

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 379 – Side Story – The Christmas of the Shield [I]

“Achoo!”

On that day, I had just finished my job and was in the middle of returning to the village.

It’s also fine to return through the portal, but the moment I reached the village I had work to do

It seems that I can only rest when riding the carriage.

It’s been about half a year since the end of the last of the waves

I look to the sky and see it covered in thick clouds.

The temperature is dropping by the day, and it seems that even colder days are coming.

My breath has also turned white

So Melromark also has four seasons.

It seems the climate had been in disarray during the wave.

“Ah… ” (Naofumi)

“What’s wrong?” (Rafatalia)

Rafatalia asks me from outside the carriage.

I hold up my hand, and look to the sky in silence.

“Ah…” (Naofumi)

Rafatalia follows my lead and stares at the sky.

"It's snowing." (Rafatalia)

"So it falls in Melromark too." (Naofumi)

"The summer is hot, and the winter gets this cold." (Naofumi)

It's not like we're in the tropics, but the summer was still pretty hot.
But the winter gets cold enough for it to snow.

"Naofumi, do you hate the cold?" (Rafatalia)

"I don't hate it, I just thought it would be a pain to put spikes on the carriage's wheels." (Naofumi)

"... Should the hero who became an archduke and saved the world be saying such things?" (Rafatalia)

Rafatalia words are correct

But when I think of the money and labor wasted, it still seems like a pain.

"It seems that you are still trying to increase our wealth, but what do you plan to use it for?" (Rafatalia)

"Nothing in particular, if I were to use it, it would go towards decreasing the aftereffects of the wave" (Naofumi)

And it never hurts to have extra

My experiences till now have made saving money a habit deeply rooted in my psych.

Well, this habit had helped us out quite a bit.

But as an Archduke, I was granted a large sum of wealth and an estate.

"And having money is better than not having it." (Naofumi)

"As expected of Naofumi" (Atlas)

Atlas left the shield and floated in the winter sky

What do you mean by 'as expected'.

Well then, half a year has passed since the wave, but even now, it's effects are still clear

Melromark's castle town still has the mountain of the Spirit Turtle occupying much of the town, and the casualties of the countries that had the dragon's hourglasses was very high.

Though we may have achieved peace, the everyday lives of the civilians is still harsh.

There's no way that reconstruction could have finished in a mere half-year. That's why our current job is to go around the world and sell supplies to the troubled populace, while helping the unfortunate.

Well, we are gaining a small profit from this enterprise...

As expected, this job is quite tiring and in order to take a well-deserved break, we are proceeding towards the village at a leisurely rate.

Well, I did return to the village by portal yesterday.

"Don't worry about it. The snow's picking up, isn't it?" (Naofumi)

"KUE!" (Filo Rial)

Oh, by the way, the bird pulling the carriage right now isn't Firo, but her number one follower Piyo.

Firo is currently travelling the world with Melty, so she got Piyo to pull the cart for us.

Piyo is staring intently at the falling snowflakes while walking.

"It sure is." (Rafatalia)

"How much snow does Melromark usually get?" (Naofumi)

No matter how many meters of snow cover we get, it will still be troublesome

We may even be troubled further by winter-specific monsters.

"It depends on the year, but every year we get enough to dye the landscape white" (Rafatalia)

"Fumu..." (Naofumi)

Based on Rafatalia, we will be getting quite a bit of snow.

Well, we don't have to be that worried...

We survived fighting that bitch goddess. We should be fine whatever comes our way.

"Anyways, the cold-resistant goods we prepared seem to be working fine."
(Naofumi)

"You're right... By the way, Naofumi, do you need anything?" (Rafatalia)

"Hm?"

Both me and Rafatalia have learned to use the power of gods... no let's call them spirits... to some extent

But in order to use it, we must offer our own power to them.

Anyways, we both gave up a majority of our godly powers, so we were pretty much indistinguishable from humans.

Well, we could use them to some extent...

We became a somewhat half-assed existence and we were still affected by the heat and the cold. All's well with the world.

Anyways, the armor I had equipped was quite useful, as it was temperature resistant.

"I'm not cold at all" (Atlas)

"Well that's because you're... By the way, Atlas, this conversation isn't getting anywhere, can you please be quiet."

Atlas was always like this. She would always interrupt the conversation and take it in a weird direction.

You're not cold because you became a spirit.

"I'll have to make sure no one in the village catches a cold." (Naofumi)

"Yeah, it seems that Kiel would run around, even in this weather."
(Rafatalia)

Would the Loin-clothed dog be circling the village in joy now?

"She seems like the type that would get excited in snow." (Naofumi)

Yes, it seems she would be the type to roll around in the snow.

Even though she is the hero of the Scythe, you know.

"KUE!" (Piyo)

Piyo cried out.

We could see the village that was our destination.

We had finally arrived huh...

"Niichan, Niichan! It's Snow! It's snowing!" (Kiel)

Kiel, who had been excitedly running around the village ran in front of me.
I get off the Carriage and start towards the Village.

There doesn't seem to be any noticeable change.

The Bioplant forest seems to be strong against the cold, and some tomato-
esque fruits are growing

And, as expected, Kiel is extremely excited.

What a simple fellow.

"Yes, yes, it's snowing" (Naofumi)

What about it?

Is what I wanted to say, but dealing with her would be a pain.

And the happy feeling derived from snow was something that I could kinda
understand.

But seeing my home covered in snow gave off a slight melancholical feeling.

"Welcome back, Hero of the Shield" (Imya)

"I'm Back" (Naofumi)

Imya, who had been chasing Kiel, arrived

As always, these two seem to come as a set.

Oh yeah, that's right.

"Imya" (Naofumi)

"Yes" (Imya)

"It's getting cold, so could you start making some cold-resistant gear?"
(Naofumi)

"I've already made enough for the villagers, do you want more?" (Imya)

How considerate.

To be ready even before I asked.

"If you find any free time, could you make some more?" (Naofumi)

"Leave it to me" (Imya)

I praise Imya and pat her head, then I start cooking.

Today will be cold, so I'll cook something warm

"Oh yeah, Niichan!" (Kiel)

"What is it Kiel, you're not running around in circles any more." (Naofumi)

"What do you take me for... never mind... Anyways, it's almost Christmas right? What will you ask Santa Claus for?" (Kiel)

"Well you are a dog... Wait, Christmas?"

Are you meaning to tell me that an alternate world also has Christmas?

"There is a Christmas here?" (Naofumi)

I'll ask Rafatalia later.

As it's Kiel, she may have just heard it from the other heroes.

...

"Of course there's a Christmas." (Rafatalia)

My question was reflected quite smoothly.

Fumu...

"Originally, it was a tradition spread by the former heroes. Melty told me about it." (Rafatalia)

“To see this Christian holy festival in another world…” (Naofumi)

“Holy Festival?” (Rafatalia)

What?

Isn't Christmas supposed to celebrate the birth of Christ?

Wait, the former heroes were Japanese weren't they

They may have spread Japanese Christmas customs.

“What sort of day is Christmas?” (Naofumi)

“Isn't Christmas just Christmas?” (Rafatalia)

I didn't get anything from that.

These people simply might not know the origin of the holiday.

“Do you know anything about this Atlas?” (Naofumi)

“Oh, the former Heroes simply said that Christmas was a day to give presents, and never explained its purpose.” (Atlas)

The former Hero's probably wanted an opportunity to celebrate with their party members so they had just given a general outline of the event.

It doesn't seem these people care about the birth of a holy man.

“And, who is this Santa Fellow?” (Naofumi)

“He gives presents to all the good boys and girls when they are asleep.”
(Atlas)

I see. So they only shared the fun parts of Christmas

They completely left out its religious aspects.

“That's how it is! So what do you wish for Niichan?” (Kiel)

...Kiel's eyes are shining

She seems to be having a lot of fun.

"Do adults receive presents as well?" (Naofumi)

"Oh right, Niichan was adult" (Kiel)

"What is that supposed to mean?" (Naofumi)

Are you trying to tell me that I'm childish (though I won't deny it).

"Anyways, Present! It's going to be fun!" (Kiel)

Does that mean that I am supposed to give out presents? What am I supposed to do

In my world, the role of Santa was usually played by the parents...

"Rafatalia?" (Naofumi)

"Yes?" (Rafatalia)

Hmm... The probability that she believes in Santa is quite high.

I don't want to break her, or any of the villager's dreams.

Ok, just in case, I'll ask someone who seems knowledgeable on the matter

I could go ask Trash or the Queen, but they are probably busy.

Oh well, I guess I'll have to ask someone else.

Now who would be knowledgeable on such matters?

I don't really want to, but the one who knows the most about the villagers is probably that person.

"Excuse me, I wish to speak with Sadina." (Naofumi)

"... Are you alright Naofumi" (Rafatalia)

"....." (Naofumi)

Recently, whenever I or Rafatalia go to ask Sadina something, we get assaulted.

But I am already getting used to that.

By the way, previously Sadina said,

"Oneesan, I'll definitely teach you some techniques."

