthodox one, only taking slaves.

Anyhow.....

Naofumi:.....haah. I understand."

Queen:"There may be someone who wants to follow Iwatani-sama."

Naofumi:"But I do not trust anyone except for those with absolute obedience."

Queen:"Oh ho? But I thought you are developing a good relationship with Melty?"

At the queen's words, Melty trembles and blushes a deep-red.

It is probably from being humiliated.

Naofumi:"She's going to die if she didn't follow me, so there's no other way. She might be Firo's good friend, but she doesn't respect me at all"

Melty:"R-Right!"

She nods energetically. As I thought, Melty disliked me after all.

Queen:"It doesn't seem so though."

Melty:"Mother!"

The queen laughs and shows a heart-warming smile.

Did I say something funny?

Raphtalia:"Mu....."

I look over at Raphtalia and she seems to be sulking.

Naofumi:"What's wrong?"

Raphtalia:"Absolutely nothing!"

Firo:"Hm~?"

I tilt my head together with Firo.

Queen:"Isn't this fine? We have finished our business here, you should depart soon."

After leaving the building of the Hourglass of the Dragon's Era, we depart for the Island.

Queen:"Please look forward to your various rewards when you return."

Naofumi:"Rewards? What is it?"

Queen:" Iwatani-sama I heard you wanted to learn magic, so I will prepare magic books and crystal balls."

Ah, so it's something like that.

Mhmm.....Besides, if I do get another companion then I will need supplies.

Queen:"Crystal balls let you acquire magic quickly, but there is a lack of power. Whereas for books, it takes a lot longer to learn, but it is much stronger."

Naofumi:"So there was such an effect....."

When I read the magic book, it was explaining the basics of basics.

Besides, in the book it also explains how to adjust power, and other ways to tweak the spells.

Of course, in order to learn these things it will take time.

This is not a game, and time is limited. But, I should also avoid learning too much from the crystal balls since it's efficiency will be bad.

Judging from the other heroes actions, I am currently the only one that can read this world's letters.

It may be important to make use of this advantage.

Queen:" Will crystal balls be alright Iwatani-sama?"

Naofumi:"I can read a little of this world's letters, so..... If there is someone to teach me properly, and a book, it would be fine."

Queen:"I see. I'll arrange it."

Naofumi:"Also, can equipment be procured?"

Queen"it is possible to give you weapons from the country's arsenal but....."

That reminds me, I still haven't visited the old man from the weapons shop yet.

It might also be good to see if there are any requests for materials from Cal Mira Island, perhaps it would be nice to get some materials myself.

Naofumi:"In the meantime, please prepare some degree of armour and weapons for us."

Queen:" Alright. Now then, I wish you a good day."

Melty: "Naofumi, Firo-chan, Raphtalia-san, Good luck! Have a nice day!"

We parted from the queen, got on the carriage, and hurried to the town where the ship to Cal Mira Island is.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 82 - Grave Visit

Naofumi: "We should be arriving at the harbor town soon."

The meeting spot for this event is at the harbor town.

The other heroes seemed to have travelled on a carriage the country prepared.

They started sooner, but it is likely that Firo overtook them.

Since we haven't been travelling on a carriage in a while, Firo is happy.

Raphtalia: "Ah, Naofumi-sama.....May we take a little detour?"

Naofumi: "Hm?"

Raphtalia informs me of the place where she wants to go.

It's not very far so there should be no problems.

Naofumi: "Sure, that's fine."

Raphtalia: "Firo, please turn here and head inland."

Firo: "Okay~"

The place we arrive at.....An abandoned village.

You can tell from the tattered building that this was a village.

There are houses without roofs and walls. Some are even burnt down.

The collapsed feudal lord mansion.....gave off a very plain feeling.

It looked brand new before it was abandoned..... However, I can't say for how long.

I should consider when this place was abandoned.

Raphtalia:"....."

Raphtalia was just staring at the abandoned village until we passed it.

When I look, there are numerous graves at the edge of the village.

Come to think of it, I heard that Raphtalia was part of a farming village near the sea, and it was the first to be attacked by the wave.

Could this possibly be.....The village where Raphtalia was born and raised?

Three months have already passed since I arrived in this world.

Considering the Hero summoning ceremony, four months at most.

I only need to look at this demi-human village that was here four months ago to imagine the intensity of the wave.

Certainly the queen did say that the one she entrusted internal affairs with died during the first wave.

Considering that he was also popular with the demi-humans, he might have been the feudal lord of this village.

Firo:"Raphtalia onee-chan, where are we going?"

Raphtalia:"Just going to the cliff to watch the ocean."

Firo:"Alright, understood."

As the carriage rattles and continues on, I continue to stare at the village that Raphtalia might have been born in.

Before long, we arrive at a cliff overlooking the sea, and Raphtalia gets off the carriage.

There is a pile of small stones at the tip of the cliff..... I think that is a grave.

Raphtalia picks some flowers blooming in the vicinity and places it before the tomb.

Then she clasps her hands together to pray.

The sun is setting, covering the area in an orange hue.

I could not talk to Raphtalia today.

If I think about it, Raphtalia lost her family approximately four months ago.

I think she is already very strong mentally.

Losing her family and living on.....No wonder she had such dead eyes when I saw her.

Isn't there anything I can do for Raphtalia?

No, what will happen to Raphtalia when I return to my original world?

Though Firo will have Melty, Raphtalia has nothing.

Occasionally, Raphtalia anxiously asks about my reason for returning to my original world when this is all over.

Raphtalia:"Sorry to have kept you waiting."

Naofumi:"No problem. Let's go."

Raphtalia:"Okay!"

.....When this wave is over, I'll have to think about what to do with Raphtalia.

Ren:"Uuu....."

Motoyasu:"U-....."

Itsuki:"U-n"

After all the heroes arrived at the harbour town, we all boarded the ship. Incidentally, due to the ship's size, even Firo's carriage was able to be loaded.

So we were covered there.

Ren, Motoyasu, and Itsuki were all downed by sea-sickness after half a day. Since cabins were allocated, there shouldn't be any problems. However, all the heroes were gathered because the sailors wanted to greet us, and the three of them are vomiting into the sea while groaning painfully.

Naofumi:"Sea-sickness huh....."

Ever since I was small, for some reason, no matter the vehicle, I was never affected.

Probably due to the sea-sickness, the three heroes are overly friendly. To be frank, I have no intentions of getting friendly with them, but.....

Motoyasu:"Naofumi seems to be fine....."

Naofumi:"Yeah, I don't get motion sickness easily."

Firo:"Kyahho~"

By the way, Firo is in her demon form and is swimming around the ocean. No wait, is she swimming or floating?

Since this is Firo's first time at sea, she excitedly dived in. Occasionally she would ride the boat, and then jump back to play afterwards.

Although this is a big ship, I am still a little uneasy. It should be fine since Firo can use wind magic though.

In a crisis she should be able to hold her own.

Naofumi:"Ah....."

There is a big fish approaching Firo from behind.

Naofumi:"Firo, it's dangerous."

Firo:"Hm~?"

As Firo turns around, a shark-like demon opens its giant mouth to attack.

Firo:"Tei!"

Firo kicks the jaw of the demon shark and it flies through the air.

It was sent flying right onto the ship deck.

The sailors and adventurers scream.

As the demon shark struggled violently on the deck, Firo finishes it off.

Firo:"It is a big mistake to treat Firo as your food."

Then she proceeds to stuff her face with demon shark meat.

Naofumi:"Don't dirty the deck."

Itsuki:".....I think you're glossing over something important there."

An extremely pale Itsuki mutters at me.

Well, it is indeed amazing, and speaking of amazing, I think of Firo.

Since the ship's rear has a ballista attached to it, I do not need to fight either.

By the way, this is already the second shark.

The first one was dismantled and absorbed by my shield.

Requirements for Blue Shark Shield has been released.

Requirements for Shark Bite Shield has been released.

Requirements for Shark Leather Shield has been released.

Requirements for Shark Meat Shield has been released.

Blue Shark Shield

Unsealing completed... Equipment Bonus: Swimming Skill 1

Shark Bite Shield

Unsealing completed... Equipment Bonus: Shipboard Combat Skill 1

Special Effect: Shark's Fang

Shark Leather Shield

Unsealing completed... Equipment Bonus: 2% Damage Reduction from the Aquatic System

Special Effect: Shark's skin

Shark Meat Shield

Unsealing completed... Equipment Bonus: Agility 3

The swimming skill's description.....I can swim like everyone else.

Motoyasu:"....."

Ren:"I'm sure you are a hammer."

Itsuki:"Yeah....."

Naofumi:"If you guys think I'll drown if I fall into the ocean, tough luck; I can swim."

The seasick heroes are whispering with each other about whether or not I will fall into the sea and drown, so I warn them.

Ren:"that's not what I'm talking about"

Naofumi:"What is?"

Ren:"I think Itsuki is a hammer....."

Itsuki:".....I am?!"

Motoyasu:"I think Ren is also one....."

Itsuki:"I think Motoyasu-san is one too....."

Did you guys analyze each other's swimming abilities?

Oh well, does Shipboard Combat Skill 1 improve my movements on a ship? Is there even going to be a situation where I fight on board? Let's try it out when I have some free time.

Since this is the same demon I'll leave it alone. It seems even on the move my experience value and materials are increasing.

Sailor:".....Are you guys alright?"

Some guy wearing clothes that make him look like a pirate, is anxiously asking the other heroes their conditions.....

Naofumi:"It's merely sea-sickness. Your worrying is unnecessary. They will get used to it after a while."

Sailor:".....Right."

Naofumi:"And you are?"

Sailor:".....Captain."

After looking closely I can see it's a woman. Her height is a little lacking. Raphtalia is taller. Though I did not get a good look at her due to her clothing, she is a considerably beautiful girl.

Her face is probably good enough for Motoyasu to flirt with her.

She also seems young. To be a captain of a ship at that age, what is wrong with this world?

Captain:"I am the captain.....I also made the ship."

Naofumi:"Captain and Shipbuilder!?"

Captain:".....Right."

Naofumi:"What a skillful fellow."

Captain:".....Right."

Since a while ago all she is saying is ".....Right". What a downer.

Though she is skillful, she has problems talking.

Captain:".....The sea is acting up."

Naofumi:"I see."

Captain:".....A storm is coming."

Naofumi:"You can tell?!"

Captain:".....No problem. Hero-sama should rest in the cabin."

Naofumi:"That reminds me, I haven't introduced myself yet. I am the Hero of the Shield. Those three over on the floor there are the other heroes.

Captain:".....Right. Best regards."

As the captain mutters, a sailor yells about an incoming storm.

And so, we returned to the cabin.

Firo felt the waves rising, returned to her human form, and entered the cabin.

Though the captain speaks little, she is a hard working fellow.

The ship kept advancing, despite the storm."

Naofumi:" Raptalia, it seems you aren't getting sea-sick."

Raptalia:" Because I am from a village near the sea."

Naofumi:" Ah, do you have experience on a boat?"

Raptalia:" Yup."

By the way, as for what happened to the other Heroes and their companions.....They rested in their cabins the whole trip.

The ship was rocked in all directions throughout the heavy storm, but we arrived at Cal Mira Island the following morning.

Firo was extremely excited, and even Raptalia widened her eyes.

Well you can guess the reactions of the other adventurers and new sailors.....

Cal Mira Island is a volcanic island that exceeds my imagination.

Is it because I am using Hawaii as a standard.....?

There is also no guarantee this map is accurate.

By the way, Cal Mira Island is a nickname, its official name is Cal Mira Archipelago. It seems that there are also various islands nearby.

Rather than the rough sea voyage from Melromarc, the waves near the archipelago are calm, and you can even walk across the islands during low-tide.

.....Can we ride Firo to another island?

Here and there, other islands could be seen.

Naofumi: " Now then, we have arrived at Cal Mira Island but....."

I was amazed at the other heroes appreciating the island and being grateful. All of them look quite sleepy since it was virtually impossible to sleep last night with all the rolling around.

Bitch's face is pale, and she vomits. Serves you right.

Naofumi: "Are you guys weak to vehicles?"

Motoyasu: "Naofumi.....you are the strange one."

Ren: "When the cabin was turned upside down, I thought we sank."

Itsuki: "Coming to this strange world, there are many amazing things."

Certainly, the ship was turned over a several times.

Every time I expected the ship to sink, but I was surprised.

Since it was troublesome to roll around, I made a hammock in the cabin and slept.

I wonder if the sailors are used to such things. They recommended that I make a hammock to sleep in when the storm came.

Even the captain said that such a big storm was rare.

Is it due to the wave of calamity?

If such a storm were to appear in my world, then any ship would surely sink.

After this boat trip, I am again realising this is a different world.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 83 - Magic Lore

Raphtalia: "Fortunately, the ship did not sink, cast us adrift, and force us to start living on an uninhabited island."

Naofumi: "Don't joke about those things."

Raphtalia: "It wasn't a joke."

Naofumi: "Anyway, let's get to the hotel early today. We can't start the member change if we don't know the schedule right?"

That reminds me, the queen told me to go and greet the one in charge of this island.

Although this is a remote region, he should have quite a lot of authority since a lot of people visit.

Mysterious Person: "I welcome the four holy heroes and their companions."

A suspicious fellow who is holding a flag like a tour guide approaches us, while we wait for the other heroes to recover before departing.

He is wearing a Melromarc military uniform, and he looks to be a little past middle age.....That flag does not suit him.

Hapenburg: "I am Count Hapenbug, and I have been entrusted with this Cal Mira Archipelago."

Naofumi: "I-I see....."

The only hero who is completely fine is me, so I have to respond.

Hapenburg:"I look forward to our subsequent acquaintanceship."

Naofumi:"Ah.....Best regards."

Every hero greets Count Hapenburg and the guide employees following him.

Hapenburg:"Now then, Hero-samas I will tell you all about Cal Mira Archipelago, starting from the beginning."

Eh.....

He really was a tour guide. This is troublesome and annoying.

Naofumi:"We did not come here particularly for sightseeing....."

I would rather not go on a sightseeing tour and learn the island traditions, while there is delicious experience points to be earned.

Hapenburg:"Now now, since ancient times, the four holy heroes have trained here--"

While the count explains, we are guided past a market.

There were some strange objects.

Is that a penguin, rabbit, squirrel, and a dog with a santa hat? There is a totem pole made of four animals on top of one another and decorated.

The penguin has a fishing rod, the rabbit is using a hoe, the squirrel has a saw, and the dog is equipped with rope.

What the hell is that?

Hapenburg:"Oh? Hero of the Shield-sama has a good eye. Those are the pioneers who developed this island, Pengy, Bunny, Squirrley, and Doggy." All Japanese-like. No, it's probably due to the legendary weapon's translations.

Hapenburg:"By the way, the Four Holy Hero-samas were the ones who named them."

For the Four Holy Heroes naming sense to be-
Ah, the count is still talking.

Hapenburg:"The Hero-samas befriended these demons, and gave them names similar to the animals in their world."

Their naming sense is terrible anyway.
Couldn't they have changed a little more?

Naofumi:"Then, are they somewhere on this island?"

Hapenburg:" No, when pioneering was completed, they left to look for new land. Afterwards, they were never seen again."

.....In short, they went extinct.

Also their existence is doubtful. Not to mention, demons pioneering.....

Firo:"Ehh..... they look delicious."

Firo says while drooling.

.....If I think carefully, this demon gets supreme joy just by pulling a carriage.

It is quite mysterious.

Something besides the totem pole catches my eye.

Naofumi:" What's that?"

Hapenburg:"It seems to be an inscription left by the Four Holy Heroes."

Naofumi:" Interesting."

I approach it slowly.

The possibility of the Four Holy Heroes being Japanese is high.

Even if it's not Japanese, there might be some significant information from somewhere else on Earth.

It's not written in Japanese, what is it?

What.....

Motoyasu:"Oi! This isn't Japanese. It's a fake!"

The other heroes approached the inscription and verify that it cannot be read.

Hapenburg:"That is strange.....There is a tradition that this was prepared for when new heroes would appear....."

Motoyasu:".....Are you joking? This is a magical letter from this world."

Magical letter..... This is rather troublesome. Besides me, the other fellows didn't learn any letters.

What can I say.....The letters change according to the person. Such is the existence of magical letters.

For example, If I try to read Raphtalia's magic book on illusions, I won't be able to decipher it.

They just become funny words when I translate it.

However, Raphtalia can decipher it and chant the magic.

Though there is a common language for magic letters, it is still impractical, and unless you have an aptitude for it, you cannot use it.

Motoyasu:"Can you read it?"

Naofumi:"All of you relied on the crystal ball that trash gave, while I didn't receive any. I had to learn to read."

Motoyasu:"So what does it say?"

Naofumi:"Lets see....."

I read and try to decipher the inscription.

It is written in unexpectedly simple words.

"The Hero of the Shield.....commands the origin of power. I have read and deciphered a legend. Enhance everything!"

"Tzuvait · Aura....."

I can use it on someone else. Let's see.....Shall I test it on Firo?

After waving my hand at Firo, she is coated in a film of transparent magic.

Firo:"Wa! Somehow Firo is full of power!"

Firo bounces around.

Even in her human form she jumps very high.

The status screen says that all stats have increased.

Itsuki's companion: "Aura.....Used by the legendary hero. It is an origin magic that raises all abilities."

Mutters one of Itsuki's companions in a quiet voice.

There is such a legend?

Itsuki: "Awesome! We'll learn it too!"

They start trying to read the magic I deciphered together like it's a game. However.

Itsuki: "Huh.....I can't read it."

Naofumi: "That reminds me, you guys don't know the magic language."

These guys are frustrated, since they learnt magic from the crystal ball easily.

Itsuki: "Naofumi-san"

Itsuki turns to me and calls my name.

Naofumi: "What?"

Itsuki: "When did you get magic language comprehension on your shield?"

Naofumi: "I learnt it myself! Don't depend on your weapon for everything!"

Itsuki: "So stingy!"

Motoyasu: "That's right! Tell us!"

Seriously, these guys.....

It's like they have a problem understanding what I say.

The efforts you put in yourself will show in the power of your weapon.

Naofumi: "I was able to learn aura magic, but that does not necessarily mean you are able to as well."

Itsuki: "If you say so. If that's the case then there should be better magic for us."

He looks offended.

The reason is probably from thinking he is beneath me, even though I told him the truth. He was barely able to do anything against the pope.

He also already lost to me once.

Naofumi: "So where are we going next?"

Hapenburg: "Moving along, there are various inns located at Cal Mira Archipelago and the transportation--"

I will sum up the count's long story.

Since Cal Mira Island is active now, the demons are starting to increase.

Due to the increase in demons, the situation is troubling, so heroes and adventurers are called to subjugate them.

While we take advantage of the situation to raise our levels.

That's why, he would be grateful if we could go get rid of demons as quick as possible.

It is unnecessary for us to yield for any adventurers, but it would still be better to avoid any possible confrontations.

.....Just like manners in a net game.

There is always a small boat ferrying passengers across islands.

Worst case scenario, I should be able to cross it by swimming.

The hotel prepared by the queen was of the highest class.

It is better than all the hotels I've lived in before..... It could even equal the top-class ones in my world.

.....Was this originally a castle or something?

Anyway, it was gorgeous and the atmosphere was nice. The walls are made of marble and shining.

There is a stone statue in the middle that acts as a fountain from my world.

Did I come to Hawaii?

There was a luxurious carpet to walk on as we were guided to our rooms.

The hotel also took responsibility for the luggage and Firo's carriage.

Shadow:"Here is the schedule explaining the upcoming events degojaru."

The shadow that had a familiar speaking pattern was disguised as Melty.

Naofumi:"Melty?"

Firo:"Master~, That's not Melty?"

Shadow:"That's right degojaru."

Naofumi:"You....."

That's a confusing disguise. I seriously thought for a second that Melty came.

I can't even retort at how she was able to change her height.

Shadow: "Right degojaru. I was appointed to exclusively help the Hero of the Shield-dono degojaru."

Naofumi: "I know disguising yourself is your specialty.....But why Melty?"

Shadow: "So that Hero of the Shield-dono will feel at ease degojaru."

Naofumi: "This makes me feel sick instead, so stop it."

Shadow: "Understood degojaru."

The shadow takes off her Melty disguise and returns to her ninja garb. It is disgusting seeing an acquaintance's face getting peeled off.

Naofumi: "Speaking of which.....What's with the way you talk?"

Shadow: "Gojaru?"

Naofumi: "Yea, that."

Shadow: "Just a habit degojaru. I can stop if necessary degojaruyo"

That reminds me, of when I had a bounty, and that villager in disguise helped me.

I didn't notice at all that time.

Shadow: "This is the result of princess Melty enjoying the way I speak, so I was made her exclusive bodyguard degojaruga."

Naofumi: "Ah, well it certainly makes you easier to distinguish from the other shadows."

Shadow: ".....You should not believe you can identify an individual shadow degojaruyo."

What? That is a very suspicious comment. It's like that shadow at the time was a completely different person.

Well, if I think about it, then it would be a problem if a shadow could be identified.

Naofumi:"So you are a different shadow from that one?"

Shadow:"You are mistaken degojaru."

Naofumi:"....."

Pain in the ass-!

Shadow:" I am just warning you not to identify me with just my speaking habits degojaru."

Naofumi:"Whatever."

I don't intend to learn how to tell you all apart either.

What I just learned changed nothing.

Shadow:"Let us continue our talk degojaruka. I will explain our schedule degojaru."

Naofumi:"Ah.....the staff exchange, wasn't every hero's agreement necessary?"

Shadow:" Does Hero of the Shield-dono disagree degojaru?"

Naofumi:"No, I don't.....It's just."

The other heroes will dislike it.

I don't know about Motoyasu, but Ren and Itsuki seem to have a habit of hiding themselves.

Actually, these guys have no idea of what I was doing

Also during this event an information leak is unlikely.

Shadow:"I have already received the approval of the other Hero-donos degojaru."

Naofumi:"What?"

Shadow:" I said, I have already received their approval degojaruyo."

Naofumi:"I see....."

I am disappointed at how unexpectedly co-operative they are.

Am I just mistaken?

Calm down, I didn't think they would participate.

Shadow:"The queen has dispatched other shadows to reason with the Hero-donos, and get them interested in the strength of Hero of the Shield-dono degojaru."

Naofumi:"Well....."

If I think about it, their companions look down on me. If I perform outstandingly, what would they think?

Though there has to be a fine line while participating, since the cost of the Curse Series is too big.

Shadow:"All the Hero-donos are especially interested in Firo-dono."

Naofumi:"I see."

Firo is certainly extraordinarily strong.

According to Glass's analysis, Firo's strength rivals Ren's, there is also her movement speed and magic.

Firo:"Fue?"

Firo who was dozing off beside me, wakes up and looks at me sleepily.
I mean.....All of those guys are interested in Firo.....

That's a little irritating.

As expected, it must be a misunderstanding.

Naofumi:"And? What time will the staff and information exchange take place?"

Shadow:"I asked each Hero-dono degojaruka. For some reason all of the Hero-donos besides Hero of the Shield-dono wants to do the staff exchange earlier degojaru."

Naofumi:".....Is information exchange unnecessary?"

I wanted to hear more about the Cal Mira Island's surroundings.....Though
It doesn't feel good to ask those guys.

Naofumi:"I would like to exchange information first, some complications might pop-up. Is this request acceptable?"

Shadow:"It should be fine since the information exchange is done on the day of the staff exchange dogojaru."

Naofumi:"Understood. So how many days are we staying here?"

Shadow:"The whole trip is twelve days. Half of that will be the staff exchange degojaru. If Hero of the Shield-dono desires it, the staff exchange can happen immediately degojaru."

Naofumi:"Well..... it's a bit early at the moment."

Shadow: "Time is being wasted you know degojaru."

Naofumi: ".....We just received a sightseeing tour a while ago."

Shadow: " Can't be helped degojaru. Since Hero of the Shield-dono still has many things that you don't know degojaru. I will explain as best as I can degojaru."

The shadow's long story goes like this.

It seems that the staff change includes everyone, but it's only the hero that moves.

How the rotation works is, first I change with Motoyasu, second Ren, and third Itsuki. Raphtalia and them don't move.

Naofumi: "What kind of punishment game is this to be with Bitch right off the bat?"

Shadow: " Half a day has already passed since our arrival degojaru. Please consider carefully degojaru."

Indeed, the time spent with Bitch and her party will be shortest.

I need to think properly.

Naofumi: " Then I'm off. You guys do your best too."

As I walk to the door I pay attention to Raphtalia and Firo.

Our party will be temporarily disbanded. Well, it's fine since they are slaves.

Raphtalia: "Okay....."

Raphtalia nods uneasily, and Firo doesn't seem to understand what is happening.

Naofumi:"You guys are going to Motoyasu. Be careful. That fellow thinks with the lower half of his body. You must never permit it. Firo, if that guy causes a problem just kick him away."

Firo:"Okay~"

Raphtalia:"Naofumi-sama.....I expected it but....."

Raphtalia seems to be a little restless.

Speaking of which, the Hero of the Spear has been our enemy until now. Maybe that guy is trembling in excitement.

It seems reconciliation with that guy is impossible for now.

Let's try to endure and befriend Motoyasu for now while analysing him.

Shadow:"Then I'll guide you degojaru."

With an uneasy feeling that I can't get rid of.....I headed out.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 84 – Cal Mira Island Jinx – Origin Story

「This room is where the Hero of the Spear's party is staying」

After saying that, the shadow abruptly disappeared.

It's probably standing guard somewhere, but……for what?

I have no reason to be polite to Bitch so suddenly opening the door is an option, but I'll knock anyway.

