

# EXTERMINATOR

— Kujonin —

- VOLUME 6 -

*The Exterminator who Cleans Up  
After the Earth Hero*

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KT2

[ Hon'yaku ]

## CHAPTER 86

There wasn't anyone at the inn, so we borrowed the kitchen on our own.

We shouldn't use the ingredients at our own convenience as well, so Ayl and I went out from the back of the inn for a bit and plucked the feathers off the bird monster from the wasteland that runs quickly. It's about as large as a medium-sized dog, so it was quite the ordeal.

During that time, Merumo had come so I had her prepare the vegetables from the item bag.

The vegetables are things that Ayl bought in Floura.

We had finished plucking the feathers around when Velsa and Seth came over, so everyone helped Merumo out.

Merumo and Seth have begun to take charge of cooking, so it helps out a lot.

Ayl dismantles the monsters, and Velsa and I was the dirty utensils used for preparations.

Velsa and I, who aren't very helpful, ended up talking about dowsing.

What we made was a thick soup, sweet-and-spicy meat and vegetable stir fry, and a large steamed chicken. And the usual crusty bread in addition.

It's an amount that's unthinkable for breakfast.

As we ate in the dining hall, I talked about the request and what we would do from now on.

"It's fine if you continue eating, but listen up. The request has been accomplished. The Earth Spirit has been fired, and Garcia-san is no longer a hero. We'll leave it to Garcia-san to decide when or if he wants to reveal that he's no longer a Hero, but the rest of the aftermath is our work."

I started talking about it, but everyone is silently eating.

“Are you guys listening?”

“Hm? What?”

Ayl is the only one who responded; the other three are engrossed in eating.

“Well, I guess it’s fine if we do this after eating.”

The food is honestly delicious.

“So good!”

Everyone nodded in agreement.

“Should we hunt more down later?”

Everyone nodded in agreement with Ayl’s words.

When you chew the wasteland bird monster’s meat an umami flows out as you chew, so you just chew continuously.

That’s why everyone wasn’t saying anything as they ate.

“What is this monster?”

I asked Velsa.

“I think it’s an emyou. But I’ve never heard that its meat tastes good.”

Velsa responded as such, continuing to chew the meat.

After having our fill of emyou dishes, we relaxed while drinking tea, as if my near-death experience earlier in the morning was a lie.

“Ah, Naoki’s protection charm split.”

Ayl said as she pointed her finger.

“Heh?”

“You know, the misanga from Marina Port.”

Ayl showed me her own revival misanga that was wrapped around her wrist.

Oh yeah, I’ve been wearing it this entire time without thinking about it so I didn’t notice, but the revival misanga has been broken.

The revival misanga was a magic tool I made for Ayl who was going to take part in the battle tournament in the port town we met Velsa in, Marina Port. It’s a magic tool that can completely restore you when you take an attack that could kill you, but I had completely forgotten about it.

For the misanga to have broken, that means that that one attack by the Earth Spirit really would have killed me.

“But if it broke then it should have fully restored me, but both my arms were completely broken, right?”

I confirmed it with Ayl.

“Eh! That charm had that kind of effect? But, well, couldn’t it have just gotten all worn and dirty and frayed off?”

That’s certainly possible.

“But I really don’t want to fight against a spirit anymore. I’ll make a lot of revival misangas for the next time we meet a spirit or hero.”

“Wait a minute. What is the exact effect of this magic tool?”

Velsa broke into our conversation.

“No, well, like I said, when you receive an attack that could kill you, it fully restores your physical strength. Ah, even if you recover your physical strength, it won’t heal wounds, huh? No, it should heal them? Ah, was it because it was bone fracture? Was it because the bones were going in the wrong directions so it was slow to heal them?”

I muttered away with my own thoughts.

“No, rather than that, if we sold those misangas, wouldn’t we make an amazing profit?”

Velsa pointed out the main part.

“President’s as unreasonable as always.”

Merumo seemed to have given up as she refilled her tea.

“But if we sold a lot of this magic tool, wouldn’t wars start happening?”

Ayl said as she looked at her own misanga, wound around her wrist.

“Hm~ that... is true.”

Velsa made a complicated face.

Certainly, if we mass-produced them and put them into circulation, realistically speaking, it’s possible that some country some where will buy them all up and create an undying army.

“Alright! Let’s make this a magic tool to counter against spirits and not make too many.”

It smells like nothing but trouble.

“Once in a while, I worry about just what kind of company I’ve become employed in...”

“That’s normal. There will be unimaginable things if you stick around Naoki. It’s dangerous for you not to get used to it!”

Ayl responded to Seth’s words.

“On the other hand, if you get used to it, you’ll just stop thinking.”

Velsa told the newbies.

“So what exactly are we supposed to do, in the end?”

Merumo asked with a sorrowful face.

“Give up; you’ll get used to it in the end anyway. But don’t forget general common sense. If you don’t think, ‘It’s dangerous not to get used to it!’ you’ll meet tough days. Just like now, don’t blurt out something that could lead to mass wars.”

Velsa made a bitter smile, as if reflecting on her own words.

I listened to the conversation, thinking, “The way they’re treating me is kind of painful.”

“I remembered once we started talking about profits, but what would the rewards for God’s request be?”

Velsa asked me.

“Aah, that’s right. I have to think about that, too. Let’s talk a little bit about what’s going to happen from now on.”

We’d eaten and calmed down, so I began to speak.

“First of all, we will stop up the canals. That will be me and Seth doing it, I guess?”

“Okay, roger-ssu.”

“And then we’ll dig a well. I think it will take some time for the villagers and merchants to abandon this village. And if the discussion about the public road corps goes well, it’s quite possible that this will become a vital location.”

“Oh, how did that discussion go?”

Velsa asked me.

“Yeah, well, remember when Ayl took that job in Floura?”

“The request to clean a rich old lady’s warehouse?”

Ayl said as she remembered it.

“That’s right. So it looks like that rich old lady is someone that’s like the mentor of the Ruginia Alliance’s Central Government.”

“ “Heh~!” “

Velsa and Ayl made a silly sound.

“It was an unexpected connection.”

“Yeah, so I had Riddle-san introduce me, and we talked about the plan. So I think an official or executive from the Central Government will come to meet Garcia-san. And, to wrap up this discussion about the public roads, our role in the matter is over.”

“Eh? We’re not going to participate in making the roads?”

Merumo asked.

“We won’t. Since we’re an extermination company. I believe it’s enough if our after-service ensures that Garcia-san and his household can live normally. We shouldn’t meddle, doing anything and everything so that they end up relying on us. There are still more Heroes in the world, too. And besides, they probably want to be independent, right? He’s an adult after all. I believe Garcia-san is capable of earning a living as an adventurer.”

“And so, did you anticipate the problems that could happen during the time it takes Garcia-san and everyone to be able to live normal lives?”

Ayl asked.

“The northern country might come to attack HillLake. For that, I was thinking of having the dragons go to the border. I believe if they lightly burn around and then return while using humanification magic, the opposite country will find it difficult to make a move. Aside from that, I believe the traders will be thrown into confusion, but as for that, I believe they’ll understand once the roads appear; clever traders will be able to think up all kinds of businesses, right? And after that is just survival of the fittest. Just in case, I told the Central Government’s mentor about a lot of businesses and things regarding business rights. More importantly, I’d like to support Garcia-san and his household’s livelihoods.”

“And so, it’s enough for us to dig a well, right?”

Ayl understood and nodded her head in agreement as she spoke.

“Yeah, I was thinking, as expected, they’ll die without water.”

“Ro-ger-that.”

Velsa responded as she drank her tea.

“And so... what would you like as remuneration for God’s request? I don’t think there’s anything he’ll say he can’t do.”

“Hm~ new skills?”

“Money is fine too.”

“Or levels.”

As everyone voiced out their desires, they chuckled at their imaginations.

All except for one.

“I... want it to rain.”

When Seth said so, I thought, “What’s this guy saying?”

But if it rains, the lake water level will rise, and even in the wasteland, plants might be able to grow, huh? If that happens, the salt concentration in the lake will be diluted, and it might be able to make farms in the wasteland.

It would be the rain of blessings.

In the end, we lost to Seth’s kindness.

In the sight of our own desires, we might have lost sight of the ability to care about others.

“I’m embarrassed to call myself an adult! Even meals taste better with everyone eating together. And so, what was that? Skills? Money? Levels? A warm reception at a brothel? My own abilities are enough for those kinds of things.”

Ayl, Velsa, Merumo, and I all hang our heads in defeat.



“No, it wasn’t like I was saying it with those intentions... It’s okay, everyone here is kind, so.”

Seth became confused.

“Stop! You’ll only make us miserable.”

“If you say any more, I’ll cry!”

Ayl and Velsa yelled.

“I’ll clean up.”

Merumo said in the middle of this desolate atmosphere.

“Then, let’s move out.”

When I, in a gloomy mood, said so, everyone stood up.

“Um... is everyone okay?”

Only Seth was panicking.

“We’re fine. I just thought of something important. Everyone’s going to participate in Pastor Romeo’s funeral, right?”

“ “Yeah.” “

“Yes.”

“OK-ssu!”

With a bead of sweat on his brow, the bright-mannered Seth appeared to be sparkling.

## CHAPTER 87

Together with Seth, the two of us headed upstream of the water canal.

The water level has already become reduced from before.

According to Seth, he had used large rocks to dam up the canal.

There are lots of trees near the village, but it soon changed into wasteland.

Moving onwards, we met with a hill on the way.

There was a tunnel for people to pass through the hill, and the water canal used that to pass through.

The water level has already been reduced, so we leave the tunnel.

“I guess Garcia-san made this with magic?”

I said as I pointed a fire magic light at the walls and the ceiling.

My voice echoed slightly. That’s how hard the walls and ceiling are.

“It seems like it, doesn’t it?” (Seth)

The work should have been quite difficult even if it was just this single tunnel.

When we continued going upstream there were a number of hills, and each time the water canals passed through them with tunnels.

“There are a lot of tunnels, ne?” (Seth)

“Isn’t it to avoid having the water evaporate as much as possible?” (Naoki)

In truth, I felt like the humidity within the tunnels was quite high.

“I see.”

Seth agreed with my words.

There were also places where there was a lot of sand accumulated after we exited the tunnel.

“Were the hills here first or was the canal here first?”

Garcia-san might have made the tunnels and covered them with sand when monsters destroyed the water canals.

“Why would he do all that?” (Seth)

“It’s tough when it gets destroyed, right? I don’t know if monsters were making the canal their travel route, or if they were attacking it, or if they were taking a dump in it, but it’s better if there’s a hill they can go up and down on, right?”

“President, you know everything.”

“No, it’s prediction. If I was Garcia-san, that’s what I would do.”

I said that kind of suitable thing while we headed upstream.

This time we did encounter monsters, but Seth dealt with them.

Seth seems to be avoiding killing monsters.

He’s throwing pebbles, chasing them away.

When I tried asking why,

“I suck at dismantling, and it takes time and I’ll get covered in blood. And if we get any more meat or the like to carry, it would just be a hindrance,”

Is how he responded.

“I can use Clean Up on you, you know. And we have bags for the meat, so there’s no

trouble.”

“That so? Then when I’m with the President, I’ll kill as much as possible.”

“Nah, it’s not necessary to kill if you don’t want to, though.”

“Whenever I’m with Ayl-san and Merumo, one gets mad at how much time I take to dismantle, and the other’s look in her eyes becomes funny when she sees me smeared in blood, so I kind of avoid it.”

Seems like Ayl gets mad at his dismantling, and Merumo is the type that gets excited when she sees blood spurting out, after all.

“You’ve had it tough too, haven’t you? Oh! Is that it?”

While listening to the complaints about our company employees, I could see large stones lined up in the canal.

Water was flowing out of the spaces between the rocks.

“That’s right. I thought I could stop it with large rocks, but it ended up having openings.”

I climbed up on the rocks and checked the divergence of the river.

There were a large amount of weeds surrounding where the river was diverged, and trees were growing here and there.

It seems that they made a curve over the span of five years to turn the direction of the water curve.

“The lake is that way, right?”

I pointed at the river going west.

“That’s right.”

“Then let’s dig a bit to have the water flow that way. Let’s turn this entire area into a bit of a pond so that it will flow towards the lake, shall we?”

“That seems like a lot of work.”

“Probably, huh? Well, it will work out somehow.”

While saying so, I started working.

As Seth predicted, it was a lot of work.

I made shovels and pickaxes from the bones of the monsters in the item bag that I hadn't found a use for.

For the shovels I used the beak of the large bird monster, the desert eagle, but it was small in size so the work didn't go as well as I thought.

In order to stop the water from flowing in the direction of the water canal, Seth carried small rocks and stuffed them in the spaces to make a dam.

I got my shoes wet on the riverbank many times, and water flowed into the hole in my torn boots.

The boots are something from my time in the previous world, so they're completely destroyed.

“Is it about time to buy some?”

I took a break since it wasn't going well and went to see Seth's progress, and he'd just about had it with the dam, too.

Even though he filled the spaces, water just flows from the rocks and stones.

“How is it?”

“It's not going well.” (Seth)

As Seth said so, water streams from the crack he should have just filled with stones.

“Can't be helped. Should we destroy the tunnels?”

“Aa! I see, let's do that! Huh? Huh? But if we do that, then there will be a pond in front of the tunnel, right?”

“That’s right. Geez, what should we do... should I take the Earth Magic Skill?”

Come to think of it, I haven’t used any skill points recently, so I don’t know how many I have saved up. In the first place, I’m too scared to see my level.

“Can we use President’s magic circles somehow?”

“Ah...!”

I had completely forgotten, but I draw magic circles that produced water currents a lot on ships, right?

What the heck, ain’t that good?

If I made the shovel more durable, it would make digging easier, wouldn’t it?

“Sorry, I’ll do it now!”

For now, when I tried sticking the sticky boards used to catch mice on the cracks, the water stopped.

“Was this always this strong?” (Seth)

“Honestly, I’m just as surprised.”

It’s stopped for now, but when they lose their stickiness they’ll fall off.

The sticky boards will last for 2 or 3 days, so we have quite a bit of time.

It would be fine if we buried it during that time.

“Ah, should I make a staff to crush the rocks?”

Ideas came out one after another after I’d heard that we should just use magic circles.

“After this is how the river flows, I guess. Would I be fine if I went into the river with this?”

I took the wood plank that can produce a squall of wind that I had made when I was riding Red Dragon from the item bag.

I took off my coverall and inner clothes and jumped into the river with my underwear.

It's probably fine since there's only guys around.

It's really cold, but I got used to it as I endured it.

"Seth! Prepare a bonfire for now!"

"OK-ssu!"

When I poured magic power into the squall plank within the river, with a blast, water flowed upwards like a fountain.

The direction is important.

Moving towards the riverbank, I firmly braced myself and raised a squall, steadily shaving away the shore's dirt.

If I submerge myself while making it, it will make a water current.

I gradually widened the curve in the river.

It's cold so I got out onto the shore many times, going to the pond while resting.

Did Seth not have anything to do? He went to hunt monsters in the wasteland, grilling the meat as a snack.

It seems he really is awful at dismantling, so there isn't a lot of meat around the bone. There's a lot of meat left on the skin.

"President, did you bring salt?"

"I did."

So saying, I took rock salt out of the item bag and handed it over.

I have salt in reserve, at least.

While warming myself next to the fire, I bit into the monster meat that had salt sprinkled on it.

It's extremely juicy. It seems to be a frog monster that lives in the wasteland.

Neither Seth nor I know its name.

I think there's no poison. It's delicious. It's not a brilliantly colored frog, it seems. Even if there's poison, it would only be to the degree where you'd see the flower fields of heaven for just a little bit.

While I was thinking like that, in reality, my eyes trembling, and I could see the flower fields and I started feeling real good, so it was scary.

In a hurry, I made an impromptu bath on the shore, drew a heating magic circle, and boiled up some bath water.

I toss Seth, who had collapsed, in, and I also climbed into the bath to sweat it out.

"H,huh? I'm, am I okay?"

Regaining consciousness, Seth washed his face with the hot water and looked around at his surroundings.

"You're okay. I just had to scald you a bit with the magic circle. I'm glad Seth sucks at dismantling. We ended up not eating a lot of it. Be careful of frogs in the wasteland."

"Yessir."

With this and that happening, we made a pond and changed the flow of the river.

Around when the sun set, I rose from the river and dried my underwear with the squall plank, and my underwear tore. My clothes and daily goods are another thing that's hit the timing to be replaced.

I took out underwear that had been laundered from the item bag.



If I went without underwear, actually, you can feel the metal furnishing on the coverall, and it would be terrible to get cut by them.

“With preparations there are no regrets, I guess.”

“What’s that? That saying.”

“I mean that you won’t regret it if you buy a large amount of daily necessities and underwear.”

I said as I tied the cord in the underwear.

This world’s underwear doesn’t have elastic, so there are a lot of things that are like shorts.

But getting back to the main topic.

Our work is temporarily done for the day, so we headed back to the inn.

Garcia-san also might have woken up.

I picked up a branch that looks like it could be used to make a cane from among the branches Seth had gathered for the fire and put it in the item bag. I was thinking that I could make a staff to crush rocks with at the inn.

Running back, we reached Gnomefield quickly.

The villagers seem to have returned to their homes, so lights were glowing in the houses in the village.

When we entered the inn, the women in our group were waiting while covered in mud.

“Our hair’s gross. Naoki, use Clean Up.”

Ayl said, so I used Clean Up on our female employees.

“And so, did you dig up a well?”

“Nope. Not yet. If we don’t dig quite far, it won’t happen. Tomorrow, we’ll have Garcia-san’s children help.”

Velsa explained.

“The girl Cynthia went to Garcia-san’s wife. She’s the slave girl Naoki was talking about, right?”

Oh yeah, there was all that stuff going on, so I didn’t introduce them.

“That’s right. I already released her from slavery, though.”

“”Eh!?””

Ayl and Velsa looked at me.

“Why did you release such an important workforce!”

“Just what is Naoki’s interests!”

Velsa and Ayl complained at me.

“No, I mean, it’s fine as long as the villagers are cured of ghoul disease...”

“You bought a slave with the company’s money, so don’t just release her on your own!”

“Do you not have any desire for a sex slave!?”

“No, well, it’s not like I don’t, but for that, if you go to a brothel for it you won’t have any future troubles, so it’s fine. Well, it was my bad for releasing the company’s slave. I didn’t think of her as the company’s slave, so. But if you had heard her reason for being a slave, you two would have definitely released her too!”

“Emotions; you should throw away things that can’t make you money!”

“That’s right, that’s right!”

“Hang on! What if Cynthia went to spend time with Garcia-san’s wife as a slave; you

understand what would have happened, right?”

“What the heck! Saying ‘what if’ is unfair!”

“Anyway, you’re just thinking about saying something completely whack again!”

“What do you mean, whack! Anyway, Ayl and Velsa are also the same!”

“What-!”

The three of us continued to fight like for a while after that.

The newbies were quiet as they ate dinner that the inn’s dining hall put out, talking about things like the frog in the wasteland.

Around the time when alcohol was involved and we were getting heated up, Cynthia came to the inn, so we finished our quarrel.

She had come to tell us that Garcia-san had recovered and returned to the house and that Pastor Romeo’s funeral would be held tomorrow morning.

“All of us will attend for the funeral.”

“I understand... What has happened?”

Seeing the grumpy Ayl and Velsa, Cynthia asked.

I can’t tell the person herself that, “It looks like they’re bothered that I released Cynthia from slavery,” so

“Looks like I made a mistake again.”

“Is that, so?”

“Ah, Cynthia, would you enter our company?”

“Eh?”

Cynthia stared at me in surprise.

“Well, I’m not going to say to respond immediately, but can I ask you to decide before we leave the village?”

“...I understand... are you asking me to be your lover?”

“You’re wrong!”

“Haha, of course. Well then.”

So saying, Cynthia left the inn.

“There’s no way she’ll come like that!”

“He just doesn’t get a woman’s heart after all!”

“ “Good grief! Haa~.” “

Ayl and Velsa’s voices reverberated with a sigh as they drank fruit wine.

“What the heck! The two of you said you wanted Cynthia, so I tried asking, didn’t I!?”

“You just don’t get a woman’s seduction! What a brute!”

“Can you say that in this inn’s dining hall?”

“Are you guys going to get into it again? Is it fine if we go sleep?”

Merumo said towards us.

“Ooh-! Just what is this!? You’re going to sleep together with Seth?”

“Goodness, beastkin women have no morals, huh?”

“You’re wrong!”

Ayl and Velsa, who've been drinking, changed their attack towards Merumo.

"And anyway, just how did your breasts get so big, these ones~"

Velsa groped Merumo's breasts.

"St~op it please-!"

"What did you eat to get this! Answer! I'm your superior!"

Ayl and Velsa's fault finding continued late into the night.

Seth and I gave up Merumo as the sacrifice and quickly returned to our room.

Seth immediately dived into bed, and I worked on the staff to crush stones.

"President."

"What is it?"

While staring at the ceiling, Seth talked to me.

"Is that Cynthia girl going to enter the company?"

"Well, I don't know. I went with the flow and asked, but the future is for the person in question to decide herself. What is it? Are you concerned? Even though you might get a subordinate."

"No, that's not it. It's just, I was thinking, what would she do if she comes to our company... I'm looking forward to managing the ship, Merumo makes clothes, and while sewing she defeats monsters, and it looks like she's thinking it would be nice if she could raise bug-type monsters."

Now that he says it, that's certainly true.

I wonder what Cynthia would do if she came to our company.

In the first place, I invited her to our company without know anything like what her

specialties are, or what she's bad at.

Does she have something she wants to know, or a dream?

Our company can help with that, I suppose. Or perhaps we can help her find it?

It's quite the big problem.

"That's something I should have asked before. I made another mistake. My life is full of mistakes. Geez."

"There aren't any people who don't make mistakes. Uncle says that we can grow because of mistakes."

"It would be nice if that was true."

"She was a girl with a nice ambience, so I was thinking I'd like her to join us."

It depends on the person herself. She won't unless she wants to.

It's just, I'm reflecting that I would like to become just a little bit more of a considerate adult.

"President~! Those two are bullying me~."

Around when Merumo came to the room seeking refuge, I'd finished the staff.

I'd inlaid the left over magic stones into it, so it turned into quite the luxury item.

"Pre~si~dent~!"

"Shut up – go to sleep!"

I quickly drew a magic circle with a sleep effect on some scrap paper and stuck it to Merumo's forehead.

Just like that, like a talisman.

I carried Merumo, who went to sleep like she fainted, to the bed of Seth, who was pretending to sleep, and left the room.

In the dining hall, Ayl and Velsa were finding faults with the peddlers who were staying in the village.

I stuck the sleep-effect talisman to the two of them as well, putting them to sleep.

I apologized to the peddlers and took the two to their room, rolling them onto the floor.

I went back to my own room and climbed into bed.

Tomorrow is the funeral. I don't have any mourning clothes.

"President, I don't think I can sleep like this..."

I heard Seth's feeble voice.

"Not my problem. Go to sleep... I'm going to sleep now, so if you're going to do anything, be quiet."

"No... um..."

And the night went on.

## CHAPTER 88

The next morning, Merumo was sleeping next to me.

It was Seth's counter attack.

Leaving Merumo there, I cleaned my face and the inside of my mouth with Cleanup.