Or some other irresponsible thing and slipped away.

The feeling of fear from being pushed down by her is still embedded in my skull.

I'm sure she's still aiming for me or something.

In a way, she might be a more troublesome person than Atlas.

For what reason is this person pressuring me to this extent?

It seems that person would act the same regardless of whether I was the Hero of the Shield, or the world's savior or not...

That's why dealing with her is an Extremely scary task.

"I'm coming with you." (Atlas)

"Go away! Rafatalia and Atlas, I don't need you monitoring us" (Naofumi)

"Yes. Come Atlas, this way" (Rafatalia)

Capturing the spirit Atlas was a task that, for now, only Rafatalia and I were capable of.

And so, I left Atlas to Rafatalia so she would not follow me.

“Ah. It’s Naofumi” (Imya)

For the love of...

Yes, that’s right, it’s like that.

“Imya, your uncle is calling you.”

I don’t want to deal with Sadina and these two at the same time.

These idiots don’t act rationally towards other people.

“I understand” (Imya)

“Kiel, you...” (Naofumi)

“What is it Niichan?” (Kiel)

“Let’s have fun later” (Naofumi)

“YES!” (Kiel)

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Chapter 380 – Side Story – The Christmas of the Shield [10]

“That’s how it is, Sadina. Please tell me about this world’s Christmas.”

(Naofumi)

“Ara~? Naofumi, you don’t know Christmas?” (Sadina)

“It’s probably a different Christmas from the one in my world.” (Naofumi)

I decided to question Sadina, Imya and the other adults of the Village.

I have to tread carefully in the customs of this world. There may be different customs across races as well.

Well then, the one to first answer my question was Sadina.

“For adults, Christmas is the outlet for one’s carnal lust. Rather than the holy night, it’s more of the unholy night (TL: This is bad pun, Christmas eve is 聖夜の夜 (Seiya no Yoru) while Sex Night is 性夜の夜 (Seiyoru no yoru which can also be read a Seiya no yoru)). It’s also a night to drink a cup of Sake. Even I can have fun on it.” (Sadina)

...

“Can you explain it in greater detail?” (Naofumi)

Ignoring Sadina, I go to ask Imya’s uncle and the rest of the townsfolk.

“Christmas huh? Well, it’s the adult’s job to deliver presents to the children while they are asleep. We also cook large feasts in the evenings.” (Misc Townsfolk)

Fumu... It seems that they follow Japanese Tradition.

Most of the adults are telling me the same thing.

"Hey, Naofumi-chan" (Atlas)

"Shut up. Be quiet. Silence." (Sadina ...?)

This Woman is saying similar things to Atlas.

The only strange thing is that Atlas can understand with only his eyes.

I have to act as a moderator. Since the world has achieved peace, how does indulging in Sexual Harassment sound. (TL: I know. This does not make sense. This trial does not make sense. Can anyone translate 世界が平和になってからセクハラ三昧なのはどうなんだ)

"The problem is whether or not this village should take part in a Christmas celebration" (Naofumi)

"As the subjects of the Shield hero, that decision is left up to you."
(Villager)

Says an old villager as he averts his eyes from me.

It seems that they are hoping for my approval.

Sigh....

"So who will gather and distribute the gifts?" (Naofumi)

"Well..." (villagers)

Everyone's gaze is directed at me.

Sigh... I guess there's no choice.

Even though I am these peoples' overlord it seems that I have to do it.

"I understand. The people of the village are working hard, I guess I can prepare some presents." (Naofumi)

"Many thanks" (Villagers)

As the villagers are now lowering their heads in respect towards me, I can't really refuse.

But there will surely be a mountain of issues pertaining to my new job.

First, I must investigate what sort of toys the children would like.

"The problem is finding out what to get. It would be troublesome to go around town investigating, and what's more, there is a high probability we will be found out. " (Naofumi)

"Ha?!" (everyone in unison)

Everyone in the vicinity suddenly raised their heads and stared at me.

Did I say something funny?

"What's wrong?" (Naofumi)

"Can't you just find out from the wishes hung on the Christmas Tree?"
(Villager)

Wishes...

Aren't they thinking of that? Those things that people hang on bamboo stalks to make wishes to the gods?

"Children who cannot write ask their parents to write and hang it for them. They write their names and what they want and hang it on the Christmas tree for Santa to read. That's why the adults can see these wishes and prepare the presents."

... Why the hell is Tanabata getting mixed into this?... Is what I wanted to retort.

However, it would be too troublesome to explain.

This is probably the product of people mixing up the events made by the previous heroes.

Now that I think about it, these events had quite good compatibility from the start...

"Okay, then please get your children to write the wish slips, and tell me which tree you want to make the Christmas tree." (Naofumi)

"Understood!" (Villagers)

And that's how Christmas kicked off in my village.

"... Why did you people choose a Crepe tree of all things." (Naofumi) (TL: not a crepe myrtle, which is a real tree, this crepe tree seems to grow actual crepes)

The next day, the people of the village had gotten their children to write down their desired items. and they had decided upon a Christmas Tree, however...

For some reason they had selected a Crepe tree for that role.

The villagers all enthusiastically started hanging up their wishes on the tree.

That ominous tree was still bearing fruit even in the middle of winter.

In the summer, it mostly produced Chocolate-Banana Crepes, but recently it had started to bear Strawberry Cream-like crepes as well.

The villagers seem to eat from it a lot, but I do not find it very appetizing.

Kiel says that its fruit changes with soil conditions and temperature.

I don't know. I really don't care.

That Crepe Tree, now covered in decorations and wish sheets can only be described as bizarre.

"Are you celebrating Christmas?" (Ren)

As I was getting Bored, Ren started towards me.

Well, instead of Christmas, it seems to be some sort of pseudo Japanese-esque variety

There is a high probability that it is something completely different

Perhaps the world that Motoyasu, or the other heroes came from had the holiday attributed to a different person entirely.

“Yeah.” (Naofumi)

“I hope it turns into a fun event. By the way, why are you hanging up wishes?” (Ren)

“It seems that in this world, Christmas and Tanabata have been fused.”
(Naofumi)

“... I see...” (Ren)

Ren is currently leading the Monster Extermination Squad. He is watching over people like the Female Knight (TL: Seriously that is what the character is referred to as here) and Taniko.

They are, in a way, helping out the troubled populace as well.

That Female Knight, in order to gain the knowledge of how to lead people from me, has set up base in this village. Taniko is training with a monster user to learn how to fight monsters. Raht and his squad are at work surveying the area for monsters.

Well Gaelion and Mi are with him, so there is not much to worry about...

(TL: I don't know any of these people either. I'm just a lowly translator)

In order to get the weapons of the heroes, these people return to the village by portal once night falls.

“How about you?” (Naofumi)

I would have asked him to help out, but Ren has a troubled expression on his face.

“It seems that only during this time of year, certain monsters go on rampages and trouble the people.” (Ren)

“I don’t remember there being such monsters.” (Naofumi)

“In most games I’ve played, certain monsters only show up around Christmas. This seems to be the case here as well” (Ren)

Christmas Monsters?

Certainly many net games did have that feature.

Events where rare holiday monsters and stages appeared were quite common.

Now that I think about such mechanics would be plain weird in a realistic setting.

Anyways, limited time monsters, huh?

Event monsters exist within this world as well.

Though having the entire world be Christmas-ified for an event is strange in its own right.

“...” (Naofumi)

“I understand that these hardships are part of my job. If I find free time, I’ll help out.” (Ren)

“Okay, I’ll wait without expectations. By the way what did you usually do for Christmas?” (Naofumi)

“Hm… doing a light celebration with Eclair and Winea may be nice.” (Ren)

Since that time, Ren, who still feels a strong sense of responsibility, continues to look over Taniko.

Even though the world is saved, Ren seems to still feel as if he has to continue atoning for his sins, or something like that.

For now, that Taniko is trying to become more independent.

To put it bluntly, Ren is still hated by Taniko.

“Have you returned, Iwatani Naofumi?” (Female Knight)

As we were talking, Female Knight appeared.

She’s the second person Ren cares for. (TL: No, not like that… I think)

Female Knight stares at the wishes hung on the Christmas Tree. Her face seems lost in thought.

“Fumu… So it’s finally Christmas.” (Female Knight)

“It sure is. By the way, Female Knight, what do you plan on doing for Christmas” (Naofumi Probably)

It seems quite a few people will be accompanying Ren in monster hunting.

Though this person said she'd learn how to run a village from me, I don't see her around a lot.

She would occasionally imitate me and go hunt bandits, or practice my menacing business smile, but that's about it.

By the way, she is even worse than Kiel in sales.

Well Kiel is an interesting creature, so she has attracted a certain crowd of people.

(TL Note, while I write Interesting creature, the author actually says Masculine Maid Dog. As I do not want to imagine this, I will stick with interesting creature)

Even outside of Melromark, she has some dedicated fans. I've heard she even has his own official fan club.

By the way, the one who makes clothes for her is Imya. He does have a certain sense of style.