「……」

There's no reply.

When I enter the room there's a super displeased Bitch chatting with 2 other women.

「——and then」

「Got it— ? 」

Somehow, they feel like easy women. Not really a type I like.

She closely resembles what in my world would be called a stupid woman, the loose kind that prostitutes and sits cross-legged on the ground.

To not even respond to a knock.

We have fought before, but after all this bitch really is detestable.

「Hey」

When I speak Motoyasu's women glance at me with a mocking expression.

「I'm the one who ended up partying with you until tomorrow evening in this comrade exchange, the Hero of the Shield」

For the time being I introduced myself, since this type of woman nags about every bit of rudeness.

Frankly, I want to return quickly.

「There, you guys say something as well」

I'll be careful to not be made into a laughing-stock.

「Don't wanna—……」

「Right—……」

「Tch ! 」

They sure have quite an attitude.

Bitch even had the nerve to click her tongue.

Hmm ? When I look closely Bitch's equipment looks good now.

Aah, Motoyasu must've bought it for her.

Meh I guess it's fine.

Do I have to spend another day and a half with this bitch?

Give me a break.

「Then it's sudden, but we're going monster exterminating right now」

「 「Eh~」 」

The women other than Bitch let out a stupid sounding voice. Bitch on the other hand ignores me.

I also don't want to talk with this person. Each of us ignoring the other is probably best.

「Let us relax a bit」

「Yeah yeah」

「Yeah yeah. Why not do it yourself——」

This is bothersome. Monster hunting is being put off…….

「That would be a problem」

There's a voice coming from the wall.

……Haa.

「And, this is instructions from the country. If you disregard I wonder what will happen to your beloved Hero of the Spear's standing…… ? 」

After my reply, the women reluctantly stand up and start getting ready.
Name……I wasn't told but oh well. In the first place I don't want to know.
After all, it's absolutely impossible for me to ever travel together with these bitches after this.

「I'm sending a party invitation」

To invite to a party.

While I made a really annoyed face, the women were of the same opinion.

Shadow: 「First after shopping head to the place for entering」

With a clink a bag of money falls into my hand.

……Just where is Shadow hiding?

Just in case I check the money in the bag and there is quite an amount.

With this I can live a week let alone 2 days.

「This time if you show up at the harbor the ferry will agree to transport you this time」

「Yeah yeah」

I disliked being together with this person for even one second, so I quickly left the room.

I walk around the marketplace at Cal Mira Island's harbor.

I have to go shopping, but what would be good to buy ?

equipment ?

supplies ?

Stuff like potions and healing items ?

And, when I look away for a bit Motoyasu's women are happily shopping at a store that sells accessories.

「Hey Hero of the Shield—」

They seem to be beckoning me in a fawning voice.

It's an annoying attitude. Just being with them gives me a stomachache.

「……what ? 」

「I want you to buy this necklace—」

「Why would I」

「Motoyasu would buy it—」

「I'm not Motoyasu. Why do I have to buy it for someone like you」

「If you're not a bit nice even the shield will anger people, no ? 」

Bitch said as if she's making fun of me.

Just how belligerent is this bitch.

But, she makes a point.

Would it be bad if I didn't even appear to try getting along…… ?

Even if I'm approached I don't need something like Motoyasu's used women.

In the end I'm just a money source for shopping anyway……right.

While thinking that, I checked out the accessories' price tag and all such thoughts vanished.

Expensive !

「What's this ! 」

No matter what this is too expensive.

I glared at the merchant: it was such a price tag that I forgot about the women in my want to yell at him not to underestimate peddling so much. If it was just the twice the market price I can stand it as a peculiarity of a tourist highlight.

But, what is four times for.

「Hey」

「Yes. What is it ? 」

「No matter what isn't this too expensive ? 」

I snatch and point at the necklace Motoyasu's used women wanted.

Dummy sapphire necklace (mp+)

quality poor→ (concealed) →normal

If it was Melromarc's currency it would be priced dirt cheap as an inferior good.

On top of that, just a glance would reveal that he's attempting to make it seem normal.

Even if he's working a fraud there are still limits.

It's 4 times a price that would get you change even for a high quality good.

Even if he's underestimating me this is too much.

Looking at his other goods, they were all fakes as well.

「This is an archipelago separated from the continent; it's only normal for prices to be a bit high」

「A bit? Even though you're going to the extent of fraud and putting these inferior goods out for sale」

「……I'm running a business after all. When you consider this is a tourist spot, of course it becomes pricey」

This merchant, he plans to feign innocence.

The look in his eyes is disturbing.

He probably thinks he's just dealing with a normal claimer or something like that so he tries to shoo me away.

I have no choice.

「I happen to know a guy like this」

I show him the accessory merchant's introduction letter.

That accessory merchant seems to be quite famous in this neighborhood, so it might be helpful.

That merchant, he acted like he was ignoring me, but he snuck glances at the letter turning paler with each one.

「I think I'll turn this into a story. I'll make sure to remember you」

「P-please wait」

He came out of the store at an amazing speed and started groveling at my feet.

「What? I'm busy you know?」

「Looking closely I got the price wrong! I'll sell it at the correct price, so please wait a moment!」

「No no, there's no need to fix it. I'm just going to tell him a story after all」

「Well, just wait a second! I'll offer it 30% off」

「30% off that price is still...」

「Of course, it's 30% off the normal price ! 」

「No.....don't want it」

「Please wait! I'll make it fi, no 60% off」

「That accessory merchant, where did he go again—」

「Se, 70%——」

「Wasn't it a trader's guild ? 」

「E, 80%——」

「To have even have been using fraud to sell low quality work at 4 times the market price——」

「There! I won't lower it past 90% off ! 」

Well, this is about right.

「Bought」

In business using connections, as well as threats and a danger to one's life, is the best way to make money. If the accessory merchant heard this guy is selling these kind of fakes, he'd definitely be shut down.

No matter what, this merchant was underestimating business. This amount of punishment is about right.

「It's not like I'm telling you to sell it cheap for little profit though. The ones who would be troubled would be merchants, including you」

Someone else who can also force him to sell far below the market price can deal with it after all.

If these guys pretended to be nice it would cause deflation. It's not always best to make stuff cheap.

If you try to sell something over-priced, it's no good unless there's something to attract customers.

It's normal to mark-up prices because the sight-seeing area is so far from the mainland. Furthermore, looking around it seems nobody else is trying to sell genuine accessories.

I don't know if this guy is chasing competition out, or possibly crushing them though.

That's why even though prices are so high people have to buy.

And as a result, the merchant guild's reputation drops.

「Just make it so as long as they earn money your customers will happily pay you large amounts of money」

「Meaning ? 」

「Just think about it, this place is in the middle of the activation period right ? 」

「Yeah……」

「Just spread this kind of rumor. If you wear accessories made from this island's ore then lvling up will be easier」

「Huh ? 」

「You don't understand ? You'll put a jinx which has no practical effect on the accessories. And then what ? People aiming to lvl up will come buy an accessory here for good luck」

「I see ! 」

At the least, that's how I made money until now.

If I hear medicine is wanted I come sell it, if herbicide is wanted I come sell it, and if food is needed I come sell it.

The price was high, but most people smiled as they paid me.

In other words, when the price is high the customers' satisfaction is much more important than when it's low.

Hearing my idea the merchant stands up and clenches his fist tightly in comprehension.

「You got the rest right? You just have to sell it expensively while warning whether it helps or not depends on oneself. With just this they'll be happy to pay. Then if you spread rumors about how much of an effect it had on the customer who bought it smiling, more customers will come」

The probability it will go perfectly is very low, but the first part will likely succeed.

That it's in the activation period mean experience points are increased.

Even though if lvling up goes faster than usual it is because of the activation period, people will think maybe the accessories' rumors are true.

Afterwards observing the numbers and ability of the incoming adventurers will cause wishful thinking.

「I will go get to work immediately ! 」

The shopkeeper gave me the necklace, closed the store, and started to work.

「Fuu」

I did a good job.

The necklace was obtained for practically nothing.

「Here, you wanted it right」

When I tried to give Motoyasu's women the necklace they backed away.

「To get a discount you suck」

「Unbelievable」

「What were you thinking」

Kuh !

As blood rushed to my head, My mouth opened involuntarily.

「……Don't you hate how you were fooled like a complete idiot ! 」

Annoying !

Such annoying people.

What the heck were they thinking to buy something that expensive without haggling.

At the least I did nothing wrong.

It's a good plan: the shopkeeper can profit and his customers will be happy.

「 「As expected the shield is the worst」 」 」

What's the worst.

If you don't think before you do you'll spend money like water !

Motoyasu's women kept grumbling about my haggling as we left the town behind us.

「You're the worst ! Fine. You'll get what you asked for! I'll show you hell ! Wrath Shield——」

(Shadow) 「Calm down ! Hero of the Shield ! The Hero of the Spear's companions will die if you do that ! 」

「Let! Me! Go ! I can't kill them like this can I ! 」

「I came out to stop that from happening ! 」

The fact Shadow appeared and calmed my rage is of no importance.

Ever since this personnel exchange started I wanted to return.

That Motoyasu, just what's fun about being friendly with these kind of guys.

I can't understand that guy's crotch at all.

Shit ! Won't it end soon.

I don't care about lvling anymore, so let's find a way to quickly make now become tomorrow's evening.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 85 - The Companions of the Spear Hero

After getting off the ship, and passing through a hot spring, we arrived at the demon's habitat

Now then, let's hurry up and level with Motoyasu's women so we can go home.....

Naofumi: "I want you guys to understand that your non-cooperative attitude isn't going to work, you are forced to help because I am a hero."

Bitch: "I don't need you tell me."

Woman 1: "Are you an idiot?"

Naofumi: ".....You guys are the fools."

Good grief, Why do I have to put with these goddamn women to go demon hunting?.....

We are currently in the middle of a Level grinding event.

I saw several adventurers fighting demons here and there.

This event feels very similar to ones in net games on Earth.

Well, the problem is with my companions.

Naofumi: "Hmm....."

This area is inhabited by Violet Blobs, Magenta Frogs, Yellow Beetles, and Cactus worms.

They don't seem very strong.

As I was analysing the area, a Magenta Frog jumps out of a bush to attack us.

Naofumi:"Yotto."

I hit the Magenta Frog's stomach in mid-air with my shield.
With a splat, the Magenta frog stuck to my shield.

Naofumi:"Hey"

I give instructions to Motoyasu's women.

Bitch:"What do you want?"

Naofumi:"Use your sword or magic to fight."

Bitch:"I know!"

Good grief, if you know then why are you making me explain.

Bitch:"Fire Slash!"

Bitch's sword erupts in flame as she recites her magic.

The fire shoots out from the tip of the sword and tears the Magenta Frog apart.

95 Exp acquired.

Hmm.....As expected, the strength to experience ratio is very good.

Naofumi:"Now then,for the time being, let's hunt properly."

Bitch:".....fine."

Naofumi:"Good grief."

There is a limit to being uncooperative. Irresponsible participating is fine to some extent, but.....

No matter how much I think about it, there is no way they can become strong like this.

Naofumi:"Truthfully, I cannot attack on my own-"

Bitch:"Right. So lame."

Naofumi:".....Mu!"

Who the hell is lame!?

Naofumi:"That reminds me, isn't your hero just a fool who thinks with his lower half and chases any women?"

Bitch:"What are you saying! Are you going to insult Motoyasu-sama!?"

Naofumi:"Am I wrong? If I am wrong then tell me how you usually fight."

Bitch:"Fine, I'll teach you."

Bitch, Woman 1, and Woman 2. These are Motoyasu's companions.

Woman 1 uses a sword and seems strong. I can see that her reflexes are good. She is the one who Raphtalia stabbed. Her hair is brown and medium length.

Woman 2's facial expressions constantly change, and she has a rod. Is she in charge of magic?

There hasn't been any magic support so far.....How do they usually fight?

When it was Bitch's turn she just disregards her explanation and says.

Bitch:"Our job is to support Motoyasu-sama in an emergency."

Naofumi:"What!?"

I yelled unintentionally.

What the hell is this bitch saying?

Woman2:"Other than that, Mal.....Whore-sama instructs us to cover Motoyasu-sama with magic."

Naofumi:".....You don't fight?"

Woman2:"I'll fight if there is a melee. But, Motoyasu-sama protects us so that won't happen."

Protecting them.....

I have a headache.

In other words, while Motoyasu fights, these women just sit back and cheer him on?

Occasionally supporting with magic.....All the fighting is done by Motoyasu?

Woman1:"That's pretty much it. Sometimes I cut up weak demons with my sword, while she sometimes uses magic."

Naofumi:"What about Whore?"

Woman1:" Whore-sama burns them."

Other than the small fries left for the women, Motoyasu mows down all the stronger enemies.

That's like a Princess play in Net Games.....

Oh wait, Bitch used to be a princess.

Bitch:"Motoyasu-sama would always say to us:"Levelling up through such dirty methods does not suit cuties like you."

Woman1:"Therefore, our fight is to support and restore his spirit."

Woman2:"Right! So I put my efforts in cleaning equipment and learning support magic."

Bitch:"It is our duty to heal Motoyasu-sama's spirits afterwards. Every minute and every second of our attention is focused on Motoyasu-sama."

.....Feels disgusting.

I just imagine them behind me.

These women are strong enough to kick around the demons around here..... If they were to participate, would Motoyasu even need to fight?

Woman1:" I hope that Motoyasu-sama would rely on us a little."

Woman2:"Right. However, even without our power as support,he is cool."

Bitch:"Yeah, completely different from the Shield who cannot do anything at all, and has to rely on his companions."

Everytime Bitch opens her mouth she compares me to Motoyasu.

Naofumi:"Is that right!? But, right now you are hunting demons with me. I don't know about Motoyasu, but you have to attack for me."

Bitch:".....You suck."

Naofumi:"You're the one who sucks!"

Good greif, does Motoyasu actually enjoy accompanying these three parasites?

Bitch:"Motoyasu-sama would help us attack theses demons."

Woman1:"He really is wonderful!"

All 3: ""I know right~""

Bitch: "How can the shield compare? Forcing us to stay and defeat demons for him."

All 3: ""I know right~""

Annoying!

I want to return already!

What is wrong with these girls.

Anyway, they are just putting on appearances for Motoyasu.

Something like.....

Wonderful! Hold me! Like that?

I can never understand the charm of such sluts.

To me it's like, they become the background.

Suddenly a strong demon appears and I take the lead to engage it!

A figure fighting with wind and flying freely comes to mind.

I mean, why am I being severely criticized here?

It's probably just Bitch and her followers, that influenced Motoyasu in the first place.

Feels disgusting.

At least, Bitch, Woman 1, and Woman 2 are fighting with the demon as per my instructions.

I cannot fight.

However.....Bitch keeps chanting magic and discontinuing it.

Somehow.....It's like she is waiting for something.

I'm trying to think of a what, but.....

And so, with these feelings 30 minutes has passed. I wonder where shadow went.

As I engage a demon with my shield, and wait for support magic to come.

"I am the next queen who commands the origin of power. I have read and deciphered a law of nature. Target him and-"

""I am one who commands the origin of power. I have read and deciphered a law of nature--""

As they chant an unusually strong spell is about to be activated, Shadow instantly appears behind Bitch and puts a knife to her throat.

Bitch:"Hie!?"

Shadow:"Whore-dono and companions, your magic is giving off too much blood-thirst dogojaruyo."

Bitch:"W-We did not do anything. Just co-operating with the shield."

Shadow:"That's not what it looks like degojaru."

Naofumi:"What's wrong?"

Bitch stops her magic as Shadow watches her closely.

Shadow:"A while ago I heard her muttering to herself degojaru."

Naofumi:"And? Did you understand it?"

Shadow:"I did degojaru."

Naofumi:"What was it?"

Shadow: "Seems to be about investigating the limits of the slave crest degojaru."

Naofumi: "Ah.....I see."

There were several conditions on the slave crest that prevent certain actions.

I understand because I tried it with Raphtalia and Firo.

Since Raphtalia is strong, it occasionally went off when she was overly familiar with me.

Forgetting about the mark is easy since I don't use it.

Shadow: "The queen does not use contract slaves deogjarukara. She seems to be searching for a loop-hole degojarou."

The queen's conditions. Possibly.....

I recall the conditions the queen set up.

"The condition is attacking Iwatani-sama. Whether by direct attack with magic or indirect attack with poison, nothing is allowed!"

An attack aimed at me.....If there was one.....

Naofumi: "Were they targeting the demon with magic while I was in the way, so that the attack would hit me?"

Shadow: "That is correct degojaru."

Bitch: "Y-you're wrong!"

Shadow: "Then why did you stop and move to cancel your spells earlier degojaru?"

Bitch: "Th-That is because.....It was not to involve the shield in anything!"

What a desperate excuse.

Woman1&2: "That's right! We just cast magic according to the Shield's instructions!"

Shadow: "That spell I stopped earlier was at full power degojaruna."

Bitch: "There was no other way to defeat the demon!"

I wonder.....

In fact, not even 5 Cactus Worms can wound me a little.

Frankly, they are all small fries.

They would instantly become Firo's food.

Shadow: "It doesn't hurt for Hero of the Shield-dono degojaru?"

Naofumi: "Not at all."

Shadow: "Quite sturdy deogjaruna....."

Shadow just said something in a goofy voice.

Shadow: "Anyway, it doesn't seem like you are reflecting degojaruna."

Bitch: "I didn't know!"

Bitch has been completely seen through.

Shadow leaks a sigh.

Shadow: "Can't be helped degojaruna."

She extends her index finger and activates a status magic.

Bitch's slave crest appears.

Bitch:"Eh!? Why!?"

Shadow:"The queen has entrusted former princess Bitch's slave control to me degojaru."

Well, that's just how it is.

Bitch:"Kyaaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

The pattern glows and Bitch rolls on the floor in pain.

Seriously.....To do something so stupid.

Woman 1 and 2 are pale as they watch.

Shadow:"I hope you understand degojaruka, treat Hero-dono with respect, or else I'll punish you until you understand degojaruyo. After, I'll notify the queen degojaru."

Bitch:"Th-That's--"

Shadow:"If you understand then obediently listen to Hero of the Shield-dono degojaruyo."

The women held their breath.

A minute of punishment is not enough. I am also reaching my limits.

Naofumi:"Shadow."

Shadow:" What degojaru?"

Naofumi:"I am reaching the limits of my patience."

Shdaow:"....."

Shadow seems to think about my promise with the queen anxiously.

Naofumi:"Shadow, please remove all prohibitions on Bitch temporarily."

Shadow:"I have to report what you do to the former princess you know degojaru?"

Naofumi:"Yeah, I know. Hey, Bitch. You really want to kill me? I'll keep you company. Let's not play with unnecessary strategies."

Bitch:"Ku....."

As the restraints from the slave crest are lifted, Bitch stares at me with intense hatred.

Naofumi:"Hey, Bring it."

If you attack in close proximity I'll burn you with Wrath Shield.

Naofumi:"Ah, just Bitch. Hey guys,just watch."

Woman 1:"Ah, sure....."

Woman 2:"O-Okay."

Woman 1 and 2 nod and withdraw.

Bitch:"I'll absolutely kill you with this!"

While glaring at me, Bitch doesn't even conceal her killing intent and activates her magic.

"I am the next queen who commands the origin of power. I have read and deciphered a law of nature. Burn him to a crisp with the fires of hell!"

That magic.....Well, it's an appropriate selection. It's probably Bitch's strongest magic.

Now then, I wonder what magic will shoot out.

"Doraifa · Hellfire!"

Bitch summons a gigantic fireball in front of her.

Bitch:"Dieeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee!"

I prepare my shield to catch the fireball speeding towards me.

Naofumi:"Are you a retard? Your strongest magic is only this---What!?"

Bitch:"Uuaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

The ball of flame hits my shield and just like a baseball against a bat, it's shot back at Bitch.

Until now, fighting in various ways and gaining experience, I have discovered that receiving magic at a specific angle deflects it.

So I thought it might be possible to reflect it back at the opponent.

That retard, shooting magic in a straight line, caused me to remember about it.

Bitch:"St-Stay away-----gyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

Bitch is swallowed by the flames and throws herself on the ground to roll.

Naofumi:"Hahaha, you burn well!"

This is refreshing. Watching Bitch struggle.

Oh man. I wasn't content when the queen selfishly imposed penalties.

Finally I punished her with my own hands.

Woman2:"Mal.....Bitch-sama!"

Woman2 casts water magic to put out Bitch.

Woman2:"Raising your hand against a girl, you are the worst!"

Naofumi:"You reap what you sow right? She wasn't even thinking about her magic getting rebounded."

Woman 2 applies healing magic on Bitch to heal her wounds.

Well, there's no way that can be cured easily.

Shadow:"Now then, I will impose the penalty degojaru."

Bitch:"GyaaaGuuuuuuuuuuuuuuu!"

Bitch rolls over from the double whammy slave crest and the burns.

Woman2:"Wait a minute, this is too cruel!"

Shadow:"Punishment is punishment degojaru. Furthermore, I will notify Hero of the Spear-dono to increase the penalties degojaru, Prepare yourself degojaruyo."

Woman2:"Unbelievable!"

Naofumi:"Well then, shall we continue hunting?"

Woman2:"Who would follow you!?"

Woman2 shoulders Bitch and leaves without permission.

Naofumi:"Sure. Go away!"

This was completely her fault. Shadow seems to understand and speaks in a delicate voice.

Shadow:"The queen expected something like this degojaruga.....At least this much."

Naofumi:"By the way, since they are useless now, shall we kill some time together?"

Shadow:".....Haah. I understand degojaru. I am a poor substitution, but I will co-operate with Hero of the Shield-dono degojaruyo."

Naofumi:"Oh? You're going to help?"

Shadow:"If such a situation was to happen, I was ordered to assist degojaru."

Naofumi:"You are quite prepared."

Could have prevented this from even happening.....

In the first place, was exchanging parties even necessary?

Woman1:" Hey....."

My shoulder was tapped as I was talking to shadow.

Naofumi:"Hm?"

When I turn around I see Woman 1 with her arms crossed unpleasantly.

Naofumi:"What's wrong? You didn't return?"

Woman1:"Return? Don't joke around. That would trouble Motoyasu-sama."

Naofumi:"Ehh....."

Somehow she seems to be strong-minded, I don't think she would return even if she hated it.

Compared to Bitch and Woman 2, it looks like she has a sense of responsibility,.

Woman1:" Haah.....It was a lot to stand, trying to match up to those children."

Woman1 declares unpleasantly while scratching her head.

What's that?

Woman1:"Don't misunderstand alright? I still hate the Hero of the Shield."

Naofumi:"I was just wondering if you were like those foolish women, you seem to be a bit different."

Woman1:".....That's rude. I am honest to myself. I don't want to fight, and if possible I would like to live luxuriously. The mission of Heroes or the World's fate doesn't matter to me."

Naofumi:"I agree with that."

If I could I would instantly throw out such a mission. In fact, I would rather not participate in the wave at all.

Woman1:"Do you understand? If I return here, it would be impossible to live luxuriously."

Naofumi:"You are very calculative."

Woman1:"You're annoying. I love taking it easy in the shadow of someone strong. But that's it."

Naofumi:"And what's the reason for not returning?"

Woman1:" You are strong as well. Though I hate it, I will follow you."

Knitting her eyebrows in seriousness Woman 1 answers unpleasantly.

Woman1:" I do not discriminate against the strong."

Naofumi:'What strange logic."

Woman1:"Don't say that. So what now. I didn't cause any problems. So my stock with Motoyasu-sama should go up. I would rather not be in the same position as that parasitic princess."

I see.

They exist in my world as well. This fellow.

The women getting involved in delinquent groups in school, following those who are strong. Probably.

Following the leader around, receiving the overflow.

Generally the types to think in the long-term and take it easy.

Since I am Japanese, I can understand to some extent.

Woman1:"I think that former princess would abandon Motoyasu-sama at a suitable time. I don't think Motoyasu-sama likes troublesome women, and there will be a limit to how much he can cherish women."

There is a possibility that Motoyasu would trust those that didn't cause problems over the ones that do.

As for Motoyasu's part, Bitch seems to be at the top of the pecking order.

Is she aiming for an usurpation?

Woman1:" My father is a noble who earned his rank by distinguishing himself in the military, and my mother is the daughter of a merchant who made a fortune in business. When you haggled to buy that accessory I was amazed. Though it is the worse to haggle using blackmail when buying something for a girl."

Naofumi:"Yeah yeah."

Let's just disregard it, because I'm getting angry just remembering.

Woman1:"I also understand the point of this. I will analyse how the Hero of the Shield fights and report to Motoyasu-sama everything."

Naofumi:".....You really are aiming for being the best."

Woman1:"Let's leave it at that. Let's resume hunting quickly."

I have no choice but to change my evaluation of Woman 1.

She is calculating, but unlike Bitch she doesn't seem to gain pleasure from looking down on others.

I'm thinking about Bitch again.

I feel she can be trusted in business. I don't want to trust as a friend though.

Naofumi: "Well the headcount is the same as before. Shadow, do you accept?"

Shadow: "I understand degojaruyo....."

I send a party invitation to Shadow and remove Woman 2 and Bitch. Thus we resume our demon extermination.

Woman 1 was a magic warrior so she could fight up close or far away.

Shadow is a very swift attacker. As expected of this country's assassination corps, quite strong.

By the way, they are not slaves so I cannot see their status or levels, so I can't tell what level they are.

Woman1: " You really are sturdy. I am surprised at how different you fight compared to Motoyasu-sama."

Woman 1 says while defeating a demon.

From the conversation a while ago, I know that they only cheer on Motoyasu from the rear.

