

# TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

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## *Chapter 176 - Loser*

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“And so Raphtalia’s proposed Atlas countermeasure is you?” (Naofumi)

“Yes, I am also quite troubled.” (Sadina)

Sadina answers while pouring herself a glass of sake in my room.

Why was she even chosen?

“Well, just leave it to this Onee-san.” (Sadina)

“That’s just making me more anxious.” (Naofumi)

Sadina had a fast growth rate, and she is already level 35.

She hunts alone.

I wonder how strong the sea monsters she fights are.

Should I send the other slaves ocean monster hunting? I could build boats, and…

“And, what exactly should I do? Should I act like I’m having a good time with Naofumi-chan in front of Atlas-chan?” (Sadina)

“That sounds idiotic. What do you mean by, ‘a good time’.” (Naofumi)

She’s avoiding directly saying anything indecent, but Sadina is slowly taking off her loincloth.

Who wants to have a good time with you!? Please limit your jokes.

Raphtalia, your choice of personnel is wrong.

“If it’s with Naofumi-chan, I think I can have a good time.” (Sadina)

“Listen to people when they’re talking to you.” (Naofumi)

“Hm? What sort of good time did you have in mind? I wanted to invite you

to drink sake with me." (Sadina)

"\*Sigh\*..." (Naofumi)

My head hurts. And I haven't even drunken anything.

So she was adjusting the cloth as not to spill anything on it.

I'm supposed to be past an age where I get flustered by something like that.

"Anyways, stop calling me Naofumi-chan." (Naofumi)

"Isn't it fine?" (Sadina)

"No, it's not. That's why I'm telling you." (Naofumi)

Why am I spending my night under the same roof as this one? Dealing with people like this tires me out.

This is all Atlas's fault.

"Don't be so stiff. Gaelion-chan is also helping keep watch." (Sadina)

"KYUA!" (Gaelion)

Just in case, we also have Gaelion standing on watch.

He's too big to fit through the door.

But we somehow managed to squeeze him in.

Gaelion has curled up in a corner of the room.

He occasionally wanders around looking at the objects in my room with curiosity.

"Sleeping with Gaelion-chan feels quite high-class." (Sadina)

"That's all you're thinking of?" (Naofumi)

This person... I'm not going to become her toy.

“Do you have any intention of answering Atlas-chan’s feeling?” (Sadina)

“Feelings? That person is a child. Raphtalia is the same. My relationship with them is like father and child.” (Naofumi)

They didn’t have anyone to look out for them, and suddenly I took up that role for them.

Even if they may mistake that emotion for love, it’s more like the love they will have for their family.

And as an elder, I cannot approach them based on those vague emotions. That’s something that comes after they mature mentally.

And even if they mature, we are in a situation where anyone could die in battle at any moment.

I only bought Raphtalia because she was the same Gender as Witch. I don’t have the right to be like that with her.

The same goes for Atlas.

“I’m a coward, you know. I’m building a place that may take them to their deaths here.” (Naofumi)

“And that’s Naofumi-chan’s reason?” (Sadina)

Sadina stares at me with serious eyes.

“Naofumi-chan sure does treasure everyone.” (Sadina)

“Did you hear what I just said? I’m nothing but a coward.” (Naofumi)

“I’ll leave it at that. But if you get really close to Raphtalia-chan, you better be prepared for stuff like that.” (Sadina)

“What are you even talking about?” (Naofumi)

I think the Sake is getting to her.

After talking for a while, she lies on the bed, and turns her back to the door.

“Um.” (Atlas)

What the hell are you doing? Before I can say that, Atlas quickly opens the door and enters the room.

“Oh my, Naofumi-chan is quite bold~.” (Sadina)

“Who is being b-!?” (Naofumi)

She lifts up the covers and pulls me in, interrupting my sentence.

What is this? W-wait!

“Ara, Atlas-chan? Naofumi-chan is currently doing something fun with this Onee-chan, so please come back later.” (Sadina)

Don't screw with me.

I don't want to get into a situation that could cause such misunderstandings.

Her large body is trying to crush me.

But, don't forget that I am the Hero of the Shield.

Something of this weight feels like nothing.

“KYUA!” (Gaelion)

For some reason, even Gaelion climbs into the bed.

“I really don't get that feeling…” (Atlas)

“Ara? You saw through it. Oh well. 'Twas a Failure.” (Sadina)

“What do you mean failure!?” (Naofumi)

Was this Sadina's supposed Atlas Countermeasure?