As a punishment game, we have had Kiel cross-dress... No, it can't really be called that... Wear some female clothing that she did not personally like.

Well, reaching the level of Firo, who is now a world-wide Idol, is probably impossible.

"Me? I think I'll try to stay up and wait for Santa." (Female Knight)

“... What?” (Naofumi)

Santa Claus? How old are you again?

It can't be...

I get a strange stare from Ren

“Why are you standing there with a perplexed look?” (Ren)

“What do you mean by wait for Santa?” (Naofumi)

“Fumu, well, until last year, I was on the receiving end. But after seeing the smiling faces of all the children I decided that this year, I want to be able to meet the old man and thank him for his work.” (Female Knight)

This is... She really believes in him.

So she does have some surprisingly pure aspects to her.

Fu fu fu. (TL: Laughter. Maybe it should have been hohoho)

“Oy, Naofumi, you couldn't possibly be...” (Ren)

“Well, Female Knight. No, Eclair. Santa Clause is-” (Naofumi)

“WAA*#^&@\$#@A! Eclair! Stay Strong!” (Ren)

Ren hurriedly shut my mouth.

Damn. I was going to pound the cruelty of reality into this dreaming adult's head.

“By the way, do you want to have a party before that?” (Ren)

Ren managed to invite Female Knight within the confusion.

Is he going to turn this holy night into an unholy one? (TL: They used the same pun as before. See above)

“I’m sorry, but I am not as free as I appear. I also have work to do.”
(Female Knight)

“How about…just for dinner…” (Ren)

Ren was shot down as soon as he took flight, but he recovered quite quickly

Good for you, Ren. (TL: Yes, he actually says (thinks) that)

Oh right, after saving the world, he did make quite a grand confession only to be rejected.

But it seems that Ren’s memory of the time is quite hazy.

Or he could just be psychologically blocking the memory…

“I also invited Windea.” (Ren)

“Fumu…” (Female Knight)

Well. This matter doesn’t concern me. Good luck Ren

Is what I thought when Taniko appeared to survey the area.

She was riding Gaelion.

Oh, right. Taniko probably fit into the 'Child' category.

I can imagine her saying that Christmas is a waste of time.

"Ah, Taniko. Are you here for Christmas as well" (Female Knight)

Anyways, does the girl who was raised by a dragon even know about Christmas?

"...?" (Taniko)

Taniko showed an extremely pure expression we hadn't seen since she first arrived at my Village.

... for a split second, after which she adapted a face that screamed, 'This is a waste of time'

"Yeah, I used to receive presents every year from Santa. My father got them from him." (Taniko)

I direct a cold glance towards Gaelion

He returns the glance with equal intensity.

Hey, in the wild, did children celebrate Christmas?

I feel that he will say something like, "Like Hell."

Keep your childish instincts in check.

"Ah perfect, Windea" (Ren)

“GYYYAAAWWOOOOOOOOOO” (Gaelion)

As Ren approaches Taniko, Gaelion shouts out.

It seems like he is saying, “Don’t worry, Papa will protect you from the scary man”

“What is it” (Taniko)

“Will you eat dinner with us on Christmas?” (Ren)

“Why should I?” (Taniko)

“I’ve decided to take responsibility” (Ren)

“How selfish, don’t go around taking responsibility without other’s consent”
(Taniko)

“It’s not like you have any plans, right?” (Ren)

“Well, I am free that day…” (Taniko)

Ren is desperately trying to invite these two women to a Christmas Party.

Their reactions annoyed me a bit.

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Chapter 381 – Side Story – The Christmas of the Shield [III]

That night, in order to make all of the presents I found on the wish slips, I began to read up on the toys of this world.

“um… what? Stone Ore Sewing needle? What is that? The one who ordered it was… Imya huh.” (Naofumi)

I thought that should be labeled as more of a tool to make clothes than a present to ask Santa for… but… I would have gotten it for her even if it was not a request to Santa.

Well as long as she personally wishes for it…

She sure is Dilligent. Though that is supposed to be a good point.

“Next is…” (Naofumi)

By the way, Raphtalia is currently cleaning the room.

I wonder what Raphtalia would ask for if she knew that I was Santa.

Well that doesn’t matter. I should focus on the wishes of the Village.

「A steamy night with Naofumi」

The slip was shoved into the bottom of the pile of wishes I had collected.

Though a name wasn’t written, I had a general idea of the culprit.

Even though she cannot see, how did she write that?

No wait, Atlas being a spirit, the problem extends past not being able to see

Well it is also possible that Sadina let her use Ghost Writing

“Hm, next is… 「A night of carnal pleasures with Naofumi. 」 ” (Naofumi)

With a snap, my motivation was destroyed.

“Hey, Naofumi?” (I think this is Raphtalia)

These people… Every single time!

Don't turn this holy night into an unholy one. (TL: They keep using the pun.
I don't know if it is a famous joke or something. See part 2)

Oh well… next is

「Delicious food made by Niichan.」

It seems that this one is from Kiel.

That dog really is simple.

You eat it every day, don't you? I don't think Santa can do anything about your request.

Well, I would be more troubled if she wrote something like 'I want to meet my dead parents' or something like that… (TL: Water 35L, Carbon 20kg, Ammonia 4L, Lime 1.5kg, Phosphorus 800g, salt 250g, Saltpeter 100g, sulfur 80g, Fluorine 7.5g, Iron 5g, Silicon 3g, Trace amounts of 15 other elements)

For that, I don't think I can do anything. She would have a better chance writing to Sadina.

That woman may be messed up, but she is quite knowledgeable in this field.

Well, as long as Kiel is happy with this, then I guess it's fine.

The problem is food, huh. She didn't write what she wanted to eat, so I should probably do some research.

"? What is this? 「Play with me」 ?"

This is quite vague.

What does this person mean by 'play with me'?

What's more, I do not recognize this name.

I can recognize the handwriting, but the name is completely different.

Could this also be... an instance of Ghost Writing?

"Raphtalia, do you know who this is?" (Naofumi)

I'll show there unknowns to Raphtalia.

Raphtalia is really skilled at remembering names.

Even I have yet to memorize Imya's full name but she picked it up almost immediately.

"Ah, these are from the monsters of the village. The writer is ... Windea probably." (Raphtalia)

"Ah, I see..." (Naofumi)

I think I can put this one off for a while.

And wait, the Monsters also want Christmas presents?

It seems half of the monster requests involved playing, and the other half involved eating human food.

Well, I guess there's no choice.

We can fulfill them the day after Christmas.

"I'm home~!"

The door to the house slammed open followed by an energetic voice.

In the doorway stood the idol of the world; the Hero of the Claw; the energetic Firo.

Well, she did return home by portal regularly.

"I'm home, master" (Firo)

"Welcome Back" (Naofumi)

"A lot of people handed me gifts saying they were Christmas Presents!"
(Firo)

Ah, so that's why she arrived by carriage today instead of by portal.

A carriage fully loaded with presents was parked outside the house.

Since the end of the wave, Firo has been traveling the world with Melty as an international Idol.

"Where is Melty?" (Naofumi)

"Um, she said she was returning to the castle." (Firo)

"I see..." (Naofumi)

Well, I don't really have any reason to give Melty a present.

she's receiving gifts from all of the races of the world.

I mean, she *is the* Queen of the world. (TL: Oh god, spoilers)

Though I don't know if she personally wished for that or not.

"And so, Firo heard some good information." (Firo) (TL: She refers to herself in third person)

"What did you hear?" (Naofumi)

It's probably nothing important

But saying such things to Firo is dangerous. I should hear her out before she goes on a rampage.

I have no idea what she will do if I keep silent.

"You know~ , this event called Christmas~, It's apparently very fun!" (Firo)

"Of course it is, so? Firo, are you doing a Christmas live event?" (Naofumi)

"?... Melty said I would be free on Christmas, but that I had work on every other day." (Firo)

"Well, I guess that Makes sense." (Naofumi)

"And so, Melty's mother said that if I didn't stay here for Christmas, I would regret it." (Firo)

I have no Idea what she would regret... I don't understand what the Queen is thinking.

Anyways, it seems that Firo will be in the village for Christmas.

It's going to get noisy around here...

And that's how I made some progress on preparing the Christmas presents.

Oh, we put the presents that Firo had accumulated in the Village storehouse.

From my quick analysis, it seems that there are some extremely fancy presents mixed in.

Just how popular is that bird anyways.

I wonder how much trouble would occur if the populace found out that she was not an Angel, but a Filo Rial monster.

"Firo-taaaaaaaan~"

...Twas a voice I did not want to hear.

Despite the cold, that person is still needlessly energetic.

“Ya!” (Firo)

Firo escapes to her own room, and I can hear the sound of a lock clicking into place.

I deploy ‘Meteor Wall’ and make it so that no one can enter the house.

“Fube~! This is father in law’s barrier! Fuoooooooo! I, Motoyasu, will overcome all obstacles in the name of love!” (Motoyasu) (TL: Damn, He’s still alive)

Sure enough, it’s Motoyasu and his three Filo Rials.

