

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 126 – Versus the Spirit Tortoise, The Final Fight

… I guess I can't waste any more time.

Now that I think about it, we spent way too much of it inside of the turtle.

It seems that due to our nervousness, we hadn't noticed just how much time had passed.

If I don't leave to help out now, many deaths will result.

"There is something I would like to test." (Naofumi)

I pull out all of the medicine I have on hand and give it to Raphtalia and Firo.

"Naofumi-sama?" (Raphtalia)

"Master?" (Firo)

"Go back to the turtle's heart. I think I figured something out." (Naofumi)

It will probably take everything these two have to stop the heart again.

I know this, but there is no other option.

"Master?" (Firo)

"There's something I must do outside." (Naofumi)

"Outside?" (Firo)

“Yeah, I can only do it once, so I’ll have to retreat after that, though. Rishia, please come support me.” (Naofumi)

“Fueee… I understand.” (Rishia)

“You couldn’t be…” (Raphtalia)

Raphtalia is staring at me.

I’d like to speak with her more, but she probably already knows my intentions.

Raphtalia was there as well.

“If this plan fails, we have nothing left. At that time, please assist in the army’s retreat.” (Naofumi)

“I can’t! What about Naofumi!?” (Raphtalia)

“I understand the danger. If I can’t defeat it here, please return with the Seven Star heroes and try to hold it off.” (Naofumi)

The number on the blue hourglass was most likely the Spirit Turtle’s life span.

And the number never went down no matter how many times we killed it.

“If we do nothing here, many more innocents will die. Raphtalia, you understand that, right?” (Naofumi)

“…Yes, but…” (Raphtalia)

I put my hand on Raphtalia's shoulder and pat it gently.

"It's fine. I won't die. Even if the mission fails, I will do my best to allow the people to evacuate." (Naofumi)

"but..." (Raphtalia)

"I know I am acting out of character, but if we can't stop it now, then our journey will just get much, much harder from here on out." (Naofumi)

I mean a lot when I say this.

I plan to take on the crimes the other heroes have committed. Even after we deal with this turtle, the wave will continue.

The Blue sand and the Red sand. The message from Keiichi has made me certain this Turtle and the Wave are related.

The things I hadn't even thought about before are now coming together in my mind.

There are four heroes, and their weapons can be strengthened with no visible limit. That means that unbelievably strong enemies were set to appear where these bonuses were needed.

If I can't beat this monster here, stronger enemies will appear alongside it.

I want to avoid that at all costs.

"I understand, but still I wish to stand by Naofumi-sa-" (Raphtalia)

"Have you ever seen me hurt by an enemy attack?" (Naofumi)

“N-no…” (Raphtalia)

“Then worry not. I’ll say it again, but I’m not the kind of Good Samaritan that will sacrifice his life here. I will live and return to my old world.”

(Naofumi)

“……” (Raphtalia)

“Regardless, after I use that skill, I will be left unable to battle. Then Rishia can help drag me out.” (Naofumi)

If they launch a surprise attack on the heart, it shouldn’t have enough time to retaliate.

All I need to do is match the timing.

This is a last resort. If this does nothing, then this mission has had no meaning from the start.

I’ll put my hope on the small fragments of information I have gathered.

The risk is high… but worse comes to worst the Seven Star Heroes can take over battling the wave.

I am a little worried about the heart’s energy blast but Firo should be able to avoid it.

“The problem is getting back to that room.” (Naofumi)

“I got there using an underhanded method, but for these two…”

“Leave that to me-gojaru.” (Shadow)

“Do you have something?” (Naofumi)

“I prepared something just in case we had to reach the heart again.-gojaru”
(Shadow)

“Thank You. I’ll leave those two in your care.” (Naofumi)

“Understood-gojaru.” (Shadow)

“Now then, Raphtalia, Firo and also Shadow, Go take out the heart! Rishia,
please back me up. This is the plan-” (Naofumi)

Rishia and Shadow show clear disapproval of my plan.

Rishia also witnessed my fight with the pope. She didn’t know the long-
term effect it had on my body, but she did witness the immediate effects.

“Fuee… You’ll die!” (Rishia)

“Isn’t that a bit much-gojaru?” (Shadow)

“This is something I must do. Raphtalia and Firo don’t have attacks large
enough to finish off a monster of that size. I have to do this.” (Naofumi)

“If the Hero of the Shield retires here, it will greatly affect troop morale-
gojaru.” (Shadow)

“If I was sure of the Seven Hero’s prowess, I might have been able to back
down, but when there’s a city that is about to be attacked right before my
eyes, how can I stop?” (Naofumi)

“...understood-gojaru. I apologize for making the recuperation you did on Cal Mira meaningless-gojaru.” (Shadow)

“Likewise, I apologize for always relying on you like this.” (Naofumi)

I somehow managed to convince the other two, and I give Raphtalia and Firo the orders to assault the heart.

“I’m sorry for sending you back after we just escaped.” (Naofumi)

“Don’t worry about it.” (Rafatalai)

“No Problem~” (Firo)

“I’ll leaving the attack timing to you. It will be difficult, but I trust you can do it.” (Naofumi)

“I understand.” (Raphtalia)

The Turtle’s is almost at the city’s gates.

Even if the plan fails, I must fight the beast to bide for time.

If I can just slow it down a little...

“Naofumi-sama, We’re off. I wish you luck.” (Raphtalia)

“Master, fight!” (Firo)

“Remember to escape as soon as you destroy the heart!” (Naofumi)

“Yes.” (Raphtalia)

“Yep!” (Firo)

In truth, I also don't wish to fight.

But to defeat this thing with the smallest amount of casualties possible, I must do this.

I don't think I am wrong.

Raphtalia rides Firo, and disappears into the Cave we just came out of. With Firo's legs, they should be there soon.

“Men, protect yourselves and follow my lead! Let's go!” (Naofumi)

“Sir, Yes Sir!” (Army people)

“Y-yes!” (Rishia)

Before Raphtalia can make it to the heart, we must reach the head.

“Meteor Shield! Come on Rishia, I'm counting on you too. Fight on!”
(Naofumi)

“Yes!” (Rishia)

Rishia clenches her fists tight and follows close.

On the way, we run into a Yeti-like familiar.

「Zveit Aura!」 (Naofumi)

I cast support magic on Rishia.

“Amazing, my body feels light.” (Rishia)

Rishia quickly takes out the Familiar’s eyes and pierces it’s heart.

Though her base stats are low, due to the bonuses from the Firo Plushy and my support magic, her attacks have become quite potent.

She developed a knack for observing the situation when studying under Itsuki.

For her, seeing through a monster’s weakness is quite easy. I don’t have to protect her against monsters of this caliber.

The Yeti dies before it can even realize it has been hit.

“I-I did it!” (Rishia)

“There are more coming, don’t falter!” (Naofumi)

“Yes!” (Rishia)

Nice response, it seems she has gained some confidence.

We eventually get out of the town, and head into the mountainous area.

… The city is right at the Turtle’s feet.

Damn!

“Isn’t that Melromark?!” (Naofumi)

I see a Lo~t of familiar buildings.

The Turtle moves slowly for its size, but its stride length and lack of rest itself makes up for this

The Spirit turtle has crossed the Melromark national border. That's right, it was going for places with high population densities. Of course, Melromark's castle town is an obvious choice.

The Queen's predictions were quite off.

I can see people evacuating in every direction.

If they just run like that, who's going to help those who can't run?

Not yet...!?

The Spirit Turtle steps into the city. The buildings collapse like toys beneath its feet.

(TL: It was then that Melromark received a grim reminder. They had lived in fear of the Turtles)

Some attack spells are shot from the Castle's direction.

But this monster withstands it without even getting a scratch.

Its magical resistance is too high.

When we first fought the Spirit Turtle, the Queen's army tried to back us up with support fire, but it had had no effect.

Gu... The Turtle is headed directly for the castle.

Raphtalia, Firo, are you there yet?

Suddenly, the Turtle's body clenches, as if it had been hit by a heavy blow.

I can't see its full facial expression, but its eyes show that it is in great pain.

Good, the heart has stopped.

Wrath Shield!

A number appears in my field of vision.

30 Seconds Left. But 30 Seconds is more than enough.

"Rishia, I leave the army's safety to you! If something bad happens, call for an immediate retreat!" (Naofumi)

"U-Understood!" (Rishia)

The Target is the head.

It still hasn't noticed my presence, so I must act fast.

...wait.

If I stop here, Melromark will fall into ruin.

How much grief have these people put me through?

I will never be able to forget the humiliation this country made me feel.

This is my chance to get back at this country isn't it?

...wrong.

There are many kind people here as well.

Old man, Melty, Apothecary, the Volunteer Soldiers, The magic shop... Even though he doesn't really count, the slave dealer is there too

I still haven't thanked these people for the kindness they showed me.

Now isn't the time for vengeance. Now I can finally repay my debt.

「Blutopfer!」

Blood erupts from all over my body. My flesh rips apart and my bones creak.

The pain is even stronger than last time. My head is throbbing.

Is it because I strengthened the Shield of Wrath?

But I knew what was coming this time. I was mentally prepared.

I wonder if my body will hold up...

“*Hack*...” (Naofumi) (TL:Cough sound, throwing up blood)

Please endure, I can't fall just yet.

I've paid the price. Under the Turtle's head, an unbelievably large Bear Trap manifests from the ground.

The Spirit Turtle is still concentrating on healing its heart, so its reaction speed has dropped.

"_____!?" (Spirit Turtle)

A faint scream escapes its lips. The ground below my feet is shaking.

Then a loud metallic bang is heard. The trap closes, digging into the Turtle's flesh.

With a creek, the trap opens again and once more...

"!!!!!!!!?????????" (Spirit Turtle)

The Turtle lets out an unbelievable scream that echoes throughout the area. It tries to rampage

It's too late.

You... Are already dead!

(TL: He really says Omae wa mou... Owarida!)

Bang! The Bear trap closes for a final time. There is not a shred of the Turtle's head left.

Having finished its purpose, the Giant Bear Trap is swallowed by the ground.

...Will it regenerate again?

...

My conscious is fading. I change my shield to the Soul Eater Shield.

Wait! What about the Familiars?

When I turn around, the Army is rushing at me whilst cheering.

“The Spirit Turtle and its familiars have stopped moving entirely!” (Soldier)

As I hear this, my vision slowly fades to darkness…

(TL: The world is red… no the one that is red is me…)

“____mi-sama!” (Rishia)

I hear Rishia’s shocked Voice. I think she caught me. She’s wearing the Firo Plushy so it’s hard to tell, but it’s probably Rishia.

Firo… never calls my name, anyways.

Anyways… I can’t stay conscious any longer.

Did I act too rashly…?

“Rishia, please… Raphtalia… Queen… Report…” (Naofumi)

I’m sleepy. I pray I’m still alive when I open my eyes.

I wonder what death is like. I’m a bit scared.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 127 - Overprotective

「Uuu……heavy」

I remember this feeling.

I open my eyes and check the surroundings.

Looks like I was put to sleep in the healing house's bed.

When I look I see Firo is sleeping while leaning on me, and Raphtalia fell asleep while sitting in a chair.

This is still fine, but for some reason even Melty is sleeping with Firo.

Again huh. When I use Blutopfer it always ends up like this.

「Ah, you regained consciousness ! 」

Rishia just came into my sick room carrying a water bottle.

Unusually she's not wearing the costume.

Thinking about it Rishia looked like this didn't she.

She's always wearing the Firo costume so I forgot.

「Raphtalia-san, please wake up. The hero of the shield regained consciousness」

With a sway Rishia shakes Raphtalia.

While watching that I checked my condition.

There don't seem to be any wounds. The healing house's people probably dealt with the curse too.

But, the lethargy following my body around nearly makes my eyes spin.

As expected, the stat reductions are having quite an effect.

「You guys ! Heavy ! 」

I moved Firo and Melty and got up.

「Nya ? 」

「Ah, Naofumi-sama ! You woke up ! 」

「Yeah, I must've worried you」

「Of course I was worried ! Truly, you were so unreasonable」

I ignore Raphtalia's grumpy scolding and look at Rishia.

If I obediently listened to this from the beginning the sun will set after all.

「What's the situation ? 」

「Are you listening ! ? 」

If I say no she'll probably get angry…….

Well, I am not listening though.

But there's no reason to start a quarrel.

「I'm properly listening. There's a lot of other stuff I want to know」

「Eeeeto…one day's passed since then」

One day……When I released Blutopfer before it took 2 days so it's pretty fast.

As usual my condition's bad, but it's the kind of thing you get used to.

「The queen ordered your treatment to be of the utmost priority」

Which means, it's probably safe to think I received expensive magical and herbal treatment.

There wasn't even a place to give treatment in the castle town before.

「What happened to that turtle ? 」

「It's life ended right before Melromarc was going to take casualties」

「I see」

While I was unconscious, it's good it didn't revive or something. It seems that method was right.

「Right now, they're in the middle of disposing of the remains」

「Understood. By the way」

「Nn……」

「Why is Melty here ? 」

「Etto, Princess Melty heard the hero of the shield was seriously wounded and——」

「Wa, wa, wa——— ! 」

Melty, who just woke up, yells in a loud voice to make Rishia, whose eyes are glittering, shut up.

Just what kind of situation is this.

Just as before, Melty still has a hysteric part to her.

「While I was still sleepy just what kind of made-up stuff were you trying to say ! 」

「I, I'm extremely sorry ! 」

Aah, when dealing with a princess Rishia is also unable to act strong.

Raphtalia and Firo are used to it after all. Rather she seems to dislike stiff attitudes.

「Then Melty, I'm already fine, so return to the castle」

「Is that the way you talk to someone who came to visit you worried ! ? 」

「Oh, that's right. While you're at it call the queen. There's a mountain

load of things I want to ask her after all.]

「In the end it's that ! ? I got it already ! 」

Melty storms out at a pace unthinkable for a princess.

And then right after turning around, she stuck her tongue out and taunted me.

Like a child. No, she is a child.

Isn't it an action fitting for her age.

「Just what are you laughing for. Stupid Naofumi ! 」

「Wait Melty-chan ! You sure do talk the talk. Your Lordship」

「Follow her and come back」

「Yeah」

Firo followed after Melty and left.

「Then……」

The noisy person disappeared.

However, even then there's no need to stay on my side forever.

I get up from the bed and stand.

「Are you fine? Resting a bit longer would be……」

「The injuries are already healed so it's stamina only. Right now I want to check the situation for myself」

I check the status.

……Uwaa. There's only 30% of before I lost consciousness. My defense staying unchanged is the only relief.

While dragging my heavy body, I look outside from the healing room.

……I can see a shell as big as a mountain range is blocking out the sun.

Other than that, I can see guys doing repairs.

Losses ended up heavy. On the other hand, if it hadn't been stopped there the castle would've been destroyed.

……That's right. The wave is coming in 2 days.

Preparations need to be made.

With that thought, I focus on the hourglass floating in my vision to measure the exact time.

Huh ?

The red hourglass' number is still frozen.

And then, I'm able to confirm that the blue hourglass' icon is still moving.

……Etto。

The number is 8 ?

I have a really bad feeling.

Just in case I check.

This time the remaining time in the blue hourglass is displayed.

Roughly……3 and a half months ?

What's happening?

If this is the time until the next wave, or alternatively, some seal dissolves then……it's quite long.

No, if it's preparations to fight a monster that caused that level of damage then it's short?

I don't know.

「Excuse me」

When I turn to the voice the queen enters the room.

Behind the queen there's also the Allies' top brass.

「How does your body's condition seem to be ? 」

「Not that good」

「I have come with a message from an expert healer. You will need at the fastest 3 months to recover. Also even if you go with house rest, he wants that move to be prohibited until full recovery」

「Even if you say that, if I hadn't used it the castle and town would've been annihilated」

「……I understand. Regardless, it's the healer house's healers' appraisal that if you end up having to use it before you recover, you'll definitely die」

「I see……」

There's that large of a risk ? Well, even I knew it took a large toll.

To be honest, it's not like I used it because I wanted to, and if I can avoid having to use it I'd prefer it as well.

「I got it. As expected I won't use it」

I don't want to use a skill that damages me anyway. From now on I'll avoid using Blutopfer.

「Then, how about the repairs ? 」

「Yes, we took heavy damage, and the disposal of the upside-down turtle is holding us up」

「Can that thing even be disposed of ? 」

What can I say, it's currently as if an actual mountain came to the castle.

「Right……According to the investigation squad's analysis rather than dispose it's better to leave it」

「That's about right. It seems disposal is more getting rid of perishables

such as the meat]

「Yes」

It's true the disposal of that mountain-like monster's body will be problematic.

However leaving it to rot until it spreads diseases would be a true problem.

「Currently, we're in the middle of butchering the meat」

「Are you collecting the familiars and materials? 」

「Yeah, the kind of things Iwatani-sama would want were in advance」

That saved me.

There's the soul eater shield's example.

The turtle's shield will be really strong. Probably.

It seems's I'll also be able to absorb its heart and familiars.

「The rest I think I'll explain at the castle」

「Aah……By the way it's about the hourglass but」

「I know about that matter as well」

There were 2 days, so preparations are already finished by now it seems.

It's really helpful the explanation's fast.

「Then, guess I'll go」

「Wouldn't it be better to rest a bit more……」

says Raphtalia, who is worrying about my body.

I understand the feelings, but there are some stuff I might do at the very least.

It's best to rest my body only after I've dealt with the troublesome stuff.

「No, either way I only have to talk. Since I'm only tired there's no problem」

「……I understand. But no matter what don't overdo it, okay?」

「Yeah yeah」

It's true I'm exhausted, but not to the point that I'll die. I'd prefer if I wasn't treated like an invalid……。

Was Raphtalia always this overprotective ?

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 128 - A Hero's Treatment

"Thank you Hero of the Shield-sama~!" (random citizens)

"Hero-sama~!" (more random citizens)

I was heading towards the castle however, because Firo had already gone ahead, I rode in the carriage provided by the queen and the citizens of the castle town waved at me like I was in the middle of a triumphal return.

Such materialistic guys.

Well, I knew that the population has that kind of simplistic thinking from anime and history.

I waved back with no problems. If this was a few months ago, there wouldn't even be any trash flying around.

No matter what, I was the devil of the shield.

Speaking of which, after we overcame the first wave, I was glared at as if saying 'why are you there?'

I'd be delighted if I could just receive the proper appreciation but I just get cheated.

Before long, I entered the castle and proceeded to the conference room. The troops from the Allied Forces were waiting together with the queen.

"Hero of the Shield-sama, this is in appreciation of your efforts in suppressing the Spirit Turtle, really, thank you very much" (queen)

"Your introduction is good. I'd like to hear the status report. In relation to the wave" (naofumi)

The status of the wave and others, I have a mountain of things I want to ask.

The Spirit Turtle was a state of emergency so everything is in chaos but there should be a lot that they've investigated already.

".....I understand. Currently, the Hourglasses of the Dragon's Era throughout the world have stopped." (queen)

"Throughout the world?" (naofumi)

"Yes. Every hourglass has stopped" (queen)

"There was a blue object inside the Spirit Turtle that resembled an Hourglass of the Dragon's Era, that too?"

"Ah, Naofumi-sama" (raphtalia)

Raphtalia raised her hand.

Raphtalia and Firo came back after fighting in the heart so maybe they know.

"This is about when we suppressed the Spirit Turtle but when we were returning from the heart, I saw that hourglass go *poof* and disappear" (raphtalia)

"What?" (naofumi)

"Everything disappeared, I saw it turn into a light and vanish" (raphtalia)

What did that mean?

I looked again at the hourglass with the time of the invasion of the next wave.

As I thought, there's about 3.5 months remaining.

"That matter is currently in investigation. We will report it in due course"
(queen)

"I understand. I don't know if only the heroes can realise it but even on my side, the hourglass' arrival prediction time has stopped" (naofumi)

"Alright..... We'll also ask the Seven Star Heroes about their side" (queen)

"However, three and a half months is projected on another hourglass. Objectively looking at that..." (naofumi)

Immediately, the atmosphere became heavy.

I don't think I was wrong to reveal that, like in a chain reaction, there would be an appearance of a monster after the spirit turtle.

Since it was the four spirits, there should be Phoenix, Kirin and Dragon.

"The time limit is 3.5 months. To prepare until then would be the appropriate action" (naofumi)

"As you wish" (queen)

"What's the damage count?" (naofumi)

".....it's fortunate that only 7 towns, 4 fortresses and 2 castles have been decimated. If more villages were included....." (queen)

"I see....." (naofumi)

"The victim total is.....the count has not been finished yet" (queen)

It's not looking great. There's still the danger of the more appearances of monsters that will cause this much damage.

"Jeez, what's become of those 3 heroes?" (naofumi)

To do this sort of thing and leave it behind yet not showing themselves. They weren't inside the Spirit Turtle and they didn't come out from the back. Where was Itsuki – who Rishia was worrying about – wandering about. The most likely scenario was his death. However, the image of them dying didn't cause any excitement in me. Those guys are irritating rascals and annoying with their fake heroics.

“Is there no report of seeing them anywhere in the Spirit Turtle?” (naofumi)

“Not at present. We sent out a search everywhere but we don't even know they are” (queen)

“Hmm....” (naofumi)

It's an enigma. What were they trying to do by breaking the seal.

I hope that it's not something like there was a strong weapon hidden in a labyrinth underneath where the Spirit Turtle was sealed.

If that's the case, it won't be forgiven with just a punch.

“And, this is concerning those heroes who broke the seal but...” (queen)

“Hm? Do you have something?” (naofumi)

“In order to avoid more disorder, we've concealed the identities of the ringleaders who broke the seal” (queen)

“What?” (naofumi)

“We're concealing it for now but, an inquiry about who's responsible will produce a big risk so....” (queen)

.....Indeed, that's the case.

If the country announces that this great disaster happened because of the heroes, it's quite capable of causing a disservice to unrelated heroes as well.

Three of the Four Sage Heroes caused this calamity. It's not necessarily true that other heroes won't do it.

But before that, the chaos.....in this case, it's the heroes credibility.

Looking at the triumphal return, I can sympathise with how much the inhabitants of this world expect from the heroes.

If it was discovered that heroes were responsible for this, there might just be a riot.

And having to suppress the riot and the waves simultaneously, until finally everything falls together in mutual destruction.

The country should choose not to publicly announce the truth, but that the Spirit Turtle was defeated by the hidden heroes. That sort of visage is better.

This feels like the so-called result of 'playing hot potato with the responsibility issue'.

It's a common occurrence but, it's quite.....

"Also, the heroes are extremely powerful beings and so we will be needing an equal strength to administer justice" (queen)

.....Catching them will also be a pain.

Which is why we have to conceal the truth.

"However, isn't this truth already well-known?" (naofumi)

"It's still at the stage of gossip. That said, it seems each nation being silenced so there won't be much influence on the support of the populace.

We're persistent and announcing that this incident was from a wave"
(queen)

One's livelihood will also be affected when the heroes they believe in, even when there are waves that hint towards the end of the world, in promote havoc.

It can't be helped, you can't even understand it.

".....Nevertheless, there are still rumours" (queen)

The queen added a supplement.

"I've spread a rumour about being punished so so that it won't appear to the other heroes as anything more than simple gossip. Of course, I've mad a large publicity campaign about the Hero of the Shield, Iwatani-sama, being very active but.... just from looking at the status quo in the castle town, it doesn't seem very necessary" (queen)

"Half-hearted! Catch the ringleader! Just fighting the waves! Isn't this all just punishment for me!?" (naofumi)

Couldn't put up with it all, guys raising a commotion appeared. [??]

In this case, catching said people and turning them into a slave would be good but....they can't do that, can they?

If enslaving was possible, it would have been more efficient to enslave us four when were were first summoned.

With the high-grade slave crest, it could even be hidden from the masses.

To begin with, the fact that that Trash didn't enslave me is proof enough.

It seems improbable even if I enquire about it now.

The problem is that hard to handle guys would be useless as slaves.

Well, thanks to that, I didn't end up becoming a slave.

“Have I mentioned it's because it was determined that Iwatani-sama and the Seven Star Heroes could do this?” (queen)

“Grr...Nevertheless, couldn't you just face everyone and say 'we are the country' or some other meaningless line!” (naofumi)

There problem is that isn't it.

Even if they've become rotten, those guys are still heroes so it's hard to tell their followers to arrest them.

Stopping a riot is also a pain.

If it was me, I'd fight but it'll be quite sever to fight with my status having fallen to just 30%.

At the least, I shouldn't be fighting until I've had a full recovery.

I do have the option of leaving it to Raphtalia and the others but I don't know about trying that.

I don't want to burden them with that risk.

“If course if it's possible, I'll have you participate in waves as you've been doing until now. However, heroes are people who possess power. There's always the danger of them going on a rampage. Can't you understand that we can't even say that there are no countries who watch vigilantly for the opportunity to try to assemble heroes?” (queen)

“Melromarc, you vixen! Are these your words!?” (naofumi)

“Certainly our country has its faults. But this argument should have already finished. What do you intend by bringing up this political question again? Are you saying that there aren't people who would use powerful heroes as government tools?” (queen)

.....So troublesome.

If Melromarc and the other countries could just offer heroes a prize and not penalise them, the heroes would immigrate to a nice country by themselves, but there's a risk of becoming a tool of the government.

That's why I can't judge them strongly.

I had already rejected any invites from nice countries before I even knew of them so I couldn't have done that though. If it's them, it might be possible that they have.

Really, this group is too much, we're not getting anywhere.

There's even 1 person in the party, me who also thinks that.....

“I understand the hero's treatment. Also, in regard to just this disaster.....is reconstruction possible?” (naofumi)

The tension of the Allied Forces suddenly dissipated with my query.

Ah, indeed it was quite intense.

“The Allied Forces have taken damage from the infiltration and induction”

“I'm sorry for not being able to defend against it all”

As the Hero of the Shield, I originally had to take action so there won't be any victims. In spite of this, a substantial amount of damage has been dealt.

“No.... they would have been satisfied, everyone who participated in the infiltration said that they could avoid death thanks to the Hero of the Shield-sama being there” (queen)

“I'm pleased to hear that” (naofumi)

“The neighbouring countries took a lot of damage and much time is needed to rebuild” (queen)

“.....I see” (naofumi)

“To be honest, supporting Iwatani-sama is also quite difficult” (queen)

I could only nod at this. If they said they could still give me a lot of assistance even after suffering such devastation, I'd be concerned about where they would get the money from.

“We will assist as much as possible, but when compared to what we had planned.....” (queen)

“Yeah, I know. If I want money, I'll do something about it myself.”
(naofumi)

At this point, you should be gathering money for reconstruction instead.

I saw the damage in the castle town when I was coming here.

¼ of the castle town had been crushed by the Spirit Turtle. Land reclamation is essential for the sake of the people who lost their homes.

Reclamation.....that's it.

“Hey, aiding with something that's not money is okay right” (naofumi)

“Yes, it would be more helpful for us if it was something other than money with the current conditions” (queen)

This would solve the Allied Force's issue, as well as the thing I thought of so far.

“Then— “(naofumi)

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 129 - Social Standing

“Can you grant me some land?” (Naofumi)

“Land? That will probably be fine, but can you explain your reasons? I thought Iwatani was indifferent to the state of this world.” (Queen)

“I understand I am asking for quite a bit.” (Naofumi)

Staying in the same city as the army is something I would like to avoid...

The Queen probably understands this.

“When we were inside the Spirit Turtle, I noticed something. To put it frankly, this world’s army is weak. If I do nothing about this, we will not be able to reduce casualties during the wave.” (Naofumi)

“You Bastard-” (Country Leader)

The one who spoke up is a commanding officer, but the soldiers around him restrain him.

I knew this would happen. That’s why I wanted to remain silent.

“Iwatani has made a rational analysis, let’s hear him out.” (Queen)

“We also have testimony from some soldiers. According to them, the Shield’s companions had super-human strength and preformed magnificently. Compared to that, we...” (Another Leader)

The other leaders hang their heads and say nothing.

I have worked with various branches of the military, including the fighters, mages and assassins. This is my analysis of them so far.

"I'll concede that if the army wasn't there, we would have been destroyed by the turtle. But that is exactly why." (Naofumi)

"Muu..." (Country Leader)

The commander that spoke up lets out a sound of defeat and sits back down.

These people are annoying because of their pride, however they can be quite easy to deal with.

"When I say they were weak, I'm talking about the entire army's attack power as a whole. As we have not established the exact connection between the Turtle and the wave, there is a possibility that even stronger enemies will manifest as the wave progresses. That's why I want to raise a fighting force to combat these disasters. I'll also need some money, but that is secondary. For now, I would like to request for some land to set up a base." (Naofumi)

"I see where Iwatani is coming from. We have also yet to reward him for his efforts, so I guess this will be a good opportunity." (Queen)

"Then my country can-!" (Leader Person)

"No, my country will-!" (Another Leader)

"I apologize, but I have already decided upon a location. I understand what you all are trying to say and am grateful, but I must ask you to stand down for now." (Naofumi)

It will be troublesome to build a base in a country I know nothing about.

And you people just had your towns destroyed by the Turtle. Your people are still suffering.

This isn't the time for you to be giving away money, land, or man-power.

"Someone please get a map." (Naofumi)

The Queen takes a map from Shadow and spreads it on the table.

"... I would prefer it to be close to the Castle Town, but what location does Iwatani wish for?" (Queen)

"Here." (Naofumi)

Without hesitation, I point to a spot near the harbor we went visited to get to Cal Mira. It is on the coast.

"...!" (Rafatalia)

Rafatalia has a shocked expression, but she doesn't speak up.

"I see... That land was the location of the first wave. It faced heavily casualties and has now been abandoned. Is that alright with you?" (Queen)

"I plan to start from scratch anyways. Instead of being close to the Castle, I think it is best to choose a location that fits my preferences." (Naofumi)

"I understand. But for you to own such land, I must present you with some sort of nobility." (Queen)

"I plan to return to my world after this. I don't think I need a permanent title or anything." (Naofumi)

"I shall present this land to you along with the title of Count." (Queen)

"Hey..." (Naofumi)

If I were to become a count, then I would have to deal with troublesome things like land disputes and inheritance.

If this was a light novel, wouldn't I have to work my way up from knight?

I know about the title hierarchy from a manga I read a while ago.

Though that manga was set in recent times instead of the medieval times.

(TL: I don't know what manga this is)

Duke, Marquis, Count, Viscount, Baron.

These are known as the five ranks of nobility, and the higher you go up, the more prestige you get.

Titles can be based on either Family or Land ownership rights. In my world... in Europe, nobility was decided by the amount of land one was given to control...

I think.

This gave birth to many different conquests for land and many different nobles arising.

And many people controlled more than ten-thousand acres of land.

But I don't know if that applies here as well.

"Iwatani might have a child in the near future, so we must prepare for that."

(Queen)

"Hell no." (Naofumi)

Her intentions are being revealed quite casually.

Do you really want me to marry Melty that badly?

"Whatever. If it is completely necessary, I will take the title of count."

(Naofumi)

"Please wait for a moment, there are rituals we must go through to bestow the title unto you." (Queen)

"That sounds like a pain." (Naofumi)

"However, you have really helped us this time around. I would like for you to properly receive the title as a reward for your efforts." (Queen)

I guess if a hero defeats a monster of that caliber, then simply handing over some money isn't enough.

It did kill many people.

“And I am excited to see the change that happens through the country. If the Shield hero who is worshipped by the demi-humans were to become a noble in the Human-dominated Melromark... I told you about it before, right? About the capable person of this country.” (Queen)

“Hm?” (Naofumi)

Now that I think about it, when Trash’s reign of terror ended I heard something about that. That a capable person of this country had died in the wave. He had helped facilitate Human- Demi-human relations.

The Tanuki-human Rafatalia lived in a province heavily populated by Demi-humans.

I see, the land I am asking for was formerly that person’s?

“The land that Iwatani requested belonged to that person. He was quite popular and trusted by the people.” (Queen)

... The Queen seems to be reading my mind.

The various leaders are listening to the conversation intently.

“This will create a lot of rumors, be they good or bad. Fine, I’ll leave the land to you.” (Queen)

“Don’t expect too much.” (Naofumi)

“Now then, please come to the throne room for the ceremony.” (Queen)

“Understood” (Naofumi)

We are led to the throne room.

The Queen hands me a ceremonial sword.

Unless I have the intent to equip it, the system will not give me a warning, so it is probably fine.

It won't look good if it shoots out of my hands.

Before reaching the throne, I receive some instruction from Shadow.

I'm supposed to draw the sword and present it to the Queen, after which she will touch both of my shoulders with it and present a title unto me.

"Hero of the Shield, Iwatani Naofumi, has arrived!" (Guard)

The Castle Guards are playing instruments reminiscent of Trumpets.

It's loud. It's annoying.

I confidently walk towards the Queen, who is standing in front of the throne.

I take a subservient pose and lower my head, while unsheathing and presenting the sword to the Queen.

The Queen grasps the hilt, and slowly taps both of my shoulders with it.