Woman1: " However..... That Raccoon woman is reliable."

Raccoon woman.....Raphtalia?

If she hears that then she would probably make a delicate expression.

By the way, Woman 1 is good at using me as a shield.

She observes the demons well, and uses adjusts in battle, she is accustomed to fighting.

The way she is pushing everything on me while fighting is pretty efficient, compared to Raphtalia and Firo who try to do everything themselves.

It's not a good feeling when pressed against a demon though.

However, she is not as good at ranged, she is distracted while chanting magic. Shadow had to defend her several times.

Demons are defeated, dismantled, and absorbed into the shield.

Woman1:"Hooh..... You can absorb the dismantled demons into your weapon?"

Naofumi:"Motoyasu doesn't know about it?"

Woman1:"He doesn't do it usually. Only on big game, like a Chimera or a strong demon."

Motoyasu should have absorbed some demon parts into his spear.....Does he not bother with meat and bone?

But, that doesn't really make sense.

I have unsealed most of the basic shields. Therefore, my ability has risen considerably.

The Meat system is inferior to the Bone system if released.

That must be why I cannot beat Motoyasu unless I use the Wrath Shield.

Of course, it could also be due to the fact that I started leveling late, but I can feel the difference between Motoyasu and my basic specs.

The same could be said for Ren and Itsuki.

It is funny that I thought the shield was weak a while ago.

At least in present conditions, the shield isn't inferior to any of the other weapons.

Or is it because in-game terms, we are still in the early stages?

.....I don't know.

Naofumi:"Oh right, there was something I wanted to ask."

Woman1:"What is it?"

Naofumi:"Were you Motoyasu's first party member?"

For some reason that memory is very vague.

But if I remember correctly, then it wasn't her.

Woman1:"No I'm not."

Naofumi:"Ah, is that so?"

Woman1:"I joined Motoyasu-sama one week after I started adventuring.

When I entered the only other man in the party left."

Naofumi:" I see."

Woman1:"The former princess and her lackey tormented him until he left.

Anyone who joined after me was antagonized."

I see, if you don't pretend to be stupid then Bitch would torment you until you disappear.

What an unpleasant party managed by women.

Are real harems like that?

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 86 - Murmurs

We returned to the main island after hunting all day, and Shadow guided us back to the hotel.

I took a bath in the hot springs provided by the hotel.

Naofumi: "Fuu....."

Today's results. 4 Levels. 10 new Shields, all of them increasing stats.

Honestly, the only word I have for the efficiency is delicious. As expected, the activation period is astonishing.

At this rate, when we leave the island, we will have gotten considerably stronger.

That reminds me, Woman 1 said something about Motoyasu's women only party.

Ones who joined along the way, and did not fit in were chased out.

Woman 1 noticed this from the start and played dumb.

Originally, Bitch was one of Motoyasu's first four companions. Where did the remaining three go?

Where did that man go anyway. Maybe he joined Ren or itsuki.

Shadow: "How is the water's temperature degojaru?"

Naofumi: "....."

Shadow's voice could be heard in the men's bath.

Where is it coming from? Where are you?

Shadow: "Even if you look, you won't find me you know degojaruyo."

Naofumi: "Are you a man?"

Shadow: "Secret degojaru."

Naofumi: "....."

Shadow: "The queen has assigned me to ask about the situation of your curse and its recovery degojaruyo."

Naofumi: "Well, there is a light prickling, but other than that I feel nothing."

When I look at my status, I can see that the stats are returning one by one.....I don't really mind either way.

Taking a leisurely bath isn't too bad either.

Hotspring therapy is also something I was looking forward to.

I look at the dimly lit area.

The hot springs that I entered remind me of ones made in ancient Rome.

Is it bad that I was expecting a Japanese-style hot spring?

Naofumi: "Hey, Shadow."

Shadow: "What degojaru?"

Naofumi: "The way you talk, and the way you dress is very similar to something called a ninja in my world."

Shadow: "That might be the case degojaruna."

What?

Shadow: "This is a secret matter, but it is fine for the Hero of the Shield-dono to hear degojaruna. Us shadows, are a culture taken from the east degojaru. Therefore, we are an existence that can be called both assassins

and ninjas degojarushi. We are also knowledgeable about the East degojaruyo."

Naofumi:"Hmmm....."

The East huh.....That reminds me, the Old Man from the weapon shop said he apprenticed there.

Are they Japanese-styled?

Or something Japanese like in this strange world. Something that reminds me of a game.

Naofumi:"Do you guys know how the East design their hot springs?"

Just recalling it makes me nostalgic.

I want to enjoy a Japanese-styled hotspring, since up until now, it has only been western-style baths.

Shadow:"The design you are speaking of is available on the main island degojaruyo."

Naofumi:"I see, I'll be looking forward to it."

It is also my job to relax in a hotspring.

After staying in the hotspring for a long time, I returned to my room and the day was over.

The next day.

I feel refreshed since I rested plenty last night.

Since Firo and Raphtalia are always there and making noise. Last night was very quiet.

Now that I think about it, how are they doing.....?

Staying together with Motoyasu who can only think with his lower half.

.....I hope there will be no big problems.

If there is a problem, do I have Shadow deal with it?

Woman1:"What are we doing today?"

Just as I finished breakfast at the hotel, Woman 1 talks to me.

Naofumi:"We'll hunt until noon, and then head back to the main island."

Woman1:"Ah, understood."

To raise our levels, Shadow and Woman 1 helped me defeat demons until noon.

For lunch I made sandwiches for Shadow and Woman1 with ingredients taken from the hotel.

Shadow:"Since I am working,I cannot eat degojaru."

Naofumi:"I see."

Woman1:"Then, I'll take it....."

Woman 1 takes the sandwich and eats it.

Woman1:"Nn.....Quite skilled. Why don't you open a shop?"

Naofumi:"Everybody who ate my cooking said the same."

I'd rather not elaborate on how something so simple can taste delicious.....I don't even know myself, but the food is delicious so it's fine. Might be the cooking skill from the Shield.

Woman1:"Motoyasu-sama would occasionally cook for us too.....Nevermind its nothing."

Ah, Motoyasu can cook, does it not taste good?

Is it the handsome appeal?

It seems that men who can cook in Motoyasu's world are popular.

Somehow, that fellow makes me think of French pasta.

Popular with women and cool.

Oh right, since we are in the Southern-like Cal Mira Island, will he have surfing as a hobby?

No way, before that fellow came here, Net Gaming was his hobby.

Now that I think about it, why does that fellow play Net Games as a hobby?

Well there is no way I can find out at the moment.

Every since he got here he has been trying to make a harem.

Seems difficult.

Especially since there was a man in his party.

Oops, did I say that out loud?

Naofumi:"That reminds me,yesterday you said there was a man in Motoyasu's party."

Woman1:"Yes. In fact, after I joined two other men also did."

Naofumi:"Motoyasu had that many replacements? All I know is that including Bitch, there should also be a man and four other women."

Woman1:"Eh~, when I entered there was 5 women and two men."

Naofumi:"Hey.....That's a lot."

Woman1:"After I entered, several of the members got replaced repeatedly. Though there hasn't been a new member for a while now."

In short, Bitch was driving away the women with insidious harassment, while the men were disgusted with Motoyasu's flirting and left.

That seemed to be a common occurrence.

.....Whatever.

Naofumi:"Seems troublesome with that fellow."

Woman1:"Not really. I just play along with princess Bitch, and watch Motoyasu-sama fight. Besides, I can be extravagant, and get free experience. To me, that place is like heaven."

Naofumi:".....That's fine then. As long as you are okay with it."

Woman1:"Well, feels like it will become dangerous soon. So I came here to investigate the secrets of the Shield to help Motoyasu-sama get stronger. Recently, there hasn't been much growth so I wondered if there was something to learn here. Plus, it's also for beating that disgusting princess Bitch. Once that is done and I become Motoyasu-sama's favourite, I will take it easy."

Those are some amazing lines.

If Raphtalia thought about such things, I don't think I could recover.

Though it's not my problem, I feel a little pity for Motoyasu.

Naofumi:"Are you fine with saying that to me?"

This girl, complaining to me because her companions aren't here. She is troublesome in a different manner compared to the hysterical Bitch. I mean, I am the Hero of the Shield, why do I have to listen to complaints from Motoyasu's party.

.....Though I can't really complain since I have learnt various things from our talk.

Woman1:"Can't be helped. When you purchased that poor quality necklace, my opinion of you changed."

Naofumi:"You'll have to excuse me then. You knew the quality and still had me buy it.

Woman1:"I guess. Haah.....Motoyasu-sama's power comes from the kingdom, he doesn't attach any strings to the gold he gives out. Ah, I want to live luxuriously."

Naofumi:"Hey.....your family's social standing is pretty good, why are you sticking to Motoyasu? Wouldn't it be safer to live luxuriously away from this?"

There should have been a few life or death situations.However, she is still sticking with him.

Well, nothing will change even if I do find out.

Woman1:"My father is annoying since he is a Hero devotee. Frankly, living with my parents is uncomfortable. My mother does business, and if I stop being the companion of a hero, I would probably be married to some noble, or knight, and help my mother out in business. I can't take it easy there."

Naofumi:"Why are you telling me this?"

Woman1:"Do you think Motoyasu-sama would believe anything you say?"

Naofumi:"No way."

Woman1:"See? Though I did almost die. If I stick with him and raise my Level, then the rest should be easier."

True, I remember the time before the Four Heroes, namely us were just summoned.

The wave suddenly happened, families were lost, and orphans were sold into slavery.

If you are with a Hero then Class Up is free, and there are few humans above level 40. Isn't it a great deal?

Though I smell trouble in the future.

Woman1:"Well, Motoyasu-sama is not just a Hero, his face is also to my preference."

Naofumi:"Yeah yeah. That reminds me, Shadow."

Shadow:"What degojaru?"

Naofumi:"Are my companions being guarded?"

Shadow:"Of course degojaru. Nothing bad will happen to them degojaru."

Naofumi:"I'm just afraid of Motoyasu becoming a wolf."

Woman1:"Ah.....That's possible....."

Woman 1 recalls Motoyasu's nature and nods indifferently.

Your adverse nodding makes me more anxious.....

Woman1:"However, That girl's behaviour seems stiff,and I don't understand the bird."

Naofumi:"Raphtalia? That fellow doesn't match her looks. Her appearance is like that, but did you know she is a child?"

Woman1:".....I understand that girl's troubles."

Naofumi:"Hm? Troubles?"

Woman1:"You don't need to mind it. Either way is fine."

Naofumi:"I see. Firo.....Will probably be tempted by food."

You can be friends through food, but for love.....I wonder.

What can I say, breeding should be standard behaviour for a wild animal.

I don't know much about her biologically, but I don't think there is such thing as a mating season.

Woman1:"That reminds me, Motoyasu-sama seemed to be devoted to the human form of that bird. Princess Bitch was jealous."

Naofumi:"That guy just has an angel fetish."

This fellow just won't stop talking about women. I'm getting tired of it.

Firo's appearance.....In short,a blond European blue-eyed angel, is probably his favourite.

Motoyasu came from Japan, there isn't anyone like that. As for the rest of the planet.....

That reminds me, there doesn't seem to be any angelic beings in this world.

Though the Demi-humans can grow wings, their hands and feet have claws.

Woman1:"Spending two days with Firo-chan and Raphtalia-chan! And like that he skipped out."

Naofumi:"And you are fine with Motoyasu doing that?"

Woman1:"The reaction from the other two was amazing. But, great men have great fondness for sensual pleasures, so I will overlook something like that."

Naofumi:"You're unexpectedly cold."

Woman1:"Whatever!"

In a sense, sticking with this guy is like touching poison.

I don't know what attitude she takes when talking to Motoyasu, she is easy to talk to.

Perhaps, that's what it means to be a good talker.

Naofumi:"I will not accept Bitch."

Woman1:"That's already water under the bridge. If you cannot forgive, then just push her away! Or something like that."

Naofumi:"Those words suck terribly."

Woman1:"Are you my father? Well, up until recently everything was just handed to her. Her plan did not go well because of you, so her unjustified resentment made her want to kill you, at least that's my analyses. How is it?"

Naofumi:"That's about right."

So you did have a good look.

In other words, it couldn't be helped since Bitch wanted to murder me.

No, I still don't know, and it is bugging me.

Woman1:"When I heard you tried to rape her, I thought it was suspicious, but I didn't have any obligation to stand up for you, and there was also another girl who got framed when she suspected something, so I pretended it had nothing to do with me."

Naofumi:"I don't buy it."

Woman1:"Well, I'll just end up getting myself strangled somewhere and die.
I have no relations with that girl though."

Naofumi:"....."

Woman1's words were cold, I was frozen for a second.

Are all women like this?

With such feelings, we finished the demon hunt and returned to the main island.

Compared to what I imagined would happen, it was unexpectedly decent.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 87 – The Spear Hero & My Companions

Firo:"Ah, Master~!"

When I returned to the main island hotel, Firo came out to greet me in her demon form.

I thought I told her to stay in her human form at the hotel.

Woman1:"See you. Keep your distance though."

Naofumi:"I know."

Woman 1 says good-bye to join up with Bitch.

Naofumi:"So what happened?"

Firo:"Uhhh you see, Raphtalia onee-chan got angry."

Naofumi:"Angry you say....."

Motoyasu, you've finally caused a problem.

The person in question was sitting there stargazing while pressing his cheeks together.

I wonder why. It feels like he's deep in thought.

Woman1:"Motoyasu-sama?"

Woman 1 is dumbfounded, as she sees Motoyasu like that.

.....I don't understand the situation. What's going on?

Naofumi: "Firo, what happened?"

Firo: "Hm~? Firo doesn't know."

Thought so.

I am an idiot for asking Firo

Can't be helped, I'll go look for Raphtalia, Motoyasu can be left to Woman 1.

And there she is. Her back is turned, but it is clearly Raphtalia..... even from a distance, it's obvious to me that Raphtalia is fuming.

The hair on her tail is bristling, and her body is emitting enough magic power to make the air around her vibrate.

Naofumi: "I-I'm back."

Raphtalia turned around when she heard my greeting, and the anger seemed to have dissipated.

Raphtalia: "I was waiting!"

Raphtalia rushes towards me with a tearful expression.

Naofumi: "Wh-What happened?"

I pray that it is not rape.

I don't think that is the case based on Motoyasu's reaction, but I have no idea what is going on.

Raphtalia: "That's--"

I'm told about Raphtalia's experience.

Raphtalia tries to explain to me what happened from her point of view.

Firo:"What's happening?"

After I left, Firo asked Raphtalia anxiously.

Raphtalia:"It's alright. All we are going to do is hunt demons with the other hero-sama until tomorrow night."

Firo:"Boo~. What about master?"

Raphtalia:"We'll join him a bit later."

And so, the situation was explained to Firo. Raphtalia was doing push-ups while waiting for Motoyasu to arrive.

I will explain. Because it has already become a routine, I forgot about it, whenever Raphtalia has free time, she trains her body.

During our travels on the carriage, when not tanning demon skins, chin-ups and push-ups are performed.

Recently, her arm strength has increased to the point where single fingered pushups are possible.

The physical training influences her status. Little by little, her status increases.

Motoyasu:"Sorry for the wait--"

Motoyasu walks in the room with a bouquet in one hand.

Firo:"Munya~....."

Firo is taking an afternoon nap.

Raphtalia:"677.....678....."

Raphtalia wasn't paying attention and continued doing push-ups.

(sfx) Rustle* Motoyasu dropped his bouquet.

Well, entering the room of a girl who is waiting for you, only to see her doing push-ups, Motoyasu was left speechless.

Motoyasu:"Ummm....."

Raphtalia:"680.....Ah."

Raphtalia stopped doing push-ups and turned to face Motoyasu.

Raphtalia:"Welcome. Hey, Firo, get up. He's here."

Firo:"Muu.....Firo is sleepy."

Motoyasu:"Ah, right....."

While picking up the bouquet, Motoyasu enters the room.

Raphtalia:"My best regards until tomorrow."

Firo:"Best regards~!"

Motoyasu:"Gotcha, we have already met, but let's introduce ourselves again.

I am Kitamura Motoyasu! Hero of the Spear. Please take care of me."

Raphtalia:"Raphtalia."

Firo:"Firo"

Motoyasu fashionably hands the bouquet to Raphtalia.

Motoyasu: "These flowers suit you cuties well."

Raphtalia: "Haa....."

Raphtalia receives the flowers and, it seems she was thinking of where to sell it.

Was it bad that I raised a girl with efficiency as a principle?

Furthermore, Raphtalia heard that flowers could be made into medicine.

I think it was an aromatic drug.

Firo: "This isn't very tasty."

Firo puts some flowers in her mouth.

Well, Firo prefers dumplings over flowers.

Raphtalia: "Now then, shall we go Level up at once?"

Motoyasu: "Let's go shopping at the market first."

Raphtalia: "I guess....."

Thus, Raphtalia followed Motoyasu to the market.

Raphtalia: "This shop.....It's closed."

Motoyasu: "That's strange. I could've sworn it was selling accessories a little while ago."

It seems Motoyasu wanted to browse the store that was closed.

After a little looking around, it was revealed that they were just a little late.

Motoyasu:"Oh well, let's look at various others."

Raphtalia:"Ah, okay."

Like that, following Motoyasu, various shops were visited.

Several hours were spent at the market.

Moreover, he would stay and talk to any pretty girl.

Random Girl:"Eh! You are the Hero of the Spear-sama?!"

Motoyasu:"That's right. Is there something you want to ask of me?"

It seems they wanted to ask the hero to show off a few spear tricks.

As a result, each girl gave him a note with the hotel they were staying at.

Skirtchasing.

While watching his gentleman act, Raphtalia's evaluation of Motoyasu fell.

And so, after shopping..... the day was almost over.

After shopping and leaving the market, Motoyasu walked in the direction of the pier.

Raphtalia:"Um.....To go back we have to return from the market."

Motoyasu:"It's fine It's fine, let's take a look."

Raphtalia:"Eh? But, today's leveling....."

Motoyasu:"Oh right, Firo-chan. Can you return to your angel form?"

Firo:"No!"

Since leaving the hotel, Firo has been in her demon form.

Afterwards, they went to the tourist spots of Cal Mira Archipelago main island, when the sun began to set, they moved to another island.

Crossing the middle of the sea during a setting sun, on a small boat.

Motoyasu: "I found something good in the shop a little while ago."

A souvenir made with a shell was handed to Raphtalia.

Raphtalia: "Umm....."

Motoyasu: "Don't worry about it, it's just a small present."

By the way, Firo was swimming next to the ship in her demon form.

It's a situation I can easily imagine.

I was listening to the story with a delicate expression.

Ignoring Bitch being violent at first, we listened to the story quietly. Firo didn't have to be there though.

Motoyasu: "Look, the setting sun is beautiful."

Raphtalia: "Yes, it is beautiful."

The scenery of a setting sun on the ocean is beautiful for Raphtalia. There was a mood, from the aquatic sea demons jumping out of the sea with the evening sun in the background.

While Raphtalia was staring blankly into the evening sun, Motoyasu grasps her hand.

Rejecting it, Raphtalia pulls her hand back.

Motoyasu just shrugs his shoulders with a feeling of "Don't worry about it".

At that time some veins appeared on Raphtalia's forehead.

Afterwards, she just smiled at Motoyasu, while not letting him grasp her hand.

After arriving at the island.

The sun already set. Raphtalia was preparing for a night battle against demons while Motoyasu dashed into the hotel.

Raphtalia:"Um.....'

Motoyasu:"Hm? What's up?"

Raphtalia:"Are we not going to Level up?"

Motoyasu:"The day is already over you know. It would be dangerous to fight in such a situation."

Raphtalia:"W-Well.....But-"

Motoyasu:"Now, let's have a meal and take a good rest at the hotel. I'll make dinner, so look forward to it."

Raphtalia consented and bought various ingredients at the market place. Raphtalia also bought various light medicines, such as a heal ointment.

Firo:"Food?"

Motoyasu:"That's right Firo-chan. So take your angel form."

Firo:"No!"

Firo was in her demon form while cautiously watching Motoyasu.

She used to kick him in the groin a lot.

After that, Motoyasu started cooking in the hotel's kitchen while showing off to the two of them in the corner.

Raphtalia seems to have thought that I would eat the food provided by the hotel.

Well, I didn't cook unless we were outside. I was making medicine and accessories at the inn. Recently, I have also been studying magic.

Motoyasu: "The food I cooked is ready."

Raphtalia: "S-sure....."

Motoyasu announced to Raphtalia while the dish was still sizzling, Raphtalia ate Motoyasu's food slowly, while Firo ate heartily.

Firo: "It isn't as tasty as Master's!"

Raphtalia: "Shh! Hero of the spear-sama will mind it....."

After hearing that Motoyasu has a cramp in his smile.

Motoyasu: "I'll make even tastier ones if you want. So, Firo-chan, Angel form!"

Firo: "No!"

Just how much of an angel-lover are you.

After that, they entered separate rooms. At that time, Firo finally returned to her human form.

Well, it's because I ordered Firo to be in human form whenever we were at an inn, to avoid damaging the place.

Firo: "Not sleeping yet?"

Raphtalia: "Not yet....."

Before sleeping Raphtalia stretches and studies magic.

Motoyasu:"Wa! Firo-chan's angel form is so cute!"

Firo:"Stay away!"

It seems Firo hates Motoyasu.

Did Motoyasu do something that Firo hates?.....He has.

Before Firo grew up, he called her lame and laughed out loud.

Furthermore, calling her a fat and plain bird. It would be weird if he wasn't hated.

Raphtalia:"Don't worry, nothing will happen."

Firo:"Really?"

Raphtalia:"Really Really."

Firo:"Muu~....."

Firo lies on the bed in human form and breathes deeply.

But her ahoge is standing on end, and she isn't sleeping soundly.

Motoyasu:"....."

Motoyasu silently approaches Firo.

Raphtalia:".....What do you intend to do?"

Motoyasu:" I just want to look at Firo-chan's sleeping face."

Raphtalia raises her eyebrows at Motoyasu's suspicious actions.

Motoyasu: "Anyway, while Firo-chan is sleeping, want to drink some liquor in a bar?"

Raphtalia: "What?"

Motoyasu: "Ah, you never drink alcohol before. Don't worry, just have a little and enjoy the charm of being an adult."

Raphtalia: "Charm.....huh"

Unexpectedly, Raphtalia was tempted by Motoyasu speaking about charm, and followed him to the bar.

While sitting down, Motoyasu orders the liquor.

It arrived after a few minutes.

The first drink was for Raphtalia. It seemed to be some red alcohol.

Motoyasu pours it into a glass.

Motoyasu: "A toast to your eyes."

Raphtalia: "....."

When Motoyasu winked fashionably at Raphtalia, something inside her seemed to have snapped.

Raphtalia: "There are things to do tomorrow, I'm returning."

While suppressing her urge to kill with a smile, the cup containing the alcohol she didn't drink vibrated with magic released from the body.

Motoyasu: "Eh? Ah-"

Like that, she returned to the hotel with the spare key and slept.

And, the next morning.

Raphtalia: "Good morning."

With the intentions to forget yesterday, Raphtalia greeted Motoyasu.

Motoyasu: "Ah, good morning. Raphtalia-chan. Firo-chan."

Firo: "Morninn-"

Firo sleepy returns the greeting with a yawn.

After having a light breakfast at the hotel, it was finally time to hunt demons.

However.....

Motoyasu: "I understand your strengths."

After a while of hunting demons, that line was said.

The demons aren't very strong, after advancing for a while, Motoyasu called for a stop.

Raphtalia: "What?"

Motoyasu: "Leveling up with such bloody fighting doesn't suit your lovely selves. Why don't you watch me fight?"

Raphtalia: "Huuu!?"

After saying that, Motoyasu rushes a demon that appeared alone.

By the way, if it was Firo, that demon would have been small fry.

It also should have been dealt with by a single blow from Motoyasu.

Motoyasu: "Meteor Spear!"

Certainly, Motoyasu is strong.

But he kept sending amorous glances, somehow causing his sweat to glitter, and winking whenever a demon was killed.

Motoyasu: "How was it?"

Raphtalia: "-----p!"

Raphtalia's patience finally reached the limit.

Raphtalia: "I don't know, so please stop it!"

It seems her head blanked out, and it seems that afterwards Motoyasu was shaking like a lamb.

While repressing her anger with a straight face, they returned to the main island hotel a little before noon.

By the way, Raphtalia and Firo only got 2 levels, so presently they are at 42.

What the hell, yesterday I got 6 levels, and am now level 44.

I wonder why Raphtalia is lower level than me.....

Motoyasu..... This is even less than what I expected.

I feel that there is some kind of conspiracy, but I can't tell based on the story I just heard.

Anyway, Raphtalia's evaluation of the Hero of the Spear dropped fatally.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 88 - Intuition and Analysis

I was amazed after hearing Raphtalia's story.

Rather.....It was expected.

So it's like this. Spending the first day like a date.

Shopping at the market and visiting tourist spots, crossing the sea during a beautiful sunset.

At night, cooking home-made food, and drinking liquor at a bar.

Then, the next day, showing off and being cool while acting all handsome.

Tentatively, after approximately analysing their strength, he tries to steal my subordinates by trying to appear appealing to them.

Though it seems Raphtalia and Firo didn't fall for it.

Naofumi:"How should I put it....."A toast to your eyes." you say, Is this the Showa Era?! Did you not have any lines that is a little more effective?"

Motoyasu:"In this world, all the older women were pleased with that....."

Ah, was it learnt from experience?.....In any case, think about who your partner was.