When I went to tidy up my bedhead, I met Seth in the corridor along the way.

"You didn't do anything with Merumo yesterday?"

"I didn't! Thanks to you, I didn't sleep much."

"I see. Well, you're going to be working together for a long time from now on, after all. Even if it gets difficult to do, it's like THAT, after all."

Well, it's not like you'll do it with a girl sleeping from a talisman, huh?

When I took care of my business and returned to the room, Merumo had disappeared.

Looks like Seth woke her up, and she returned to the womens' room.

I prepared to leave for Pastor Romeo's funeral.

That said, I don't have anything like mourning clothes, so I wrapped a black cloth around my arm to look like an armband.

"What's that?"

Seth asked, so,

"To show respect to Pastor Romeo."

When I replied so, Seth also mimicked me.



When they saw their male colleagues wearing the coveralls that had become the company's uniform with a black armband, the women also said they would copy us.

We didn't have enough black cloth, so Merumo cut up some cloth and attached them by sewing them to the upper arms of the coveralls.

Was she embarrassed or was she trying to recover something or other from yesterday? Merumo's work was quick.

Ayl asked me to produce a half cup of water so she could comb out her hair.

While producing the water, I realized, wouldn't it be fine if we didn't dig up a well and just drew a water magic circle?

When I tried suggesting it to Velsa,

"Wouldn't they be screwed if the magic circle disappeared? And there are also people around who don't have a lot of magic power."

She said.

Certainly, even if a magic circle can be said to conserve energy, it doesn't change the fact that you have to use magic power.

Rather than planting a seed for strife, it seems like it's better to draw up the ground water.

Finishing off a light breakfast, we headed to the church.

I was thinking we were early, but the villagers were already gathered.

Pastor Romeo was within a coffin on the altar.

The people who were sleeping from the treatment yesterday were also here, giving him their thanks.

After some time, Garcia-san, his wife, and the children came up together.

He was the very person who had put an end to Pastor Romeo, but no one blamed him.

However, Garcia-san stayed facing downwards without lifting his face.

Pastor Romeo's funeral began when his close friends, a priest and a sister, appeared.

They gave a memorial speech, offered him flowers, and dedicated him to God. Without any delays in the ceremony, they closed up the coffin and said they would now take him to the grave to be buried.

I could hear sobs.

It was the Sisters and the villagers. They had lived their lives together, so it's obvious they would be crying.

In our company, only Merumo was crying.

"...Our friend who has gone to heaven, please watch over us in peace..."

Together with prayers like that, the coffin was lowered into the grave, and it seemed that everyone in attendance would line up to throw earth onto it.

I quickly threw dirt onto it and bowed, told Ayl, "I'm going to meet with God real fast," and returned to the church.

Everyone was in the cemetery, so I think God will come out.

When I opened the church door, there was a statue of God in a ridiculous pose that wasn't there just a while ago in front of the altar.

When I looked closely, it looks like he had put flour all over himself.

As always, what a ridiculous god.

Well, for a god, humans dying is an everyday occurrence, huh?

It seems like God is not going to move and remain frozen like that.

“Ah – I wanted to meet with God, but he isn’t here, huh?”

So saying, I pointed my index finger towards God’s forehead.

“.....”

Without touching him at all, I stopped my finger a few centimeters from his forehead.

“.....nuooo-! It feels weird! Stop it!”

Brushing my hand aside, God began to move.

“Oh, God-sama. So you were here.”

“What the heck was that, that technique that feels so weird!”

“Don’t mess around at someone’s funeral.”

“Aaah, my bad, my bad. I was bored, so I just, you know.”

Without even a hint of embarrassment, God sat down on a bench.

I sat down next to him.

“Will Pastor Romeo properly rest in peace?”

“Hm? Aah, he has a good soul. It might be time for him to go to the next world.”

“The next world?”

“Like Mr. Komuro. It’s transmigrating him to another world. The person himself wishes for it. He wants to live on, not in this world but a different world, it seems. Well, he’ll be starting over as a baby, though.”

I see... huh?

“Come to think of it, why didn’t I start over as a baby?”

“Ah~ in the middle of it, Evil God... COUGHCOUGH! It was by the grace of God. Feel free to give your thanks.”

I'm definitely not ever going to.

"By the way, God-sama. I have a question about having exterminated the Earth Hero and getting the Earth Spirit fired, but we can call this request complete, right?"

"Yup, it's fine. The Hero is no longer a Hero, and the Earth Spirit properly turned into a demon and is tending to the world tree with the Evil God."

"Then, we'd like a reward."

"Ooh, what is it?"

"We'd like to ask for 'rain'."

I requested what the company had decided on yesterday.

"Rain, huh? Are you fine with something like that?"

"Yeah, in the areas around Adel Lake and this wasteland, I'd like to ask for enough rain without flooding them."

"I could give you gold, magic tools, and even skills, but you want 'rain'?"

"Yeah, 'rain' please."

"You don't even want something like a brothel?"

He could even give me something like a whole brothel?

That's, well that's tempting...

"...No, I want 'rain' here."

"You were quite tempted."

I wonder what my employees would say if it didn't end up being 'rain.'

"I understand. For the next several days, 'rain' will fall. Should I say you're not much like a human, or is this just your individuality? Or should I say you're more spirit-like than a spirit..."

God began to mutter to himself.

“What is it? Is it no good?”

“No, it’s not ‘no good.’ Mr. Komuro, don’t you have any desires, other than lust?”

“I do! I want to eat delicious things and live easily.”

“What about authority, or power?”

“Ah-, I’m not interested in those~. Doesn’t it seem troublesome to become someone great? I really don’t have much interest in things like strength, I suppose.”

“But you were about to be killed by the spirit this time.”

“Aah, seriously! Please give me some hazard pay! You didn’t tell me about this! That spirits were that strong!”

I stuck out my palm and demanded hazard pay.

“Now now, just what are you thinking about for hazard pay? Do you need something like a combat skill?”

“Ah-... I don’t need it.”

“Wh,why?”

God asked as his eyebrows made a ‘ノノ’

“Will a combat skill make my life more enjoyable? No, Marcus-san said it would be better for humans to acquire skills that make life more enjoyable. Right now, I can’t think of a combat skill that would make my life more enjoyable, so I will abstain from that. And, well, I was thinking that even if I had a combat skill, if a hostage was taken, then it wouldn’t matter. Wouldn’t a negotiation skill be more useful?”

I have seen many scenes where the bad guy takes the heroine hostage in the movies and dramas from my previous world. I can’t really think that I could definitely win as long as my skills are strong.

“For me, I want to be able to fight so that I won’t die even if I lose. Me and the people

around me.”

“I see. There’s also a skill for perpetual youth and longevity, though...”

“Ah, I don’t need that. I know someone considers that a mistake.”

I thought of Marcus-san.

“I see. Got it...”

“Ah, I might want something like a resistance skill.”

“Eh!? You’d be alright with that!?”

God has a face like, “Are you for real? This guy...”

Could it be that it’s easy to get the resistance skill?

If that’s the case, then I want a minute.

“No, let’s not. Let me think a bit.”

“This is why humans are great... hahaha.”

God said earnestly and laughed.

“What do you mean by that, all of a sudden.”

For him to look at me and sum up all ‘humans.’

“Suddenly changing your opinions, just like Mr. Komuro, right?”

“Well, that’s true...”

“And so, that part of you is great.”

“Just what about it is?”

“Humans change their minds suddenly, right? They will immediately take contradictory actions. I was thinking that those very contradictions and twists will attract power.”

I wonder what he's talking about.

"What are you talking about?"

"Well, see, for spirits, they're essence is 'power.' The power of earth, the power of wind, the power of light, that kind of thing. And all I did was confer 'words' to them."

" 'Words'?"

"That's right. When I gave them 'words,' they became able to think. Each one began to think, and each one developed their own characters. That's what spirits are. The spirits began to stick names to the phenomena, situations, things, and incidents around them. Through that they were able to understand the world, but there was a group of mysterious existences that they were unable to understand."

"Are you trying to say that those existences are people?"

"That's right. There are things where you understand you should but you can't stop, right? Things that you know you shouldn't but do anyway? Or else, things you can do but you don't?"

"Well, there are."

Certainly, I don't not have those feelings when I don't have money but go visit a brothel.

"The spirits see people acting in these ways and feel like they absolutely want to understand it. There are also ones who watch for too long and fall in love. Even ones who think about giving them their blessings."

"Eh? Is that what we call Heroes?"

"Well, that's right. Heroes should all have some kind of contradiction somewhere."

I wonder about Garcia-san. I don't know about his past, but if he could vaguely feel that the cotton plantation was giving off some kind of bad influence, and while realizing it still wouldn't stop, then that could be the contradiction he had?

"In that sense, the Earth Spirit is originally a spirit that's closest to humans. When he hit Mr. Komuro, he was saying something incomprehensible."

“Mu~ I think he was saying some kind of messed up law of the world.”

‘If good people’s efforts aren’t recognized... ’ or something like that.

“Well, if it didn’t say so, its existence would disappear, so it can’t be helped.”

“Its existence would disappear?”

“Yeah, if it’s fired, then it loses its ‘words’ and returns to simply being ‘power.’ It would release all of the power it’s accumulated until now and huge explosions and earthquakes would probably happen.”

What the heck! Its not just its body that was crumble?

“Isn’t that seriously dangerous!?”

“Previously, the Earth Spirit had achieved an overwhelming personality and said ‘words’ different from God’s words. And so it entrusted its body with its emotions, naturally becoming a demon. In one sense, you can say it was protecting the Hero, the Hero’s family, and the villagers.”

“What do you mean, ‘you can say’! It’s super dangerous, isn’t it?!”

“And so, Mr. Komuro performed brilliantly.”

“In the future, just how are we supposed to fire the spirits?!”

“As you might expect, from now on, you should be at the scene as much as possible when the spirits are fired. I’ve understood that it could be dangerous otherwise.”

“What? Was this the first time this happened?”

“That’s right. I guess it was kind of like this was a test run.”

For real!?

“I kind of don’t have any confidence about the future.”

I said sulkily.



“But it properly magic crystallized, right?”

Magic crystallized? You mean...

I took out the crystal-like cube that was glistening with yellow light from the item bag.

“Is this it?”

“Yeah, yeah, that’s it-! It’s not that big because it demonized along the way, but if I know the position, this kind of thing is also possible. And so, when the spirit is fired, tell me the exact location. Well, if you contact me with the communication bag, I can grasp the location.”

“And suppose I wasn’t able to tell you the position; then there would be a giant explosion?”

“That’s right.”

“What the heck, God-sama! Then that means, if I suddenly meet a spirit, even if it’s about to kill me, you can’t suddenly fire it?”

“Yup. And so, be careful, Mr. Komuro. I think there will be rumors among the spirits.”

Crap! What should I do!? I’ll die!

“So cruel, you’re so cruel! God-sama!”

“It will be fine. As long as you don’t stand out too much, they won’t find you out. You also don’t have a title. There’s no way they’ll think an exterminator is firing the spirits. They should have their eyes on a stronger, cooler-looking adventurer.”

“S,so... among the combat type skills, is there anything that will help me defend or evade?”

“I said it earlier, but spirits are essentially ‘power.’ Even if there’s a way to defend, physical ‘power’ and ‘magical’ power are a part of spirits. As for a method of evasion, there isn’t an existence of ‘power’ for it. Well, right now they won’t find you. Mr. Komuro should make an original, unique skill yourself. If you contact me, then I’ll put it into use.”

Cla-ng! Clang! Clang!

The sound of bells reverberated.

“Ah, the funeral is over. Well then.”

God took a pose like he was about to crash into the pillar.

“Not ‘well then’...! God-sama! Wait a second!”

Even if I hit or kicked him, there was absolutely no response and just like that he became a statue.

[“Leave a donation to that statue at that church, okay?”]

God’s voice came from the communication bag in my breast pocket.

—

“Let’s take actions that don’t stand out from now on.”

I said to my employees that returned to the church.

Merumo quickly undid the threads that attached the black armbands for everyone.

“What’s wrong? Did your talk with God not go very well?”

Ayl asked me.

“No, the reward part was fine, but it seems like other spirits will be aiming for me.”

“What, so that’s what’s wrong? Do your best.”

Velsa said.

“Please do your best.”

“It’s fine. If you die, we’ll gather your bones.”

The newbies slapped my shoulders.

“Well, don’t’ bring any trouble to the company. Alright, let’s start today’s work!”

Ayl said.

After that, I walked sneakily until Seth warned me, “President, that’s weird.”

## CHAPTER 89

Heading to where the canal converged together with Seth, we arrived at the divergence in the river from yesterday.

When I tried to keep my behavior as normal as possible, Seth ended up saying it was “Weird,” so with a, “I can’t be whatever I’m not, so when I die, I die,” I gave up.

However, in the middle of our work, I made up a Revival Misanga.

Although I said it was work, I just took out the magic tool staff that crushes rocks and filled the spaces between the rocks.

I’m just stabbing the ground and sending magic power in, so I just need to be touching the staff with a part of my body.

I tried leaving the work of filling the cracks in the rock with the crushed stone to Seth, but he quickly became magic power deficient.

Letting him drink the magic power recovery syrup, I then sent him to make the pond with the wind squall board.

I had already made over half the pond, so I thought it would be alright, but he soon came back all dizzy, so I had him drink the magic recovery syrup.

It couldn’t be helped, so I handed him the shovel and made the pond with manual labor.

There was a mountain of pebbles that formed in front of the rocks, so around the time I wound the revival misanga around my wrist, it was past noon and nearing night time.

When I went to see how Seth was doing, the pretty, round pond was pretty much done.

Seth’s diligence has appeared.

However, I wondered if he was in the pond the entire time, because just looking at him made me feel cold.

“O-i! Are you okay-!?”

And when I waved at Seth and called to him, he turned his head.

“It will be done with just a little more, I’ll finish it!”

Is how he answered.

Well, he seems okay, so it’s fine?

I made a campfire for Seth, who was finishing up the pond, and waited.

Coming up out of the pond, Seth shook his body, sending the water on his body flying, and he came this way.

“Aren’t you cold from working in the water?”

I asked.

“At this temperature, it’s fine. I’m used to being in the water from the lake.”

Isn’t this because he’s resistant to cold?

When I tried asking, “The beastmen around Adel Lake are all able to deal with water temperature to this degree,” he answered.

What a terrifying species.

That said, even though he has some resistance to the temperature it’s still troublesome, so he warmed up a bit by the fire before we returned.

The clothes were also dried with the wind squall board.

During that time, I handed over some monster pelts for Seth.

Seth is muscular, so even though he’s just sitting there, the pelts suit him and he looks like a seasoned adventurer.

If seen from the side, I probably look like the subordinate and Seth like the master, I bet.

“President, if we don’t hurry and return, won’t Ayl and the others get mad?”

He’s timid, though.

While I was staring aimlessly into the fire, the sky had turned into an orange color before I knew it.

[“Naoki! Black Dragon-san has come to the inn. Also, Garcia-san wants you.”]

All of a sudden, Ayl’s voice came from the communication bag.

“Ah, my bad. We’re returning now.”

I replied, stood up, and stretched.

“Time to go back.”

“Yessir.”

I’m hungry, so I returned at a light run.

It seemed to be Seth’s full power, so he was sweating.

In the inn’s dining hall, our female employees and the humanified dragons were beginning to make merry.

“Ooh, our dear President has returned.”

Red Dragon seems to be completely hammered.

“Welcome back, did you stop up the river?”

Velsa asked.

“Yup, it’s stopped. How about the well?”

“The well is deep, so it will be quite difficult to draw up water.”

“Then should we make a pump? Huh? Where’s Garcia-san? Did he leave?”

When I looked around, Garcia-san’s figure wasn’t there.

Or like, there isn’t anyone other than our employees and the dragons.

I feel like it’s quiet outside, too.

“Yeah. He said to drop by his house whenever’s good.”

“Then I should go for bit. You didn’t tell him about the public road corps, right?”

“We didn’t. I thought it would be better for Naoki to explain it.”

Velsa said as she ate monster meat.

Merumo was wearing an apron, pouring the dragons their drinks.

Even when I looked in the kitchen, there was nobody there.

I guess the food on the table is Merumo’s cooking.

“I got it. Seth, save me my portion of the dinner.”

“OK.”

“We’re here, after all. There might be no food left.”

“Whaaat, if there’s not enough, we will go hunting in the wastelands.”

The drunk Red Dragon and Black Dragon grinned with liquor bottles in their hands.

“Don’t worry, we have a lot, at least.”

Ayl said as she slapped her item bag.

What Ayl has is the first item bag I made, and only Ayl and I can use it.

Money, food, monster pelts, and the company's assets are all within.

I'm carrying the more simplistic items.

"I'm off."

" " "Have a nice trip." " " "

With my employees seeing me off, I left the inn.

The sun sank in the west, and it was the time for the lights in the houses in the village to come on, but here and there were lights missing.

It seems like after the plantation was destroyed yesterday, today most of the merchants and villagers have fled.

The Misses came quickly to Garcia-san's door when I struck it, and she guided me with, "My husband is in the warehouse."

In the warehouse, 15 villagers and merchants were gathered around wooden boxes being used in place of a desk.

Garcia-san and Cynthia were sitting within, their faces dark.

I wonder if Garcia-san is holding himself responsible.

"Good evening~."

Everyone's looks landed on me as I entered.

"Naoki-kun! You've come right when Cynthia was telling me about you."

Garcia-san said.

"Me? What about?"



“Well, about the treatment of Ghoul Disease... Other than the people here, everyone thought that they might get Ghoul Disease if they stay here and fled. Ah told them that there’s a treatment, but the plantation is also burned up, after all. Ah couldn’t stop them.”

“I see.”

“Why’d yah help us?”

One of the villagers asked me.

“Even if you ask me why... it was one of the objectives for my job.”

“A servant of God? A servant of the spirits?”

“Or a servant of the Evil God? The ones who called the dragons was you guys, right? There was a guy that was talking towards some kind of bag.”

They’re pretty much right, but it feels like it’ll get ugly if I told them the truth.

“Even if you say that... well, I’m a normal contractor. It just so happened that my hypothesis of the treatment method was correct. That aside, what did everyone stay behind in the village to do?”

Forcefully changing the subject, I tried questioning the villagers and merchants.

“We’re all people that Garcia-san has saved. Ain’t no way we can leave and abandon our benefactor.”

“Ain’t it ‘cause ya don’t got anywhere else to go?”

“What’dja say-!?”

“Now now... so how many people are actually left in this village?”

“The people here and their families. As well as the priests and sisters at the church.”

Cynthia replied.

“Is that so?”

I purposefully acted like I was thinking, drawing attention to myself.

“Something wrong with that?”

“No, well, I have this proposal about making money for the people left, but do you care to listen?”

“ “ “Proposal about making money?” “ “

With Garcia-san included, everyone in the warehouse had dumbfounded faces.

I unfurled the map of the Ruginia Alliance on the wooden boxes acting as a desk and began to talk.

It's not like I really need the map to talk about it, but it's easier to have a visual aid.

“A tolled carriage road!?”

The merchants raised surprised voices when they heard my story.

“That's right!”

“Who's going to be taking this road?”

A villager asked me.

“Anyone can take it. The one who will make it is Garcia-san. Everyone uses them habitually, so you should understand the convenience, right? The roads around this village are extremely easy to walk on. It's because Garcia-san made it with Earth Magic, right?”

“Th,that's right. I wanted to make it as easy as possible for the travelling merchants.”

Garcia-san replied.

“This time, couldn't you make it easy for fee horses to run on it? So they can produce their full speed.”

The merchants responded to the words, 'full speed' with "If that happens then..." "But... if it's Garcia-san, then," and the like in whispers and stared at the map. As expected, merchants recognize the value of roads.

"If Naoki-kun is asking me to. If Ah can do it, then Ah'll do whatever ya ask, but..."

"I'm glad. Hearing that makes me relieved."

"But who is going to provide the money for such a thing?"

"The Central Government."

"The Central Government!?"

"Yes, actually, I've already discussed it with them, and I think an investigator from the Central Government will arrive within a few days."

"Is that so?"

The villagers and merchants were also making a fuss, saying things like, "The Central Government?" "The Alliance's Central Government?"

"Yes. Ah, it would be bad if HillLake's king found out, right? That you decided to change your work because the plantation's destroyed."

"No, that's... I wonder."

'By the way, how soon would it reach the king's ear that the plantation was destroyed?"

I tried asking a merchant next to me.

"The ones who ran away first did so yesterday, so... if they head to the capital, then they'll reach the capital tomorrow or the day after tomorrow, I think. After that, I don't know how soon the king will hear of it."

2 or 3 days, huh?

"There will be an official coming to confirm the situation from the capital, right?"

"Probably."

The fastest the official will come would be in 4 days. It would be 6 days for the official to return to the capital and make a report. If they send out a summons for Garcia-san, the roundtrip would take 4 days, so that would about 10 days, naa. The ones who fled ran away yesterday, so 9 days are left.

“If that’s the case, then which do you think will happen, being sent disaster funds, or Garcia-san being summoned to the capital to take responsibility?”

I asked Garcia-san.

“I wonder, even if I’m asked to take responsibility, I think I would just be sent to Adel Lake to build canals.”

Oh yeah, there was that plan, too. I need to put a stop to that, too.

“If the canals are built the lake will disappear, so please stop, okay?”

“-! I understand.”

Garcia-san nodded many times.

“Then, this is supposed to be about how everyone can make money, so the plantation is burnt down and the hill is gone, right? Don’t you think it’s a plot that’s extremely suitable to become a pasture?”

At my words, the merchants’ eyes opened wide.

“I see, the feehorses!”

“Craftsmen who make carriages too, right!”

“First let’s build the road towards the western country where we can get good wood!”

The merchants’ opinions flew about.

“No, wait. You said there was going to be a toll, so how is it going to be levied?”

The villagers interjected.

“The Central Government is involved. If we do it, the Merchant’s Guild will cooperate.”

The merchants responded.

“There’s no water in this village.”

“As for the water, right now, my employees are digging a well.”

“No way... you expected this... everyone, wait! How can we listen to this unknown bastard from who knows where?”

A villager said.

“He ain’t some unknown bastard. He’s someone who’s protectin’ us from Ghoul Disease.”

The merchants said.

“What protected us from Ghoul Disease is Pastor Romeo’s hard work.”

“Aa, that’s right!”

The villagers nodded.

“How about building a memorial to Pastor Romeo?”

“That’s a good idea! We’ll definitely build it!”

The villagers jumped on my suggestion.

“Where should we build it?”

“By the road would be good!”

The merchants and villagers joined heads and stared at the map as they gave each of their opinions.

However, it seems that the youth in the village were still opposed.

“Do you feel like you’re being fooled?”

I heard Cynthia’s voice calling out to them.

“That’s right. Cynthia is saying so too.”

“It’s important to be suspicious. But you know, that Naoki is a person who cured everyone’s disease. Both me and you were all saved. That’s what the results show. Of course, that doesn’t mean that the results in the future will also be proven. But the hopeless atmosphere from just now has been changed, hasn’t it? He showed everyone hopes for the future. The villagers, the merchants, when we were at a loss for what to do without the plantation, he’s making a well for our sakes, and it even looks like he found us work. I don’t know what his true aim is, but don’t you think it would be fine to wait a little and see?”

“Cynthia...”

“If you’re doubting him, you’re also doubting your Hero father. If something else like the Ghoul Disease happens again, it would be a huge deal, after all.”