"Hero, for your valiant efforts, my country courteously bestows unto you the Title of Count." (Queen)

And the Queen returns the sword to me.

"We expect great things from you." (Queen)

I return the sword to its scabbard and stand up.

"That's how it is. It's supposed to be a more grandiose celebration than this." (Queen)

"Don't. That would be a pain." (Naofumi)

"Is what I thought you would say. However, the populace needs some form of celebration to advertise your newly gained authority." (Queen)

"I got it." (Naofumi)

With this, I think I will be unable to walk the Castle Town's streets anymore.

Is that the Hero of the Shield? Yeah that person. Hmm... Just like the rumors say, he looks like he is up to no good.

...

Is what I used to hear.

Ah! The Hero of the Shield! The one that defeated that Monster and saved us all!?

...

People point at me and shout. It is now difficult to walk around for a different reason.

It's not like I don't want to be noticed, but this is enervating in itself.

“Now then, I will be talking to representatives of another country for a while. If anything happens, please allow me to help.” (Queen)

Wait, where was Trash during all of this?

… Ah, there he is.

He is staring at me with an irritated expression.

Is he under surveillance, and unable to approach me?

As I think this… I notice he is wearing a collar. (TL: What sort of play is this?)

“___!”(Trash)

Whenever he tries to speak, the collar seems to glow.

It appears to rapidly tighten. Can I laugh?

I think I will laugh.

“_____!!” (Trash)

He seems furious.

But the collar shuts him up whenever he tries to scream.

I give a cynical smile.

“Naofumi-sama…?” (Rafatalia)

Rafatalia says in a stern tone.

"I mean, how can I not laugh? Look at him." (Naofumi)

"Anyways, I also have a lot of things I want to talk to you about."

(Rafatalia)

"I understand, but today I'm tired. Let's go back to our room and rest."

(Naofumi)

When I woke up today, it had already been past noon. The days are passing by too quickly.

"See ya, Trash of the world. Your bitch of a daughter's situation is uncertain, and the other heroes are yet to be found. You will be forever remembered as the Foolish King who led 3 of the 4 heroes to their demise. Good for you, you'll be famous." (Naofumi)

"_____!!!!" (Trash)

Trash points his finger and tries to advance on us as we leave the throne room.

But the soldiers surrounding him succeed in restraining him.

He can't even talk to me anymore. The Queen does good work.

Is that man really one of the Seven Star Heroes? That's definitely a lie.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 130 - Level Reset

I lie down on the bed in the guest room and rest my body.

Ah, indeed it's heavy. When I lie down, I can really feel it. The effects of the curse are strong and quite severe.

The sun has set already, what can I do.

By the way, Firo is with Melty. Their relationship is quite close.

"Thank you for your hard work" (rishia)

Rishia voices these words of gratitude.

"Come to think of it, you're not wearing the costume" (naofumi)

"Ah, Yes. I thought we weren't going to fight for a short while so I took it off, but is that displeasing?" (rishia)

"No, it's just become habitual, I wasn't telling you to wear it" (naofumi)

"Rishia-san is, how do I say it.... it seems like you enjoy wearing the costume" (raphtalia)

"Yes. When I wear that costume my body becomes lighter." (rishia)

That's because there are various enchantments on it. It's quite convenient.

"It was amazing, Naofumi-san" (rishia)

"Ah, at last you call me by my name" (naofumi)

"Eh, ah...." (rishia)

"Don't worry about it. I'm not particularly angry." (naofumi)

Perhaps Rishia gained some courage after prevailing in a big battle.

This is a joyous thing.

“There's territory. There's also court ranking.....this is quite a big promotion”
(raphtalia)

“I was originally a hero..... it doesn't really excite me though” (naofumi)

“Naofumi-sama, what is your desire?” (raphtalia)

Raphtalia asks me with distrust in her eyes.

Speaking of which, she started to speak out when I specified the territory I wanted to the queen.

“Is this about today? It's just as I said. It's unfortunate but the allied troops just aren't reliable. Judging from the tough battle from before, if we don't make a private army of troops, it'll be quite relentless from here on.”
(naofumi)

“But still, why the damaged area from the first wave?” (raphtalia)

“That's also in accordance with what I said during the day, we'll be doing a variety of thing so please be prepared.” (naofumi)

“Hah.....good grief, it seems as though we won't have any peace if we're together with Naofumi-sama” (raphtalia)

“This is all just until we finish overcoming the waves. Please bear with it”
(naofumi)

“I understand” (raphtalia)

“Fufu, you look just like an old married couple” (rishia)

Rishia dropped a bombshell-like announcement.

Well, Raphtalia is the one who I've known the longest in this world, I kind of understand.

We're not a couple though.

"Wha-wha-what are you saying!?" (raphtalia)

Raphtalia yells, her face colouring in embarrassment.

Ah, indeed, Rishia has stepped on a land mine and brought on imperial wrath by mentioning that love affair.

Originally she was just an ordinary slave, but Raphtalia is a more kind-hearted and meddling person than others.

She lost her family, her home was snatched away; I can easily imagine her grief.

In other words, Raphtalia is fighting so there won't be more people in the same situation as her.

With such a noble purpose, Raphtalia wouldn't be thinking of love affairs.

To begin with, Raphtalia's outer appearance may be that of an adult however, in terms of age, she is still a kid.

She's not old enough to be falling in love.

Well, Rishia is in love with Itsuki so those kind of feelings are, for better or worse, a woman's.

Which reminds me, how old is Rishia? Her appearance gives the impression of a middle school student.....so around 14 years old.

It seems a bit premature but it is another world.

“That's right, Rishia. Raphtalia doesn't like those kind of jokes. Be careful”
(naofumi)

“Na-Naofumi-sama.....” (raphtalia)

A blushing Raphtalia regained her composure.
There there, provoking others isn't good.

“O-Okay....?” (rishia)

Rishia tilted her head in confusion whilst staring at Raphtalia and I.

“Well then, we'll be engaged in a variety of things tomorrow. Rishia, what are you going to do?” (naofumi)

“What do you mean by 'what am I going to do'?” (rishia)

“I'm referring to resetting your level. Since the wave has been pushed back considerably, if you want to re-level up, now is a good time” (naofumi)

“Eh, ah!? Tha-that's right isn't it.....umm” (rishia)

“The one to decide is Rishia. Consider your actions properly. Seeing as this is a good opportunity” (naofumi)

“Okay. I will think about it for a bit” (rishia)

Thus, we rested thoroughly and prepared for tomorrow.

“Now then” (naofumi)

After eating breakfast at the castle, we have a quick chat with the queen.
Since the timing was just right, I ask Rishia.

"Have you come up with an outcome?" (naofumi)

"Ah, yes..... I also want to become as strong as Raphtalia-san! Therefore I have decided to start over" (rishia)

"Is that so, well then...." (naofumi)

When I turn to face the queen, the queen also nodded.

"Then I will give instructions to perform the service by means of the Hourglass of the Dragon's Era" (queen)

"That'd be a great help. Today we'll be occupied with a lot of things" (naofumi)

We leave the castle and travel to the Hourglass of the Dragon's Era.

Ah, we should put on a robe to obscure our face. If we don't do this, guys will be following after us in groups, even the queen

"I heard the story from the queen" (soldier)

A soldier guides us to the Hourglass of the Dragon's Era.

.....As I thought, the hourglass has stopped.

For some reason, the sand has solidified and doesn't fall.

"Originally this is only used as a punishment for criminals though" (soldier)

"Just a bit" (naofumi)

"I heard the rumours. The Hero of the Shield's comrades possess strength rivalling that of the heroes', so what's the secret to that strength?" (soldier)

What a nosy soldier.

It would be a burden to get involved in something strange. I limit my answer to something ambiguous.

“No, it's just simple harassment. This kid is a subordinate of someone I hate, you see, I thought I'd reset her level and send her back to him”
(naofumi)

“Fueeeeeeeeeee!?” (rishia)

Rishia lets out a dreadful cry.

“I-is that how it is!?” (rishia)

Read the atmosphere.

Raphtalia looks at me with a shocked face

Where is Firo looking? She's gazing into the horizon.

Sigh....I bring my face close to Rishia's ear and whisper.

“The harassment thing is a lie. If I tell the truth to that kind of fellow, mercenaries and adventurers will swarm us, wanting to be strong. Your Itsuki also had a habit of concealing, right?” (naofumi)

“Ye-yes” (rishia)

Jeez, I'd like you to sense these things.

What adventurers, in the end it'd just be a gathering of ruffians.

After they acquire a certain amount of power, guys who are really eager should enlist to become soldiers in a country somewhere.

Even if they reach the level cap prior to a class up, guys who become adventurers either don't want to enter a guild or are wannabe criminals. What I want to make is a private army who will listen to my instructions, not guys who are just strong.

After the weak become strong, complaints will be raised. At any rate, I would have to deal with those kind of guys in the distant future.

“And, how do I reset the level?” (naofumi)

“Firstly, put on this choker and stand on the magic circle in front of the Hourglass of the Dragon's Era” (soldier)

I give Rishia the choker that the soldier was holding out.

Rishia put on the choker and stands on the magic circle just like the instructions.

Perhaps some sort of power of resistance will be removed by wearing the choker.

“Is this really alright?” (naofumi)

“Yes!” (rishia)

Rishia's decision was firm.

Hm? There are people to help with the service, just like during the class up, but they had prepared a stretcher.

“There is a reaction from the resetting. A few days of rehabilitation will be necessary, I think” (soldier)

I see.....

That's right, if the stats that were natural until suddenly drop, the body will become heavy....

Since I'm already like this, I think that if someone returned to level 1, then they would become unable to move for sure

"There are individual differences though" (soldier)

While saying that, the soldier starts the ritual.

The Hourglass of the Dragon's Era shines, filling the magic circle with power.

It's similar to the scene from the Class Up.

"Right now in this place, there is someone here to release their power for the sake of choosing a new path. Oh, world. Show this person the path and give them a chance." (soldier)

"u....ku...." (rishia)

Rishia moans in the centre of the magic circle.

"A feeling of p-power escaping is..." (rishia)

As I thought, it's that kind of feeling.

Before long, something suddenly emerges from Rishia and I affirm it scattering in all four directions.

"It's over. How's your body's condition?" (naofumi)

"Eh?" (rishia)

Rishia repeatedly opens and closes her hands.

"It doesn't feel very different" (rishia)

"Was it a failure?" (naofumi)

"That shouldn't be the case?" (soldier)

I slowly check Rishia's status.

Right.

It's returned to level 1.

It's just that.... there's almost no change in stats.

The bit that rises from levelling up is almost non-existent, so there's no sense of discomfort even when returning to level 1.

..... If this was reversed, it would be considerably harsh.

If she has no disposition for battle, then what should I do.

I can't just depend on the shield's growth correction.

"By the way, should Raphtalia and Firo do it too?" (naofumi)

"No.....I am...." (raphtalia)

"Firo doesn't want to do it either" (firo)

Well, these two don't really need to.

Growth Correction started when Raphtalia was level 25 so its not like it would be meaningless.

Firo also has the Philorial Series Growth Correction to depend on so there shouldn't be any loss.

Well, if we don't proceed gradually, offensive power won't be enough and we'll become unable to fight.

Moreover.... it seems that the moment Firo resets her level, she'll become a baby chick.

I don't know what kind of growth Philorials have though.

Fixing her upbringing is good but since the one in question doesn't want to do it, there's no need.

"Is that so, then let's head to the next place" (naofumi)

"We're ready whenever" (soldier)

The soldier in charge bows his head.

The interaction is considerably different from before.

I'm aware that I'm staring back and inspecting him.

He's a bit childish but.....my evaluation of him rose a little.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 131 – Where We Met

Quite a few familiar faces from the Christmas Special have started to pop up...

Chapter 131: Where We Met

“Where do you plan to head next?” (Raphtalia)

“I think I have to see the guy I don’t want to meet.” (Naofumi)

“What?” (Raphtalia)

“Eh-?” (Firo)

“W-where would that be?” (Rishia)

Raphtalia looks at the path I’m following. She seems to understand. She holds back a sigh.

I’m surprised she could guess from that sentence. Is she an esper?

... I guess she had saw it coming when I obtained the land.

“Are you selling Firo?” (Firo)

“Is that man really that scary?” (Naofumi)

Firo seems to understand as well. She looks at me with the eyes of an abandoned puppy.

Firo usually acts quite carefree, but I guess she got a trauma from this place.

Though I think she could kill that man instantly if she set her mind to it.

Is it that phenomena where an elephant has his leg tied to a tree as a child, so he doesn't try to run away as an adult? (TL: See Baby Elephant Syndrome)

It might be something like that.

"Calm down, I'm not selling anyone." (Naofumi)

"I got it..." (Firo)

"Eh? Wha?" (Rishia)

Rishia... she's a noble so she probably knows.

Granted, a fallen noble. There is also a chance she doesn't.

I head down a back street and end up in front of the ever-so-familiar tent.

"My, my..." (Slave Dealer)

The slave dealer, who I don't want to meet, greets me with a bored expression.

If you think about it, there are very few people who would go out to buy slaves in the middle of the day.

This person is more famous in the town as a Monster Merchant.

"If it isn't the Hero of the Shield. It's been quite a while. I've heard much about your victory." (Slave Dealer)

"Yeah, it's been a while." (Naofumi)

"I was sure you had forgotten about me." (Slave Dealer)

"I wouldn't be able to forget about a shady character like you even if I tried."
(Naofumi)

It's quite hard to forget this man. He has a sort of unique aura.

It's a feeling similar to the accessory merchant.

I guess he needs to act like that to run this business.

The last time I was here was when I came to purchase Firo's claws. It was around the time I was forbidden from using Class Up.

At that time, I had tried to escape to Silt Welt or Shield Freiden to Class Up Firo and Raphtalia.

I believe that this man had some connection to the Queen... Though he has never personally met her.

"You've been quite busy. I didn't think you would have dubious ties to this country's government." (Naofumi)

"That doesn't change the fact that I approached the Hero of the Shield because I found him interesting." (Slave Dealer)

"Yes, I'm aware of that." (Naofumi)

“Now then, how can I help you today?” (Slave Dealer)

“It’s about your real profession.” (Naofumi)

“Oh!” (Slave Dealer)

The Slave Dealers eyes sparkle for a moment.

What are you so excited about. Don’t think it will be easy to short-change me.

Is he happy that a famous person like me is fighting with his slaves?

While this is a fact, that doesn’t mean they are powerful *because* I bought them from you, you know.

“What price range are you looking in?” (Slave Dealer)

Currently, I have 5000 silver coins remaining of what the Queen gave me.

I’ll need the old man to make some more weapons, so I shouldn’t spend to frivolously here.

“For now, I would like to purchase some Demi-Human slaves around the price of 3000 Silver Coins. If possible, I would like them to be of low level.”
(Naofumi)

“What do you plan to use them for?” (Slave Dealer)

“Why do I need to tell you?” (Naofumi)

“I know. You acquired some land and need some slaves there.” (Slave Dealer)

“I think I’ve said this before, but don’t ask for things you already know.”
(Naofumi)

Really, how much does this person know… If he told me he could see the future, I might believe him.

“Please come over here.” (Slave Dealer)

The Slave Dealer leads me to the back of the tent.

As we start to follow him, Firo stops us.

“What is it?” (Naofumi)

“… I don’t want to go.” (Firo)

It seems the darkness of the tent and the smells are setting off her trauma.

I’m already used to it, but I know it isn’t a nice scent.

“Do you want to wait over there?” (Naofumi)

“Yeah…” (Firo)

Fir nods as she stumbles towards the monster egg display.

You know Firo, that’s where we first met you.

Don’t eat those, I warn her, as I continue to follow the Slave Dealer.

“Um… What are we looking for?” (Rishia)

“We’re going to get people in positions similar to yours.” (Naofumi)

“Fueeee!?”(Rishia)

“Even though fallen, you’re still a noble, aren’t you? And before Itsuki saved you, you were in a similar situation weren’t you? Please read the situation.”

(Naofumi)

This country has an active slave trade. Nobles and other rich folk should be well aware of its existence.

Why is Rishia so surprised?

Is she unexpectedly quite dense?

“T-this is a… I never noticed.” (Rishia)

“But they don’t deal in human trade.” (Naofumi)

“I see…” (Rishia)

We follow the slave dealer, and end up near the cages where I first saw Raphtalia.

“… This is where my fate changed…” (Raphtalia)

I am also reminiscing about that time.

Though it wasn’t that long ago, it feels like years have passed.

“Let me pick out some slaves that are within your budget. I’ll even give you a slight discount.” (Slave Dealer)

“How generous.” (Naofumi)

"I hear you are starting up quite an interesting town. It's quite exiting! Perhaps you will become my best customer after this." (Slave Dealer)

"Well... I just come to fulfill my needs." (Naofumi)

"Though business may seem to be slow today, I have already earned a large profit from The Hero of the Shield's fame." (Slave Dealer)

"What do you mean by that?" (Naofumi)

"During negotiations, if I bring up your name, they expect their new slaves to turn out like your companions. Even if I overcharge, they seem to knowingly accept it." (Slave Dealer)

Raphtalia did earn herself quite a bit of fame during the last battle.

She outclassed the entire continental army in ability. If people learned this is the place that sold her, I guess business will improve greatly.

"Ah, besides those, there is also another type of slave I wish to purchase."
(Naofumi)

"What may you be interested in?" (Slave Dealer)

In response to the Slave Dealer's question, I turn my focus to Raphtalia.

I approach her head on and put my arm on her shoulder.

"W-what is it?" (Raphtalia)

"Raphtalia, is there anyone here from the village you used to live in? I don't care about the price, pick anybody you recognize." (Naofumi)

“!?” (Raphtalia)

Raphtalia widens her eyes in surprise.

“U-um… Are you really okay with that?” (Raphtalia)

“What are you saying at this point in time? Employing people who used to live in that land is the most efficient option for reconstruction. They might have to fight a bit, but our main objective for now is resettling the land.”

(Naofumi)

Raphtalia probably has the wish to go back to the village she used to live in tucked in somewhere in her heart.

It occurred to me when I visited the graveyard with Raphtalia. I need to work hard so that when I leave this world, Raphtalia will still have a place to call home. Even if I’m gone…

Of course that isn’t my only reason.

Raphtalia’s former village is on the sea, and if you walk a few hours from it, you can reach the mountains

As people used to live there, the ground is relatively level and ready for agriculture.

It’s the perfect area for testing various things.

(TL: It’s perfect for both farming and Farming)

Because of the wave, I won’t be kicking anyone out of their homes either.

“Oh, Slave Dealer, can you ask around the store you got Raphtalia at? I’m willing to buy back slaves from nobles if I must. They’ll probably be willing to part with them if you mention the Hero of the Shield.” (Naofumi)

My popularity is rising in this country. There’s no reason I shouldn’t use that.

“You plan to motivate your slaves by giving them their previous homes, all while putting them to work? The thought process of the Shield intrigues me! I understand. I’ll ask around.” (Slave Dealer)

“Now then, Raphtalia, do you see any familiar faces?” (Naofumi)

“… Please give me a moment.” (Raphtalia)

On a side note, that silk hat… he seems to jump on board any idea I suggest.

I’m scared of his ulterior motives. I’ll investigate his movements later.

The Slave Dealer shows Raphtalia around the cages containing the slaves, and she carefully examines each individual one.

“-Found one!” (Raphtalia)

So there was one.

Raphtalia is pointing her finger at a Demi-Human child… It’s a man with dog-like features. His age seems to be around 10. He’s a little larger than Raphtalia was when I first met her.

“You’re Kiel-kun, right?” (Raphtalia)

"...Who are you? Why do you know my name?" (Kiel)

So he wasn't listening to our previous conversation.

"You forgot my face? I might have gotten a bit bigger, but I'm Raphtalia."
(Raphtalia)

"Eh!?" (Kiel)

The boy named Kiel looks quite surprised.

"That's a lie. The Raphtalia-chan I knew was smaller than me, and she isn't as beautiful as you. Though she was kinda cute..." (Kiel)

Kiel says this as if talking about a deceased person.

"Then I'll prove to you I'm the real thing. Two months before that incident happened, you were looking for a pretty shell to give Father for his birthday so you dived into the ocean. You almost drowned, so Sadina jumped in to rescue you and together, you..." (Raphtalia)

"...Eh!? Are you really... Raphtalia-chan?" (Kiel)

"That's right, and after that, remember when you accidentally ate a poison mushroom you found in the field, messed up your stomach, and hid to avoid being scolded? You told me to keep it a secret when I found you. You had even wet your pa-" (Raphtalia)

"Wai-! Yes! I believe you! You're Raphtalia-chan." (Kiel)

Memories from the past? How charming.

But the contents seem to be quite embarrassing.

“Raphtalia-chan. Why did you become so big… so pretty?” (Kiel)

“You know, I am currently the slave of the Hero of the Shield.” (Raphtalia)

“Eh!?” (Kiel)

“Naofumi-sama is quite a trustworthy person. And by his request, I am currently searching for the people who used to live in our village.”

(Raphtalia)

“D-do you mean me? Can I finally go back home?” (Kiel)

“Yes, but… You will be employed as Naofumi-sama’s slave, and put to work. I guarantee he won’t do anything evil, though. Do you want to come with us?” (Raphtalia)

The child Kiel fidgets and blinks a lot as he listens to Raphtalia’s request.

His face is slightly pale.

“Is the Hero of the Shield that man over there?” (Kiel)

Kiel stares at me.

What’s with that attitude.

“That’s right. He might have an evil look around his eyes, and he might have a habit of smiling cynically whenever something bad happens to the people he dislikes, but he’s a good person.” (Raphtalia)

“Are you even trying to persuade him?” (Naofumi)

She seems to be casually throwing in complaints against me. She’s grown to be quite confident.

But trying to persuade someone with those words is impossible.

If it were me, those words would make me even more cautious.

If I heard those words, I would think that Raphtalia had been brainwashed by a shady person.

… It hurts that her complaints are right on the mark.

“He’s the hero that saved this country. Don’t you know about him?”
(Raphtalia)

“Now that you mention it, it has been getting noisy as of late… Will I really be able to go back to that village?” (Kiel)

“Yeah. Your mother and father… won’t be there, but if we work hard together, we can rebuild that village.” (Raphtalia)

“…I understand.” (Kiel)

Kiel nods and grabs Raphtalia’s outstretched hand.

“I’ll add him to your purchase, Please continue to pick out slaves with that girl.” (Slave Dealer)

“I’ll need to prepare a few things in regards to that matter. Leave that to us.” (Naofumi)

"Yes!" (Raphtalia)

"Fufufu, I feel that it will be getting interesting around here." (Slave Dealer)

"Let's go, Rishia." (Naofumi)

"How wonderful...Yes!" (Rishia)

Rishia follow closely with teary eyes.

Does Rishia not do well with these sort of stories? She seems like she would be an avid reader.

(TL: I believe Rishia is crying for joy at Kiel and Raphtalia reuniting)

Firo suddenly runs over.

"Are you done yet?" (Firo)

"Oh right... Firo, there's a favor I would like to ask of you." (Naofumi)

"What?" (Firo)

"Please take Rishi and go level grind for a bit. Go hunt until you feel satisfied." (Naofumi)

"Fue?" (Rishia)

Firo's eyes sparkle and Rishia lets out a confused sound.

What is so surprising?

Did you forget about wanting to get stronger?

“I’m going have to train my newly attained slaves anyways, so this will be good practice. Also, I will be troubled if Rishia stays at level 1 for too long.”
(Naofumi)

“B-but how am I supposed to train with Firo-san?” (Rishia)

“Don’t worry, you just have to ride Firo and make sure you don’t fall off. You’ll still gain EXP. Firo’s carriage is a rough vehicle to ride, you may need to train yourself. Raphtalia went down this road herself. This is killing two birds in one stone.”

It’s a leveling strategy often used in online games. It’s also used in various console RPGs.

A high level character fights with minimal support from a low-level one.

If I leave it to Firo, things should turn out just fine.

“Then, Firo will be off~!” (Firo)

“Fuee!?” (Rishia)

Firo turns into her monster form, grabs Rishia and throws her on her back. She then proceeds to sprint out of the tent.

“FUEEE-” (Rishia)

Rishia’s scream of terror fades into the distance.

“Now then…” (Naofumi)

I put on a cloak and leave the tent.

There are some other places I need to stop too.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 132 - Acquaintances

I don a cloak and begin to walk around the town.

As expected, the damages are quite severe. The effects of the Spirit turtle are still clearly visible.

There is also clear sign of damage caused by the onslaught of familiars.

As I'm walking, I arrive at a familiar store.

Good, this building is still standing.

There aren't really any visible damages. The building seems to be conducting business as usual.

I walk into the store... The Old Man's store.

"Welcome." (Old Man)

"I'm happy you're safe." (Naofumi)

"That voice... boy, is that you?"

I take off the hood of the cloak and greet the old man.

Luckily, he doesn't have any visible injuries.

"Why are you wearing such a suspicious cloak?" (Old Man)

"I don't want to stand out." (Naofumi)

“Well, you have become quite famous, lad.” (Old Man)

Yep, that’s my main problem right now.

I’m not like Itsuki. When people call out my name in praise, it sends shivers down my spine.

I don’t think popularity is bad in general, but having the people of this country praise me doesn’t make me feel good at all.

And right now, I have too many things that I have to do. I can’t waste my time dealing with these people.

“Well I guess having people flock around you would get annoying after a while.” (Old Man)

“By the look of it, this store hasn’t really been affected.” (Naofumi)

“Pretty much. I was able to drive off all the monsters that came this way.”
(Old Man)

“Good job on that.”

“I saw it. You stood on that monsters neck and suddenly started bleeding, but then a large thing came out of the ground and killed it.” (Old Man)

“You saw that?” (Naofumi)

I guess it is quite a feat to be able to focus on that while being swarmed by monsters.

I wonder just how strong the Old Man is.

I don't really feel like finding out either.

"I was on the battlefield, so I was able to witness it: your power." (Old Man)

"I see. Old Man, What level are you?" (Naofumi)

"I have long since given up on becoming an adventurer. Please don't pry any further." (Old Man)

My question was denied. Really, what level is he?

He's at least done Class Up once, and he is on a level where he can fight on par with the Spirit Turtle's Familiars.

... at least 70, probably.

"You've been through a lot since you first came here. When I first saw you, I couldn't believe you would be able to change the world." (Old Man)

"I was of the same opinion." (Naofumi)

I casually converse with this Old Man. He really has done a lot for me.

The Old Man looks around me intently.

"Is it just you, today?" (Old Man)

"Yeah" (Naofumi)

"What happened?" (Old Man)

“Raphtalia is currently working on a different job, and Rishia has gone hunting with Firo.” (Naofumi)

“What about you, boy?” (Old Man)

“The city is quite damaged, so the castle has put all of its manpower into helping rebuild. Because of that, royal weapon production has been ordered to cease.” (Naofumi)

“I guess they’ve got no choice…” (Old Man)

“Yep.” (Naofumi)

I can’t ask him to make me anything right now. For now, I guess I should get his advice.

I’ll probably need something later. I’ll have to think about it.

“How’s the store going?” (Naofumi)

“A calamity of this scale just happened. Everyone is rushing out to buy weapons.” (Old Man)

“So Business is booming.” (Naofumi)

“Yeah, I’ve sold so much that my store room is almost completely empty.” (Old Man)

“Isn’t that just peachy.” (Naofumi)

“Yeah but… for people without any passion for weapons to just go out and buy them in a panic… It feels a little sad.” (Old Man)

There's no helping it. The town was almost destroyed. It's not surprising that people with no skill are rushing to obtain armaments.

It's probably like that. In preparation for the apocalypse, people are frantically looking for weapons and armor to increase their chances of survival.

From what I've seen, there's been no looting yet. They seem to be heading in a positive direction.

"Is that all you needed today?" (Old Man)

"Oh, about that..." (Naofumi)

I'm debating whether or not to ask him about arming the new slaves.

The Queen has already approved my proposal, so I can probably get some second-hand equipment from the army, but getting any more than that will be logistically difficult in this time of crisis.

These items are quite important. I don't want to risk it on second-hand goods.

There's also a problem of upgrades and maintenance. Well, first I should tell the Old Man the Situation.

"I received some land from the Queen, I'm planning to start a business there." (Naofumi)

The Old Man will be really helpful in procuring equipment, and various other tasks. I'll try recruiting him.

“So what relation does that have to me?” (Old Man)

“I’ve come to scout you.” (Naofumi)

When starting up a new town, iron goods are essential

Plus, I’m already certain of his skill. I can place my hopes on his equipment.

“I had kind of figured it out. But I have this store.” (Old Man)

“I know. I won’t force you or anything. Perhaps… I may send someone to you to ask to be your disciple.” (Naofumi)

“Ah, so it’s like that… I got it, boy… Though my skills aren’t that great, I’ll try to train anyone you send me.” (Old Man)

Okay, I’ve got some approval.

If there’s a skilled slave, maybe I can send him to learn under the Old Man.

After that, I just have to buy the equipment. I don’t plan to make the Old Man teach for free, either.

“Don’t be so modest. I’m confident in your skill.” (Naofumi)

“Ha, I’m working my hardest to meet your expectations.” (Old Man)

“Next is… Oh right, do you have any information about the other vendors?”
(Naofumi)

“Ah, right. The Magic shop collapsed, didn’t it?” (Old Man)

So that big magic shop collapsed... It was on the Castle Town's main street. It was also on the side of town the Turtle attacked from.

...

"Were the employees Okay?" (Naofumi)

"Yeah, the owner escaped without a scratch. The problem is that the Store is now gone. She's currently taking refuge in Ryut Village." (Old Man)

"I see..." (Naofumi)

"The Medicine Shop has gotten quite busy." (Old Man)

"There were quite a few injured in the disaster, so that business is thriving as well." (Naofumi)

"Something like that. But the clothing stores seem to be losing business." (Old Man)

Fumu... So no one I knew dies.

I don't have to go around the whole town to investigate.

"Well, I'm starting a business, so please give my regards to the other vendors. The place is..." (Naofumi)

I tell the Old Man about my land. I also talk about the village that it will be centered around.

Right now, The Hero of the Shield is popular. There may be some people willing to jump on the bandwagon.

It would be best if I could have some people that I trust among them.

The village isn't exceptionally far from the Castle Town anyways.

"Got it, Got it. Everyone was worried about you anyways, my boy. Some people may be willing to go with you." (Old Man)

"I have a debt to those people, so I'll give them some preferential treatment. Old Man, if you ever feel like moving, you can come any time."
(Naofumi)

"Got it, Got it." (Old Man)

And with that, the Old Man casually avoided the topic. However his gaze seems to be serious.

"You have something else to ask, don't you?" (Old Man)

"You can tell?" (Naofumi)

"Boy, every time you come here, you come with a mountain of requests."
(Old Man)

"I see..." (Naofumi)

I don't really want to show it. I take off the cloak and show him my armor.

The Old Man gives a look of understanding.

"It was an intense battle. It held up well." (Naofumi)

The Barbarian armor is in a terrible shape. Its defense has also dropped considerably.

It's autonomous repair function did not activate at all. I wondered if it was beyond repair, so I took it to the Old Man.

"The Core Piece is not very damaged, but... everything else is gone case."
(Old Man)

"Can you fix it?" (Naofumi)

"Hmm... It's not like it can't be repaired but... that depends on the materials. It will also cost a bit." (Old Man)

"Is that so?" (Naofumi)

"Will you put in a request? I got some rare materials from that Monster for cheap." (Old Man)

They have more of those parts than they can handle.

It seems that a large quantity of materials were set aside for me, but still the turtle has way too many materials for the town to get rid of all of them.

"I am overstocked on those materials. If you pay a little money, I can make a lot of stuff for you." (Old Man)

"Is that alright with you?" (Naofumi)

"Don't worry, if it's a request from you, I'll definitely carry it out. I also want to experiment with unknown materials." (Old Man)

"..." (Naofumi)

This man's generosity towards me... it seems to be endless.

His skill level is also on a level I can respect. To be honest, I really want him to come work in my village.

Right now I am just starting out. Once I've finished setting up the village, I'll invite him again.

"Well, in a matter of priorities, I guess the armor comes first... After that comes making a shield. You won't necessarily lose any money on that one."
(Old Man)

"Yeah, worse comes to worst, I can just copy it, and re-sell the original."
(Naofumi)

"So you do get it. Well, please leave your armor here." (Old Man)

"Understood." (Naofumi)

I take off my wreck-of-an-armor and hand it over to the Old Man.

"As for the core piece, I think you should hold onto it." (Old Man)

"Is that alright?" (Naofumi)

"I'll embed the core in later. You can pay for it at that point in time." (Old Man)

"Thanks."(Naofumi)

“Boy, what do you plan to do while waiting for your armor?” (Old Man)

“I think I’ll borrow a second-hand one from the castle. Or maybe I’ll wear the Costume.” (Naofumi)

That costume *does* have some useful features attached. If only the appearance could be changed…

Rishia seems to be forming a strange affinity for it, but… that’s not my problem.