She can't see, so if she doesn't feel that sort of presence, Atlas won't be fooled.

And even if it succeeded, my standings in the village would be crushed.

Everyone would look at me like a pervert.

What sort of situation would have me in this position with Sadina.

"Quit it!" (Naofumi)

"Then onto stage 2. Gaelion-chan." (Sadina)

"KYUA!" (Gaelion)

"Go try to have a fun time with Atlas." (Sadina)

"That's definitely impossible. Give it up." (Naofumi)

Stage 2...!?

Are these people even serious?

"Naofumi-sama and Sadina-san sure get along well." (Atlas)

Atlas ignores us and enters the house.

Don't enter my house without permission!

"Now then, Atlas-chan. You understand why I'm here, right?" (Sadina)

"...Yes." (Atlas)

"You're quick minded. Atlas-chan is quite a good girl, but please leave these sorts of things for when you become an adult." (Sadina)

"I can't." (Atlas)

"T-this Onee-san doesn't like kids who don't listen." (Sadina)

"I yearn for Naofumi-sama. I just want to get a little closer to him." (Atlas)

"Arara... This is quite serious." (Sadina)

Sadina seems to have given up.

So Raptalia's countermeasures only go this far.

"Naofumi-chan, won't you have a fun time with Atlas-chan?" (Sadina)

"Hell no!" (Naofumi)

"Then there's no helping it." (Sadina)

Sadina puts her hand on Atlas's shoulder.

"Atlas-chan, Naofumi-chan is a wimp, so he can't bring himself to devour women." (Sadina)

"Wimp? Oy!" (Naofumi)

Somehow the situation has headed in this direction!

"It's alright. Naofumi-sama is someone who does things when the time is right." (Atlas)

Atlas seems to have developed a strange trust in me!

This is a pain! I want to run away.

Does this girl even know what she's saying?

"Your resolve is unwavering. Atlas-chan, me and Naofumi-chan are concerned about your age." (Sadina)

"My... age?" (Atlas)

"Yeah, Atlas-chan is still a child. You've just gotten over your illness, so please grow up healthily. And if you still love Naofumi-chan at that point... Naofumi-chan will consider it as well." (Sadina)

"I see..." (Atlas)

Atlas seems troubled. She tilts her head as she answers.

Nice follow-up.

Because she's a child, tell her 'After you grow up, we'll get married.'

Since I was raised in Otaku culture, I know the phrase works.

It will bring some problems down the road, but I don't plan to stay in this world for too long. So I don't have to deal with it.

Yeah, let's go with this.

...Wait. Isn't this the train of thought of a wimp?

Let's not think too hard about it.

"It's still too early for you." (Sadina)

"But I heard that he sleeps with Raphtalia-chan." (Atlas)

"Not that 'sleep with'. We just sleep in the same house. The only one who sometimes climbs into my bed is Firo." (Naofumi)

"Then, without any deeper meaning, please let me sleep in the same bed as you." (Atlas)

It was no good. Words aren't getting through.

No it seems that they are, but her will is unchanged.

"And this is a place where I may die tomorrow. If I have to wait to adulthood, it may be too late." (Atlas)

...So she realized it.

In this world, you don't know when and where you might die.

And the people of my village are eventually going to combat the wave.

It goes without saying that the people here may die.

But this is a child whose illness could have taken her at any time.

She must live treasuring very day.

"I can't live relying on my brother forever. I want to properly marry someone." (Atlas)

"... And that someone is Naofumi-chan." (Sadina)

"Yes, I can't consider anyone other than Naofumi-sama." (Atlas)

"Then it would be best for you to understand his feelings more." (Sadina)

"Naofumi-sama's feelings?" (Atlas)

"Right. Naofumi-chan is considering Atlas-chan and everyone else. It's not like he has no special feelings for you, but there is something more important than that. Do you understand?" (Sadina)

"... Yes." (Atlas)

Atlas answers after a long silence.

Sadina is quite good with words.

Is she just good with dealing with children?

I should caution myself not to get swept up into her pace.

"From Naofumi-chan's point of view, Atlas-chan is a precious villager. Everyone in this village is like family to him. Even his closest Raphtalia understands this." (Sadina)

Though I believe that Raphtalia is quite diligent, and uninterested in love. But if I bring that up here, I will get into trouble, so I'll keep quiet.