“No way...”

“No, that’s exactly right! It’s all mah fault that there were so many who died!”

Garcia-san suddenly raised his voice.

“Ah didn’t see anythin’ but what Ah wanted to see, and Ah wouldn’t see what Ah didn’t want to see! Mah sins are heavy! From now on, Ah’m gonna work mah bones to powder, for the sake of those who died! Ah’m sure Ah’m gonna make mistakes, so Ah’m gonna need everyone to help me! Please... please, lend me your strength!”

Garcia-san bowed his head deeply to everyone on the spot.

“Watcha saying! Of course we will!”

“That’s why we stayed in the village!”

“We’ll show them Gnomefield’s true power!”

The villagers and the merchants all raised their voices.

Around the map I placed on the box, everyone, including Garcia-san, Cynthia, the village’s youth, were gathered, discussing ideas about roads and wagons.

“First, we should have the road to the south for the Central Government’s inspectors!”

“Hang on, hang on, then, this here is wasteland, so what do we do about it?”

“Monsters, huh... they’ll attack the road.”

“If they attack it, we just have to fix it right away. If it’s just a flat piece of land, then even my kids can do it.”

“Then first, should we start a course on earth magic from Garcia-san?”

“That’s right, we also have to confirm the people who are capable.”

The warehouse was busy late into the night.

I quietly opened the door and went outside.

When I went out, Garcia-san’s wife was there.

Was she worried?

“It seems like it will be alright.”

When I said so and smiled,

“Thank you!”

She gave her thanks.

“Tomorrow, I’ll come to dig wells, so see you tomorrow.”

“Yes, see you tomorrow.”

I waved to the Misses and returned to the inn.

# CHAPTER 90

The inn was all messed up like the aftermath of a huge brawl, and Ayl and Velsa were sleeping on the floor using the dragons' stomachs as pillows. The dragons were also snoring.

Seth was sleeping while sitting in a chair, as if guarding something behind him.

Scattered about behind Seth was food that had been eaten and scattered around.

It seems like he was trying to protect my food, but looks like he failed.

Merumo, asleep while prostrated out on the table, noticed me and woke up.

"Ah, President. Welcome Back. Aah, it was impossible after all."

Merumo said, looking at the plate behind Seth.

"I'll make you something now."

So saying, Merumo stood up and headed to the kitchen.

"Sorry about that."

After some time, as I was watching my employees and the dragons sleeping, the dragons suddenly began to shine.

"Crap-!"

That's right, when the dragons sleep, they return to dragon form.

I hurriedly seized the dragons by the scruffs of their necks and threw them out the window.

The two of them returned to their dragon forms outside, but they didn't show any



signs of waking up.

Despite losing their pillows and having their heads strike the floor, Ayl and Velsa also didn't wake up.

Seth was also sleeping like there wasn't anything going on.

Only Merumo, who was in the kitchen, came to see what was happening, but when I explained she just said, "Aah, is that how it is?" and returned to the kitchen again.

When I tried asking Merumo,

"Did the employees of this inn also run away?"

While I ate the dinner Merumo prepared,

"I don't really know, but I haven't seen them since we returned in the evening."

"I see..."

I ate dinner, washed the tableware with Clean Up, and then carried my sleeping employees to their rooms.

Only, Merumo was watching the bottle with the ear tick the company is raising.

It looks like when I stopped raising it, it was passed on to Velsa, and from Velsa it was passed on to Merumo.

"Did the Microscopic Skill appear for Merumo?"

"No, not yet. I wonder if it's because I'm no good at observation? I don't think about anything other than it's cute."

Velsa said she got the Microscopic Skill from observing the ear tick, but it just might be different for each person.

As Merumo put bread crusts in the bottle, she watched the ear tick with a sweet and doting face.

Separating from the dangerous Merumo, when I looked into the inn's back rooms, it

was completely emptied.

I can't help but think, "What should we do about the only inn in the village running away?" but it can't be helped since I didn't give them any information, huh?

"Don't stay up too late."

I told Merumo, then went to my own room and crawled into bed.

It seems like there wouldn't be any complains if I used any of the other rooms, and it seems like it would be fine even if we used an abandoned house, but for some reason it feels like my place to sleep in this villages is this room.

I fell asleep while listening to the sleeping dragons' snoring outside.

The next day I heard Seth's shriek from outside early in the morning.

I guess he saw the dragons when he went to go to the toilet.

"That's right, I haven't introduced the newbies to them yet."

While yawning I got out of bed, left the room, and headed to the stairs.

At just that time, Seth opened the inn door and was just coming in, flustered.

"D-d-d-dragon! It's dragons!"

"Aah, did Ayl and Velsa not introduce you yesterday?"

"Ah-! Those weren't just nicknames!?"

"They're not nicknames. They're the real thing. My acquaintances. Anyway, it was dragons that burnt up the plantations, right?"

"Well, yes, but, then, I was drinking together with dragons?"

"Yup. Geez, it's about time for you to get used to this company."

“Y,you’re kidding...”

That said, I also understand what Seth’s saying.

When you wake up in the morning and head towards the bathroom, there are dragons the same size as a building sprawled out, after all.

If I don’t deal with this soon, the villagers will begin making a fuss.

I woke the dragons by raising their eyelids.

“It’s morning. Please get up. Use humanification magic or fly north, please.”

“Wh,what is it? You sure treat dragons roughly.”

“Sorry. But please wake up. It will become an issue otherwise.”

“I got it, I got it.”

Just when I thought Red Dragon and Black Dragon-san were going to just stay like that while opening their mouths widely and yawning, they changed into human forms with humanification magic.

“And so, what are our jobs going to be from now on? Sir Naoki.”

Black Dragon-san asked.

“From here on I’ll have you act a little violently in the area around the border to the northern country, use humanification magic to sneak out, and then your role will be over.”

“What, something that simple?”

“That’s right. I think it’s good.”

“Then, when our duties are over, shall we return after having dinner at Floura’s Margaret House?”

“Umu. Let’s do so.”

Deciding to forget about the inevitable disaster that will fall the Margaret House for the moment, I realized I didn’t have a map when I went to check the country’s borders on the map.

I had left it in Garcia-san’s storehouse yesterday.

It can’t be helped so I went to the church to have someone who knew tell me.

When I went to the church taking the dragons along, it seems like it was the time to offer up prayers.

When I went again afterwards, Pastor Romeo’s friends, who had given the memorial speech during his funeral, noticed us, and when I explained our circumstances, they drew us a map and told us where it was.

Thanking them, I left the village saw the dragons off.

The dragons, who tried to undo the humanification magic as soon as we exited the church, still seem to be a little sleepy.

In the end, I went all the way upstream of the water canal to send the dragons off, confirmed what they had to do with them, and then parted with them.

“So, this is where we part? If you should ever require our help once again, you can call us any time.”(black)

“Umu. To be frank, I hadn’t thought we’d meet God. If it’s God’s request, call us any time. There is no greater honor.” (red)

Black Dragon-san and Red Dragon each said their goodbyes and flew off.

I have a pretty straightforward relationship with the dragons<sup>1</sup>.

They’re fine with food as a reward, so they’re also existences I’m grateful for.

It's just, I heard from Ayl later, that they had eaten all the quite expansive amount of food in the item bag.

When I returned to the inn, Seth had made a light breakfast with the leftovers from last night.

When I had eaten breakfast, the women had also come down to the dining hall.

It turns out that Ayl and Velsa were suffering from hangovers and Merumo had lack of sleep.

Sniffing the scent of herb tea, their heads cleared and Velsa,

"Huh? Where's the dragons?"

she asked.

"They already went off to do their jobs. We should also eat breakfast and go to work. You've already gone ahead with digging the well, right?"

"We have. We've already reached a water source."

"Next is, how will we draw it up!"

Ayl and Velsa explained as they ate.

It seems the well is quite deep, so drawing the water normally with a bucket would be terrible.

"We should make a pump."

"Pump, you mean that?"

Velsa made a gesture like she was using the pumps for extermination.

"Something that was the origin of that. However, I wonder if we have the materials..."

“Bronze, is it?”

Garcia-san asked.

We immediately headed to site with the well after we ate breakfast.

Garcia-san, parents and children, were already there, using earth magic to continue the work.

“Yes, it’s a material that won’t rust easily and is easy to work with, but do you have any?”

“If it’s that, mah wife might have some, nee, Ah’ll try and ask. Hahaha, as usual, you ask some mysterious things, Naoki-kun. Whatcha thinking of making?”

Garcia-san’s tone was different from the seriousness of last night; it seems he’s completely returned back to the old Garcia-san.

“I was thinking I’d make equipment to draw the water up from underground.”

“I see, I got it. Practice your earth magic for a little while.”

Garcia-san gave the children instructions and guided me to his house.

“Ashley! Ashley!”

Garcia-san called out his wife’s name.

“What it it~?”

The Misses said as she came out with dirty hands.

“Oh my, Naoki-kun. My apologies for yesterday. Ah, wait a moment, I was just copying your map.”

So saying, she quickly withdrew and returned with the map.

“My apologies. We ended up borrowing it.”

“Oh no, it’s fine. Aside from that, do you have any bronze?”

“He’s going to make equipment for when we draw water.”

Garcia-san explained.

“Oh my, is that so? Then come to my workshop.”

The Misses, Ashley-san, headed towards another storehouse-like building next to the storehouse the villagers and merchants gathered in yesterday.

I thought it was a storehouse, but looks like it’s Ashley-san’s workshop.

Garcia-san and I also followed after her.

Within the workshop were all sorts of implements piled together in a small space, and on the shelves on the wall were monster bones and skulls and the like, innards and stomachs, and some kind of powder in bottles; all sorts of medicinal items were put there.

“My wife Ashley is an alchemist.”

Garcia-san explained, but do alchemists use the intestines and innards of monsters?

Further inside on a large desk, there was a pile of papers.

Ashley-san put away that pile of papers on the desk, saying in embarrassment,

“There’s stuff everywhere, but please sit.”

And pointed out the stools.

Garcia-san lit the magic stone lamp on top of the desk.

Certainly, since there are shadows of the storehouse that’s next to the workshop, the sunlight doesn’t come in much.

“And so, what kind of thing are you going to make?”

“Shall I draw and explain?”

I took out charcoal and scrap paper from my item bag, laid it out on the desk, and drew the parts of a hand pump and explained the construction.

“And so, this part will produce a vacuum, and the water will be drawn up.”

“So that’s how it is, how interesting. Hahaha.”

“My word, to draw the water without using magic or magic circles. So there was such a way.”

Garcia-san and his wife admired it.

“How is it? Would you happen to have the materials?”

“I don’t have that much bronze. I also don’t have the abilities to process it. I wonder if there’s someone with the Blacksmithing skill around?”(Ashley)

“Aah, there was a dwarf child, but he’s already become independent.”(Garcia)

So they did have such a child.

“Could we be able to substitute it with some monster materials, I wonder? It would be fine as long as it doesn’t rust or get moldy, correct?” (Ashley)

“Well, yes.” (Naoki)

“For example, the esophagus of a sandworm that lives in the desert would also be fine, perhaps?”

Come to think of it, there was that kind of earthworm monster, naa.

“Stone that Ah harden with mah earth magic also has quite the durability, you know. If it’s the skulls of the monsters around here, it can pierce through.”

“I see, there was that sort of possibility.”

“However, the well is quite deep, so will it be alright?”



Garcia-san asked about a fundamental issue.

Come to think of it, I hadn't confirmed the depth.

In order to check it, I headed over to where they were continuing to dig.

While the children were practicing their earth magic at the ground, my employees were tying ropes together.

When I asked what they were doing, they said they were measuring the depth of the well.

"Whatever may be, if you're going to build equipment, then accurate measurements are necessary, right?"

Velsa said.

You're absolutely right, but the rope is long. Way too long.

"Is it that long?"

"Try looking with the Search Skill."

I forgot.

When I looked with the Search Skill, it was quite deep.

Honestly, I'm uneasy about how the hand pump will do.

Like this, it would be quite tough to provide pasture for the feehorses and water for the villagers and merchants.

"Should we have a windmill to draw the water?"

""Windmill?""

Behind me, Ashley-san and Garcia-san raised the question.

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1. A dry relationship meaning a relationship without being too overly emotional or bothering with the “niceties for niceties sake”...is what I thought until I googled it just in case, and it’s apparently far more common for it to mean a relationship without sex... Welp, so much for a 1-1 translation like I thought it would be.

# CHAPTER 91

I drew a windmill and pump for Garcia-san's family and my company employees to explain.

Everyone had faces that looked like, "What are you talking about?" so I made it by myself.

I thought that if I make the windmill and convert the rotational movement into the movement of a piston, and make a vacuum with the up and down movement of the hand pump than it should be fine. In the end, it was no good. The water was simply not drawn, with the water stopping on the way up.

Actually, the windmill and pump took 4 days to make, including searching Ashley's workshop and the item bag for the materials to use, so it was quite the shock. The Craftship Skill was maxed out, and it came out how I expected it, but even so, it was a failure.

While I was making the pump and the windmill, Garcia-san and the children were making a water reservoir.

We're also expecting rain to fall, so I decided it would be better to have that made first.

My employees also helped out with that.

Burying a giant pot into the ground and making the area surrounding the center of the pot's mouth like that of a mortar is a massive undertaking, but Garcia-san's family was mostly using earth magic to make them. Within the 4 days they made 12 of them.

To me, who was depressed at my failure in the inn, Ashley-san said, "All humans make mistakes. Mistakes are what people need to grow."

Cynthia encouraged me with, "As long as you continue challenging it, it will work out."

By the way, Garcia-san was putting the children to bed, so he was at his house.

Velsa said, "So Naoki has failures too, huh?" as she drank liquor.

“Gyahahaha! I bet you thought that as long as you had your previous world’s knowledge you could do anything~, but you failed~”

Ayl drank her liquor after finishing her work and roared with laughter.

Pointing at me, with her body bent in a “<” as she laughed, the movement of her valley was emphasized in her stoop.<sup>cleavage</sup>

“Shuttup! Shitty Ayl with your bikini armor! Just who are you trying to stir up!?”

“What do you mean ‘shitty Ayl’! I’m always in bikini armor! Damn you-!”

So saying, Ayl tugged on my cheek.

“Owowowow! You damn drunkard!”

I pulled on Ayl’s cheek in return.

“Owowowow! This an abuse of presidential authority!”

“Bikini armor should be the sole privilege of big tits, you dumbass-!”

“The idiot is Naoki! You’re the one who failed! Dumbass-!”

“You two, if you have more energy than you know what to do with, go outside and fight it out!”

Velsa said.

“Step outside! Weirdo!”

So saying, Ayl went outside.

“The President and Vice President are going to fight! Newbies, make sure no one else gets hurt!”

Velsa gave the newbies instructions.

“”OK-ssu!””

Good grief, this company doesn't let you be depressed.

I went outside, chasing after Ayl.

With inhuman movements, Ayl was racing in the sky in the direction of the wasteland.

I chased that with all my might.

The newbies couldn't keep up right away.

"Oi! Drunkard! Just how far are you intending to run!"

"Round here's good, huh. For cryin' out loud, getting depressed as soon as you fail, you're ruining the atmosphere, right!?"

Ayl took a wooden sword out of the item bag.

"Oh stuff it! And anyway, recently, Ayl and Velsa have been drinking way too much!"

"Isn't it fine!? Our work's all done and all! From here on it's just the after service, and we're in the middle of our company trip!"

Oh yeah, we're in the middle of our company trip. I've done something bad.

"Again, you're gettin all depressed!"

Ayl swung the wooden sword down on my head.

I caught the blade with my hands and redirected it to the side.

The deflected wooden sword made quite a crater on the ground.

"How much power are you trying to hit me with!?"

I caught Ayl around the waist and threw her.

Ayl was blasted off at an angle upwards.

Ayl flipped over in midair and, kicking the air, she launched a sword attack at me.

Evade and counter, divert and throw, this was repeated and repeated.

The newbies finally caught up and watched us worriedly.

Countless craters had been made on the ground.

Both Ayl and I are overflowing with physical strength, and it was impossible to tell when it would be over.

Splish

I felt like a droplet of water fell on my cheek.

Was it Ayl's sweat? But when I looked at Ayl, running in the sky, the distance was too far.

When I looked straight up, I couldn't see the stars in the night sky.

The wasteland's night sky should be pretty and full of stars like the desert, but today the stars weren't out.

There were also droplets of water dotting the ground as they fell.

"Rain, huh?"

Looks like God kept his promise about the reward.

Ayl's sword attacks also stopped, and I had also worked up a good sweat, and my brandished fists were nowhere to be seen.

The dotted pattern on the ground became completely darkened and the rain shower became strong, so we went back to the inn.

"What, you came back already?"

Velsa asked.

“Since it’s raining.”

“”Rain!?””

Ashley-san and Cynthia went outside in a fluster.

The two of them laughed as rain fell on them. Like they were savoring the graces of the heavens.

When I looked, the villagers and Garcia-san were also outside, staring up at the sky.

“Ashley! It’s rain!”

Garcia-san ran towards us.

“Dear!”

Ashley-san leapt into Garcia-san’s chest.

Watching the embracing couple, Cynthia smiled in delight.

“It’s been two years since it rained.”

Cynthia turned and explained for us.

While listening to the sound of the rain, we watched the sky for a while.

With my depression completely washed away thanks to Ayl and the rain, I went into the inn and redesigned the new windmill and pump.

The shape of the gears and the shape of the nails, replacing the capacity and the like, there’s a lot of things to think about, huh? For materials, I’m thinking about that; while I was thinking those kinds of things,

“Naoki.”

Velsa called out to me.

“Hm? What is it?”

“Are we not doing the project we talked about before?”

“Project?”

“Yeah, at that time we decided to do the public roads, we talked about all sorts of projects, right?”

Certainly, when we talked about the after care projects for Seth’s hometown, ideas other than the public roads came up.

“You know, the seed ball one.”

“Ah~!”

The seed balls is a project where mud balls with all sorts of seeds and fertilizers inside are made in mass quantities and scattered widely.

It was a method I saw on TV and in manga from my previous world, and when I saw Seth’s little sister making mud balls, I remembered it. Can’t we make it profitable if we raised some sort of produce? – was about the degree we had talked about the project, and it seems Velsa remembered it.

“It’s raining outside anyhow, so we can’t work, therefore let’s make seed balls inside.”

“Good idea. Let’s do it!”

And that was what we did.

For now, I did the preparations to make seed balls.

“Huh? Ayl, do we have any zaza fruit left?”

“Ah, we do, we do! There should be some left.”



So saying, Ayl took zaza fruit out of the item bag.

The zaza is actually a fruit from the area around the mountain where Red Dragon was, something we got previously as a reward.

“If it’s the seeds, I also have some. I picked them when I had time.”

Velsa said, and from her own luggage, she took out a pouch from her bag.

“As expected of the plant-raising monster scholar!”

And when I praised her,

“I’m fine with you praising me, but don’t lift me up.”

She said. Looks like she has a trauma from being lifted up.

Unraveling a cloth, I gathered dirt I dug up from around the building, and gathered rainwater in a bucket.

“Do you need fertilizer?”

Cynthia, who was listening to us talk about making preparations, asked.

“Do you have some?”

“Yes, although there’s probably nothing other than dried ones, is that okay?”

“That would help us out.”

Cynthia nodded and said, “Got it,” and left the inn.

“So basically, make the mud into balls, and put seeds and fertilizers into it, right?”

Velsa sat at the edge of the cloth and quickly rolled her sleeves up.

“Well, yeah. Can you do it?”

“I can, I can! Hey, newbies, come help too!”

“Alri-ght! Let’s do it-!”

Velsa and Ayl are eager. The newbies also rolled up their sleeves and put on aprons.

Originally it would be better to mix the soil and everything well, but I think they’ll continue to do it if it’s fun, so I try letting them do it.

Cynthia came carrying an armful of bags of fertilizer. The fertilizer seems to be the droppings of small monsters that have been dried, so it seems she stole it from Garcia-san’s house. Garcia-san and Ashley-san have already returned to their house and gone to sleep.

“It will be fine if I explain why tomorrow, so,”

Cynthia said.

The corridor next to the dining hall has completely turned into the place for seed ball manufacturing.

Everyone began to make seed balls, and they were made one after another.

“By the way, why are the balls necessary?”

Cynthia asked.

“So the monsters can’t eat the seeds, see.”

“I see.”

“And furthermore, when the rain washes over the seeds, the fertilizer is also properly in there, so it will be brought up well, right?”

“H-m, certainly. Even though it’s just a little matter, I wonder why it’s never been thought of before.”

“That kind of thing happens, na. And also things like thinking of something but forgetting... ah! That’s right! Before I forget, I need to go draw out the new plans for the windmill and pump!”

So saying, I used Clean Up on my hands and took a seat at a table in the dining hall,

took paper and charcoal out of my item bag, and began to draw plans for the new windmill and pump.

“Free spirited as always.”

Velsa said.

“Is he always like this?”

Cynthia asked.

“He pretty much acts when he thinks of something. I think the company was also made when he thought of it.”

Ayl explained.

“It seems tough.”

“”Yup.””

I can hear you-!

Ayl and Velsa said it so I could hear them.

Well, truthfully I did just think it up, so I can't object.

Rather than that, right now it's time for the windmill and pump.

Using the materials from the item bag and Ashley-san's workshop, I think of a completely different pump.

What I thought of is a pump that uses the stomach of a giant monster.

I'd set up the monster's stomach into two valves. It's the type of pump where the stomach will suck in water like an eyedropper, and when pressure is applied it will expel it.

The reason I'm doing this type is because monster stomachs are large and robust so it

would be hard to tear, and simply because we don't have any other materials.

I did think of gears and the like as well, but making them is troublesome.

We'll need quite the power when applying pressure, so I also thought of something a little different for the windmill.

Hardening the outside of a barrel with resin or glue, then split it in half vertically and shift it a bit. It's the Savonius type.

In my previous world, when a large earthquake occurred, I saw this wind turbine shape when I was investigating power generation by wind. It was a strange windmill so I remembered it.

"You're making some weird thing aga-in?"

While rolling a ball, Velsa came to peek at it.

"Oi oi, you'll get everything dirty, so don't come in here."

"It would be nice if you don't fail and get depressed again."

So saying, Velsa returned to the seed ball manufacturing site.

"Even if I fail, as long as it's interesting it's fine, right?"

I intend to draw up a number of plans for insurance.

"Is what you say, but you're going to draw up a number of plans for in case you fail, right?"

I was found out-.

"It might be impossible for us while we're here, but when craftsmen come our options will increase, right?"

"Oh my, now, just when will the craftsmen come I wonder?"

Ayl spoke goofily in a weird voice.

“Ah, that’s right. How long will we stay in this village?”

Seth asked a vital question.

“Let’s see. We’ve done what we were going to do, ne.”

Ayl said.

“Wouldn’t it be until the government official from the Central Government comes and Garcia-san receives a job?”

I was thinking we’d watch out for troubles until then.

“And about the well?”

“We’ve dug the well to the water so, so I think it will work out somehow. Mother saw Naoki’s failed windmill and pump and became full of motivation.”

Cynthia said.

“Is that so? But...”

“You want to make that windmill and pump you drew up, right?”

Velsa prodded my weakspot.

“Yeah. Can I at least make this one alone and try it out?”