Though it is probably my fault, Raphtalia was raised with efficiency as a principle. Those who show leadership will have a higher evaluation.

Firo:"The person with the spear complimented onee-chan a lot."

Naofumi:"I see....."

Raphtalia:"What did you come here to fight for? Did you come here to hit on girls?"

Raphtalia continues to attack the dejected Motoyasu.

Are you denying Motoyasu's reason for existence?

Raphtalia: "If you do such a thing, when you encounter a formidable enemy, your companions won't be able to help you!"

After declaring that, Raphtalia returned.

Raphtalia: "Is the next exchange tomorrow?"

Naofumi: "Ah, yeah....."

That's amazing. To make Raphtalia this angry.....

There was only one other time that I've seen Raphtalia this seriously angry. It was during the results of the duel.

Well, that was Motoyasu's fault as well; Motoyasu himself is mopping about over there.

Woman1: "That reminds me, where did Bitch and company go?"

Woman1 was listening to the story too? She was comforting Motoyasu with a hand on his shoulder.

Naofumi: "Even though a day was wasted, experience still increased....."

Raphtalia: "Sorry....."

Naofumi: "No, that's not what I mean Raphtalia."

When listening to the story during the activation, contrasting with her usual habit of composure, her voice is full of emotion.

Was it because of that, it has nothing to do with levels, but the chances of victory against the wave?

Hm?

Woman 1 came over to us and said.

Woman1:"Is that assassin still watching?"

Naofumi:"Probably."

Woman1:"Then I'll supplement. Motoyasu-sama goes off and hunts alone at night.

Naofumi:"....."

I think I just gave a very unpleasant look.

In other words, when Raphtalia.....and the other girls were asleep, he was leveling up alone at night?

An image of a cool hard-working guy pops up, to make an effort in secret here, it seems a little strange.

Naofumi:"You think I have control of Shadow?"

Woman1:"Maybe."

Hmm, it isn't a bad hand to present yourself stronger to your comrades. Certainly, if this can be kept up, then some in-fighting could be avoided. Above all, Motoyasu's date plan needs to be investigated, but there isn't enough time.

It's not a bad hand, but it was Raphtalia that it was shown to.

That means this guy isn't thinking about leveling. so he's fooling around.

In the first place, the biggest drawback of this is.

His companions will not gain any levels, I can't do that.

For me who can only use a shield to defend, a companion is essential.

Therefore, it is necessary to always take care of the conditions of your comrades.

There is also the fatigue of constant night battles accumulating.

Of course, it is also limited to hunting the demons that appear only at night.

Naofumi:"Oh right. Raphtalia"

Raphtalia:"What is it?"

We talk in whispers so that it won't reach Motoyasu and them.

Naofumi:"How does Motoyasu fight?Is there something special you have to do, Like when fighting with me?"

Raphatalia:"Yup, the demons are not dismantled, the weapon isn't changed..... The weapon absorbs the same way as Naofumi-sama's."

Hmm.....It feels like there are corners being cut.

So for that strength.....Does Level mean everything?

There are those kinds of Net Games.

Raphtalia:"Though.....He took a tool out of the spear."

Naofumi:"Tool? It wasn't absorbed into the spear?"

Raphtalia:"Yup. It was different from a tool that was absorbed."

A tool from a spear.....How was it done?

At last, a chance to get proper information has appeared.

Naofumi: "Motoyasu, There's something I want to ask--"

The Motoyasu that should have been absent mindedly sitting there disappeared.

Woman 1 is also gone.

When I want to ask they are gone!

When did they disappear!?

Firo: "The person with the spear returned with that woman. They apologized to onee-chan."

Naofumi: "I-I see."

That's quick.....I wanted some time to exchange information.

What Motoyasu does, may not be the same as Ren and Itsuki.

Well, there are a lot of disadvantages, but there are also many benefits.

In any case, the heroes like Motoyasu are just existences that are a lump of information.

Though during the activation, it's only a matter of time before their secrets are exposed.

At least I learnt that Motoyasu has something that I don't know.

Simply because there is a possibility, that Motoyasu is playing around to hide it.

If I was Motoyasu, I would refuse the staff exchange, and during the activation, work hard and level up.

It might be simple to turn down if I think about efficiency. However, I may only find out here.

Even if it's just experience points, I'll gulp it down like a beggar, I have a feeling those three know something different.

My intuition is telling me that it would be wrong to decline it.

There is something.

Those three heroes, without fail, are hiding something other than level. Because if it's just level, then it would be no different from adventurers.

This is supported by my knowledge and experience of Net Games up until now.

In Net Games there is something related to this event, and elements other than Level effect skills in real.

There is also the possession of rare items via financial power.

How many times have I encountered a person with only high Levels?

In a Net game, the administration makes equipment and rare items through trail and error that become important.

Levels are important at first, but later on it just becomes a comparison between acorns.

Therefore, the appearance of funds, organization strength, and rare items is required.

This world is not a game, but for some reason those three heroes still think that this is a game; I am curious.

It is common for activation events such as these to have a limit on Levels gained.

Beginner relief and Class Up promotions. Are job changes similar to a game?

In guilds, the members that have reached the level limit will help the new members in raising their levels.

Because Motoyasu was so laid-back, there was a similar feeling.

As far as he is concerned, his purpose is probably gathering information and looking for new companions right?

There is also a possibility of using the remaining six days after the exchange completed.

Otherwise, I cannot explain the composure of Motoyasu.

Ah.....

Naofumi: "Shadow"

Shadow: "What degojaru?"

Naofumi: "Is there some kind of law during activation? Like rumors, theories, even something that has low credibility is alright."

Shadow: ".....When I participated in the activation of Cal Mira Island, The experience worsens after Classing Up at level 80 degojaru. Of course, I entered more after that degojaruka, there is an upper limit to the inhabiting demons degojaru."

Right on the money huh.

In other words, those actions were in anticipation of that.

There is an upper limit.....just like a game.

If I had the same gaming knowledge as those guys, I might have fallen under the illusion that this world is a game as well.

I can roughly grasp the level of their party by counting backwards from here.

Assuming the Hero is level 70-80, their companion should be between 40-70?

It is safe to assume that everyone can reach level 80 in at least a few days. After that, it wouldn't be so easy to gain when hunting. If there are demons on this island higher than 80, it would not be very delicious.

I know that in games, regardless of what, it is just a calculation.

Though I originally wanted to take my time with the hunting grounds during this activation, would it be better to look for shortcuts?

I feel like looking at a Walkthrough for net games.

However, the mystery has gotten even deeper.

In other words, taking Motoyasu as the lowest, Ren and Itsuki should at least be around level 70.

Though, why are they equal to me when I use the Wrath Shield?

It is a fact that Wrath Shield is especially strong, but I am level 44. 20 levels lower than them.

Moreover, when fighting the pope, there was also an ability above him.

The mysteries don't end.

While deliberating such thoughts deeply, and returning to the hotel, Motoyasu was forgotten about.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 89 – The Birth of Cal Mira Island Sports

After listening to Raphtalia's story, it was already evening, and the timing to go out has been missed.

If we go out now, it would be to another island for a night hunt.

Though time is precious, I would rather not night battle too much. It is dangerous.....

Shopping at the market would be fine, but.....I already went yesterday.

Till now I was making medicine and accessories, or studying magic, but as for the former, I am out of materials.

After returning I will be taught the latter by someone the queen prepares.

We who had free time were bored.

With that said, we decided to play at the beach until dusk.

Firo:"Wahoi~!"

Firo is playing in the sea.

She is having fun in water and noisily trying to dive underwater like a waterfowl.

It's that isn't it.

I feel that is swimming practice.

At first glance it seems she is drowning.

I mean, can you even sink?..... floating while her feet stick up through the surface. It is a very funny appearance.

Her pose reminds me of a guy that was killed in the same position somewhere. What was it again?

It was a village with a dog. I cannot remember the details.

These four months here of being separated from the Otaku culture, and originally I could only inference animes based on their titles.



Naofumi: "Levels did not rise at all. Bad Raphtalia."

Raphtalia: "Ehh.....It can't be helped. After moving it was night..... It was also trouble since we had to return the next morning."

Naofumi: "This staff exchange is evil."

Raphtalia: "That's right.....I hoped that time back then would pass faster, though it is enjoyable right now."

Naofumi: "I guess....."

We borrowed bathing suits from the hotel to play at the beach.

What can I say, a tropical country's sea is beautiful.

Really, I've had this thought before, it feels like I came to Hawaii and Guam.

Naofumi: "Looking carefully, a lot of other fellows are playing on the beach like us."

Raphtalia: "Yeah, certainly....."

Naofumi: "Raphtalia, do you have the ball?"

Raphtalia: "I put it in the room at the hotel....."

Naofumi: "I see.....It should be possible to rent a ball somewhere."

For some reason even though I look around, there is no shop dealing with recreational goods.

There is a resting place, like a seaside clubhouse, but there are no stores for toys in order to play at the sea.

Since it's hot, there is a store that sells cold items.

However, a shop meant for playing at the sea doesn't exist.

.....There are no surfboards either.

For a guy like Motoyasu, surfing cannot be just a hobby. That's it.

While thinking and looking around I spotted Motoyasu.

It seems he has recovered from earlier, and is accompanying Bitch. He didn't learn his lesson. It would be annoying to speak to him since Bitch is there, I don't feel like it.

Raphtalia: "What are you thinking about?"

Naofumi: "With great pains we are finally playing on the beach. I think beach volleyball would be fine."

Raphtalia: "There is training for the lower body on the beach that requires keeping the ball in the air! I'll get it!"

After listening to my suggestion Raphtalia ran selfishly.

.....I seemed to have raised a little bit of a muscle brain.

This was not aimed at training in particular.....

Raphtalia's criteria is fundamentally mistaken.....Though that's probably my fault.

Firo: "What happened to onee-chan?"

Naofumi: "She went to fetch a ball."

Firo: "Hmm. Play ball?"

Naofumi: "It seems so."

Firo: "Firo is bored. Going to play more."

Naofumi: "Oh. Do your best."

Firo: "Yeah!"

While drawing the lines for beach volleyball.....Raphtalia brings the ball. The ball that was made from balloon for children, has been cherished by Raphtalia for a long time.

Training to strengthen the lower body on the beach, huh.....

Naofumi:"Raphtalia, you got a second?"

Raphtalia:"What? Go ahead."

I take a good look at Raphtalia's upper arm.

Always doing muscle training, though her muscles don't seem to be in proportion to her status gained from killing monsters.

Raphtalia:"What is it?"

Naofumi:"Raphtalia, are you hiding your figure with magic?"

Raphtalia is part of the raccoon race, specializing in illusion magic, and has affinity with light and darkness systems.

In other words, it is possible to fake her own appearance.

Raphtalia:"Why would I do something so useless?"

Naofumi:".....Raphtalia, stay as you are."

Raphtalia:"What.....? I understand."

Raphtalia's aspiration to improve herself is excellent.

After that, I explained the simple rules of beach volleyball.

It's not the full-fledged ones, just not dropping the ball, how to handle the ball, and passing to the other party.

Raphtalia:"Then I'm starting! Tei!"

Naofumi:"What kind of-!"

A fierce beach volleyball match on the beach began between Raphtalia and Firo.

From the beginning they start rushing to spike, it has already surpassed a competition and has become a fierce battle.

Both of their movements are quick. It's like watching wire action

When I looked around, I noticed that people began to gather and happily mimic what they were doing.

Well, since there aren't that many people with balls, there is one that substituted a ball with a round cloth.....

Those who are imitating the offense and defense of Raphtalia and Firo can be called beach volleyball.

Raphtalia: "Is Naofumi-sama not going to do it?"

While performing a dash Raphtalia asks me.

Naofumi: "Nope..... I cannot do that."

Raphtalia: "?"

Did I say something strange? Raphtalia and Firo look like they are playing with the ball leisurely.

What a high level.

I could not keep up with their physical strength.

Naofumi: "I'm fine with just watching."

Firo: "Really? It will be more fun if Master plays together."

Naofumi: "This is closer to actual fighting than playing."

Is this is influence of Class Up, they've become superhuman. These guys. If I keep them company I will have to get serious, and that's tiring. I'm also still in treatment.

Naofumi: "Oh right. There is also beach flag."

When I say that, Firo's eyes sparkle. The beach volleyball game was interrupted, she runs up to me.

Firo: "What is it!? How do you play!?"

Uh.....

Naofumi: "Anyway, stab a stick in the ground first"

Firo: "Okay!"

I pick up a stick and stab the ground with it.

Naofumi: "Afterwards."

Walk 20 meters from the stick and turn around.

Naofumi: "In the mean time, Raphtalia and Firo, come here."

Raphtalia: "Okay."

Firo: "Okay~!"

Both of them obediently come to me.

Naofumi: "Then, face each other on the other side of the stick while lying down."

Raphtalia: "Like this?"

Firo: "This way?"

Both of them lie down according to my instructions.

Naofumi: "I'll say Ready, and Don! After I say that, get up immediately and pick up the stick I stabbed in the ground, the one who gets the stick wins. However, you must not interfere with your opponent."

Raphtalia: "That sounds fun."

Firo: "Yup!"

Naofumi: "Now for practice."

A gallery was made. It looks like some adventurers are excitedly watching with expectations.

Is it because this is a different world? There doesn't seem to be much playing here.

Naofumi: "Ready....."

Both of them are waiting for me to speak.

Naofumi: "Don! Go-----!"

Immediately after, I was blasted with, and buried under a mountain of sand. Raphtalia and Firo are the criminals. Even if just a little quicker, for the sake of winning they simultaneously kicked the sand.

By the way, it seems Firo won.

I was buried in sand and couldn't tell.

Firo: "This is Firo's victory!"

Raphtalia: "Next time I won't lose!"

Naofumi: "Kicking sand everywhere with such power! Know some limits!"

What we were playing at that time..... Carried on to become a major competition after.

Having said that, I did not know that this was a prototype for something else in this world though.

Raphtalia and Firo played at the beach until the day was over.

Some adventurers joined too, and the beach volleyball and beach flag ended in success.

Well, it was good for killing time.

Raphtalia seemed to be satisfied with body strengthening as a principle.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 90 – The Significance of Personnel Exchange

The next day.

Returning to the hotel yesterday, I entered the hotspring and took a rest.

Entering the japanese-styled hotspring that Shadow talked about, little by little, I feel that my body is getting lighter.

It was a mix between Chinese and Japanese though.....

There's a paper umbrellas and a Kaminarimon..... The paper sliding doors and various other things are chinese-styled, it feels like a Japanese bath made by a foreigner.

(TInote: <http://imgur.com/timuF01,XG18l6a>

with <http://imgur.com/timuF01,XG18l6a#1>)

I have no complaints though, I'm just interested in what kind of country the East is. Regardless of if they are Good or bad.

Naofumi:"Then, I'm off."

Raphtalia:"Take care."

Naofumi:"I think it was Ren today.....I hope it's not a repeat of Motoyasu, be careful though."

I cannot deny the possibility of him being a pervert.

There are cases where those who act cool will turn around and chase after girls.

They will not help guys, and only help women.

I mean, I don't really know anything about that guy.

At least.....When he hurt someone else he obediently listened to the story.

To me, Ren just seems like a cool juvenile boy who is a self-proclaimed ally of justice.

Raphtalia:"Okay."

Firo:"Have a nice day~"

On the way to the room of Ren's companions.

Naofumi:".....This is unproductive."

I voice my dissatisfaction about the staff exchange to Shadow.

I understand the queen's idea, but the stress doesn't go away.

Shadow:"I see degozaruna. Why the queen suggested the staff exchange degozaruka. There have been no problems until now, I thought this would be fine too degozaruka."

Naofumi:"You.....still don't understand even after following the queen for so long. Well, after thinking about it, there are some things that I do agree with."

Shadow:"What are they degozaru?"

Naofumi:"Do you guys make back-ups for the information collected?"

Shadow:"It seems you already understand degozaruna."

Naofumi:"Because it's that queen, it would be possible to think about with a little consideration."

There is a limit to objective observations.

Naofumi:" You can certainly try to explain the behaviours of the other heroes. But you cannot explain it to someone like Raphtalia."

It is difficult to distinguish the real information from all the miscellaneous information.

Naofumi:"Let's assume you collected information on the heroes. However, you guys are forgetting something important. How are you supposed to understand the secret to a hero's strength?"

Where are you supposed to find weapons that can absorb any materials!?
I mean, in the middle of that how do you understand the difference from me?

There are multiple shadows, and the same one might not be watching.

The result, is different information collected becomes messy.

If it is reported by letter, the contents of the investigation on the objective would not be conveyed properly without voice.

It's something that cannot be understood by someone who doesn't hold the hero's weapon.

It won't work unless asked directly from, in this information exchange. It also serves as a backup for that purpose.

Considering their habit to hide themselves, it is also likely that lies would be told.

There's no choice, It's my special thing! And then hide it.

Of course, they will not talk easily, so there is no choice but to examine ourselves.

Shadow:"It can't be helped degozaru. This is exclusively for Hero of the Shield-dono, it also hasn't been long since I have worked with Hero of the Shield-dono degozayue."

Naofumi:"Ah, can't be helped. If this could be finished in a day, it wouldn't be so difficult."

Besides.....This is also important, The hero's companions will be easily dyed with their standard of values.

In fact, Raphtalia objects against Motoyasu's policies. I think Motoyasu's companions also feel the same about me.

However, if a personnel exchange is done, then our prospectives should broaden a little.

It also serves a chance for the ones who are used to the princess treatment to experience battles with the other heroes.

Bitch is not worth explaining, Woman 1 kept calm, and she was able to broaden her view, and Woman 2 just looks at me like an abnormal person. However, when fighting with Ren and Itsuki, they should more or less understand.

It seems that fighting alongside Bitch..... If you don't understand her then you'll risk death.

I'll just complain up till here.

Naofumi:"It would have been better if I could just watch the other heroes and their companions during a crisis."

Shadow:"A crisis degozaruka? Being with a Hero-dono, means always being side-by-side with danger degozaruka."

Naofumi: "It's the opposite. The whole world knows heroes are good. In short, do not approach enemies stronger than yourself."

Shadow: "I see.....There are such thoughts too degozaruka."

Usually, their levels are steadily rising, and the sense of crisis is always insufficient.

It feels like a game to the heroes. Only fighting enemies that you can beat, any sense of urgency disappears.

The companions might even be under the illusion that they are part of the privileged class themselves.

As long as they claim that they are a hero's companion, they will receive preferential treatment.

Of course, being with a hero is not perfect, there will be at least a few times where it is truly dangerous.

Even if those fellows survive from luck, they would still be relieved along with the hero.

Because all three heroes are confident in themselves.

In the first place, those in Motoyasu's party that had a sense of impending crisis started falling out.

Naofumi: "Afterwards, it might be difficult for hero companions to understand since they watch the heroes everyday. They would only notice a small difference. Besides, there are also friendships being cultivated."

Shadow: "I'll accept it degozaru. If any disturbances occur they will be stopped degozaru."

Looking at Melromarc from the world's standpoint, it should be obvious they want to get along with the heroes.

Internal discord among companions did not occur after the loss at the wave, though they are on bad terms with each other.

I don't really want to make friends, but I understand that co-operating is necessary.

If it was just us, we couldn't have beat the pope.

From now on co-operation will be important. Even after this island event is over, and we get dispatched to some foreign country, it doesn't change the fact that we will still be acting together during the waves.

However, the opportunity to talk is decreasing quickly.

I welcome it but, If I am selfish, it would be impossible to fight against the wave.....and Glass.

Even though I hate those guys, since we belong to the same side there is a need to co-operate.

come to think of it.....How do we participate in the waves all over the world?

Does the wave only concentrate on Melromarc's vicinity since that is where the heroes were summoned?

That's something I have to ask the queen.

Perhaps, after the personnel exchange, Shadow will report the investigation results.

Or is there no intention of that due to the habit of hiding things from the heroes?

If anything, at least this time there is a mutual understanding with the other heroes about the companions.

The heroes are introduced to skillful people.

That or, they heard something about their companions, resulting in a lack of trust.....huh?

That fellow, I can not hear or see anything even when looking up. It is too early to jump to conclusions.

Well, it could simply be about recruitment.

That bastard Motoyasu solicited my companions.

The possibility of Ren and Itsuki also soliciting is not zero. It's actually rather high.

If they like it, then just raise one yourself.....

Do demi-humans and demons become stronger there? Just a feeling that I have.

However, there is a big contradiction when it comes to this theory.

They are not supposed to be strong. that means, the games those fellows played did not have any demi-humans or demons that become strong..... I wonder about that.

That or it was never tried.

Is this strength from improving themselves?

I don't know.

What can I say, it feels like the queen's goal is to raise all the heroes.

There seems to be some intention to treat me favourably, but it will be awkward from the world-wide standpoint if the other heroes are weak.

Was it just a compromised plan?

Rather than examining only the shadows, I should check ourselves to be certain.

If it's not one or the other.....

At first glance, this personnel exchange seems useless, but it might be a decoy in order to collect information easier.

Gathering the heroes in the pretext of the island being active.

.....Am I over-interpreting?

If I am over-interpreting, let's just assume that Ren and Itsuki's actions are based on this.

If nothing happens, it wouldn't be troublesome, but it would be a large loss if anything happens.

Shadow:"This is the room where the Hero of the Sword's companions are staying degozaru."

While I was deep in thought, I arrived in front of the room where Ren's companions are.

Naofumi:"Right."

I nod and knock on the door.

No Name:"Go ahead."

This time a proper reply comes. Big difference from Motoyasu's place.

I open the door and step inside.

No Name: "Welcome Welcome. Hero of the shield-sama."

Naofumi: "Ah, Sure....."

Compared to last time, it is somewhat of a disappointment.

Umm.....Ren's companions number four people.

One more than Motoyasu. However, it still decreased by one from the five in the beginning.

It is reasonable to assume that some members were replaced.

Naofumi: "Though I'm sure you already know, I'm the Hero of the Shield, Iwatanai Naofumi, we will be working together for today and tomorrow during the staff exchange."

In addition three of the people I saw on the first day, is one of them a new addition?

No Name: "My best regards, Hero of the Shield-sama."

Naofumi: "Yeah."

All the members are polite.

But these fellows..... all of them went to Ren instead of being my companions.

I will not forget that.

I cannot be careless and let my guard down.

No Name: "I apologize for that time."

Naofumi: "Hm?"

A man who looks the representative.....is he a soldier? He bows to me.

Representative:"Anyway, the king of Melromarc criticised the Hero of the Shield-sama, and spoke of how he would treat his companions."

The other guys lowered their head to match the representative.

Representative:"Though such are the circumstances, so please instruct us well in these two days."

Naofumi:"U-Understood."

Somehow.....when the partner is strangely polite, It's a little disappointing. The experiences up until now leads me to suspect there may be something going on behind me.

Representative:"Shall we leave immediately?"

Naofumi:"Sure."

It's still too early to say.

Since Motoyasu's party was like that. I appreciate the quickness though.

Magician:"So, where would be a good place for us to raise our levels?"

A magician like fellow behind me asks naturally.

Naofumi:".....Yes?"

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 91 - The Companions of the Sword Hero

Naofumi: "Sorry. Could you repeat that?"

Magician: "Where should we go to level up?"

It's not a hearing mistake.

What is this guy saying?

Naofumi: "hold on a second, what are you talking about?"

Magician: "Haah.....Umm, away from Hero-sama, where on Cal Mira Archipelago should we go to raise our levels? That's what I'm asking. Also, what materials would you like for us to collect?"

.....Uhh, the story was explained, but I still can't understand.

No, I can understand but.....What should I say?

Difference in policy?

Naofumi: "We'll go together this time. I'll send a party request."

Magician: "Understood. Hero-sama is going to a difficult place."

Hmmm.....Ren, what is your method of teaching?

What can I say, it feels like these guys are distanced from Ren.

After leaving the room, we head to the port to go demon hunting. While moving between islands I inquire again.

Naofumi: ".....Could you tell me about your hunting methods with more details?"

Magical"Sure. So--"

The story of Ren's companions is like this.

Ren's policy is to have his companions fight at places appropriate for their level. And then, as they work to increase their levels they collect demon materials, ores, and tools.

Occasionally, when a powerful demon appears they defeat it together with Ren.

Magician:"Afterwards, we are always careful to absolutely never receive any attacks from the enemies."

Somehow.....

It's that isn't it.

Since I have a little bit of net gaming experience, this feels like guild managing, where high level players advise low level players.

I mean, it's completely like that.

Naofumi:"What does Ren himself usually do?"

Magician:"He is able to fight alone. He is probably waiting until we get stronger."

That's.....Just an optimistic interpretation.....

I understand the self-proclaimed cool guy Ren's policy.

He thinks it would be awkward to fight together with another. Or maybe difficult.

That's not his character. He is probably bad at talking with others.

I feel that he was playing solo even in his net games.

And the only companions he got were from an organization he belonged to, which would only come together to defeat strong monsters during large-scale events.

Or.....he was invited to a small guild by someone he knew.....

Maybe after coming to this strange world he is indulging in a superiority complex.

Oh, while thinking of various scenarios about Ren's behaviour towards his companions, we have arrived at the hunting grounds.

Representative:"Shall we go?"

Naofumi:"Right, since I am a shield, I will have the enemies focus on me while you guys defeat them."

Magician:"Eh? But won't it be dangerous to be attacked?"

Naofumi:".....Don't worry. My policy is different from Ren's, my job is to endure."

Magician:"Okay....."

While going in first, I attract the demon's attention.

Cal Mira Island has many demons that only focus on attacking the first aggressor.

Therefore, they concentrate on the one leading the charge.

I am surrounded by 4 Yellow Beetles.