"So don't try to be selfish or Naofumi-chan will get mad. Please wait for the right opportunity to get him." (Sadina)

"I understand." (Atlas)

Sadina points at me... For some reason her index finger and middle finger are curled with her thumb in-between them.

In my world, that sign is quite dangerous.

I wonder what it means in this one.

It seems Sadina is using it in the way I know.

"Then I'll sleep in his room waiting for the opportunity." (Atlas)

"Nothing Changed!" (Naofumi)

"KYUA!" (Gaelion)

What am I supposed to do.

"There's no helping it. This Onee-chan will sleep with you. Don't go crawling into Naofumi-chan's bed." (Sadina)

"Got it." (Atlas)

For now... Does she understand?

I don't feel any safer.

Atlas lies down on Raphtalia's bed.

"Sadina-san, before we sleep can you tell me a story?" (Atlas)

"Let's see, then will one about the ocean be fine?" (Sadina)

Sadina soothes Atlas and begins speaking.

She's a strange person, but she seems to be nice.

She's trusted by the villagers, though I don't get what they see in her.

She's become about as trusted as me.

They rely on her more than Raphtalia.

She also seems to be good with children. If she doesn't mess around, there are a few jobs I want her to do.

“KYUA!” (Gaelion)

Gaelion was listening to Sadina’s story, but he soon got bored and began snooping around the room.

He sticks his head into the sack I keep the materials used to make new clothes and weapons.

“Hey, don’t tamper with that.” (Naofumi)

Gaelion is quite a curious one. He’s also easy to deal with. Firo was also like this once.

Is what… I thought.

But I never thought this would be the trigger for that big incident.

# TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

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## *Chapter 177 - Level Drain*

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“KYUA!” (Gaelion)

The sack collapses and the contents fall out.

Recently Gaelion has acquired some bad habits.

Last time it was the Ding-Dong-Dash, this time it's the sack rummaging.

I scold him every single time but he still doesn't stop.

Just when I thought Atlas became more obedient, this time it's Gaelion.

Also, Firo does the same thing. Even now.

By the way, Firo while searching the garbage would refer to them as treasures.

After all, she is a bird. Gaelion is no different.

Ah, I'm sure the dumpster diving would also turn into a territorial dispute.

“Ah Jeez…… think about the cleaning I'd need to do.” (Naofumi)

Rolling out from the sack are demon bones, ores and the Zombie Dragon's core which was previously attached to the Barbarian's Armor.

The core of Zombie Dragon continues to roll.

Gaelion sees the Zombie Dragon's core, chases it with his eyes and starts playing with it.

His reaction is like a cat's.

This reminds me, Gaelion and Firo both like shiny things.

Didn't Firo's eyes shine brightly the same way when she saw the Zombie Dragon's core for the first time. It's the same habit they both shared. (TL: referring to the time Firo ate the Zombie Dragon's heart in Chapter 44)

"KYUAA!?" (Gaelion)

Though I am slightly calmed down by this happy state, I have no wish for such mood.

Let's end this quickly with a swift scolding.

Paku!

Gaelion grips the core of the Zombie Dragon with his jaws.

"Hey. That thing isn't yours. Return it quickly." (Naofumi)

But I might as well have been talking to the wind, Gaelion pays no attention to me.

The Zombie Dragon's core is deep within his mouth..... Honestly.

Gokkun.

He swallows it.

"Hey! Spit it out!" (Naofumi)

I grab Gaelion by the scruff and shake him.

Huh, didn't the monster seal have a punishment for that?

I tried activating the system at the same time.

“KYU!?” (Gaelion)

Gaelion convulses and writhes with his eyes wide open.

“KYU…… GYA…… KYUUU……” (Gaelion)

Gaelion breaks out into cold sweats with his eyes tightly shut and moans as if enduring something.

The sound of something creaking can be heard from Gaelion’s whole body.

“O-oi.” (Naofumi)

“What’s going on?” (Sadina)

“There’s a terrible ominous feeling overflowing from Gaelion-chan, is he all right?” (Atlas)

An ominous feeling?

Before I could ask, I see with my own eyes a darkish purple light being emitted from Gaelion’s body…… and the magical power is unleashed.

This color, I recognized it.

When I equipped the Wrath Shield, Firo was also enveloped by the same aura.

“GYA00000000!” (Gaelion)

With bloodshot eyes, Gaelion roars towards the ceiling.