Since then, Motoyasu has become a prominent member of the Filo Rial community, and is currently advising a group of Filo Rials from Shield Freiden.

He also leads the group to Firo’s live concerts, forming a sort of cheering squad. (TL: Oh, the eye-ro-nee)

The three Filo Rial at his side are the highest Filo Rial among his Filo Rial. They sometimes act as Motoyasu’s support, and they to various chores. Moyoyasu seems to be on good terms with them.

The one who speaks the most is Green.

Well, they only really speak among themselves.

Motoyasu is struggling to overcome the Meteor wall I had conjured, The three Filo Rials adapt fighting stances, but continue to watch in silence.

It seems that these three have gotten used to dealing with Motoyasu.

The three unleash a large-scale attack that probably would have killed me at one point at the wall and Motoyasu.

However, Motoyasu's toughness is not to be underestimated.

Just give up, Motoyasu. Firo hates you on a primal level.

A little while after that...

"Ah... It's cold." (Fohl)

Foul, who is in his true form, is shivering under a blanket in my house.

"Aniki, have you seen Atlas?" (Fohl)

"Atlas is currently resting inside the shield. Do you need something?"
(Naofumi)

Hearing my words, Atlas comes out of the shield and materializes in a half-transparent state.

"Did you call for me, Naofumi?" (Atlas)

"Ah, your brother came to look for you." (Naofumi)

"Ara, Fohl, it's been a while" (Atlas)

"It's been a while, Atlas" (Fohl)

"...Didn't you two meet just yesterday?" (Naofumi)

Fohl has currently made training the people of the village his life's work.

For now, he is trying to pound the basics of martial arts into the new slaves, and the villagers who wish to get stronger.

Deep in the mountains is a dragon disguised as an old woman who runs a Dojo. Fohl has made it his job to train people enough that they will be able to survive the old woman's training.

Excluding me, it seems that he has become the second most trusted person in the village after Sadina.

Even though he is rotten, he *is the* hero of the fist. (TL: is everyone a hero now?)

By the way, it seems that the opponent he has the most trouble with is Kiel, as he is generally put off by her sparkling eyes.

"You seem energetic, as always brother." (Atlas)

"Really? I feel as If I could die at any second" (Fohl)

"Did you catch a cold or something?" (Raphtalia)

Seeing Fohl's light equipment, Raphtalia asks with a worried expression.

"no... anyways, it's way too cold... That's strange, when I was looking over Atlas, the cold seemed like nothing to me... Ow..." (Fohl)

Fohl accidentally bites his tongue. (TL: It says bites his nose, but I do not see how that would work biologically speaking)

I go over and apply light healing magic while checking to see if he has a cold.

But there doesn't seem to be anything wrong.

"Fohl, do you possibly hate the cold?" (Naofumi)

"That can't be... ah... It's cold." (Fohl)

"Raphtalia, warm up the room. Firo!" (Naofumi)

"I understand, I'll add more wood to the fire." (Raphtalia)

"Yes?" (Firo)

"Go warm up Fohl in your Filo Rial form." (Naofumi)

"Understood." (Firo)

Firo changes to her Filo Rial form, and envelops Fohl in her feathers.

It looks warm.

"Ah... It's warm. Thank You (said in english), Aniki... everyone" (Foul)

"No... Your cold resistance is way too low." (Naofumi)

Foul, who looks like he will, fall asleep at any moment, thanks me, but I don't know what to think of this.

You're becoming a stereotypical cold hater.

(TL: I do not know what being a stereotypical cold hater entails.)

Do you plan to hibernate or something?

"It sure has become cold, hasn't it? What's up?" (Sadina)

Sadina appears wearing nothing but a loincloth.

Are you, conversely, extremely resistant to the cold?

"Ah, Sadina. Fohl did say it was getting cold. You people lack willpower."
(Atlas)

"Ara-? Has this person lost his mind" (Sadina)

"I'm more sane than you." (Fohl)

Well, Atlas is a spirit, and Sadina seems to have an abundant layer of whale fat. (TL: Spoilers, she's a whale)

Sadina even looks prepared to take a dive in the ocean.

Just how strong to cold can you be?

"It's warm under the sea. Will you come with me Fohl?" (Sadina)

"That sounds like a wonderful idea." (Atlas)

"Do you plan on killing Fohl? You too Atlas, don't escalate it anymore."
(Naofumi)

“Even if you tell me that, I’ve never been vulnerable to the cold.” (Atlas)

“?” (Naofumi)

“Fohl has always been weak to it, however, I’ve never been bothered by cold weather.” (Atlas)

Even though you were weak bodied, you were strong against the cold, huh?

Now that I think about it, the Slave crest wasn’t particularly effective on her either.

She was tough in some strange ways.

But I still don’t think she should be trying to make Fohl her compatriot.

(TL: He is saying, even if you can do it, don’t drag others down with you)

“Rafu~” (Rafu)

“Ah, Rafu, how are you feeling” (???)

“Rafu” (Rafu)

Rafu had become the hero of the Fleet (as in ships). He works as Sadina’s support.

This helps as Sadina’s job is supposed to be salvaging. She has good compatibility with Rafu, who has many strange and useful ships.

Rafu pulls a golden chalice out of his tail and shows it to us.

It seems like it will sell for quite a bit.

“You pulled up something nice today” (Atlas)

“Rafu~!” (Rafu)

“I see… Well isn’t that nice?” (Atlas)

Atlas praises and pats Rafu’s head, and then goes to check on Fohl.

“Oh right, Fohl. You still haven’t written your wish down yet.”

I take out a wish slip and hand it to Fohl.

He was originally from a warrior house. He probably knows already

(TL: I don’t really know what Naofumi means, maybe that he should know to hold his desires close or be honest to himself)

“Oh right, what do you want as a Christmas Present” (Naofumi)

“Ah, the one in charge of presents until now has been me, so…” (Fohl)

Fohl stares at Atlas and yawns. He reaches his hands towards her.

But without a sound, his outstretched arms simply pass through her.

And Fohl continues to stare with downtrodden eyes.

His melancholy is clearly visible on his face.

“Naofumi, have you finished researching what the kids of the village want?”
(Atlas)

“Pretty much…” (Naofumi)

“I wonder if Santa will give sister anything this year.” (Atlas)

(TL: I do not know who this refers to)

“Get out, Get out!” (Naofumi)

Please be a little more considerate of Fohl.

As Fohl found it way too cold that day, he spent the day cooped up in my house.

Is this person supposed to be a bear? Is what I wanted to retort.

Just how much can he hate the cold?

And so, time passed.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 382 – Side Story – The Christmas of the Shield [IV]

Two days before Christmas

“Niichan, Niichan!” (Kiel)

I hide the evidence that I am preparing presents as Kiel rushes towards me with a worried look on her face.

“What is it Kiel? Do you want to try to stack up some good deeds to cover up you usual mischievous behavior for Christmas?” (Naofumi)

“What do you think I am?! That’s not it! I noticed something about the houses in the village.” (Kiel)

“... What is it?” (Naofumi)

“We don’t have many chimneys.” (Kiel)

Well, now that I think about it, she is correct

Quite a few of the houses in the village are made of Bioplant.

I set it so the plants had self-heating functions, so very few houses actually need fireplaces.

Though a chimney would be needed for cooking as well, most people just used the dining hall I built in the center of the village.

And for these reasons, the amount of houses with chimneys is scarce.

"How will Santa get it?!" (Kiel)

"It's fine." (Naofumi)

"What is?" (Kiel)

"Santa can pick locks. He'll just break in through the front door." (Naofumi)

"I don't want that kind of Santa!" (Kiel)

This person is being quite selfish.

But it seems that the villagers agree with her.

"What are you discussing?" (Firo)

"Ah, we're discussing how the village doesn't have enough chimneys for Santa to go down. Kiel is worried." (Naofumi)

"That's it? We should be fine" (Firo)

? What is Firo trying to say?

"Santa you know, he's mast~" (Firo) (TL: Firo is trying to say Santa is master)

"Firo, Don't say any more than that." (Naofumi)

"Eh?" (Firo)

For the love of... If you say that, it will only become more troublesome!

This talking bird only ever says unnecessary things.

Anyways, why did she know?

“Kiel. I understand your request. You want me to install chimneys into the houses of the village.” (Naofumi)

“Yeah!” (Kiel)

Sigh she’s signing me up for quite a strenuous job.

But I guess this is also Santa’s duty. There’s no choice.

It’s a pain. I want to quit. But this is also my duty as Archduke.

I need to help the hardworking villagers celebrate this event that only happens once a year.

And that’s how I began going around installing chimneys into the houses made of Bioplant.

Well, it’s not that difficult. All I have to do is edit the attributes of each individual plant. It’s still quite tedious.

“Oh yes, what are we going to do about Santa’s sled and reindeer?”
(Naofumi)

I drove away Kiel, who seemed satisfied, and called a conference for the adults.

…Is it just my imagination, or did the Filo Rials just begin staring at me intently?

Firo is also next to me for some reason.

However, Raphtalia is not attending.