Well, in these hunting grounds everything is pretty much small fry that can't even make me itchy.

By the way, each of the islands of the Cal Mira Archipelago have their own demon ecosystem, there are still some demons native to their islands that I haven't encountered yet.

It seems that the further center you go in an island, the stronger the enemies become.

The island that I went to with Bitch's party was a big mountain, but this one is like a forest.

Magician:"Y-You sure are sturdy."

One of Ren's companions mutters while I block an enemy attack.

Naofumi:"I guess, here. Defeat it quickly."

Magician:"O-Okay!"

What can I say.....I recall the training aid provided for novices in net games.

I think Ren's party has a good balance.

Two vanguards, and two rearguards. Those in front beat the enemies down with physical attacks using an axe or sword, while their backs are being covered with magic attacks and recovery magic.

Without a doubt it's a reliable formation.

However, the only defense plan in a melee is to avoid the enemy attacks.

While concentrating on evasion, an easy battle will take longer.

Naofumi:"For the time being, receive some of the enemy's attacks.

Concentrate on attacking, because the enemies aren't dying instantly."

While approaching the middle of the island, adventurers are becoming increasingly sparse.

Oh, Bitch and her party also came to this neighborhood.

Magician: "Hero of the Shield-sama fights completely differently compared to Ren-sama."

Naofumi: "I guess."

Certainly, compared to the other heroes, the shield's job is completely different.

Yet, I can still fight.

That reminds me, there are several things that I have analyzed and understood since coming to this abnormal world.

First of all, it is possible for the shield to fight evenly with those guys.

Next, the shield's way of fighting works on endurance, and counterattacking, it's the type of fighting that uses sure-kill skills.

It may only be the Wrath Shield, but by paying a great price, it is possible to mortally wound the opponent.

Like the Iron Maiden, or Blutopfer. There is also Dark Burning Curse.

However, it's a pain that they can't be used without the Wrath Shield.

Iron Maiden could be used with another shield, but the prerequisite is tough, it's still useful, but.....

The other heroes are still in their first stages.

Is there even an upper limit to levels?.....Can it exceed 100?

In net games there are many cases like that.

If ordinary person's limit is 40, how much effort would it take to get to 100?

If that happens it would be impossible to know the upper limit.

Naofumi: "Now then."

There's no use thinking about it.

It's a demon that I have already defeated with Woman 1.....

It wasn't dismantled and absorbed since I already got a new shield from it.

Representative: "Umm.....Are you not going to absorb it into your weapon?"

Naofumi: "I already unsealed it."

Representative: "Huh?"

The representative like man is surprised by something.

Representative: "Ren-sama did not say such a thing....."

Naofumi: "What?"

Does he still absorb more even after unsealing?

What's the reason?

Naofumi: "Do you know why?"

Representative: "No idea.....anyway, Ren-sama doesn't talk that much."

Hmm.....You don't tell your companions the details either?

Well, I also didn't tell Raphtalia the details of my version.

It is not something worth going into detail about.

Naofumi: "Oh well. I'll just follow Ren's example and absorb it. Even if the skin is tanned it's not worth selling."

Thus, demon's corpse was absorbed into the shield.

The next day.

After hunting till night fell yesterday, we rested at a hotel.

Ren's companions who didn't seem keen on night combat agreed obediently.

We split up after agreeing to go level up early, after finishing breakfast the next morning.

As a result, by evening I gained eight levels.

Representative: "It was very easy fighting, Hero of the Shield-sama."

Magician: "Yeah, after coming here our levels have raised significantly."

Huh, that was.....

What is there to say? These past two days have passed anti-climatically and without incident.

If compared to a net game, this is a party that feels very efficient.

The members are equipped with the necessary talents, being able to repair equipment, and being diligent in leveling.

It feels like being invited into a guild party as a temporary member.

It's already been four months huh.....sure is nostalgic.

I wonder how the management of the guild I ran is going after I disappeared.

By the way, it is evening by the time I returned to the main island with Ren's companions.

Until now we worked diligently on leveling up.

As a result, it was quite comfortable. at least to my knowledge it was also fruitful.....

Ren's companions don't seem like bad people.

However.....They are too dependant.

Being told to level at assigned locations to raise their levels. Therefore, at first when co-operating with companions it was awkward.

Well, on the second day after getting accustomed to co-operating they were able to fight well.

Naofumi:"I'd like to ask one thing, what do you guys feel about Ren."

Representative:"Very strong. We believe that if we are by his side, then we can save the world."

Naofumi:"Hmm....."

Apparently, to his companions Ren is a pretty reliable guy.

I thought about recruiting them based on their actions these past two days, but I stopped because I don't want to lose the trust that we build up.

It probably won't happen unless Ren dies.

In the first place, I would like to gather those with talent.

These guys aren't inferior, but there is no one truly remarkable.

That's my impression of Ren's party.

Compared to Motoyasu's party they are much better, but compared to Raphtalia and Firo, they are considerable inferior.

Though if they come to me I would not deny anyone.

At least my relationship with the party seems good.

Naofumi:"That reminds me, you guys fought with Itsuki.....Hero of the bow before right?"

Representative:"Yes."

Naofumi:"How did it go?"

This is going to serve as a reference, I just want to ask about it.

Representative:"It is similar to acting with Hero of the Shield-sama, he was using a bow in the rear."

Naofumi:"Hmm....."

Representative:"However, he did not help very much. We were not able to advance as far into the island as we did with Hero of the Shield-sama."

Is it his usual habit of concealment?

Ren is one thing, but Itsuki has a habit of hiding himself, I can't really use anything as reference.

I mean it's only natural to attack from the rear with a bow.

Well, I'll ask Itsuki's companions about it tomorrow.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 92 - The Sword Hero & My Companions

Firo: "Welcome back Master~"

After returning to the hotel at the main island, Firo greets me at the main entrance.

I wonder. I have a very bad feeling about this.

Naofumi: "I'm back. How was it?"

Firo: "Nn~.....Umm you see. Onee-chan got angry."

Naofumi: "Not again....."

I wonder what the reason is-.....While hunting together with Ren's companions I had a foreboding feeling.

I enter the hotel timidly.

There I see Raphtalia, sitting where Motoyasu was last time waiting for me.

Naofumi: "Where is Ren?"

I mutter while looking around.

As I say so, from the entrance of the hotel Ren walks in.

Should I heard what he has to say before speaking to Raphtalia?

Ren: "Y-You....."

Ren sees me and his facial expression turns grim.

Ren:"What is with your companions? They don't listen to my instructions and go to other hunting grounds without my permission."

What's that? He's speaking like he's the victim.

Even if Ren is blaming her, Raphtalia is not one to cause problems without reason.

Ren:"If you don't mind, I would like to point out that the problem lies with your training policy."

I determined that I should hear it with Raphtalia.

I don't really want to approach Raphtalia, so I'll just call her over.

Naofumi:"Heeey"

Raphtalia:"Naofumi-sama! And....."

When Raphtalia sees me she smiles, but once she finds Ren, it turns into an angry look and her tail bristles up.

I think that she is even angrier than that time with Motoyasu.

Naofumi:"What the hell did you really do?"

It wasn't simple when Motoyasu angered Raphtalia that much.

To be honest, I am a little anxious to find out what upset Raphtalia so much.

Ren:"No clue, she just operated as she pleased."

Raphtalia:"As I please? Don't joke around!"

When Raphtalia approached and heard Ren's complain she snapped.

Raphtalia: "This person--"

This is Raphtalia's description of the events.

After I left, Raphtalia was becoming anxious when waiting for Ren, due to what happened with Motoyasu.

Firo: "Is someone coming today?"

Raphtalia: "Yes, like Naofumi-sama who is a hero, the person coming today is called Ren-sama."

Firo: "Hmph."

Much earlier than Motoyasu, Ren showed up at the room."

Ren: "I'm coming in."

Raphtalia: "Please."

Ren enters the room after a knock.

The first impression Ren received seemed to be a more tranquil feeling compared to Motoyasu.

If anything, Ren doesn't talk very much.

Ren: "First of all I'll introduce myself. I am Amaki Ren, also known as the Hero of the Sword. My best regards for these next two days."

Raphtalia: "My best regards. My name is Raphtalia."

Firo: "Firo."

Ren crosses his arms and looks at Raphtalia and Firo from head to toe.
An awkward atmosphere was covering the area.

Raphtalia:"Umm....."

Ren:"Levels?"

Raphtalai:"What?"

Ren:"Tell me what level you are."

Raphtalia:"Ah, sure it's 42. Firo is the same as well."

Firo:"Yep!"

Ren:"42 huh.....Isn't it impossible then?"

Raphtalia:"Eh?"

Raphtalia did not understand what he meant by saying it was impossible so suddenly.

Ren's companions were the same, they did not ask for any explanations.
Maybe they got used to it after being together with him for so long.
Well due to following my efficiency principle.....Raphtalia listens obediently.

Ren:"Oh well, let's just go raise our levels for now."

While saying that Ren sends a party invite and Raphtalia accepts.

Ren:"Before we leave, buy some medicine if necessary."

Raphtalia:"Ah, Okay."

Though Ren is blunt, Raphtalia responds willingly since they will be leveling up properly.

Since I already distributed medicine, there was no need to buy any, thus they arrived at their island.

Ren:"Well then, I'll judge how much you are able to fight. I will watch while we advance."

Raphtalia:"Yes.....?"

Raphtalia has a sense of discomfort from the words Ren said.

And so, they fought demons that came from the mountain-side of the island.

Ren:"Hmm.....well, the enemies around here should be at an appropriate level."

Raphtalia:"There is little resistance though....."

Firo:"Teei!"

Due to the Class up, Raphtalia and Firo's offensive power rose considerably. As a result, the few demons felt weak.

In fact, the enemies are being slaughtered with a single attack.

What would the appropriate level be? Actually, is it even something you can compare with game knowledge after seeing?

Ren:"This area is appropriate for level 40s. You guys continue leveling here, I'll be heading somewhere else. Well, you guys seem pretty strong for level 40 anyway."

While leaving that message, Ren runs off from the party.

Those last words were a little unnecessary. If this is a net game, I'll return.

Raphtalia: " Ah, Excuse me-"

Ren: "I'll return in the evening. Fight until then. Gather the demons."

Raphtalia: "S-Sure....."

Though the demons were weak, they still gave good experience, so Raphtalia continued to defeat demons.

When it was evening, Ren returned and absorbed all the demons Raphtalia defeated into his sword.

Raphtalia had slight feelings of having her commission stolen from the demons she defeated herself.

Is she an NPC? Respect the other party a bit more.

Raphtalia: "That....."

Ren: "What's up?"

Raphtalia: "Are we not going to fight together?"

Ren: "Your levels are not sufficient enough to fight. It is common sense for the weaker ones to make an effort to catch up."

.....Raphtalia felt irritation at Ren's attitude.

Do you lack common sense?.....I feel there is a large gap of common sense between me and Ren.

If it was me, I would be going with them first and then ranking them.

But, in net games there are restrictions one experienced gained when the levels are too far apart, however in this world there doesn't seem to be such a restriction.

Otherwise, when Firo was still a chick she would not have been able to level up so fast.

Anyway, after they entered the hotel they had a meal.

Ren:"Well I'm off to level up a little more. See ya."

After Ren says so, he leaves quickly.

Those words show that he is at least diligent in this world.....Raphtalia convinced herself to go take a rest.

So, the next morning.

Ren:"What is your level now?"

Raphtalia:"Let's see, it is 48 now."

Raphtalia and Firo both leveled from yesterdays fights.

By the way, even if they aren't in the same party as me, the growth correction is still in effect since I am their master.

Ren:"Well.....It might be a little harsh....."

Ren looks up and mutters to himself for a bit before answering.

Ren:"Let's go deeper today. We'll defeat demons together this time."

Raphtalia:"O-Okay."

Firo:"Okay~!"

Raphtalia was secretly relieved that she could finally have a proper fight. But not even an hour passed before she noticed that was a big mistake. Along the way, Ren asked about the magic and skills that Raphtalia and Firo could use.

So Raphtalia explained her illusion magic, and Firo's sure-kill technique.

Ren:"Hmm.....There was a similar skill, is it an original name?"

Raphtalia:"Huh?"

Ren:"Nevermind."

While crossing the mountainside, they entered the hinterland in the middle of the island.

A big demon with a single head called Karma Dog Familiar showed up.

It seems to be a demon with long ears, and it resembles a big black dog.

I wonder if the enemy was unpleasant enough to trigger Raphtalia's trauma.

Ren:"Alright! You guys, fight as per my instructions!"

Raphtalia:"Okay!"

Firo:"What are we going to do-?"

Ren:"First, attract the demon's attention and avoid its attacks. Then, use your finisher attacks on it!"

A very sloppy strategy.

Assault! Smash! Victory! Nothing is going to change.

Raphtalia gave up on attacking the Karma Dog Familiar according to instructions and dodged.

However, Ren was dodged to the spot first, so she had to move somewhere else.

Ren:"Don't stay so close to me! Think about it!"

Raphtalia:"O-Okay!"

If it was me I would have praised her. While I think about it, Raphtalia and Firo pulled maximum aggro on the enemy.

Thanks to having never co-operated with Ren before, their timings didn't match, and his order to prioritize dodging.

The result was, battle time was prolonged, and the battle with the Karma Dog continued while tiring out.

During the fight, Firo concentrated on attempting her arrow attack called High Quick.

Ren:"Meteor Sword!"

Firo:"Ah-! Move-!"

Just as Firo was charging out of the thicket, Ren appeared in front of her. Due to that, the magic was forced to change direction and fail.

Karma Dog Familiar screamed and attacked Ren.

Ren:"Damn, so it was too shallow! What are you doing!? Hurry up and fight!"

Firo:"Fue-.....?"

Raphtalia:".....Illusion Sword."

Raphtalia as uses her special skill and hides herself to attack the Karma Dog Familiar's rear.

However.

Ren:"Tch!"

Ren failed an attack and dodged towards Raphtalia, while he clicked his tongue.

Raphtalia:"Wh-Why did you come here!?"

Ren:"Think about it a little!"

After a while the Karma Dog Familiar was finally defeated.

No wonder. Not only Raphtalia, but I am also getting irritated just listening to the story.

Ren:"Seriously, when you guys fight, look around a little! You guys should be focusing on attracting it's attention!"

Ren told Raphtalia, while confirming the Karma Dog Familiar's death. Immediately afterwards, something inside of Raphtalia snapped.

Raphtalia:"Look around? That should be you!"

After watching Ren fight, Raphtalia brought it up.

First of all, the Karma Dog Familiar is a boss-class demon that Ren had trouble fighting with himself.

Also, during the fight, Ren was only focused on fighting alone.

The boss was one that even Firo's kicks only bent it back slightly.

In Raphtalia's honest analysis, it would have been stronger than the Zombie Dragon.

Raphtalia: "You are the one that lacks strategy. You were the one that told us to avoid the attacks and use our finishers. However, you kept blocking our way!"

Ren: "There is no mistake in my strategy. You guys just suck."

Raphtalia: "Please don't joke around! I explained our finishers properly! Yet, why did you still obstruct us!?"

Ren: "I didn't obstruct anything! You guys just had to attract the enemy's attention."

Raphtalia: "Then why did you not explain it!?"

Ren: "You should have known from observation."

Raphtalia: ".....Please stop it!"

Raphtalia's patience reached the limit.

Raphtalia: "We do not get along well enough to co-operate together, there is no way we can fight together easily!"

Ren: "That's why I am the damage dealer, defeating this guy--"

Raphtalia: "Honestly, you are a hinderance!"

Raphtalia personally disables the party and instructs Firo.

Ren: "Wha----You, what are you doing without permission!"

Raphtalia: "Please remain silent!"

While wading through the bushes, another Karma Dog Familiar appears.

Raphtalia made a party with Firo who consented.

After that, Raphtalia and Firo killed the second Karma Dog Familiar in one-third of the time it took fighting with Ren.

Raphtalia:"We shall take our leave now. Since it is more inefficient with us here."

While being sarcastic, Raphtalia left with Firo and fought easily until evening. Being concerned about the time wasted with Motoyasu, they hunted until it was very late.

Ren:"Do you think such selfishness will be permitted!?"

Raphtalia:"What are you arguing about. Whether or not I have permission.....Who are you to decide?"

Ren:"What was that!?"

Truthfully..... He is talking with a lot of assumptions.

Requiring permission.....It's something that players get reported to administration for.

Naofumi:"Hey.....You, who are you to give permission for anything?"

Ren:"....."

Ren averts my gaze and mumbles under his breath.

Did you say it carelessly in a fit of rage?

Still, I don't think Raphtalia is in the wrong after all.

Though it wouldn't be beneficial to leave on bad terms.

Naofumi:"Or do you really have such power? Raphtalia is my companion. If there is something she did wrong then I will punish her. If Ratphalia did something, then explain the reason so I can understand."

Ren:"Ku!"

Hey there, something might be said to Shadow later.

In any case, no matter the circumstance I will defend Raphtalia. There is no reason for her to do anything wrong.

Naofumi:"What do you think a companion is? Do you think they are a chess piece that attracts attention from the enemy so that it doesn't come for you?"

In any case, this morning meeting.....is even shorter than with Motoyasu?
Oh my.....

Raphtalia:"If you keep doing such things, you will kill one of your companions someday!"

With that, Raphtalia angrily walks off back to the room.

Ren shrugs selfishly and glares at me.

Ren:"Your companion is selfish. Selfish people will die sooner."

That remark could be called the howling of a loser. I sigh while looking at the sky.

Ignoring your own rules and complaining.....

What can I say, there are more important problems to be worried about.

Representative:"Are you alright? Ren-sama!"

Ren:"Yeah, it's no big deal."

Ren walks off with his companions.....It is a little ironic, it looks like he's walking off with a junior in a guild.

I should stop worry about it.

There are such.....types. Those people who follow rules without question, and those that make them selfishly.

There are those that will take their juniors to a strong hunting field and kill them off, there's no meaning in co-operating.

With that said, I would rather not challenge someone who I might not be able to beat.

Well, that guy puts on a show of hunting alone. That might be the cause of their blind belief in Ren.

They are annoying in games, guys that only seem reliable at first.

When rare items appear those types monopolize the rare items. The only thing you can do is watch while that happens.

MO Type..... an episode is chosen while going through the story, in net games it's possible to enjoy it by solo beating the last boss of the stage..... However when compared to a complete MMO game, the bosses there are terribly stronger.

(TInote: Multiplayer Online and Massively Multiplayer Online. MOタイプ)

I remember attempting such challenges and some one not getting the equipment he wanted.

I remember the complaints of that guy.

His occupation has a strong finisher, and he used a junior to stall for time in order to shoot it.

In addition to challenging first-class dungeons, it was a wipe-fest for members. Those that usually played solo would start complaining.

And then, when participating in fights at a high level, their friends were unable to catch up.

There are some net terms fit that hero-sama. There are various other nicknames as well. Besides, those that don't abide by the rules and slander others are reported to administration.

since I also ran a guild, I remember having to ban a few of those types.

I thought he would be a bit more competent, was it just my misunderstanding?

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 93 - Tavern

Evening that day.

Accompanying an ill-humoured Raphtalia, we entered a bar on the island for a change of mood.

At first Raphtalia had an unhappy expression, but after a few minutes it was replaced with a smile.

The bar was overflowing with vigor and noisy adventurers clamoring over each other.

Some were talking about hunting grounds to raise levels, some were talking about accessories purchased that increase experience gained.

That fraud trader is doing quite well.

By the way, any bar fees for the heroes are paid by the queen.

Such a place truly feels like a different world

Firo:"Ah! This place seems fun!"

Since Firo is a bird. Did she take an interest in the music being played here?

Naofumi:"Go for it. Don't cause any trouble though."

Firo:"Un!"

Firo runs off with a pitter-patter and starts dancing to the music.

As we sat down on a counter seat, our liquor was provided.

I drank lightly.

U-.....n. Even after coming to a different world, the taste of alcohol doesn't change.

Feels like juice.

Raphtalia: "This is alcohol....."

Naofumi: "Well, it should be fine for you Raphtalia, since your body is that of an adults."

Raphtalia: "Okay!"

Somehow, the feeling of Raphtalia putting her mouth gingerly on the cup is one of a child drinking alcohol for the first time.

Raphtalia: ".....It's slightly bitter."

Naofumi: "Yeah, I guess."

Though for me it still feels like juice and water.

I have never gotten drunk.

Raphtalia: "What does Naofumi-sama think of drinking alcohol?"

Naofumi: "Nothing particularly special.....I don't have a hobby of it. I just drink due to social situations."

Raphtalia: "So that's how it is."

Naofumi: "There are people in my world who don't drink it at all, it should be the same in this one."

Ren and Itsuki are minors, but in this different world, they are probably drinking.

Ah..... I discover Itsuki participating in a feast outside the bar.

I thought you were a minor.

Oh well, it's a different world after all. There shouldn't be any laws to punish him.

The possibility of Ren drinking is also quite high.

Naofumi: "It might be good to measure how much you can drink."

Raphtalia: "Right....."

Raphtalia puts the cup to her mouth and gulps down all the alcohol.

Naofumi: "How are you feeling?"

Raphtalia: "Let's see."

I recall a banquet in my former world.

There wasn't a sense of girls particularly avoiding alcohol.

Well, Raphtalia has been accumulating a lot of stress recently, I wonder if this would be good for her.

Since alcohol's original purpose since the primitive ages was to relieve day-to-day fatigue.

She's a patient one after all. I'm quite interested in her real thoughts.

Naofumi: "Hey, don't worry and drink."

Raphtalia: "Okay."

While recommending Raphtalia to drink, the bard's singing could be heard quite clearly.

When I look, Firo's demon form is singing along with the bard's performance.

At first the bard was surprised, but after hearing Firo's unexpectedly good singing, tension started to heat up.

It's fine if they are enjoying it.....

Hm? It seems Motoyasu also notices Firo singing.

Leave it alone. Even you wouldn't pounce on her demon form.

Motoyasu:"Sing in your angel appearance, Firo-chan~!

Firo:"No!"

.....Alright. Everything seems fine.

After thirty minutes.

Raphtalia:"Can we please raise our levels with Naofumi-sama today?"

After drinking fifteen cups of alcohol, Raphtalia speaks her thoughts to me.

The line of being drunk is crossed ambiguously.

Except for her slightly red cheeks, she appears somewhat sober still.

The alcohol seems considerably strong.

Though it's nice for keeping company, it would be troublesome for the effects to appear tomorrow.....

The boss of the bar couldn't hide his surprise at how heavy of a drinker Raphtalia is.

Apparently, the demi-humans aren't especially resistant to alcohol.

However..... The grape-like fruits put on the counter are very delicious.

The impression they give me are like condensed grapes, but also have a very refreshing after taste. Yet, after eating one..... My hand inadvertently extends for another.

No Name:"And that's game--!"

A guy that lost arm wrestling fell down over here.

Raphtalia:"Hey! We are talking here, please stop disturbing us."

Raphtalia declares while in a bad mood.

Usually she wouldn't say such things. Is it the effects of alcohol?

Her stress was accumulating quite a lot. The cause may not be just Motoyasu and Ren.

Thinking back, there was almost no rest while peddling, fighting the wave, and living as fugitives.

Venting may be necessary.

No Name:"Ha! Don't complain until you win in an arm-wrestle."

Raphtalia:"Is that so?.....Fine. I'll be your opponent."

Raphtalia rolls back her sleeve and declares her participation in the arm-wrestling match.

Well.....It should be fine. It would be troublesome if some-one got hurt though.

But.....These delicious grapes.

Boss:"Umm....."

The boss of the bar anxiously talks to me.

Naofumi: "Hm?"

Boss: "Is this going to be alright?"

Naofumi: "Well, there shouldn't be a problem."

Boss: "No, that's not what I mean....."

Naofumi: "Yes?"

For some reason the boss of the bar's expression is pale.

Why is he pale?

No name: "Alcohol! Bring more alcohol!"

And with a very loud voice, a man brings a big barrel of grape-like fruits from the corner of the tavern and stirs it.

Is this the secret ingredient? Oh well, the fruits are delicious so it's fine.

The bar continues to bustle with such a feeling.

As for Raphtalia's arm-wrestling match, she insta-killed her opponent.

Who the hell can defeat her in arm wrestling?! And, there's yelling.

Firo is singing enthusiastically with the bard.

It seems this change of pace was good.

While thinking that, I throw more grape-like fruits into my mouth.

No Name: "Ah, What are you doing!"

A man points at me and yells loudly.

The whole bar falls silent in an instant.

No Name: "You, eating the Rukoru Fruit directly, do you want to die!?"

Naofumi: "Haa? Rukoru Fruit?"

Since there was another bunch in the vicinity I threw more into my mouth.
Immediately after, the surroundings grew noisy.

Is there something strange?

Raphtalia: "Na-Naofumi-sama. What did you do?"

It seems Raphtalia has awoken from her drunken state due to the commotion.

Naofumi: "Who knows? I don't understand why these guys are making a commotion."

This taste could become a habit. It might even be my favourite.
Let's have another.
I throw more into my mouth.

No Name: "Ah, You're still eating more!?"

For some reason, the whole bar's attention is focused on me.
Why on earth are you guys so surprised?
Another one is thrown in.

Motoyasu: "What's wrong?"

Motoyasu sees what happens and approaches me.

Naofumi:"I don't know, these unpleasant guys are complaining about me eating this fruit."

Motoyasu:"Interesting.....That fruit must be very expensive right?"

Naofumi:"Is that so? My bad. I'll pay later, so endure it for now."

Shadow will pay the money if I ask. Since the queen is on my side. I can eat in peace.