“President! We have to go petition for the canal construction to be stopped at Adel Lake!”

Merumo remembered something important.

“Crap, that’s right. Everyone, we’re going to split the work up!”

“Now then, let’s leave the busy President alone with his matters, and let’s do our best making seed balls!”

Ayl gave the employees orders, and the employees followed them.

“Wh,what’s with this isolation! Even though I’m the President! Fine, then I’ll do everything! Dammit-!”

After that I made a to-do list while thinking of things like what I have to do before the Central Government Official came and what to do in case an investigator from HillLake’s capital came.

At dawn, in a break in the rain, Cynthia and my employees went to the plantation together to scatter seed balls when I saw a carriage coming from the southern road. It appears that it’s the Central Government’s official.

“Dammit-! What the heck! You’re too early!”

## CHAPTER 92

The carriage stopped in front of Garcia-san's house.

I could see that there were two people riding within the carriage with the Search Skill.

The old man who was performing as the coachman, wearing black clothes with a sharp look in his eyes, opened the door.

The one who descended was a very refreshing-looking young man, wearing white clothes with gold embroidery here and there.

His eyebrows are thick, and his long, golden hair was tied up behind him, and his smile revealed his white teeth; he's kind of like the type that might appear in the something or other Hills Youth etc1.

We looked at that man from afar from the destroyed plantation.

While making a gesture like she was sighing, Velsa said,

"When my household was still the feudal ruler, that kind of type applied for marriage many times, and I've come to have a physiological aversion to them."

"He looks weak, huh?"

Is what Ayl said.

On the other hand, Merumo and Cynthia seems to have some interest in him.

"His head seems easy to split open, ne."

It looks like Merumo has a splatter-type of interest in him.

"He has the feel of someone from the city."

It looks like Cynthia is just longing for the city.

As for me, “Well, crap...” is the kind of feeling I have.

“What is it?”

Seth, who was next to me and heard me mutter, asked.

“I was just thinking that if he’s the kind of youth he looks like he is, making the roads will be full of difficulties.”

“It will be difficult?”

“It will be difficult...”

Garcia-san came out of his house and shook hands with the youth.

The personage within the carriage isn’t moving, and the old coachman also isn’t moving from its side.

So does that mean that youth is a gopher-type of person?

After exchanging a few words, Garcia-san seemed to realize we were here and waved his hand.

It’s a light morning greeting, I suppose.

By the way, I have “There isn’t anything in particular to do when the official from the Central Government comes; only if they seem like they’re going to force extremely cruel conditions on Garcia-san will I contact Margaret-san,” written on my to-do list. After that, I have “If...” addends written, but what’s written are things that I don’t want to happen if possible.

For me, they’re more like what-ifs for when an investigator from the Hill Lake Capital comes. At any rate, I have to get them to stop making the canal. While I was thinking about those things, for some reason the youth came walking over this way.

Just what does he want, I wonder.

“I heard the person called Naoki is present, but who might that be?”

With a smile that suited the morning perfectly, he asked that question. It’s likely that



Margaret-san told the Central Government about me, but frankly, I, who didn't sleep last night and is sleepy, can't keep up with his excitement.

I gently pushed Seth forward a little from behind.

"Eh? Wai..."

"So you're Naoki-san!?"

The youth asked Seth.

"I'm no..."

"The tolled carriage way is a brilliant idea! I have great respect for you! I didn't think that you would be so young! Let's make the Road Corps a success! No, it will definitely be a success! When I first heard the method, I honestly thought that the person who thought it up must be a genius!"

So saying, he shook hands with Seth, waving it vigorously up and down.

This guy is no good. The thing that's no good is that he attaches a "!" to the ends of all his sentences.

And above all, not only does he not listen to what people are saying, it looks like he can't think of anything other than the picture of success.

On my to-do list, the addendum, "If the official from the Central Government turns out to be an unimaginable idiot or someone who blissfully believes everyone has a good disposition, then I might have to give him just a little bit of advice-! If a guy like that comes, it will be ba-d!" is written.

"No, like I said, I'm not Naoki-san!"

Seth said as he finally managed to separate his hand from the youth's.

"Eh? Then who is it?"

At the youth's words, everyone looks at me.

I make a meek face and,

“About Naoki. I’m the one who knows about him the best. Thank you for coming. Actually... just a bit ago, there was an unfortunate accident... in the wasteland...”

I obscured my words. It was just free-shitting in the wasteland, though.

that time after he fought the Earth Spirit.

“N,no way... hafu... fu...”

The youth’s eyebrows made a “八” sign, his eyes became teary, and his lips trembled. At my forced acting.

“And so, there’s not enough money...”

“How much do you need? If I have it, for now I’ll give you my wallet, so you can manage for the funeral!”

I don’t know why or how it got so inflated, but I’m completely dead according to that youth.

“Thanks. I will use this when I’m dead. Good grief. Someone beyond my expectations came.”

Accepting the wallet, I revealed it all.

“Eh? Then... you’re Naoki-san?”

“Yeah, that’s right. Sorry, but about the person inside the carriage; can you tell him the person called Naoki has confiscated your wallet?”

I can’t imagine all of the officials will be like this.

“No, um, my wallet...”

“I’ll return your wallet after you tell him.”

“Understood!”

So saying, he ran all the way to the carriage. He’s a kind of pure (naive) youth.

When the youth had opened the carriage door and explained to the person within, I pocketed the insides of the youth's wallet, emptying it. Let's have him run errands for a while and return it a little at a time.

"Dahahaha! You've done well, it's enough."

Laughter came from inside the carriage.

An old man with a sturdy body came out from within. His leg seems to be bad and he has a cane.

It's no good to have such a person walk, and when I approached I could tell that the right side of the old man's face is strangely warped. It seems to be the scar of some old burn, and the skin is drawn up strangely.

"Hello."

When I greeted him, he smiled as he passed his cane over.

"I'll give you this cane, so will you return this youngster's wallet and the contents thereof?"

The cane is made of sturdy materials, and it's been used well.

Naturally, since the youth's superior has gone this far, it wouldn't be a joke anymore so I put the money in my pocket into the wallet and handed it to the old man.

"Lad, I've gotten it back. Take care of it. It's fine for you to go to the church in the village and play."

The old man said and tossed the wallet at the youth.

The youth received the wallet, asked Cynthia the location of the church, and ran off.

"It seems like that lad wants to become a missionary. I have this sort of face, so he's just being used as a spokesman. Please don't think poorly of him."

The old man said with a smile. Half of the muscles in his face won't move, so he half-smiled.

“Earth Hero, is there a place to sit and talk? Anywhere would be fine. Let’s discuss the tollway.”

“Aah, this way.”

So saying, Garcia-san guided us to the storehouse.

“Ah, the cane.”

When I tried to return the cane to the old man,

“Aah, I don’t need it.”

So saying, the old man walked fine after Garcia-san.

Goddamit, what an insufferable gramps!

Just by pretending his leg was bad, he called me over and got me to return the youth’s wallet.

Well, it’s only natural, huh? It feels like he showed me the difference between a veteran government official and a company man.

“The proposer... Naoki, was it? Come quickly! Why don’t the ladies behind you come as well? The discussion will probably go on for a while.”

At Gramps’ words, Ayl and the others and I looked at each other, then Velsa said,

“Naoki, take out the plans for the windmill and pump.”

And held out her hand.

“Wh,why?”

“Because we will make it together with Garcia-san and his wife. It’s better to split up the division of labor, right? We’ve already planted the seed balls too, so we have nothing to do.”

“No, but didn’t you pull an all-nighter? How about resting a little?”

“It’s fine. Naoki, you’re also awake.”

But the windmill and pump are the tasks I wanted to do the most...

“Newbies, there’s almost never a chance for us to steal the President’s strong suit! So put some spirit into it and let’s make this-!”

Ayl lit a fire under Seth and Merumo.

“ “Oooo-kaaay!!” ”

“Why? Why are you guys so energetic? Dammit-”

I reluctantly took the designs for the windmill and pump out of the item bag and hand it to Velsa.

“I’ll go call Mother!”

So saying, Cynthia went to the house to call Ashley-san.

As for me, I was taken to the storehouse by the sharp-eyed old coachman, saying, “Let us go,” as he pushed my back.

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1. Referencing the doujin group Cemetery Hills Youth White Paper (セメタリーヒルズ青春白書)... I think.

## CHAPTER 93

The inside of the storehouse was stuffed with wooden boxes, pretty much unchanged from when the villagers and peddlers were having their discussion.

The only difference from when I had seen it before are that chairs and tables have been properly carried in.

Garcia-san probably brought them in in case the villagers and peddlers were to have another discussion.

Garcia-san, the Central Government Gramps and I sat in chairs surrounding the table, and the old coachman stood at the entrance.

“Sabui, it’s fine if you get tired and sit.”

Gramps called out to the old coachman.

“Yes sir.”

The old coachman called Sabui merely gave a curt reply.

“Now then. Let us introduce ourselves. We know the Earth Hero, so let us move on. My name is Alfred Floura. I’m the Vice-Chairman of the Ruginia Alliance’s Central Government.”

The Central Government’s Vice-Chairman!?

And his name is Floura!

“So Margaret-san is...?”

“My older sister.”

So they’re sister and brother.

“I’m Naoki. Naoki Komuro. Things are like this, but I’m the president of an exterminator

company.”

I also introduced myself.

“That is a name I’ve heard often, recently. You’ve been inspiring my sister, Naoki. And not just my sister, a letter from my daughter’s husband’s father came.”

“And who is that?”

“Would you know if I said Riddle Blacks?”

Ah~ so they’re relatives, good grief.

“Well, none of that matters. How dare you burn down the Earth Hero’s plantation!”

Alfred-san suddenly became angry.

Without a doubt, he has to have some ulterior motive. Thanks to the cane from earlier, I doubt all of Alfred-san’s actions.

“It wasn’t me. The ones that burned down the plantation was the dragons.”

“The one who instructed the dragons to was you, was it not!?”

“I absolutely don’t know what you’re talking about!”

I continue to feign ignorance. I’d explained it to Margaret-san. Even if he gets mad now, nothing is going to change. So that means...

“Alfred-san, that, that’s because... my plantation was...”

Garcia-san attempted to explain.

“Garcia-san, there’s no need to explain. It’s probably already been told to Alfred-san. This is probably just an attempt to make me feel guilty so he can have me do some work.”

Alfred-san snorted and the left side of his face that wasn’t burned lifted into a smile.

“What an insufferable youngster. Well, fine. Oh Hero Garcia. It’s a shame about the

plantation. However, from hereon you will be busy. Have you heard about the toll carriageway from Naoki?"

"Yes, I've heard. I thought it was a splendid plan."

"Aah, even the Central Government is on board with the idea. However, I think it will fail."

"Why is that!?"

Garcia-san gave a loud cry in surprise.

As for me, I thought, "Thank goodness, looks like things will be fine."

"First of all, how do you intend to collect the toll?"

"That's..."

Garcia-san fell silent.

"Won't it be fine if they register at the Merchant's Guild? They'll be handed a plate with a number written on it, and the carriage's number will be taken down at the entrances and exits, and then it will be fine if you have them pre-pay or pay after. If they don't pay, then it would be fine to levy a percentage of their earnings. If they sell their products and make money, then the merchants will pay."

"However, there's a possibility of forgery."

"Then how about issuing coupons? Well, there's also the Merchant's Guild Card, so how about something with that?"

"Hm, however, for there to be entrances and exits, there will be those who get on it from the side selfishly at their own convenience, won't there?"

"There will be, I'd assume."

"What should we do about those?"

"Aren't there also reasons for them to selfishly enter it? Suddenly having a patient, or running away from monsters. It's fine not to question it if they have a justifiable



reason, right?”

“What will you do about those who use it for free? Will you hire adventurers to catch people? Send out troops from the Central Government?”

“No, it’s fine as long as the one who uses it submits a report. After that, let’s see, we need to make an exit for the ones who free-rides on it.”

“Dahahaha, what is that? You’re going to make an exit for the guys who do things unjustly?”

Alfred-san began to laugh.

“Yes, if we purposefully make an exit that appears easy to use to exit, won’t they exit there? If they continue a little bit further, then you can post the town guards or someone there. Garcia-san, can you make a variance in level along the edge of road?”

“Aah, if it’s just making it differ in height then it’s fine.”

Garcia-san nodded.

“Even if it’s just a little variance, it can break the carriage’s wheels. No one would want to go that way. Also, you can make a hill and tunnels, right? I saw the canals.”

“It’s possible, but for a tunnel, it takes time to fix it in place.”

“Please make the tunnels as sturdy as possible so they won’t break. With that, I think the the monsters will have a place to cross.”

“I see, hahaha.”

Garcia-san laughed.

“Wait, wait Naoki. Even if you make a difference in elevation, I don’t think that the people who will illegally get on will decrease.”

“Of course, just like a river seeks to flow downwards, so do people’s hearts seek vices, after all. Well, evil runs rampant. Then, it really would be better for them to hand something over at the exit? Even a cloth with the emblem of the town or village would be fine. Then if they show that emblem while they’re doing business, then that will

show they can be trusted... but if we do that..."

"Then the merchants who use the normal roads would be pitiable, wouldn't they?"

Alfred-san said.

"Then it really would be better if they show their cards at the Merchant's Guild, and by seeing the distance and number of days, and judging by what other towns they entered before this town, they'll hand over the validation emblem, and if they're way too fast, then you can collect the toll."

"However, if you do so, then wouldn't they trade outside of the towns?"

Suddenly, the coachman, Sabui, standing near the entrance, spoke up.

"Ah, I beg your pardon. I have spoken out of turn."

"No, it's fine. Sabui, you come over and sit as well."

Sabui apologized right away, but Alfred called him to the table.

"Just like Sabui-san says, there's the possibility of trade happening outside the cities... hm~..."

During the time I was groaning about it, Sabui sat down in a chair.

"My apologies."

Sabui said in embarrassment.

"It's fine. Sabui, I want to hear your opinions. Actually, Sabui is a man who was a former chief of a burglar's groups."

Alfred introduced him.

"What! Say so earlier! Something like that!"

So saying, I took out a map from the item bag and spread it out on the table.

"So, for example, if we make a road between Gnomefield here and the Central

Government City, where do you think thieves will appear?"

I asked Sabui.

"That's... it's a wasteland, after all. Anywhere."

"Well, I guess they would. I'm thinking we'll probably have to make a rest stop every some kilometers for broken-down carriages and the like."

"Hm, certainly, that kind of thing is needed."

"Then, if I were a robber, I think I'd aim for a broken down carriage rather than a running carriage, but what do you think?"

I asked Sabui once again.

"Let's see. A stopped carriage is easier to aim for, after all."

"Hm~..."

"What is it? Are you saying we should station guards in those sorts of places?"

"That's right. Even if it's just patrolling in turns, I think it would be good... hm~..."

I'm thinking.

"What is it? What are you pondering?"

Alfred said.

"No, see, what if we made a loophole for the thing we were just talking about? And, wherever you think they'll gather to trade, how about making a spot for them to do under-the-table dealings easily? Since we have a master of making tunnels."

I said as I pointed at Garcia-san.

"In other words, you're going to create an opportunity for them in the deployment of the guards' patrols?"

Alfred said.

“That’s right.”

“And then, if we go take a look at the trading spot, we will be able to see who is doing underhanded dealings?”

“That’s right.”

“So you mean for it to be the start of a trap?”

“Well, we won’t tell that to the ones who use it.”

“B, but, only having one place to do deals is...”

Sabui said.

“Then, as one might expect, the place to do deals moves around?”

I asked Sabui.

“Most likely... they would take the shape of some sort of desert caravan, wouldn’t they...?”

“Then how about creating a number of caravans and circulating them within the alliance? And then, after letting the merchants doing underhanded dealings make a decent profit, confiscate 70% of their assets, and then let the merchants make profits doing their underhanded dealings again and wait. Then, when they’ve made profits, seize 70%; repeat that again and again, and it would be the easiest way for the Central Government to earn money, right?”

“Naoki-san.”

Sabui called out to me in surprise.

“You’re quite evil.”

He said.

“Is that so? Just so you know, I’m the president of a company after all. This is just thinking about how to make the most profit. Well, please listen to the opinions of a company man. Honestly, I’m relieved.”

“Relieved?”

Alfred-san asked.

“Yes, I think it’s very dangerous to endeavor a public enterprise without considering failure. That said, I believe overemphasizing failure won’t make any profits; having a good balance is important. Perhaps, if it’s Alfred-san, who believes this will fail, then he’ll have made countermeasures, and I think he’ll think of even better ways to collect tolls, and with Sabui-san’s advice then I think we’ll be able to make realistic countermeasures against thieves. Moreover, it’s Garcia-san and his family that are going to do the earth magic work, so it’s amazing just thinking about the labor costs and time it will take. As long as Garcia-san doesn’t die, you can fail as many times as you wish. I wish you all the best.”

“You mean that the proposer, Naoki, is going to run away!?”

Alfred’s face warped as he asked.

“That’s right. I’m tossing it all on you. Making a tollway isn’t the job of an extermination company. And I also have to go to my next job.”

“Dahahaha, what an unlikable youngster. Goodness, how terrifying. If Naoki didn’t have such a level, I’d tell Sabui to restrain you by force.”

Level?

“It’s to that degree?”

Sabui asked Alfred.

“Aah, it’s beyond Sabui’s state. I, who has the Appraisal Skill, am saying so, so there’s no doubt.”

He has an unpleasant skill, na.

“Oi, you have such a level, so why don’t you have any titles?”

“There are some circumstances.”

“What an insufferable youngster. The longer you live the more weirdoes you’ll meet.”

Alfred smiled.

“Now then, I’m worried about the windmill and the pump, so.”

So saying, I stood up and left the storehouse.

## CHAPTER 94

When I went to the workshop next to the storehouse, blood was dripping from the mouths of my employees.

I froze for a second, but Merumo smiled happily.

“What are you doing?”

“Aah, President!”

Merumo shouted.

On top of the table was a basket with red fruits in it.

Tea was also prepared. It seems like it’s a tea break from work.

Snacks being available before you know it in a woman’s workspace is the same as it was in my world.

If this helps relieve even a little bit of stress, then I think it’s fine for them to keep eating.

“This is a fruit called blood berries, and it’s very interesting.”

“It’s a berry gathered from the wasteland, it seems. Maa, as you can see, it turns your mouth bright red.”

Velsa gave me an explanation.

“If you’d like, have some as well, Naoki-kun.”

Ashley invited me as she worked on the windmill.

“Thank you very much. Uoh-! These are sour!”

When I tossed a blood berry into my mouth, I was attacked with a strong acidity. It

might be good to relieve drowsiness.

“And how is it? How’s the windmill?”

“Well, I’ve never seen a windmill like this, so I wonder if we can make it well. It’s just frightfully interesting, this idea. I wonder just how Naoki-san’s head works.”

Ashley-san said. Ashley-san’s skills are good, so she has already split a cask in two for the windmill and fitted it with blades.

“I also haven’t made it before, I just wanted to try it out while testing all sorts of things.”

“Can you also come look at the pump?”

Cynthia said to me.

Cynthia, Seth, and Ayl were making the pump over there, and making a valve to attach to a giant monster’s stomach.

Seth is already half asleep. We pulled an allnighter last night, so it can’t be helped.

“It’s fine as long as water won’t leak, right? What about the monster stomach?”

“I’ve made some preparations. Bigger is better, right?”

Ayl responded.

“Also, about this device...”

Ashley-san asked as she pointed at the seesaw-like device that compresses the stomach on the blueprints.

While explaining it so that everyone could understand, I joined in on the work.

When Seth lost to his sleepiness and dropped out, I took forabbit furs out from the item bag and made a nap area in the workshop.

It began to rain again before noon, and Merumo and Ayl slept.

We had assembled it and were just thinking to take it outside to test it if the weather



cleared up, when Velsa, Cynthia, and I also reached our limits, the area around our mouths were red from when we staved off our sleepiness with blood berries.

“Now we just need to wait until it’s sunny, ne?”

Ashley-san smiled happily.

“Yeah, that’s right, ne... I’ve my limit, so I’m going to sleep a little. Please wake me if anything happens.”

“Yes, yes. Now then, everyone go inside, and don’t disturb these big sisters and brothers.”

Ashley-san took the children who came to watch and returned to the house.

Lying down on the furs like I was collapsing, my consciousness drifted off somewhere far away.

I woke around sunset.

The rain had stopped, and an orange-colored sky peeked out from behind the break in the clouds.

It seems like the women around me also woke when I woke up.

Seth and Cynthia aren’t here.

When I left the workshop, Seth and Cynthia were carrying dishes with food on them to the workshop.

“Ah, President! We’re going to eat dinner with everyone.”

“I see. Is there anything I can help with?”

I asked.

“Then can you draw water and use Clean Up to make it clean?”

“Got it.”

I went with Ayl and Velsa with various casks and barrels, heading in the direction where the well's hole was.

Merumo was called by Seth, and she helped carry the food.

Throwing a bucket with a rope attached to it into the hole, I pulled it up and drew water. The drawn water was put into the casks. Let's draw up more water rather than less. With 3 people taking turns it wasn't too bad, but it took some time.

Around when I thought that it would be better to use a magic circle, all the casks were full.

I purified the water in the three barrels with Clean Up and we brought them back to the storehouse.

Normally they'd be too heavy to carry, but the three of us have unusual strength, so we easily carried them.

Other than Garcia-san and his family, our employees and the people from the Central Government were at the storehouse, as well as a middle-aged man with a good appearance I hadn't seen before.

That middle-aged man has a good build, seems like he's related to the military, and has taken an interest in the Central Government personnel.

"Who is that?"

When I asked Garcia-san,

"HillLake Kingdom's investigator, Guil-san."

He told me.

"For the time being, I've explained the situation."

Alfred-san told me.

"Ah, hello. I'm Naoki. I run an extermination business. A pleasure to meet you."

“I’ve heard of your rumors. I’m Guil, from HillLake Kingdom’s Military Intelligence.”

After greeting Guil, I sat down.

The table has a tablecloth over it, and on top are dishes with food lined up.

There was vegetable and meat stirfry, grilled bird monster meat, stew, and the like; at any rate, there were many large plates.

Ashley-san said, “It’s always like this for us.”

The children all properly said grace before eating.

Garcia-san, Ashley-san, Sabui, and the young spokesman (Jason seems to be his name) already ate.

Our portion was also included, so we partook without holding back.

While eating, we listened to Garcia-san and Ashley-san talking, and it seems like the discussion about the roadways have made some progress.”

“Oh, right, Naoki.”

Alfred-san called over to me.

“What is it?”

“Properly come with me to HillLake’s capital.”

“-Ng, why?”

While swallowing the meat I had eaten, I asked why.

“Guil, explain it to him.”

“Two dragons have appeared around the border to the northern country. The situation seems to be that our King has completely holed up in his castle, and he won’t even leave his room.”

Guil explained the capital’s situation to me.

“And that means I have to go to the capital?”

“You have dragon acquaintances, correct?”

If you’re asking if I have any, I do. Or like, those two dragons are my acquaintances.

“The construction of the canals is under the King’s command. If the King doesn’t give the command to stop, then everything will continue as planned.”

“Hm? And what am I supposed to do about this?”

I also have the same feelings about wanting to stop the construction of the canals, but I don’t think I’m needed for this.

“Please get the King to leave his room. If you can get him out of his room, Guil can explain things to him, and I will be able to negotiate.”