A breath of magic is unleashed from Gaelion's mouth and the ceiling is blown away in an instant.

"GYA!" (Gaelion)

\*Flap\*…… the sound from his wings reverberates as they begin to expand, Gaelion leaps high into the air.

Great! I'll just open the monster seal and activate the punishment.

Opening the monster seal!

But the view for my status window is warped, the monster seal could not be activated.

"GYA000000!" (Gaelion)

As I was thinking of calling out to Gaelion with a loud voice, he begins to fly towards somewhere else.

"W-what?" (Naofumi)

"What just occurred?" (Sadina)

"Gaelion ate the Zombie Dragon's core which was used in my armor. Then that happened." (Naofumi)

"Something…… wrapped around Gaelion-chan……and then—" (Atlas)

We exit the building and look at the direction Gaelion flew in.

"What is it?" (Rat)

The slaves who remained in the village begin to appear when they heard the commotion.

“What? Did something happen?” (Taniko)

Together, Rat and Taniko look in the same direction towards me.

“To tell you the truth-” (Naofumi)

I explained how Gaelion ate the Zombie Dragon’s core.

“The core of a Zombie Dragon…… the Count sure has strange things.”

(Rat)

“Do you have any ideas?” (Naofumi)

“I’m not that knowledgeable about dragons. Dragons are a species whose ecology is shrouded in mystery. Though I’ve heard the cores found in other dragons are highly desired…… but to make him lose control like this…….”

(Rat)

“We must chase after him.” (Taniko)

Says Taniko impatiently. Oh yeah, it’s her precious dragon.

The core of the Zombie Dragon is important for my armor and in the worse case, I’ll get it back even if I have to fight Gaelion for it.

“I understand. We have no choice but to call Firo and leave.”

It doesn’t mean we couldn’t just chase after him. But it will be much quicker with Firo.

I haven't even ridden him yet but I have to take him down, what kind of dragon is he.

"We need horses to go to the next town……" (Naofumi)

Riding on horses prepared by the soldiers, we are off to find Firo.

Halfway to next town, we meet several soldiers on horses riding in from the opposite direction.

"Ah, Shield Hero! We were just on our way to fetch you." (Soldier)

"What is it? I also have an errand to attend to." (Naofumi)

"Princess Melty urgently summons the Shield Hero. It seems something grave has happened to the Shield Hero's holy bird." (Soldier)

"What!?" (Naofumi)

While being guided by the soldiers, we head towards the clinic built in town. Upon entering the clinic, Melty comes rushing with a face that's about to break into tears.

"You know…… Firo-chan started suffering suddenly. Naofumi. Help Firo-chan!" (Melty)

"Suddenly telling me to be a doctor…… I do not understand because I'm not a treatment master. But if there's something I can do, I will do it."  
(Naofumi)

"Absolutely!" (Melty)

That being said, if it's a really dangerous disease, there's no choice but to rely on the Yggdrasil medicine.

The problem is, there's only one left in stock, but if it's for Firo, then it's worth using.

I'm reminded of how deeply attached I am to Firo, I will spare no expense.

"Anyway, let me have a look." (Naofumi)

"Yes." (Melty)

I enter into the medical examination room accompanied by Melty and the Treatment Master.

There Firo lies wearily in her monster form.

"Uhh…… uhhh……" (Firo)

Around the abdomen, her body was being eroded like when I changed into the Wrath Shield.

Actually, it's worse. It would be better to say that the damage has greatly increased.

Though the erosion is being resisted by the shiny crown of feathers on Firo's head, you can feel that the erosion is winning.

"What's going on here? Can this even be cured by the Yggdrasil medicine?"  
(Naofumi)

"It is unknown. But because the magical connotation is so strong, I don't expect the Yggdrasil medicine to have any effect." (Treatment Master)

The bewildered Treatment Master answers my questions.

I check the status of Firo using the status window.

I can determine simple matters such as whether Firo is being invaded by poison or paralysis.

“Oh, Master……” (Firo)

Firo reaches out to me while groaning painfully.

I touch Firo gently on the cheek.

She wasn't in her human form but still, when stroking her cheek, even though she groans painfully, Firo lets out a comfortable smile and closes her eyes.

Then I continue with the status verification.

Firo's status screen flickers many times like in a sandstorm.

No matter how you consider it, it is unusual.

I also notice a big problem while I'm there.