“Anyways, I’ll leave it to you.” (Naofumi)

“Got it!” (Old Man)

My negotiations with the Old Man are complete. I put the cloak back on and leave the store.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 133 - E Float

“Now then…”

I put in a few requests with the Old Man. I could go meet up with Raptalia and the others, or I could go talk to the Queen. I have some questions about her plan from here on out.

I might be able to get some second-hand equipment as well.

I return to the castle, and ask for the Queen’s location.

It seems that after the meeting ended, she went to her office to do paperwork.

“Queen.” (Naofumi)

“Iwatani? What is troubling you now?” (Queen)

“Can you spare us some equipment?” (Naofumi)

“Sure, there’s no issues with me doing that. However, much of the equipment we currently have on stock has been heavily damaged during the previous battle.” (Queen)

“I know, but right now I don’t need anything high class. If you’re not using it, can you hand it over?” (Naofumi)

“It’s for managing your new land, right?” (Queen)

“Correct.” (Naofumi)

“Oh, right. Iwatani, I have a favor I would like to ask of you.” (Queen)

The Queen’s tone makes it sound like it is quite a big deal.

“What is it?” (Naofumi)

“I have finished speaking with the other countries… it’s about managing the heroes for the next waves.” (Queen)

“Fumu…”

Though we still don’t know the meaning behind the blue hourglass, the red hourglass may begin to move again soon.

The red one only had 3 days left on it. It will be difficult to prepare if it suddenly starts moving again.

The other 3 heroes are still missing, so there is a large problem regarding man-power.

“Many countries want to focus on Iwatani as a main fighting force. There are also plenty of countries that want to deny entry to the other heroes.” (Queen)

“Of course, after that…” (Naofumi)

The information has been hidden from the general public, but the leaders won’t want to let those who caused this calamity to enter their countries.

Even countries unrelated to the incident wouldn’t want the same thing to happen to them.

“Of course, that only applies if they are still alive. If they are found, can I leave it to you to arrest them?” (Queen)

“You remember that my stats won’t recover for another 3 months, right…?” (Naofumi)

“I know I may be asking the impossible. I do think that they will return to this country, if they do return, though…” (Queen)

“Why is that?” (Naofumi)

“Because of spreading rumors, most of the countries besides this one have decided to place restrictions on the movements of the heroes.” (Queen)

“Doesn’t that mean you can monopolize the heroes?” (Naofumi)

… What a fearsome woman. Somehow got to gain exclusive access to a massive fighting force.

“The belief is spreading that the heroes other than the Shield were false heroes…” (Queen)

Well I can understand their train of thought. They could have just obtained weapons that change shape.

It seems that in the past, production of such items was possible.

“The belief is spreading that the summoned heroes other than Iwatani were fakes, and that they should instead depend on the strengths of the Seven Star Heroes.” (Queen)

What sort of belief is that?

The mindset of people overcome by fear scares me.

...Though I don't know what sort of people the Seven Star Heroes are in the first place...

"The contributing factor to this belief was a rumor that began circulating during the last wave." (Queen)

"Ah, the fact that all the heroes other than me lost?" (Naofumi)

"Yes, there were many people who witnessed that battle, so it was impossible to stop the spread of such a rumor. The rumor had almost died down, but then they had to go off to another country and cause this disaster..." (Queen)

Fake Heroes...

It's the same thing that happened to me before. I have to be careful not to get any bad rumors spread about me.

"There is also the question of their strength. They are definitely strong, but they are not on a level that is impossible to attain by a normal person..." (Queen)

I don't really know exactly how strong those 3 are, so I can't really say anything in regards to that.

But they are probably still sticking to their own systems of enhancement instead of trying the others.

“But it will be troublesome if no country accepts charge of them… So I have decided to make this country the only one to accept them.” (Queen)

Shadow should have told them about how to unlock the other systems, but they stubbornly stuck to the belief that this was the world of the game they knew.

Looking back, their way of doing things was quite half-assed.

If they had only attempted to trust the others, they may have been able to get 3 times the enhancements as before.

Because I was oblivious, I tried out all of the systems and got my weapons to this level…

They’re just like Raphtalia and Firo when they had reached their level 40 cap before classing up.

Though their level rose beyond 80, that doesn’t mean they were getting particularly stronger.

Because I properly strengthened my equipment, I can keep up with Raphtalia and Firo, but I’m not sure about the others.

“Oh yeah, what about Bitch?” (Naofumi)

“There’s still a faint response from her… If I want to, I can still activate her slave crest.” (Queen)

“I wouldn’t really care if she died, though…” (Naofumi)

"... Bitch has some uses while alive, so it would be troublesome if she died. And she still owes me some money." (Queen)

"Uses?" (Naofumi)

"Well, her punishment helps entertain Iwatani... plus if she never repents, there is still something we can have her do..." (Queen)

"Hmm..." (Naofumi)

What will you make her do?

I think I will feel motivated to find her if you tell me.

"Do you want to know what I plan to do to her?" (Queen)

"No, I feel it will be more fun to find out when the time comes." (Naofumi)

If it's something cruel, I think it is better to hear it whilst in front of her. It will give off a 'surprise party' sort of feeling.

"Ah right, have you already gathered the necessary materials from the turtle?" (Naofumi)

"Yes. I was just about to call you to collect them. They are lying around the training grounds in front of the warehouse. You may do as you wish with them." (Queen)

"Got it." (Naofumi)

I part with the Queen, and look around the front of the warehouse as instructed, and begin to feed the large mountain of Spirit Turtle and Spirit Turtle Familiar materials to the shield.

...

As I was doing it, I noticed a giant eyeball, and a chunk of a brain inside of the mountain.

Did they go as far as to take apart the head and bring it all the way here?

This head is probably the one that Raphtalia and Firo were able to cut off during the Recon Battle.

There were also things that looked like parts of the heart, and a moss like substance. There's even some lumber.

If I want to feed the shield all of this, I'll have to stay up all night. I'll leave some meaty bits to cook later...

-

You have unlocked the Spirit Turtle Carapace Shield

You have unlocked the Spirit Turtle Skin Shield

You have unlocked the Spirit Turtle Flesh Shield

You have unlocked the Spirit Turtle Bone Shield

You have unlocked the Spirit Turtle Blood Shield

You have unlocked the Spirit Turtle Bodily Fluid Shield (TL: (° ۞))

You have unlocked the Spirit Turtle Leukocyte Shield

You have unlocked the Spirit Turtle Muscle Shield

You have unlocked the Spirit Turtle Heart Shield

You have unlocked the Spirit Turtle Myocardium Shield

You have unlocked the Spirit Turtle Capillary Shield

You have unlocked the Spirit Turtle Heart Eye Shield

You have unlocked the Spirit Turtle Iris Shield

You have unlocked the Spirit Turtle Sacred Tree Shield

You have unlocked the Spirit Turtle Familiar (Bat Form) Shield

You have unlocked the Spirit Turtle Familiar (Yeti Form) Shield

...etc (TL: Quite a pain to translate anatomy terms)

I unlock a ridiculous amount of shields from the Spirit Turtle Series.

All of them have really high base defense.

The one with the highest defense is the Spirit Turtle Carapace Shield. It's base is many levels above the Chimera Viper.

I guess enhancing this weapon will be fun.

Now then... to look at its stats...

It seems that a skill can be unlocked by awakening it.

-

Spirit Turtle Carapace Shield 0/40 C

Ability Bonus

...

Equipment Bonus

Skill: E Float Shield

Gravity Field

C Soul Recovery

Magical Barrier (Large)

Weapon Proficiency 0

-

E Float Shield... Is that short for Air Stream? (TL: Can someone translate 工アスト)

What sort of skill is that?

I should probably test it.

「E Float Shield!」

The word 'On' appear in my field of vision. In the air, a shield manifests.

... Is it something like Air Strike Shield?

I think this as I try to approach the floating shield...

As I walk forward the shield moves as well to match my movement.

?

Is it a wall that moves with me as the base? It's like a combination of Air Strike Shield and Meteor Shield.

I wait for the skill to wear off.

...It's not disappearing.

Its effective time is quite long. I don't have time to wait for it to vanish. I'll figure out its effect time later.

C Soul Recovery is probably the ability that the Spirit Turtle had. The ability to steal and recover SP as you attack

Gravity Field is an ability that seems to be common in the Spirit Turtle Series.

I believe it will force objects to be drawn to the ground, but as I am the only person here, I can't really test it.

...

As I am deep in thought, the E Float Shield begins to spin in the air in front of me.

What is this?

It's getting in the way. Go away.

And with that thought, it does indeed move away.

...So it can move to whatever location I command it to move to.

This might be quite useful.

Its effective range is 1 Meter from me.

The on-off icon that appears makes me think it is probably a Semi-Passive skill.

My SP is slowly decreasing over time.

I think I will be able to keep it up for quite a while. As expected of something made of Spirit Turtle Materials.

"Change Shield!" (Naofumi)

I change my equipped shield. And instead of disappearing the floating shield changes to match my new shield.

Hmm... This could have quite a few uses. The only flaw is that I can only bring out one at a time.

This shield may become part of my main repertoire. But that depends on the quality of the shield the Old Man makes for me.

The other Shields are... There are some with nothing but high base stats, and others with plenty of Stat Increasing effects.

? I spot an abnormal shield within the list.

-

Spirit Turtle Heart Shield 0/45 C

Ability Bonus

...

Equipment Bonus

HP Recovery Increase (Small)

C Magic Snatch

C Gravity Shot

Tenacity Enhancement (TL: Literally Life Force Up)

Weapon Proficiency 0

C Magic Snatch... It probably lets me steal magic power. C Gravity Shot seems to be an offensive ability.

(TL: Though he may be stating the obvious, most of the skill names are in english while his explanation is in japanese.)

Tenacity Enhancement? If this were a game, it would increase my endurance.

There are still plenty of shields to examine. I'll look through them later.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 134 - Balloon Shield

“Naofumi-sama”

As I am testing out my new shields, Raphtalia comes running over.

She was gone for quite a while. Did she finish gathering her fellow villagers?

“I went to many different stores with the Slave Dealer, and managed to gather quite a few people.” (Raphtalia)

“I see… Okay, I’ll go check it out. Do you think I have enough funds?”
(Naofumi)

“Yes, I was sent over to ask what you wanted to do with the remaining money.” (Raphtalia)

“I see. I’ll head over to the Slave Dealer’s place then.” (Naofumi)

“Yes, let us go. Where are Firo and Rishia?” (Raphtalia)

“I sent them out to hunt. I think they will be out for a while.” (Naofumi)

I don’t know how far Firo went.

I don’t think she will go to a place where even she will have trouble.

Her feral instincts are quite sharp.

“Ah, but first I have to say something to the Queen.” (Naofumi)

It will probably be best to prepare to depart tonight.

Time is of the essence. I need to see just how much I can train these people.

“Hmm? Have you finished preparing?” (Queen)

The Queen appears behind me. It seems she went out for a walk.

I fed most of the materials to the Shield, so the mountain has pretty much disappeared.

… The Queen must be pretty busy right now. It’s not strange for her to look for a change of pace.

“For the most part. Please send the rest of the materials to my village. I plan to make the meat into a meal sometime in the near future.” (Naofumi)

With the new slaves I will be getting, the need for food has risen exponentially.

It’s not that I can’t procure food on my own, but there’s a lot I need to do right now. First I need to work on reestablishing the village.

“Then I shall dispatch a platoon of soldiers to assist in your work. Please use them as you will.” (Queen)

“Ah, thanks. I plan to head to the area now to prepare.” (Naofumi)

“If you need anything, please feel free to ask. We will do our best to meet your needs.” (Queen)

“I got it. The first things I’ll need to do is to collect construction materials and put up theft countermeasures. I plan to depart tonight, so please prepare the men by then.”(Naofumi)

If a hero were to load a carriage with a large load of slaves it would seem quite shady. That’s why leaving in the night is probably best.

I thought Firo’s eyes would be like those of a bird, but she can see at night just fine. Travelling at night is no problem.

“I understand.” (Queen)

After hearing the Queen’s response, I thank her and leave the castle. I head for the Slave Trader’s tent.

“Hero of the Shield, I have gathered the slaves at your request.” (Slave Dealer)

“Yeah, I heard from Raphtalia.” (Naofumi)

When I enter the tent, I see some Demi-Human children, 8 in total, staring at me from inside cages.

All of them are watching my every action with fear.

Some of them are even shaking.

“I thought there would be adults here as well…” (Naofumi)

“In the wave, most of the adults perished… We don’t know the fate of those that survived…” (Raphtalia)

Even if they survived, Raphtalia was unable to discover their locations. Or perhaps she found that they had died afterwards...

If they had fled during the First Wave, there is a possibility that they escaped to Silt Welt or something like that.

Finding them will probably be impossible.

Anyways, I don't plan to dig very deep into this.

"Now then, I'm sure you have already heard it from Raphtalia, but I will declare it again here." (Naofumi)

It's probably best for me to act strict here.

At the start, Raphtalia was a coward and Firo grew to be selfish.

To avoid these problems down the road, I should treat them with discipline.

"From now on, you all are my slaves. You will travel to your former village and rebuild it, while training to get stronger." (Naofumi)

If I show kindness here, I will be looked down upon.

"I hate lazy people the most. If anyone begins to slack off, I will sell them without hesitation. You got that!?" (Naofumi)

As I say this, I see the Slave Merchant issuing commands to his subordinates. One strikes an instrument reminiscent of a gong.

... Who told him to do that?

Look at them, they look afraid.

… No that’s probably my fault.

“Hiiiiiii-!” (Child)

“R-Raphtalia-chan, is this really the guy!?” (Child)

“Mama-!” (Child)

My ears hurt.

But what I’m running isn’t a charity. I must raise a force to combat the wave.

“Now then, I will start the Slave Contract.” (Naofumi)

As I raise my hand, the Slave Dealer lets out a smile. He hands over some Slave Contract Ink.

I put a drop of my blood into the ink.

And the process of putting the slave crest on the children started.

“Yes, what do you plan to do with the rest of the money?” (Slave Dealer)

“I plan to continue peddling, so if you have a monster I can use for transportation, it will help.” (Naofumi)

… The Slave Dealer’s eyes are still sparkling. Please stop it with that look.

“Then, shall I contribute a Filo Rial to your cause?” (Slave Dealer)

“No, I have my hands full with a Filo Rial as it is. Please offer a different species.” (Naofumi)

“Are you not good with Filo Rials?” (Slave Dealer)

“I would prefer a monster that won’t lose to Firo in skill. One that may be able to help plow the fields.” (Naofumi)

While wandering town, I didn’t see only Filo Rials and Horses. I’ve also seen animals that looked like Cows and Caterpillars hooked up to carts.

And if I raise another Filo Rial… My hands are full with Firo.

“Master, I’m Hungry” (Naofumi’s imagination)

The thought of more of those things is enough to make my face pale. I only want to raise them one at a time.

Among magic beasts, Filo Rials need to be raised with quite a bit of discipline apparently.

They might add a good amount to our fighting power, but for now, we are still just reconstructing. I don’t think I can raise a Monster with an appetite of that level.

I still have a lot of Spirit Turtle meat, but I don’t plan to waste it all at once.

I should first start with something I can actually handle.

“I see… Then I shall find a beast for you.” (Slave Dealer)

“I’ll leave it to you” (Naofumi)

“Do you want to purchase one from an egg? Or would you rather have a fully grown one? Raising them from eggs makes them more compliant later on in life.” (Slave Dealer)

“I guess an egg is fine for now.” (NAofumi)

“Understood. Yes.” (Slave Dealer)

The Slave Dealer walks towards the part of the tent used for Monster Sales.

I look through the restrictions I can put on the eight new slaves.

It seems I can also put a punishment for revealing classified information.

I'll decide on their specific tasks later.

It seems that the slave registration process has ended. As I look outside, I see the sun has already set.

We can leave after Firo and Rishia arrive.

After a while, Firo comes running in.

... There is no one on her back.

Did she fall off?

Firo skids to a halt in front of me.

“I'm home~!” (Firo)

“What happened to Rishia?” (Naofumi)

“?” (Firo)

“P-please let me down…urp…” (Rishia)

It seems that Rishia hasn't fallen off. She is grasping onto some of Firo's feathers on her rear as if her life depended on it.

It seems that she almost fell off when Firo was going at a high speed.

Firo sits down, and Rishia falls off of her quite abruptly.

“Urp…” (Rishia)

Rishia is making sounds quite unbecoming of a noble.

-Please hold for technical difficulties. (TL: Yes, it really says that)

“Now then, to check the results.” (Naofumi)

These two have been out since just before noon. The sun has already set, so…

Ah, Rishia's level has risen by 20. The results aren't bad.

Her stats are even higher than they were before the Reset. It seems that the Growth Correction effect is working properly.

“I can see stars. Itsuki-sama… Is that you in the afterlife?” (Rishia)

“That's an illusion. Firo, please snap her back to reality.” (Naofumi)

“Got it” (Firo)

Firo lightly slaps Rishia's cheek.

Is what it looked like, but Rishia is sent flying. Is she all right?

"Wha!!! Where am I!?" (Rishia)

"Oh, so you were okay." (Naofumi)

"I thought I was dead!" (Rishia)

"Yeah, but you gained 20 levels to show for the experience. Your stats are higher than ever before, aren't they?" (Naofumi)

"He?" (Rishia)

Rishia checks her own status.

"Wow, Amazing!" (Rishia)

For her to be this amazed at her own stats...

Now then.

"Rishia, I have a job I want to give you." (Naofumi)

"W-what is it?" (Rishia)

"I want you, Raphtalia and Firo to help me manage the new Slaves and monsters I have acquired" (Naofumi)

"I-I see..." (Rishia)

“Raphtalia and Firo are already strong, I want you to act like their elder and train with them.” (Naofumi)

There’s no point in just leveling up.

Rishia, who leveled up down a wrong path before is a good example of this.

I plan to have Raphtalia and Firo assist them, but I don’t just want to build a party with a high level.

Gaining combat experience is also important in itself.

So for a while, I’ll take Raphtalia and Firo off the front lines.

This way, these people will be able to gain a strength that can’t be measured in level.

“You’re going to get stronger, right? Good luck.” (Naofumi)

“B-but that was for Itsuki-sama, and he…” (Rishia)

“He’s not the type of person to die so easily is he? When you meet up again, don’t you want to make him tell you that he needs your power?” (Naofumi)

I think it’s fine if he is dead, but I’m saying this in order to further Rishia’s growth.

“I got it! I’ll do my best!” (Rishia)

Rishia seems to have gained motivation. She stands up.

Good. Her heart has become stronger than before.

All that she needs now is diligence. Probably.

“I’ll wait expectantly.” (Naofumi)

“Yes!” (Rishia)

“Master, what do you want Firo to do next?” (Firo)

“Please get the carriage. We’ll be carrying a lot, so also bring some carts. There should be a lot in front of the warehouse.” (Naofumi)

“Yes! Ah, I found this for you.” (Firo)

And with that, Firo begins to pull out the corpses of various monsters.

I’ve seen all of these before. Whatever, I’ll just feed them to the shield anyways.

-

You’ve unlocked the Balloon Shield

You’ve unlocked the Red Balloon Shield

You’ve unlocked the Orange Balloon Shield

You’ve unlocked the Yellow Balloon Shield

-

What?

The monster I absorbed was a normal balloon. And I unlocked all of the other Balloon Shields with it.

For arguments sake, I look through the new shields. All of them only effect stats.

But the Balloon Shield is the only one with a strange skill.

-

Balloon Shield 0/5 C

Ability Bonus

...

Equipment Bonus

Monster Book

-

Its stats are terrible. Even worse than my initial Small Shield.

But what does it mean by Monster Book?

I test it.

With a beep, a window appears in my field of vision.

... It displays all of the monsters I have fed the shield up until now.

It even says where I found them. It also seems to have the ability to lead me to a specific species of monster if I wish to encounter it.

How convenient.

It records the data of any monster I absorb.

However, it doesn't seem to display the number of monster species of this world.

In high spirits, Firo went and got the carriage I had parked at the castle.

To be honest, if it weren't for Firo, the voyage would probably take a few days.

"Hero of the Shield, as you have requested, I have prepared you some eggs. Yes." (Slave Dealer)

The Slave dealer appears carrying a number of eggs.

"Ah, I'm grateful." (Naofumi)

"Do you know when your next visit will be?" (Slave Dealer)

"Well, I still have money left over, so I may come again soon to buy more slaves." (Naofumi)

"Well then, I will wait expectantly for that time. If I find one of the slaves you were looking for, should I contact you?" (Slave Dealer)

"Yes, please do." (Naofumi)

“Understood.” (Slave dealer)

“Then I guess I should be off.” (Naofumi)

I hear the sound of Firo pulling the carriage getting closer.

“...but before that...” (Naofumi)

I turn around and face the Slave Dealer, who is rubbing his hands together.

“I’ll make dinner.” (Naofumi)

I use the Spirit Turtle meat that Firo brought back with her, and begin cooking in the tent.

It’s a basic hot pot consisting of meat and soup.

The turtle has a bit of a unique taste, but it shouldn’t be a problem.

“Wha?! This is Delish!” (Child)

“What is this? It’s better than what mom used to make!” (Child)

“Yeah! Why is that?” (Child)

“Naofumi-sama is a very skilled chef, you know.” (Raphtalia)

“Yeah! Firo loves to eat master’s cooking.” (Firo)

The slaves seem to be getting closer over the delicious meal.

“This is just perfect. To eat a meal personally cooked by a hero. I might fall for you.” (Slave Dealer)

The Slave Dealer also managed to obtain some of the food in the heat of the moment... If I worry about it, I lose. I'm cooking in his store, anyways.

"If you find more of the villagers, you might get to eat it again. Work hard."
(Naofumi)

But the Slave Merchant seems lost in his meal. I'm not sure if he heard me.

It's like a welcoming party. Things will get busy from here on out. I need to make sure they get proper nourishment or they won't hold up.

And like that, after the meal the slaves boarded the carriage and we leave the castle town in the darkness of the night. Towards our new home.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 135 - Artificial Feeding

I let Firo pull the carriage and we march in the middle of the night; we arrived at the outskirts of Raphtalia's village in the morning.

"Master, we have arrived." (Firo)

"Good." (Naofumi)

While I was sleeping Kiel tried to play a prank on me and got reprimanded harshly by Raphtalia.

Of course with the exception of Raphtalia and Rishia, the slaves got harsh restriction and the slave mark got set to activate immediately if they tried to attack me.

Also, because of what Bitch did before, now I immediately awake when something happened.

On the first day we went to work with the slaves to demolish the building wreckages.

"This house is important to me!" (Kiel)

Kiel shouted in rejection.

"it's important to treasure your house, but look, the roof has fallen, the wall has been destroyed. It's a pity, but you'll have to accept that there are house that can still be repaired and those that beyond repair." (Naofumi)

I searched for stuff that either have monetary value or can still be used but they are either robbed or there simply none, there are still some items left behind but they are already too rusted to be of use.

The water well seems salvageable.

The field... seems need some considerable maintenance.

"I understand the feeling of not wanting to discard your memories, but from the standpoint of reconstruction the stuff that are going to get in the way need to be discarded" (Naofumi)

"But-" (Kiel)

"Kiel-kun! Stop saying selfish things!" (Raphtalia)

Raphtalia warn him. Well, it's not necessarily need to stop him.

Even so...

"This is the house that you once lived in." (Naofumi?)

"It is!" (Kiel)

"Then, the newly built house here will be yours." (Naofumi?)

"eh?" (Kiel)

The brat called Kiel looked at me with puzzled expression.

"Under the condition that you will become the one who manage the communal house. You will become responsible for the place where the others are gathering." (Naofumi)

"U-un." (Kiel)

Kiel nodded vaguely to my words

"That's why — NOW! Firo!" (Naofumi)

"YES!" (Firo)

The moment Kiel showed an opening. Firo charges at the deserted house and promptly did flying kick at the fulcrum of the house and destroyed it.

“AaaaaAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!?” (Kiel) (TL: Yes, scream louder)

Leaving the dumbfounded Kiel, I went to the next task.

Before noon the materials for building houses and the castle’s soldiers that the queen prepared arrived.

Stones, lumbers… and is it plasters?

“Hero of the shield-sama objective are to reconstruct this place?” (Soldier)

The soldier seems to have heard the story from the queen.

“Aa, at the very least I want the roof to be constructed before the day end. I’m aware of this unreasonable request but I’m counting on you.”

(Naofumi)

“We might be soldiers but we do have some knowledge about construction. So please leave it to us.” (Soldier)

“Please do.” (Naofumi)

Construction and Conscription… are they even related?

(TLN :<http://thedefend.wordpress.com/2014/11/03/chapter-135-artificial-feeding/#comment-4>)

And then I realized it was about to become noon.

“For the time being we will left the building to the soldiers, Raphtalia, Firo, and then Rishia.”

“Yes.” (Raphtalia)

“Wha—at?” (Firo)

“What is it? (Rishia)

Those three replied to my call

“After this I will start making lunch, after you finished your meal you three along with the slaves will go out and begin demon extermination.”

“Understood” (Raphtalia)

“Yeah.” (Firo)

“I’ll do my best.” (Rishia)

“I’ll leave the squad composition to you. Having too much people will be detrimental on the EXP that will be obtained okay.” (Naofumi)

I haven’t attempted to do an actual measurement, just how much will the amount decreased?

Rather, how does the distribution system works? I have no idea at all how the EXP distribution system work.

“Is there anyone who knew the details?” (Naofumi)

“Um…” (Rishia)

Rishia raised her hand apologetically .

“What?” (Naofumi)

“The people who are inside the party receive the same amount of EXP. The maximum limit for that is 6 people. Anymore than that will causing the amount of EXP obtained to decrease.” (Rishia)

Oh, so that's why you were left out.

Though if I said that she would probably cry 'Fueeee' so it's better to stay silent. It's annoying.

In an expedition with a large amount of people there doesn't seem to be a problem in dividing the group.

That mean that it is sufficient to organize 6 people in 1 team.

Instead of multiple team fighting against one demon, it's better to separate into different areas.

"I understand the explanation" (Naofumi)

"Alright. Then we will be splitting up." (Naofumi?)

"Leave it to me." (Raphtalia?)

I gave authority to Raphtalia to make a party.

At the present we had 8 slaves that's why Rishia led two person, and Raphtalia and Firo led 3 person.

"Then I'll start cooking lunch so lend me a hand." (Naofumi)

"Yes!" (Raphtalia)

Then the three people begin to help as much as they can.

"Raphtalia-chan will be helping out?" (Kiel)

Kiel who just recovered from his absentminded state began to stare at me who are in the middle of cooking preparation while asking Raphtalia.

He recovered pretty quickly. Is it because he is still a child?

“Raphtalia-chan was always bad at housework.” (Kiel)

“Erm…” (Raphtalia)

With a troubled look Raphtalia send me a glance.

What? What do you expect me to do?

She seems want to show her friend his good side, Raphtalia timidly began to open her mouth.

“Should I help?” (Raphtalia)

“Should I just randomly grill some meat or make some soup? I would prefer it if it were a dish that I could just leave over a fire for a while.” (Naofumi)

The meal that I made taste good so I’ve been the one who did the cooking. I’ve already used to it. Lately everyone has been leaving the cooking to me.

“It’s enough if you just help me clean up.” (Naofumi)

I began to cut the ingredients to chunks. The meat was large so it was kind of hard to cut with a cooking knife.

With that said, when Raphtalia was the one who cook the food they didn’t taste good and Firo said to just leave all the cooking to me…

I ignore their complaints and began cooking.

By the way, It’s possible to cook the recipe with the shield but there is a very big flaw in this. Before fighting the turtle spirit cooking was already easy, I tried cooking with the shield at Calmira island but…

“Food is coming out of the shield!” (Firo)

Firo stared at my shield enviously with great excitement.

“Ah, It was made with the shield’s skill.” (Naofumi)

“It’s awesome.” (Firo)

The food that served is a spaghetti like food that is unique to this world.

The name of the food seems to be naporata. (TLN: Yes, that is what the raw said)

To be honest It sounded like the variety kind of pasta from my world, the shield seems to change the name of the item so it resembles the item from my world.

“It taste somewhat… normal.” (Raphtalia)

“Yeah… normal.” (Firo)

Seems like the food quality was affected, it tasted normal and it doesn’t contain the subtle delicate tastes.

It doesn’t taste bad. But it doesn’t taste good either. It’s definitely normal.

“Master’s cooking is way better.”(Firo)

“That’s true. Even when it’s cold the food that Naofumi-sama made is still a delicious.” (Raphtalia)

“I- I got it.” (Naofumi)

For some reason those two stare at me with reproachful gaze and it made me remembered that I’ve been looked at with those kind of eyes.

Come to think of it, these two no longer satisfied by food from restaurant and only pleased by the food that I cooked.

I don’t think it’s possible to become a gourmet after just eating my food once. But at least they seems to be motivated by my food. (TIn : raw said

gourmet but I think it meant picky)

Come to think of it, what if the situation where I am the cook got reversed? For the time being I better assemble cooking team because at the moment there is no restaurant in the surrounding area.

“Here, the food is ready, after you finished eating go out already.”

(Naofumi)

I distribute the meat that I grilled above the crude iron plate and the soup that have been cooked.

“As I thought this is absolutely delish.” (Slave A)

“Yeah! It’s really good.” (Slave B)

The slaves devour the food with smile on their face.

I also treat the soldiers that made the house some food as well.

“This… I’ve never eaten such a delicious grilled meal before!?” (Soldier A)

“Are you kidding? They made some of those at the castle and they didn’t taste good at all.” (Soldier B)

The shield’s handmade correction is endless.

Did you guys knead any salt and spice on the meat beforehand?

The slaves devoured the food that I cooked.

Nevertheless, there is no need to eat that much.

It’ll be bad if I don’t prepare enough food after they returned from levelling.

“Now then, you lots, each and everyone of you will be carrying a weapon and then you will fight.” (Naofumi)

And with that declaration the slaves become scared.

Just like the old Raphtalia, the girl turned pale when received the bladed tools.

I hand the second-hand weapons that I got from the castle to them. Most of them are dagger designed for beginners.

“Prepare yourself that if you did not fight you will feel pain on your chest. And if you do that, don’t ever think of returning to your hometown.”

(Naofumi)

“Gu···.” (Kiel)

Kiel tried to complain to me on behalf of the others.

But Raphtalia interrupt him and prevent him to say anything.

“I don’t exactly need you people for anything. Only for territory development. But, because Raphtalia has been obediently following my orders you guys will become her present. So don’t misunderstand or anything.” (Naofumi)

The slaves glaring at me provokingly.

I’ve used to playing the role of the bad guy in this world. Besides, I’m not doing this for charity or anything. There is no need to anxiously worried about the future since I’m planning to return to my own world anyway. I need to prepare a place for Raphtalia so she can spend her time peacefully.

“Now then··· Firo, I want you to place all the monsters that you defeat into the wagon. There are a lot of use for them.” (Naofumi)

“Yeess!” (Firo)

Mainly as food.

Later, just like what Ren did I should absorb those stuff into the shield.

(TLN : Probably as item instead of shield unlock)

Right now those heroes are still way ahead of me (TLN: either in term of absorbed material or EXP)

“Come on, off you go then. See ya.” (Naofumi)

I point at Firo’s carriage and ordered them.

The slaves reluctantly ride the carriage. Firo started to pull the carriage and went to hunt.

“Mind the speed.” (Naofumi)

“ye-s!” (Firo)

The carriage made gotogoto sound as firo pulled them.

“I’ll leave the house construction to you then.” (Naofumi)

“U-understood.” (Soldier)

I asked the soldiers to begin construction, set the shield to start compounding, and next is to start cooking.

It’s only a little bit more until the demon egg hatched.

Before the Spirit Turtle meat ran out I need to find a way to supply food.

“Well then…” (Naofumi)

The slaves that went together with Raphtalia returned back at evening.

Everyone is exhausted. The demons that were defeated are loaded onto the

chained carts. Right now we need food immediately, they did good.
But right now, there is something that is more awful.

Guuuuuuuu……。

Guuu……。

Kyururururururu……。

Gugyururururururu……。

The sound sounded like roar.

I wonder what would happen when they suddenly increased in level at an environment where food is scarce? I'm slightly curious.

Perhaps they won't die but they'll definitely starve. I think that while looking at Raphtalia.

The body which is undergoing rapid growth wants nourishment thus they became hungry.

"You guys finally returned, did you guys fight properly?" (Naofumi)

"erm, everyone did their best." (Raphtalia)

Raphtalia answered with a smile.

I saw the slaves' faces and their expressions are difficult.

I didn't ask for a Sparta kind of thing, but they seem to be unsatisfied.

"Fuee... So tired." (Rishia)

"Oh, Rishia, how was your condition?" (Naofumi)

"It feels easier to move than before" (Rishia)

Certainly her status is higher before the level reset. With this battle should become a little more easier.