"Master!" (Firo)

"What?" (Naofumi)

"I know that master is Santa, so please let me contribute." (Firo)

"But that would put you on the side that gives out presents. Are you sure you don't need anything?" (Naofumi)

"Yeah!" (Firo)

What sort of turnout is this?

I thought Firo would have loved to remain on the receiving end.

"Because this side seems more fun." (Firo)

I'm not good with impulsive people.

Is what I thought, but as long as she is motivated, it will probably work out.

"Returning to the subject, what are we going to do about the reindeer and sled? Should we order some monsters from the Demon users?" (Naofumi)

I'm pretty sure that these theatrics will be necessary.

"Firo will pull the sled." (Firo)

"Moreover, do we even have a sled that flies in the sky?" (Naofumi)

"Firo will pull it and fly." (Firo)

“Please be quiet for a second” (Naofumi)

“Well… The tradition does involve a flying sled and flying Aldirea… but I don’t think you have to go that far.” (Imya’s uncle)

Aldirea? If I remembered correctly, they were a type of monster. So they don’t use reindeer here…

“What sort of monster is an Aldirea” (Naofumi)

Imya’s uncle quickly doodles a picture of a monster.

It looks exactly like a reindeer.

“It looks annoying to capture” (Naofumi)

“Master!!!” (Firo)

“Ah. Yes. Yes.” (Naofumi)

We’re only going to be going around the village. I guess Firo will do.

If they see us capturing these animals, the kids will find out anyways.

Dressing up as Santa is also a no go.

If I just act natural I shouldn’t seem suspicious.

“Then Firo, you will take on the Reindeer’s… Aldirea’s job.” (Naofumi)

“Yay~” (Firo)

“Now what should we do for the Sleigh…” (Naofumi)

“Leave it to Firo.” (Firo)

“Do you have an idea?” (Naofumi)

“Yes!” (Firo)

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

“Yes~!” (Firo)

“I’ve left it to you. Don’t forget to do it.” (Naofumi)

I’m a bit worried, so I tell Imya’s uncle to watch over Firo.

And with that, the day before Christmas eve was over.

...

“Merry~ Christmaaaaaaas~!!1!!!” (Motoyasu)

It’s early in the morning, Motoyasu is circling the village riding on his Filo Rials shouting.

Does he really like Christmas that much?

Motoyasu seems to be distributing something among the Filo Rials.

“Niichan! Niichan! Someone picked all of the crepes off of my Crepe tree. Help me find the culprit.” (Kiel)

Kiel runs towards me shouting this.

Of course, I point my finger at Motoyasu

While he was going around announcing the start of Christmas, he was also distributing Crepes.

“You BAAAASSSTTTAARRRRDDDD!!!” (Kiel)

Kiel gets seriously angry.

「I, who has understood the source of strength, The Hero of the Scythe Commands! Once again manifest before me, my Scythe! 」 (Kiel)

With a bang, a large Scythe appears before Kiel.

After the wave, it seems that the legendary weapons have gained the ability to appear and disappear on command.

But it seems… that I cannot do this… T.T

Kiel begins to spin her Scythe and approaches Motoyasu menacingly. The wind is acting up.

So this is the power of the Scythe Hero.

“MERRYYYYYYYYY~” (Motoyasu)

Motoyasu is still distributing crepes in unnervingly high spirits. Kiel quickly appears behind him.

「Soul Reaper X」 (Kiel)

All of the light in the area is absorbed into the Scythe. Kiel slashes a single time, and then starts spinning the Scythe. The light disperses and she strikes a cool pose.

“Enemy Eliminated” (Kiel)

… What sort of game is this.

Like a marionette that got its strings cut, Motoyasu falls off the Filo Rial.

“Mo-kun!”

“Mou-chan!”

“Motoyasu!”

The three Filo Rials shout out into the winter sky.

“What the hell are you doing!?” (Filo Rial)

“That’s my line!” (Kiel)

And the death match between the Filo Rials and Kiel began.

The result: Kiel eventually abated the anger she had attained from losing her Crepes, and the three Filo Rials left Motoyasu and went off somewhere.

“Really. What the hell are these people doing so early in the morning…”

I feel surprisingly worn out.

Motoyasu being Motoyasu, I can’t believe that he didn’t think of the consequences of plundering Kiel’s food supply.

“Uu… I wanted to give them to everyone for Christmas and yet…” (Kiel)

“So you were planning such things as well.” (Naofumi)

“Of Course Niichan. But that spear guy… he…” (Kiel)

“He was definitely in the wrong, but you already got your revenge. Were you trying to kill him?” (Naofumi)

“Naofumi, you shouldn’t overexert yourself either.” (Raphtalia)

“I understand” (Naofumi)

Raphtalia mutters with the same weary expression as me.

Well it’s not as if I don’t understand.

Why did Motoyasu do such a stupid act… I don’t get him.

“Oh well. What should I make for the Christmas Feast?” (Naofumi)

“Yay, Niichan’s cooking. Santa granted my wish!” (Kiel)

The villagers are also in high spirits.

As expected of Christmas Eve

It feels more festive than the Christmas of my old world.

Are these people really just that pure? (TL: as in childish)

“If we’re talking about Christmas, maybe I should prepare Turkey. At least that’s what we did in Japan…” (Naofumi)

“Bird?!?” (Firo)

“KKUUUEEEEEEEEE” (Filo Rials)

The Filo Rials that noticed me staring at them run away as if their lives depended on it.

I guess there's no choice. I am used to catching fleeing prey.

"Wait! Raphtalia, don't let them escape!" (Naofumi)

"Why should I do that?!" (Raphtalia)

"For Christmas, you obviously need some sort of Bird Meat" (Naofumi)

"But why do we need to use Filo Rial?! Even Firo is running away!"
(Raphtalia)

"I see, then let's settle for Dragon Meat or something. Go catch something bird-like!" (Naofumi)

"Kyua!?" (Gaelion)

At that moment, Taniko, Ratt, Mi and Gaelion returned through the Portal.

My timing was bad wasn't it.

"What are you talking about?" (Taniko)

"Ah, the perfect entrée has arrived. Gaelion, Change into your dragon form and give me your tail." (Naofumi)

"Kyuaaaaaaaaaaaa?!?!" (Gaelion)

『What the hell are you thinking』 (Taniko Party)

"We need some meat for Christmas" (Naofumi)

"And why does that require Gaelion's meat!" (Taniko)

"I've heard that Dragon meat tastes very similar to chicken. If Filo Rial isn't allowed, then I have no choice but to substitute." (Naofumi)

I want to prepare something chicken-ish for all of the villagers.

"Naofumi. Please put an end to your bad jokes." (Raphtalia)

"mu... Fine." (Naofumi)

I kinda wanted to surprise the villagers.

"Ara? You're stopping?" (Atlas)

Atlas voice comes out of the shield.

She seems to be trying to defend my position

But in spirit form there is not much that she can do.

If she had a body, I'm pretty sure we could go hunt a Dragon.

"I was just joking. Go buy the ingredients we need for cooking." (Naofumi)

Everyone gives a relieved sigh and heads off.

"If you don't find enough, we may have to... substitute..." (Naofumi)

I threaten.

"Let's go, everyone~!" (Taniko)

"KUEEE!"

"KYUAAAAAA"

"wait, Gaelion?!"

"RAFU~!"

In a cloud of dust, the monsters run off towards the village. This experience will be a good wake up call.

My stance has and will always be 'Those who do not work do not eat'.

Is what I think when I realize that the scouting team was late in arriving.

"Ah, you can stay at home tomorrow." (Naofumi)

The representative of said team, Imya, fearfully approaches me

"Are you sure?" (Imya)

"Yeah, you guys helped spice up the event, and anyways it's Christmas. It'll probably be more fun to be with everyone." (Naofumi)

"Naofumi, please make sure you don't overdo it." (Raphtalia)

"It's fine, isn't it? Events are made to be enjoyed. Hmm... I need to think of a reward for the scouting team as well" (Naofumi)

Sigh (Raphtalia)

As I say this, Raphtalia holds her head as if stressed.

“Imya” (Naofumi)

“What is it?” (Imya)

“A while ago, your uncle taught me how to make your home town’s specialty. As a reward, I’ll make it specially for today.” (Naofumi)

“Ah, Thank you” (Imya)

Well it’s quite a strange dish, and I don’t think I can serve it in front of everyone.

So I’ll just make some for the scouting team that worked especially hard this month.

They contributed a lot, so I’ll give them a sort of pre-celebration.

(TL: It says the Scouting team’s Lumo race ルーモ種, but I don’t know how to translate this)

Let’s see the food they like is… well dishes that contain worms and ants. I guess this is what you call a delicacy.

If you have the courage to eat it, it’s apparently delicious. Something like that.

It seems to be popular with the Filo Rials and other monsters who are not caught up on the appearance of food.

“I have just returned” (Itsuki)

“Fueee… What is this?” (Rishia)

Rishia and Itsuki arrive with bad timing.

These two people had gone on a journey to see the world, and had left at the end of the wave.