Firo's level is lower than the number I know.

Level down? What is going on?

Multiple possibilities are surfacing.

The problem is its only circumstantial evidence for now so I can't be certain.

“……Bring in Rat from the village.” (Naofumi)

“Understood.” (Melty)

After a while, not only Rat, but even Atlas, Taniko and Sadina come in together.

“Firo-chan!? What happened?” (Taniko)

The worried Taniko runs up to Firo.

Usually, you are prejudiced against Firo whose relationship with Gaelion is bad, but now you're saying you are worried.

Is it natural because you like monsters?

"Rat, what you think?" (Naofumi)

"If I was to take a haphazard guess, I'd say she's being eroded by a curse, don't you think? Will you let me have a look?" (Rat)

Rat reads the diagnostic notes that the Treatment Master made, then she begins to medically examines Firo's body.

"If you can look at the status, you can see the level going down little by little." (Naofumi)

"Level down? Isn't that the equivalent of a high-ranked curse? So far I've never seen anything as terrible as this." (Rat)

"I'm willing to bet this has a connection with Gaelion losing control and running off at the same time. What do you think?" (Naofumi)

"I think there's no doubt. But..... is there a matching contact point between Gaelion and Firo?" (Rat)

"There is, if you assume the core of the Zombie Dragon as the cause."  
(Naofumi)

"What?" (Rat)

"During the encounter with the Zombie Dragon, Firo ate his core. The one I received was only a small fragment." (Naofumi)

In fact, the reason why Firo managed to defeat the Zombie Dragon was at the decisive moment when Firo ate his core. When we assume that both events are connected, we become more convinced.

“Indeed, it is reasonable to consider something is influencing Firo who ate the core and Gaelion who is currently running out of control.” (Rat)

“I suppose.” (Naofumi)

“Then confirm it with Gaelion. I feel like it’s not yet settled with that alone somehow.” (Rat)

I verify Gaelion’s status.

As expected, just like Firo’s status window, a sandstorm happens, and there are a lot of things which could not be read.

However……

“His level has skyrocketed.” (Naofumi)

It is visibly increasing.

Gaelion’s level which is 35 has become 45.

……It’s exceeded the class up limit.

“Umm…… I feel an ominous force is flowing out from Firo-chan.” (Atlas)

“It is plain to see.” (Naofumi)

“No, I don’t mean that.” (Atlas)

Atlas points her finger at something.

Although there’s suppose to be nothing there.

“Atlas-chan is a child who can see things that are not visible to the naked eye, she might know where the force is moving towards.” (Rat)

“Hmm……” (Naofumi)

There is enough possibility.

She has a surprisingly useful ability.

The problem is the supposed destination in which Firo’s force is flowing towards.

It’s the same direction that Gaelion flew in.

“Is it possible for the core in Firo to be vomited out?” (Naofumi)

“It’s impossible. When I incidentally used my magical power of perception, I can see the core circulating throughout her whole body.” (Atlas)

I verified the status of Firo

To recall Raphtalia and the others to chase after it…… at the speed it is decreasing, we don’t even have two days.

Firo is fast becoming level 1 no matter what I think.

No, it’s still better if it becomes 1 and stops. At the worst, she may die.

“Also, I can see some additional force leaking out from Naofumi-sama.”

(Atlas)

“What?” (Naofumi)

I check my own status screen.

Apparently, it’s unnoticeable.

“That — it’s from around the area where the left arm is now.” (Atlas)

It's the place where I have my shield attached.

It comes from the shield…… I had let the shield absorbed half of the core fragment. (TL: Referring to the events in Chapter 44)

Does that mean the shield's ability is decreasing?

I check the list again for confirmation but there is no abnormality for now. Rather, my heart seems to be feeling refreshed.

What was I supposed to be angry about again?

……I sense danger.

“For now locate where the Battle Instructor is having the training camp and give instructions to come back. We are chasing after Gaelion immediately!”

Otherwise there wouldn't be enough time.

Atlas steps forward full of determination.

“Naofumi-sama, there is something I would like to try out for a bit on Firo.”  
(Atlas)

“What is it?” (Naofumi)

“I would like to suppress the leakage of Firo's force even by a little.” (Atlas)

Atlas goes to the side of the laying Firo and puts a hand on her chest, then she affixes both hands lightly.

“Mm…… ah……” (Firo)

Firo moans painfully while opening her eyes and slowly gets up.