“Rishia-nee-chan. Why are you wearing the plushie?” (Slave)

“That is because Rishia is a plushie mania.” (Naofumi)

“Fuee!” (Rishia)

Rishia tried to deny it while shaking her head left and right, but there is no mistake about that.

“I really have to accept after all.” (Kiel)

Kiel finally consented about the management.

He hate me so he can't trust me.

“If you work the it'll be good. It's dinner now” (Naofumi)

I put the spirit turtle stew and the steak that I have prepared beforehand on the table.

I do this because I've been expecting it.

I made a lot of them but they'll definitely disappear immediately.

“”””Waaaaaa.”””” (The Slaves)

The slaves began to eat excitedly.

Yoshiyoshi...

“Master, where is Firo's share?” (Firo)

“You have it.” (Naofumi)

I take out Firo's part.

They are about 1.5 times of the slave's part.

"Only this much? I want to eat more." (Firo)

"If you want more go hunt it yourself." (Naofumi)

"Buuuu" (Firo)

Firo sulks.

Sorry, but I've made pretty large amount. I can't just cater it to just one person.

""Thank you for the meal."" (The Slaves)

What? When I was in the middle of chatting with Firo they already eat everything!?

For the time being they are satisfied.

"Alright kids, go to bed immediately for tomorrow's preparation." (Naofumi)

"...Ye-s." (Slaves)

I crammed the slaves into one the house that the soldiers from the castle repaired for half a day, and the rest of us went into the house to sleep.

The house's windows are still broken; it can be used to defend from the rain but the wind are still blowing in.

I wonder what I should do for tomorrow's food.

"I'll sleep at the place where everyone is." (Raphtalia)

"Got it, I'm counting on you to make them used to it even if it's just for a little bit." (Naofumi)

"Yes." (Raphtalia)

Raphtalia leave in order to sleep with her old friends.

Firo was already half asleep. She began to nodding off

Rishia are reading a book that she took out of nowhere. She is a hardworking person

I began compounding for the preparation of my next plan. While at it, I went and checked the level of all slaves. It seem the average level that they raised to is 15. Their status all rise as well. Judging from Raphtalia's growth pattern, I want to raise the level of them even for those that are unsuitable to combat to at least 30.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 136 - Nighttime Meal

And a while after that...

I hear a loud knock on my room's door.

"Um..." (Child)

Raphtalia has come, along with the other female slaves.

"What's wrong?" (Naofumi)

"Well..." (Child)

Raphtalia ignores my words, and makes a face as if she is asking for a favor. Is she asking me to make an inference based on the situation? That's impossible for me.

"Did she wet the bed?" (Naofumi)

"You're mistaken. Please tell Naofumi-sama properly." (Raphtalia)

"Um... Well..." (Child)

Gu...

The other female slaves are looking at the floor with an embarrassed expression.

"... I got it. Most of the kids will probably ask the same thing, right? Please gather everyone and wait here." (Naofumi)

"Thank you." (Raphtalia)

I head to the kitchen outside, and begin preparations for cooking.

Really, these kids get hungry really fast.

I look through the monsters gathered while hunting, and arbitrarily stick some on skewers.

It's a pain to deal with the smaller monsters, so I just pan-fry them whole. With all this cooking, my free time is rapidly disappearing.

The next day.

"Now then, you all even had room for a midnight snack, but I must declare something. Those who don't work, do not eat. My ingredient stock is rapidly decreasing. To replenish it, you all must perform some hunting. Basically, if you are able to defeat monsters, I might be willing to cook them for you. You got that?" (Naofumi) (TL: Food, the best way to raise a Loli army)

"Yeah!" (Kids in unison)

... They're being surprisingly honest.

Even Kiel, who had previously shown animosity towards me is replying with enthusiasm.

I'm a bit suspicious, but as long as they're motivated, I guess it all works out.

"I'll make today's dinner with what we have, but that's your last free meal. Don't forget that." (Naofumi)

"...Yes~" (Kids in unison)

Last night was quite hectic. No matter how much I made, they kept asking for more. What's more, they all seemed genuinely hungry.

I get the feeling that I will be stuck in the kitchen for the rest of my life.

What am I? A mother?

I only planned to look over their growth, and eventually help them hunt.

That's all it was supposed to be, but...

"Thank you for the food!" (Kids in Unison)

"You're welcome, now go hunt until the evening." (Naofumi)

"Got it~!" (Kids in unison)

They seem much more enthusiastic than yesterday, as they board Firo's carriage.

... I hope they get at least 20 levels by the time they get back.

"The Hero's cooking really is tasty. I should try my hardest as well."

(Soldier)

The soldiers from the castle are also finding motivation in my cooking. Well, these people are already doing important work, so I'll let it slide.

I... begin preparing for dinner. Am I wasting my time here?

I use the rest of my time helping the soldiers with their work.

There's another important thing needed in ingredient procurement.

And for that, I am having the Shield make herbicide in large quantities.

If a problem occurs, then I can deal with it immediately.

And for that purpose as well, I must raise the levels of the slaves.

If I used that carelessly, a mutation might occur, and I have no idea what will happen.

For now, I should handle the seeds in the carriage with care.

“We’re home!” (Kids in unison)

They’re all covered in dirt, but smiling as they return to the village.

They’re even more energetic before. In contrast, Rishia seems to be quite worn out.

Raphtalia and Firo don’t seem tired at all, though.

“So, did you hunt successfully today?” (Naofumi)

“Yeah!” (Child)

“Of course!” (Child)

The adaptability of a child is something to be feared. After two days, they are already used to it.

I get the feeling Raphtalia took quite a bit longer to adapt.

“Then, I’ll cook as promised.” (Naofumi)

“Hooray~!” (Kids in unison)

The children stampede towards the dinner I had prepared.

“Now then, Raphtalia.” (Naofumi)

“What is it?” (Raphtalia)

“After eating, there’s something I have to do… You might get angry.”
(Naofumi)

“W-what are you planning?” (Raphtalia)

“A jungle.” (Naofumi)

It seems she understands what I was trying to say.

Raphtalia stares at me with stern eyes.

“Are you planting that?” (Raphtalia)

“Yeah, this area is filled with forests anyways, so I don’t see what difference it makes.” (Naofumi)

“But still…” (Raphtalia)

“The soil around here probably needs quite a bit of work. I did ask the slave dealer for a monster that would help in tending to the fields.” (Naofumi)

“… I understand. You have no intention of changing your mind.” (Raphtalia)

“It helps that you’re so understanding.” (Naofumi)

“If you consider efficiency, then I guess there’s no choice.” (Raphtalia)

I did raise Raphtalia to value efficiency over all else…

Though she does care quite a bit about aesthetics as well.

“And I also completed quite a few tests. I learned to make many types of medicines.” (Naofumi)

“Wait a minute, are you meaning to say you plan on modifying that thing even further?” (Raphtalia)

“Yes, I plan to turn it into something that will bring in money quickly.”
(Naofumi)

Yes, my plan also puts money as a high priority. Rebuilding a village with only 8 slaves is impossible. Even if the Slave dealer manages to find another slave or two.

“I plan to modify it to make it easier to handle. I’ll also watch to make sure no problems occur. Just in case, I have prepared a stock of pesticides. I’ll keep at it until we gain a steady stream of food supplies.” (Naofumi)

“*Sigh*… Well, be careful.” (Raphtalia)

“I know” (Naofumi)

I won’t do anything that will cause me to lose money. I only act to make a profit.

The thing I’m planning may be able to have combat uses as well.

As I’m mulling over these facts, I noticed the meal I had made had disappeared at an alarming rate.

“Thanks for the food!!” (Kids in unison)

“You’re welcome.” (Naofumi)

I can hear some lively conversations.

They’ve only been here a few days, but most of them are already used to their new lives.

I guess that because this is their home town, they are able to adjust quickly. They’re not acting like slaves at all… But I guess that will make them mentally stronger later on.

“Now then, I have something important to tell you all. Make sure to listen well.” (Naofumi)

“What~?” (Firo)

Firo and the other slaves tilt their heads in curiosity.

It’s a bit of an amusing sight.

“Everyone follow me for a bit.” (Naofumi)

I walk towards the fields. It seems everyone is actually following me.

“Here, I have a special type of seed.” (Naofumi)

The slaves nod in unison.

“It was created in a faraway land, where it caused quite a bit of a problem.”
(Naofumi)

I think the Soldiers have heard about it before. They are whispering amongst themselves.

“But I have modified it since then. You people needed a midnight snack last night, right?” (Naofumi)

“Y-yeah…” (Kiel)

Kiel is the one who responds.

“Please understand that I can’t waste all of my time cooking for you people.”
(Naofumi)

“But… The Hero of the Shield’s cooking is delicious.” (Kiel)

“Yeah, I want to eat it every day!” (Child)

“If I am chained to the kitchen, then I can’t do my job. It’s not that I’ll never cook for you people. If you work considerably hard, I may consider it.”
(Naofumi)

No matter how we progress on the village's reconstruction, we will always be in need for food.

So I absolutely have to do this.

Those who do not work do not eat, but those who do not eat cannot work.

If they get enough food to fill their stomachs, their progress should improve.

"Now then, for the times that I'm not cooking, you'll have to use this to sate your hunger." (Naofumi)

I drop the seed into the ground and pour some water over it.

The plant begins to grow before our eyes.

The Bioplant grows to about three meters, and begins to sprout tomato-like fruit.

"It may have other uses, but for now I will be filling the field with this seed. Your job is to manage this plant." (Naofumi)

"W-what will we have to do?" (Kiel)

"If it grows outside of its set area, you have to cut it. But for now, we haven't decided on its bounds, so I'll leave that decision to you." (Naofumi)

"Is that fruit... Edible?" (Kiel)

"Yeah, I think it has become the specialty of the village I got it at."
(Naofumi)

At least I've seen it in the Castle Town being advertised as such.

"You can eat it if you get hungry. But if you see any problems occurring, make sure to report it to an adult. That's all." (Naofumi)

I pluck one of the large fruits and hand it to Firo.

Firo starts eating it, but her expression shows that it isn't enough to satisfy her.

Following her lead, some of the other children begin to pluck the fruit and eat it.

"Amazing..." (Child)

"Yeah." (Child)

"At first I thought that rebuilding the village would be impossible, but if it's this person, he may be able to do it." (Child)

Perhaps my reputation has gotten better. Or that may be my imagination.

"I told you that's all. You are dismissed." (Naofumi)

If the cultivation of this fruit is a success, we can end our food supply problem all at once.

It can also be said that if we didn't end this problem, then I would never be able to train these kids to be competent fighters in the time we had left.

I think it's time for me to see how far the knowledge I brought with me from my world will be able to take me.

Now then... the moment of truth is upon us.

The Next Morning.

I give instruction to the group managing the Bioplant.

"Ow..." (Child)

The slaves are taking some damage while handling it. But that pain builds character.

I check everyone's level.

As I thought, they are all around level 20. Rishia got to level 27.

Raphtalia's level is unchanged. But the food shortage has been solved.

All's well with the world.

Gu...

I hear someone's stomach growling.

"When is breakfast?" (Child)

"Today I prepared it before-hand." (Naofumi)

(TL: He says, today I packed bento to be more specific)

I had made wooden boxes with steel reinforcement and loaded them on the carriage. By the way, the contents of them are Sandwiches containing thinly carved grilled meat.

"We're stopping already?" (Kiel)

Kiel says this with defiance.

He's been making quite a few such comments lately.

Perfect. Today is the day I correct his attitude.

"You're saying that because you don't respect my sincerity. Just go with the flow and take a break for breakfast. Otherwise, something terrible might happen." (Naofumi)

"Hm?" (Kiel)

"Firo, go take a walk." (Naofumi)

If you don't eat it quickly, the wild monsters may take it away.

But Kiel has gotten stronger, he should be able to deal with monsters of this caliber.

Firo probably gets it. She won't go to areas with too high difficulty.

With this, Kiel will be able to fight the motion-sickness that Raphtalia suffered from as well.

Just as planned.

What? If you get used to it, it's not a problem.

Well, if you expel the food right after eating it, I guess there's no point. If he learns to eat while riding it, it's killing two birds with one stone.

"Naofumi-sama... You're going too far." (Raphtalia)

Raphtalia says this while poking her head out of the carriage.

"Rishia also had to learn to get used to it." (Naofumi)

"Fue..." (Rishia)

"Even though I warned you, you're still making that sound. Should I eat your breakfast for you?" (Naofumi)

"I-I'm working on it you know..." (Rishia)

Her voice is weak.

Well, it probably won't be fixed any time soon.

I hand over bags made of Bioplant to the slaves.

"What is this?" (Kiel)

"You'll understand soon. Now then, have fun." (Naofumi)

I lightly hit Firo's back, and she starts running.

"I'll be off~!" (Firo)

"Wa!" (Child)

"Wha-!" (Child)

"Gyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa..." (Child)

With a rumbling sound, the carriage disappears into the horizon.

"I guess I should begin other preparations." (Naofumi)

Now that a steady source of food has been secured, I can move on to the next stage of my plan.

"Hero of the Shield?" (Soldier)

"What is it? Are we out of seeds?" (Naofumi)

"No, there are no problems regarding that but... what about our breakfast?" (Soldier)

Your breakfast?

Why is it already determined that I'm supposed to make it?

"...Yeah, I've prepared it." (Naofumi)

I distribute food among the soldiers.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 137 - People of the Sea

Garagaragaragara...

On that day, a carriage with a supplies from the queen arrived.

"I heard the Hero of the Shield could be found here." (Knight)

"What do you need?" (Naofumi)

The knight who came with the carriage addresses me.

I think I've seen this face before... I think she was practicing swordsmanship with Raphtalia.

Her appearance is... that of a standard female knight from a game. If she takes off her helmet, I think her face will rival Raphtalia's in beauty.

Her hair is long and strawberry-blond. Most of it is stuffed into her helmet.

Her eyes are blue, like Firo's. She looks like she would fit the role of a Wicked Queen perfectly.

She is accompanied by other knights, one of whom I recognize as part of volunteer army that helped me during the wave before the last.

"Hero of the Shield!" (Volunteer)

"You... How have you been?" (Naofumi)

"We're working hard on rebuilding the city." (Volunteer)

"I'll bet. But, that's not what I'm asking. What has happened to you guys since then?" (Naofumi)

"Nothing major has changed. I've been sent here to act as a messenger while the others here are reinforcements." (Volunteer)

"Ah, I see." (Naofumi)

The Queen seems to have completely grasped my train of thought. She has already sent more personnel.

"For now, it's just me, but I have been instructed to act as the official messenger between here and the castle." (Volunteer)

"Not the Shadows?" (Naofumi)

"Those people are to act as the unofficial messengers." (Volunteer)

What's the difference?... Well it doesn't really matter.

"I've also been asked to act as a martial arts instructor for the slaves." (Volunteer)

"Ah, that will be helpful." (Naofumi)

Raphtalia is mostly self-taught. It's good to have someone with professional training experience.

"So... where are the ever-so-important slaves right now?" (Volunteer)

"I sent them out to level grind. I think they'll be around level 25 when they get back." (Naofumi)

"Fumu... Your lessons sure are fast-paced." (Volunteer)

"It's Spartan style. Also, I plan to have around 30 more people for non-combat related purposes." (Naofumi)

"For what purpose would that be?" (Volunteer)

"This and that. Well, we also need to rebuild the buildings." (Naofumi)

"Understood, I'll relay that to the castle." (Volunteer)

Now then, I need to move on to the next task as well.

Recently I've been researching various plants. I'm trying to see why I can't modify certain substances.

There are quite a few faults to my modification skills.

For some reason, there are some plants I can edit and some I cannot.

In that respect, the Bioplant is very easy to modify.

So I'll see if I can make that Bioplant produce some simple medicine.

I finish readying a plot for the plant without issue.

"The Hero of the shield sure is enthusiastic." (Kiel)

Kiel, who had just returned, stumbles out of the carriage.

He has stopped complaining to me about cooking, but...

Guu...

His stomach still growls.

A few days later.

"Ahaha~!" (Child)

The slaves are having fun climbing up the Bioplant.

Their levels have all passed 30. Their appearances also changed, and they now look to be around 14-15 years old.

They only look slightly younger than Raphtalia. They have started to look an age that can actually be sent out to battle. They seem to be growing quite healthily.

Their appearance... well I would put it above village children. But there is no one here who rivals Raphtalia in looks. It just seems that they are eating proper meals.

Out of the boys, the one with the best face is probably Kiel. His face looks like a girl's. He might grow into a Pretty boy one day (TL: Bishounen). Rather than saying he looks like a boy, it would be more accurate to say he looks like a boyish girl.

Not that it matters to me.

"Hey, Shield-Niichan! We've only been having meat and vegetables for a while. I'm tired of it." (Kiel)

(TL: I'm debating whether or not to translate Shield-Niichan as Shieldbro)

"Don't be selfish." (Naofumi)

For some reason, he's started to become quite impudent. It's getting to be quite a pain to deal with.

I should try to set him straight, but he does his work fine, so there's not much I can do.

He's been acting quite familiar with me. He's talking to me as a younger brother rather than a slave. He has also begun to say, 'Thank you' when getting food.

As long as he's motivated...

It seems many of these children were used for physical labor before.

It may seem strange coming from me, but many consider it unethical to send child slaves into battle. They are mostly used for other purposes.

They are quite skillful at physical work.

"Hey, I'm going to go off to the ocean and catch some fish, so please cook them, Nii-chan." (Kiel)

"I don't remember becoming your brother!" (Naofumi)

Kiel is definitely looking down on me.

Should I lecture him?

Oh right, Kiel seems to be shorter than the other boys.

His voice is also higher.

"I would also like some fish." (Rishia)

Rishia and the other slaves voice out their agreement.

"Niichan, I want to eat Seafood!" (Kiel)

"Yeah!" (Child)

"Seafood!" (Child)

Damn, it seems I have mass produced Firos.

It's a good thing the eggs haven't hatched yet.

There's no way I could handle a strange monster joining in here.

"Ah, I got it. Today we'll go to the beach do get the fish. While we're there, Firo, go swim out and capture some aquatic monsters." (Naofumi)

"Yes~!" (Children in unison)

And so it turned out that we were headed for the sea.

Well, it has been getting quite hot lately.

Swimming around a bit won't hurt.

These people... They lived here before, so they can swim, right?

And so, after a short walk, we reach our destination.

"Kyahaha~!" (Children)

And so the slaves enthusiastically run out towards the water carrying harpoons. They all take off their clothes and enter in their underwear... In the middle of this, I noticed... Raphtalia and Rishia noticed as well.

"Naofumi-sama!?" (Raphtalia)

"Eh? Eh!?" (Rishia)

"Firo! Go catch Kiel!" (Naofumi)

"? I got it." (Firo)

"Wah!? What is it!" (Kiel)

Firo drags Kiel out of the ocean.

Kiel is violently struggling under Firo's arm.

"What is it, Shield Nii-chan!?" (Kiel)

"Let me say this first. I don't really care, but there is something I must point out a large problem in the way you act." (Naofumi)

"And I'm asking what it is!" (Kiel)

The other slaves notice the commotion, and come over.

They seem to have caught on to the problem.

"Kiel-kun... are you possibly supposed to be Kiel-chan?" (Raphtalia)

"Wha?! What are you talking about? I'm a boy." (Kiel)

Kiel's chest has a bandage wrapped around it, and he... she is wearing a loincloth below.

... For obvious reasons, Raphtalia is pointing at Kiel's nether regions.

Recently I have been unable to read Raphtalia's behavior.

It may be that meeting up with old friends has restored some lost parts of her personality.

"Kiel-kun... do you know the difference between a man and a woman?"

(Raphtalia)

"???" (Kiel)

"Um, you know... A man is someone who has..." (Raphtalia)

Raphtalia begins whispering in Kiel's ear.

"That can't be true. If I were god, I wouldn't do something so painstaking as to differentiate men and women like that." (Kiel)

"Then please look at the other boys No, look at Naofumi-sama. He's a bit different, isn't he? His chest isn't wrapped right?" (Raphtalia)

"What are you talking about? That's what happens when you become an adult. I just have a bit of excess fat so my chest sticks out. When I become an adult, it will fix itself." (Kiel)

The BS is spilling out at quite an alarming rate.

... How the hell was Kiel raised before becoming a slave?

I have too many questions.

Or was she perhaps raised without such standards? Was she allowed to freely choose her definition for Male and Female?

Whatever the case, she was definitely raised abnormally.

Anyways, how did no one notice during the time he was a slave?

...Was this part of the Slave Dealer's schemes?

If I were the Slave Dealer, I wouldn't go to the trouble of changing a slave's world view, and would just sell her as is.

This country is quite rotten. There's probably a perverted noble who would buy her thinking she were a pretty boy.

And maybe another pervert who found Kiel's lack of gender Identity to be a turn on. All this just raises her selling price.

It seems she has already been sold a few times.

I think I heard that she had broken too many plates at her last place and had thus been returned...

Kiel also has some signs of significant physical abuse, so I guess she didn't receive any preferential treatment.

It seems that the abuse of Demi-human slaves is quite common in this country.

Raphtalia also showed such signs of abuse.

I guess this is the aftereffects of the recent war with Silt Welt.

Out of the 8 slaves one of them said that they were saved by a hero before.

I guess even those people can't stand to see children being abused.

I see that they had left the issue to the country, and the child had eventually been resold as a slave anyways.

In the few days since she came here, I've gotten a good grasp on what personality Kiel has.

Around 6 of the new slaves still act cautiously when away from Raphtalia.

But that isn't an issue I have any influence over. I'll leave that to Raphtalia and Rishia.

At night, Raptalia puts the other children to sleep, and sometimes sleeps next to them.

She also went through a similar experience, so she is able to understand their problems.

Even if I stay around, I don't think they will open their hearts to me.

Firo, being Firo is able to interact well with them.

She seems to be good with dealing with children in general, that bird.

This may be similar to the practice of Animal Therapy. (TL: google it)

However, the children still get nauseous at the sight of her prized carriage.

"B-but father said that a man is a man if he thinks he is a man no matter what." (Kiel)

So did the daughter began to imitate her father's manly attitude?

And anyways, that talk in itself is implying that you are a woman.

She was raised like someone from a story I had heard about.

(TL: I don't know the reference. Possibly Yukimura of Boku wa Tomodachi ga Tsukunai)

The other female slaves laugh amongst themselves.

I've heard some women like to imagine boys who cross-dress, but what do they think of a Girl who wants to be a man of the sea?

"This can't be... I mean, what's the point of separating man and woman anyways!? I don't even know anymore!" (Kiel)

Author note (TL: The Real one)

Kiel wasn't meant to be an important character, however the personality I gave him overlapped with another male character I planned to make down the road, so I decided to give 'him' a little... quirk.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 138 - Same Sex Only

“I don’t know the real meaning of being a man and a woman” (Kiel)

She had always known that she was a man, now she’s really confused.

Right?

Firo. Why are you butting in?

“The reason they separate man and woman, is it because they mate?”

(Firo)

Kiel was confused with Firo’s answer.

Read the situation… with a sweet sound reverberating in the air, Firo just defined what it is to be a man and a woman.

How straightforward, it looks like she understood most of what Firo was saying

I look at in Raphtalia’s direction and shook my head.

Well Rishia? Looked at their direction “It’s different!” she shouted.

“Why do you know so much? Bird!” (Naofumi)

“Come on! Firo knew from the start.”(Firo)

Is it genetic memory?

No No… Maybe something happened with a Male Philorial that she happened to meet in the forest.

"That certainly is suspicious." (Naofumi)

Firo shouted to complain about what I said.

When you think about it, Firo lays eggs.

"Booo!!" (Firo)

This has become really annoying.

Including Raphtalia, everyone's faces have turned red.

Young man... it's as if they've just immersed by the sea. Is every one alright?

"I don't like it! ... I can't do such a thing... I will never do such a thing with Shield-niichan" (Kiel)

(TLN: I think the one talking I kiel.. because you know the "niichan" thing)

"Why would I do such a thing?"(Naofumi)

I want them to stop saying things like I'm raising them because of my ulterior motives.

Damn. This is frustrating.

This topic of love-affair is really getting on my nerves.

I want Bitch to get captured soon to be punished and receive Divine Retribution.

“Stop already with this stupid topic... at least for the time being, love is prohibited.”(Naofumi)

“EH?!”(Children)

The slaves were protesting.

Whatever you say is useless.

This is to fight the incoming wave not the declining birth-rate.

I’m not here to take care of all of you, there’s simply no room for baggage.

“Don’t think about such trivial things, do that when the world is already at peace.” (Naofumi)

“I don’t get it.” (TLN: I don’t know who’s talking)

“Why? Why is such a thing decided? Because I don’t like it. Look Raphtalia doesn’t like it either.” (Naofumi)

“Raphtalia?” (Naofumi)

“EH?!” (Raphtalia)

For some reason I raised my voice to Raphtalia.

Ah...! I was trying to change the topic. Seems like Raphtalia understood.

“Our purpose is to fight the wave. 3 ½ months from now I will take those who wishes to fight the wave with us, Off-course I will not force you if you don’t want to.” (Naofumi)

“EH?! That wave?”(Child)

“Right. I was summoned here to fight the wave that took the lives of your family. So tell me if you want to fight.” (Naofumi)

Just 8 people. I need more people, I want to establish several groups.

A guy from the battle squad that wants to volunteer would be ideal. These guys are still unsuitable for battle.

After hearing my words Kiel remains silent.

“Because I’m a woman, am I useless?”(Kiel)

“Ha? That’s not true, look around me.”(Naofumi)

I’m pointing towards Raphtalia, Firo and Rishia.

“Come to think of it why are they all women? Unbelievable!”(Kiel)

Kiel was sharp! This is annoying.

“You... What do you want to do? Are you joining?”(Naofumi)

“Love prohibition, you just want woman to serve you.” (Kiel)

(TLN: “恋愛禁止って、女はべらせて何言ってるんだ！” It was hard to understand)

“Apart from me Raphtalia has no problem with another man.”(Naofumi)

“EH?!” (Raphtalia)

“Yeah!” (Naofumi)

"See Firo." (Firo)

"Males have no problem." (Naofumi)

"Booo!" (Firo)

"Men and Women are equal, I use whoever is efficient, so don't be mistaken." (Naofumi)

"I see.. Shield-oniichan, I see two swords!" (girl)

One of the slave girls mutters alone.

Seems like she misunderstood something.

"That's wrong." (Naofumi)

"What? What two swords?" (Firo)

Firo doesn't know what I'm saying. After all it's just genetic memory.

"That... time when I heard that I was sold." (girl)

"To explain that... Anyways, it's troubling that love will make you unable to fight. Therefore love is prohibited"(Naofumi)

The slaves were satisfied except for Kiel who nods unwillingly.

"I see... I guess I need to give my best in fighting." (Kiel)

"Ah! However, thinking about after the war... no, my preference may become popular, Kiel must practice peddling." (Naofumi)

“What is that?” (Kiel)

“Your face looks good so I was thinking of using that. But you are timid so I guess you’re unsuitable in peddling.” (Naofumi)

“Me? N-No way!” (Kiel)

“It’s okay. Oh! It’ll be fine you should always go to the streets. Humans have more nasty ways of entertainment.” (Naofumi)

“Shield-niichan the way you’re saying that is scary.” (Kiel)

Was it a strange thing to say?

Anyways, if I brought Kiel in peddling I’m sure that I’ll be able to sell a lot of accessories to the ladies

Together with Raphtalia men and women would line up and give their money for the accessories.

“Ah! Kiel.” (Naofumi)

“What is it?” (Kiel)

“I accept same sex relationships. So have fun with Raphtalia as much as you want.” (Naofumi)

It looked like I was jealous.

“Such a thing, do you want Raphtalia-chan to kill me?” (Kiel)

“You may unexpectedly fall and roll. Based on what I read in a manga Raphtalia is the type that is likely not to refuse.” (Naofumi)

“What is a manga?” (Kiel)

“That thing is good. Anyways, I’d like it if Raphtalia was a little rebellious”
(Naofumi)

Kiel began to tremble.

The look from earlier.

“Naofumi-sama?” (Raphtalia)

Oozing with blood thirst, Raphtalia approached me while smiling.

I think I might’ve touched a forbidden subject.

“It’s for that reason. Everyone disband, bring that seafood.” (Raphtalia)

“Yes!” (children)

After a while the female knight came to the beach.

“I heard you were playing in the beach, so it’s true.” (Female Knight)

“I’m just giving them a reward, these guys did their best recently.”
(Naofumi)

“I think they’ve been rewarded plenty enough.” (Female Knight)

Certainly, but I also want to go to the beach and eat some seafood.

“Why don’t you have some fun as well” (Naofumi)

Female Knight came to sea with a swimsuit.

And began to swim together with Raphtalia.

Despite being so shrewd you prepared that kind of swimsuit... What kind of country is this.

Speaking of this woman, she has a strangely good relationship with Raphtalia.

Unrelated to the previous topic, it may be a little related.

Actually, to love another person is good.

It will increase your worries but they will be there to accompany you.

“Naofumi-sama!” (Raphtalia)

Raphtalia waves her hands.

“What happened? Were you drowning?” (Naofumi)

“I won’t be speaking if I was drowning..., you are being rude.” (Raphtalia)

Why is Raphtalia being rebellious?

I also noticed Firo.

What’s with that expression? It’s as if they are doing some business.

“Deceiving is useless you know.”(Female knight)

“Ah! Yes, yes! It’s a good thing to become healthy.” (Raphtalia)

(TLN: I have no idea what they’re talking about)

This could be troublesome I assume.

“Shield-niichan, I caught it!”(Kiel)

You could see the joy in her face when she caught the shellfish in the net.

“Yes yes.”(Naofumi)

The grill is already hot. It’s ready for grilling.

Food supply is already stable so there won’t be any problems.

“Eat up, after eating we’ll go back.”(Naofumi)

“Understood!”

Such a feeling today again, I’m irresponsible, I want to stop cooking for them.

A little bit more time, the monster eggs will hatch soon.

It’s past noon and everyone is preparing to get back to the village.

I think the monster eggs are about to hatch.

Yesterday the Incubation period of the monster eggs in the contract is almost about done.

So I went to the shed to check the monster eggs’ status.

“Shield-niichan. What are you doing?”(Kiel)

“Just stockpiling food supplies, also the monster eggs are ready to hatch anytime soon.”(Naofumi)

“Wow!”(Kiel)

“Problem is… that Philorial.”(Naofumi)

That bird is really excellent at pulling carriages, but I feel anxious that there may become two monsters with really huge appetites.

“Firo?” (Firo)

Firo tilted her head curiously.

“It’s different, this egg is not a Philorial.” (Naofumi)

“Firo-chan has a younger sister and a younger brother?”(TLN: I don’t know if this is Firo talking in 3rdperson)

“Amazing!” (Firo)

“Wow!” (TLN:Again don’t know whos talking well for sure it’s either Kiel or Firo)

So noisy… If you look at their appearance they’re just like middle school students, they’re child-like.

No such thing?

“Categorically speaking, that is right.”(Naofumi)

“Master, will the newborn child would like to become Firo?” (Firo)

It's a pain to answer Firo's question.

Well whatever.

“I want the monster to be able to pull a carriage, but the huge appetite is unnecessary.” (Naofumi)

“Hmmp, perhaps. Okay.” (Firo)

I faced Firo and gave such a reply.

“You're not what Master wants, you're probably like Firo.”(Firo)

Firo's ahoge is moving towards the monster egg.

There's something in there.

“Is Firo's family born?” (Firo)

Family!

If you think about it this Philrial will become a follower to the Philorial Queen.

“Well then what will he become? Master, I hope he becomes something amazing.” (Firo)

(TLN I: this is the best translation I could come up with)

“Will you do that?” (Naofumi)

"Yeah." (Firo)

Firo is pouring some magic on the egg as she touches it.

"This egg will never be the same as Firo." (Firo)

"Ah! I'm safe." (Naofumi)

But still there is a possibility that this new born will end up the same as Firo.

If you consider how huge Firo became, it'll surely become noisy. I guess there's no helping it.

Depending on the result, we may leave raising of the Philorial to Firo.

"The eggs hatched."

"Pii!" (baby chick)

One animal was a Philorial chick. It was a slightly purple-ish kid.

Next were two caterpillars..... When these grow up they'll be able to pull carriages. Their name is Caterpiland. I absorbed their eggshells into the shield but there was no effect.

Next there were three earthworms. They appear to be a monster called a Dune. Can I leave the soil maintenance to these guys?

I set the basic prohibitions.....

"You... you're in charge of levelling this guy up."(Naofumi)

"Yes!" (TLN: same problem I don't know who answered, but probably this is Firo)

The children felt like they became a parent to the pet, they were carrying it with on their shoulders as they went to the carriage.

The Philoreal chick went to Firo and happily sat on top of her head.

“Pyaaa!”

The chick is singing.

In these past few days I was only watching if the kids were in trouble.

Me, who’s from another world, did I just become their foster parent?

If we lose the wave… I guess all the hard work that we invested will all go to waste.