Boss:"Uhh.....They are indeed expensive.....but that's not the problem....."

The boss of the tavern answers badly.

What is it?

Boss:"Uhh.....Err, The Rukoru Fruit can only be drunk after mixing it with a big barrel of water. When you just eat such a thing....."

Naofumi:"Haa? What are you saying? I won't be fooled easily."

Boss:"No.....The truth is....."

Motoyasu:"Naofumi not getting drunk. Such a lie won't work on me."

While saying that Motoyasu picks up a Rukoru fruit and throws it in his mouth.

Motoyasu:"Oh.....What a rich taste, This is delicious--"

Right after Motoyasu said so, he fell forward and collapsed.

A loud crash resounded throughout the room.

Haha! This guy's eyes turned all white.

Speaking of which, is this fruit dangerous?

No name: "B-Big trouble! The Hero of the Spear-sama ate a Rukoru Fruit and collapsed!"

No name: "Quickly make him vomit it out!"

No name: "Right!"

The bar was thrown into another commotion and Motoyasu was carried off. Seriously.....Isn't the fun atmosphere completely ruined now? However, this thing seems to be highly condensed alcohol.

Naofumi: "Raphtalia, you want to eat one?"

Raphtalia: "No....."

Naofumi: "Then, does Firo want one?"

Firo stopped singing, came to me, and brought the fruit close to her mouth. Suddenly, Firo snapped her mouth shut and took her distance from me.

Firo: "No!"

Naofumi: "You not being a glutton sure is rare."

Firo: "That fruit, It's disgusting!"

Hmm.....For some reason her reaction is very bad.

I didn't think Firo could possibly refuse.

No Name: "It's an Uwabamiiiiiiiiiiii!"

(TI note: With the power of Rikai-kun and context, I figured out Uwabami ウワバミ means heavy drinker. Google gave me an elephant inside a snake.)

No Name:"It's a monster!"

No Name:"Even the god of alcohol would run away with his tail between his legs----!"

The surrounding dissolves into chaos.

This fruit.....Is there some kind of joke?

I won't be fooled.

Naofumi:"I'm sorry for causing a disturbance. Shall we return to the hotel?"

Raphtalia:"O-Okay."

As we are about to leave the bar that was still in an uproar.

Naofumi:"Oh right, the gold will be paid later, a messenger from the Hero of the Shield will pay it, I think."

While saying that to the boss of the tavern, we left the bar and headed back to the hotel to sleep.

Later, there was an exaggerated rumor going around the island.....It was about the Hero of the Shield being a monster in the shape of a person.

Is the power of the Three Heroes Church still alive?

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 94 – The Companions of the Bow Hero

Morning the next day.

Naofumi: "Today I'll be heading to Itsuki's place."

Raphtalia: "....."

Raphtalia frowns slightly.

For something to already happen twice, I hope it isn't going to happen a third time.

Since Itsuki has a strong sense of justice. He shouldn't be doing the same thing as Motoyasu and Ren.

Naofumi: "Itsuki only cares about his sense of justice, so don't worry too much. The other guys had their reasons. And it's only for two days....."

Just to be sure, I caution her. I think they would be fighting around that neighborhood.

I'm not saying they should get along. I just hope that they can level normally.

Still, unlike Motoyasu and Ren, the bow can't fight alone.

If I remember correctly, Itsuki's vanguard was his companion with flashy armour.

Raphtalia: "O-Okay. I'll do my best."

Firo: "Have a nice day master~"

After leaving the room, something pulled on my hair.

Shadow: "The Hero of the Spear-dono is taking a rest for today's companion exchange degozaru."

Naofumi: "Did something happen?"

Shadow: "Treatment for Rokuru Fruit poisoning degozaru."

Naofumi: "That fruit huh--....."

Is it due to constitution? I had no problems with it at all.

It seems even in a separate world, I'm still as unaffected as I was in Japan.

Isn't it a little strange that my body's constitution didn't change at all?

Or, maybe the one Motoyasu ate was just laced with poison.

Also.....The reason I am fine might be due to the poison resistance granted from my shield.

Is Motoyasu going to be sleeping all day?

Since it's that guy, there should be a delicious event of being nursed by various women.

His party structure is totally one from a Gal Game as well.

.....I don't doubt that he'll rebound without trouble though.

Shadow: "Due to that, the exchange between Hero of the Sword-dono and Hero of the Spear-dono will just be for tomorrow degozaru."

Naofumi: "Hmph."

It's just right for Motoyasu. As for Ren.....There shouldn't be any changes.

Well, it's good for him since he won't have to deal with Bitch and her party for another day.

Shadow:"I received a strange report saying that the Hero of the Shield-dono can really hold his alcohol degozaru."

Naofumi:"Those fruits were extremely delicious. Did you pay the bar for me?"

Shadow:"It was paid properly degozaru."

Naofumi:"Then it's all good."

Shadow:"There is a rumour on the streets that you became the Hero of the Liquor you know degozaruyo."

I got attached to a strange rumour.

How can I be anything with alcohol if I can't even get drunk.

Naofumi:"That's not me. Stick that title to Motoyasu."

Shadow:"It has already been stuck to Hero of the Shield-dono degozaru. Rather, I am interested in why you are denying it degozaru."

Seriously.....It's gotta be one of those. Either the poison resistance keeps me from getting drunk, or the alcohol here doesn't work on humans from my world.

Shadow:"You have arrived while we were talking degozaru. This is the room where the Hero of the Bow-dono's companions are staying degozaru."

After saying so, Shadow's figure disappears.

Naofumi: "Now then....."

I knock on the door to the room anxiously.

No Name: "Go ahead."

A normal reply came.

It seems Motoyasu's place was the strange one.

The door opened from the inside.

No name: "Please come in. Hero of the Shield-san."

After entering the room, I see Itsuki's companions all in relaxed positions. Different from Motoyasu's place where they were selfish, they are polite like Ren's.

They are very relaxed as well.

However.....Didn't Motoyasu come earlier?

Naofumi: "I am Iwatani Naofumi, Hero of the Shield, I will be responsible for the last personnel exchange. We will be acting together for two days. Nice to meet you."

I confirm the number of companions Itsuki has while exchanging greetings. Hmm.....5 people huh? That guy wearing the armour is crossing his arms patronizingly.

I have a bad feeling about this.

However, when our eyes met, he stopped.

Armour: "Right, nice to meet you too. We are Itsuki-sama's bodyguards, please watch us fight Hero of the Shield-san."

Bodyguards!

An amazing word just appeared.

Crap.....I just laughed. What the hell is that guy doing.

I somehow suppress my smile.

Armour: "Indeed, we five are Itsuki-sama's guards--"

Girl: "I'm sorry! I was asked to go buy something!"

The door behind me flew open and someone ran in.

When I turn around, I see a single girl carrying a tool bag on her back.

Girl: "Eh, Ah----Hero of the Shield-sama has already arrived?"

I wonder how old she is.....Should be around 14 years old? She gives off somewhat of a childish feeling.

She looks to be brought up well, and her genes look good. If it was Motoyasu, he would have hit on her.

She's petite though. Doesn't seem very suitable for combat to me. Does she fight by magic?

Though this voice is familiar.

If I'm not mistaken, she was the one that explained the Tzuvait • Aura that I learnt.

You can't really tell at a glance, but it seems she may be extremely knowledgeable.

No Name: "Rishia is so slow! Hey, introduce yourself."

Rishia: "O-Okay!"

Armour: "The six of us are Itsuki-sama's guards!"

Didn't you just say there were 5 of you a while ago?

It seems one of them went shopping.

The atmosphere somehow feels disturbing.....

No Name: "Then, should we just go for now?"

Armour: "I guess so. We must receive teachings on our battling from the Hero of the Shield-san ."

Naofumi: "Ah, sure....."

I wonder. This tension.

I feel that I can't keep up with it.

It seems there is no need to prepare anything, thanks to that girl going shopping earlier for all the necessary items.

As our party sets out, a feeling of anxiety remains.

When passing by the market, I witness a huge crowd gathering around the swindling merchant.

It seems he's doing quite good.

We got on the ship for transportation but.....

The ship is quite small for the seven of us.

Well, there isn't any space to walk, but since it's low-tide we should be fine.

The coral reef sure is beautiful.....

No Name: "Rishia, move close to the edge more."

Rishia: "A-Anymore and I'll fall over."

What is it.

Is the child-like Rishia's position very weak.....?

Before long, following a big wave a loud splash was heard.

Rishia: "GaboGabo....."

(TInote: I assume she is drowning, as I do not know proper drowning noises besides Glug Glug or something along those lines. I will be sticking with the Romaji. ガボガボ"

Sure enough, Rishia fell into the sea.

No Name: "She fell!"

I grasp Rishia's child-like hand and pull her back on the ship.

Armour: "Seriously.....you are bothering the Hero of the Shield-san!"

Naofumi: "Nah, the reason she fell was cause of you guys."

Since the boat is narrow, there should be no problem for her small child-like stature.

Frankly, these other guys are taking up way too much space.

Naofumi: "Perhaps if you guys remove your armour and equipment, there would be more room."

That flashy armour is taking up the most space. What on earth is up with this guy.

Rishia: "It can't be helped."

Naofumi: "What, can't be helped....."

What is going on.

Anyway, I pass Rishia a towel so that she can wipe of her child-like body. (TInote: Yes he is calling her small alot, I'm feeling a little creeped out as well.)

Rishia: "T-Thank you very much!"

Naofumi: "Make sure not to catch a cold."

Rishia: "O-Okay!"

She seems like a timid child.

The ship arrived at the island, and we got off.

This place seems to be full of hunting grounds

Seven people is a lot.

Naofumi: "Well then, the question now is, how do you guys usually fight with Itsuki?"

Armour: "Hero of the Shield-san. Can you do something about how you call Itsuki-sama?"

The guy who the flashy armour has an attitude and asks me.

This guy again?

Naofumi: "Wha?"

Armour: "Please, at least add some honorics when saying his name."

.....What did you just say?

Whatever I call Itsuki is up to me to decide. To think someone wants to correct me and tell me to add honorifics?

It seems that they are extremely loyal.

Naofumi: "Let me warn you, I am the Hero of the Shield, and I will be treated the same as the other heroes. Why should I have to address him like that?"

Armour: "Incorrect, Hero of the Shield-san you are not as active as Itsuki-sama, therefore Hero of the Shield-san must show respect to Itsuki-sama."

What a complaint.

It's an irrational argument. What this guy is getting at.....When looking around I see that, excluding one person, everyone has the same opinion. Furthermore, that one person is the child-like Rishia.

I don't know what their real intentions are, but this is quite problematic.

Naofumi: ".....What do you think you're saying?"

In respect to activity.....Since Itsuki is operating under cover all the time, wouldn't his activities not be recognized?

He's been going on a journey of social reforms, but there are barely any rumors.

Naofumi:"Activity? Isn't Itsuki's reputation as a hero the plainest? I haven't heard anything about the Hero of the Bow's activities anywhere."

Armour:"Bastard.....You're just a criminal."

In an instant, Shadow appears behind him with a dagger to his throat.

Shadow:"Hero of the Shield-dono is not guilty degozaru. By the authority of the queen, anyone ridiculing Hero of the Shield-dono will be punished accordingly degozaru."

Armour's face is full of surprise from the sudden events.

Just like Bitch, his eyes are swimming.

He's just being warned for slandering though.

Shadow:"Especially since denouncing Hero of the Shield-dono is a felony degozaru. The act of betraying a hero's trust is something that must never be done degozaru."

It's fine to think it, but don't say it.

Oh well, did Itsuki's companions not believe in my innocence yet?

Itsuki's sense of justice is unusually strong. Did his narrow-mindedness infect his companions as well?

Armour: "Gu....."

Armour glares at me bitterly.

Naofumi: "Hey, I think this guy wants to return first."

Shadow: "Hero of the Shield-dono saying something like that is troublesome degozaruga."

Naofumi: "Well....."

It's just one person not raising his level.

I think it would be better for our hunting as well.

It seems I have become a synonym for evil somehow.

This guy has probably been with Itsuki for too long, he has been brainwashed.

Shadow: "At any rate, I expect you to answer properly when asked degozaruyo!"

Armour: "Tch!"

After Shadow disappeared, Armour clicked his tongue in vexation.

Naofumi: "Hey, let's talk for now."

Armour: ".....When we fight, Itsuki-sama is always defending us from the rear."

Naofumi: "I see-....."

Well, he does fight with a bow after all.

Do the people in this world even understand the advantage of Long-ranged combat?

When anything life-threatening happens, Itsuki will always save them.

Though I think he's only attack at long-distances when he gains favour, I'll refrain from asking now.

Rishia: "L-Let's just go defeat some demons for now!"

Rishia said aloud shyly, we began to talk one after another.

And then, we encounter a demon.

Armour jumps in front, and his companions follow him.

Armour: "Now! Hero of the Shield-san. Attack it."

Naofumi: "Why are you depending on me suddenly?"

Would Itsuki nock his bow here?.....

Naofumi: "Use your head a little, think about my job."

Armour takes some damage from the demon's attack to buy time for his companions.

Meanwhile, his companions are attacking the demon.

I get that they have co-operation, but with me here the strategy is wrong.

Naofumi: "You, stand back."

I tell Armour to get back, and I stand in front of the demon.

It's still small fry. It's not even itchy.

Armour:"Gu....."

Armour voices his vexation.

Are you envious at how calm I am?

I think you being able to use a weapon is even more enviable.

Naofumi:"And then, Itsuki would get the final attack with the bow."

Armour:"Right, even a little of his power does major damage."

Well.....It's just an average way of fighting.

However, it feels like these guys are a human wall.

No Name2:"Itsuki-sama has the most outstanding offensive power among us all. Our role is to maximize his power."

A different warrior in armour answers.

There is no reason to approach if he can attack from long-distance though.

In short, wouldn't this make Itsuki have to be careful of friendly fire by mistake?

Rishia:"Afterwards, I assist in recovery."

Naofumi:"What about magic support?"

They can't be just dealing with Itsuki alone.

Naofumi:"I guess I'll do it if the occasion demands it."

Rishia:"M-Me too!"

Well, that's about it.

Their co-operation with me isn't the same as Ren's part, but at least it works.

.....Though the degree of co-operation from Ren's party is unnecessary.

Naofumi: "Alright, since the defence can be taken care of by me, you guys in armour just focus on attacking."

Armour: "Can you take it all?"

Armour declares with a provoking feeling.

This guy again?

Does Armour have a grudge against me or something?

Naofumi: "Of course, I don't have to act like I'm uninjured, unlike you."

There is no need to be cautious against small fry of this level.

In the first place, I could fully block the pope's all out attack.

This guy was there too, so he should understand.

Armour: "Bastard....."

For some reason this guy in flashy armour has quite a lot of pride.

He complains whenever I do anything.

Though I say that, our hunt proceeded without problems.....Not.

Random Adventurer: "You bastard! To kill-steal the demon that I knocked down! Your right to live is forfeit--"

Rishia: "Hii!?"

Armour dealt the finishing blow to a demon that a random adventurer was fighting.

No Name: "Don't break the rules of the island! Our bad, This guy just had a slight misunderstanding."

Enough already, I just want to return soon!

This is as difficult as Motoyasu's party.

The lecture on our first day here was completely forgotten about.

We were warned to never steal a kill on a demon that another adventurer is fighting.

This guy seems to be convinced that he is a special existence.

What the hell did Itsuki teach.....

Naofumi: "My head feels heavy....."

And then, after fighting a while, I noticed that the child-like Rishia fights very clumsily.

When I think she would stab the enemy with a sword, she recites magic and casts recovery on someone who is injured.

Though, it was already too late.

It feels like she doesn't have a grasp on her own role. I should pay close attention.....

Armour: "Rishia, Move forward more!"

Armour: "Rishia, Fall back!"

Armour:"Rishia, Recovery. Hurry up!

Armour:"Rishia, Recite magic!"

Rishia:"O-Okay!"

I gave up thinking about it, since her bumbling about was always late.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 95 - The Disease of Justice

It was around noon, so I went to get something to eat, but...

"Rishia! It's time for lunch" (Armor) (TL: lunch is said in English)

"Y-yes!" (Rishia)

The armored guy orders the childish Rishia to bring out lunch.

He's acting quite high and mighty. And why English?

Well, my shield is currently acting as a translator, I shouldn't worry about his phrasing.

"You can do that much by yourself" (Rishia)

"What are you saying? In this party, you are the newest. You're assigned to odd jobs." (Armor)

"Ha...!?" (Naofumi)

What? Newest?

Eh?

The Hero party system member system may be organized like a company, but it's a bit different, isn't it?

Rishia is distributing lunch among her party members.

There also seems to be a Hierarchy she has to follow when giving out the food. Each time, she stops in front of a different person, bows, says their name and goes on.

The first person is the one with flashy armor. He gets a large piece of meat still on the bone, and a sandwich with another large piece of meat in it.

The second person looks like a soldier. He gets a sandwich and a piece of grilled fish.

The third person...

And so it went on.

From the remaining bag, Rishia takes out some fruit, and starts eating them.

What the hell is this, can't they just share food evenly?

This is...

"Do you have a hierarchy going on here?" (Naofumi)

In response to my question, the other heroes nod as if stating the obvious.

"Of course, our positions are decided by how much we are trusted by Itsuki, and our contributions to the group. Isn't it great? Does the hero of the Shield wish to hear more about Itsuki-sama's greatness?." (No Name)

"No, not particularly." (Naofumi)

"Don't be like that, after we met Itsuki, the first time we awakened to the voice of Justice was-" (Armor)

And the companions of the bow went into a lengthy story about the Hero of the Bow's accomplishments, praising him at every corner.

I don't remember the contents of the story, and I don't want to either.

The stories were all about him hiding from the public eye and purging evildoers.

And about how through these actions, Itsuki convinced his party that he was the Hero who would save the world.

Is this supposed to be a religious cult?

He already seems to be their Messiah.

Anyways, here is my analysis.

The fact that Itsuki is always punishing evildoers leads to the belief that these people are always on the side of good.

And thus anyone who opposes them can immediately be labelled as evil. This eventually led to their current Tyrannical behavior.

Hmm... I believe there was a name for this type of person.

In a movie I saw a while ago, a foreign police officer continually defeated evildoers. Is he delusionally trying to be like that?

The police would be in big trouble if those people actually existed.

I can't remember the name of the movie now. I believe it was derived from...

As no large criminals were at large, his twisted sense of justice would cause him to issue the death penalty to small scale sinners as well.

He would then kill them, giving the excuse that 'they resisted'.

"This is tiring..." (Naofumi)

Even after we had finished hunting, Itsuki's companions continue to speak of his accomplishments at the inn.

I didn't really level up.

My attacks became dull after I had learned about their hierarchical behavior.

I'm not getting any good organizational advice either, am I.

They even continued talking when I was in the bath. I am sick of it.

"Fu..." (Naofumi)

After the bath, I go outside to look around.

More like I can't stand to hear those people anymore.

It's quite nice out here. I think I'll hide until they're finished.

Is what I thought when I hear footsteps behind me. I turn around.

And see the childish Rishia coming back with a bag from the Island's convenience store.

"Ah, It's the hero of the Shield" (Rishia)

"Yeah, Why are you here." (Naofumi)

"Um... I was sent out to buy stuff." (Rishia)

"I see..." (Naofumi)

Because she's at the bottom of the pyramid?

I'm surprised she can stand this environment that is getting infinitely close to bullying.

She's treated like a pack-mule. She didn't even get to introduce herself.

This is like a company with Itsuki at the top, and this girl at the bottom.

I've been through a lot, so I can kinda understand. I'm also a little interested.

"Hey." (Naofumi)

"Yes?" (Rishia)

"Why do you remain in that party?" (Naofumi)

It's probably uncomfortable, and they are a group that will do anything to accomplish their 'justice'. I would never be able to remain in that group.

I won't ask her to come to my party, but both Motoyasu's and Ren's would be more bearable than this.

"There's nothing I can do... I mean I just got here." (Rishia)

“I’m asking why you don’t leave despite everything they do to you.”

(Naofumi)

“Ah, that’s because I have been saved by Itsuki before.” (Rishia)

“Is that so?” (Naofumi)

“Yes…” (Rishia)

Rishia began to explain the circumstances surrounding her joining of Itsuki’s party.

To put it simply, Rishia was the daughter of a fallen nobleman.

Her family had little money and just barely scraped through.

The village was ruled by a Noble family that was obtaining their funds through illegal means and Rishia’s parent tried to sabotage their operations.

But all of their money was secretly taken by those people. All the villagers who also raised complaints against the noble family were silenced.

And then… as Rishia’s family had no money left to pay taxes, the Noblemen proposed that they could give Rishia in place of money. They threatened that they would kill her family if her parents didn’t comply.

It seemed like a situation that Itsuki would pounce on readily.

That evening, Itsuki and his companions infiltrated the Villainous Nobles’ Mansion and used the authority of the Hero to put an end to their dealings and save Rishia.

It seemed that Rishia felt greatly in debt to her saviors, and decided to join Itsuki's party.

"I... really want to repay Itsuki for saving me." (Rishia)

From my point of view, everything that Itsuki is doing is pointless, however, from Rishia's point of view, he must seem like a true hero.

I clearly felt Rishia's gratitude towards Itsuki in her story.

She had much more purpose than those other members who were just feeding their egos by playing hero.

"I see, so you have it tough." (Naofumi)

"Yes. It's not going very well." (Rishia)

"From the way I see it, you are more suited to play rear guard." (Naofumi)

She seems to be adept in magic, and on the front line, everyone treats her as a nuisance.

Her companions are also to blame. If she can use a sword, cast magic and perform healing, shouldn't they be making better use of her?

This may be because the party has too many members. No one notices the specialties of an individual member.

"I've never had any talent, I scare easily and I'm a klutz... If I had to pick something, I guess magic is my specialty, but Itsuki prefers members who

take the vanguard, so when classing up I selected a class with higher close-combat skills." (Rishia)

"..." (Naofumi)

So because she has ignored her strengths and focused on her weaknesses she has been unable to improve.

While Itsuki's fighting style does involve everyone being on the front line, if you throw an amateur on the front line, there's no point.

"Try not to be a Jack of all Trades, but a Master of all Trades" (Naofumi)

(TL: He is saying don't be halfhearted. If you're going to do them all, master them all.)

"Yes!" (Rishia)

She seems to have a lot of heart despite her size, she should be fine.

I had fallen to the very bottom before, and had crawled back to where I am with my own strength.

If Rishia works hard, she should become a useful party member.

"I'm sorry for keeping you for so long. I'll return with you so the others don't get mad." (Naofumi)

"Thank you." (Rishia)

The next day was just one long headache.

Why must I put up with this. Like a curse, rumor had spread that a merchant was selling fraudulent goods. Itsuki's companions were discussing how to deal with the situation.

By the way, I told them that I had already dealt with the fraudulent merchant and that he had had a change of heart, so the curtain had closed on that problem.

If it was just me, I doubt they would have believed me, but Shadow helped corroborate my story.

It took a while before they seemed satisfied with my explanation.

...

"For the love of..." (Naofumi)

We were hunting Karma Rabbit Familia in the deeper parts of the Island.

They weren't strong, but they weren't exactly weak.

I kept the monsters contained, so defeating them wasn't exactly difficult, but this party's attack power was way below expectations.

The party seemed to be based upon acting as a barrier to allow Itsuki to attack from afar, so its damage output was severely lacking.

If I was with Raphtalia or Firo, it would only take a few minutes to defeat these monsters.

I finally completed the conditions to unlock the Karma Rabbit Familia Shield.

-

Karma Rabbit Familia Shield

Abilities (Sealed)··· Equipment Bonus, Scan (Small)

-

I'm not sure if he simply disliked my fighting style, but Armor left the party.

If Raphtalia or Firo had a problem, they would probably tell it to me before leaving.

After Armor left, the soldier-like guy began to act strange. He initially took on a high and mighty attitude, but he eventually left the party as well.

This continued for a while until the only one left was Rishia.

Of course, this allowed Rishia, who could take on any role to shine. By the time the sun reached its peak in the sky, we had safely finished hunting and had boarded the ferry back to the previous island.

Not that I care at this point, but Armor and friends are on the same ship.

I'm not sure if they think that Itsuki will be mad at them, but they seem to not want to return to the inn.

Talking to them will be a pain. I look at the ocean and calm my heart.

These two days were the worst.

I didn't even get much information on Itsuki and I wasn't able to recruit anybody.

But finally this crappy Information Exchange is over...

As I stare at the sea, I remember the events of the morning.

That's right... This morning Rishia gave me a piece of ore.

She said it was her way of saying thanks for listening to her story last night.

At the time, I had thought, 'As expected of nobles, even if they have fallen, they still raised such a nice girl', however now that I look back at it, her behavior back then was quite strange.

"It's a jewel that Itsuki regularly collected, though I don't know its use."

(Rishia)

Is what she said.

At first I thought it was a material for modifying accessories, but if he regularly collects it, it must be for daily use.

Once I get back, I have to meet with the other heroes.

I guess I'll ask Motoyasu or Ren at that time.

AUTHOR NOTE (TL: Yes, the actual author):

Note, The mental state Naofumi is referring to is called Dirty Harry Syndrome, I did not write it as it is the name of a movie.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 96 - The Bow Hero & My Companions

I returned to the main island on boat by the afternoon.

.....I pray that Raphtalia isn't angry.

As I pray and walk back to the hotel, I see that as usual, Firo is waiting for me at the front.

Again?.....While thinking that, I notice Itsuki sitting nearby with a fed up expression.