“It became a little bit lighter.” (Firo)

“Firo!” (Melty)

Melty runs up to Firo.

“I think we’ve gained some extra time.” (Atlas)

“Well then…… A carriage……” (Naofumi)

Shit. There are no guys who can run as fast as a vehicle.

Filo Rial is out peddling.

Do I have to rent a Filo Rial in town?

“The pursuit of Gaelion will be me, Sadina and……Tani…… No, you and Rat will——” (Naofumi)

“The one who will draw Master’s carriage is…… Firo.” (Firo)

Firo declares with a strong will in her eyes while being supported by Atlas.

“Firo-chan is no good! You have to stay still.” (Melty)

“Yes. You rest quietly in bed.” (Naofumi)

However, Firo shakes her head to refuse.

“No——…… Firo is absolutely going together with.” (Firo)

There is none of the usual vigor. But she takes a step forward and insists to follow at any costs.

……If she was made to stay here, she will certainly come chasing.

No matter what, she is very stubborn.

“Well, if anything happens, I’ll leave you in a clinic. And then, I’ll get another guy to pull the carriage.” (Naofumi)

“Naofumi-sama!?” (Atlas)

“Atlas, you’ll also be there to suppress it, right?” (Naofumi)

“Ye- Yes!” (Atlas)

“Good.” (Naofumi)

“I will go too!” (Melty)

Melty declares even though she is on the verge of breaking out into tears.

Ah, her best friend is in a pinch. She insists on coming by any means necessary just like Firo.

I ignore the declaration of the princess.

“Do not act rashly. You are a princess.” (Naofumi)

“Being a princess comes second, Firo-chan is my friend!” (Melty)

“I see.” (Naofumi)

……Before was Firo throwing a tantrum about wanting to protect Melty.

[T/N: Corrected by Kookie]

Firo has a good friend indeed.

“We are setting off to chase after Gaelion. Soldiers of the castle must hurry and notify Raphtalia and the others.” (Naofumi)

““Yes!”” (Everyone)

Thus we let the stubborn Firo overdo herself and left on a carriage.

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## *Chapter 178 - Grasping Forces*

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It's been four hours since we departed

Firo's status decrease is being suppressed by Atla

Firo's Lvl. points are declining steadily

The Lvl. down speed have decreased but it's still a severe situation

"Atla, Do you know where the power is going?"(Naofumi)

"Yes, Firo tells me which direction it's heading" (Atla)

"Okay" (Naofumi)

"Haaaa... Haaaa..."(Firo)

"Firo-chan?"(Atla)

Atlas is riding Firo's back and I entrusted driving the carriage to Melty

Rat and Taniko puts the situation in order, Sadina is watching the back

Firo is getting considerably exhausted

It'll be dangerous if we don't make it there fast

Motoyasu's beloved Firo is in a great pinch

Where and what is that fellow doing at such a time

Raising a flag is now impossible

That guy isn't even around when you needed him

“Where on earth did he intend to fly?”(Naofumi)

“I can sense that he is somewhere over there”(Atla)

It's still midnight. The sun will rise eventually, but it's still far.

“Worst case scenario, we have to get rid of Gaelion, Do you understand?”(Naofumi)

I told Taniko directly. Taniko was the closest one to him. Even though Gaelion is mine, I think that I have to say it

“...uhhnn”(Taniko)

“It is strangely logical, I thought that you'd refuse it more” (Naofumi)

“it's not like we're giving up just yet”(Taniko)

“Well, I know” (Naofumi)

“I understand that it is a bad decision to make. However, I refuse to consider not doing something about it” (Taniko)

“Is that so... then I will get rid of any hesitation” (Naofumi)

“I get it! It's our last resort! But we absolutely have to help Gaelion”  
(Taniko)

I'm trying to be as casual as I can be about this matter

I understand that Gaelion is what's tormenting Firo

Gaelion is a huge asset for us, Ofcourse, getting rid of him is going to be our last option. I want to avoid that as much as possible

"I hate the Hero" (Taniko)

Taniko sheds tears and she kept on crying all the while

"I'm used to being hated"(Naofumi)

"It's not you" (Taniko)

I can somehow sympathize with Taniko, It is something unlikely a Hero would do but not me.

but the one she is thinking of... is it Ren? Saving people half-way, the barbaric Justice.

But this feeling is something different

Who exactly have I become?