“Ah, afterwards…” (girl)

“What?” (Raptalia)

“I’ll slowly learn how to cook so that I could make food for everyone anytime. Well mainly because I’m not good with fighting.” (girl)

“Then, I…” (girl)

The slave girl went down from the carriage.

“Good for you.” (Raptalia)

Certainly, the one wanting to learn how to cook was the one who requested midnight snack from Raptalia.

"Yea... I really like cooking... but fighting is a little..." (girl)

"Is that so... then do your best." (Raphtalia)

"Yeah." (girl)

The girl nodded and stood next to me.

"I'm going now." (girl)

Raphtalia waved her hands.

"Yeah, be safe!" (Raphtalia)

"Raphtalia-chan, is it alright to be that carefree?" (Kiel)

"Ha?" (Raphtalia)

While waving to the girl who wants to be a cook she muttered.

What are you talking about?

"Hey?"

"Don't worry."

What's that?

"Well then, I'm going."

"Yessir!"

The carriage made a clattering sound.

"Now, then assist me."

"Yes." (girl)

And thus I taught the child how to cook.

Though , for some reason the guy's food was a mess.

The food was was soo bad, the shield produced it a lot tastier.

"Shield-niichan is really good with his hands." (girl)

"Is that so?" (Naofumi)

"Yeah, Fish demon was really good." (girl)

"Is that so?" (Naofumi)

I said not to feel bad about it.

"This delicious dish was made by the power of the shield. I just imagine the taste and then cook it." (Naofumi)

"Yeah, Then shield-niichan will teach me how to cook that dish." (girl)

I ended up stepping on a landmine, but I still answered with a smile.

It's good that I smiled.

Speaking of the results, I ended up in the position where I was taught...

Oh well, it's okay.

This child really likes cooking, I hope she becomes very good at it. She will become a big deal someday.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 139 - Shield Billboard

It's been a week since I acquired my land and began babysitting these kids. The Soldiers have pretty much finished restoring most of the salvageable houses. I guess it's time to start on the next stage of the plan.

Following Firo's orders, the new Filo Rial is pulling the carriage back and forth.

I guess it will be nice to ride in a carriage that doesn't talk back for once... I'm currently playing fetch with Firo in relatively good spirits. I'm doing it while the other slaves are asleep, as Firo does not care about her surroundings.

The Catpilands have also become quite large, and we are currently building a carriage for them. This monster seems to be a herbivore that enjoys gnawing on Bioplant stalks.

This kills two birds in one stone. The Slave dealer does good work, it's also quite easy to handle.

It's only fault is its speed. It can't go very fast, or far. Visiting the neighboring towns seems to be its limit.

The Dune Worms have become relatively large as well. I'm leaving the maintenance of the soil around here to them.

This monster is also quite docile. Wild Dunes seem to spend their lives peacefully underground. It is very rare for one to get into a fight.

Domestic Dune will fight if ordered, but they aren't very strong.

Well then, I think it's time to restart my peddling.

"H-how is it?" (Kiel)

I had prepared two sets of clothing for Kiel.

The first was one fit for her preferences, a manly set of armor.

The other one is a frilly one-piece.

Kiel is blushing and waiting for my appraisal.

"Perfect. Make sure you act clumsy and embarrassed while we sell things."

(Naofumi)

"Shield Nii-chan! Why do I have to do something like this!?" (Kiel)

"Of course, for the money. If we don't have funds, we cannot restore the village." (Naofumi)

"...I-I'm embarrassed, Nii-chan..." (Kiel)

I plan to have Firo manage the front, while I watch over the stock.

I also plan to sell medicines made by Kiel (with Raphtalia's help).

"Rishia, I leave the village's management and level raising to you."

(Naofumi)

"G-got it!" (Rishia)

I need to teach the slaves how to peddle.

If I don't then raising funds will get increasingly difficult.

If I circle the country with a carriage advertising my brand, rumors should spread quickly.

That's why I have been spending all of my free time making medicines.

By the way, due to the teachings in compounding I received before the battle with the Spirit Turtle, I can make some advanced medicines as well.

As long as I'm there, we should be able to solve most problems, including

serious disease.

Though this is just my opinion.

“Then, we’re off-!” (Naofumi)

“Wai- Nii-chan! I still haven’t gotten used to vehi-” (Kiel)

Ignoring Kiel, we set off.

It only took one hour to visit the neighboring villages. This is all thanks to Firo’s legs.

I see some familiar faces as I go from town to town. It’s a bit of a strange feeling.

“Saint-sama was the Hero of the shield?” (Customer)

“Yeah… I thought it would be bad for business if my identity got out.”

(Naofumi)

“I apologize for my behavior back then.” (Customer)

“Don’t let it bother you.” (Naofumi)

The bad rumors about me have already died down.

Even though I hadn’t done anything at the time, I was still being called the Devil of the Shield.

I had been faced with quite a bit of undue resentment.

But I don’t have any reason to mull over it now. As long as I get paid, I don’t mind.

I don’t put customers before everything else. Those were the words of an actor. This is reality.

“I got some land, and am training some people to combat the wave. In order to prepare for it, I am also selling medicine and arms. If you need

anything, please ask. You can find me in the carriage marked with the Shield insignia.” (Naofumi)

Right now, there is a Sign with a picture of a shield attached to the side of my carriage.

“It’s only been a couple of days since you defeated that monster, but the hero of the shield is already trying to help the populace. You must really care for this country’s people.” (Customer)

“Yeah, but there isn’t too much I can do by myself. If you would spread the word of the Shield Brand, I would be grateful.” (Naofumi)

And thus, like this, I spread the name of my peddling business.

Firo also serves as a form of advertisement, as she is a Filo Rial Queen.

But her constant chatter is annoying.

If I had someone to manage her, it would be helpful, but I don’t think there are many who would like to deal with her.

“I’ll buy some things to support the efforts of the Shield.” (Customer)

“Much obliged.” (Naofumi)

And, for once, the rumors were working in my favor.

The good rumors of my carriage spread like wildfire.

Some people rush to greet us as we arrive at certain towns.

It’s quite remarkable that gossip can travel faster than Firo’s legs.

“S-shield Niichan… Are you sure this is alright?” (Kiel)

Kiel, who is managing sales, comes up to me with an embarrassed face.

“Yeah, your business smile isn’t as good as Raphtalia’s, but some people might find your clumsy, awkward display to be a turn-on.” (Naofumi)

“Is that supposed to be a complement?” (Kiel)

Yes. Clumsy, innocent characters seem to have a healing effect on people. This holds true in any world.

Raphtalia and Firo are also doing well. It seems that I will be making quite a bit of profit from this enterprise.

Our sales are quite steady.

At this stage, we can’t really spare personnel to gather herbs.

However, even the worst of ingredients can be made into medicine of ‘Normal’ quality with the shield.

These ‘Normal’ medicines can then be compounded by hand to make higher level medicines of quality greater than normal.

I can expect quite a bit in this trip.

For now, I need to prepare enough medicine for all the towns we will stop at. It’s good that I prepared a lot before-hand.

We continue our peddling for the next three days before returning to the village. We occasionally buy herbs from passing merchants.

I feed these to the shield to make more medicine.

Kiel and the other slaves observed my actions and learn how to peddle, or at least that was the plan.

“My, my, if it isn’t the Hero of the Shield.” (Slave Dealer)

When it gets dark, the Slave Dealer appears at the village.

He is accompanied by some sturdy-built adults. It's a bit of a surreal scene.

The other slaves hide in fear.

"What is it? It's rare seeing you outside of your store." (Naofumi)

"How are you doing? How are the slaves?" (Slave Dealer)

"We're moving ahead on schedule. Anyways, why are you here? Answer me." (Naofumi)

"That's good to hear." (Slave Dealer)

So you won't answer!

Calm down... don't get swept up into his pace.

"Today, I came here to deliver the slaves ordered by the Hero of the Shield.

Yes" (Slave Dealer)

"Ah, so you were able to find them?" (Naofumi)

"Yes." (Slave Dealer)

The Slave Dealer goes into his carriage, and out come about 10 people.

They are all shaking in fear.

Raphtalia looks through them for people she knows.

She talks to them in the same way that she talked to Kiel.

But...

"There are 3 children here that I don't know." (Raphtalia)

"Hmm? Did I make a mistake?" (Slave Dealer)

The Slave Dealer claps his hands, and his men move to return the 3 children to the carriage.

"You don't have to worry about it?" (Naofumi)

"And why would that be?" (Slave Dealer)

The slave dealer tilts his head.

"I don't plan to only use people from this village. As long as they don't bear any extreme hatred towards me, I will take them in." (Naofumi)

(TL: Well, he literally says as long as they aren't radicals of the shield faith)

I planned to hire other people as well, anyways. There's no reason to go to the trouble of returning them.

There's no downside of having more manpower.

"You all. Just because they're not from this village, don't leave them out. If I see any bullying, then I'll sell the culprits without hesitation." (Naofumi)

"Ye~s" (Slaves)

My slaves answer as such.

Well, they may bond as fellow slaves... There shouldn't be too much of a problem.

But with increasing numbers, there may be more problems. I should be cautious.

After the slave registration process finishes, I unchain them.

"Are you alright?" (Raphtalia)

Raphtalia, Firo, Rishia, Kiel and the other slaves comfort the shaking new recruits.

"... I'm fine..." (Slave)

It seems it will take a while for them to open up their hearts...

"Shield Nii-chan" (Kiel)

"What?" (Naofumi)

"Let's make some food and have a welcoming party. Of course, Nii-chan is cooking." (Kiel)

Kiel answers with enthusiasm.

What do you mean, 'Of course I'm cooking'?!

"...Well, I did it for you guys too." (Naofumi)

"Y-yeah!" (Kiel)

"The party was my intention from the start. Everyone, please help out."
(Naofumi)

"Yes!" (Everyone not new)

A strange sense of camaraderie has been born among the slaves.

...This may be helpful sometime later.

"For your slaves to be this motivated, you sure are good at handling them.
It makes my heart race." (Slave Dealer)

"Yeah, keep thinking that." (Naofumi)

I chuck a bag of coins at the Slave Dealer.

I don't think I will be seeing any of that money again.

"Please continue to collect some useful Demi-human slaves." (Naofumi)

"As you command." (Slave Dealer)

Now, excluding Raptalia and Rishia, the village has a total of 18 slaves. Including monsters, I have amassed quite a few members.

“How about the monsters?” (Slave Dealer)

“Hmm… I will probably need more soon.” (Naofumi)

“Then, I shall bring some with me the next time I arrive. Do you have any requests” (Slave Dealer)

“The same species as before will do just fine.” (Naofumi)

“Understood. Now then, I must be taking my leave.” (Slave Dealer)

“Yeah, just go already.” (Naofumi)

And so, I drove away the Slave Dealer and his men… or not.

“I would like to partake in the Hero’s home-made meal as well. Yes.” (Slave Dealer)

Yes? Your voice is too loud!

I don’t think he will leave until he eats.

Dammit.

“I understand. Though I don’t understand what people like about it so much. Just eat and leave.” (Naofumi)

“I appreciate it. Yes.” (Slave Dealer)

The Slave Dealer’s men follow him.

… Their presence is ruining the taste.

I have to think of some countermeasures for next time, or me having to cook will become standard practice.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 140 – Desertion and Discovery

Everyone's appetite had been sated, the slave merchant had also returned and night had descended.

“Hey? Are you really going to do it?” (anon slave 1)

“I-isn't it obvious” (anon slave 2)

“But....everyone was nice and the food was great?” (anon slave 1)

“No, those guys are definitely trying to deceive us!” (anon slave 2)

It was noisy outside.

It was dark and hard to see but, for some reason, the new slaves were running towards the fields.

“Haa....Haa” (anon slave)

There was a somewhat strained atmosphere.

Just what were they planning?

Rustling They tried to push their way through the Bioplant's field.

.....

“ “Waaaaaaahhhh!?” “ (runaway slaves)

Ah, they got caught in the defences I established.

Hearing the scream, the other slaves left the house and headed towards the fields to examine the situation.

Sigh.....For the time being, I have to go out and have a look.

“Shield-niichan. We heard a scream” (kiel)

When I exit the house, a concerned-looking Kiel rushes over to me. It seems like Raphtalia went ahead to look at the situation.

“It's alright. There won't be any deaths. I've already prepared for the worst case scenario and only implemented some defensive measures” (naofumi)

“Worst case scenario?” (kiel)

“I could bind them with the slave crest but then there's the problem of being unable to give detailed orders. Well in short, I'm talking about desertion” (naofumi)

Yes, the slave crest has the possibility of prohibiting desertion itself.

Once they leave the grounds, inducing death was even possible but, as one would expect, I paid no small amount for these guys so killing them would be bad.

Besides, I have plans to designate slaves to peddle outside the village.

That's why I configured the penalties to only cause chest pains for all the slaves staying in the village at night.

“ “Waahhhh! He-help—!” ” (runaway slaves)

The monsters I used to maintain the soil, Dunes, had emerged from underground, coiled around the three slaves who tried to escape and hung them up in mid-air.

I had given instructions to the Dunes so that anyone fleeing from the established site would be apprehended.

"To abscond so suddenly, aren't these guys courageous." (naofumi)

"Naofumi-sama!" (raphtalia)

After discovering the circumstances, Raphtalia joined us with an urgent-looking expression.

I thought this commotion of escaping would happen sometime, but it was later than I had expected.

That was because Raphtalia's old friends became attached to me for some reason or another.

Moreover, many of them had lived here to begin with.

"Now then you guys, where were you planning to go after you escaped?"

(naofumi)

I faced the slaves who were hanging in mid-air and inquired.

"Wh-Who's going to say anything!" (anon slave 2)

The boy who was acting as the leader, replied.

Hm.... he definitely has a lot of spirit.

It would be a great contest between Kiel and him.

"Is that so, if you don't talk then I'll let that fellow play around, but is that alright with you?" (naofumi)

"Gr..." (anon slave 2 – runaway slave leader)

By the way, Dunes also have their own personality, their appearance may be of a huge earthworm but they're quite amiable and love to play. If it's this kind of rebellious kid then I should let them play all night. To be honest, I don't have any obligation to raise a slave who just attempts to run away. I'd like to sell them back to the slave merchant immediately but I will give them a chance.

“Look, just talk” (naofumi)

“Wh-Who's going to say anything!” (runaway slave leader)

“If that's the case, I'll turn you into bait for my followers?” (naofumi)

I looked at the situation and gestured indirectly to Firo. The slaves distanced themselves from Firo.

“Eh? Firo-chan also eats people?” (kiel)

“She does have quite an appetite” (naofumi)

“If you defy Shield-niichan you'll be bait? Seriously?” (kiel)

The slaves gathered together and whispered.

She was just standing around in her human form but, read the mood and turn into your monster form—— .

“No~!” (firo)

That Firo, she denied it!

Did she learn some culture when she came here? No way...such unnecessary knowledge.

Raphtalia whispered to the slaves quietly.

"Naofumi-sama is.....saying that kind of thing but....." (raphtalia)

"So really?" (anon slave)

"Shield-niichan is somewhat naive" (kiel)

"I can hear you. You brats!" (naofumi)

Jeez, now I can't use dignity or bullshit.

"....." (runaway slave leader)

The leader of the captured slaves also had a doubtful face.

You should read the atmosphere.

"But the thing about becoming monster bait is real? If I order you to, then it won't mean that no one will become bait." (naofumi)

Become a Caterpiland, become a Dune, if I say be bait then you might get eaten.

When I turned my attention to the monster hut, the Caterpilands were sleeping soundly.

Will they turn into butterflies?

I cast aside these needless thoughts.

The Dunes played with the slave children.

They're huge so they're great for using as threats. If this were an 18+ game, the caterpillars and worms would be used for sexual assault.

"Now talk" (naofumi)

"Eep!" (slave leader)

“Look, if you don't talk then the Dunes might get hungry and eat you~”
(naofumi)

The slaves who originated from this village arbitrarily gave the Dunes names and, “They won't eat him right?” was whispered around.

I want to say that they only eat dirt but now's not the time for that.

“At the worst, another Philorial will eat you guys” (naofumi)

“Eat us!?” (slave leader)

I could feel a gaze from the hut.

I shook my head with a *swish*.

Everyone was raised naively!

“Look, they're waiting impatiently!” (naofumi)

“Eat! Eat!” (slaves)

The chant changed the mood, but for those who didn't know what life in the village was like, it would appear to be excitement.

It would have been great if I could have used this from the beginning.

“What's your answer?” (naofumi)

“.....Fine. But you have to spare the others!” (slave leader)

The runaway slaves' leader reluctantly revealed their story.

It seems to just be gossip among the slaves but in Melromarc's harbour and other various places there exists a faction that's stipulating the release of slaves.

In that faction, a plausible rumour is being spread around saying that Demi-humans can have their slave crest unconditionally removed and will be set free in foreign countries.

Are these Silt Welt's people?

No, for argument's sake, even if they resembled Silt Welt or Schild Frieden's people, It seems that recognition of the same species is strong.

If I had a slogan that said that I would unconditionally free them in another country, I would have some sort of scheme to help me make a profit.

Someone who would do that with good intentions doesn't exist.

If we could use a boat, it would be convenient as transportation.

To become the working force or a foreign county from a safe place, or something like that.

That would be a crueller treatment than just being a slaves....it's felonious.

Or it could possibly be that slave merchants circulate it to recycle business.

At the least, I saw that these guys just couldn't wait for their desired ending.

However, it's a dependable technique for business. Using a smile to deceive the slaves who turn up.

Come to think of it, the slave merchant said so before he left.

No matter what, orphans have increased due to the Spirit Turtle's influence.

There are people who become slaves prior to ending up as orphans, and it seems there are few human slaves but I heard they make humans into slaves in other countries.

It seems like the slave merchant is busy thanks to that sequence of events. He did leave pretty quickly after consuming the food I made.

“Did you guys know?” (naofumi)

“Now that you mention it, I’m starting to remember” (anon slave)

“Yeah, there was that kind of story” (anon slave)

If you knew about it then tell me earlier.....Jeez.

“Shield-niichan's place is just so comfortable that we totally forgot about it”
(kiel)

“Yeah!” (anon slave)

It was a good inclination but~..... somehow I feel like I’m being underrated.

“Next time you'd better tell me these things” (naofumi)

“Oka~y!” (slaves)

Because I have no idea where this money-making story comes from.

Until now, we've just been revising our actions after things happen but if we can read ahead of time, then we can not only keep damages to a minimum but it would even be possible to forestall them.

Knowledge is power.

“Now then, desertion is a serious crime. However, I'm not a demon. You guys have only just come here so I'll postpone it for a short while. Think about it carefully” (naofumi)

I instructed the Dunes to release the slaves, who were then taken in by Raphtalia and the others.

“Educate them properly. That's all” (naofumi)

The runaway slaves defiantly glared at me with hostility.

If it doesn't seem like they've reflected, I'll sell them when the slave merchant comes again.

I can recover my money back if I raise their levels and if they become stronger than usual with the shield's correction skill, he'll probably buy them happily.

.....Let's hope that they can get along with Raphtalia and the others until then.

“It's alright, this won't be like the other places where all you do is suffer pain, that's why we'd like you to help with our....village” (raphtalia)

“.....” (runaway slave)

The three slaves murmured to Raphtalia and the other slaves and averted their faces uncomfortably.

“It has been very painful for you, hasn't it. However.....a little bit, with just a short time it'll be fine so I'd like you to compare him with your previous masters” (raphtalia)

"....." (runaway slave)

"You know, that person is the Hero of the Shield-sama" (raphtalia)

"Eh!?" (runaway slave)

"You've heard the rumours, right? He's the one who saved this country and even become a legend in the country of the Demi-humans" (raphtalia)

"Y-yeah. I heard about it. Some day..... that he's the saint-sama who will save us Demi-human slaves" (runaway slave)

"Yes, and you know, that person may have a bad mouth but he has been rebuilding the village to save us slaves, and we'd like you to become a part of that power" (raphtalia)

"But....." (runaway slave)

"It's okay if you still don't believe it yet. Little by little, we'll show you proof that it's not a lie" (raphtalia)

Well, for the time being I'll leave it to Raphtalia and the others.

I returned to my room and resumed my compounding studies.

I've become able to do a considerable amount of the difficult compounding.

If I have all the ingredients I shouldn't fail.

I have the materials prepared by the queen so let's give it a try.

The next day.

"Is Iwatani-dono here!" (knight)

The female knight came intruding early in the morning.

"What's up? Did the Spirit Turtle appear again?" (naofumi)

"Can you even handle that much excitement!" (knight)

I'm still in the middle of recuperating. This time I'll have to rely on the Seven Star Heroes.

Well.....whatever happens, I also want to be able to participate in it.

"And? You seem to have some urgent business" (naofumi)

"I have a message from the queen. I was told to convey it immediately"
(knight)

"The contents?" (naofumi)

"It seems we've discovered a companion of the Hero of the Spear" (knight)

What? Discovered a companion of Motoyasu?

From her words, it doesn't appear to be Bitch.

So it comes to either Woman 1 or Woman 2.

From this expression you can't tell who is who.

Well that's because I don't know their names.

"A corpse?" (naofumi)

"Wrong. Everything seems to be that an aristocratic father was worried about his daughter but she's fed up because she was forced to help with her mother's housework." (knight)

.....It's a story I've heard before.

It's about her. So now I'm supposed to use her to slay Motoyasu, huh.

And in the end, she returned home and helped with work.

Her assistance didn't seem very proactive, but that sounds like her. She would have felt it was troublesome.

"Don't you have to guard her?" (naofumi)

"It seems we've listened to her circumstances. And so. We'd like Iwatani-dono to meet with that companion and ensnare the Hero of the Spear"
(knight)

I see.....there's the possibility of her attempting to rejoin Motoyasu.
We'll be gambling on whether it'll go well or not, but it would be good if we could catch Motoyasu.

"Will Motoyasu's companion cooperate with that plan? She might double-cross us and pass information back to Motoyasu" (naofumi)

"We've already assigned a Shadow for surveillance. We've also received a report that she currently wants to cooperate" (knight)

"Hmm....." (naofumi)

Well, if my assumption is correct, she could discern right from wrong when she cut ties.

And now she was trying to protect her own position by plea bargaining.

"Understood. Where should I be heading?" (naofumi)

"Ah, I'll give you the map" (knight)

I received the map from the female knight and took Raphtalia and Firo with me to prepare for our departure.

"You guys, please help the newbies level up" (naofumi)

"Yeah. Understood." (kiel)

"I understand" (rishia)

Rishia stood in the front and nodded.

"Sorry, Rishia. If there's information about Itsuki then inviting you will take precedence"

"Yes. I'll be waiting" (rishia)

Recently, Rishia's level had risen up to 35.

It's almost time for a Class Up.

As that may be, I want her to Class Up together with the others so it'll be a bit later but....for now, the capture of Motoyasu has the highest priority.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 141 – The Plan to Capture Spear Hero

“Elena! Thank god. You’re alive!” (Motoyasu)

Upon hearing of The Spear’s companion’s discovery, we head to her location only to find Motoyasu hugging Woman 1 and shouting in a loud voice in front of the reception desk of a store. It gives off a feeling of a parent being reunited with their child.

Elena? did she have a name like that?

I don’t recall asking for her or Woman 2’s names back on Cal Mira.

“Ah, if it isn’t the Hero of the Spear.” (Woman 1)

Woman 1 takes on an oppressive attitude and answers Motoyasu indifferently.

Motoyasu lets out a bewildered voice.

“W-what’s wrong?” (Motoyasu)

“Wrong? Now what could possibly be wrong?” (Woman 1)

“You know, I was really worried.” (Motoyasu)

“I did nothing warranting your worry. I’m more surprised that you managed to survive.” (Woman 1)

“Isn’t it obvious? There’s no way I would die with you guys there to support me.” (Motoyasu)

Motoyasu answers with quite a bit of enthusiasm.

However, the aura around Woman 1 only seems to get colder.

Her gaze is apathetic. It’s as if she is staring at a pile of garbage.

“Naofumi-sama, are you not going to capture them?” (Raphtalia)

“Wait, let’s observe the situation.” (Naofumi)

I think something interesting is about to happen.

And as long as Motoyasu hasn’t captured us, we have the upper hand.

“-?” (Firo)

Firo would stand out in her monster form, so she is currently assuming her human one.

We are observing the affair from an alley outside the store.

“Let’s once again team up to save the world!” (Motoyasu)

“I’m sorry. It seems I will be inheriting my father’s business. I can’t go with you any longer.” (Woman 1)

Her voice is quite indifferent.

It seems she has no intention of listening to Motoyasu at all.

Motoyasu seems to understand this as well. He looks quite confused.

I bet everything had gone his way up until this point.

I envy him in that aspect.

Even though I’ve become a count and acquired some land, for some reason I’ve been stuck cooking and babysitting for my slaves.

I feel as if I’m their mother.

I can hear the soldiers calling me the Hero of the Kitchen behind my back.

(TL: He actually says this, I’m not taking it from the comments)

To be more specific:

"As expected, the Hero of the Kitchen's food really is magnificent." (Soldier)

"You're being rude, he's the Hero of the Shield... right?" (Other Soldier)

"Ah, right... But recently, his shield has started to look like a pot lid to me..."

(Soldier)

"I think you need medical attention." (Other Soldier)

"Hahaha" (Soldier)

To hell with Pot Lids.

Remember this. I'll work you especially hard when building gets under way.

... well that doesn't really matter now.

I need to focus on Motoyasu

"Hey, really, what happened? You're different from the usual Elena."

(Motoyasu)

"Even if you ask me that... You know this is a good time. Let me say it."

(Woman 1)

"What?" (Motoyasu)

"Motoyasu... No, Hero of the Spear-sama. I'm at my limit. I can no longer work with you." (Woman 1)

"W-what are you saying?" (Motoyasu)

"At the start, you had a good reputation, and quite a bit of money. Look at you now. What do you have?" (Woman 1)

"Hm? I'm still a hero..." (Motoyasu)

"Honestly, I'm tired of being your comrade. Sick of it." (Woman 1)

"W-what part of me is the problem?" (Motoyasu)

"You always try to hit on women, you don't understand a female's heart, and you only focus on your strength parameters." (Woman 1)

Motoyasu's hot-blooded personality has diminished.

Has he never been dumped before?

This is bad. I'm starting to smile at his misfortune.

"Naofumi-sama. You're smiling." (Raphtalia)

"But... I mean look. Motoyasu's face has turned blue." (Naofumi)

"Shouldn't you be trying to capture them now?" (Raphtalia)

"Wait a second. I want to watch for a bit more." (Naofumi)

Woman 1 has stopped hiding her thoughts and has begun talking rapidly.

"If you have enough free time to hit on me, then go to the castle and turn yourself in." (Woman 1)

"Gu..." (Motoyasu)

It seems that he does realize his own crimes. Motoyasu remains silent.

"You're already finished. If you want me back so badly, then go get some status. Like the Hero of the Shield." (Woman 1)

Woman 1 gives a rejection reminiscent of a character archetype that I hate. She's speaking as if she hasn't done anything wrong, and that everything is Motoyasu's fault.

If the Heroine of a Gal-ge did that, the company's building would be in flames.

But why is it?

When these words are directed at Motoyasu, I feel an extreme rush of happiness.

"Naofumi-sama!" (Raphtalia)

Raphtalia is angry.

It seems I cannot observe the situation any longer.

“Then, shall we go?” (Naofumi)

I exit the alley and walk towards Motoyasu.

“W-what happened to you. I was sure you were more of an amiable sort of person.” (Motoyasu)

“Even if you ask me that…” (Woman 1)

Motoyasu is too engrossed in the conversation to notice my approach.

This is my chance.

“Hey, tell me this isn’t so.” (Motoyasu)

“I’m very serious, now leave already.” (Woman 1)

Woman 1 notices me getting closer.

It seems she understands the circumstances to some extent.

Please stall him for just a little bit longer…

When I wonder if my message gets across, she gives a quick wink in my direction. For some reason, it looks quite natural.

“And so, I am absolutely done with you. If you don’t give up already, I’ll report you.” (Woman 1)

It seems Woman 1 truly has had it with Motoyasu.

She’s even assisting in his capture.

Well, if she doesn’t do so, she will probably be treated as a conspirator in breaking the Spirit Turtle’s seal.

For argument's sake, it seems that the Spirit Turtle was set to awaken at some point during the wave.

But to willingly release it is still quite a crime.

I'm almost there. Just a little bit closer...

Damn... This one's instincts are not to be underestimated.

"Na-Naofumi!?" (Motoyasu)

"Yo. You understand what me being here means, right?" (Naofumi)

"...Elena, did you sell me out!?" (Motoyasu)

"You say some hurtful things. I am an ally to those with power. I was back then, and I am now." (Woman 1)

I can hear nothing but a villain.

If I were Motoyasu, I would have forgotten my crimes and stabbed her by now.

"Now, obediently get captured. The Hero of the Shield did that at well. It may be best for you to start from scratch." (Woman 1)

"E-Elena... You!" (Motoyasu)

I don't think her intentions are as bad as Bitch. But they're both still trash in my eyes.

Motoyasu doesn't intend to give up without a fight. He takes up his spear.
Do you plan on fighting in such a crowded area?

"I want to hear your story. Will you accompany me to the castle?"
(Naofumi)

"I'm sorry, but I won't go with you. I need to go and prove my own

innocence.” (Motoyasu)

“Innocence, huh? Well, I don’t have the slightest intention of killing you. Right now, we’re looking for a way to push back the wave, like the time we gained with the Spirit Turtle incident. As I’ve said before, I’m only an expert on defense. I cannot hurt you.” (Naofumi)

“I’m not the culprit!” (Motoyasu)

“Listen to a person when they are talking to you.” (Naofumi)

“I’m going to find my comrades, and save the World!” (Motoyasu)

“And what I’m saying is… Ah, this is a pain!” (Naofumi)

Anyways, the culprit always says that they’re innocent.

But judging from Motoyasu’s reaction, he himself believes that he is not the cause.

Which would make the culprit either Ren or Itsuki.

No, it seems all three of them were in the same place at the time. There’s no way he’s not involved at all.

“Anyways, stop by the castle. If you’re not the culprit, then you have no reason to refuse.” (Naofumi)

“I refuse!” (Motoyasu)

“You know, you did the same thing to me right? But now that our positions are switched, you act like that? Is there some sort of reason preventing you from going like there was in my case?” (Naofumi)

“Nope!” (Motoyasu)

“You…” (Naofumi)

“But there’s no way I can let myself get captured here!” (Motoyasu)

I can’t talk with this man. For now, it seems I must restrain him by force. Can I defeat him with my stats reduced to this level?

No, Raphtalia and Firo are here. It should be fine.

From what I see, Motoyasu is alone.

“Please turn yourself in.” (Raphtalia)

“Wha-?” (Motoyasu)

The ones who appeared are Raphtalia, and Firo in her monster form.

It's 3 on 1... What will Woman 1 do?

“Shall I join you?” (Woman 1)

It seems she will assist us in capturing Motoyasu.

Her level should probably be around 70-80.

Her skills should be more than enough.

“Now then. It's time for you to pay the Piper, Motoyasu.” (Naofumi)

(TL: Literally, Time to pay the land tax, Time to reap what you sow.)

“Don't rampage too much. It will be troublesome if we break the store's merchandise.” (Woman 1)

As we approach, Motoyasu begins to Spin his Spear in a large circle.

「Portal Spear!」

Motoyasu's figure seems to bend in space.

What the hell!?

And in an instant, he vanishes completely.

Is it a skill? It probably teleported him to a set location.

Damn, I miscalculated.

In MMOs, Items that allowed you to teleport to a saved location or town

usually existed.

And Motoyasu had found the skill to do it.

“He Ran!” (Naofumi)

Damn… It seems that capturing a hero will be more difficult than it seems. I’ll have to do something before he uses the skill, or find some place or magic that will interfere with its activation.

“H-he vanished… Where could he have gone?” (Raphtalia)

“Who knows.” (Naofumi)

If it’s to a set location, he’s probably at the Dragon’s hourglass, but if he himself can set the location, then the possibilities are endless.

How convenient. Teach it to me.

I don’t know how effective it is, but a warp skill will be priceless while peddling.

I don’t know if the effect is limited to me, or if I can take along comrades, but either way it seems really useful.

If I set my village as the warp point, it will make movement easier, and if any trouble arises I can be there in an instant.

I should probably ask Woman 1 if Motoyasu told her anything about it later.

“Well then, it’s been quite a while.” (Naofumi)

“It sure has.” (Woman 1)

I address Woman 1. Her real name was Elena… I think.

“You’ve probably already told the people at the castle, but would you mind sharing your story with me?” (Naofumi)

“I understand.” (Woman 1)

Elena takes a deep sigh, and begins speaking.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 142 - The Day the Game Ended

After returning from Cal Mira and returning to the castle, the party managed to successfully defend against the wave of another country without issue. After that...

"Will we heading back to Melromark Castle after this?" (Bitch)

"No, there's somewhere I want to stop to power up first." (Motoyasu)

"What do you mean?" (Bitch)

And like that, Motoyasu took a detour, and travelled to the town where the Spirit Turtle was resting.