Firo:"Hey, come on, heeey. Why? Why?. Come on"

Itsuki:"No.....I am-"

Firo:""I am" isn't an answer. Tell me. Hey, come on, heeey."

So, contrary to my expectations, instead of Raphtalia, Firo is constantly inquiring Itsuki about something.

What is it? I have no idea what is going on.

Itsuki:"Ah, Naofumi-san!"

When Itsuki see me, he approaches with Firo is still clinging to him, and points at her.

Itsuki:"Please hurry up and take this child back. Ever since I got back here, she has not stopped barraging me with questions."

Firo:"It would be bad to leave since master told me to stay with you all the way while he wasn't here right? Anyway, tell me the real reason, Hey, come on, heeey. Why won't you tell me?"

Firo is extremely curious about something and continues barraging Itsuki with questions.

This is the first time I've seen Firo like this.

Naofumi:"Errr, did Raphtalia tell you to pester him?"

Firo:"NNn~ It's different. Firo just wants to know. Though after that, Raphtalia onee-chan got mad."

Naofumi:".....So it happened after all."

I expected this after seeing Itsuki's party.

The leader of Armour and them is Itsuki after all. Every action follows his code of justice.

Itsuki:"This girl did more than that other one who left half-way, but she keeps bothering me with the same question."

Firo:"Come on, tell me. Heeeeey"

Armour:"This bird! To think you have the nerve to annoy Itsuki-sama."

Firo:"Hm~? You want to play with Firo?"

Itsuki:"Stop it. She is not someone you can easily beat, she is the companion of a hero afterall. So you shouldn't be fighting."

Itsuki warns the flashy Armour who is about to go berserk.

Well, to be honest, it's pretty obvious that the end result would be Firo toying with Armour.

In the worse case, we would be seeing dirty fireworks being launched. I guess Itsuki would also know what would happen to Armour if he got kicked by Firo as well.

Naofumi:"I'll warn you now. What did you do to Raphtalia?"

She got angry, even after I warned her to turn a blind eye to his sense of justice.

Though, Raphtalia shouldn't have snapped over something like that.

I'm not saying Raphtalia is at fault, maybe she just lacks some patience.

Even so, regardless of what Raphtalia may or may not have done, I won't hold back venting on his group.

Since Armour and his buddies have boycotted me wonderfully.

Naofumi:"Also, make sure you manage your companions a little better. The only one who fought seriously to the end was Rishia."

Armour:"Th-That's not it! We just couldn't fight well together with the Hero of the Shield-san."

Naofumi:"No matter how you word it, it's the same thing."

Itsuki:"It's the same here! What is with your companions?!"

.....Oh my, it seems that we have an unproductive and mutual dispute with each other on our hands.

Frankly, I'm getting tired of dealing with Armour.

Naofumi:"For the time being, let's not try to decide who is in the wrong. Since we are both calling each other's companions terrible."

Itsuki:".....Fine. then it's over, but I request your help..... without you, it seems that stopping Firo-san is impossible."

That's quite rare, since he is the Itsuki with an unusually strong sense of justice.

Is Firo's question that hard to answer?

Itsuki:"This matter is merely on hold. We will meet and talk about this tonight."

Naofumi:"We'll talk then. Since your companions were terrible as well."

It seems that the situation is too tense to exchange information.

I just pray that I won't be blamed for this situation by the other heroes.

Firo:"Heeeeey, He still hasn't told me yet."

Naofumi:"Firo, give it up. No matter how much you ask that guy, he won't answer."

Firo:"Muu-....."

Really.....It seems Firo really wants to know.....

I'm quite worried about what happened.

Naofumi:"So? Where is Raphtalia?"

Firo:"Over there."

Firo points to the same location as before.

Haah.....Good grief. Is it my fault that all the heroes are causing problems?

Just like before, as Raphtalia was waiting for me, her tail is all puffed up.

Naofumi:"I'm back."

Raphtalia: "Naofumi-sama!"

As soon as Raphtalia hears my voice, she starts running to me.

Naofumi: ".....What in the world happened?"

Raphtalia: "Actually--"

I don't really want to hear it, but Raphtalia began talking about the staff exchange with Itsuki.

While feeling uneasy, Raphtalia was waiting for Itsuki.

Firo: "Who is it today?"

Raphtalia: "It's going to be the Hero of the Bow, Itsuki-sama."

Firo: "Heeh-..... That person with the strange hair is coming."

Raphtalia: "Seems like it."

It seems in consideration for me, she decided that she would try not to get mad at Itsuki and endure it.

Itsuki came later than Ren, but earlier than Motoyasu.

There was an audible door knock.

Raphtalia: "Go ahead."

Itsuki: "Excuse me."

After knocking on the door politely, Itsuki entered the room.

Itsuki: "I am the Hero of the Bow, Kawasumi Itsuki. My best regards for these next two days."

Raphtalia: "Yes, and my name is Raphtalia. Please teach us well, Hero of the Bow-sama."

Firo: "Firo."

The self-introductions ended simply.

At that time, out of all the heroes, she had the best impression from his politeness.

It's like she is saying I'm bad.

.....Am I actually? Though I was rarely ever courteous, since I would have been taken advantage of.

Itsuki: "Shall we go level up at once?"

Raphtalia: "Yes, preparations are already done."

Firo: "Yeah! Let's go-"

Thus, Raphtalia departed with Itsuki.

It seems that before arriving at the hunting grounds, Itsuki had a meeting with Raphtalia regarding the methods they would use to fight.

Well, since time travelling is wasted anyway.

Raphtalia and Firo explained the characteristics of their finishers, and their levels, while also explaining what types of demons they have fought on the island.

Itsuki wanted to gather a large quantity of demons in one area. then he would special skills to defeat them.

That was it. It seems that besides me, Raphtalia found that Itsuki was a hero worthy of respect.

There were also some stories about his strong sense of justice too, but that should be natural for heroes.

She said that, it didn't take too long to discover how big of a mistake that was.

Itsuki:"Alright, Raphtalia-san, you guys can do quite a lot, so we should be able to go quite far."

Raphtalia:"Okay!"

And so, they advanced towards the middle of the island.

Itsuki:"I found a demon. I'll pull it so get ready to fight!"

Raphtalia:"Eh?"

Itsuki nocked his bow and shot an arrow at a demon that was quite far away.

The arrow hit the demon right-on, and it started approaching, but.....

Adventurer:"Wha?"

An adventurer who was trying to fight the demon watched it go with an astonished expression.

Adventurer:"Ummm....."

Itsuki:"Do you have a problem? Didn't we take the first attack?"

As a matter of fact Itsuki answered what Raphtalia and the adventurer have been thinking.

The rules weren't broken, but it's still quite provoking.

This behaviour is called "Mobbing" in net games. Whether it's acceptable or unacceptable depends on the game, so I can't make any sweeping statements, speaking of which, wasn't Itsuki under the impression that this was a console game world?

Well, it's not something worth worrying about. Or can he still not tell the difference between this and a game?

Adventurer:"Nevermind....."

It's not a violation of the rules. However, while they were thinking of it, the demon approached and Raphtalia attacked it with her sword.

Since it was a weak demon, it was easily killed.

Firo also slaughtered the demons that Itsuki attracted with his bow in one shot.

Though, Raphtalia felt that Itsuki's attacks unexpectedly lacked power.

The time he attacked was little as well.....

By the way, I didn't know, but it seems Itsuki's quiver endlessly produces arrows for his bow, the arrows appear simply by tightening his grip on the bow.

While deep in thought, they kept advancing.

Wherever they went, Itsuki would do a preemptive attack on the demons that any adventurers were trying to go for.

Raphtalia:"Umm, Itsuki-sama.....Could you please not perform those actions against the demons adventurers want to fight?"

Itsuki:"What are you saying? It's the law that we can kill it since we attacked first. Even the lord of this island said that there are too many demons and it's troubling, so we are fighting any demons we come across."

Raphtalia: "But....."

Itsuki: "A demon is coming. Please fight."

Raphtalia felt that something was off.

And then, while Raphtalia was in the middle of thinking.

She felt that Itsuki's attack power and the times he attacks is very little.

Raphtalia learnt Itsuki's level earlier. Since 75 was quite high Raphtalia decided to trust him.

Compared to Motoyasu and Ren, that attack power was too low.

While approaching the center of the island her convictions changed to doubt.

Demons called Karma Squirrel Familiar appeared.

They were attacked by a group of small black demon squirrels.

They were hard to fight due to their quick attacks and numbers. Raphtalia and Firo both fought, but it seems that these demons have a habit of calling their companions.

For any one that got knocked down, another one take its place.

Furthermore, the reinforcements weren't just from the same family, they also called in high level demons like the Magenta Frog.

Raphtalia: "Itsuki-sama! Hurry up.....use your area of effect attacks."

Itsuki: "Understood! Please wait a second! Arrow Shower!"

Itsuki aims his bow to the sky and shoots an arrow.

The arrow flew up and started multiplying itself, and rained down.....But it wasn't enough to defeat the Karma Squirrel Familiars.

Raphtalia: "Tei!"

It couldn't be helped due to low attack power.

While following Itsuki's strategy, Raphtalia continued to exert herself and fight.

"Firo is the origin of power. Firo has read and deciphered a law of nature. Blow them all away with a raging tornado!"

"Tzuvait · Tornado!"

With perfect timing, Firo sends a bunch of demons flying.

Though, the disadvantage due to numbers is still prevalent. Raphtalia expected that if I had been there to trap all the demons in a prison, she could have blown them all away with magic.

At the time, Raphtalia was about to receive a serious attack from a demon when-----

Itsuki:" Falcon · Strike!"

At that moment, Itsuki fired off an arrow that turned into a bird of flame and instantly destroyed the demon that was about to attack Raphtalia. Furthermore.

Itsuki:"Fire Arrow Squall!"

Arrows of flame started pouring around the vicinity, and all the demons were wiped out.

Itsuki:"Are you alright?"

Raphtalia: "Y-yes....."

While looking at Itsuki with a skeptical gaze, Raphtalia looked around at the demon corpses.

In that instant, Raphtalia was ashamed to admit she thought Itsuki was cool.

Why? I think, at that moment he should have been naturally cool.

Raphtalia: "I was saved."

Itsuki: "That's good."

Firo: ".....Hey"

Firo pecked Itsuki's back with her beak.

Itsuki then turned around to look at Firo.

And Firo asks Itsuki with a face full doubt.

Firo: "Hey, why did you hold back your power?"

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 97 - Lies

“Eh?” (Naofumi)

At that time, Raphtalia was explaining things to me. I felt an unexpected aura coming from her.

Firo also has some aptitude for sensing presences.

Well, it's more like she lives by her instincts, she can interpret subtle signs.

Raphtalia was able to link all the unfortunate events that occurred until now, and make deductions based on that.

“W-what could you be talking about?” (Itsuki)

This is that, isn't it?

Itsuki did nothing until Raphtalia and Firo were in trouble. It's like that...

In action anime, when the hero's comrades were mere millimeters from death, the main character would make a flashy entrance and rescue them. That situation comes to mind.

I was an Otaku before I came to this world, I did think those scenes were cool

But those scenes don't really exist in reality.

“Do you think Firo didn't realize it? From the start, the bow person was watching without doing anything wasn't he?” (Firo)

"I'm asking what you mean by doing nothing." (Itsuki)

"The spear guy, the sword guy and master have relaxed before, but the bow guy was wa~y more relaxed. But whenever we were about to get hit, the arrow would come flying out." (Firo)

Firo extends her wings and gestures to show a rain of arrows.

So Itsuki was loafing around waiting for the moment to act cool.

"I'm saying, I wasn't doing nothing!" (Itsuki)

"Then why didn't you use the skill you used before again?" (Firo)

"T-that's because of my SP and the cool-down time..." (Itsuki)

"Shouldn't you have thought of that beforehand? I think that would make fighting easier." (Firo)

Firo's inquisition began.

Raphtalia, who had pretty much reached the same conclusion, does not stop Firo.

"Firo knows. Bow person, you didn't prepare any arrows until Raphtalia-oneechan was getting into a pinch." (Firo)

"Wait, what?" (Raphtalia)

"You're wrong. There's no way I would do that." (Itsuki)

"Then why didn't you fire any arrows?" (Firo)

(TL: Firo is asking questions like a child, you know when small children just ask long series of questions without visible animosity.)

“No, I did fire them” (Itsuki)

“No, the gap between your skills this time was longer than the gap between the previous skills” (Firo)

Firo corners Itsuki with a barrage of questions.

And from Firo’s mouth, complaints come one after the other.

“At first I thought that it was just that sort of weapon, but back then, I realized I was wrong. Hey, hey, why is Bow Person holding back?” (Firo)

“And I’m saying that I wasn’t holding back!” (Itsuki)

“And whenever Oneechan seemed like she was going to get hit, why did you look a little happy?” (Firo)

“...W-what?” (Itsuki)

I was getting close to my boiling point, and was about to release my frustration. I think Raphtalia sensed this.

Firo’s childish inquisition shows no signs of stopping.

“You’re wrong. Why is this child saying such things?” (Itsuki)

“Hey, Hey, why won’t you tell Firo?” (Firo)

Firo continues to pressure Itsuki, while tilting her head with a face full of curiosity

Finally, Raphtalia, who has also had enough, joins Firo in her questioning.

“... If you could shoot attacks that powerful, why didn't you do that from the beginning?” (Raphtalia)

“And I'm saying there was a problem with my SP and cool-down time so...”
(Itsuki)

“We had bought you plenty of time to recover SP. If you had shot an arrow at the beginning, the previous battle would have been much easier. Also, if you are that strong, why don't you shoot your arrows, do you have any intention of winning?” (Raphtalia)

“I-I have my reasons. Every time I use my bow, I lose SP.” (Itsuki)

“Hey, Hey, why won't you tell us the truth? The Bow Person is lying. Firo can tell.” (Firo)

“... Is what she says. What do you have to say for yourself?” (Raphtalia)

Raphtalia is so angry that I can sense Magic power seeping out of her.

I think Itsuki could sense Raphtalia's anger as well.

“When you shoot your bow, do you really lose something?” (Raphtalia)

“Y-yes” (Itsuki)

“Well, if something is draining it should also replenish. Naofumi told me that SP recovers quite quickly” (Raphtalia)

Even if it drains that quickly, there should be a limit.

He should have enough SP to fire off consecutive skills to some extent. But there’s no reason for him to hold back at this point.

“Hey, Hey, are you possibly trying to act cool like the Spear guy?” (Firo)

“Y-you’re wrong. Do I look like someone who would show off like Motoyasu” (Itsuki)

Itsuki’s proud demeanor has vanished, and he is desperately denying the accusations.

But the perceptive Raphtalia only saw confirmation of her statements.

“Um, you know. I thought that because whenever me or Oneechan seem to get into a pinch, your eyes seem to sparkle.” (Firo)

Firo points her finger at Itsuki and strikes a pose. Her eyes are also sparkling

(TL: they describe what seems to be the OBJECTION! Pose here)

Raphtalia is staring holes into Itsuki.

“And when we get out of pinches by ourselves, you seem to make a sad face and you put down your bow.” (Firo)

“There’s no way I would do that, I’m a hero, you know!” (Itsuki)

"Then tell me, how much SP does each skill take, how much cool-down time do you need?" (Raphtalia)

"Um... Each shot takes around half of my SP, and the refill time is 15 minutes" (Itsuki)

"Your eyes are looking down. Bow Person, that's the same face you were making when you were lying." (Firo)

Raphtalia's hate is only growing.

It seems she will cut him down if he lies again.

Well, Raphtalia probably won't go *that* far...

"I-it's not a lie! What could this child be saying?" (Itsuki)

"... Then the next time we meet that enemy, please shoot it in the beginning. It's already been 15 minutes, so you should be able to do it. We'll watch over you."

"What the hell are you saying?!" (Itsuki)

"I want to check if you're telling the truth. I believe in you. Please use your arrows until your SP runs out. After that, retreat to a safe area, and we'll help you." (Firo)

"D-do you plan on making me fight alone!?" (Itsuki)

"There's no problem, we want to see just how strong the Hero of the Bow really is. The Hero of the Spear did this too." (Raphtalia)

And so, Raphtalia pressured Itsuki into fighting.

And, as if on command, another Karma Squirrel Familia appeared.

Raphtalia went into hiding and began counting with her own heart rate.

The Karma Squirrel Familia Charged, and Itsuki fared quite well... He unleashed a large rain of arrow on the incoming enemy. It dealt a lot of damage.

"That attack was much more potent than any of the ones he used when fighting with us." (Raphtalia)

"T-twas a coincidence... how strange." (Itsuki)

"Your arrows had much more power behind them than before." (Firo)

Firo continued to corner Itsuki

And then...

「Falcon • Strike!」

In one shot, every single one of the Karma Squirrel Familia lay down dead.

Itsuki wipes off his sweat.

"You're out." (Raphtalia)

"Hah?" (Itsuki)

“It has only been 6 minutes since you last attacked. Even for exaggeration, this is too much.” (Raphtalia)

“A-are you sure it’s not your imagination?” (Itsuki)

“That’s enough. I can no longer trust a liar like you.” (Raphtalia)

And with that, Raphtalia left the party.

“Wha- Are you just going to leave like that?” (Itsuki)

“As long as you lie, I cannot leave the back line to you, and I cannot fight in the front to protect you.” (Raphtalia)

The road back had little danger, and Raphtalia was easily able to return by herself.

Firo was still curious about why Itsuki was holding back, so she stayed in the party and kept pestering him.

“Oneechan, Firo will fight with the Bow Person.” (Firo)

“Yes, that will probably bring less trouble to Naofumi. But you shouldn’t trust that man.” (Raphtalia)

“Understood!” (Firo)

And that’s how, in just the first day, Raphtalia left the party and went to level on her own.

She vented all her anger on the poor monsters, and eventually calmed down.

It seems she hates lies.

And Raphtalia is a warrior, she hates people who hold back.

...

"In just an hour, you lied to your comrades. I can't believe you. I have no desire to leave my back to your bow." (Raphtalia)

Raphtalia confronts Itsuki and says as such.

Her gaze is colder than ice.

To be more specific, her eyes are dead. (TL: imagine Yandere stare)

This is the first time I have seen Raphtalia like this.

"Itsuki-sama! What do you think you are saying to Itsuki-sama!? I won't allow this!" (Armor)

An angry Armor tries to go after Raphtalia

Raphtalia stares at him expressionlessly.

"I hate people who care for nothing but their pride." (Raphtalia)

Raphtalia grabs Armor's extended arm and squeezes it tightly.

His gauntlets are letting out a metallic creaking sound.

I am honestly afraid right now.

That's just how angry Raphtalia is right now.

“The hell, this girl is ridiculously strong.” (Armor)

Despite her looks, Raphtalia does possess high strength.

If you take away her self-control, this is what will happen.

“Please leave it at that.” (Naofumi)

At my command, Raphtalia stares at Itsuki for one last time, and finally lets go.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 98 - Evaluation Session

Itsuki: "St-Stop it."

Armour: "But Itsuki-sama!"

Itsuki: "That girl is only judging me. But the truth is different. I would prefer this opportunity to settle in a peaceful manner."

Armour: "I-Is that so. I understand."

Armour realises he's at a disadvantage and relaxes. Raphtalia also loosens her grip on his arm.

Raphtalia: "Don't bother lying. Now, when will you inform your companions about your need to satisfy your sense of justice."

This severe remark was fired at Itsuki.

Itsuki: ".....I pray that it doesn't come to that. At any rate, you will get to a point where you will be forced to rely on me."

What's that.

I have concluded, that is the howling of a loser.

In the first place, why would Raphtalia have to rely on Itsuki, before me.

I can't imagine that situation.

Is he similar to Motoyasu in one way or another?

Could it be, his sense of justice isn't strong, but he just wants to be praised?

Could what's strong actually be.....His sense of self-satisfaction?

Am I thinking too much?

I expect that It's probably not that awful.

I want to believe it. Otherwise, it would be hopeless.

Itsuki:"Well then, I'll be looking forward to tonight's meeting."

Naofumi:"Uh huh, there are a bunch of things that I need to ask as well."

Itsuki:"Right, this way I can also inquire some things from Naofumi-san."

And with that, Itsuki and his companions went back to their rooms at the hotel.

However..... Originally it was Motoyasu, then earlier it was Ren. Though it appears as if Motoyasu is the most decent one.

Raphtalia:"Good grief! Why are all the heroes except for Naofumi-sama like that!?"

She's at her wit's end.

It's not that I don't understand her feelings. Because regardless of merit, that guy is called a hero.

I know of a guy in a game that would call this so-called hero a hypocrite.

This Hero is like a thief after all.

Not to mention, that selfish sense of justice, concealment principle, and focus on self-satisfaction.

Though.....This one time evaluation meeting might not be any good.

Naofumi:"Raphtalia, Firo as well, listen to me together."

Raphtalia:"What is it?"

Firo:"What~?"

Naofumi:"Raphtalia, I think your ideals are just a little too far-fetched."

Raphtalia:"Eh!?"

Raphtalia answered with a surprised expression.

Naofumi:"I guess I may be the cause, but at the end of the day, they are still human beings before they are heroes. What you know about the heroes in legends, they are all most likely only their grandest activities, in reality they could have one, two, three, four, five, or even six kinds of defects."

Raphtalia:"That many?"

Naofumi:".....Don't mind that. Legends are meant to be dramatized.

Look,for example that saying of great men have great fondness for sensual pleasures, if this world's heroes were truly like that, would it have ended the way it did?"

Raphtalia:"W-Well....."

I just learnt this proverb, but I understood it since there are similar words in my world.

Naofumi:"So, there is no need to mind every single detail. Those guys have their own way of fighting. Just take a good look."

Raphtalia:"Okay?"

Naofumi:"If you take a good look at how Motoyasu fights, you will know that instead of having his companions get hurt, he would personally go out and fight. Is that the attitude of a hero?"

Raphtalia:"I-It is."

Naofumi: "If you take a good look at how Ren fights, he doesn't make his comrades do the impossible, and if they fight a tough opponent, he will lend his power as a hero."

Was I a little harsh?

Well, that guy has a lack of strategy, but I feel that's just from habit. It would be possible to judge if I experienced it.

Raphtalia: "Well....."

Naofumi: "If you take a good look at how Itsuki fights, he would absolutely never let his companions get hurt, it would be impossible to fight if he didn't have confidence in himself. Heroes are meant to be relied on."

Well, all of his followers are out of control.

Even I think it's a little painful.

However, we haven't even started looking at where they were bad, but we don't even understand our own bad areas.

Naofumi: "I am also the same, perhaps I was following my ideals too much."

Raphtalia: "....."

Naofumi: "From the beginning, there are no perfect humans. The reason why heroes are powerful is due to their weapons..... for example, even if they are strong, it doesn't necessarily mean they are also strong mentally right?"

Raphtalia: "R-Right....."

I am the same, before I came to this world I was very carefree.

Then, I had to deal with a world of swords and magic.

To know that it is reality is little unpleasant and instead embrace it as a dream.

Giving a normal guy special powers, and lifting him up with praises of "Hero Hero".

If you observe and think about it, the four heroes summoned, for better or for worse are all humans.

There is no perfect human.

I don't know the criteria used for the selection.....But, thinking about it there are certainly some heroic dispositions.

Take Motoyasu for example, he is a feminist who is incredibly fond of women,if you think about it, when he heard about Raphtalia being a slave, he took the righteous action to release her, though from my standpoint he is just an annoying guy.

Ren wanted to go save the village that was in trouble.

Even Itsuki, though he's a little inconsiderate, I think that his attitude on not allowing bad things to happen is to some extent, Hero-like.

While that may be true, I naturally still have no reason to get along with those guys.

Even after considering all that, their problematic behaviour stands out too much. However, It's not as if I am defending those guys, I just want Raphtalia's consciousness of a party to improve.

Naofumi:"After being with me up till now, do you know where I am lacking?"

Raphtalia:".....Naofumi-sama is.....There are times when you smile while looking at the misfortunes of others."

Gu..... I was self-conscious of that, but Raphtalia still had to say it. In fact, when I heard about the misfortunes of merchants and villages, I was happy thinking about all the business and profits I would make. Most recently, I was laughing at bitch while she burned from doing bad things. I don't intend to fix it though.

Raphtalia:"Also, you are not a polite person, you don't lie, but there are times when you argue out of a promise."

Wow..... her words really cut.

Even if you don't say it, I am still somewhat self-conscious of it. I think it would be fine to not keep some of those promises. Though it's not like I'm going to change that, is that where I'm bad?

Raphtalia:"Your words are bad, you are naturally insensitive sometimes, and also naturally dense, you are not thoughtful and you don't understand what's on people's minds."

Naofumi:"That's an overstatement."

I question what was just said.

Who is naturally insensitive. I am aware that I'm not thoughtful though.

Naofumi:"W-Wow. When put like that, perhaps I am not even recognized as a hero by Raphtalia after all."

Raphtalia: "There is no such thing!"

Naofumi: "I'm glad that you think so. Still, just like I have bad traits, those guys are also the same. Just look at the big picture this time."

Though, it looks like she still doesn't understand.

If you understand the weakness of those guys, then it would be easy to set up counter-measures in the future.

Naofumi: "Raphtalia, if you don't mind me saying that your ideals are too high and wilful. When things get unpleasant, it is fine to run away. Just understand that."

Raphtalia: "Okay....."

Raphtalia casts her eyes downwards and stays quiet.

I feel that what I said is a little exaggerated, but you can improve yourself by observing others.

Something that could be applicable to the bad parts of those heroes, but there are many things that might happen in the future.

It is important to be cautious for anything in the future.

Firo: "Heeeey, What about Firo?"

Naofumi: "You're noisy."