“Wouldn’t it be fine if Sabui-san drags him out of the room by force?”

I tossed the problem at Sabui.

“I won’t do. If someone from the Central Government makes a move, just that in itself will cause a delay to the completion of the roads , I believe.”

‘But it’s just the King refusing to leave his room. Aren’t there advisors or prime ministers? I’m just an exterminator.”

“So you say. Please lend us a hand.”

Pain in the ass.

“Won’t he leave naturally if you starve him?”

“The castle chefs will be executed.”

Guil said.

“Naoki, who isn’t from HillLake and has nothing to do with the Central Government is the suitable person for the job. Please try to get the King to leave his room without using brute force.”

You can say that, but...

“Will there be payment?”

Velsa asked from the sidelines.

“Yes, we’ll pay.”

Alfred-san said.

“ “We’ll do it! Let us do it!” “

Ayl and Velsa replied immediately.

“No, see, I’m working on the windmill and pump, so...”

I still have work left in Gnomefield.

“That’s what we will be doing. Naoki will go to the capital.”

“That’s right, it’s just going to get the King-sama out of his room, right? Isn’t it simple?”

With Ayl and Velsa conspiring against me, it looks like I won’t be able to refuse any more.

“If that’s the case, I’m taking one of the newbies.”

I demanded a travelling companion.

“That’s fine.”

“Merumo!”

“Eh!? Me!?”

I’ve already thought up a way to get the King out of his room.

“Have you already trained the earticks?”

“Eh? Do you mean taming them? No, I haven’t tried it.”

“Can you?”

“At my parents’ house I tamed the goatsheeps. But for bug-type monsters, I wonder...?”

Merumo’s home is a goatsheep ranch.

“Let’s try it after you’re done eating.”

“Understood.”

Well, in the worst case scenario they don’t have to be tamed, though.

“Then you’ll do it?”

Alfred-san asked.

“I will. My employees accepted the job, right? In that case, let’s hurry and leave.”

“Understood. We’ll depart tomorrow morning. Guil, you’re also fine with that?”

“As you wish.”

And that was that.

After the meal we returned to the inn, and when Merumo said something in front of the eartick bottle, the earticks in the bottle lined up in a row.

“It seems like you can.”

“Haha, it’s something I didn’t know myself.”

If she has the talent to be a beast tamer, then I think it would be better to develop it.

“How is it?”

Ayl, Velsa, and Seth returned to the inn a little after us. They were talking about tomorrow’s schedule with Ashley-san and the others.

“Merumo might have the talent to become a beast tamer.”

When I said so,

“I see. We should try all sorts of things out from now on.”

Ayl replied.

“How about you guys?”

“We’ll try to assemble the windmill and pump if it’s clear. If it rains again, we’ll make seed dumplings.”

“There might be seeds left behind in the houses of the people who left the village. We’ll also try asking if there are any seeds at the church.”

Ayl and Velsa said.

“Hm? Come to think of it, where are Alfred-san and the others?”

There aren’t any inns but this one, so they’ll be staying at this inn, right?

“Aah, that Jason guy asked the church if they could stay over there.”

“I see.”

He’s a more competent guy than I thought.

We’d slept at a weird time, so even though I wasn’t sleepy, I fell asleep quickly when I entered my bed.

## CHAPTER 95

The next morning I woke up groggily around dawn, made my preparations, and left the inn.

Stifling a yawn as well, Merumo also exited the inn. Her bedhead stood up like a tornado.

“Your hairstyle’s pretty cool.”

When I complimented her, Merumo touched her own hair.

“Darnit~. I forgot to comb out my hair before I went to bed~.”

She said as she fixed her hair.

When we went to the church Alfred-san and the others should have stayed the night at, a carriage was stopped in front of it.

Savoy was already awake and making the preparations.

“Good morning.”

“Good morning. You’re quite early.”

“Yes, I thought we shouldn’t be late, at least.”

Not being late is a habit from my previous world.

Savoy brought the feehorse over, and while Merumo and I brushed it, I drew a wind magic circle on its legs.

Savoy wound a belt around the feehorse and stopped it.

“I’ll pull it on the way, so please tether it behind the carriage.”



“Naoki-dono is going to pull it?”

“That will probably be faster.”

I wound the belt around my arm and pulled the carriage a bit to show him.

Savoy was so surprised his eyes were about to pop out, but he nodded.

“Savoy-san, please show me the way we’re going.”

“Understood. I will call Alfred-sama now, and we’ll be off.”

Savoy hurried into the church and brought Alfred-san. Behind him, the HillLake Kingdom Investigator, Guile, came along in a hurry.

The two entered the carriage, and Savoy sat in the coachman’s seat.

“Is everything ready?”

“Yes, everything’s fine.”

Savoy responded.

“Merumo, do your best to keep up.”

“Yessir.”

I pulled the carriage according to Savoy’s instructions.

If I run full out the carriage will shake, so I keep it to a light jog.

Even so, the feehorse tethered in the back began to fall behind.

Merumo also seems to be having it tough while following behind, so we took a number of breaks in between.

Even though I overtook carriage after carriage, startling traveling merchants and travelers and the like, I ran at a fairly good speed. I don’t want to stand out, but when I figured I wouldn’t come this way a second time, I didn’t really care so much about attracting attention.

They said it would take two days to arrive at HillLake's capital, Nokking Hill, but we arrived around noon.

The castle town was flourishing, and there were a lot of people. The streets were overflowing with people, but there's never been a guy who pulls a carriage before, so they naturally gave way.

When I had gone all the way up to the large gray castle, the guards stopped us wanting to know who we were; at that time Guile called out from inside the carriage so we avoided further troubles.

When the carriage door opened, Alfred-san and Guile frantically seized a chair, their arms trembling.

I wrote a letter saying, "A curse will befall you if you make the canals," put it into an envelope with some earticks, and sealed it.

I handed it to Guile and had him take it to the King's room.

"Even if you use the space between the door and the floor to get it in, it will be fine."

When I said so, Guile consented and headed to the castle.

I headed to Nokking Hill's Merchant's Guild.

There's no particular need for me to pull the carriage anymore, so Savoy attached the feehorse to the harness.

"We will be going to the Merchant's Guild."

"Understood. We will make arrangements at an inn."

Alfred-san replied as he went outside and rotated his shoulders.

I went into town and headed towards the Merchant's Guild while asking people and guards where it was.

Even though the Merchant's Guild was crowded with people, everyone properly stayed in line and we arrived at the counter inside.

"Can I have you post a job advertisement poster?"

I showed my Merchant's Guild card and asked the old lady employee.

"What kind of job is it?"

"Extermination."

"Extermination?"

"Yes, it's a trade where we exterminate the bug monsters and masmaskarl inside houses."

"Heeh~, how novel! Go ahead, write it out on this paper and stick it to the board next to the stairs, please."

So saying, the granny employee gave me a spare piece of paper.

I received the paper and wrote, "Taking extermination jobs. If you want to exterminate earticks, bugroaches, or masmaskarl, leave it to us!" and stuck it to the board.

The rumors of two dragons appearing around the northern border was the hot topic within the Merchant's Guild.

Those two are probably at Margaret's house in Floura.

"President, are we done?"

"Yeah. Pretty much. Now we just wait for a request to come from the castle. Want to eat lunch?"

"That sounds good."

Merumo and I went outside and looked for a place to eat.

While we walked, a number of adventurers invited me with, "Won't you come defeat the dragons with us?"

Looks like they want to add me, a guy with the power to pull a carriage, to their battle forces.

It's obvious that would be the case, but I refuse flat out. Particularly persistent adventurers followed us all the way to the restaurant, but Merumo struck them and knocked them down. After that, there weren't many people calling out to us.

The restaurant was one with a lot of guards in it. My reasoning was that a shop with a lot of locals coming to it can't be too bad.

I requested the meat of a deer monster, greendeer, with bread and vegetable soup.

For us who had set out so early in the morning, it was breakfast and lunch.

"When we finish our business in Nokking Hill, are we returning to Floura?"

"That's the intention. Ah, do you also want to visit your hometown, Merumo?"

"No, I said I wouldn't return for five years."

"I see. Are you guys still keeping in contact?"

"Yes, I sent them the bonus from before, too."

That's filial piety for you. I came to another world, so I can't do that. And anyway, in my previous world, I think I contacted my parents about once every few years.

I wonder how they're doing now. I feel like I should have honored my parents before I lost my familial connections. I also can't remember their faces well. When we return to Gnomefield, I'm going to tell Ayl and Velsa to honor their parents as best as they can. I don't know about Ayl, but it seems like Velsa's are alive.

"I'll teach you magic circles later, and you can make a communication bag."

"Eh? That embroidered, troublesome looking bag?"

"That's right. If you send a communication bag to your hometown, you can contact them whenever, right?"

"I don't really want to contact them much, though."

“Haa~ good grief, this is why youngsters are -. There will come a time when you want to honor your parents but they’re gone... well, that’s fine.”

My superior at work in my previous world also said the exact same thing. That superior probably felt the same way I do now.

Even if you tell them, they won’t understand if they’ve never experienced it. I was the same way.

“A letter is just right for your purposes, na. But a communication bag is useful, so it’s better for you to learn how to make it.”

“Sue, I guess.”

I’ll push the communication bags for Margaret-san to Merumo.

“President! Didn’t you just have a nasty look on your face?”

“No, not at all. Do you want some wine?”

After that, I covered it up by getting Merumo a little tipsy and then we left.

When we looked for the inn the carriage I had pulled was stopped in front of, I spotted Savoy-san at its side.

He guided us inside, told us to take it easy, and handed us the key.

Entering the room, I taught Merumo how to make the communication bags, and just when I stopped Merumo as she was taming the bugroaches, officials from the Merchant’s Guild arrived.

They said a request for extermination had come from the castle.

It took until dusk, but it seems like the earticks properly did their job.

“That was faster than expected, huh?”

“Fufufu, it’s because my eartick-chans are excellent.”

Merumo puffed out her chest.

“Is Alfred-san there?”

When I left the room, I called out to Savoy.

“Are you already going to the castle?”

“Yeah, the request came.”

“Understood. I’ll make the preparations, so please wait a moment.”

After waiting for a while, the sleepy Alfred came out.

We left so early in the morning, it seems he was taking a nap.

The castle is close, so without using the carriage, we walked towards it.

I only realized it now, but there are a lot of guards in Nokking Hill. The cotton sells well, so the military power was raised up, I suppose. There’s already no cotton fields, so I wonder what these people will do.

“They most likely have reserves, so they’ll probably be fine for a while. The Central Government could also take them. There will be a ton of work to do once the toll roads are completed, after all.”

When I voiced my thoughts, Alfred responded.

When we arrived at the castle, we were guided to the front of the King’s room immediately. Alfred-san is an official of the Central Government so he was going to be guided to a different room, but he said, “I have to meet the King anyway,” so he came with us.

“King-sama! Please open up!”

Guile was pounding on the room’s door.

“Ah, Naoki-dono!”

“Hello. Did the King raise a fuss about itchiness?”

“Yes. He seems to be writhing around, and just now there have been the sounds of something falling.”

Merumo smiled. She had given the earticks orders to attack the person who opened the envelope.

“Then, can that be opened?”

I asked as I pointed at the door.

“Currently the guards are rushing to bring the keys, so if you would wait a bit.”

“Ah, no nee-d.”

When I said so, I drew the unlocking magic circle while hiding it with my body, and the door opened.

It took the smoke-type insecticide out from the item bag, had it begin smoking, and tossed it inside.

It doesn't have much insecticidal strength, it's just smokey, but the effect works.

I shut the door, and after a while a man that seems to be the King came flying out of the room, his face and arms covered in red spots.

*“Cough cough! Fire! Guile! My room is on fire!”*

“There's no fire.”

So saying, Guile took the King by the hand led him to a different room.

“Then I'll leave the after care to you guys.”

I said to Alfred-san.

“Umu. I'll leave this here to you.”

Alfred-san and Savoy followed the King.

Merumo and I entered the King's room, opened the window, and let the smoke outside.

Merumo tipped a jar over and called the earticks, and they entered the jar.

The earticks finished their job without even a scratch. Merumo put bread crusts into the jar as a their reward.

Lastly I used Cleanup on the room, and our job was done.

The guards with the key were standing in front of the door.

"This is an ointment type of recovery medicine. Please pass it to the King. I believe it will also be effective for itches."

I took the recovery ointment out of the item bag and handed it to the dumbfounded guards.

When I'd passed by the Royal Guards, entering the passageway, I remembered the matter about remuneration.

"Um-... the extermination fee is 3 silver coins, and the ointment fee is 1 gold coin..."

"Please wait a moment."

The guard ran further into the castle and returned right away.

"We will bring it tot he inn, so please wait for it at the inn."

"Roger. Thank you for your work."

"Th,thank you for your work as well."

Merumo and I headed towards the exit and left the castle immediately.

Leaving the castle, I went directly to the Merchant's Guild and took the job advertisement off the board.



“Oh, are you already done with that?”

The old lady employee ask.

“Yes, I earned enough at the castle.”

“I see, I see. Our guild also had a request, though.”

Just as the granny said, I can see masmascarl making nests in the attack rooms with the Search Skill.

“How about 3 copper coins for every creature? Merchant’s price.”

“Is that alright? Hold on, I need to ask my superior.”

The granny went into the interior.

After that, I officially took a request from Nokking Hill’s Merchant’s Guild and went to exterminate masmascarl. Although it was work done in passing, I did it properly and exterminated 48 masmascarl.”

“Alright. That’s 14 silver coins and 4 copper coins.”

“Thanks for the business.”

I received more unexpected income than I expected.

We returned to the inn, and while we were eating dinner in the dining hall, Savoy returned.

“Here is the remuneration.”

“Ah, thank you very much. How were things?”

I received the remuneration from Savoy and asked.

“The matter with the canal was accepted, but it seems difficult for him to accept that the plantation was destroyed, so the discussions are not proceeding smoothly.”

“Is that so?”

“In the end, Alfred-sama will argue him down. Ah, thank you for the recovery ointment. It was very effective.”

“Ah, that’s good.”

“How long will Naoki-dono and company stay here?”

“We’ll return to Gnomefield tomorrow morning. Please inform Alfred-san and Guile-san.”

“Understood.”

So saying, Savoy returned to the castle.

After Merumo and I ate our fill of a Nokking Hill dinner, we returned to our room.

In the room the two of us made two communication bags, then retired.

Before we slept, Merumo spoke up.

“Tomorrow, I wonder if the windmill will be done when we reach Gnomefield?”

“It might be...”

“Cynthia-san, I wonder if she’ll enter our company?”

“I wonder...”

I got some unexpected income, so I intended to go to Nokking Hill’s brothels, but Merumo’s question attack continued late into the night, and I succumbed to my sleepiness first.

## CHAPTER 96

The next day I woke Merumo up early and left the inn. When we left it, Alfred-san and Savoy were waiting.

It appears that they had received an extremely large reception party after they had persuaded the King last night.

“Are you leaving?”

“Yeah, we still have work left, so.”

“Work, is it...? Hm, if that’s the case we can’t stop you...”

“Alfred-san. Do you know of any heroes besides Garcia-san?”

He’s an official of the Central Government, so I was thinking he’d surely have a large network and also be knowledgeable about the affairs of the world.

“Are you looking for heroes?”

“Well, sort of.”

I scratched my face as I said so.

“The hero of the Ruginia Alliance is Garcia, and only him. I’ve heard there’s a hero in a country to the far east. I don’t know the details, but my elder sister, Margaret, should likely know of it. It would be good if you visited my elder sister if you happen to be in the area.”

“Got it.”

“Aah, that’s right. Take this with you.”

Alfred-san handed me an envelope. It seems there’s a letter inside.

“Please hand this over to my elder sister. I’ve written regarding what your compensation

should be once the tollways are completed.”

“Ah, roger that.”

“Well then, another time. I’ve worked a bit too hard, so…”

So saying, Alfred-san entered the inn with Savoy attending to him.

“Yes, see you another time.”

I stretched out my Achilles tendon in front of the inn, did my preliminary exercises, and began running.

Merumo also followed me frantically.

Once we left Nokking Hill, the castle-town city the guards called out to me, but when I showed them my Adventurer’s Card, they let me pass without trouble.

Merumo’s rank is high so it seems that they thought I was her servant or something, but Merumo denied it vehemently. It doesn’t matter, so hurry up and come on.

I ran in a way to avoid running into monsters, but Merumo directly fought them.

You could say that Merumo’s fighting style is intense or something; I’m not sure if she’s thinking of them as blood bags that spout monster blood or something, but anyway, she recklessly beat them with a club, becoming bathed in the blood splatters. When I decided to have them dismantled at Gnomefield, I stuffed the monster corpses in the item bag.

“Should I use Cleanup on you?”

I asked Merumo.

“No, I was thinking of defeating another few before reaching Gnomefield, so I’ll ask you to after that.”

“I’d like to return as soon as possible, okay? Don’t get involved with the monsters too much.”

“Understood.”

Merumo said as much, but it seems like she can't not-strike any monsters that enter her eyes.

"Are you some super battler or something? I'm confiscating your club. I'm giving you a wood stick in exchange."

I took the club from Merumo and handed her a stick that had fallen to the ground."

"No way..."

"Don't give me, 'No way!' Even though you weren't like this on the way over, why are you killing monsters to this degree on the way back?"

"President was pulling the carriage on the way over, so I thought it would be bad if I became a hindrance."

"So, what? You thought it was okay to be a hindrance on the way back?"

"...Teehee."

Merumo laughed to avoid answering.

"Don't 'teehee' me!"

Without even being troubled by my scolding, Merumo began swinging the stick, defeating an ostrich like monster passing by with one strike.

"Hey! Don't defeat monsters while I'm talking to you!"

Just what kind of training has Ayl given her?

I took recovery medicine out of my item bag and cured the bird monster.

"But come one~"

"Listen up. No matter how much we call ourselves exterminators, each and every plot of land has it's own ecosystem, so we can't excessively or recklessly kill monsters."

"I understand! But during this time, Seth's is probably raising his level."

“What? Merumo, are you viewing Seth as a rival?”

“I don’t want to lose to someone who entered at the same time as me.”

Merumo swung the wooden stick as she spoke.

How unexpected. Well, I do know that having a rival can be beneficial, but I feel like we’re a different type of company. Ayl, Velsa, and I are the type who do our own things, so we don’t care too much about the matters of others, but people like Merumo are probably the average.”

“You know, Merumo.”

“What is it?”

“For example, Ayl has the Swordsmanship Skill and can create small craters on the ground, right?”

“Yes, Ayl-san’s swordsmanship is amazing!”

“But you see,”

I strayed from the road, entered the wasteland, and struck the ground with all my strength.

A small crater appeared.

“See?”

I told Merumo as I showed it to her.

“It’s not ‘See?! What are you doing!?’”

“Basically, you don’t necessarily need the Swordsmanship Skill to make a small crater of this degree. Whether you use swordsmanship or just hit it, the result’s the same. For our company, it’s better results can be attained through all sorts of different methods. It’s better to have more options. Because in that case, if anyone fails, someone else’s method might do better.”

“I see, I see.”

Merumo nodded.

“It would be a plus for our company if you didn’t focus only on becoming physically strong, but also developed your own personal talents.”

“I see! Then, how should I go about making a crater?”

“So you don’t understand?”

“Eh!? Wasn’t that what we were talking about?”

“Yeah, no; it was about how you don’t have to get physically stronger than you are.”

“It’s fine if we’re not strong!?”

Merumo tilted her head.

“No, I mean it’s not like we have to make a ton of craters, right?”

“...Of course! Isn’t that obvious? We’re an extermination company.”

Duh? Merumo gave me that kind of look.

“You little... in other words, if Merumo raises her skill that can control monsters, a crater can be created by controlling monsters that can use earth magic, right? The result is the same.”

“Aah, I see!”

The ostrich-like monster came to and, rising unsteadily to its feet, it ran off.

“Ah, that’s right, Merumo, you seem to be stimulated when you see blood, but are you also no good with the image of it?”

“Image?”

“I understand how you associate seeing blood with life. But are you also no good with imagining the blood vessels of the bird monster that’s running right now and thinking about the blood flowing within?”

I asked as I pointed at the ostrich-like monster running away.

“Blood vessels?”

Eh? Does she not know about blood vessels?

“Ooh, seriously? You dismantle monsters a lot, right?”

“Yeah, I do.”

“Right, that’s the case. You also cook.”

But she doesn’t know about blood vessels despite that?

“We’ll chase after that monster.”

“Okay.”

We chased after the ostrich-like monster.

The ostrich like monster returned to its own nest, and within the nest were chicks. They were chicks that hadn’t grown feathers in yet.

I saw them with the Search Skill, but Merumo looked at the chicks like like they were some rare thing.

I approached the nest and said,

“Merumo, do you know why blood spurts?”

“Why is spurts... why does it?”

Ignoring the parent bird’s attack, I picked up a chick, spread out a wing that hadn’t had its feathers grown in fully, and held it to the sun’s light.

The blood vessels inside the wing were apparent when the sun hit it.

The chick was crying, *Gii, gii*, but I’m just going to have it cooperate for a bit.

“I think you’ve seen them when dismantling monsters, but these red lines are blood



vessels. Blood will spurt when you cut them.”

“Right.”

“And so, around your chest is the heart(shinzou), an organ that acts like a pump sending blood through the blood vessels through your entire body.”

“The ‘heart,’ is it?”

“That’s right. I think you can tell if you place your hand on your chest, but the heart will continue to send out blood until you’re dead.”

“All the way until death?”

“That’s right. Where the blood vessels are thick, the blood flows at a speed much faster than when I seriously run.”

I’ve heard it can reach speeds of 200 kilometers per hour. Although I don’t know if it’s true.

“Eh!? Really!?”

I nodded at her.

“So? Does imagining that get you over-excited?”

“It won’t!”

“Alright, then try touching it a little!”

I handed the chick I had to Merumo.

The chick’s heart was pulsating quickly like an alarm bell.

“oooOOO! This is blood flowing!”

“Try feeling the parent bird’s as well!”

“Okay!”

I grabbed the ostrich-like monster that's been poking me and handed it to Merumo.

"ooOOO! President!"

"What!?"

"I got a weird Skill all of a sudden!"

"Eh!?"

"Medical Examination?"

"The Medical Examination Skill!?"

When I also felt the monster's pulse and imagined the blood vessels, the Medical Examination Skill appeared.

My level has been considerably raised since I last took a skill, so I have about 40 skill points saved up.

I immediately put points in the Medical Examination Skill, raising the skill level to 5.

It was an unexpected gain. It's a skill that can be used in the future when we have illnesses or diseases, so let's do it.

To test it out I tried using it on the ostrich-like monster, and its skeleton, internal organs, and insides were all laid bare.

What will happen if I try it on a human?

"President! Your face looks like you're up to sexual harassment!"

Merumo said when she looked at me.

"Wh, what are you saying!? G, give it a rest and let me try Medical Examination on you!"

"No! When we return, I'm going to tell Ayl-san and Velsa-san!"

"Stop that!"

Merumo ran towards the road.

“Wait, wait, if I chase after you now, I’ll just look like a dirty old man, wouldn’t I!?”

“President is a dirty old man!”

Merumo, who got onto the road, ran towards Gnomefield with all her might.

I also ran. With everything I had.

Passing Merumo, I intend to get there first and give Ayl and the others an explanation.