"It'll be fine if we're over level 60, and the materials and weapons that drop off of the guy that sleeps here are amazing." (Motoyasu)

With that extremely light attitude, Motoyasu steps into the abandoned temple in the Spirit Turtle's town. He's being too easy-going.

Though it's been abandoned, it is usually under surveillance by some monks. For some reason, Motoyasu knew all of the traps and puzzles in the temple, and solved them with ease.

Elena wasn't really watching too closely, so she isn't knowledgeable about how he did it.

So Motoyasu solved all of the puzzles and headed towards the statue hidden under the temple, when the monks on surveillance tried to stop him.

"Oy, what do you think you're doing!?" (Monk)

As they were holding weapons, we assumed that they weren't simple residents of the temple.

"You're being quite rude. The one who stands before you is none other than the Hero of the Spear, Motoyasu-sama, you know." (Bitch)

Bitch goes ahead and names us.

"Wha... The Hero of the Spear!?" (Monk)

"Sorry for the intrusion. There's just a little event I have to go and clear, you see." (Motoyasu)

"I sure am unlucky today. To have a Hero invade this place as well..." (Monk)

These words left a great impression on Elena.

Invalidate...

So someone's causing a commotion at somewhere other than this?

Looking back on it, it was most likely Ren or Itsuki's party.

"Anyways, hurry and get out of here." (Monk)

"I won't be doing that. If I don't defeat the boss here, then something bad will happen later." (Motoyasu)

And Motoyasu casually destroys the statue.

"H-how could you!" (Monk)

The monks are enraged.

Well, if someone claiming to be a hero intrudes on a historic place, and

rudely destroys an ancient artifact then I guess anyone would be mad.

“Now then, to defeat the boss.” (Motoyasu)

...

.....

.....Nothing’s happening.

“Hmm?” (Motoyasu)

“Anyways, can you please come with us?” (Monk)

The monks try to apprehend Motoyasu and party.

“Insolent Peasants!” (Bitch)

Bitch cries out.

Motoyasu looks confused at her outburst, and restrains her. He begins to explain his intentions.

“I was under the impression that this statue was a seal, and if I didn’t hurry, something bad would...” (Motoyasu)

And then the ground began to shake.

“W-what is it now!?” (Monk)

“Yeah! It’s finally showed up!” (Motoyasu)

Motoyasu starts running out of the Temple.

But those tremors had been the Spirit Turtle standing up from its long rest. The ground beneath us moved, and the entire mountain, town and all lifted up.

Bitch and Elena were at a loss for words.

How were they supposed to fight that monster?

“It may look like that, but it’s strength is nothing special. Just fight it like usual! Let’s go!” (Motoyasu)

“Yes!” (Elena)

“Here I come!” (Woman 2)

We all began to charge the Spirit Turtle.

And that’s where everything began to fall apart.

The Spirit Turtle began summoning familiars, and killing innocent people left and right.

But ignoring that, Bitch and Motoyasu keep on running.

They eventually reach the Turtle’s head.

“Let’s go! 「Lightning Spear」 ” (Motoyasu)

Motoyasu unleashes a strong move right off the bat.

But… The turtle lets out a grunt, and comes out of the attack with nothing but a scratch.

And what’s more, that scratch begins to heal in an instant.

“W-what the!?” (Motoyasu)

The Spirit Turtle’s familiars swarm us, and we have to drive them off.

But at this point, I don’t see any way of defeating the Turtle.

“Hey…” (Elena)

“It can’t be…” (Bitch)

“No, no, no…” (Woman 2)

Bitch, Elena and Woman 2 begin whispering amongst themselves.

They had noticed that the Spirit Turtle had begun walking without minding Motoyasu's attacks. It didn't even consider us as a threat.

Back when I fought it, it had been forced to stop and use its strongest attacks.

But these people were even troubled by the familiars.

I guess it was like stabbing a human with a toothpick. I'm surprised

Raphtalia and Firo were able to wound it to that extent. (TL: Ginnoji, Push the end of it!)

"O-okay! Everyone, I'm going to try and draw its attention, so cast support magic on me." (Motoyasu)

Motoyasu starts screaming and running at the beast. It was then that Elena made her decision. She left the party then and there.

She left without looking back, abandoning Bitch and Woman 2.

And after getting far away from the Turtle, she hid until the commotion died down. Then she returned to her parent's home.

Her mother was quite happy that she had survived. She told her that being an adventurer was too dangerous, and that she should take over her father's company.

Her mother decided that she would talk her father into it. That Elena's safety was their top priority.

They used her Father's connection to prevent her from being turned in to the country and executed. It was negotiated that instead of putting her on trial, they would use her as bait to lure Motoyasu out.

...

“If that story is true, then there are several baffling points in it.” (Naofumi)

First of all, what did he mean by, ‘If the boss isn’t defeated, something bad will happen’?

Was something worse than the Turtle itself set to happen?

Anyways, it is probably quite impossible to defeat that monster at level 60.

This seems to be quite similar to that case with the Bioplants.

Motoyasu rushed to save a starving village with Bioplant seeds, but in the end he caused nothing but grief.

Is this Motoyasu’s supposed innocence?

Could Motoyasu possibly know anything about the Blue Hourglass inside of the Turtle?

I also wonder what Ren and Itsuki were doing at the scene.

All three of them have knowledge from the games of their world. For all of them to move at once, something important must be happening.

The problem is that Motoyasu didn’t tell his party much information.

Both Ren and Itsuki have a habit of acting aloof. Their party members probably have very little information as well.

…There’s still too little information for me to make any assumptions.

“I can’t believe he actually survived fighting that Monster.” (Elena)

“You know, you’re saying that to the person that actually defeated it.”

(Naofumi)

“Ah right, so you were the one who defeated it? You really are quite

something. To get to this point from the very bottom... I chose the wrong person to follow." (Elena)

And Elena lets out a deep sigh.

If she was my party member, I would want to smack her.

It's surprising that I'm not mad after listening to her for so long.

"Well anyways, Motoyasu-sama has given me quite a few goods, and my level did rise thanks to him. I guess I can stand the boring task of doing my father's work for a while." (Elena)

"You..." (Naofumi)

"It's gotten quite cold. I thought I would feel warmer when I met that man again..." (Elena)

"Hmm~?" (Firo)

What was that?

It seems that Firo has been developing a strange speaking habit as of late.

"And so that's how it is. If he comes again, I'll report him but I don't think he will be coming again." (Elena)

"Most likely. By the way, do you have any idea where Bitch may be right now?" (Naofumi)

"No idea. But people like her tend to live unnervingly long lives." (Elena)

It will be difficult to capture Motoyasu, and Bitch's whereabouts are unknown.

And this one wants nothing to do with the spear anymore.

I can imagine the other women saying something like, 'we were just

following the Hero, we had nothing to do with it' or something.
They'll probably receive some punishment, but the Queen isn't that evil.

"I understand." (Naofumi)

"Now, you'll have to deal with that annoying ability." (Elena)

Warping... how bothersome.

If he can warp, then there's no point in throwing him in prison.

If this were a game, we would have to afflict him with Silence to seal it off.

And if we didn't do it continuously he would run off the second it wore off.

Judging him will be difficult.

"He occasionally used it." (Elena)

"Do you know what sort of skill it is?" (Naofumi)

"Let's see... He was able to use it on all members of his party at once
without a problem." (Elena)

4 people at once? It's starting to sound like even more of a pain.

He might be able to take an entire army regiment with him.

But there's probably a cool-down time. If we know where it sends him,
then...

"Location. Did he tell you where he could go with it?" (Naofumi)

"How should I know? He didn't say that much. But we travelled by carriage
quite a bit, so it's not all powerful." (Elena)

Can he warp to any town he's been to before? No, that would be cheating.
But by Elena's testimony, it seems the location isn't set. For now, I should
report to the Queen.

"Thanks for your cooperation." (Naofumi)

"It's fine. It's not like... Ah, now that I think about it, you've started some sort of business, haven't you? I've heard the rumors." (Elena)

"Yeah, I need to procure funding in some way." (Naofumi)

"Though it's troublesome, I may start trading with you at some point."
(Elena)

"Well, that depends on your goods. And you really are quite lazy."
(Naofumi)

"I know. I just want to live the easy life." (Elena)

I can't see what Motoyasu saw in this woman... It's the same with Bitch.

"He's quite an amazing person." (Raphtalia)

From Elena's conversation, Raphtalia somehow comes to this conclusion.

"Don't ever fall for someone like that, Raphtalia." (Naofumi)

"I won't!" (Raphtalia)

"Firo wants to run." (Firo)

What is she saying all of a sudden?

Firo has begun acting more oblivious as of late.

I guess she is getting bored.

"Well, see you around." (Naofumi)

"Yeah, good bye." (Elena)

Elena sighs once more. She sits down at the reception desk with a bored expression.

She's really quite an easy-going person.

And so I have failed to capture Motoyasu for now.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 143 - Demon Problem

As I was about to get on the carriage to return to the village, Shadow appeared.

“It’s been a while-gojaru.” (Shadow)

“Even though you say that, you’ve been constantly watching me, haven’t you?” (Naofumi)

“Well, you’re not wrong-gojaru.” (Shadow)

As expected of Shadow.

“You should go to the Queen to report on your attempt to capture the Spear-gojaru.” (Shadow)

“I know, but in truth, I have no idea how to stop him from escaping. Can we put a collar on him, like we did with Trash?” (Naofumi)

If the collar can prevent him from speaking, we can cut off his incantations.

“That collar definitely prevents one from speaking, but its effect is not long in duration-Gojaru” (Shadow)

Ah, so it had a weakness like that. Also, unless we use an invisible seal like the slave seal, he will probably be able to break it and run off.

I think Trash didn’t break his collar, because he didn’t want to anger the Queen…

“Well then, excuse me-gojaru” (Shadow)

And shadow disappeared. This is quite an urgent issue.

In the Net games that I know, there are areas and skills that prevent messaging and warping, but how about this world?

It's not certain that he even has to chant the spell, so stopping it will be a pain in the ass.

And it'll be troublesome if he escapes to another country.

It seems that we will have to put off his capture until the Queen comes up with something.

When I get back to the village, I see that the new slaves are slowly adjusting to their new lives. They have begun to look happier as they do their work.

"Ah, so you're back." (Female Knight)

Female Knight comes over to greet us.

"I heard that you failed." (Female Knight)

"News spreads fast... He ran away with a teleportation skill." (Naofumi)

"Heroes sure have convenient skills. Can Iwatani-dono use it?" (Female Knight)

"If I get the corresponding shield, I should be able to... but I don't know any way of preventing it." (Naofumi)

This will be a really annoying job.

If I were being chased, I would spam that skill without remorse.

"What is Rishia doing?" (Naofumi)

If she spreads the Itsuki religion, I'll have to have her fired.

"She's trying her best to train the new slaves." (Female Knight)

"I see..." (Naofumi)

"By the way, will Iwatani-dono be doing restorations on the town where this area's feudal lord used to live?" (Female Knight)

"Ah, that town..." (Naofumi)

Due to the influence of the first wave, all of the towns in the entire area have turned into ghost-towns.

The place Female Knight is talking about is the adjacent village.

Its damages exceed that of this one. The stone buildings and walls have all collapsed, and the Feudal Lord's mansion seems to have been burned down. It's quite severe.

"The Queen asked whether or not you would be rebuilding that area."
(Female Knight)

"I still need an area for people other than slaves to live. If you're free, I won't mind it if you start reparations on that area by yourself." (Naofumi)

"I thought you would say that, so I have already sent a request for anyone wanting to immigrate here." (Female Knight)

"Immigrate?" (Naofumi)

"Due to Iwatani-dono's contributions, there are some who want to live on your land." (Female Knight)

"hmm..." (Naofumi)

"I've put together a list." (Female Knight)

Female Knight hands over a list of all of the applicants who want to live on my land.

… There are quite a few people from Ryut village. There are also people from villages destroyed by the Spirit Turtle. There's quite a variety.

"Well, isn't it fine?" (Naofumi)

"I think you should at least go talk to them at some point in time." (Female Knight)

"Fumu…"

I idly pat the neck of the Filo Rial who was resting near me.

"Kueeee…"

I'm pretty sure that adult Filo Rials are supposed to cry, "Guaaa".

How the hell is Firo raising it? Is it because it is a vassal of a Filo Rial Queen?

Or is it just part of its personality?

As I pet the Filo Rial, I notice Firo glaring at me with jealous eyes.

"Master, why are you patting that child?" (Firo)

"? I have no ulterior motives." (Naofumi)

"Then pet Firo as well." (Firo)

Firo approaches me menacingly.

This will be a pain to deal with…

I sigh, and begin to rub under Firo's beak.

Her plumage is thicker than a normal Filo Rial's.

"Oh, right." (Naofumi)

"Hm?" (Firo)

“Why does this Filo Rial say ‘Kue’? Isn’t it supposed to be Gua?” (Naofumi)

“He was under Firo’s care, so I messed around with him for a bit.” (Firo)

Messed around? Can she modify objects like me?

“... Specifically what did you do?” (Naofumi)

“Firo fed him until his stomach was full.” (Firo)

I don’t care about that.

“Firo also... taught him how to swim... He is a little stronger than the other kids, and can pull the cart very well. But he gets hungry easily.” (Firo)

So is this Filo Rial a new species?

“If Master wants me to, I can mess with him some more.” (Firo)

“... I’ll consider it.” (Naofumi)

So his fuel efficiency is lower than the other Filo Rials... That’ll be a problem. I wonder if Firo gets a pop up screen during modifications like I get when modifying the Bioplants.

“KUEEEEEEEeEE” (Filo Rial) (TL: The lowercase is in the original)

The other Filo Rial rubs against me with his head. Firo copies him.

What was his name again?

I think the Slaves randomly picked one...

“And so you don’t confuse him with other Filo Rials, Firo made him say Kue. Now Master can tell recognize him even if he can’t hear him talk.” (Firo)

Is it a sort of signal inaudible to the human ear?

I believe my world had animals that could do that as well.

Though I'm not too knowledgeable.

"Then what is Gua supposed to mean?" (Naofumi)

"Fitoria's underlings use that." (Firo)

I see...

"Since I'm here, I'll ask, but if something happens to you, will he take over as King or Queen?" (Naofumi)

"Firo will be fine!" (Firo)

Firo starts pouting.

Was it that unexpected? Well, it's concerning her death, so I guess there's no helping it.

"Yeah, but we're talking about the worst case scenario here." (Naofumi)

"Mu..." (Firo)

Firo's puffs up her cheeks.

"Um, you know. If Master asks him to... I think he will take over." (Firo)

"I see." (Naofumi)

So he will take over Firo's followers if anything happens to her.

But what I was trying to find out was something else.

I wanted to know if he would be able to change his species to Filo Rial Queen.

"KUE!? KUEEEEEEEEE!?" (Filo Rial)

The Filo Rial's feathers suddenly stand on end.

"Master, what do you think you're doing!?" (Firo)

It seems his reaction speed is quite fast. I guess I should stop.

His feathers go down quickly.

"Mu..." (Firo)

Firo idly kicks the ground.

"Master, recently haven't you been being quite cruel to Firo?" (Firo)

"I'm not being cruel. I just think that the 'Kue's are more cute than the you that just talks non-stop. If you started to speak in 'Kue's, then I might pamper you more." (Naofumi)

"No!" (Firo)

I don't get why she wants to talk so badly.

Anyways, it seems that only Firo's followers say Kue.

"Hey... Did I just hear some amazing information?" (Female Knight)

Female Knight starts speaking with a dumbfound expression.

"Really?" (Naofumi)

"Filo Rial are mysterious lifeforms, you know." (Female Knight)

"They're Holy Birds, right?" (Naofumi)

"People may say that, but... I don't think that's true." (Female Knight)

'I may need to rethink these facts', Female Knight mutters to herself. I've gotten used to Firo being like this, but normal Filo Rials are usually used in the same way as horses.

"Oh, right. Returning to topic. Will you be restoring the neighboring town?"
(Naofumi)

"Yes, I believe it will be an important asset. You're the count here, so oversee the work." (Female Knight)

"That sounds like a pain, but I guess I have to do it." (Naofumi)

I'll need to oversee the restorations here as well.

... Oh right. There has been something bothering me for a while.

"Hey, Firo." (Naofumi)

"What is it~?"(Firo)

"Do the Caterpillands have any sort of social organization like the Filo Rials?"
(Naofumi)

"Who knows?" (Firo)

The Caterpillands have also begun to grow in strange directions...

They are much bigger than other Caterpillands of the same level.

They're just large bugs, but the slaves use the Three Caterpillands to manage the growth of the Bioplants.

...Wait.

One. Two. Three...

There's one too many!

“Who is it? Who got another Caterpilland without my permission!?”

(Naofumi)

The slaves frantically try to hide one of the Caterpillands behind their backs. The one they hide is the biggest one of the group.

“It’s way too late to hide it!” (Naofumi)

When did this thing appear?

“Damn, he found out!” (Kiel)

“How did you think I wouldn’t find out!” (Naofumi)

I can confirm it’s status. This means that it is a monster under my control. A girl from the new slaves spreads her body out and tries to hide the monster, but it’s still clearly visible. Behind her is the Bioplant field. I think I’ve seen this scene before.

“What do you mean? There’s nothing wrong here.” (Girl Slave)

“It’s huge! Do you think you’re hiding anything!?” (Naofumi)

I can see everything. What valley did this girl crawl out of?

The Caterpilland behind her back is bigger than any I’ve ever seen.

“Now then, explain yourselves.” (Naofumi)

The slaves hang their heads.

“Please tell me in detail exactly what happened.” (Naofumi)

“Well, it’s not like we were trying to make Shield Nii-chan angry…” (Kiel)

Kiel steps in front of the Female Slave.

Et tu brute?

“How did you manage to register it as mine?” (Naofumi)

“Well, it was kind of mixed it in with the new slaves that arrived.” (Kiel)

“So you…” (Naofumi)

“By the guy who sold them.” (Kiel)

“The Slave Dealer!?” (Naofumi)

When did he have the chance to do it? I never noticed him perform the registration on it.

Was his hunger act a way to sneak this one through?¥

“Why would the slave dealer…” (Naofumi)

“This is the first egg we all found together!” (Kiel)

“Wha?” (Naofumi)

It seems it went something like this.

When everyone had gone to level-grind, they had come across a monster nest. They then took back the egg that was there with them as a trophy. When they brought it back, no one knew how they were going to raise it.

“Raphtalia, did you know?” (Naofumi)

“I had no idea.” (Raphtalia)

“If we told Raphtalia-chan, we thought she would report it to you.” (Kiel)

Having a monster egg without a registered master is dangerous, so everyone was worrying about what to do. It was then that the Slave Dealer appeared.

So everyone gathered together the money they had saved through peddling

with me, and begged him to register it.

And so the Slave Dealer distracted me while some of his men secretly went and registered the egg. Everyone worked together to raise it healthily, and... this was the result.

I see. I had been looking over the other Caterpillands level to make it so they didn't grow too big to handle. That's why this one, who grew freely, is so big.

It's 5 times bigger than a normal one. Its level is also quite high.

"Please don't kill it!" (Slave Girl)

"Hey, valley girl. You're being loud. Please be quiet for a second."

(Naofumi)

"What do you mean by Valley, Nii-chan!?" (Kiel)

Well. These people have been doing quite a bit without my permission.

I haven't lost anything, but it will be bad if they learn to act this way in the future. The slaves around the Valley Girl-ish slave rise and protect the Caterpilland.

"You know, if you act on your own like that, I'll be troubled. If you really want to raise it, make sure you tell me first." (Naofumi)

I've already asked the Slave Dealer for more monsters anyways. I won't have to put in too much extra effort.

"And make sure you raise it properly. If I see it lose to another monster, I'll sell it on the spot." (Naofumi)

"Y-yes!" (Female Slave)

Well... Problems are popping out one after the other.

"See, I told you. Shield Nii-chan will let us keep it." (Kiel)

"But Kiel-chan, you said that Shield Nii-chan would definitely sell it. You said he was greedy with money, so he would sell it on the spot. That's why we worked so hard to hide it..." (Female Slave)

"don't add a -chan to my name!" (Kiel)

"..." (Naofumi)

These people...

Wait, I didn't notice it before, but he said 'The First egg'...

"This is the only egg, right?" (Naofumi)

"Um... well..." (Kiel)

"Well?" (Naofumi)

The slaves hang their heads.

My head hurts...

I don't know if these kids are just skilled at finding monster nests, but when I look under the floor of the house the slaves are staying in, I see rows and rows of eggs.

"When we saved up more money, we planned to take them to the Slave selling guy..." (Kiel)

"There's a lot... If they hatch unregistered, what did you plan on doing!?" (Naofumi)

That would be a calamity in itself.

Well, dealing with freshly hatched monsters wouldn't be that much of a problem...

“Yeah, but…” (Kiel)

“*Sigh*… well for now, let me see what sort of eggs they are.” (Naofumi)

And wait, there are wild monster eggs as well? Of course that’s the case. I guess I can make egg-based dishes as well now. But if I say that, I think the slaves will get mad at me.

“Are they all Caterpilland eggs?” (Naofumi)

“Probably not. We got them from all sorts of places.” (Kiel)

“I see.” (Naofumi)

These people plan to trouble me in many ways. I hope these monsters don’t cost me too much money to care for. I guess I can cancel my monster order to the Slave Dealer.

(Translator Note: Valley Girl is read as Taniko)

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 144 – Determination

I head towards the town Female Knight told me about.

It's close enough to this village to walk there.

"Ah, it's the Hero of the Shield!" (Villager)

When I head to the village, I find that construction is already underway. Many people are working on salvaging the pre-existing buildings here, and some are starting construction on new ones. Some people stop what they're doing, and come over to greet me.

I put on my best business smile to meet them. The leader of the group seems to be a youth from Ryut village.

"I've heard about your situation. Have any problems surfaced yet?"

(Naofumi)

"Well... There's a river and a well nearby, and food circulation is going quite smoothly. If I had to mention a problem, it would be that the management of personnel is difficult." (Leader)

"I see." (Naofumi)

"It seems there have been some disputes over property rights here and there." (Leader)

"Fumu..." (Naofumi)

Well, this was a town whose buildings were all destroyed in the wave.

What's more, the town is undergoing restorations under the supervision of a Hero. Some people will probably try to arbitrarily claim some land as their own.

“Even if they used to live here, it doesn’t matter. Please have anyone without the intention to cooperate leave the premise.” (Naofumi)

As I declare this, some people seem to rise to object, but they quickly give up.

“Also, if you need to extend past the boundaries of the village, feel free to do so.” (Naofumi)

I then begin to consider the possibility of flooding.

I will need someone to manage the roads, but I don’t think there are many people knowledgeable in that field.

“Anyways, for now try to build while focusing on bringing new businesses here, and expand accordingly. Also, we will need to build some inns.”

(Naofumi)

“Understood!” (Leader)

No matter how reparations proceed, getting businesses will be essential. They should build while keeping this in mind.

“Next, we’ll need some sort of security force.” (Naofumi)

For now, we are leaving this to the Castle’s guards, but I eventually plan to leave it to the slaves who wish to fight in the wave.

That way, it will be easier to reprimand them for excessive behavior.

“We’re getting new applicants who want to live here by the day.” (Leader)

“It will be troublesome if they start gathering at my village, though.”

(Naofumi)

“The Female Knight that was with you spread the rumor that this village was your actual base of operations.” (Leader)

That Knight does good work. I should probably ask for her name at some point in time.

I can hear hammers pounding away as people resume their work.

“Ah, aren’t you the Shield Hero kid?” (Magic Shopkeeper)

“Hm?” (Naofumi)

I turn around and see the old lady from the Magic Shop coming towards me. Ah, yeah. A lot of people had come here from Ryut Village. It’s not strange that she would join them.

“Ah, you’re from the Magic Shop. The shop collapsed, right?” (Naofumi)

“Well, yeah…” (Magic Shopkeeper)

“Did you come here to help with your family?” (Naofumi)

“I’m currently helping feed the workers.” (Magic Shopkeeper)

“I see… By the way, how are the repairs on your store going?” (Naofumi)

“I don’t know when they will be finished, but there are quite a few people in the Castle Town waiting expectantly for its reopening.” (Magic Shopkeeper)

With all the damage done to it, I guess re-opening will take a while.

Though the Queen is doing her best to help, the country’s manpower and resources suffered a large loss.

“If possible, I would like to set up shop here for a bit…” (Magic Shopkeeper)

“I magic shop will be an important asset. I’ll give you special permission.”
(Naofumi)

“I am very grateful for your words.” (Magic Shopkeeper)

“But only after we get some usable buildings completed.” (Naofumi)

“I’ll wait expectantly.” (Magic Shopkeeper)

“Don’t worry. Oh, and if you have any free time, can you come to the neighboring village and teach some magic?” (Naofumi)

Some slaves have begun learning from books, but there’s a limit to self-study. We also don’t know anybody’s magical affinities. It will probably best to ask an expert in the field.

Recently I have been considering constructing a school-like institution. Right now, the slaves are learning combat from Female Knight and Raphtalia outdoors, but having a Dojo might also make things easier. For that purpose, it is very fortunate that we have a Magic Shop close-by.

“I’ll think about it once I set up shop.” (Magic Shopkeeper)

“You’re quite a resilient person. To take on more despite your current situation.”

“Even though I look like this now, I used to run the largest Magic Shop in the Castle Town, you know.” (Magic Shopkeeper)

“Please invite the Apothecary as well. It’s good for business to have many different facilities.” (Naofumi)

“It seems the Hero of the Shield is quite the Business Man.” (Magic Shopkeeper)

“Well, I have been called greedy on numerous occasions, and I can use the reasoning of, ‘It’s for the sake of the world’ as I please.” (Naofumi)

“Fufufu…” (Magic Shopkeeper)

“Hahaha…” (Naofumi)

The people around us have begun to distance themselves. After that, I start to give orders regarding the construction.

...

One Week from that

Rishia's level is now 40, and the other slaves will be able to class up soon as well.

It's about time for us to go to the dragon hourglass.

Female knight already notified the Queen before-hand, so all we have to do is go there.

So I gather together the higher level slaves, and headed for the Castle Town.

"It's been a while since I last came here." (Naofumi)

We parked the Carriage at a near-by village, and entered the Castle Town by foot. This is because we will be recognized if anyone sees Firo pulling the cart.

It's been two weeks, and the Castle town is still recovering.

"Shield Nii-chan, Why are you wearing a cloak?" (Kiel)

The slave whose level is second highest to Rishia is Kiel. Her straight-forward personality makes her well suited for battle.

She's started to be able to coordinate attacks with Raphtalia and Rishia. Female Knight tells me that Kiel will become an amazing fighter someday.

"If I'm found out, it will become impossible to move." (Naofumi)

Hooray for the Shield! Is what people will say as they fence us in.

Though I'm a hero, I find that it's quite a pain to actually be treated as one.

“Is that so?” (Kiel)

“Firo, make sure you don’t assume your monster form unless you absolutely have to.” (Naofumi)

“Yes~” (Firo)

Should I stop by the weapons shop on the way back?

… I don’t have enough money. If I get something too expensive, and have him put it on my tab, I’ll feel bad.

Though I don’t think I should keep him waiting for too long.

I’ve been slowly saving up, but everyday expenses have been piling up…

I decide to stop on by on the way back anyways.

And so we reach to the Dragon’s Hourglass.

“We’ve been expecting you.” (Soldier)

A soldier, who looks quite talkative, comes out to greet us.

“Today, I’m here for my comrades’ Class Up.” (Naofumi)

“I’m aware, I received the message earlier.” (Soldier)

The Ceremony starts in the same way it did with Raphtalia and Firo. I order Firo to assume her Monster form.

“U-um… What should I try and class up to?” (Rishia)

Rishia looks over at me with a troubled expression.

“You need to choose for yourself…Though there is something here that may choose for you…” (Naofumi)

Firo’s Ahoge shows no signs of movement.

“Firo.” (Naofumi)

“Yes~?” (Firo)

“If your Ahoge starts moving, you need to get out of the building.”

(Naofumi)

“Eh…” (Firo)

“Do you want something like that time with Raphtalia and You to happen again?” (Naofumi)

The result worked out, but it wasn’t good for the individuals. In order to let them choose their own paths, I need to caution Firo.

“Yeah… I got it…” (Firo)

Okay, I got Firo’s consent.

“Hey, you. Wait for a second.” (Naofumi)

“What, Shield Nii-chan” (Kiel)

“I’ll ask just in case, but you do know that we have come here to class up, correct?” (Naofumi)

“Well, Yeah…” (Kiel)

“You told us earlier” (Slave)

The slaves all nod at me.

“And so, my belief is that you should be the one to choose your own destiny. This is something separate from preparing for the Wave.” (Naofumi)

“What do you mean, Nii—chan?” (Kiel)

“I’ll give more training to those that personally want to participate in the wave. But we also have to consider what happens after the wave is over.”

(Naofumi)

“...” (Raphtalia)

Raphtalia watches over me in silence.

That’s right, I started this village with Raphtalia in mind. But, everyone here will also have a life in this world after everything is over.

“The class you choose here may heighten your abilities, but it will also narrow the possibly roles you can play in the future. Does everyone understand?” (Naofumi)

The slaves nod.

I confirm this, and continue speaking.

“Your lives will take you to many places from now. You’ll experience many new situations and take on many roles. That’s why you should be the ones to choose your path here. It’s not always best to simply have someone pick the route that gets you the best stats for you.” (Naofumi)

“Can that really happen?” (Slave)

I give a heavy nod.

“Raphtalia and Firo here are victims of such a phenomena.” (Naofumi)

The two unenthusiastically raise their hands.

“Do you see the crest on Firo’s head? It arbitrarily decided their class-ups for them. But the class it gave them had higher stats than most normal ones.” (Naofumi)

“Really!?” (Kiel)

“Yeah, but for you guys, combat abilities isn’t everything. If there’s a role

you really want to do, there should be a class that allows you to specialize in it." (Naofumi)

There's no perfect class. And among those present here, there are definitely no perfect people.

And that's why.

"Just make sure you don't regret it." (Naofumi)

The slaves whisper amongst themselves.

"I got it, Shield Nii-chan. I... Want to become as strong as I can possibly be. If such an option exists, then I don't need a choice." (Kiel)

Kiel speaks with determination.

The last time she went back to train, she suffered quite heavy injuries and had to be carried back.

"I want to Class Up like Rishia Nee-chan and lead the others."

"You won't be the only one taking damage. In the worst case scenario, some may die." (Naofumi)

"I know, Shield Nii-chan." (Kiel)

"You have a habit of being impulsive. If you screw up here, you may regret it." (Naofumi)

"Don't worry! It'll definitely work out!" (Kiel)

Is what she said. Though her enthusiasm was unmatched, she put too much focus on a single monster, and took an unexpected attack from a blind spot.

Her comrades were also quite injured.

“Shield Nii-chan. I think this is the first time I have tasted defeat… If I don’t do my best, will it turn out like that again?” (Kiel)

She said afterwards. I had healed her wounds with magic and medicine, but the experience still lingered in her mind.

“Shield Nii-chan always protected me… so I never noticed. That fighting was such a scary thing.” (Kiel)

“… In the end, It’s fine because no one died, but if anyone were to die under your watch, you’ll feel a pain greater than any other.” (Naofumi)

“Yeah… Nii-chan, I’m sorry for looking down on you until now. I’ll go tell the others.” (Kiel)

“…I thought it was supposed to be difficult to teach them discipline, but they went and learned it before I had even noticed.” (Naofumi)

And that experience gave everyone a lot to think about. It seems that Kiel cried that night.

Kiel still bears the scar of that incident, but the experience she gained outweighs the damages.

After seeing Kiel’s squad come back with injuries, the rest of the slaves have also begun to develop a fear of fighting.

They’ve become more diligent and have begun to develop tactics. If Raphtalia hadn’t been there to rescue them, who knows what would have happened to them.

Even I understood that I was being too light on them, but it seems Raphtalia and the others were harsh on them to compensate.

Raphtalia is supporting me in many ways.

The boy next to Kiel steps forward.

"I... want to pick my own future." (Boy)

"I understand. Please split into two groups, those who want to choose, and those that don't." (Naofumi)

The slaves follow my orders, and divide themselves.

"Now then, Firo. I'll have the people that don't want to choose go first, so please back off when those that do step forward." (Naofumi)

"Yes." (Firo)

"Rishia, what will you do?" (Naofumi)

"I... Want to become stronger by my own hand. If it means giving up my choice, then I don't need such an option." (Rishia)

I had anticipated that Rishia would pick that. She came with me for this sole purpose.

"Then it's fine. Pick a class that suits your tastes." (Naofumi)

"Yes!" (Rishia)

The hourglass begins to shine, and Rishia closes her eyes.

The soldiers in the area surround the Hourglass, and liquid begin to flow into the grooves on the floor that formed a magic circle.