They stopped back regularly, but no one told me they would be here for Christmas.

Rishia stares at the strange dish in fear. It seems that she is still a scaredy-cat.

These two are surrounded by a lovely aura. I don't want to approach them.

“Do you plan to turn this Holy night into an unholy one?” (Naofumi)(TL: Again, same pun)

“Or course not. Is there a band around, I would like for some Hymns to be sung.” (Itsuki)

“…” (Naofumi)

Itsuki gives an answer befitting of his character.

“Melly and her subjects aren't here. You'll have to make do with the townsfolk. If you want someone to sing, ask Firo.” (Naofumi)

And so the people preparing for Christmas had a light celebration beforehand.

By the way, Fohl is still sleeping in my house.

I mean, he really hates the cold.

As for food, Sadina caught some large fish in the ocean so there is no problem.

On that night, the villagers brought ingredients to the shared kitchen, and I cooked them.

And like that, the day ended.

Oh yes, and Firo did indeed end up singing the Hymns

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 383 – Side Story – The Christmas of the Shield [V]

“Well then… I’m sure you all understand this, but Santa doesn’t visit kids that try to stay up and capture him. Go to sleep.” (Naofumi)

“Niichan is the only one who would try something like that.” (Kiel)

“Fine, just go to sleep!” (Naofumi)

「Understood」 (Children)

After the Feast I had prepared, the villagers began going off to their beds.

The time is… Around 9:00 p.m. If I don’t get them to sleep soon, it will be troublesome for me.

I wonder how Ren’s night went.

He said something about eliminating monsters and never came back but… Female Knight was present at the feast. Taniko was as well.

I wonder what he’s doing now.

“Now then. Raphtalia” (Naofumi)

“W-What is it?” (Raphtalia)

“Good children should go to sleep early.” (Naofumi)

“Are you trying to imply that I am still a child?” (Raphtalia)

Well, yeah. That’s what I’m implying.

Anyways, aren't you still a child?

Raphtalia is still a child in age.

I have already read her request on the wish slips I had collected. I have already prepared all of the presents

"What will you do?" (Raphtalia)

"I'll also sleep." (Naofumi)

And so, we turned in early.

As if. As soon as I confirmed Raphtalia was asleep, I got out of the bed and took out the sack I had prepared.

(TL: ... They are still sleeping in the same bed... Also, that was phrased quite wrongly, but I don't know how else to say it)

When I think of what the adults would do to me if I lost it, I sigh.

"Well then." (Naofumi)

I take up the bag and leave the house, and find Firo cosplaying as a reindeer. Her eyes are shining as she watches me. She seems to be quite prepared.

On her chest, a bell is attached. On her feet, even bigger bells are attached.

What is up with her appearance.

"....." (Naofumi)

“I’ve been expecting you…” (Firo)

“Ah. Yes. Yes.” (Naofumi)

I wonder how the fans would see if they saw the world’s idol dressed as this…

It seems she has tied a fancy sled to her back.

The sled is covered in red, ornate decorations. Where could she have possibly acquired it?

“Rafu~” (Rafu)

Rafu pops his head out of the sled.

“Ah, This is a ship.” (Naofumi)

“Rafu~” (Rafu)

Rafu looks at me with pride.

I see.

Sleds can be labelled as ships as well.

This sled definitely has the right atmosphere, at least.

“Master, get on. Quick!” (Firo)

“Yes. Yes. I understand.” (Naofumi)

It seems that she has prioritized authenticity.

I get on the sled thinking to myself, 'This is going to be troublesome'

"Then, Were Off!" (Firo)

Firo starts running and flapping her wings.

Does she realize that she is still pulling the sled... The sled begins to float.

Oy! This girl actually managed to prepare a flying sled!

Shan Shan Shan Shan Shan!

The bells attached to Firo begin to sound.

"It's too loud! The kids will wake up!" (Naofumi)

"But Imya's uncle told me this is how Santa is supposed to travel" (Firo)

"Well... You're correct, but it's loud, so take them off." (Naofumi)

"Are you sure?" (Firo)

"Rafu~" (Rafu)

These two seem to be having the time of their lives.

As we fly, an Aurora-esque trail is left in the sky behind us. (Google Aurora Borealis)

This was supposed to be a village-limited event. The scale is way too large.

"Rafu~~!" (Rafu)

As Rafu barks, the Aurora-esqu trail turns into a cloud that begins showering the village with snow.

Yes, mood is important. But this snow is a nuisance. I can barely see.

“Let’s start around Kiel’s house.” (Naofumi)

She wanted food, so I made some candy and for her.

She loves Crepes, so I assumed she would like other sweet things.

Should I just put it next to her pillow.

Firo stops in the airspace above Kiel’s house. (TL: My physics sense is tingling)

“Why did you stop?” (Naofumi)

“Eh? Aren’t you going in through the chimney?”

“I can walk right through Bioplant houses. Stop at the door.”

(TL: As he grew them, they cannot stop him as he is their master)

“Eh~...” (Firo)

After some argument, Firo parks next to Kiel’s house.

「Emergency Exit」

On my command, a door appears on the Bioplant wall.

And that's how I infiltrated Kiel's house. Making sure to be quiet, I left the candy by her pillow.

"Alright, on to the next house." (Naofumi)

"Bu~" (Firo)

Firo lets out an unsatisfied voice.

I'd be annoying if I had to go through the chimney every time.

If Santa existed, I would applaud his patience.

Now, next is...

I look at the house next to Kiels.

...It's not made of Bioplant.

I take out the spare key the parents gave me, infiltrate the house and leave a present.

There is no door I cannot open!

"Hey, Master." (Firo)

"Yes?" (Naofumi)

"You're acting like a burglar." (Firo)

"Santa's pretty much a kind burglar isn't he? The only one who would walk up to a kid's pillow would be a parent, or a burglar. And the child gets a toy and is happy, right?"

"Eh~..." (Firo)

"Dreams are dreams because you don't know the reality. I guess this is one more step towards adulthood for you" (Naofumi)

"Firo doesn't want to become an adult!" (Firo)

"I see" (Naofumi)

Well having dreams is better than having none.

I think this as well.

"Now then... Next is Fohl and Atlas, huh." (Naofumi)

Atlas is currently taking up residence inside of my shield, but she usually sleeps inside of Fohl's house.

Well, she doesn't actually sleep.

I told her that Santa won't come if she doesn't sleep, so she is probably putting her best effort into trying to sleeping.

I'll do Atlas first.

I quietly enter her room.

She's doing a very obvious fake sleep.

If Rafu or Raphtalia did it, it would probably appear cute.

“Yep, This child is definitely sleeping.” (Naofumi)

I say in a deep voice, as I take the prepared items out of my sack and approach her. I take out another sack

I don’t think I can get any closer, or Atlas will drag me into the bed with her.

That’s why I came prepared.

Atlas cannot see, so she operates by sensing presences.

I prepare my present is one hand and the sack in the other

“Naofu-” (Atlas)

I quickly cover Atlas with my specially prepared sack. (TL: This is going in many bad directions on my mind)

“Wa, what is this!” (Atlas)

“Oh, I used materials specially so even spirits can’t pass through them. Atlas, I had already realized you were just fake sleeping. I’ll be capturing you now.” (Naofumi)

“Oh no, Naofumi has captured me! Is this what you call Kidnapping?”
(Atlas)

I tie the bag containing Atlas closed, and leave the room without doing anything.

This has proven the effect of the 'spirit capturing' material.

Even Atlas cannot escape it.

Her heart full of the expectation that I will kidnap her, Atlas remains silent.

"Now then..."

I go down the hall and arrive at Fohl's room.

"Z...ZZZ...U.....UU...ZZZ...Z"

Fohl is still in a bear-like hibernation.

I quietly take an accessory that increases resistance to cold, and carefully put it around his neck. I can feel the bed warm up as I put it on him. I had put all sorts of useful charms on this accessory, making it quite valuable.

This is because out of the villagers, he has been working especially hard.

I have especially made his present a useful one... no, I'm just compensating for the share of presents that he would never receive from his parents.

"su~..."

His sleeping sounds became slightly more peaceful.

After that...

I leave the bag that Atlas was in alone, and put on top of it a pair of gloves I specially made so that spirits cannot pass through them.

This way, Fohl can now hold her hands.

I'm planning to make more equipment like this for her later,

"Ah, Naofumi-sama! Please open me up quickly" (Atlas)

"Fine, Fine. Well, see you later." (Naofumi)

"Could this be the so-called Abandonment Play? I'll wait for you forever!"
(Atlas)

(TL: SM stuff, I will not elaborate)

Good luck with that.

By the way, for Atlas, who wished for 「A steamy night with Naofumi」, I have gotten Imya to make a doll in my likeness.

Imya said he put a special material inside of the stuffed animal, but I wonder what it does.

"T-this item! It gives off the same presence as Naofumi! How wonderful."
(Atlas)

Atlas seems happy as she hugs the doll.

(TL: the word used for hug here is not hug. It has a lewder intonation)

It seems this doll is a suitable replacement for me.