When I approached Gnomefield, the ground was wet. It seems like it was just after the rain, but there wasn’t a single puddle. As expected of Garcia-san’s work.

Merumo breaths sound like she’s so tired she’s going to die, but I can feel that she’s going to run to her last breath.

Passing the inn and the church, I headed towards the site of the plantation.

Exiting the village’s houses, in front of me were two windmills spinning in the wide, burnt out plantation.

One of the windmills was the large half barrel arranged vertically. The other windmill was a large bladed windmill.

My company employees and Garcia-san’s household were gathered under the large bladed windmill.

It looks like they tried all sorts of things.

“Aah, welcome back!”

“Welcome back!”

Ayl and Cynthia waved their hands at us.

“I’m back!”

I also wave my hand, approaching them.

“We’re back! Listen to this~ President, he was...”

Coming up from behind me, Merumo complained.

“No, it’s a misunderstanding! Listen to me,”

While Merumo and I told our stories, our three company employees were astounded, and Garcia-san’s household laughed.

I noted that Cynthia and Ashley-san laughed the same way.

## CHAPTER 97

Merumo and I reached Gnomefield and reported about our work in Nokking Hill.

Our employees that were working in Gnomefield reported on making the windmills and pump.

They said that the windmill I thought of making was raising water up, little by little.

It's just, although it was expected that the amount drawn up wouldn't be much, if the wind stops the windmill will also stop.

Ashley-san said she wanted to try out all of the windmills I had drawn up designs for.

I was thinking we'd help out, but I was refused with, "Your salary won't go up even if we had you help out more than this."

"It's alright. With my husband and children, we'll have enough work. It may just be a little bit at a time, but this village will prosper."

Ashley-san said so and smiled warmly.

For now, water can be secured with rain, and Garcia-san said he had requested the Central Government's aid in the case water and food ran out from Alfred-san.

It seems like our side's after service ends here.

Even after his plantation burnt down and he lost the spirit's blessing, the sight of Garcia-san still standing firm was even greater than before, giving a sense of security.

I told all my employees that we would be taking our leave from Gnomefield the next morning.

"Seems about right."

"Roger."

‘OK-ssu.’

“Okay.”

There weren’t any objections.

I informed Garcia-san, Ashley-san, and Cynthia as well that we were leaving tomorrow morning.

“I see. Well, we’re indebted to you for all sorts of things.”

“Let’s have everyone eat dinner with us tonight! Okay?”

Garcia-san and Ashley-san laughed.

It’s only been a few days since the plantation was burnt down. There were also people who had abandoned Gnomefield.

It will surely take some time for their feelings to completely change.

Even so, these two aren’t showing us their pained expressions and are making roads and making windmills while laughing.

Seeing these two people’s smiling carefreely, I thought again of how I had crushed the plantation that had taken these people 20 years to make. Of course it was something that had to be stopped and I don’t think I was mistaken in doing so, but I hadn’t thought it would become something like this at the time when God and Evil God had given the request for hero extermination, and I think that I hadn’t been sufficiently prepared for it.

I have to be fully aware that this request could steal away someone’s many years of effort and history, and prepare my feelings.

“What will Cynthia do? Will you enter our company?”

“No. Even though you freed me from slavery, I’m terribly sorry; my place is here. Thank you for the invitation.”

“I see. That’s good. If you ever feel like talking to us, use this.”

So saying, I handed Cynthia a communication bag.”

“If you pour magic into this, it will connect to the communication bag I have, and you can have a conversation despite the distance.”

“Heeh~ amazing!”

Cynthia peered at the communication bag she received.

“From now on, if you want to talk to Cynthia, let me know. I’ll lend you the communication bag.”

I told my employees.

Ayl and Velsa seemed to have gotten along with her, and they nodded.

Dinner included Garcia-san and his children, and they even called the remaining villagers and merchants, throwing a grand feast.

The rain had also stopped, so we had a barbecue in front of Garcia’san’s houses’ storehouse. Mermuo grilled the monsters she had hunted on the way back from Nokking Hill one after another and poured bradberry juice and wine that was saved up in the storehouse and the like.

When the sun went down a bonfire was lite, monster pelts were laid out, and we sat in a circle.

“Naoki-kun, I have to thank you.”

Garcia-san sat next to me as I was gnawing on meat by myself and poured me a cup of wine.

“No, no, no need for thanks.”

“No, I haven’t said it until now, after all. Let me do so. Honestly, I have no idea what’s going to happen from now on, hahaha.”

Garcia-san laughed as usual.

“Even so. That ghoulish disease matter that made me jumpy and nervous is gone, and inexplicable feeling of guilt, all of it is gone. Although the plantation is also gone, hahaha.”

There was a tight feeling in my chest.

“Spirit-sama’s blessing is also gone, and his advice is also gone. I’ve decided to think for myself and consult with everyone from now on. We’ll hold our own decisions and take our own responsibilities, and go into the future. So, we don’t think poorly of you, Naoki-kun.”

“Ah, you could tell?”

“Hahaha, Naoki-kun, your feelings show on your face, after all.”

I raised the cup to my mouth and scratched the back of my head.

“You also prepared work for us and dug a well for us, so we have no resentment. Don’t mind it, and go on your own path.”

“Yes, thank you very much.”

It seems that Garcia-san has come to cheer me on. The light of the bonfire illuminated Garcia-san’s face in red. He might be drunk.

“There was something I learned in my 20 years of making the plantation.”

“What is it?”

“There are many things that don’t have answers, and even if you fail, answers won’t come if you just wait. If you don’t continue walking, you can’t find your way.”

“To continue walking?”

“If you continue walking, you’ll find your way and results will appear. Yeah, I thought so...”

Garcia-san tilted the wine bottle and poured into the cup I was holding.

“But that changed when you appeared. There are also times when you’re walking the



wrong path. If you don't stop from time to time and reflect on what you've done, you'll lose sight of what you're doing. When I realized it I was beaten down, unable to walk a single step or even stand up."

Garcia-san gulped from the bottle, drinking a mouthful of wine."

"But see, the people around me picked me up by the hand and helped me."

Certainly, the remaining villagers and peddlers became Garcia-san's strength.

"I was happy, though. Just like that, the people around me began to walk, even dragging me, who couldn't stand. At that time, it was my dear Ashley. 'If you can't stand, then first lift your head and smile,' she said. 'You're not smiling because you're happy, you're smiling to become happy. Once you become happy, you'll gain energy and be able to stand,' she said."

"Smile, stand, and then begin to walk, is it?"

"That's right. Everyone's like children, right? Hahaha."

That might be true.

"There will be times when I challenge something just to fail. If you walk, there will be times when you fall or step in poop, right? Hahaha."

"Hahaha, sure."

"But if you smile, stand up, and walk, you'll become able to do it. Stopping is also fine. If you start walking again, it's fine. That's right! The emblem for the tollroads should have this sort of design, hahaha."

"That's nice! How about this as the slogan? 'Don't worry about it even if you step in poop,' or something?"

"Hahaha, nice!"

Maybe it's easier to come up with ideas while laughing, but after that, the two of continued to contribute stupid slogans and emblem designs, relaxing with the wine.

The next day, we parted from the smiling Garcia-san and his household.

Garcia-san's household seems to be looking forward to seeing what path they were going to make, and Garcia-san was also looking forward to where we were going in the future, he said.

We promised to use the communication bags to keep in touch if either of us fails and from time to time, and we waved hands and parted.

## CHAPTER 98

I ran all the way to the lake in one go without any breaks.

Merumo, as well as Seth, have become able to follow along somehow.

I borrowed a small boat from Sera's mother, Seline, at the Newt Tribe village near Adel Lake and headed to Seth's hometown, the Cat Tribe's village, on the opposite shore.

Remodeling the boat with a magic circle, we went forward with the current. It's the usual, so no one was surprised by it. We ate yesterday's leftover barbecue on the boat.

We reached the Cat Tribe village a little past noon. We'll stay the night at this village today.

It will take about a day to cross the mountains and desert to Floura no matter what, so we shouldn't push it.

Returning to Seth's hometown, we're staying the night at the inn.

We searched for a person who would return the boat to Seline in exchange for monsters from the wasteland.

Seline did say, "It's fine if you don't return it," but I think that it would be better if all the people who lived around the lake could get along a little better. Is there any person who would help this be a trigger for that? When I asked Seth's mother about it, "Try asking the Village Head," she said.

When I explained the circumstances to the Village Head, who owns the largest boat in the village,

"You can't reach the opposite shore with such a small boat, nyaa~. But, I understand. If there is a chance to meet, I will try mentioning it nya~."

He said in a cat-ish way.

Certainly, it doesn't take much time when using a magic circle, but it does seem like it

would normally take several days to go to the opposite shore in a small boat when just using an oar.

“If there’s a time where we’re able to negotiate, we’ll use it nya~,” the Village Head said.

“Thank you very much nya~,”

When I said that,

“Recently, those from outside the village have been saying, ‘nya~’ a lot more than the villagers. It’s very sad, nya~. I believe tourists will come more if we say, ‘Nya~, nya~, nya~.’”

The Village Head grumbled.

After that I made some preparations for crossing the desert, then returned to Seth’s family’s house.

We were treated to dinner at Seth’s family’s house.

“Ever since Onii-chan started working for the company, dinners have been great!”

Seth’s little sister, Nike, said happily.

Seth made a troubled, wry smile and covered Nike’s mouth.

“Ah, it really is true. I was worried whether he had become a thief or not, but I’m truly happy that he’s found himself some good people. Thank you very much. Please work Seth hard for many long years to come.”

Seth’s mother bowed her head towards us.

Come to think of it, we had met Seth when he had broken into our ship. Mothers really can see through anything.

“Oh no; you have entrusted your precious son to us, so as I watch over my employees, I will think about his growth in the areas that he has potential.”

“Oo-! He’s actually acting like a president!”

Ayl and Velsa are surprised at my words.

I was just completely copying something I saw on TV in my previous world.

During dinner the Village Head and his relatives also joined in, and it became a banquet.

The next morning, we headed to the mountain pass as Seth’s family saw us off.

There were many monsters, but Ayl and Seth took the initiative to defeat them.

“If you defeat too many, the... what was it again? President?”

Merumo attempted to protest, but she failed. Looks like she forgot the word ‘ecosystem.’

“It’s the ecosystem, right? Well, this mountain pass is a little over-run by monsters. It might be okay to over hunt a little.”

When I searched the area with the Search Skill, it was all red. Just with this, there are too many monsters.

This is a pass that merchants often take.

“It might be more than the time when we came previously.”

Ayl said. She’s probably aware of the presences.

After dismantling the monsters, I put the corpses one after another into the item bag.

I’m not using the confusion bell this time. That’s because the confused monsters won’t be restricted from heading to the Cat Tribe village.

In exchange, I’ll tell Riddle-san to put out a request to scatter monster repelling herbs when we return to Floura.

When we entered the desert after passing through the mountain pass, we wrapped white linen robes about us and around our heads and ran through.

The soft sand saps our strength, but with the goal of reaching a place with a bath by running as fast as possible, we mustered up our strength.

I have plans to use the bath I had made in the grassland campsite during the locusthopper incident.

We have the energy and had a proper meal, so we exited the desert a little before noon.

My entire body is smeared with sand. Even though I was wearing a robe, the wind blew the sand, getting inside.

I didn't lose much physical strength, but I've become weary.

The bath at the grassland has properly remained, so by using Cleanup on the water and heating it up, we'll be able to use it immediately.

I made a partition with monster bones and robes so we could all get in at once.

There aren't any presences from monsters; if anything comes, let's just deal with it naked. That was how bad we wanted to wash off that sweat and sand.

Using the citrus scented soap I had made before, we became quite refreshed.

Rising from the bath, I had a light meal, then ran all the way to Floura in one go.

Due to the sweat, all the members of the company are in our uniforms, the blue coverall. I tried using Cleanup on them; because the smell didn't leave it very well, so we'll have to do the troublesome thing and wash them with soap and dry them. I alone did that troublesome act and the others pressed on.

After all, I only need to draw a wind magic circle on a plank and the coveralls will dry. I didn't bring many changes of clothes.

Furthermore, if I run all out, I'll catch up to everyone right away.

We passed many merchants and adventurers, but there weren't many people surprised by the group wearing blue coveralls. They're even waving. I wonder what kind of group they think we are.

We completely ignored all the monsters in the grasslands and the forest.

We arrived at Floura in the evening.

We returned to the inn we hadn't stayed at for quite a while, but it seems they left our rooms as they were.

"That was what the people of the Blacks Family said to do, after all."

When we went to pay, the innkeeper refused.

As we went to eat dinner in the cafeteria, the innkeeper stopped us.

"Naoki-sama, Riddle Blacks-sama has requested that, 'If he should return, have him come to the government office.' Margaret Floura-sama has also requested, 'If he should return, have him show his face at the mansion,' as well."

It should be about the locust hopper remunerations with Riddle-san, I guess? With Margaret-san, it's probably something like the tollway price or remuneration?

"Furthermore, the Merchant's Guild has a message for the Komura Company; 'If any of the employees returns, have them come to the Guild.'"

The Merchant's Guild? What for?

"Furthermore, Naoki-sama, Ayl-sama, Velsa-sama, Seth-sama, and Merumo-sama have each been called to the Adventurer's Guild."

Ain't that basically everyone? Why were they so particular about it?

"Alright! That's a pain, so let's eat dinner and go to sleep for today! We'll go around and do the errands tomorrow!"

And so, we didn't go.

While we were in the middle of eating dinner, a dark elf entered the inn.

I'm pretty sure that's Riddle-san's younger brother of a different mother, a person

named Jerry.

“Ooh-! You’ve returned?! We’ve been waiting for all of you for many days! Come, let us go to the government office for now!”

He’s an overbearing guy.

Ayl took a knife and split the bread on my plate in half and stuffed all of the vegetable stirfry and stewed dish into it.

“Here you go, a special sandwich. See you later!”

“Ah! No fair! Don’t make me the only person who has to work! Ayl and Velsa go to Margaret-san’s house, and Seth goes to the Merchant’s Guild, and Merumo goes to the Adventurer’s Guild! After that, report through the communication bag!”

Once I said that, I was taken away by Jerry-san with the special sandwich in hand.

While eating my sandwich, I walked through the sunset-lit Floura with Jerry-san and his attendants. I’ve been running everywhere recently, so I walked as leisurely as possible, memorizing the town streets of Floura. The Blacks Family members matched my pace.

When I had gone a way I could see the ocean by, there was a report from the communication bag.

[“Dammit! We’ve been had! Drunk Red Dragon has come visiting!”]

[“I get it, I get it! We’re going to Margaret-san’s mansion, so don’t use magic here!”]

Ayl and Velsa’s near screams could be heard.

A few minutes later. Another report came from the communication bag.

[“President. The Merchant’s Guild sent a carriage to meet me, but I wonder if it’s fine to get on. I’ve never seen such a splendid carriage before.”]

I heard Seth’s trembling voice.

A few minutes later. Another report came from the communication bag.



["President. The Guild Master of the Adventurer's Guild has appeared!"]

I heard Merumo's stressed voice.

I just replied to all of them with, "I see. I wish you good luck."

"You seem quite busy."

Jerry-san said to me as I held the communication bag.

"No, it's always like this."

So saying, I entered the government office.

## CHAPTER 99

Riddle-san was boiling white flowers in a pot for monster warding in the basement of Floura's government office.

The smell is strong, so Riddle-san was wearing a mask. When I approached him, he gestured to tell me to go to a room above.

Borrowing a room on the first floor of the government office, Riddle-san guided me there.

Jerry-san was told to watch the pot on the fire by Riddle-san. Previously he appeared to be the kind of person who wouldn't do such work, but, "He's now become someone who will take the initiative to do menial chores for even things like this," Riddle-san said happily.

"So, is the matter with the Earth Hero been cleaned up?"

While requesting tea from a government office employee that was in the hall, Riddle-san asked.

"Yes; what I can do is over for the time being. In the first place, I'm an exterminator, so there wasn't anything for me to do in the first place."

"You're not a simple exterminator. You saved the areas surrounding the desert, you saved the lake, and you're the trade merchant who made the Alliance's tollroads; I wouldn't be able to find someone like you the world over."

"No, no, I didn't actually make the tollroads."

"That's true. However, you thought of the idea, and even having the Central Government hiring the Earth Hero was thanks to Naoki-dono. I believe you are far from a normal trade merchant."

"I suppose. Well, I just did what I thought would be better. And so, what did you want

to talk about today?”

It doesn't seem like the Earth Hero matter is the main issue.

“It's not something I wanted to talk about, this is for rewarding you the remuneration for the locusthopper extermination. Did you forget?”

That's right. We haven't been paid yet.

“That's true. We exterminated close to 100,000 locusthoppers then, so say that 1 locusthopper is 1 copper coin; calculating with that, it would be 1,000 gold coins.”

Setting out some suitable calculations, I tried raising the price. If the reward's too cheap, I won't know what to tell Ayl and Velsa again.

“Hou, are you alright with that?”

Riddle-san reacted opposite how I expected.

“1,000 gold coins is good enough for you for exterminating the locusthoppers, establishing an extermination method, subjugating large-sized monster beasts, and establishing the construction of a campsite combined? Estimating conservatively, I believe 5,000 gold coins would not be enough.”

“5- 5,000!? But if you do that, it will be more than the damages would have been, right...?”

“If you factor in the future damages that have been averted, I believe it's a suitable amount of money.”

Is that how it is?

“That said, this country does not have the budget for that at the present. We also have to invest some budget into the tollways. And so, knighthood and jewels are a matter of course, and we intend to present things like weapons, magic books, and magic tools.”

“Th,that much!? Hm?”

Huh? I feel like I overlooked something just now...

“Ah, I’m declining the knighthood.”

“Muu, as expected. Could I hear you reasoning for the record?”

“Well, you know, if I took peerage, I’d belong to this country, right?”

“So you don’t have the intention of living out your life being buried in this country?”

“Yeah, I still intend to travel around the world, after all.”

“Right, I understand. We will withdraw the knighthood. I suppose the King wanted to meet Naoki-dono once.”

“Really? Well, there’s no connection between us, so please pardon me from that. As for weapons and magic books and the like, would it be alright if I decided together with my employees?”

“Of course. Are you also meeting with Margaret-san?”

“No, I believe my employees are intruding at Margaret-sama’s mansion around this time.”

“I wouldn’t have believed that the exterminator in blue workclothes that I met in the basement would be so influential to the Ruginia Alliance.”

“I also never had the foresight to imagine this when I first arrived at Floura.”

At that time, my goal was going to a brothel. I never did get to go, huh?

“How long will you be in Floura?”

“If the boat is done being repaired, then we intend to depart once our errands are done.”

“I see. Once you’ve decided when to depart, let me know. We’ll drink.”

“Understood.”

Making a promise to go drinking with Riddle-san before we depart, I left the government office.

Seth and Merumo called as I was on my way back to the inn.

Seth said a large amount of requests had piled up at the Merchant's Guild, and Merumo said that the Adventurer's Guild's Guild Master seems to have said that our employees need to come and take the exam to raise our ranks. It also seems that there are adventurers who want to have a match with me.

For now, I joined the newbies in front of the inn, and then a drunk Ayl called.

Somehow a banquet started, so get over here; is basically what's up.

I can tell it's going to turn into something troublesome, but I also have the letter from Alfred-san, so I dragged the newbies along and went.

The newbies were surprised by the largest mansion in Floura. It might be because the mansion was beautifully lit up with the light of magic stone lights. In a panic, they asked me to use Cleanup on them, so I did.

Opening the gate on my own initiative and entering with an, 'Excuse me~!' a humanified Black Dragon-san appeared with a bottle of wine and three cups, saying, "There's an intruder."

"This way. The banquet is held in the back."

Accepting a cup, I followed behind Black Dragon-san, and there was Red Dragon in dragon form, sleeping behind the mansion.

"What a slovenly guy. Well, he's young, so it can't be helped."

That's what Black Dragon-san said, but hasn't Red Dragon been living for several hundred years?

"Oh my, welcome. Naoki-kun. And these must be the newcomers who have been bullied by their seniors. Welcome, come on over."

So saying, Margaret-san guided us over to the open-air banquet.

Tables and chairs were lined up on the lawn, and a wealth of food was prepared on the

tables.

“I said we weren’t bullying them. It’s teaching, proper teaching. That’s what we’re doing.”

Seems like Ayl’s already drunk. She came up and hugged me while stumbling, and I unintentionally caught her.

“...snore...”

She even fell asleep, just like that. As usual, that damn Ayl smells good. I’m hungry, so I’m just going to toss her on the lawn and leave her.

“Newbies. You can step on her if you want.”

“ “N,no...” “

“It’s fine. She won’t remember it anyway.”

I thought it would be better for their spirits if they could cleanse themselves of their daily resentment, but the newbies moved towards Red Dragon’s side without stepping on her. Well, Ayl wouldn’t die even if she was crushed under Red Dragon, I suppose.

I handed Alfred-san’s letter to Margaret-san.

“This is from Alfred-san.”

“Oh my, you met my younger brother? He has such a horrible look, doesn’t he?”

“No no, he has a nice face, right? Although it’s the kind you couldn’t eat even if you boiled it or grilled it.”

“Fufufufu-! Being unable to eat it even if it’s boiled or grilled, isn’t that fine? I’m also going to start saying that.”

While laughing, Margaret-san received the letter and read it, nodding in assent.

During that time, I looked around at the area around the table. Seth and Merumo were listening to Black Dragon-san’s stories, transporting the food they could see towards their mouths. But Velsa isn’t here.

“Naoki-kun, about the tollroad remuneration for now.”

“Ah, wait a minute, please. Where is Velsa right now?”

“Aah, right now she’s with Granny... ah, here they come.”

Velsa and Granny emerged from the mansion from where Margaret-san pointed her finger, carrying a large amount of books, and came this way.

“Ooh, Naoki. So you came.”

“What’s with those books?”

“See, we’ll have time when we’re on the ship, right? I asked if there weren’t any good books, and there were this many interesting books here.”

Velsa has the eyes of a scholar.

“Eh? Is it alright to take these books?”

I asked Margaret-san.

“Yes, both Granny and I have read them, after all. Take them if you’d like.”

“Thank you very much.”

After that, I discussed the remuneration for the tollroads, together with Velsa mixed in.

As the proposer of the Ruginia Alliance tollroad plan, it was suggested that we’d receive 3% of the earnings.

“Regarding earnings, would the fines be included?”

“The fines wouldn’t be included.”

“If that’s the case, how about 10% of the full sum of the fines?”

“Fufufu, didn’t Alfred think that plan up?”

Margaret-san smiled as she held the letter. It seems that the plan I had talked about was written in the letter.

“My apologies. I’m joking. Even if we’re discussing the earnings, that’s something for once the tollroads exist. At that time, we don’t know where we’ll be.”

“Yes, and so we intend to pay through the Merchant’s Guild.”

Certainly, the Merchant’s Guild acts as a bank, so I can receive a payment made from a Merchant’s Guild in a different place.

“No, well it’s also possible for us to do, so I was thinking it would be better to receive it now. What do you think, Velsa?”

If I’m targeted by a Spirit, it’s possible that I’ll die soon. It would be dangerous to carry money on hand when journeying by boat, but I have the item bag, so I feel like there won’t be a problem.