Where would such a thing fly anyways?

"Rat.. Where do you think did Gaelion go to?" (Naofumi)

"If I were to predict it, I think it would probably be the East of Melromarc"(Rat)

"East huh?" (Naofumi)

If I remember correctly east of Melromarc is where we fought the rotting dragon... Ah right

"It's the area where we faced the rotting dragon" (Naofumi)

"I see.. It is merely going back to his own territory, right?"(Rat)

"I think so too" (Naofumi)

“What should this Onee-san do?(Sadina)

While I was talking with Rat, Sadina answers from the back. I still can't come up with a solution, there's also a probability of encountering monsters at this hour.

Actually, there are several monsters that are following from behind

But Sadina is intercepting them with magic and harpoons

The front is being managed by Atla, Firo and Melty. But Firo can't fight because she is already struggling on pulling the carriage

It's unreasonable to force yourself

I also used Meteor shield to protect Atla and Firo at the bare minimum

“I'm thinking of a way to return Gaelion back to his sense. You should be more vigilant of your surroundings” (Naofumi)

“Y-yes...”(Sadina)

“If you have other ideas to help Gaelion then spit it out. And make it faster” (Naofumi)

“..... Then maybe”(Rat)

“Can't we just pin him down and take it out of his mouth by hands? But we need to use a tool that he cannot bite through” (Rat)

“It'll be alright. My defensive power is no joke”(Naofumi)

“Well, we don't have to worry about the Count” (Rat)

“Rat, can you suppress Gaelion using your drug?”(Naofumi)

“Do you even need to ask me that?” (Rat)

Rats shows me a syringe with the drug in it

“This drug is quite strong. It is strong enough that even a dragon cannot move for a while”(Rat)

“I see, then I’m counting on you” (Naofumi)

Raphtalia is not here, but the Lvl. around here is not very high

Gaelion’s Lvl. is increasing little by little and status is getting really high because of the shield’s correction

Draining Firo’s status indicates his status

It’s like fighting a dragon-shaped Firo

I think I’ll be fine but the other slaves will be in trouble if they were to receive an attack

If a god exist, it seems he wants to see me suffer

“First, let’s have a meeting. Rat, It’ll be good if you weaken him even if it’s just a little” (Naofumi)

“Okay. Will do”(Rat)

“Sadina I will approach Gaelion and you will be on guard with enemies getting near us” (Naofumi)

“… . And me?”(Taniko)

Taniko is shaking while asking

“Can you fight?” (Naofumi)

“errr… If I do Gaelin will be badly injured and it’ll be dangerous”(Taniko)

This strong sense of responsibility

“What can you do?” (Naofumi)

I don’t know how Taniko fights as well

Back then I saw her holding a stick but what is she doing now these days?

“I’m good with magic attacks, among everyone else this is something that I can take pride in”(Taniko)

“Hooo… What kind of magic?” (Naofumi)

“I don’t really understand. But as for the woman who’s teaching me magic, she said that the magic that I’m use is different” (Taniko)

The magic shop owner taught the slaves various kinds of magic. I did ask her to do that but what kind of magic did she teach Taniko?

“I don’t understand. You, what kind of magic are you using if you don’t understand what you are using?” (Naofumi)

“I’m using the one that I learned from my father”(Taniko)

I have a feeling that it is some kind of a unique magic

I don’t understand even a little of it. Maybe I’ll understand it better if we go into battle

I don’t have to the power to understand the slaves’ ability

In MMO there's a function that lets you monitor the guild member's current status when you are raising them

In Raids and Castle wars monitoring your allies will be your lifeline. In MMO I can choose my allies by considering their job and Lvl.

But I can't evaluate them if I don't see how they fight, Failure will occur again and again if the party is not organized

There's also a means where they could learn by letting them experience it first hand

Pairing them with people they know to teach them the strategy is a sure fire way of doing it

This is the evil truth because rules don't apply with it

This is the very reason that I feel like this is still a game

"If I pair you with Atla, can you cooperate with her?" (Naofumi)

"Uh yeah" (Taniko)

"What about Melty?" (Naofumi)

"That girl? What kind of magic is she using?" (Taniko)

"Isn't it water? I think that's what it is" (Naofumi)

I think Sadina is really suitable with Melty's strongest magic. Afterall Sadina is an Aquatic type of Beastman and has a high perception with magic that is close to her habitat

"How about you Sadina?" (Naofumi)

“Well, I can do both melee and magic”(Sadina)

Then Rat is the one who understands Demon ecology and Gaelion’s abnormal condition

“Well then, I’ll be the vanguard and those who are good with magic will be at the rear and Sadina…”(Naofumi)

Atla can’t fight because she’s suppressing Firo’s curse.