Now she can spend the entire night with 'me'.

Is what I think as I leave more presents for the two of them and leave the house.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 384 – Side Story – The Christmas of the Shield [V]

After that we continually travelled around the village using the flying sled.

Is this really necessary?

As I think this, I spot Ren.

He's inside of his house. His face is planted on the desk next to his window

"Jingle bells... Jingle Bells..." (Ren)

What is this person doing?

I knock on his window and call out to him.

Ren looks up. He looks like he is about to cry.

"What happened?" (Naofumi)

"I-It's nothing." (Ren)

I peer into Ren's room.

Inside, there is a table with an array of fancy food on it and a cake in the center. It is set for three people.

...So neither Female knight nor Taniko showed up?

I can understand Taniko, but Female knight... you too?

What do these people think the good intentions of others are? Why did they ignore Ren's offer?

...Wait, I am Santa right now. I should look at this from Santa's perspective.

Does she seriously intend to do that?

Christmas monster hunting may be over but does she plan to leave him like this?

(TL: They use a really bad pun that works in English but I will not use it here. They pretty much say she made his Jingle Bells into Single Bells)

How sad...He worked quite hard, and for this end to a holiday.

Is what I think from Santa's perspective. Not much of a difference.

sigh... There's no choice, I'll do a little bit of work for him.

It's on the way, anyways.

"Ren." (Naofumi)

"What is it?" (Ren)

I pull two presents out of my bag and throw them at him.

"Hold on to those, and don't open them. Something good will happen."
(Naofumi)

"Ah..." (Ren)

“See you later.” (Naofumi)

I proceed to give Firo orders.

She starts running enthusiastically and we take off.

From afar, she looks like a reindeer running through the sky.

There. I see Female knight watching the sky from a well-hidden location. Taniko is there as well. They are practicing swinging their swords near the monster stable.

I get off of the sled in a place they can't see and approach them as if I was simply in the middle of a walk.

“What are you two doing? Everyone is already asleep.” (Naofumi)

“? Naofumi huh. I've told you before, but today I plan to stay up in order to give my thanks to that old man. Windea has said that she wishes to accompany me.” (Female Knight)

“Yeah! I want to thank Santa!” (Taniko)

Taniko is sporting a pair of extremely pure eyes.

I think Ren will regain his composure if I bring these two to him, but it seems they are dead set on meeting Santa Claus.

“About that. I came here because the white haired old man imparted a message unto me.” (Naofumi)

“WHAT!?!” (Female Knight)

“He told me that he had left the presents of the two people waiting outside the monster stable with the sword hero.”

“KU! That old man did an unnecessary thing! Windea, let us go acquire our presents from Ren.” (Female Knight) (TL: for acquire, she uses a word that is closer to steal, snatch, plunder…etc)

“Understood!” (Taniko)

Female Knight and Taniko leave in a hurry.

This will let Ren enjoy Christmas a little… Is what I want to believe.

“You…” (Gaelion)

Gaelion emerges from the stable and stares at me.

“You did something unnecessary.” (Gaelion)

“I don’t know what you’re talking about. I just found The Hero of the Sword crying to himself to be too pitiful. You would have done the same.”
(Naofumi)

“That is… You’re right, but… Yes that is pitiful, but…” (Gaelion)

“I thought I would play Santa and give Ren a hand.” (Naofumi)

“*Sigh*… I guess there’s no choice. Those two had been giving off a strange aura and staring at each other the entire time. Now the monsters in the stable can finally sleep.” (Gaelion)

It seems the stable’s residents were still awake.

Until now. The night is now completely silent.

What? Did those two think they would miss Santa if they left for Ren's place?

Well... it didn't take much to get them to go

Even I found Ren's display pitiful

And with that, I have given Ren his Christmas present

"Oh yeah, Please give these presents to the monsters here." (Naofumi)

"There's no point if you don't give them yourself." (Gaelion)

"The monsters don't even believe in Santa. All of their wishes were addressed directly to me." (Naofumi)

They were all things like 'Eating Naofumi's homemade food' or 'Playing with Naofumi'.

I give the presents of the ones who actually asked for items to Gaelion.

"By the way, what does Kogaelion? He never hung up a wish slip"

"Fumu... I'll ask him."

Gaelion enters the stable and begins a long debate.

"... That's impossible. Order something else."

And as such, the debate continued. What could he want?

"He wants a hug from you." (Gaelion)

"Why do I have to..." (Naofumi)

"He says it is a form of Skinship" (Gaelion) (TL: bonding through physical contact)

"... I see" (Naofumi)

Is it that custom that is prominent overseas? (TL: Not where I'm from)

I hug Gaelion, who has changed into Kogaelion form.

"KYUAAAAAAA!"(Kogaelion)

And he lets out a loud cry. His spirits are really high.

"What a strange person" (Naofumi)

I would learn the meaning behind these actions a little later...

"Mu~..." (Firo)

Fire is glaring at me from the shadows.

Is she jealous? She really is on bad terms with Gaelion.

She should learn from Rafu. He gets along with Gaelion just fine.

As there is nothing left to do here, I board Rafu's Sleigh and we depart.

"Next is... Motoyasu and the Filo Rials." (Naofumi)

It is now snowing heavily.

Has Motoyasu fallen asleep yet?

Well, He's done a lot today. In eating and playing, he has been the first in line for everything. I have the present for Motoyasu himself, and the one for the Filorials. They would probably be happier receiving it from Motoyasu than from me.

I peer into the house. Motoyasu is indeed asleep, surrounded by Filo Rials.

I quietly get off the sled.

"Firo, can you lower your head" (Naofumi)

"? Sure!" (Firo)

Following my orders, Firo lowers her head. I carefully remove some feathers from her crest.

(TL: Her Ahoge evolved over time. Remember, the Filo Rial Queen gave Firo a feather)

I place these in a box and throw them at Motoyasu with all my might.

They made a soft sound as they hit the ground near Motoyasu. The Filo Rials near him turn in their sleep, but otherwise remain silent.

Well, Motoyasu should be satisfied with this.

Merry Christmas

I wonder why I am giving presents to Motoyasu as well. Well, I'm Santa for now.

After that I circled the village and distributed presents to Imya and the rest of the townsfolk.

Though Imya lives inside of a hole, so I left his present with his uncle.

While I was going around, I witnessed Rishia inside of the Dining hall.

What is she doing?

She seems to be staring Itsuki in silence.

The mood is quite Christmassy

"Ah, it's Naofumi, isn't it?" (Itsuki)

Itsuki spots the flying sled, and calls to us with his hand in the air.

I should ignore him. I would ruin the mood.

But there is no choice as he has noticed me. So I park the sled and go to meet him.

"What are you two doing up so late at night?" (Naofumi)

"Eh, We were watching the village. It puts our hearts at ease." (Itsuki)

"It seems like you were just flirting with Rishia..." (Naofumi)

"How cruel... I don't have such motives. Rishia merely admires me. There is no love involved." (Itsuki)

(TL: (-_))

"Fe~ T-that's right. We are only here for vacation, anyways..."

Rishia hesitated for a moment before she answered, however, Itsuki immediately confirmed her statement.

This is the opposite situation from Ren

"I'm wrong?" (Naofumi)

"Yes, I have no ulterior motives, and Rishia understands this. For now, I am simply training to make sure I do not go down the wrong path."

Rishia is nodding, but her face looks like it is about to cry.

Could this be what me and Raphtalia's situation looks like from an objective viewpoint?

"Ah... Well..." (Naofumi)

"If it's about delivering presents, then we can help." (Itsuki)

"N-no... It's fine" (Naofumi)

Instead of pushing this relationship with Santa's authority, it is probably best to leave it be.

These are the heroes that come to the village the least.

They should be allowed to rest for a while.

“Well, I guessed as much” (Itsuki)

“Ha…” (Naofumi)

Itsuki can sometimes be quite sharp.

It's not like he isn't thinking of me.

“Anyways, this is for you two.” (Naofumi)

I take out two bottles of specially brewed wine and give it to them.

“It's quite potent, so drink in moderation.” (Naofumi)

This is the product of the research me and Ratt had put into the Lucor fruit I had previously been unable to modify.

The alcohol content is quite high, but the taste is decent. I have also put a weak enchantment on it to help it's drinkers share their true feelings.

It is my hope that this will help the two of them open up to each other more

However, in the end, how well it goes is up to Rishia.

“Thank you” (Itsuki)

The result: both of them got extremely drunk and to this day, neither of them can remember what happened.

But it seemed that they had become closer than before by the next morning.

I could use the power of the spirits to check on them, but that would be rude.

After that...

"Na-o-fu-mi-cha-n!!" (Sadina)

Yep, it's the second woman who wishes to corrupt this holy night.

This is why I brought more of that wine.

I throw the bottle with all of my strength at Sadina.

The alcoholic Sadina catches it and starts glugging it down.

As expected, it seems she'll drink any sake if it's close by.