“You only proposed the plan, right? Well, you also did the negotiations. There’s also the trouble of Red Dragon and Black Dragon-san’s meal payments, as well as the price of the books. Haven’t we already received the remunerations?”

Ah, that’s right. The dragons are big eaters, and the books are pretty expensive.

“Then, that’s how it is.”

“Is that fine?”

Margaret-san asked, surprised.

“Yeah, our treasurer said so, so it’s fine.”

Velsa just called herself our treasurer.

“How was it with Riddle-san?”

Velsa asked me.

“He said it was going to be jewels, weapons, and magic tools. I refused knighthood.”



“What!?”

Velsa said with sudden irritation.

“Well, I don’t intend to join this country, so there’s no need for a title, right?”

“Isn’t it fine to just sell the peerage!?”

Really, titles are things you can sell!? Eh, are they something that’s fine to sell?

“Normally they’re not something you can sell, I believe.”

Margaret-san overheard us and said.

“Yeah, I thought so.”

“Then it’s just that my dad’s the weird one?”

It seems that Velsa’s father sold his title.

“Wait a second, then there’s no money, right?”

Velsa said, as if she just realized it.

“No, there’s the remuneration from Margaret-san, right...”

“That’s going to run out with the boat’s repair fee, right? Furthermore, we have to get furniture together.”

“Really!?”

Without money, we can’t buy things for the journey, or food, or daily necessities.

“Is there a jeweler in Floura?”

“There isn’t. I believe there should be some if you go to the Capital.”

Margaret-san responded.

“Wait a second. Seth! You said there was a lot of work accumulated at the Merchant’s

Guild, didn't you?"

Seth, who was listening to Black Dragon's stories, called over.

"Yes, there were 45 cases of cleaning and extermination."

"Can there be so many...?"

"I advertised a lot in the city, after all."

Granny said, placing the books down and tapping her back.

"Then I'll try to scrape up the money from jobs tomorrow. If it's not enough, I'll run to the Capital."

"Roger."

"President!"

Merumo, who was listening to Black Dragon-san's stories together with Seth, called me.

"What?"

"What about the Adventurer's Guild?"

"Just leave something like that alone!"

"Is that fine?"

"If they're too persistent, just leave it to Ayl."

"Understood~"

When the discussions had ended, the banquet began, and the sleeping Red Dragon and Ayl also woke up and we drank the night away.

The next morning, I woke up on Floura's beach with a cat monster stepping on me.

I don't have any memories of last night.

"Why am I here?"

# CHAPTER 100

Having woken up on the beach, for now I returned to the inn while cradling the cat monster.

When I reached the inn, just when I thought the cat monster was climbing onto my shoulders, it leapt onto the inn roof and disappeared somewhere.

I opened the door and looked into the dining hall, my employees were gathered eating breakfast.

“Our president has returned.”

Holding her head, Velsa lifted her cup to her mouth.

“Naoki, do you remember when you made a declaration before in this inn’s room?”

Ayl asked.

“Aah, I remember, but I’ve forgotten it now.”

“You said you wouldn’t drink alcohol.”

“As expected, the words of my Vice President who drunk herself unconscious together with Red Dragon holds some weight.”

“Wh-...!”

Seth and Merumo turned their faces downwards, stifling laughs.

“Seth, did I go dancing around the town again?”

“You don’t remember?”

“I remember up until the toast.”

“President, after you got drunk and left Margaret-san’s mansion, you went through

town casting Cleanup. And then... you also drunkenly threw up..."

"Aah, you don't have to tell me any more. Anyway, I didn't do anything that will become a crime, right?"

"You're fine on that."

"My bad. Seems like you've been taking care of me."

I patted Seth on the shoulder and sat in the seat next to him.

"No, it's fine. It was Margaret-san's instructions."

Looks like I owe her again.

"I see. And so, I think I said it yesterday, but right now our company is out of funds. And so, let's go get the requests from the Merchant's Guild."

"About that, we already did that."

Velsa said as she drained her cup of her drink.

"As expected, our employees are excellent. Then let's divide them up and assign duties. Um, how many were there again?"

"We've already done that, too. Here's the ones for Naoki, who's the only one who can use Cleanup."

So saying, Velsa handed me 18 request documents.

"Huh? Aren't I the only one with so many?"

It's okay. If it's Naoki, you can handle it. Take out all the poison rat dumplings and sticky boards you have for exterminating masmaskarl."

Velsa said.

I took the poison rat dumplings and sticky board traps out of the item bag and lined them up on the table.

During that time, Merumo returned the tableware to the kitchen. I haven't eaten yet, but I'm already not loading food on my plate; I'm hungover, so I have not appetite.

"Hm~ there's not enough with this, na."

Ayl said, crossing her arms.

True, we have 45 requests; I can make as many sticky board traps as needed as long as we have boards, but we don't have enough poison rat dumplings.

I also ran out of the poison I got from Camilla.

"I wonder if pharmacists sell poison?"

"Floura's pharmacies don't have anything other than recovery medicine and antidotes. I went many times during the time when I was training the newbies, but there wasn't any. And Elf's Pharmacy isn't here, so there's probably no poison. Camilla is a superior pharmacist in Kubenia."

Ayl responded. I only know about the first town I lived in in this world.

"Then there really is no option but to make it, huh?"

Can I find the ingredients in the forest?

"What do we need? I might have it collected together. Ayl, bring that out."

Velsa petitioned Ayl. Ayl took a large-sized bag out of the item bag.

It seems that there are bottles inside the bag, and a clattering sounded.

"What is this?"

"Research materials. Vegetation I've gathered in the forest and the bodily fluids of monsters in the desert and the like. This is the nerve poison from the sandscorpion's tail, this is a sleep-inducing mushroom, the mana-drain plant, mushrooms with a gigantifying effect I picked from Marcus-san's place, and even the bodily fluids of zombies I collected from the dragons' island."

Velsa began lining up bottles containing vegetation and liquids on the table.

“Ah! Come to think of it, didn’t we collect fluids from the yellowfrog on the dragons’ island?”

I checked with Ayl.

“We did, we did! We collected it after defeating the dragon zombie.”

Ayl said.

Fishing through the item bag, she took out a bottle with yellow fluid in it.

Yellowfrogs are monsters with a poison that causes instant death.

The table’s covered in poisons.

When I looked at the kitchen, the inn’s chef was looking over and gave a cough.

Apologizing with a, “Sorry,” I cleared off the table and went around to the rear of the inn.

Spreading a cloth in front of the well, everyone wore masks and gloves, making poison rat dumplings.

The yellowfrog’s poison is powerful, so we diluted it a little with water.

We also tried using the sleep-inducing mushroom and the sandscorpion’s poison.

We’ve collected a lot of blood from monsters during dismantling, and I still have some stock of flour.

“Naoki, do we have recovery potions?”

Velsa asked.

“Aah, we do.”

We should still have some stock of the ointment-type recovery potion.

“Taking the opportunity to sell it?”

“Yeah, everyone take some with you as well. I want both the liquid type and the ointment type.”

“I see, then shall I make some more?”

We used quite a few of the liquid-type recovery potions in Gnomefield.

“Are all of the medicinal herbs used up?”

When I searched my own item bag,

“If normal medicinal herbs are fine, then we have quite a stock. I got them while training Seth and Merumo.”

Ayl brought a large amount of medicinal herbs from the item bag.

The medicinal herbs have kept their freshly picked condition.

I’ll make recovery potions during the time the poison rat dumplings dried.

Throwing away the gloves full of poison, I wash off every drop of poison from my hands with soup and water and use Cleanup.

Preparing a new cloth, I lined the medicinal herbs up on that. Drawing the IH magic circle on the ground, I set a pot on it and make recovery potions one after another.

I’m not troubled for empty bottles, since I drank a lot of alcohol.

“You’re putting highly concentrated recovery potions in this kind of empty bottles again. Is that okay?”

I heard Merumo’s statement from somewhere.

“Isn’t it fine? There’s nothing in it, and I’ll use Cleanup to make them clean.”

I responded.

“Oh yeah. Doing that is absurd, isn’t it?”

Velsa checked with Ayl.



“It’s the usual business so I’d forgotten, but I was also put off at the beginning, na.”

While nodding, Ayl told the newbies, “I don’t know if it’s good or bad, but you’ll get used to it.”

Finishing the recovery potions and poison rat dumplings, I quickly made sticky board traps, gave them to my coverall-wearing employees, and sent them out from the spot. Velsa didn’t forget to give us lunch money.

I also made my preparations, received a silver coin from Velsa, and set off.

The difference between me and my employees is whether or not we have a pump. Within is the dark green monster repellent. If you ask the governmental office they’ll probably lend out pumps and monster repellent, but traps and poison rat dumplings won’t hinder others’ business.

Placing poison rat dumplings and sticky board traps in houses and stores and heading towards the next places one by one, I’ll retrieve the traps and corpses after leaving them for some time. It should be alright to retrieve the traps set in the morning in the afternoon. My obligations will be complete if I do a little cleaning up afterwards.

I’ll sell the recovery potions to customers for 1 gold coin.

“Ello. I’ve come from the Merchant’s Guild. It’s Komuro Company.”

In a restaurant before lunch, a smooth-headed, scary-faced shopkeeper was sweeping the floor with a broom.

Looking at me, the shopkeeper gave me a look like, what is he talking about?

“Um, you requested an extermination company to exterminate masmaskarl, right?”

I checked with him.

“Aah! That’s right. Welcome, welcome. I already thought you wouldn’t be coming.”

The shopkeeper grinned.

“Sorry. I went all the way to HillLake for work. I’ve made you wait.”

“HillLike, huh? That’s quite a faraway job. As expected of the Hero of the Desert.”

Oh yeah, they were calling me the Hero of Desert weren’t they?

“Is it alright to begin working?”

“Aah, of course.”

I placed poison rat dumplings and sticky board traps in the corners of the kitchen, in the eaves, and underneath the floor. If it was dirty, I used Cleanup first. It seems like underneath the floor was never cleaned so it was unbelievably filthy, but a single use of Cleanup made it sparkly clean.

“Is it done with this?”

“Yes, I’ll come around evening time to retrieve the masmascarl corpses and boards.”

“Oh, I see. Do you want to eat lunch?”

“No, I’m a little hungover. I’ll take it later!”

When I said so while rubbing my stomach, the scary-faced shopkeeper laughed and plucked a leaf from the potted plant in the window and handed it to me.

“Here, chewing on this will make things a little easier.”

When I tried chewing on the leaf, my nose cleared and I felt better.

“Thank you very much.”

“Think nothing of it. Then, see you later.”

“See you later.”

The restaurants were all like this, and I dealt with scary-faced shopkeepers or beautiful poster girls.

Weapon stores and armor stores were mostly about cleaning, so I used Cleanup over and over, continuing to complete my jobs.

While cleaning the tool store, I sold recovery potions as well.

There's also a pharmacy, but the goods assembled were poor and they didn't buy any recovery potions. Looks like they'll make recovery potions themselves. I tried showing it to them at least, and their eyes went wide and they went quiet.

Continuing on, it's the governmental office. Previously, before the locusthopper extermination, I had come intending to clean and exterminate in order to show my abilities, but I had been caught by Riddle-san along the way.

I informed the reception desk that I came to clean and exterminate today as well and the employees began to panic and told me to go around the basement. It seems like Riddle-san isn't here today.

When I take a look with the Search Skill, there were masmascarl within the walls. I inserted the pump's nozzle and sprayed. I put sticky board traps at the cracks where they came out, and it was a huge haul.

Returning to the first floor, while the employees have a break, I continued to clean. I tidied up love letters and poem anthologies and other such black histories of the employees, and cast Cleanup.

The office that was the Investigation Office had pictures of monsters and pictures of the lives of the townspeople and the like, as well as what looks like erotic pictures no matter how you look at it. It can't be helped since the chief and the subordinates are all men, huh? Let's not talk about how I asked the chief about his recommended brothels.

Next, the office called the Gardening Office has nothing but women. And there was food hidden all over the office. There were bags of cookies left with the bags of seeds, and for some reason meat on the bone had fallen behind the bookshelf, making you think the question, "Can you eat this!?" It was a hotbed of masmascarl and bugroaches, and telling them to stop immediately, I installed traps. When I left the room, the plump woman who is the manage looked like she was going to cry, and when I returned the meat on the bone, she cried, saying, "Thank you."

On the second floor, there was a commotion in each room. It's a pain, so I stuffed bottles with smoke-type sleeping agents and tossed them in. I used boards as a cover for the stairway. Once it became calm, I took off the boards. Putting on a mask I

clambered up and opened all the rooms' windows.

I carried the sleeping employees down to the first floor and went around to each room, casting Cleanup.

There were sleeping masmascarl, so I killed them with a knife and stuffed them in bags.

Bundling documents and the like together, I pile them and leave them on top of desks. I left the document with statements of love on the very top so you could see it. I assume the employees will sort through them later.

With the work done for now, I went to the first floor, let the employees smell the revival potion, and woke them.

While listening to the agonized cries, I received the stamp of confirmation on the request documents from the reception desk and headed for the next request.

Next is the Adventurer's Guild.

There weren't any adventurers who wanted to be entangled with me once they saw me in my coveralls. When an adventurer who totally looked like he'd just come from the countryside accosted me, he was stopped.

When I told the receptionist that I'd come from the Merchant's Guild on a request to exterminate and clean, Guild Master Langley came out in a hurry.

"Ffor now, come to the training grounds and stop her."

He said, and when I went to the training grounds, there were adventurers collapsed there.

In the dead center of the collapsed adventurers stood Ayl, holding a wooden sword.

"Oh, Naoki."

"Don't give me 'Oh'! Ayl, what about your jobs?"

"No, well, it's already lunchtime, right?"

The sun is at its height in the sky.

Now that she's mentioned it, the discomfort from the hangover has been completely cured and my stomach's hungry.

"I see. Do you have any food on you?"

I asked.

"No, I don't."

"Should we eat together in the Guild's dining hall?"

"Sure."

Ayl returned her wooden sword to the barrel and came walking over.

"And so, what's up with those adventurers?"

"They were all sorts of persistent in trying to find quarrels, so I defeated all of them."

"H~m. Ah, Langley-san. Is it okay if I clean after we eat?"

Langley nodded and looked at the collapsed adventurers.

"Ah, we have recovery potions, and they're 1 gold coin each."

Telling that to Langley, I headed to the dining hall.

"If you were going to sell the recovery potions, then I should have broken more bones."

Ayl said while eating a hamburg steak in the dining hall.

"Any priests or other healers within the Guild should head immediately to the training grounds as quickly as they can!"

A Guild staff member yelled.

“Ayl, didn’t you go too far?”

When I asked,

“It’s fine. I didn’t do anything that would cause death.”

She said.

After our meal, Langley came over.

“I won’t tell you to raise your rank anymore, so tell me if you get entangled with them, and the Adventurer’s Guild will deal with it.”

He said.

Ayl and I responded with a nod and a, “Understood,” and I returned to cleaning work, while Ayl headed to the next place.

I finished cleaning the training grounds, the dining hall, the main hall, and the reception desk and received the stamp on the request document. When I randomly looked at the request board, a large parchment with [All adventurers who accost the blue jumpsuit labourers of the ‘Hero of the Desert’ will be withdrawn! Furthermore, the Adventurer’s Guild cannot guarantee your lives!] written on it was posted up.

“It’s been tough, hasn’t it?”

I said to the employee posting it.

“Haha...”

He gave a wry laugh.

# CHAPTER 101

The next place is Margaret-san's mansion.

"I came for the job."

When I said so, for some reason I was served tea and seated on the terrace.

In the garden, the humanified Red Dragon and Black Dragon-san are tending the plants. It seems like they're returning it to the state before they had slept, so you could also say they're making their beds.

"My apologies for last night. I'd gotten drunk."

"It's alright. It was a fun banquet, after all."

Margaret-san said as she smiled and drank her tea.

"Is it fine to do the extermination and cleaning?"

"Aah, later on I'll entrust the kitchen to you. Furthermore..."

Margaret-san fidgeted.

What is it? Did I forget something? I didn't make promises or anything while I was drunk, right?

"Ah-! That's right!"

I took a communication bag out from my item bag and handed it to Margaret-san.

"This is it, it is. It really is a complicated magic circle, isn't it! Granny, Granny!"

While looking at the magic circle, Margaret-san called her maid, Granny.

"Yes, yes; oh my! Is this the aforementioned communication bag?"

“This is it. This, how far is it able to handle?”

“I think it’s all fine. It’s a space magic circle, so it’s able to connect all the way to the Kingdom of Arisfey.”

Margaret-san and Granny both looked at the communication bag, going, “Amazing, amazing.”

Margaret-san’s communication bag has the restriction that it can’t connect to God. The church would have a huge objection to being able to connect to God, I bet.

“Red Dragon.”

When Margaret-san used the communication bag with a small voice, Red Dragon, who was cutting a tree branch, turned and faced her with,

“What is it?”

“Can you hear me?”

“Umu. Your voice is coming from the communication bag.”

Margaret-san and Granny were excitedly making a fuss with, “Kyaa, kyaa!”

“With this I can always ask about Naoki-kun’s ideas, correct?”

“Eh? Well, that’s true, but I’ll have work on my end, so please don’t do so too frequently.”

“I know. And so, is there anything you can think of right now?”

“Additions to making the tollroads, right?”

“Even if it’s not limited to the tollroads, if it’s something the Ruginia Alliance can do, anything is fine.”

“If that’s the case, I don’t know where it could go, but how about a racetrack? Make the feehorses race so you can bet money.”

“For betting?”



Margaret-san asked.

“That’s right. Determine the odds by popularity, and predict which one will be first.”

“Nn-! Granny! Paper and pen!”

“Yes yes!”

As if she had already made preparations, Granny quickly came bringing paper, pen, and inkwell.

Rustling the papers, Margaret-san wrote “Plans regarding racetracks.”

I explained things like how the race track should be, the location of the spectators seats, and drafts of the races. I don’t know much about them personally from my previous world, so it’s information from games and TV.

“If you gather the fast and powerful feehorses, wouldn’t the tollroads’ development be easier?”

“I think it would be good to do it particularly in places that are difficult to establish industry, like the wasteland.”

She said as her pen scratched away. She’s a dexterous person. It seems like I’d just mess up the paper if it was me.

“Aah, I’ll have to tell Alfred about this.”

“Ah, if that’s the case, there’s a girl named Cynthia in HillLake’s Gnomefield, so try contacting her with the communication bag. He might be near there.”

When I said so, Margaret-san contacted Cynthia and introduced herself.

Cynthia interacted with her while being surprised.

It appears that Alfred-san still hasn’t returned from the capital, so there’s only the young spokesman.

“But this is overwhelmingly faster than a letter.”

Margaret-san said when she finished the correspondence.

“If you use it for too long you could develop mana deficiency, so I’ll hand this over as well.”

I took the magic recovery syrup out of the item bag and handed it to Margaret-san.

“It might be better to mix it in with tea when you use it.”

Granny said. Granny looked at the bottle as if she was seeing something rare.

“Then I’ll go and clean the kitchen, okay?”

“Thank you. Isn’t it about time to take a break?”

Margaret-san called the dragons for tea and I headed to the kitchen.

Tea for the dragons was already prepared, and Granny came to get it.

The kitchen in the Margaret House was kept meticulously clean so there was practically nothing to be done, but the stone oven and stove were dirty so I used Cleanup. The stove won’t light without kindling, so it seems very troublesome.

I drew a heating magic circle on a board and explained how to use it to Granny, who had returned to the kitchen.

“My word, oh my!”

She was surprised.

When I said,

“It seemed like it would be an ordeal to light the fire, so.”

Granny said,

“It’s not that bad.”

A fireball floated above Granny's index finger. That's right. You just need a single use of magic to light a fire.

"My apologies. I was being too meddlesome."

"No, thank you. With this it seems like I won't be inhaling much smoke so it helps."

Previously Granny had caught a cold that bothered her respiration. She might be weak towards it.

"Should I make a diagnosis while I'm here?"

"Diagnosis?"

"Yes, I recently acquired the Diagnosis Skill."

"Could I trouble you to try it out?"

"Aah, you don't have to remove your clothes."

I touched Granny's hand and tried using the Diagnosis Skill.

Her organs are completely visible. She's practically like a human model.

When I looked at Granny's lungs, it seems to be working without anything out of the ordinary. I don't have any medical knowledge, so I don't really understand what I'm seeing. However, I somehow knew her knees were bad. Is that the effect of the Diagnosis Skill?

For now I handed over a recovery potion in case she caught another cold and told her to do knee exercises while she's seated.

On the way back, Red Dragon and Black Dragon-san came and said,

"We will be returning to the island around evening."

"I see. You were a great help this time."

“Please tell everyone to be well.”

“If anything happens, call us.”

I already said goodbye to Red Dragon and Black Dragon-san once at Gnomefield, so there wasn't anything in particular to say. I handed over recovery potions and magic recovery syrup for a souvenir.

With Margaret-san waving, I left her mansion.

The next location is the long-awaited brothels.

I left the brothel cleaning jobs for last so I could overtime as long as I wanted.

Furthermore, there were many work cases.

I went happily, but reality was cruelly different.

Every place in the brothel was dirty and it won't be solved only with Cleanup.

Borrowing a barrel, I set it up with wind and water magic to be a washing machine and washed sheets forever. Drying the sheets on the roof, once again I headed to the next room. I can hear the sounds of male-female activities in the room next door.

I wanted to try using Diagnosis Skill by uselessly shaking hands in the prostitutes' waiting room, but I can't see anything but what's under the skin, so there wasn't any eroticism at all. Furthermore, thanks to listening to the backstage conversations between the prostitutes, I can't see them as anything but businesswomen. I respect each and every prostitute who puts in extraordinary effort to draw in customers.

Also, no matter which brothel it was, they all paid very well.

“Next time come as our customer, okay?”

So saying, they tempted me as they paid the commission.

Recovery potions were pretty much sold out.

Finishing the last brothel job, I left the red light district muttering, "Let's go work."

I was surprised that I would leave the red light district muttering such unthinkable words.

Before returning to the inn, I headed to the shipyard.

Our boat had been repaired and looked great; they said we could depart as soon as tomorrow.

Guided by a dockworker, I looked inside the ship and there was the captain's quarters, as well as the kitchen, crew rooms, and storeroom and the like as well.

I don't know much about the rest of it, so let's ask Seth.

When I disembarked from the ship, Velsa and Seth were there.

"You came to look?"

"Yeah."

"At long last, isn't it?"

Seems like Seth, who can finally be the captain and move the ship, is excited.

It was time for the sun to sink beneath the horizon when we left the shipyard.

Returning to the inn, I ate dinner with all the employees. The jobs ended without any big troubles, and we even earned enough funds.

Departure was decided to be the day after tomorrow; tomorrow will be slotted for shopping.

I told each of them to make a shopping list tonight so we won't forget anything and returned to the room.

As I climbed into bed, the sound of the waves that I could still hear were frightfully loud.

## CHAPTER 102

The next morning, I discussed the reward Riddle-san was going to give us and things regarding heroes together with my employees while we ate breakfast in the inn's dining hall.

"Magic tools are made by Naoki, so we probably don't need any."

Ayl said, and everyone agreed with her.

"Then it's magic books, right?"

The reward Riddle-san is going to give us became gems and magic books. Let's head to the government office during the morning.

"Did Margaret-san say anything about heroes during the time when we were banqueting with the dragons?"

I don't remember anything, so I asked the newbies.