Firo: "So mean~!"

Raphtalia: "Haha."

Our little party comes to a conclusion.....But when people gather, problems are sure to occur.

Though those three are having a problem now, doesn't necessarily mean that it won't happen to us.

In order to avoid that it is necessary to properly observe all the party members.

Naofumi: "You must pay attention to yourself and your companions, view things objectively."

Princess play, Solo play, and establishing recognition, looking at the companions of those guys I feel that I must prevent my companions from these problems.

As for hierarchy, give me a break. A New companion.....If I get a new slave or demon, it would be unpleasant if Raphtalia and Firo bullied them. I want to believe they aren't that kind of children but, it may take place necessarily.

That said, if a new guy joins, it would be impossible to promote him immediately.

This isn't just limited to Raphtalia and Firo, it also applies to me.

Hypothetical if the problem occurs from me, it would be likely that in the future there would be no improvements.

The Hero of the Shield is me, the companions of the other three have directly received my influence.

As expected, Raphtalia and Firo aren't enough, it is necessary to increase my companions.

If the number of companions increase, leading becomes more difficult. Considering the problems caused by the other three and the possibility of it happening, it is necessary to improve my party from now on.

Naofumi: "You guys must not think that just because you are a companion of a hero that you are right. Avoid causing trouble. During the meeting, try not to give up half-way."

With that said, it is troublesome to associate with that guy.

There is probably going to be some false accusations on Raphtalia at the meeting.

Honestly, I want them to give me a break.

Raphtalia: ".....I understand. I apologize."

Raphtalia seems to have understood my position and reflected.

Naofumi: "Well, it's not bad to chase your ideals, but it's not good to dwell on useless things."

Raphtalia: ".....Okay"

Firo: "Okay~"

Both of them mutter and nod their head as I watch.

Naofumi: "In any case, it would be good if it was someone like Raphtalia or Firo."

Before being strong or weak, it would be someone who will always avoid causing problems.

This week, I was painfully able to realise how easy it was to associate with Raphtalia and Firo.

Naofumi:"So with that said. I have high hopes for the both of you. My best regards for the future."

Raphtalia:"O-Okay!"

Firo:"Okay~!"

When finishing this reflecting meeting, Raphtalia was depressed.

There are still some other things I haven't heard.....

Naofumi:"By the way, Firo, you were together with Itsuki the whole time?"

Firo:"Uh huh."

Naofumi:"Did he do something different from me?"

Firo:"Hm-....."

Firo plays with her ahoge while thinking about it.

What could it be?

Firo:"Uhh,You see. He said Bonuses and Percentage about the demons."

Percentage? Bonus?

Was he hiding something after all? Bonus.....something like equipment bonus? As for absorbing the demons..... Let's try to use multiple materials.

There is also that ore that I got from Rishia, I could possibly discover something from it.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 99 – Cal Mira Island Jinx

Since we came back early in the afternoon, deciding with Raphtalia and the others, the evening is still young.

While spending time studying medicine and magic is good… playing at the beach before was good too.

And, with that thought in mind, we went for a walk in the marketplace to enjoy a change of pace.

Naofumi: “Is there something here that you need, Raphtalia?”

Raphtalia: “Nothing this time.”

Firo: “Firo’s stomach is empty.”

Naofumi: “Yes, yes.”

Providing Firo with lighter meals from the food stands, we met with a crowd in front of us.

Just then…

Fraudster: “Please wait. We have lots of inventory so there’s no need to push. Please form yourselves into a line!”

This voice… it must be the merchant who was ripping people off.

He’s sure raking it in. I see selling based off of that jinx is going well.

Fraudster: “Ah!”

Hm?

My eyes meet Fraudster’s who’s directing the people in line from on top a high platform.

Fraudster comes down from the platform and pushes his way through the crowd in my direction.

Fraudster: "Hero of the Shield-sama!"

I don't remember ever identifying myself as a hero around here... well, I guess something like the heroes being on this island would be common knowledge. Somehow or other, it'd be possible to feel the difference in atmosphere.

And then, how could he not know when my hero equipment is a shield?

Naofumi: "Sure looks like your business is booming."

Fraudster: "Yep! It's all thanks to Hero of the Shield-sama!"

Raphtalia: "Did you do something?"

Raphtalia and Firo incline their heads to listen.

Naofumi: "Ahh, actually..."

I tell Raphtalia and Firo about what happened on the first day we came to the island.

Hearing about my actions that were bordering on bad, Raphtalia nods in consent.

Raphtalia: "Ahh, so that's why you were closed when we came by with Moto... Hero of the Spear a couple of times."

He's already not even getting a '-sama' any more.

Well, it can't really be helped.

It seems after being with the heroes she no longer holds any respect for them.

For the time being, I'll just have to reflect on it. I don't think an

understanding can be reached.

It wonder if it's at the point where I, too, am called without honorifics.
...that's rather uncomfortable.

Naofumi: "Always address me with a '-sama'."

Raphtalia: "Huh...?"

I'll leave the '-sama' matter alone for now.

While Raphtalia looks at me perplexed, I turn back and talk to Fraudster again.

Naofumi: "So? Why did you call me? If you're only thanking me you still have many things to sell. We can talk when you're closed."

Fraudster: "Ch, it's not usually like this. Please come into the store."

Naofumi: "Why?"

Fraudster: "I want to show you my gratitude as well as various other things."

Naofumi: "Hmm..."

His financial standing must be quite good now from all the profits he received, so I should be able to expect some small expression of thanks. He might be on cloud 9 from the scheme consistently earning him money. To get something I should get it early.

I can work on the problem of being called with a "-sama" later.

Naofumi: "Sure..."

Fraudster nodded and led me into the store.

...the portable tent is gone. This is a proper shop built out of stone.

So the renovation has already been taken care of. I wonder how much profit has been flowing in.

It's obvious from the line in front of the store. The jinx trade must be formidable.

Fraudster: "It's over here."

Going around the store we entered from the back entrance. The sales people were bustling about in the shop selling accessories for the merchant. In the workshop at the back then, artisans were taking turns making lots of accessories out of processed ore.

...isn't this too profitable? If it doesn't die down I'll get anxious.

I mean, who's to say how many adventurers are coming to this island? Thinking about it is impossible.

Fraudster: "Soon, the island god festival will start and we'll be able to open a food stand by the alter."

Already, it seems they want to turn it into a special product for those who come visiting, by turning it into a kind of shrine amulet.

Naofumi: "Now, what was this gratitude you were talking about?"

Fraudster: "It's this here."

While saying that, he handed over a bracelet he was carrying. Calmira Island's own...

Miraca Bracelet (EXP Bonus Small)

Quality Top Grade

A red... a pure blood red gem was given to me.

The effect, too, is considerably good, and the quality is high.

Naofumi: "What should I say, it really does have the effect of increasing experience points."

Fraudster: "This is the highest quality bracelet made with the Miraca ore found on this island. So I could thank you by all means possible, I had it prepared. Ah, the granted effect came about by chance and won't be found in another accessory."

Well, that's how it is. It's not like they're selling things that really have a jinx attached.

Or rather, it was surprising that there really was a system where accessories could provide a boost to experience points.

Naofumi: "Miraca ore, eh."

Since the workshop had been opened to me, I took the opportunity to look through the ore.

The quality of any one of them was bad. What, all the gems here are nothing but garbage.

It seems it's not easy to find something that will help you out in battle.

Naofumi: "Isn't this one considerably expensive? From what I've seen, it seems this high a standard is hard to keep up."

Fraudster: "As expected you figured it out... that's correct. The biggest issue with Miraca ore is it's poor quality."

Naofumi: "Hmm..."

Fraudster: "Comparing the level of gems..."

Naofumi: "Is it okay to accept something that's so rare?"

Fraudster: "Yes. I received the cost for this piece a long time ago from the lessons I received from Hero of the Shield-sama."

Naofumi: "How do you mean?"

I should have only given him tips on how to make people happy to take out their gold.

Fraudster: "Until now, I thought that doing trade meant grasping the other person's weakness. However, I wanted to try using the same trade methods I saw the Hero of the Shield-sama using. Ahh, this is definitely the true way of commerce."

Up until that point, the Fraudster had tried to swindle all his customers. However, then I talked to him about how to do trade, how to sell things at an unreasonably high price, while the customers buy them with a smile on their faces.

Provoking resentment. That had been the only way he knew how to perform a good trade.

Naofumi: "Is that so... when the fad dies out, you have to be careful not to go back to the way you worked before."

Fraudster: "I've already played my hand. There's no need to worry."

Naofumi: "Oh? What makes you able to say that?"

Fraudster: "There's some small collaboration."

Saying that, Fraudster points out his collaborator.

...the accessory merchant smiles at me and waves.

You came to the island too, huh.

Accessory Merchant: "As expected of Hero of the Shield-sama, even in this backwater area you were able to drum up such an interesting and fresh new business."

Fraudster: "Please meet our store's merchant trade sponsor."

Naofumi: "Huh, you..."

Is your nose attuned to the smell of money? Well, that's the thinking that comes across.

While he's that kind of trader, I'm reluctant to associate him with money-mad people.

Accessory Merchant: "At the moment, the fame of Calmira Island accessories is going through the roof. Ha ha ha."

Naofumi: "Well, more or less."

There's no real efficacy.

At worst, we might have to put some countermeasures in place if the mood turns sour.

Accessory Merchant: "Yes, well. There are a great number of success stories verifying that rumour. Who would feel the need to pursue the truth?"

With a black aura coming out, both merchants laughed.

What unpleasant faces.

They'll chew it to the bone, this island.

Accessory Merchant: "Let's add a rumour about the colour later."

Naofumi: "...what do you mean to do?"

Accessory Merchant: "You'll just have to look forward to that."

Naofumi: "Not even..."

Accessory Merchant: "Won't Hero of the Shield-sama take stock in the store too? I'm fine with anything you'd like to do. Why don't you become the shop's store manager?"

Naofumi: "I'm not about to step into your shoes."

I know.

This guy wants me to eventually inherit the merchant guild and take charge of its success.

Accessory Merchant: "Is that so. Please feel free to drop in any time you like."

Naofumi: "...please pardon me as it's unlikely I'll be back once I'm done."

Fraudster: "Please choose something you'd like for your companions as well."

Naofumi: "Oh? You're sure being generous."

Fraudster: "Yes... since it's been so profitable I'm likely to explode from being overweight."

The Fraudster and the accessory merchant won't stop laughing with that face.

That face is one that has gotten drunk on the dark side of business dealings. It's a scary thing, doing business.

Some people hate the dark side and some people love it... that should be remembered.

In the end, both Raphtalia and Firo received Miraca series accessories.

Raphtalia got a strap to dangle from her sword. Firo got a shoelace strap.

Miraca Strap (Stamina Recovery, Medium)

Quality Top Grade

Miraca Strap (Magic Power Reinforcement, Medium)

Quality Top Grade

Naofumi: "This seems bad somehow."

Accessory Merchant: "Don't worry about it so much, just accept it."

I try to ignore my feeling that the shadows of those guys are laughing.

For those guys, that's their way of life.

I don't care if a riot happens and they get caught later.

In case my fault is unreasonably brought up, I can just show this accessory and play the victim after all.

Naofumi: "For the time being, we should probably get together if any problems come up."

Accessory Merchant: "Perish the thought. Hero of the Shield-sama worries too much. Well, I guess that's proper for a merchant."

Naofumi: "It's perfect because of the promise. Do you know what to do when I'm together with the other heroes?"

Merchants: " "Yes, we're ready." "

That harmonizing of words is unpleasant.

Honestly, do you really get it?

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 100 - Hot Spring

After that, Since we lightly played at the sandy beach while the day waned we returned to the inn, then I looked for the shadow to ask about the schedule.

Naofumi: "That reminds me, what time is the meeting?"

Shadow: "After Heroes bathing and meal degojaru."

Naofumi: "I see."

So after a bath and dinner is the meeting huh, and how much information I can draw out from those guys, everything is hanging on me.

Before that.....

Naofumi: "Then I'll go to the bath.."

Raphtalia: "Aa, Yes. We'll also take a bath shortly."

Naofumi: "Aah. "

So, leaving those two behind, I went to enter the bath.

Naofumi: "Fuuu..."

Soaked in a Japanese style hot spring of open air, I let out a sigh while looking to the sky.

*Since it's also a hot spring, lately it's good and refreshing entering the bath everyday.

Feels like my body's sluggishness is considerably improving too.

Though I've yet to recover from my status.

Or maybe despite my body being sluggish, I'm getting accustomed to it.

So, I had entered the bath with that good feeling but.

Motoyasu: "Oh? Well if it isn't Naofumi."

Motoyasu enters the bathroom.

Where is the spear?

After saying that, If I look well enough, there is a really small spear attached to his waist.

Figured it was like that.

I too had reduced the shield as much as possible and placed it on my back.

Since I'm not able to remove it from the body, it helps to be able to change where it's attached.

After pouring hot water on himself, Motoyasu enters hot spring bath.

Naofumi: "You already fine after that hangover?"

Motoyasu: "Can YOU talk?"

Naofumi: "You ate that yourself right? I didn't tell you to eat it."

Naofumi: "Well, seems like your world is a different Japan, with a different constitution. "

Motoyasu: "Yea Yea."

Well, not like I was drunk though.

To begin with, I'm sure you had fun being nursed by the bitches.

Though you might have not realized it with a hangover and all.

Motoyasu: "Heeey. It's quite a good bath ya know."

Motoyasu raises a loud voice toward someone.

Who's he talking to?

Itsuki: "I can see that myself. How many times do you think we've come here?"

Itsuki and his male followers had entered.

Thus, seeing Motoyasu, Itsuki makes a turbid expression.

Itsuki: "Because I have a lot of things I want to say to you in the meeting, Please keep it in moderation."

Motoyasu: "Those are my words but it's an hot spring you know? You gotta enjoy it."

What are you enjoying?

Was what I was thinking but then I noticed Ren was among the group as well.

Well, today's the meeting after all.

Something like this happens too.

Firo: "Master-"

Jumping over the fence, Firo comes to the mens bath.

Of course, in her demon appearance.

Naofumi: "Hm? Something wrong?"

Firo: "I want to enter with Master. "

Naofumi: "You are a bird. Enter a different hot bath. Actually, rather than a normal bath, go to a bird bath."

Firo: "Noo"

Such a selfish fellow.

Well.....

Naofumi: "Get rid of any loose feathers."

Firo: "Yay"

Firo soaks in the bath next to me.

Motoyasu: "Bathing together with Firo-chan."

Motoyasu approaches here with some disgusting eyes.

Firo backed off and used me as a shield.

Motoyasu: "Firo-chan. Your angel form if you will."

Firo: "No!"

This guy is persistent.

How much can a guy like angels?

To begin with, is bathing together with a bird so much fun?

I don't understand.

Motoyasu starts bathing in high spirits.

Motoyasu: "With that, We all did the party exchange so, who do you guys think is the most beautiful girl?"

Uwaa... He thought of an awfully stupid topic.

This isn't a school trip.

No, Maybe for Motoyasu it's like a school trip from his world?

Ren and Itsuki are making questionable faces too.

But, maybe he thought this out for the sake of making conversation with Itsuki.

Motoyasu: "Next, have you guys already done it? I... heheh."

Motoyasu is endlessly annoying.

What does this guy want to do.

Rather, that statement reeks of a virgin.

Was this guy really a ladies man?

This is a tremendously unpleasant mood.

I just entered, but should I leave?

Motoyasu: "Hey, Naofumi, you've already done Raphtalia right?"

Naofumi: "Why are you turning the conversation my way?"

This guy, to talk as if there was nothing between us.

Rather, who was it that was glaring at me as if I was their parents enemy when it was the incident with the queen.

Is this light mood something a hero needs?

Can't be.

Motoyasu: "Isn't it fine. This time's festivities is for the sake of growing friendships right?"

Naofumi: "What are you misunderstanding?"

Well, The official stance may be like that, but truth is, it's for drawing out information.

No... If it's Motoyasu, It's likely friendship.

Though I'm sure it's less friendship than snatching women to him.

Ren and Itsuki have memories I'm sure.

Excessively unpleasant expressions shoot toward Motoyasu.

Motoyasu: "Anyway, I'll tell ya my particular cute girl rankings."

Naofumi: "I refuse."

Itsuki: "Unproductive."

Ren: "Not my hobby."

While saying that, Ren and Itsuki couldn't silence Motoyasu.

Just listening is useless.

Motoyasu: "My type of girl is Whore, Raphatalia-chan, Firo-chan, and Rishia-chan."

Naofumi: "....."

What the hell is Motoyasu's taste.

All members and types scattered all over.

It's fine as long as the face is good?

Itsuki: "That's so isn't it. Whore is a former princess after all. It seems her personality is bad, but I was normally interacting with her during my time."

And here Itsuki is joining into the conversation.

Aarmor is.... muttering something to Itsuki's ear.

I can slightly hear it.

*Something like talking to Itsuki about their own taste or so.

Every last one of them is going with the flow.

Ren: "Well, you say the Queen's personality is bad, But I don't mind it."

Then, Ren jumped in too.

You... Didn't you say this wasn't your hobby?

Ren: "Rather, Raphtalia-san personality is severe right? Or perhaps damn serious. she's hardheaded. But her face looks is very put in order."

Motoyasu: "Right?"

Itsuki: "...Certainly, her face is good. Though her personality is bad."

Again, why are you guys getting swallowed into Motoyasu's pace.

It's easy to spit out a complaint, but I don't want to play along with them.

Or rather, It's not that her personality is bad, You guys handled Raphtalia wrong.

Firo: "Is Firo cute?"

Firo asks me of all things in the world.

Naofumi: "Who knows."

Firo: "Buuu....."

Motoyasu: "In my heart Firo-chan is the cutest! So turn into your angel appearance."

Firo: "No!"

Motoyasu, is her human form really getting to you that much?
Even though if you raise a Philorial yourself, It'll become similar to Firo.

Motoyasu: "Rishia-chan has some praiseworthy cuteness too... I'm jealous of you Itsuki."

Itsuki: "No... that girl is..... "

Itsuki, somehow seems to be getting embarrassed.

The guy who will do anything for the sake of being an ally of justice.

*Doubt grows in me too about how Rishia became a party member of Itsuki's, with how he likes to stir up trouble just to get the fame for solving it and all.

Ren: "Was there such a person?"

Seems like she was outside Ren's view huh.

Well, I can't negate the possibility of Itsuki's party moving on his basis.....They may have feigned friendliness with Ren and Motoyasu.

In the first place, Rishia's weak good luck, or rather, she's not very self-assertive herself.

If you look at it from Ren's side, there were only plain people.

Motoyasu: *"Seems like everyone and me has the same realization."

Itsuki: "Well, in general that's right. If it's just the face."

Ren: "....."

Ren and I ignore in silence

Rather, what's with this conversation.

No, probably something between men.

Firo: "Firo's going back to Oneechan now. "

Naofumi: "Aah, Just go."

Firo: "Yea!"

And, the cheerfully nodding Firo jumped over the fence and returned to the woman's bath.

Now, guess I'll leave.

Somehow, it feels like Motoyasu is in high tension, and wants to open up a conversation with just men.

Motoyasu: "Hey, Naofumi, How far have you gone with Raphtalia-chan?"

Naofumi: "That again, As I said before, we don't have that kind of relationship."

Motoyasu: "Well, Surely Raphtalia thinks differently."

Naofumi: "What are you joking about..."

Motoyasu: "Then, was there no kind of action?"

Naofumi: "None."

Motoyasu: "Well, Then maybe Raphtalia approached you or so?"

Naofumi: "No Approaching or anything. In the first place, she's a kid."

Motoyasu: "Are you dense? Then Raphtalia hasn't undressed or anything? I can't tell with the clothes and armor but her proportion is good right?"

Seems like I gotta keep him company for us to move on.

He really is a troublesome guy.

Naofumi: "Come to think of it, Before..."

An event at the time I was peddling.

It was a time when we went to a famous region with hot springs all over to sell things.

The inn I entered likewise had a hot spring.

Raphtalia: "Naofumi-sama....."

*The evening of that day, Raphtalia, who was wearing a bathrobe, entered the room and talked to me while I was in the middle of compounding.

Somehow, in an appearance only of wrapped in a towel, I remember her seeming embarrassed to me.

Not knowing what she was thinking, Raphtalia undid the large cloth and displayed her own body.

Raphtalia: "H, how is it?"

She acquired muscles to an extent, I know her breast were big too, from that time she hugged before, I thought they would become a hindrance. How should I say, They are plump, I thought where did all that power come from.

Her hair was wet too.

Thought there were some scars on her back , now there's no trace of them left.

Because the time I got her to show me them before, since I had effective medicine for scars I smeared it on them..

Raphtalia was showing me its whole body shamefully.

Naofumi: "Well, It's gotten considerably better right? There's a huge difference between now and the time we met."

Raphtalia: "Eh? Um..... is it just that?"

Naofumi: "Is there something else?"

To my question, somehow Raphtalia had her mouth opened wide as if she was astonished and at a lost for words.

Naofumi: "Also, you'll catch a cold if you stay naked like...."

Firo: "Ah! Oneechan got naked!"

Firo returned to the room and raised a fuss.

Thus took off her one piece, got completely naked and charged here.

*Firo: "Let Firo mix in too!"

*Raphtalia: *"We aren't mixing! What is that?"

*Normally, from the standpoint of the naked Firo, She was eager to get naked.

Naofumi: "And that's what happened. "

Motoyasu: "This dense motherfucker-----!"

Motoyasu with a look of some anger, came swinging his fist at me.

I stopped and gripped that fist.

Naofumi: "What's with you so suddenly."

Motoyasu: "That was a open appeal! To not chow down on a meal set before you is rude!"

Naofumi: "What are you saying. I said it before didn't I? Raphtalia's a kid. And also 'damn serious', she wouldn't be thinking of such a thing."

Try having a relationship poorly, and when it comes time to fight waves she's pregnant and not covered as war potential.

Among other such things.

Raphtalia who gets fired up for a mission wouldn't desire such a thing.

Rather, I'm sure she'd hate it.

I view creating an environment for Raphtalia to fight easily as my motto.

Motoyasu: "That level of denseness, I can't believe it."

Motoyasu, seems like he willfully consents and backs off.

After that, Motoyasu instantaneously switches over, this time shifting his focus on the fence.

Motoyasu: "If we are men, then the obligatory pe-ek-ing, is our responsibility as Heroes!"

Naofumi: "How is that responsibility!"

Motoyasu: "Look, you guys are interested too right?"

And here, Justice dumbass Itsuki isn't keeping silent.

Itsuki: "You mustn't do such a thing!"

And while saying such things, Itsuki doesn't stop Motoyasu very much, instead he gets closer.

You too huh.

Armor and other men are interested too and are gathering around the fence.

Hey Queen.

Seems like Friendships are deepening in a difference meaning.

Ren: "Stupid."

While Ren grumbles such, he doesn't try to get out the bath.

I don't want to go along with these guys anymore.

Naofumi: "Bath in moderation."

Because I'm quite fed up I leave the bath.

Motoyasu: "What Naofumi, you aren't joining in?"

Naofumi: "I said it before, I have no interest."

To insist on what seeing the body of a real woman.

Even under normal circumstances, I recall bitch and become instantly unhappy.

In the first place, if I impudently stay in this place, I might be charged with an unjustified crime again.

They say a wise man keeps away from danger.

So if even Shadow and me are talking in the room safely, when something happens, I would have an alibi.

Motoyasu: "Seriously dense. I understand Raphtalia-chan's hardships."

Naofumi: "Whatever."

Maybe the Raphtalia in your head is in love with me, wants a relationship and is merely waiting for a chance to strike, but reality's different.

She only has respect towards me as a hero.

From such a Raphtalia it'll become a betrayal of expectations.

Sheesh.... they say great men have great fondness for the sensual pleasures, but how about loving it too much.

Motoyasu will surely, after the waves are over, have various experiences with women.

The party by the Bitch for the Bitch is on the verge of collapse.

Naofumi: "Fuu."

After the bath, I cool myself off in the room.

Up until just now, Shadow and I had some idle chat, but they said some kind of report came in and vanished.

Before long, I could hear the sound of footsteps and Raphtalia in a towel came rushing in.

Raphtalia: "Naofumi-sama!"

Naofumi: "What? Were Motoyasu and them found peeping?"

Raphtalia: "Aa, Yes! Just now, the other heroes are reflecting."

Sheesh..... Well, It was the Shadow's observations after all.

*Though this says as friendship is deepened, becomes silent, and is so.

Now that I think about it, what is the standard of peeping in this world?

The norm in my world is around Edo Period or so there appeared to be holes for peeping use in the bath.

Here the men's bath and such had been separated but comparatively in different inns in the region there was mixed bathing.

Raphtalia: "Not that! Naofumi-sama was?"

Naofumi: "Why do I need to peep?"

Raphtalia drops her head crestfallenly to my answer.

Raphtalia: "...I thought talking with the other heroes would have awoken something in you a little.. "

Naofumi: "Awoken?"

A different power or the shield's true strength maybe?

I want to awaken that.

Unfortunately, nothing.

Firo: "What's wrong with oneechan?"

Firo who came back, tilted her head to Raphtalia who head was dropping.

Naofumi: "Who knows."

What made Raphtalia get so depressed?

Naofumi: "What's got you depressed? Did being seen naked by Motoyasu put you into shock?"

Raphtalia: "I wasn't seen!"

Naofumi: "Then that's good. "

Raphtalia: "Haaaa, whatever.. "

Raphtalia returned with a weary look after just stepping out of the bath. By the way, after retuning I asked for the reason but, I didn't get a reply.