"Ah... this one is quite potent. To weaken me this much with just one bottle... As expected of Naofumi. *hic*" (Sadina)

"I made it with you in mind. I'll also have you speak your true feelings"
(Naofumi)

"I love Naofumi from the bottom of my heart. Hurry and do fun things with Raphtalia so you can do fun things with me... Enough that you forget about Raphtalia." (Sadina)

...These are her true feelings, huh?

Yes. I should run. It's dangerous here.

“Ah, wait~” (Sadina)

I signal for Firo, who is in the sky, to come to my aid, and keep running.

“I told you to wait!” (Sadina)

The drunk Sadina starts to cast magic.

「Revelation • Thunder Bolt X」

Above me, lightning begins to form.

However, I am the Shield Hero, this level of magic won't even feel itchy.

I point my shield to the sky and prepare myself.

But to use Revelation level magic, is she trying to kill me?

“Ara~” (Sadina) (TL: I assume Firo picks him up and flies off at this point)

“Master, let's go to Melty's place as well” (Firo)

“...Yes, lets.” (Naofumi)

This village is dangerous. We fly in the direction of castle.

TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

Chapter 385 – Side Story – The Christmas of the Shield [END]

The flying sled is on a coarse set for Melomark Castle.

“Wow… how unexpected.” (Queen) (TL: Note, not dead)

Trash and the Queen are on the Castle’s terrace. They seemed to have set up a romantic aura.

I guess even Royalty spends Christmas like this.

I feel bad for ruining the mood and turn to leave, but they call me back.

“I’m sorry for bothering you so late at night.” (Naofumi)

“Were you distributing presents to the villagers?” (Queen)

“Well, I had almost finished, but there someone who wished to corrupt the holy night, and…” (Naofumi)

“I see…” (Trash)

Trash nods with a knowing face. Well, his perceptiveness is his only good quality.

He had guessed the situation from looking at our faces.

“We’ll return by portal in a little bit.” (Naofumi)

“No, no, take your time. Melty is already asleep, but you can at least look at her sleeping face.” (Trash)

"Ah. I understand." (Naofumi)

Trash has changed a lot from back then. For some reason, he is trying to get me and Melty together.

"That's right Iwatani, take your time." (Queen)

The queen also receives us warmly.

"Do you plan to give Melty a Christmas Present?" (Trash)

What is this person saying.

I have no idea what sort of present to give her.

"Wait, Aren't you, Trash, more fit to play the role of Santa for her?"
(Naofumi)

I mean, he has a beard and he's around the correct age.

It seems he will look good in a Santa Suit.

"Your worry is undue." (Trash)

"I'm saying it's ironic. Don't salute me!" (Naofumi)

I don't really feel like dealing with Trash.

"And I'm not brash enough to take away the joy of a parent giving their daughter a present." (Naofumi)

“Well then, we have prepared a present to give her, so why don’t you and my husband put it by her pillow together?” (Queen)

The Queen starts nudging Trash as if she had said a good idea.

It was a terrible idea.

And why do I have to help give it anyways?

“Firo wants to give Melty a present too.” (Firo)

“.....” (Naofumi)

Perfect. This bird can go give Melty a Present, and I can make my leave.

I’ll leave this one to Firo.

“Wait. Master~?” (Firo)

The queen effectively seals off Firo’s movements with a ribbon.

The Queen lifts up Firo, and begins to carry her off.

“Ok, Trash, you go give your present with that Hero. I’ll prepare my own present.” (Queen)

“Eh?!” (Firo)

Firo is looking to me for help.

I didn’t see anything.

“su~.....” (Melty)

She's sleeping quite peacefully. But if I make a wrong move and wake her up, it will be troublesome.

She works quite hard for her age.

I lightly stroke her forehead, and leave the box along with the Queen's present.

"See you Firo. Play nicely with Melty" (Naofumi)

"Yes!" (Firo)

"Okay, let's go, Trash." (Naofumi)

"Iwatani, why don't you sleep with them as well" (Trash)

"Surely you jest" (Naofumi)

Why do I have to sleep with Melty?

I can imagine what sort of face she will make when she gets up

"But if Iwatani doesn't sleep in the same bed as Melty, what meaning does Christmas hold?" (Trash)

...Trash. It seems he has no plans of backing off.

Ku...Even here, there are people trying to corrupt my holy night.

But you have made some grave errors on your calculations.

Those would be the fact that I am a Hero that holds special power, and the fact that Rafu is here.

“Rafu!” (Naofumi)

“What are you doing, Iwatani?” (Trash)

I suddenly take out Rafu, who had been hiding. Trash is speechless.

“If you go any further, then your princess just might wake up…” (Naofumi)

“GU…” (Trash)

I stare at Trash in silence.

I don’t know if he gave up, but Trash left the room.

… or not.

“If you say that much, I will give up for now, but next time… I will have other plans.” (Trash)

…As expected of a king. This much isn’t enough to make him give up.

“See ya, Firo” (Naofumi)

“Cya, Good Night!” (Firo)

Me and Rafu went outside, and used the Portal to return home.

(TL: It’s a bit late, but this seems to be the equivalent of Teleport, Warp, Mr. Gency, Return Door, you get the point)

“Ah… I’m tired.” (Naofumi)

Rafu and I, who had warped back to my house, sit down and sigh.

Sadina? She was drunk and collapsed at the village entrance.

I look to the sky, and wonder if she’ll be okay… No, she’ll be just fine, let’s leave her be.

I mean, she’s really, REALLY strong against the cold.

“Good work.” (Rafatalia)

The door to my room opens, and Rafatalia comes out.

“You should go to sleep. Santa won’t visit you.” (Naofumi)

I have the last few present inside of my sack.

I planned to put one by Rafatalia’s pillow, but…

“Of course I know Santa isn’t real, Naofumi was doing Santa’s role this year, correct?” (Rafatalia)

“Say what?” (Naofumi)

“There’s no way I wouldn’t know” (Rafatalia)

“Hmm… That’s true, but I still hoped you hadn’t figured it out.” (Naofumi)

I wanted Rafatalia to remain as a dream-filled child.

Like Female Knight.

“Your actual age is quite low, isn’t it? Act your age, dream more.”
(Naofumi)

“What sort of logic is that…” (Rafatalia)

“Rafu~” (Rafu)

“Oh I have one for you too, Rafu” (Naofumi)

I take out Rafu’s present from the sack and hand it to him.

By the way, Firo’s present was the dinner and the task of delivering presents in itself.

Rafu didn’t really want anything, so I arbitrarily picked something out for him.

“Rafu~!” (Rafu)

Rafu, who had already opened his present, was admiring the Plush animal I had made of him.

Yes, Pets should behave cutely like this.

“And for Rafatalia is this.” (Naofumi)

And with that I have given away the last present.

Inside is clothing. I thought Rafatalia would look good in Japanese clothes, so I had them made.

I had placed the order a long time ago, but this and that happened, so I was only able to pick them up recently.

Which is why I am presenting them to her now.

“Ah, thank you” (Rafatalia)

“Then, should we go to sleep?” (Naofumi)

“What about you?” (Rafatalia)

“Me? Why would I give a present to myself?” (Naofumi)

“I see... then...” (Rafatalia)

And Rafatalia hands me two boxes.

The first one is quite big.

“This is...?” (Naofumi)

“It’s a present from everyone, and a present from me.” (Rafatalia)

The big one contained a letter, and materials used to repair and upgrade equipment

I guess the villagers had noticed. Recently my equipment had been getting worn down, and I was divided on whether or not to send them in for repairs.

The letter contained words of thanks towards me.

As for Rafatalia's... It's a plush doll of Rafatalia and me. It is the perfect scale to go as a set with Rafu's plushy.

"Thank you very-." (Naofumi)

I honestly thanked her.

Before I noticed it I had spoken my mind. I force a smile

"Now then, Let us go to sleep. There's still the Christmas present I have to prepare for tomorrow."

It's the monster's requests of 'Play with me' that I still have to fulfill.

"Okay." (Rafatalia)

"Rafu~!" (Rafu)

"Tonight is cold, so let's sleep together" (Naofumi) (TL: (° ۞ °))

"Y-yes!" (Rafatalia)

"However, we won't be corrupting this holy night, or the perverted women will take me away." (Naofumi)

(TL: I think the other women have come to agreement to be second in line.)

...

...?

When I get up, I find something on my pillow.

I start to get up to check its identity.

Lying there is a present I don't remember seeing when I went to sleep.

Who could it be from?

I look inside to make sure it isn't a present I forgot to deliver.

Inside is a single photograph.

It's a photo of my former world. I am in the center and around me are Rafatalia, Atlas, my family and my old friends.

It's quite a lively scene.

There aren't many people who would be able to obtain such an item

For me to be able to make this sort of face... I guess this a present from myself.

It's probably from the me in that world to the me in this world.

It looks like I'm having fun over there as well.

It's not like I have any intentions of returning

I had long thrown away such ambitions.

"Niichan, Niichan!" (Kiel)

I hear the sound of the children running around with their new toys.

That's right, right now I'm living a happy enough life that the me over there would be jealous.

Is what I think as I get out of bed.