"No, there wasn't anything."

"If that's the case, then I'll have to go ask, huh?"

Although I had it from Alfred-san to head east from the port, I want a little more detail. I'll trust Alfred-san's words of, "My sister should probably know," and try asking her. I've had the chance to ask Margaret-san since we arrived at Floura, but I missed my chance.

"Well, it's all good if I do it before we set sail."

Ayl and Merumo are to go and buy food, and Velsa and Seth are to go by the daily necessities and things necessary for sailing. As for me, I'm going to receive the reward and go around making courtesy calls. It's probably better for me to inform the Merchant's Guild that we'll be sailing off.

“You’re leaving tomorrow!?”

I’m meeting with Riddle-san at the government office, having tea.

With his usual loud voice, Riddle-san was surprised that I was departing tomorrow.

“In that case, clear out your evening today. I’ll reserve a restaurant for us. We’ll throw a grand farewell party.”

“No, my situation has become one where I don’t remember anything from when I drink, so although I’m grateful for the farewell, if you throw anything to grand, it’s a little... like discipline will break down among my employees, or something...”

When I rambled on like that, while scratching the back of my head,

“I understand, I understand. Be at ease. I’ll reserve a good place, so it will be fine. And so, have you decided on the reward?”

“Yes, gemstones and magic books, please.”

“Umu, noted. I’ll make the preparations before the evening. I see, so you’re journeying off tomorrow?”

Riddle-san sad solemnly.

It feels like the conversation will go for a long time if we begin talking like this, so I said, “Well then, I’m going around giving courtesy calls, so later,” and left the government office.”

“Is that so? Tomorrow.”

At Margaret-san’s mansion, while drinking tea and sitting on the terrace, I notified Margaret-san of our departure.

“I was just thinking that Red Dragon and Black Dragon have gone, and now Naoki-kun and the others are also leaving on a journey.”

Margaret-san said sadly.



It seems like the dragons have returned to Dragon Island.

“Um, Margaret-san, do you know anything about the heroes?”

“Heroes? Yes, I sure that I heard there was one in the eastern country. Granny, where did that adventurer’s book get to?”

“Now then, I wonder where it’s gotten off to? I will go look for a bit.”

Granny, who was next to Margaret-san, went to look.

“Naoki-kun, are you all heading off to the east?”

“Yes, that’s our intention...”

Is there something bad out east?

“I see. If that’s so, you’ll need that as well, ne. What about the farewell party?”

Margaret-san asked while thinking of something.

“It looks like that Riddle-san is preparing it.”

“Wait a bit, okay?”

So saying, Margaret-san stood up and went off somewhere.

When I waited for a while, I heard the many sounds of footsteps, and both Granny and Margaret-san haven’t returned.

“Excuse me~...!”

When I tried calling with a loud voice,

“We’ll find it by the farewell party!”

Margaret-san responded, unseen.

“Then, I’ll see you later!”

“Ye-s! See you later!”

I left Margaret-san’s mansion.

For my last courtesy call, I headed to the Merchant’s Guild. I’d gone to the Adventurer’s Guild yesterday, so it’s probably fine.

The Merchant’s Guild was packed with people. There were also people who seemed like merchants, but there were people completely decked out like adventurers, scholarly elder, and the like; there were people of all sorts of different races and occupations gathered.

Did something happen?

“Did something happen?”

When I tried asking the nearest youth who looked the most like a merchant, he gave me a look like I was being a bother and,

“Aah, I don’t really know much about it, but some sort of extermination company is leaving Floura, it seems. “

He said.

Extermination company? It’s about us? Then why are people gathering?

“So, is there something about that?”

“Something, of course there is; everyone here are guys gathering to hunt for a job with that company.”

“Why?”

I asked, unconsciously furrowing my brows.

“Why? Isn’t it obvious it’s because you can earn a ton!? I heard that the reward from the Blacks House is enormous. Furthermore, there’s rumors that they even know THAT Floura-sama. Their backing is amazing! There isn’t a merchant who wouldn’t

want to be involved with a company that has money! And see, would you believe it; if you look closely, ain't that a new employee recruitment notice posted on the board!?"

Crap! So I forgot to take down the poster.

"What's wrong, bro? Want something to drink? Although it's not for free."

When I suddenly clutched my head, the merchant-like youth kindly tried to sell me some fruit wine.

"No, sorry, but not now."

I refused and somehow pushed my way up to the the reception desk.

Was it thanks to the numerous amounts of people? No one realized who I was.

In the first place, the merchants probably don't know me by face.

"Excuse me."

I said to the Guild employee at the reception.

"Ah, Komuro Company's Preseident! Ah...!"

The employee tried to point at me, so I grabbed her finger and bent it away.

"Speak softer!"

"Ow, it hurts."

When I released her finger, the employee held it.

"It's serious, President-san! The Guild is filled to the brim with people who want an interview."

She said.

"I can tell by looking. For now, please take down the new employee recruitment poster."

"Even if we take it down, the people here right now probably won't leave."

Certainly, it's my fault for forgetting to take down the poster.

But hiring new people at this point because of it is...

I wonder if we need deckhands.

"What just a second, okay?"

Taking out the communication bag, I contacted Seth in a whisper.

"Seth. Do you want a crew for the ship?"

["President, hang on, we're carrying luggage onto the ship right now, so can we do this later?"]

It looks like Seth has already bought things and is carrying them onto the ship.

"Luggage? For that, you just put them in Ayl's item bag and it's fine, right?"

["Ah, that's right!... Please wait a bit. Ayl-sa-n!... President said to put the luggage in that bag... yes, that's right..."]

"Is it all in?"

["Right now we're going into a back alley to put them in... I wish you'd mentioned this earlier, Ayl-san..."]

"So anyway, do you want a crew to move the ship?"

["Eh? What's wrong, President? Did you take in a sailor?"]

He says it like picking up a cat or something.

"No, that's not it, I forgot to take down the poster for new employee recruitment, and there's an amazing amount of people gathered at the Merchant's Guild."]

["Aah... no, we have 5 people, so we don't really have a need for it. Would you like me to ask Ayl-san?"]

"Yeah, please."

For a while, I hear Seth's voice explaining things to Ayl.

["I kind of don't really get it, but Ayl-san sounds fed up, and said to hire people if we have a need to. Ah, and also to ask Velsa."]

"Okay, so Seth doesn't have any particular need for them, right?"

["Yes."]

Ending the call with Seth, when I asked Velsa, she said, "If there's anyone interesting, try hiring them?"

["Aside from that, we're carrying heavy luggage onto the ship over here!"]

When Velsa complained, I replied, "It will be fine if you call Ayl over and put them in the item bag, right?"

Just who are our employees taking after, every once in awhile forgetting important things. Good grief, I'd like to see their superior's face.

"I'll do the interviews, so can you lend me a room?"

I asked the Guild employee.

"A room? Nn, got it."

The result of that was totally a luggage storage room. Furthermore it was all pretty much unused, so the luggage was covered in dust.

Using Cleanup to make it clean, I quickly made an interview room.

Returning to the entrance hall, I notified the gathered people that I was doing interviews.

"Hello-! I'm Komuro Company's President, Naoki Komuro! I'm doing interviews now, so please line up~!"

At my words, the noisy merchants quieted, and scrambling to be first, they began to make a line.

After that I called them one by one into the room and asked about their special abilities

and skills.

Calling them in one by one is the least amount of courtesy I can give to the gathered people.

I informed them that they didn't have to tell me if they didn't want to talk about their Skills, but everyone responded with their Arithmetic Skill Level.

Most of them had Level 2 or 3. There were some people with Level 5, but they were few and far between.

When I asked about their special abilities, the response was mostly negotiations and sales.

To test them, I said, "Show me how you'd sell this pen," and handed them a quill pen that was among the dust-covered luggage. The topic itself is a common question that's asking whether you can make and sell to common needs. All of the interviewees told me "This quill pen is wonderful," and the like while making large gestures. Like the angle of the feather and the assembly looks wonderful and the like.

In the end I interviewed over 50 people, and the only two I paused over were the dancing mother-daughter pair and the youth who was saying he wanted to quite being a blacksmith's apprentice. The dancing mother-daughter pair were both beautiful and showed me a belly-dance-like dance. Unfortunately the daughter has a boyfriend so they said they can't go on a journey, so they refused.

As for the blacksmith guy, he seems to have come while running an errand for the forge, and complained about the lessons being painful. It turns out he wants to quite, but he doesn't really want to quit. "Keep at it!" were the only words I returned back to him.

When I finished interviewing everyone, it was already past noon.

When I went to tell the Guild employee that I finished the interviews,

"Was there no eligible person?"

She asked.

"Yeah, there wasn't. I wonder if the question I tested them with was too difficult?"

“What did you ask them?”

“All I said was to try selling me this pen.”

The employee said, “Pen?” and showed me her own pen that she used for work.

“Yeah. If it’s you, how would you sell it?”

“Eh? That’s... ah, I know. The new employee poster was taken down over here. Could I have you sign it?”

The employee said and pointed at a blank spot on the poster.

“That’s the correct answer, right...”

As always, someone who would know will understand immediately.

As a matter of course, I told the employee, “I’d like you to sell me that pen,” and took out the 1 silver coin for my lunch money, placing it on the counter. The employee handed over the pen, and I signed the poster.

After I finished signing, I asked, “How much is this pen?”

“Eh? 1 silver coin is...”

“I don’t need such an expensive pen.”

Saying so, I returned the pen and retrieved the silver coin.

“Then, we will be setting off tomorrow; thank you for your care.”

I left the Merchant’s Guild.

Buying lunch at a street stall, I ate while I walked.

When I went towards the port, our ship had already left the shipyard and was moored at the dock.

When I went up the gangway, Seth was on board looking at the ship's wheel.

"Seth, where is everyone?"

"Ah, President! They're inside, deciding on their rooms. Although I'm the captain, it seems everyone's going to use the captain's quarters."

"I see."

"You didn't take in any new employees, ne."

"Yeah, I rejected them."

Looking at it again, the ship doesn't have just 1 but 3 masts; it's quite big.

I don't know what all you have to do to move it, but is it going to be okay with just 5 people?

"It's just unfurling the sails. Also, the people in our company have crazy strength."

Seth said those types of things.

I'm uneasy.

"It's fine! Since we can move ahead with President drawing magic circles."

"I see. That's right... is it?"

I came to an understanding for a moment, but in the end I'm uneasy.

I'll try asking Riddle-san tonight.



# CHAPTER 103

After helping put the furniture that Velsa and the others bought in the captain's quarters, it soon became evening.

When I took my employees along to the government office, we just happened to meet Riddle-san bringing along his escorts

"My apologies. I didn't give you a place to meet up at."

"Oh no, I also didn't ask about it. But meeting up like this is also fine, right?"

"That's true. Oi."

Riddle-san called out to one of his escorts.

"It's the gemstones and magic books. And also, it would be good for you to have our emblem as well. Whaat, it's nothing that will hinder you; it might come to be unexpectedly useful some time."

Riddle-san showed me a somewhat large cloth with a black eagle pattern drawn on it. It looks like it could be a flag.

Ayl received the gemstones and magic books, putting them in the item bag.

"Then, I will receive it."

I personally received the emblem from Riddle-san and put it in my item bag.

During negotiations or if we're attacked by pirates, showing the emblem might give us a discount or make them pull back.

"It's a farewell party, but Margaret-san and Langley are also coming."

Langley is the Adventurer's Guild's Guild Master.

"Is that so?"

“The assembly spot is this way.”

So saying, Riddle-san took the lead and started walking.

Behind Riddle-san is me, and behind me are my employees, and behind them are the escorts coming along.

Climbing Floura’s hill, we came to the artisan’s street, a place with furniture shops, forges, shoe shops, and stonework shops and the like are lined up.

Riddle-san went into one of the forges as if he knew the owner, had a conversation with the shopkeeper, and went further in. When I was at a loss as for what to do, Riddle-san called, “This way.” It seems the escorts will be watching out in front of the shop.

He told us, “This way,” but I’m confused over whether we were going to a farewell party or not; even so, I headed in the direction of Riddle-san’s voice.

There were stairs that lead to the basement, and when we went down it, there was a small bar.

There was a counter, and the wall on the bartender’s side had bottles of liquor lined up. The dim light of the magic stone lamps gives a mature air to it. There’s also a very pleasant smell. It’s probably incense; a pot the size of a palm has smoke coming from it.

“Just what is...”

“It’s a place of restoration for artisans. The bars outside are noisy and you can’t talk about work, right? Here, you can drink quietly.”

Riddle-san explained.

“Is this something like a secret club?”

“Umu. It’s something like the Artisan’s Guild’s hidden room.”

“And we can come to a place like this?”

Honestly speaking, the furnishings look expensive, and I can’t deny feeling out of place.

“Since Naoki-dono and company are all something like extermination artisans. Now come, a private room has been prepared.

Riddle-san opened a door further into the bar. The room isn't big, but it's big enough for about 10 people to drink in.

“Ah, so you've come. Everyone come in, and go ahead and sit. You were quite early, ne.”

Margaret-san, who had come earlier, said.

Overwhelmed by the atmosphere, my employees and I look around all over.

The walls are made of stone, in a way where the seams are inconspicuous. The technique of an artisan.

I can hear the faint sound of water flowing. When I look with the Search Skill, I realized that a river is flowing beyond the wall.

“There's a river flowing beyond the wall. An underground river. Almost all of Floura's wells get water from this river.”

Riddle-san told me, who was surprised.

When everyone took their seats, bottles of fruit wine were brought in. When I saw the wait-staff coming in, it was the blacksmith youth that came in for an interview at lunch. In the forge at noon and working here at night is pretty tough. It feels like it would be awkward, so let's pretend I didn't notice.

“ “ “ Cheers!” “ “ “

We started before the Adventurer's Guild's Langley had come.

Ayl and I said we were holding back from alcohol and had them prepare cups of tea. When I drew ice magic circles on the bottoms of the cups and made iced tea, everyone said they wanted me to draw it on their cups. I only drew it on with magic power, so the effect will disappear after 2 or 3 hours, probably.

“Delicious! It really is more delicious when chilled!”

Margaret-san was tapping her cheek in delight.

And from then, dishes were brought out one after another. Any and all of them look delicious.

“The stonemason’s wife was a former chef, so it’s certainly delicious.”

Riddle-san said.

“That Bartender-san is the stonemason?”

“That’s right. The ones who made this place are also the stonemason and his colleagues. You can say that he’s the Artisan’s Guild’s shadow leader.”

My previous world also had a secret society formed of a mason organization, but this sort of thing might come easily for the occupation. With a single stone out of place, the castle will crumble, or something.

“As I thought, the food here has a different flavor.”

Margaret-san said as she was eating something that was similar to carpaccio.

“Do you come here often?”

Velsa, sitting across from Margaret-san, asked.

“It’s not that often, but I do come here. I have to discuss the width of the tollroads with the artisans, as well.”

It must be a hassle to think about the standardization of carriages.

“Ah, that’s right. It’s about the topic of the hero from this morning.”

Margaret-san brought a book out and began talking.

“This is an adventurer’s journal, and this Varginia continent and the eastern archipelago are in it, and the continent if you go even further east also seems to be in here. There’s a dense forest on that continent, and it’s written that there’s a country underneath the forest’s cliff where the hero is.”

“Nn. It’s quite a bit further from the archipelago.”

Hearing what Margaret-san said, Riddle-san agreed with her.

Looks like it's quite the journey.

"I wonder if our ship will be alright?"

I tried asking Riddle-san about the source of my unease.

"I'd wager there'd be no problem."

"It's just that I feel like having only 5 people manning it is a bit too much."

"What!? 5 people! You don't have any other sailors?"

"Yeah. That's right. It's fine that we have Seth, who understands how to steer a boat, but I was thinking if it wouldn't be better to have someone who can read sea charts and someone who can read a compass."

"You don't have a navigator!? How are you intending to sail?"

At Riddle-san's words I looked at Seth, and,

"Well, you're heading east as long as you can see land on your left, right?"

Seth explained.

That's certainly true.

"I was thinking, at worst, I can use the Search Skill to see and give orders to avoid reefs and the like."

"But if you go too far south, you won't be able to tell what direction you're going. The southern sea is called the Demon Sea. There's cases where your boat will suddenly change its bearing."

That's the Space Spirit's fault, isn't it? It seems that the Space Spirit has erected a wall around this planet's equator, splitting the northern hemisphere from the southern hemisphere, as God and Demon God had explained.

And so, we won't go south. But it's not like it isn't scary.

“Don’t stray from the coast as much as possible.”

“Yes, that’s my intention. Also, I was thinking that if we’re going to the continent that far east, it would be fine to follow a merchant ship.”

Our captain is super-optimistically relying on others.

“Honestly, I don’t know if it’s thanks to the Steering Skill rising, but I don’t think another ship could throw us off their trail.”

That’s somehow plausible.

“But what do you intend to do about the sails? If you don’t properly unfurl the sails, the speed will... I see. That’s right.”

Seems like Riddle-san realized something midway through speaking.

“That’s right. About the task of furling and unfurling the sails, our people have the physical abilities able to leap from mast to mast. We also have President’s magic circles.”

I wonder if Seth is taking a bold approach to ships.

“I see, so 5 people will be able to handle it somehow.”

“Yes, and if the sea is too rough, I intend to weather it out at the nearest port without pushing our luck.”

“It’s quite the reckless plan, but you’ve thought it out, na.”

Riddle-san seems to admire Seth’s opinions.”

“Entering this company, it’s only natural that absurd things got mixed in and became ordinary.”

Seth said as he bit down on some meat on the bone.

“Captain. Can we get there so easily?”

I asked Seth at the end.

“As long as the President’s here, we’ll get there somehow, right? Like, at worse, you can make the boat fly through the sky.”

Our newbies have become able to say some really unreasonable things.

“Good grief, who are you taking after?”

“I’ve been thinking frantically since I’ve been entrusted with the boat, but Ayl-san and Velsa-san said just thinking about it is useless. And then I realized, that’s right, our company’s people aren’t normal.”

Seth laughed at my concern like he wasn’t involved in them while drinking fruit wine.

Anyway, I wonder if things will be alright if we go in the 3o’clock direction on the compass.

“Even so, it would be better to be a bit cautious when passing by the archipelago.”

Riddle-san said.

“Is there something there?”

“The eastern archipelago is, well. A very free country is crowded in there. But with great freedom comes great dangers.”

Margaret-san told us.

“And that’s why I gave you my emblem.”

“Ah, I’ll also give you my emblem to have.”

Receiving Riddle-san’s words, Margaret-san took out a folded cloth from her bag and handed it to me. When I unfolded it to look at it, there was a white shield with a guardian dog, a griffon, and a laurel leaf in it drawn there.

‘It might just be for my peace of mind, but I think it will be somewhat effective to those who do recognize it.”

“Thank you very much.”

I carefully folded the emblem and put it away in the item bag.

At just this time, Langley appeared.

“Sorry. I’m late.”

“It’s fine. We started without you, after all.”

We raised another toast.

“My apologies. Our employees have surely caused you some trouble, I’m sure.”

I said as I poured Langley a cup of fruit wine.

“Oh no... nn, well.”

Langley can’t deny it. There was the newbies’ training, and the aid from the locusthopper time. And Ayl ravaged the training grounds yesterday.

“Well, see. I registered the Komuro Company as a party; is that okay?”

Did Langley run all the way here? He asked that while wiping sweat off his brow.

“I don’t really mind.”

“And so. There aren’t any more adventurers who want to fight you lot thanks to your [Sword King] lady rampaging yesterday, but now there are people appearing who say they want to join you. It takes a lot of time just refusing them.”

“I see. I’m sorry about that.”

“Oh no, that’s my job. And, so? Do you have any intentions of taking newcomers?”

“Adventurers are only strong, right?”

“Well, basically.”

“If they’re the same level as those guys from yesterday, it would be impossible for them.”



Ayl, listening by the side, broke in.

Langley looked down with a, “As I thought,” and nodded several times.

“Frankly, I think I wouldn’t be able to keep up with all of you even in my heyday. That should have been conveyed to all of the Adventurer’s Guilds on this Varginia continent, but beware that you’ll get a lot of solicitation when you go to the Adventurer’s Guilds on this continent.”

“Solicitations?”

“Yeah, they should attempt to retain all of somehow. As long as you don’t forget your goal of going east, it should be fine.”

Langley looked at me as if he was saying, “I’m counting on you.”

The balance between the Adventurer’s Guilds could be broken if we stay at any one place for a long time.

“It was also difficult while all of you were away from Flora, you know.”

Langley began to complain. It seems like there were inquiries being made about us from all sorts of places.

“You were made famous with the locusthopper extermination, na.”

Riddle-san said with a laugh.

The place became rowdy bit by bit, and around when I was beginning to think whether or not Ayl and I should drink a little more fruit wine, Riddle-san filled my cup with fruit wine and began to talk. Ayl and Seth were talking with Langley, and Velsa and Merumo were talking with Margaret-san.

“Naoki-kun. Actually, I have a serious request.”

“What is it?”

“I want you to look for my half-sibling of a different mother.”

Come to think of it, thanks to Riddle-san’s father being an amorous person, he has

siblings of all sorts of different races.

“Of course, it’s fine if it’s just in your spare time in the midst of your journeys. He seems to be in a beastman country far to the north, and when my father was young, it seems he had become wounded and gone there to be healed. It’s country that has far more advanced medicine than our country, and it’s said that his arm, that had be torn up and eaten by a shark, was returned to normal.”

If that’s true, that’s one hell of a medical technique. Even taking recovery potions, as expected, wouldn’t cure a missing arm.

“Well, I also don’t really believe it, but Father fell in love with a beastman in that country. It appears that he had a child, he said. With Father, in regards to his relations with women, it’s probably not a lie...”

“I understand. If we find your sibling, we’ll contact Margaret-san with the communication bag. Are there any special traits?”

“I don’t really know, but it seems that he’s older than me, and he looks a lot like me. My father often said, ‘You look a lot like Shawn.’”

“I see; then I’ll try asking around for a beastman named Shawn.”

“Sorry for asking it of you, but it’s a big help.”

“But how enviable. Riddle-san’s father seems to have been pretty popular.”

“There’s a limit to being popular, you know.”

Riddle-san made a bitter smile.

“Oh yeah! Naoki, how was that? Floura’s brothels.”

Velsa, in a seat far away from me, suddenly asked.

“How was it, there wasn’t! In the first place, what are you saying, in a place like this?”

“Isn’t it interesting?! Actually, Naoki said something like that when we were on the ship before we came to this town!”

Velsa, drunk, began to speak loudly. I also drained my cup of fruit wine and began telling my own embarrassing stories.

Our last night in Floura became a night where I revealed all my frustrations and shame.

Was it thanks to my sweat and tears? I didn't get drunk enough to lose my memories that night.

The next morning, we left the town of Floura while being seen off by the people we're indebted to.

Riddle-san's younger brother, Jerry, the townspeople, Margaret-san and Granny, the governmenta office's employees, the Adventurer's Guild's Langley and adventurers we knew well. Even though it was early in the morning, the prostitutes from the brothels were also there.

"Captain Seth~!"

It seems like Seth has become the prostitutes' idol at some point.

Maybe I'll also become muscular.

"What's wrong, Naoki, are you crying?"

Ayl asked.

"Who'd cry!?"

While waving my hand, I wiped the sweat off my cheeks.



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