The Hourglass glows brighter, and the circle on the floor begins to shine with it.

Rishia's class up menu appears in front of me,

but I close it

...

"Hm?" (Firo)

Firo fidgets with her Ahoge

So it won't act up like last time.

"Okay, Rishia, it seems that there are no problems." (Naofumi)

"O-okay." (Rishia)

Rishia begins breathing slowly, and reads through the list.

The light begins to converge on her.

"I've made my decision." (Rishia)

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 145 - Report

Class up was confirmed and then Rishia was engulfed in luminescence, Status confirmed.

Overall status increased, but not noticeably high.

“How is it? What did you possibly choose?” (Naofumi)

“As expected of me... In the end I chose the best way to help, I considered all of them, it is different from the last time so I chose the path to become universal.” (Rishia)

(TLN: Just to make it clear so nobody's confused Rishia now chose to be full time all-around back then even though she's all-around the class that she chose focuses more on close combat because itsuki is you know.. Range.. ref. Ch95)

“I see...” (Naofumi)

Rishia's determination took on a form and raised her status, but the numbers still weren't that high.

Rishia's status is balanced but if you compare it to Kiel you could say that it is inferior on some parts.

However, Rishia chose that personally, so I feel like when the time comes it will produce great results.

She is now braver than before, she now possess determination and strength.

I believe that Rishia's strength doesn't rely on her Lvl. And status.

Lvl. and status is not what makes Rishia strong I believe.

"I'm next" (Kiel)

Kiel touched the hourglass after Rishia.

Same magic formed, and an icon appeared in front of me.

"Wa?!" (Kiel)

This time Firo's ahoge disappeared, I saw Kiel's Class up got interfered.
(TLN: Firo's ahoge also went missing when Raphtalia classed up... ref.ch81)

Smoke screen came out and covered the area.

..... Just like when Raphtalia Classed up, Kiel's status jumped up.

However, if you compare it to the time when Raphtalia classed up it is slightly lower.

"Wow!... What is this? I can feel the power spreading all over my body."
(Kiel)

“What are you even trying to say?” (Naofumi)

Firo’s ahoge activated with Kiel but not with Rishia.

Does it only affect Demons and Demi-humans.

Then the other slaves followed, but there are times when Firo’s ahoge does not disappear.

I still don’t understand the rules.

“Well then, Firo why don’t you wait outside.” (Naofumi)

“Uhn.” (Firo)

I want them to choose their own path, so I instructed Firo to go outside of the building.

(TLN: Apparently Firo’s ahoge interferes with the Class up making them unable to choose their own class. Remember when Firo was disappointed because she wasn’t able to choose the one that spits poison so that’s that)

The ahoge would probably not interfere with the Class up anymore.

Then the Class up ended.

“Well then, I have some little things to do so each and every one of you is free to do what you want. We will meet at the gates by evening.” (Naofumi)

“Understood Shield nii-chan.” (Kiel)

I don't think that anyone will try to runaway but even if they do the slave crest is still in effect

“What should I do?” (Raphtalia)

Raphtalia asked.

Right, Occasionally I have arranged meetings with the Queen and exchange information.

In this case, I just have to send Raphtalia to the slave shop.

“Go to the Slave shop on my behalf, I still need to talk to the Queen.”
(Naofumi)

“Understood.” (Raphtalia)

“What about Firo?” (Firo)

“Go play with the Slaves.” (Naofumi)

“Yay!” (Firo)

Thus I went to meet the Queen after a long time.

I headed to the Castle's direction to and speak to the Queen.

"Iwatani-sama, How's your Village's state of affairs?" (Queen)

"Oh well, The place is still small in number but I've taken actions to increase the population." (Naofumi)

"Is it?, Stories about immigrants have already come this way." (Queen)

"How's the reconstruction going there?" (Naofumi)

"To be honest, If a war were to happen our financial state would go downhill." (Queen)

The damage would be huge...

It's because of those Heroes' doing, I guess there's no helping it.

"I spoke with Elena the companion of the Spear." (Naofumi)

"Yes, I've heard of it, to have escape with a strange ability." (Queen)

"Yeah right, It would be really hard to catch him." (Naofumi)

"I'm aware of that, that's what I would like to discuss, how can we arrest him." (Queen)

A weak provocation would do the opposite effect. Still, letting him run loose would be troublesome. To awaken a demon class monster.

Well, Motoyasu is that kind of person, sudden change of behavior seems impossible.

Especially with those two, I would be in a great disadvantage if that happens as a matter of fact it would be really difficult to improve.

(TLN: He's talking about Motoyasu's companions)

"Hmmm." (Naofumi)

"The problem is when we catch him, we need a place where he cannot escape. Putting a reward on his arrest is unreasonable because he might just flee to another country and defect, it might also become a trigger for war, spreading the word that he is an impostor Hero, release an article that says that he is actually dead??? There's also a risk that the people will make a fuss if the hero is killed."

It'd be troublesome to get him aboard the boat with a stick or a chopstick.

I'd like him to participate in the wave if possible.

It's impossible, I'd like to have four times the firepower but in this situation it seems impossible.

The slaves also need to be combat ready in less than 3 months.

"Do you have some information regarding the other heroes?" (Naofumi)

"There are reports about some eyewitness." (Queen)

"For now, we only have reports about the Hero of the Sword and Hero of the Spear." (Queen)

"How's that?"(Naofumi)

"Rumors are not proven yet, we're still gathering evidence on that information." (Queen)

That was somehow inconvenient.

"How about your daughter?" (Naofumi)

"Just the same, There are some testimonies but no concrete evidence."
(Queen)

She is still alive somewhere.

"I also ordered shadow to search for them but the search is not going well."
(Queen)

"They can't be found anywhere?" (Naofumi)

"There are many possible reasons... One is maybe they're stuck somewhere or two they've been arrested by enemy country." (Queen)

"Hmm." (Naofumi)

"There's also a possibility of a Jamming tool." (Queen)

"Tool? Is there such a thing?" (Naofumi)

"The problem is the organization that frees the slave...

"That was a high grade slave crest so undoing it will be difficult so jamming it is the only possible way to make up for it." (Queen)

It seems that way.

Again the stories about an organization that frees the slaves...

"This story is of no importance to Iwatani-sama, however the news about the Seven-star Heroes is still not within our grasp." (Queen)

"but the story is that we will meet them when a much more pressing situation takes place." (Naofumi)

"Right, it will take place." (Queen)

"Anything else?" (Naofumi)

"Stories about an unknown metal has been excavated on the Spirit Turtle's cave, the city's liven up because of those stories." (Queen)

“Ho...” (Naofumi)

Such stories would definitely attract blacksmiths and merchants to come. As expected of the Turtle’s cave to give such opportunities.

This means, I should also go there to gather raw materials to enhance my shield.

Spirit turtle’s metal and Spirit Turtle’s crystal.

Those kinds...

“We should raise the tax around this area, if you do that it will help raise the city’s funds, it will help rebuild the city. Also the weapons made from that metal seem to be of high quality.” (Naofumi)

“I wish I could raise the tax.” (Queen)

It seems uneconomical. I guess I should go there instead, buying Raphtalia and Firo a gift seems impossible.

“Should I give special permission to Iwatani-sama to mine?”(Queen)

“I’ll think about it.” (Naofumi)

Selling the ores is likely to be profitable but on the other hand it feels like it’s such a waste.

“There are other problems, Lately there has been a rumor that an Alchemist Master awakened inside the Spirit Turtle.”(Queen)
(TLN: If you read the Christmas special by Yoraikun you will understand)

“What is that?” (Naofumi)

Such rumors arrive at the Queen’s ears, as expected of a problem child.

“The right person should be in charge on investigating the demon. Although problem is that the research will be different the normal course.” (Queen)

“Ho.” (Naofumi)

Research investigation huh? I should also start my research with the bio plant.

If it all goes well, I feel like it will be really profitable.

Business is back on track, for the first time it is something good. It looks like it’ll be quite a challenge when I get back.

I need to gather talented people so that even if I fail I’ll be able to cope up with it.

“Do you have anything else?”

“Please give me the used weapons of the knights. Then, please issue me the required documents for peddling.” (Naofumi)

I deal with things in various ways and as for the weapon it is necessary because of the increasing number of slaves.

I need those documents for the Peddling team.

I feel that it is necessary so that there won't be impostors.

"I understand. However Iwatani-sama, impersonating you seems impossible." (Queen)

"What do you mean?" (Naofumi)

"Since the story about you eating the Rokoru fruit is true they would have to eat it to prove their selves." (Queen)

"Indeed... Such a thing does exist." (Naofumi)

It happened once when they gave it to me and I ate it, that guy's face became pale "It's real" he made such a fuss over it.

"Nope, I still need it in case they asked for proof. If the Queen's seal is there, impersonation will be really difficult." (Naofumi)

"I see, well then I shall deliver the weapons and the documents later."
(Queen)

Weapons huh?

I wonder if there're prototype weapons, I wonder if they will send it to my place.

"What's the matter?"(Queen)

"Nothing." (Naofumi)

I have little expectation on that. For some reason I could see the Queen is calculating numbers, I understand that it is really tough for her.

Are you still alright financially? She's really anxious about those numbers.

"Let's help out each other in the restoration." (Naofumi)

"You're right." (Queen)

There's only this much words that I could hear from the Queen.

"Come to think of it... Where's Trash?" (Naofumi)

"I made him watch over the border." (Queen)

"A Watch keeper?" (Naofumi)

"Yes, No one will be stupid enough to invade if the wise and intelligent King is in the lookout... right?" (Queen)

“Is there any effect if that ignorant and fooling King is guarding?” (Naofumi)

“It’s been effective in these past several years, so there will be no problem. Moreover he’s the one who summoned all Four Heroes which the other countries failed to do.”(Queen)

“Right, such point of view exist.” (Naofumi)

The Queen sighed really deep.

“That man was really excellent till he had a child.” (Queen)

“I can only imagine.” (Naofumi)

“Just maybe, I hope that he becomes the person he used to be. Iwatani-sama it would be good if you could meet that excellent person.”(Queen)

That manner of speaking is just like a person who handles Human Affairs.

First child huh? I wonder if that child was bitch. I now understand why Trash’s head became so messed up.

I wonder about bitch but if I were to have children they would definitely be adorable.

As a matter of fact I became like a mother, there are times that I want to beat those slaves.

And Kiel would be the first one on the list but recently Valley Child is the one I want to beat the most.(TLN: Valley child is "Taniko")

"Such a thing, where would that charming person be?" (Naofumi)

"Indeed, but if you look at Melty isn't she adorable?" (Queen)

"You don't need to nod." (Naofumi)

Your daughter is really cute but to make me consider a child? What a terrible parent.

It is a game where my parents are good at.

If you think about it my parents' expectation towards my younger brother might've multiplied.

If you think about parents' expectation towards bitch, it seems Trash really loves Bitch.

Well it may vary.

.... I ended up thinking that terrible thing as something good.

"Well then, I still have some things to do."(Naofumi)

"Yes, Iwatani-sama I sincerely wish for your Village's restoration to finish soon."(Queen)

"You don't say."(Naofumi)

(TLN: This translation seems appropriate hahaha)

"Oya?!, At this rate it will definitely be a success because your reputation is now really good."(Queen)

Shameless.

As expected of Melromarc's fox lady.

Leaving such impression after talking with the Queen, I left the castle.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 146 - Beastman

“Ah, Naofumi-sama” (Raphtalia)

I stop by the Slave Dealer’s tent, and Raphtalia greets me.

“My, My. Is it not the Hero of the Shield?” (Slave Dealer)

“You. You did something unnecessary for my slaves. I am quite troubled, you know.” (Naofumi)

“Now then, what could you be talking about?” (Slave Dealer)

The Slave dealer forces a laugh.

If I try to push this point too hard, I will get sucked into his pace. I guess I’ll drop it.

“Anyways, I came across a large amount of monster eggs, so I would like to cancel my order.” (Naofumi)

“I thought you would say that, so I took the liberty of cancelling it for you. Yes.” (Slave Dealer)

“You…” (Naofumi)

Calm down… Calm down…

“Would you like another Filo Rial? I don’t believe there was one in the eggs you had.” (Slave Dealer)

“So you already checked them!” (Naofumi)

I’m reaching my limit here.

I hate feeling like I’m dancing on the palm of his hand.

"I think it would be more entertaining for you to find out when they hatch.
Yes" (Slave Dealer)

My head hurts.

This happens every time I see this person.

It's annoying, so I'll just finish my business here and leave.

"Then, did you find any more slaves from that village?" (Naofumi)

"Well..." (Raphtalia)

Raphtalia's expression becomes dark.

"I apologize, but we have yet to find any more." (Slave Dealer)

"I see..." (Naofumi)

"I even spread around the Hero of the Shield's name, and no one came forward. I don't think I will be able to find any more within the confines of Melromark." (Slave Dealer)

"Fumu..." (Naofumi)

Though we have been able to find quite a few children, I guess not to many people survived the wave in the first place.

I have found 15 already... (TL: remember, 3 of the 18 were outsiders)

"It may be beneficial to increase the search range. Yes." (Slave Dealer)

"Can you do that?" (Naofumi)

"If the Hero of the Shield asks for it, I have no choice but to oblige." (Slave Dealer)

This sounds fishy. The Slave dealer extends his hand to me as if asking for money.

"After that is... Do you have any skilled Demi-Human slaves that would be of use to me?" (Naofumi)

Having someone skilled at compounding, construction or black smithery may help the growth of the village.

The only one there who can make intermediate-advanced medicine is me. There are a few that have shown interest in the subject but progress has been slow.

"Then the Tanuki girl you have with you may be considered quite skillful."
(Slave Dealer)

I look at Raphtalia.

Now that I think about it, I haven't actually taught her anything... The most I've had her do is tan leather.

Well, she is quite clumsy in most aspects besides fighting.

"Were you just thinking something relatively rude?" (Raphtalia)

"Not really..." (Naofumi)

"Let's see... Well, the Lemo Race is quite good with their hands. They're also relatively docile." (Slave Dealer)

"Hmm..." (Naofumi)

"You've probably never seen one before, though. Yes." (Slave Dealer)

"Are they rare?" (Naofumi)

"They're not rare in other countries, but as they are considered Beastmen, their numbers in Melromark are few. Yes." (Slave Dealer)

I see...

Are they closer to animals than other Demi-humans? Now that I think about it, all of the Demi-humans I've seen so far have been quite humanoid.

"Do you have any here?" (Naofumi)

"Yes, you may be in luck. I one in stock." (Slave Dealer)

"Let me see." (Naofumi)

The Slave Dealer leads me into the depths of the tent.

"Here it is."

I look at the cage I have been led to.

In it is a child cowering in fear under a blanket.

It's dark, so I can't really see anything.

"Fumu..." (Naofumi)

"Present her." (Slave Dealer)

At the Slave Dealer's command, a muscular man appears, and open the cage. He takes away its blanket.

"S-stop it!" (Lemo Kid)

"..." (Naofumi)

I look at the Lemo Child.

To describe it briefly, it looked like a mole. It's a werewolf-like fusion between a human and a mole.

It looks like the Lemo are a race of mole-people.

Its stature is quite short. Its height only comes up to my waist. Is it because it is a child?

"It is of a race whose eyes are weak to light. You may be able to use it for nighttime patrols." (Slave Dealer)

"awawa..." (Lemo Kid)

The Lemo Child huddles into a corner of the cage, whilst trembling. Raphtalia has a worried expression.

"Raphtalia." (Naofumi)

"Yes?" (Raphtalia)

"You understand that I'm no philanthropist, right?" (Naofumi)

"Y-yeah, I realize that." (Raphtalia)

Even so, it's a race that is skilled in craftsmanship...
but...

"Hey, do a lot of people in this country persecute Demi-Human slaves?"
(Naofumi)

Many of the Demi-human children slaves had remnants of scars left by whips all over their bodies.

"A while ago, this country was at war with Demi-Humans, there's no helping it. Yes." (Slave Dealer)

"So people are still taking out their anger from that time on these races?"
(Naofumi)

"Well, it's war. Many people lost their families to the Demi-humans, and this country's military campaigns brought an influx of cheap Demi-Human slaves.

Yes. There was no easier way for those people to get revenge on Demi-Humans as a whole.” (Slave Dealer)

This country’s darkness runs deep.

I wonder what the nobles think of me, who is making a Demi-Human village.

“Though slavery is legal in this country, mistreatment of slaves is punishable by law. Yes.” (Slave Dealer)

“Those actions were illegal… You seem to be selling quite a few of such illegal slaves…” (Naofumi)

Now that I think about it, this tent is quite well hidden, in a back alley…

“Don’t worry. I am conducting business quite legally. Yes.” (Slave Dealer)

Legal…

The Slave Dealer looks proud as he says this, but something in my head is screaming bull shit.

If so, then why do you carry abused slaves in the first place…

“Well, there’s nothing I can do about it.” (Naofumi)

I look at the wounds on the back of the Lemo kid.

…They look quite deep.

[Zveit Heal] (Naofumi)

I use healing magic, and the wounds slowly close.

But the wounds were quite severe. I can’t heal them completely.

"Eh?" (Lemo Kid)

"Hey, you. I heard you are quite skillful." (Naofumi)

"...I don't know." (Lemo Kid)

The Lemo slave hides its face as it says this.

It's a better reply than claiming to do something that you can't.

"If I taught you something, could you do it?" (Naofumi)

"... if you order it, I would have to do it. So... don't hit me..." (Lemo Kid)

The Lemo slave sounds like it is about to cry. It curls itself into a tighter ball.

But as the rest of the cage is empty, it still stands out.

"Fufu..." (Raphtalia)

Raphtalia looks at me and laughs a bit. What is she on about?

"Should I prepare the slave seal?" (Slave Dealer)

"Yeah." (Naofumi)

And so we apply the slave seal to the Lemo child. I am already used to the process.

"Ah, I just remembered. Hero of the Shield." (Slave Dealer)

"What? I won't cook you anything." (Naofumi)

"That's unfortunate, but there is something I must warn you about." (Slave Dealer)

"Hm?" (Naofumi)

"There seems to be a Mad Alchemist in this country who focuses on

monster experimentation. Be careful.” (Slave Dealer) (TL:
O···nii..chan···Da···ddy···)

The Queen said the same thing. Is he really that dangerous?

“The Hero of the Shield’s monsters all seem to grow abnormally. You may get targeted soon.” (Slave Dealer)

“Yes, Yes. Got it.” (Naofumi)

I casually let it slide as I exit the Slave Dealer’s tent.

“I-it’s too bright···” (Lemo Kid)

The Lemo Slave follows me while keeping both of its hands on its eyes.

Oh right. This race was weak to light.

Raphtalia casts some magic, and dims the light around the slave’s face.

“Will this be alright?” (Raphtalia)

“Ah··· Yes.” (Lemo Kid)

Right, Raphtalia’s best magic was Light and Darkness. She could manipulate them to create illusions.

The Class Up let her use more types of magic, but that magic seems to remain her specialty.

A mole Beastman.

Perhaps we should get some sunglasses.

What sort of environment does this race usually live in?

But sunglasses···

As I walk through town, I see a stand selling spectacles.

"Hey." (Naofumi)

"How can I help you?" (Glasses Vendor)

I address the person selling the specs.

"Do you have any glasses with darkened lenses? I'm looking for a pair."

(Naofumi)

"We have some." (Glasses Vendor)

The Vendor takes out a sample and puts it on the table.

The lenses are definitely black... what are they made of? It doesn't seem to be glass... Is it some part of a monster?

It seems to be made of 'Black Fly Wings'. It's a monster I've yet to meet.

I wonder where they live.

I understand it probably isn't common. It's probably in a cave, or in the mountains or somewhere else difficult to reach by carriage.

"...That will be 80 Copper." (Glasses Vendor)

It's basic business to increase the price if someone shows interest.

"Hmm... I see. Then I guess we should give up for now." (Naofumi)

I give the glasses back to the vendor and head towards another merchant's shop.

He should know my face.

However I make sure to conceal myself with the cloak.

"Do you happen to have any Black Fly Wing?" (Naofumi)

"Wha?" (Merchant)

Upon hearing my voice, the merchant seems a bit startled.

Perhaps he figured out my identity. He puts on a suspicious smile.

“Ah, remember the time with the balloons?” (Naofumi)

(TL: It is implied that this merchant was the first victim of the balloons Naofumi kept under his robe)

“I-I won’t treat you like that again!” (Merchant)

“Anyways, do you have any?” (Naofumi)

“I have some. I have some, so please stop pressuring me.” (Merchant)

“That depends on your actions.” (Naofumi)

The merchant frantically brings out the requested goods.

Black Fly Wing

Quality: Poor

“It’s quality is poor. How does 10 Copper sound?” (Naofumi)

“...*sigh*. I understand.” (Merchant)

“But as compensation, I’ll give you some publicity. Raphtalia, take the kid and get a bit away.” (Naofumi)

“Understood.” (Raphtalia)

“Eh? Eh?” (Merchant)

Raphtalia takes the Lumo Child’s hand and leads it away.

“Eh!?” (Merchant)

The Merchant raises his voice.

I take off my robe, and he makes a startled sound.

"Thanks! You've really helped me a lot. I'll continue to be a regular customer." (Naofumi)

I say it in quite a monotonous voice.

But the volume of my voice, and the fact that my face was visible causes the surrounding people to stop in their tracks.

"Well then, See ya." (Naofumi)

"W-wait!" (Merchant)

I hear the sound of people crowding his shop as I walk away.

"The Hero of the Shield is your regular!?" (Crowd)

"If that man shopped here, I bet the items will bring luck! Please sell me something." (Another Person)

"U-um..." (Merchant)

The Merchant lets out a troubled voice as he deals with all the swarming customers.

Now then, I should find a safe place to put the robe back on.

(TL: If you haven't noticed yet, Lemo is an anagram of mole. If you can think of a better anagram of it, please present it. (The Japanese is Lu-Mo, rearranged to form Mo-Lu))

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 147 – Flag, Again

“What do you plan on doing with that?” (Raphtalia)

I meet up again with Raphtalia.

“I’m going to make some simple sunglasses.” (Naofumi)

“But weren’t there some being sold back there?” (Raphtalia)

Well I guess this world already has the concept. The history of sunglasses dated back quite far in my world.

I guess it’s the same for this one.

“You have to think economically in times like this.” (Naofumi)

It seems that buying a pre-made pair is quite expensive.

If I just buy a cheap frame, and cut the wing to size…

“And it’s done!” (Naofumi)

I put the simple sunglasses over to the Lemo child’s face.

“Umm…” (Lemo Kid)

The Lemo Child shows a troubled face upon receiving the glasses.

“Raphtalia.” (Naofumi)

“On it.” (Raphtalia)

Raphtalia casts darkness magic on the Child’s face once again.

"Ah..." (Lemo Kid)

"Are you alright? It's not too bright, is it?" (Raphtalia)

"I'm fine..." (Lemo Kid)

The Lemo Child replies while fidgeting with its hands.

"Then shall we go?" (Raphtalia)

"Yes." (Lemo Kid)

To make sure it didn't run, we hold hands with the Lemo.

Well, I guess the slave seal will prevent that anyways.

"T-thank you." (Lemo Kid)

"Don't mind it. Where I live, there are plenty of brats like you." (Naofumi)

"Eh?" (Lemo Kid)

"This person here is the Hero of the Shield." (Raphtalia)

"EEEEH!?" (Lemo Kid)

To only realize that now... I'm pretty sure the Slave Dealer already called me that a few times.

We continue to walk down an alley.

"Is that one of your kids, Hero of the Shield?" (???)

A passerby calls out to me.

"Hm?" (Naofumi)

It's the manager of the clothing shop.

It really has been a while since we last met. Not since I requested the clothing for Firo.

I know why, but she gives off an Otaku-like feeling.

And one that tilts in the direction of a Fujoshi.

“You have a Beastman with you this time, what have you been up to?”

(Tailor)

“You didn’t hear from the old man at the weapons shop?” (Naofumi)

I take off the hood of the cloak and begin speaking.

“Ah, right. I vaguely recall hearing something about it.” (Tailor)

“You really…” (Naofumi)

“I’ve been thinking about it for a while, but the Demi-Human who’s always with you really is pretty. Won’t you stop by to dress her up?” (Tailor)

“Expensive clothes are… a bit…” (Raphtalia)

Due to my influence, Raphtalia has learned to live quite economically. I think she would prefer some armor for efficiency’s sake.

“That’s such a waste. Clothing is essential if you want to woo men.” (Tailor)

“I-is that true…?” (Raphtalia)

It seems this will take a while.

I don’t care one bit about woman’s fashion, so I kinda want to leave.

“…and that’s why it’s good. Is this child a Lemo? I think I’m getting some inspiration.” (Tailor)

“Wa, wa…” (Lemo Kid)

The Clothing shop manager pulls out a sketchbook and starts doodling in it. As expected.

“Lately with the calamity, the town’s mood has gone down. No one’s buying clothing anymore.” (Tailor)

She continues speaking as she draws.

“My store also sells armor, but its main purpose is clothing.” (Tailor)

“I see.” (Naofumi)

“To be honest, I’ve been losing interest in making clothes lately. I haven’t been getting much inspiration lately.” (Tailor)

I think that she said that the material for Firo’s clothes was very good.

“You know the girl you brought before. Making clothes for her was really fun. Could you bring her by again?” (Tailor)

“That cost quite a bit…” (Naofumi)

And Firo seems to be happy with just one set.

We’re not particularly in need of it, so I see no need to buy her any new clothes.

If we had that sort of extra money lying around, I would use it on more useful things.

Anyways, Firo is usually in her Monster form, so the dress isn’t even used often.

“Hmm… The Hero of the Shield has quite a few inspirational people.”
(Tailor)

It seems that her Lemo Race design series is completed.

On the page are a pair of overalls, a vest, and various other designs.

My slaves' clothes... mostly consist of second-hand armor. This gives the town an adventurer's guild-like atmosphere.

Buying them casual clothes will cost a bit...

Some cheap clothes from the Old Man is as much as we can currently afford.

I guess I should ask.

"I can only offer furs and some peculiar materials, but do you want to work in my village?" (Naofumi)

Her expression lights up.

"Are you serious!?" (Tailor)

"Y-yeah." (Naofumi)

"Are there more cute and interesting kids like this one?" (Tailor)

"I don't know if they'll meet your specifications, but my village has plenty of Demi-Human slaves."

"A-a-are there also male slaves there?"

"Of course." (Naofumi)

"Are you sure!?" (Tailor)

She seems to be extremely excited.

I have a bad feeling about this.

"I am a warrior on a quest for new inspiration. Please allow me to trouble you for a while." (Tailor)

W-wait...

The thing that hooked her seems to be the fact that there were male slaves...

This is bad. The people from my world who were of a similar personality to her, would think of 'that' when they heard the words 'Male Slaves'. (TL: Most likely BL)

My decision may have been rash.

"T-then stop by to check the place out some time." (Naofumi)

"Yes! Of Course!" (Tailor)

And somehow the conversation was over.

...

After that, we parted ways with the clothing shop owner, and kept walking, when...

Kyurururururu...

A sound comes from the Lemo Slave's stomach. The child begins acting embarrassed.

"... I guess we should stop somewhere to eat." (Naofumi)

"Yeah, we should" (Raphtalia)

"What does this one's race eat? Is it fine to feed it like the other Demi-Humans? Should I give it worms?"

If it's worms, then preparing food will be difficult.

I have the Dunes in the village, but those aren't food.

If it is necessary, I will cook the, but if I do, it will be troublesome.

Taniko would shout at me.

"Um...well..." (Lemo Kid)

The Lemo Child tries to speak up.

“I went …from home… a few times… It seems we can eat normal food.”

(Lemo Kid)

“I see, then should we stop by a food stall?” (Naofumi)

“Naofumi-sama won’t cook?” (Raphtalia)

“We’ve come all the way to the Castle Town, and you still want me to cook?
The smell will draw that person to us.”(Naofumi)

I have a classrooms-worth of hungry children here. Even if I cook on the River Bank, I think Firo will notice and bring them there.

“Isn’t that fine?” (Raphtalia)

“Even if you’re fine with it, I will find it a pain.” (Naofumi)

Recently, I’ve been trying to keep my cooking duty to a minimum.

There’s been a slave who came to me, wanting to improve her cooking skill.

“Eh-… I wanted to eat Shield Nii-chan’s cooking.” (Kiel)

Is what most of the kids said.

It was quite difficult to encourage her to cook again after that.

“Anyways. Today, we are eating out.” (Naofumi)

“I understand…” (Raphtalia)

And so we head back towards the market.

The merchant’s shop has a long line in front of it. And the merchant is happily selling his goods for many times the normal price. I applaud his skills.

Now then, where should we eat?

As I look for restaurants, I notice the place I first took Raphtalia to eat.

“Will here be fine?” (Naofumi)

“Yes.” (Raphtalia)

“…” (Lumo Kid)

I hold the Lumo Slaves hand as we enter the building.

“Welc…ome” (Waiter)

The person who greets us frowns upon seeing me with a cloak covering my body.

“Sir. Serving a person suspicious person accompanied by a Demi-Human is a bit…” (Waiter)

“… If you have such a rule, then hang it on the front door.” (Naofumi)

“B-but still…” (Host)

Fumu… the host looks at the dirty Lemo Kid accompanying us, but doesn't remark on it.

This reminds me of when I once brought Raphtalia here when she was still small. No one said anything at that time.

I guess I am being held up because Beastmen are feared more than other Demi-Humans.

There are plenty of people who wear cloaks, though many of them do so for suspicious reasons.

Most restaurants here should understand that. In my world most restaurants forbid the admittance of animals for sanitary reasons.

However in this world, Beastmen are supposed to be treated as Bonafide human beings.

But I guess the hatred of this country is quite deeply seated. There's no choice.

I take off the cloak.

"Is this fine? There's no suspicious person anymore. Will you still deny food to a Demi-Human and a Beastman?" (Naofumi)

"Ah...no... I-I understand." (Waiter)

With an amazed expression, the waiter leads us to a seat.

The Lemo slave fidgets as its eyes wander all over the room.

"This reminds me of the old Raphtalia." (Naofumi)

"Please don't bring up that time." (Raphtalia)

"Do you want another Kid's set lunch?" (Naofumi)

"I don't need one!" (Raphtalia)

The Lemo slave can't seem to calm down. Its gaze begins to drift to its feet.

"Is there anything you'd like to eat?" (Naofumi)

"Well..." (Lemo Kid)

The kid looks at the menu and gives a bitter face.

"I can't read..." (Lemo Kid)

"Then should we order something for you?" (Naofumi)

"Please..." (Lemo Kid)

I raise my hand and call our server.

“One Daily Special and two Kids se-” (Naofumi)

“Two Daily Specials and one Kid’s set lunch.” (Raphtalia)

Raphtalia interrupts me before I can finish.

“What’s wrong?” (Naofumi)

“Naofumi-sama, you’re mistaken. You still think I want that set, don’t you?”
(Raphtalia)

“Even though you say that, you still kinda want it, right? It’s something the other villagers would happily eat.” (Naofumi)

The last time she ate it, Raphtalia had carefully taken out and saved the flag.

“It’s fine. Please don’t treat me like a child.” (Raphtalia)

Is she at a delicate age? Even though her body has gotten big, her mind should still be a child.

“I-is that everything?” (Waiter)

“Yeah, I’ll leave it to you.” (Naofumi)

The waiter disappears into the back of the store.

I can faintly hear him saying something about the Hero of the Shield visiting.
After a while, the food arrives.

“Thank you for waiting. Here are your Daily Specials and Kid’s set lunch.”
(Waiter)

The Kid’s set lunch is more flashy than usual. There are two flags in the rice.

“...It’s showier than it was last time we were here.” (Naofumi)

They’re definitely showing off.

Reputation is amazing... did the other heroes get this sort of treatment before as well?

Showing my face is inconvenient, but I guess I can get some things out of it.

“U-um...” (Lemo Kid)

I can hear the Lemo Slave swallowing its saliva.

“It’s fine, you can eat.” (Naofumi)

“Is it really okay?” (Lemo Kid)

“Yeah.” (Naofumi)

“You won’t drop the dish and make me eat off the floor?” (Lemo Kid)

“... Where the hell did you learn that? That’s a waste of food.” (Naofumi)

So this one’s previous master made it eat off the ground.

“It’s fine, just eat however you like.” (Naofumi)

It was like this with Raphtalia as well.

“You can eat when you want.” (Raphtalia)

“Y-yes...” (Lemo Kid)

Raphtalia makes this interaction much easier.

The Lemo Child timidly begins eating the Kid’s set lunch.

Its using its hands. I guess it never really learned manners.

But Manner is something you can always learn later.

...Right now the slaves take food from a single dish in the center of the table.

It's like eating with a large family.

I think back to around the time I got here. Back then I couldn't taste anything. I thought that as long it was cheap, any food would do.

I look out the store's window.

The Spirit Turtle's shell looms high over the city... There are still more battles to come.

"Thank you very much." (Lemo Kid)

The Lemo Race slave begins stuffing its cheeks with the Kid's set lunch in tears.

"If you think that, then eat it properly." (Naofumi)

If you leave any, I may get angry.

"But I won't force you to eat anything your race cannot eat." (Naofumi)

I hope there isn't too much of a difference in constitution.

"Yes" (Lemo Kid)

Like a mother, Raphitalia wipes the Lumo Child's mouth and begins feeding it.

It's quite a peaceful scene.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 148 - Failed Creation

“Ah!”

When I was feeding the kid’s lunch to the new Lemo slave, a loud voice could be heard from outside the shop.

“Big bro’s eating!” (kiel)

When I looked, Kiel was pointing at me from outside the shop while she entered.

“No fair, that’s sneaky! I also wanna eat” (kiel)

“You’re only saying that because you see the skewer in my hand” (naofumi)

I had given everyone pocket money and free time to celebrate their long-awaited Class Up.

As long as they have money, they should be able eat here.

Nevertheless, they shouldn’t be asking me for skewers from the food stall after they’ve eaten.

“Isn’t it okay~” (kiel)

“Kiel-chan, stop speaking so selfishly” (raphtalia)

“Don’t add ‘chan’ to my name!” (kiel)

It’s this dialogue again. How troubling.

“Hm? Who’s this kid?” (kiel)

“Eeep…….” (mole slave)

Startled, the Lemo slave curled into a ball.

It’s not that he’s timid but… he’s afraid of strangers.

“He’s a new slave” (naofumi)

“I see, Shield-niichan may say scary things but he’s rather indulgent so its alright” (kiel)

“You…….” (naofumi)

To say this kind of thing about someone whilst in front of the person himself.

“What’s your name?” (kiel)

“…….Imia Lucullan Lisella Tereti Quariz” (mole slave -> imia)

Such a long name! It’s hard to remember.

“So Imia then. You a boy?” (kiel)

"No..." (imia)

Another girl. And I thought she was a boy.

It's getting a bit much.

"You can't get spoiled though. Me and Raphtalia-chan won't allow it" (kiel)

"O-okay" (imia)

"The place we'll be going to is somewhere where if you work hard, you'll be able to see your improvement, but only for the part you worked on, so let's work hard together" (kiel)

Kiel explained clumsily and smiled at Imia.

It's a good development.

"And so, Niichan. Give me some too" (kiel)

"Nope" (naofumi)

In the end it was that. She was just making fun of me, this damn brat.

"What happened to the other guys" (naofumi)

Ever since I first gave food to Kiel to eat, everytime she finds me I end up having to feed her. Give me a break.

“They went shopping with the pocket money Niichan gave them. For souvenirs and stuff” (kiel)

Really, just what am I even doing.

I should be managing my land, but instead it feels like I’ve just become the big brother who looks after everyone.

“Well, we’ll be meeting up at the castle town’s gates. Don’t be late whatsoever” (naofumi)

“I already know that” (kiel)

Kiel left, as expected of someone who wasn’t usually treated. As she was going, she said this.

“Oh right, the friend Firo brought along is a bit prideful but she’s interesting!” (kiel)

Melty…she’s playing around incognito again.

I wonder what’s become of the education in this country.

Imia’s also in a good mood and has become cheerful.

It’s similar to how Raptalia was in the past.

“For the time being, let’s go to the weapon store after we finish eating”
(naofumi)

“Yes” (imia)

munch munch Imia frantically devoured her Kid’s Lunch.

It seems like she would get along with Firo, with the way she’s eating.

After we finished our meal at the restaurant, we made an appearance at the weapon store.

“Oh, well isn’t it the young laddie. It’s been a while” (oyaji) [T/N: He calls him An-chan which is derived from Aniki/Nii-chan]

“It’s been around two weeks” (naofumi)

“It’s around that long” (oyaji)

“Ah……it’s about the shields I requested last time but……the money is still…….” (naofumi)

It’s very hard to say. That I don’t have money so I’ll just be copying.

“Ooh, I had also wanted to talk to you about that” (oyaji)

The old man also seems to have trouble talking. The atmosphere is oppressing.

"It's not finished yet" (oyaji)

"I see...then it's fine" (naofumi)

"I'll be frank. I've gotten the materials from the country, but they all have the characteristic of being resilient" (oyaji)

"Ho..."

"If I was to make them into weapons, adding enchantments or special options would be easy and because the foundation is solid, it could become a weapon just by shaving it into shape" (oyaji)

Hmm...is it the manufacturing part that's difficult...?

I haven't really looked at the other weapon stores so I don't really understand, but this one seems to have a bit of an appeal to it.

I remember that the spears and swords were quite conspicuous.

There was a blade that looked like turtle shell. So that was shaped by shaving.

"However, I also wonder if that can even be called a weapon. There's no need for skills. In the worst case, a clumsily hammered item could still end up on the market" (oyaji)

"Are you that fussed about it" (naofumi)

“Well, it would be affected by the maker’s skills so I’m fine with just wondering. That can’t really be said for making armour” (oyaji)

“Is that so?” (naofumi)

“Yes. Anyhow, this material seems to have bad affinity with the Air Wake feature. It has no effect” (oyaji) [T/N: Air Wake was originally translated as Air Walk in the early chapters but the pronunciation is 'ea' (air) 'ueiku' (wake)]

The Air Wake feature. If I’m not mistaken, it’s supposed to make heavy armour lighter.

This is due to a special effect that my shield has. Gravity Field comes to mind.

This special effect that uses a gravitational field. It has a high probability of developing in shields in the Spirit Turtle Series and it seems to have the power to somehow cause floating objects to fall.

If that was enhanced by the shield’s effect then even Firo would say it’s hard to jump around.

I nod at the fact that if the Spirit Turtle materials have even just a tiny bit of this effect then it’s affinity with the Air Wake feature would be bad.

“And these materials are intrinsically heavy, I can improvise something for a sword or spear if they were only being used as a blade but armour is different” (oyaji)

The Spirit Turtle’s shell itself can’t help but to repel attacks……however it’s heavy.

“There’s the concept of making it thinner but, you know…… the fundamental defensive power would diminish” (oyaji)

“I see” (naofumi)

It’s a difficult material. In my opinion it’s not perfected yet.

“I’ve made two prototypes. Have a look” (oyaji)

The old man guided me to the interior of the shop and I looked at his prototypes.

“Is this it?” (naofumi)

“Yeah” (oyaji)

“Is it alright if I hold it?” (naofumi)

“Go ahead” (oyaji)

One was an ordinary shield made from the spirit turtle's shell, the problem was it was quite big and bulky.

I thought I'd try to carry it to test it, but it was too heavy. I should've had the strength to stop the spirit turtle's foot but...was that simply the miraculous power of the shield?

It's not that I couldn't pick it up, but it would be hard to fight with this.

I can't wield it.

Just putting it down caused a *thud* sound.

And, there was a major flaw.

It didn't activate Weapon Copy.

In other words, this wasn't treated as a shield. The criteria was hard to understand but, it may appear as a...wall.

However, there was a tiny reaction so I feel like it's a delicate line.

"How is it?" (oyaji)

"Looks like it isn't a shield" (naofumi)

"Ah, it's a total failure" (oyaji)

"The other one?" (naofumi)

“This is it” (oyaji)

And what he gave me was a thin, semi-transparent shield made from the turtle shell. It’s appearance was really beautiful.

I try hold it for the time being. Its weight is not to the extent of being unable to hold it. It seems good to wield.

However…….huh? This one is more shield-like but there’s no reaction.

“Ah as I expected, even the young laddie thinks there’s a problem” (oyaji)

“What’s the meaning of this?” (naofumi)

“For this shield, I focused on making it as light as possible. In exchange for that, there’s barely any defensive power. It’d break in one shot” (oyaji)

……Wow. A disposable. Or should I say this is already…….

“Isn’t this a plate?” (naofumi)

“Even if you say that, I can’t refute it. When I first made it, I saw something similar shown in the souvenir shop and I wanted to cry” (oyaji)

“It’s also heavier than it looks” (naofumi)

“That’s right, isn’t it. It’s a strong property of these materials” (oyaji)

“Both extremes are too much, don’t you have any that are more of a compromise?” (naofumi)

“That’s just it though. Somehow if it exceeds a certain thickness, the weight won’t change” (oyaji)

“Eh?” (naofumi)

“If I made that plate just a bit thicker, its weight would have been the same. Its weight is proportional to its size. Having said that, I wanted to try making a smaller shield but then your forearm would be heavy” (oyaji)

…….It’s hard to handle.

Do the ingredients themselves emit gravity.

“How difficult” (naofumi)

“Yeah, but my intuition is telling me I should be able to make something good. So just wait with high expectations, young laddie” (oyaji)

“……I get it. Oh right, this is about the shield but”

I explained to the old man regarding the necessary items for strengthening the Spirit Turtle materials. Perhaps there might be something helpful.

“I see…that’s an interesting story, it might be better than making it with only those materials” (oyaji)

“Actually I will receive them in segments so I can deliver some afterwards”

“Alright. I’ll also try a variety of things” (oyaji)

And, while saying that, the two of us returned from the interior of the store.

Raphtalia and Imia were waiting near the entrance.

“Oh right, it looks like you brought a Beastman slave with you” (oyaji)

“Yeah, it seems this kid is from a skilful race so I bought her” (naofumi)

“Oh, so she’s the one who’s going to become my apprentice”

“I haven’t thought about that yet. I’ll bring someone after I’ve gathered and raised them some more” (naofumi)

“I see. I’m only waiting because it’s you” (oyaji)

“It’ll be very soon. Please wait a little” (naofumi)

“I’m strict though” (oyaji)

“Work them hard, but please don’t discriminate” (naofumi)

“I won’t do that sort of thing” (oyaji)

It seems he wasn't originally born in this country and I don't want to see the old man discriminating or anything.

Therefore it was a good reply.

"It's because beastmen are frightening as enemies but when they're allies they're very reliable. If it's that kid, I'd recommend a rapier" (oyaji)

"Speaking of which, have you finished the weapon meant for Rishia?"
(naofumi)

"Yeah, the improved weapon made with the money I received from the country. It's finished" (oyaji)

The old man took out a sword from underneath the counter.

Pekkle Rapier Quality: Good

Bestowed Effect: Agility UP Magic UP Blood Clean Grease

Compared to Raphtalia's sword, the bestowed effects are quite low.

Well, it was originally a spear so it seems to have degraded from the manufacturing.

"Then I'll be taking it" (naofumi)

"Alright. Please come back whenever you like" (oyaji)

"I'd like to come when I have money. I can't be spoiled forever" (naofumi)

"Hahaha, whenever you have that attitude it makes me want to work harder" (oyaji)

The old man replied in good humour.

He can really make me relieved with his words.

"And it's also thanks to your patronage that I can be so prosperous" (oyaji)

"Ah, so that influence is showing" (naofumi)

"Of course. It's to the extent where I'm so busy that it's difficult" (oyaji)

The equipment hanging in the store have been selling out considerably.

It feels as if the production side isn't fast enough.

"For a while, I've been saved by the seclusion for my manufacturing" (oyaji)

"It sounds quite envious" (naofumi)

"Come to think of it, the pharmacy has been taken away forcibly by the magic shop. Did you do something?"

"Is that so...so the magic shop succeeded then" (naofumi)

That stubborn old guy has been fished out nicely.

With this, the slaves can be taught pharmaceuticals.

"I heard something I didn't want to hear..." (oyaji)

"Next is..." (naofumi)

"Laddie. Please stop your recruiting" (oyaji)

"Hahaha" (naofumi)

"Stop hiding behind your smile" (oyaji)

I wish that the old man would also come to my land.

When I send a look saying that, he bluntly avoids my glance by turning away.

"Um... what are they talking about?" (imia)

"Shh... They're in the middle of an important discussion. Let's just wait for them" (raphtalia)

"R-right..." (imia)

Raphtalia and Imia had heard the chat between the old man and me.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 149 - Alchemist

I finished chatting with the old man and headed down to the entrance of the castle town since it was close to the meeting time.

By the time we made our way to the entrance, Firo and the slaves had gathered.

“Welcome back~” (slaves)

“I’m back, is everyone here?” (naofumi)

I count just in case.

Yep. The whole group has gathered.

“Hey Master~” (firo)

“What’s up?” (naofumi)

Firo approached with a question.

Melty is…not here.

“What’s that yummy-looking kid next to you?” (firo)

“Eep!?” (imia)

Imia let out a frightened squeak.

Firo’s humanoid form was of similar height but…to say she looks yummy, did Firo really think that she could eat her.

Nevertheless, the slaves who knew her real form took a few steps away from Firo and whispered together.

“So Firo-chan is really……” (anon slave)

“That’s right” (anon slave)

“Is she gluttonous or…….” (anon slave)

Firo looked around uneasily, did that kid even notice her own slip up.

“Wh-what? No~!” (firo)

Hm, I got to see an ostracised, flustered Firo which was rare.

“You know Firo……this child may look a little different from us but she’s still part-human” (raphtalia)

“And of all the things to say, you had to say she was yummy-looking……so you finally reveal your true character” (naofumi)

“Fuee!?” (firo)

Firo opened her eyes wide and sniffed Imia’s scent.

“No~! Don’t avoid Firo!” (firo)

I can easily picture the motion of Firo, in her monster form, attacking Imia like an owl would eat a mouse.

This is probably what everyone here is imagining.

“I won’t eat you! I won’t eat you so don’t be afraid!” (firo)

Firo tried frantically to persuade her but Imia’s fear didn’t go away.

Imia clung to me with extreme fright.

It's good that she was attached to me but……what's with this interaction.

“Master, help me!” (firo)

“Even if you say that……It's good as a threat so won't you become an embodiment of fear?” (naofumi)

“NOOOOooooo!” (firo)

Ah, she's so loud.

“I'm joking. Imia, you don't have to be so afraid of her. Firo is a nice kid who likes playing with children. She might look like a little girl now but her true form is…….”

……She's definitely not a normal Philorial……how should I describe it?

“H-her true form?” (imia)

Imia asked, frightened more than before.

“Naofumi-sama, if you just stop there, her fear will escalate” (raphtalia)

“Nooo!” (firo)

Firo let out an even louder cry.

“My bad. I was thinking of how best to explain it……er, this guy is something known as a holy bird in this country so it's alright” (naofumi)

Imia looked towards Firo while trembling anxiously.

Firo smiled sweetly.

However, that just seemed to backfire and Imia hid behind my back.

“Master~!” (firo)

“There’s no other way to raise her confidence but to show sincerity. Work hard” (naofumi)

“Aww···. I get it” (firo)

Somehow this incident became quite complicated. It seems that Firo is reluctant to be rejected by her friends.

Even though it was due to her own carelessness·····

“From now on don’t go recklessly saying that someone looks delicious”
(naofumi)

“Yeah···.” (firo)

Firo learnt something today. Or I should say, just the fact that she’s choosing friendship over her appetite means she’s grown a bit.

“And, we went off topic. Didn’t you guys hear about this from Kiel?”
(naofumi)

“I thought it’d surprise them so I kept silent” (kiel)

Jeez····that Kiel.

“Well, we’ll do a self introduction” (naofumi)

I shifted the frightened Imia out of hiding.

“This child will be coming home with us from now on. Come on, introduce yourself” (naofumi)

Imia’s demeanour was a mix of shyness, fear and embarrassment but she squeezed out a few words while constantly looking up and down.

“I’m Imia Lucullan Lisella Tereti Quariz. Please treat me well” (imia)

“ “Such a long name!” “ (slaves)

Ah, of course everyone thought that. Raphtalia and Kiel didn’t react so I had thought it was normal.

“Then again, you are a girl. Nice to meet you Imia-chan” (anon slave)

“Right…” (imia)

Good. It seems she’s quick to open her heart.

“We’ll be returning to the village now. You guys haven’t forgotten anything, right?” (naofumi)

“All good” (anon slave)

“Yes” (anon slave)

“Yeah” (anon slave)

After I checked everyone, we walked to the carriage.

And then, Firo changed into her monster form in order to pull the carriage.

“Wah!” (imia)

Imia let out her voice in surprise.

“Th-this is?” (imia)

“That’s right. This is Firo’s monster form. It’s hard to explain, right”
(naofumi)

“Yeah…….” (imia)

Firo turned towards Imia and smiled. Imia timidly stretched out her hand.

“And just like that her mouth will open and……SNAP!” (anon slave)

One of the slaves tried to intimidate Imia.

Imia anxiously retracted her arm in a hurry.

“Aww~…….” (firo)

A very dissatisfied Firo glared at the slave who had been doing the teasing.

Well, she was the one that had been made fun of……..

Firo is, how should I say it, usually the one causing problems so this is a little unusual.

Well, she is an omnivore so she can’t help eating everything.

This wasn’t the case when Firo was a child but now that she’s grown she seems like she will eat anything or was it just my imagination?

……. Ah, is it because I used her to threaten people.

"For now, we'll get on the carriage and take it easy" (naofumi)

"If you get motion sickness, say so properly okay" (raphtalia)

"Ok" (anon slave)

There was no need to hurry so we'll go at a reasonable speed.

I ensured all the slaves had boarded and then instructed Firo to depart.

"Ah, Master" (firo)

"What is is?" (naofumi)

"Melly-chan will be coming to play sometime in the near future" (firo)

"I see" (naofumi)

So Melty will be coming to the village, just the thought of that loud, chatty girl coming makes my head hurt.

Well, she'll be quiet when playing with Firo so it's fine.

The next day.

After one night of camping, we arrived at the village. We changed the pace a little because last time Firo only slept when we arrived.

"Ah, Shield-niichan. Welcome back" (taniko)

Taniko came to greet us. How rare.

That she would approach me even though we're often conflicting when it comes to monsters.

"Nii-chan, some outsider came and was being very insistent, which was troubling. Please help!" (taniko)

“Huh?” (naofumi)

Taniko knocked on the door of the building the soldiers were lodging at and called for the female knight.

The female knight also seems a bit troubled.

“Just wait, you can keep a lookout without being so impatient” (female knight)

“But she seemed like she would run away quite a few times!” (taniko)

“It is indeed dangerous but, we haven’t got an arrest warrant yet. We can’t arrest her unreasonably and we ought to listen to the lord’s opinion”
(female knight)

“What’s the matter?” (naofumi)

“An unpleasant, a little eccentric visitor came. She wanted a meeting with Iwatani-dono post-haste” (female knight)

“Sigh…….just who was she?” (naofumi)

“An alchemist who caused lots of problems in Faubley” (female knight)

[T/N: Pronounced Fo-burei. Seems to be a town/place? I'm accepting alternate name suggestions]

…….Come again?

The one whom the queen and the slave merchant had warned me about has already come to my village?

“She looked at the monsters that Iwatani-dono looks after many times, and by all means wanted to examine——” (female knight)

“Oh~…….So this is the rumoured holy bird” (???)

Really, before I knew it, an unknown woman came and probed Firo's body thoroughly.

"Master~!" (firo)

Firo let out a shriek.

"Oh, so she understands human language, this child seems to be of the legendary Philorial Queen species variant that I heard about" (???)

Her hair colour was platinum blonde, she had long hair and tanned skin. She seems human based on her appearance.

She seems to be in her mid-twenties.

What stood out stood out, what didn't didn't, a standard expression from my world would be that she gave the impression of a sultry young lady in a white coat.

"Her plumage is thick. I wonder how her internal organs are?" (???)

A fanatical alchemist? forcibly opened Firo's mouth and grasped her tongue. Firo resisted but she was dealt with it easily, the Herculean Firo was repressed as easily as taking candy from a baby. [T/N: Naofumi is not sure if she is an alchemist, hence the question mark]

And she even put her head inside her mouth.....

"Unh!" (firo)

A struggling Firo suddenly spit the alchemist? out.

"It's no good if she struggles. I suppose it can't be helped" (???)

Just before she fell, she pulled a syringe out of nowhere and threw it at Firo. Firo wasn't able to avoid it and with a *pop* the needle stuck in her mouth. What a feat.

"Funya……" (firo)

Firo collapsed with a thud.

"I-I can't summon any strength……" (firo)

"H-hey……" (naofumi)

"Just wait a minute. I'm currently in the middle of an examination" (???)

"No, if you do these kinds of thing at your convenience, I, the owner will be troubled" (naofumi)

"Oh dear……" (???)

The alchemist? changed her interest after hearing my words.

"Might you be the Hero of the Shield-sama?" (???)

"T-that's right but…… you are?" (naofumi)

"Me? I am Ratotil Anthreya. My friends call me Rato" (???) → rato) [T/N: Pronounced Ratotiru Ansureia. Any other name suggestions?]

"I-I see. My name is Naofumi Iwatani, Naofumi is my first name" (naofumi)

"So it's Naofumi-san. Nice to meet you" (rato)

Rato replied, pinning the limp Firo with her gaze.

“And so, will you let me examine this child?” (rato)

She took the opportunity to request my permission.

Judging from her behaviour, she probably wouldn't understand if I said no.
But Firo's ecology was still full of mysteries.

“Ma-master! No~!” (firo)

Hmm... I feel like if I acknowledge it then the enigma that was Firo could be clarified but I also feel that it would heavily burden Firo in compensation.

“Wow, she took down that Firo-chan so easily” (anon slave)

“Isn't it amazing. If it had worked properly, the drug I used should have caused her to lose consciousness and yet she's still aware and able to talk”
(rato)

“So you used that kind of drug” (naofumi)

“It couldn't be helped. If she continued to struggle, it would have done more harm than good” (rato)

“Sigh... first of all, I'll have to refuse” (naofumi)

“Oh, too bad” (rato)

“Ungh...” (firo)

Firo recovered and slowly got to her feet.

“My my, it seems that if I don't use a stronger drug it will be impossible to examine her” (rato)

“Noo!” (firo)

Firo ran away.

She won't be returning for a while.

“So you're the one who wanted a meeting with me” (naofumi)

“That's right” (rato)

“What did you want?” (naofumi)

“To be able to have a look at a variety of things. For example, a certain village's plant or the monsters in this village” (rato)

“Sigh…” (naofumi)

“You see, this really attracted my attention. I'd really like to fiddle around with some of them” (rato)

“To let you fiddle around, you say…” (naofumi)

Just what did this fellow intend to do?

It looks like she even knows the origin of the Bioplant, so it should probably be fine to just let her do some research.

Was she an alchemist? At the least, she can be called a specialist. She might be pretty smart.

To be honest, I wasn't very good at studying so I'm aware that I'm not good with this type.

Even if that's the case, I couldn't just let it go.

“I also heard rumours about you. That you're an alchemist who caused a lot of problems in Faubley” (naofumi)

“Problems? That’s not right. They’re just saying that because they’re too incompetent to understand my research. And so they fabricated some lies and exaggerated some mistakes to turn it into something big” (rato)

“Yeah yeah” (naofumi)

She said this like some mad scientist character. There’s no merit in looking after someone who’d follow that role too well.

Well, she took down Firo easily enough so that ability might deserve some appreciation.

She might have some war potential.

“Those guys, they called my monster research ‘an act that would even scare the gods’ and banished me of all things. And by gods, they were referring to the Four Sage Heroes and the Seven Star Heroes, I think?”

(rato)

“And so, did you come to approve of the current Four Sage Heroes yourself?” (naofumi)

“No. Their cries about the heroes were making me sick. They’re nothing but a hindrance!” (rato)

“…Who do you think you’re talking about. Why did you come here then”

(naofumi)

“I came to examine the monster that was the Spirit Turtle. Incidentally, I also took the opportunity to visit this place” (rato)

“Go off to Melromarc’s castle” (naofumi)

“That’s good too. My interest has already moved on” (rato)

Rato stuck out her hand enthusiastically, intending to grasp mine.

I replied while avoiding that hand.

“Don’t touch me. I hate women like you” (naofumi)

“I see, then I won’t touch you so let me play with the monsters” (rato)

“You can’t!” (taniko)

Taniko rejected her arbitrarily.

If it concerns monsters then she’ll charge unexpectedly, this kid.

“Wait, wait……First I want to hear your objective” (naofumi)

It might be good to recruit her depending on the situation.

She is a monster specialist. There’ll be many uses for her.

I might be expecting too much of her but she might be able to take care of the modifying of the Bioplant and monsters in my place.

Well, that also depends on her motive.

If she’s thinking stupid things such as seeking revenge on the country or trying to destroy the world, I’ll drive her out without hesitation.

“My aim? It’s to create powerful monsters of course” (alchemist)

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 150 – Discrimination Even In Hospitality

“I see…” (Naofumi)

Making a strong monster.

Quite a simple and childish desire.

This world has a game-like modification system, so I can see where she is finding her enjoyment.

But I must admit that it is quite rude to experiment on living organisms.

“For that goal, I travelled the land and studied various monsters. I have learned and assimilated various sciences and magics. But those people… They said something about going against god’s creations and creating works of evil. They tried to kill my creations, it was quite troublesome.”

(Rat)

“So… to summarize, you’re learning how to strengthen monsters through alchemy. Can I think of you as a sort of monster tamer?” (Naofumi)

“Well… Close enough.” (Rat)

I expected her to deny it, but she seems to be fine with being referred to as such.

At first, I thought she was crazy, but it seems that she is just earnestly focused on a goal.

Is she the type of person that gets overly enthusiastic when it comes to research?

“Can I ask a simple question? Oh, Female knight, please listen as well.”
(Naofumi)

“Me too?” (Female Knight)

Female Knight, who had drawn her sword ready to attack, looks confused. Firo had recovered from the medicine and ran away. Raphtalia is also waiting with sword drawn.

As a matter of fact, Firo is the strongest one among us.

Because Rat was able to take her out without a problem, it's no mystery why everyone is wary.

Because of the Shield and my poison resistance, my guard isn't too high. Perhaps I should be more careful next time.

"There's one thing that has been bothering me for a while." (Naofumi)

"What is it?" (Rat)

"Well... Strong Monsters... Are you able to take my already special monsters, and increase their powers even further? For example, could you fuse a Caterpilland and a Dune?" (Naofumi)

"It's outlawed by some sections of the Church. They only allow for the pure breeding of monsters." (Rat)

"Then, Rat, your research is..." (Naofumi)

"Yes, some may consider it illegal." (Rat)

...In many games I've played, the fusion of monsters happens on a daily basis.

Are the monster users of this world just plain breeders? Instead of aiming to make strong monsters, they just try to increase their numbers for labor purposes.

...wait, by her phrasing, does that mean that you can crossbreed monsters?

"Is it possible to get an egg with the properties of multiple monsters?" (Naofumi)

"Of course it is possible. It's like with Demi-Humans. If a Fox and Wolf

Demi-Human have kids, it will be a mixed breed. Monsters within similar categories can breed to make children sharing the attributes of both monsters. My research happens to deal with...

 (Rat)

"No, I don't really care about that." (Naofumi)

I had never thought about what happens when different races of Demi-Humans mix.

But, I have heard that it is possible for a human and a Demi-Human to have kids.

So that logic also applies to monsters?

... How the hell does the ecology of this world function?

"So basically, what you are trying to accomplish is?" (Naofumi)

"I want to research what makes monsters strong, make new types of powerful life-forms, and add to your fighting force." (Rat)

Rat is extending her hand towards me. For some reason, Taniko's eyes are sparkling as well.

Taniko always loved monsters. Does she approve of Rat's research?

"Let her join." (Taniko)

"Who decided that monsters had to be evil entities that threatened mankind? I want to correct that attitude. Certainly, we can kill monsters and increase our own powers, but then doesn't that make monsters killing humans for power the exact same thing?" (Rat)

"Is that so?" (Naofumi)

"Murder, killing other humans, will also give you EXP, but it is not practiced because it goes against moral standards." (Rat)

Hmm... I see.

It's quite a black world here, isn't it.

"Everyone in this world was made equally, so why are monsters the evil ones? That's because they are weak." (Rat)

Well she may be a bit eccentric, but at least she speaks with conviction. But, there is a high possibility that she is only saying things that will further her cause.

"Look at Filo Rials, they're way too famous. Their Queens feast on the flesh of Dragons. They're called the holy messengers of God even though they're monsters like all the rest. I want to make a monster that gets a public reputation as good as that. A monster that will be able to help people, and be helped by them." (Rat)

I can't deny it. Firo did eat a bit of dragon meat, though it was rotting. I don't think an average Filo Rial can get that strong... But I guess that their legends earn them quite a bit of respect.

Perhaps the legends are of monsters like Fitoria.

That one is somehow even stronger than Firo.

"It's not like I don't see where you're coming from." (Naofumi)

I've played plenty of games which involved rearing monsters to be strong. All this person is doing is taking something that would be the common sense of another world, and trying to apply it to this one.

Though she may be lying.

“So you wish to study the monsters of this village to aid your research?”

(Naofumi)

“Yes.” (Rat)

“I hate liars more than all else. If you want to do such work in this village, then to prevent lies I will have to make you one of my slaves. Will you do it even with those conditions?” (Naofumi)

“Sure. If that’s all I have to do, then I’ll happily throw away my human dignity.” (Rat)

She accepted it way too readily.

And… She worded it in quite badly.

It’s not like I make my slaves sacrifice their dignity or anything

“If that’s what I must do to advance my research, then I won’t mind.” (Rat)

“Fumu…” (Naofumi)

If I let her stay, then my monsters may be able to get stronger.

It’s not a bad prospect.

If I place a slave seal on her, then I can act quickly if problems begin to surface down the road.

“I work my monsters hard, you know. Like slaves. You’ll be treated no different.” (Naofumi)

“There are Human and Demi-Human slaves as well. I see no need to give them preferential treatment out of pity.” (Rat)

Mu… Preferential treatment is also technically discrimination.

Overseas, I believe that woman began objecting to receiving such treatment, calling it discrimination as well.

Some Japanese trains even have Women-only railcars as well. Quite a few people of all genders protest against them. (TL: Instituted quite recently- in the last 15 years- to prevent grope and molestation, they still exist during late night hours.)

It might be close to that.

“I don’t like it when people protect one life-form. Filo Rials have more intelligence than other monsters, but why does that mean they have to make a law that prevents the consumption of them? And yet when a dragon appears it is immediately ordered to be slain?” (Rat)

“...” (Naofumi)

“I won’t tell you not to use monsters. In fact, I support you. I hate people only thinking of monsters as something to be destroyed. Monsters are alive as well, and they can help combat the wave. By my theory, monsters are not born of the wave. They can make for strong weapons. Just like the heroes. Whether for good or bad, I hate discrimination. Everyone in this world can be helpful to everything else in it.” (Rat)

Taniko is now glaring at Rat with inflated cheeks.

I don’t know what part of Rat’s ideology ticked her off, though.

“I understand your objective. You want to make my monsters an effective fighting force for the upcoming waves.” (Naofumi)

“Yeah! But that damn Seven Star Hero! I was almost cut down for Heresy!”
(Rat)

“Well then hypothetically...” (Naofumi)

I hand a Bioplant seed to Rat.

"This seed is definitely a plant, but if modified incorrectly it will become a monster. If handled properly, however, it can make abundant food, and medicine. What does this tell you?" (Naofumi)

"What are you talking about? That has nothing to do with my research. Anyways, hand it over. I tried working with seeds before, but they quickly deteriorated when I tried to work with them." (Rat)

Fumu... It seems this one can help in my objectives as well.

She might become trouble later on, but as long as I have the reins called the slave seal, I can control her to some extent.

"I'll allow it. If you will become my slave, then the village will assist in your research." (Naofumi)

"Understood. If the Hero of the Shield can only trust slaves, then this is the easiest way to gain your trust." (Rat)

I exchange a handshake with Rat.

"I'll count on you from now on. To gain your trust, I will become a slave. In exchange, you will permit and assist in the conducting of my research."
(Rat)

"I don't allow deceit. As long as you acknowledge that, then I have no problems with you staying here." (Naofumi)

And so the Alchemist Rat began to live in my village.

"Can I start with modifying that Filo Rial? I'd like to begin by adding another eye on its stomach for increased perception, and perhaps several tentacles to its back for increased movement and tactile manipulation." (Rat)

"NO!" (Firo)

I hear Firo's voice shouting from a distance. It seems that there are now more people in this village that she won't get along with.

"The individual is against it, so you should give it up." (Naofumi)

"Well that's unfortunate." (Rat)

"Why did you drug my Filo Rial in the first place?" (Naofumi)

"You don't know? Filo Rials can be surprisingly vicious monsters. If I don't immobilize it first, then I can't examine it." (Rat)

Is that how it is? Well I guess it is crazy to suddenly try and examine a wild animal without sedating it first. It might start attacking, or run away.

"Fortunately, your Filo Rial is in quite good shape. She has an annoyingly high amount of energy." (Rat)

Exactly.

From birth, Firo has had way too much energy.

I don't think she's ever been sick.

Perhaps I can also leave veterinary work to her.

Anyways, this is a person I don't really understand. Her ideologies contain multiple contradictions.

Discrimination is bad, but turning monsters into weapons is Okay. She wants to modify monsters to be stronger. Does she like monsters or hate them?

Anyways. It seems that my own research will be getting easier from now on.