I need more assistance given the situation

“Sadina, Please attack from the rear with your harpoon” (Naofumi)

“Yes.. Yes..”(Sadina)

“Understood”(Melty)

“Uh yeah”(Taniko)

“We don’t have any choice but to go by this strategy” (Naofumi)

I just noticed, but this party has a high number of females in it

Although I’m not bothered with Raphtalia, Firo and Occasionally with Rishia.

I think that this is a kind of party that Motoyasu would make

*I should treat Fohl more kindly. He may be a SisCon but I’d like a male companion.*

“Count, Are you thinking of something strange”(Rat)

How do you know that I’m thinking about something like that? Do the people in this world also have sixth sense?

Or is that what you would call a Woman's Intuition? Just kidding.

Furthermore, Several hours have passed and we've arrived at the east village. The sun also began to rise.

The means of transportation through Firo is really fast but Gaelion's flying speed is something else

The mountains in the Eastern Village is covered in clouds... It's really dark(*TLN: just to clear he meant that the mountain side is covered in clouds.. not the entire eastern part...*)

"Oh... It's Saint-sama"(Villager)

"It is the Shield Hero-sama"(Village)

The villagers spotted us and approached us... For some reason Taniko covered her whole body with a sheet of cloth

"This morning a Villager heard a cry from dragon that came from the mountains"(Villager)

"It's is true that there is a dragon that escape and ran over here, we are here because we are chasing after it" (Naofumi)

""Uwaaa!""(Villagers)

I didn't say that it came from our village because our reputation would be affected

But the villagers who can somehow understand what's happening fell silent

"Just..."(Naofumi)

I looked at Atla and Firo's situation

They seemed really tired

I was able to pinpoint the location where Gaelion ran away

"We haven't taken any rest since yesterday, go and take some rest for a while" (Naofumi)

"...but"(Melty)

"if you are not in your best condition, we may not be able to win. Overdoing it is unacceptable so please agree and wait a little bit" (Naofumi)

"U-understood"(Melty)

I registered the Village into the portal shield and it would be better If I leave a message to the Village(*TLN: He's referring to the leaving a message to the demi-human village*)

"Alright, It's best if we could return to the village when something bad were to happen. Portal Shield!" (Naofumi)

Ofcourse, I memorized the location and went back to the Village to check if Raphtalia and the others have returned

... I can warp 7 people including me

It says 6 people but I'm not included in it

In short I can warp 7 people including me

I suck at explaining things

Let's just say 7 people in total

Or is it based on 3 people + my Lv / 20 kind of condition?

Firo and Atla is leaning against the wall and is resting alternately

I reconfirmed her status

Firo's Lvl. is still decreasing little by little. This is dangerous

"Please rest more until it's time" (Naofumi)

"Understood"(Melty)

"Please understand that I can't make medicine strong enough to suppress it"  
(Naofumi)

"uhnn"(Firo)

"Firo-chan...here's some water"(Melty)

"Thank you Mel"(Firo)

I asked if they've seen Raphtalia but the results are not good

I explained our escape with the portal shield and the cooldown

I hope that Raphtalia gets back soon so we can start immediately

Time is the problem

Judging from Firo's condition she won't even last for half a day

I can't do anything but pray that Raphtalia and the others gets back from  
their training soon

"I guess it's impossible afterall" (Naofumi)

The cooldown has finished but Raphtalia isn't back yet

We don't have a choice but to stop Gaelion with this people

We just have to prepare for the worst

"Atla and Firo please rest in the village"(Naofumi)

"Please Master"(Firo)

"We don't have to travel long distance anymore. Travelling is just a stone's throw from here. Don't overdo it" (Naofumi)

"But... I want to go"(Firo)

"Stop it.. If you force yourself, you would only be too much of a burden. You can barely move yourself, you're already at your limit" (Naofumi)

"no... no"(Firo)

"I said Atla and Firo" (Naofumi)

"I understand. Firo, Let's just leave it to Naofumi-sama"(Atla)

"But Firo..."(Firo)

"Naofumi-sama is saying that taking Firo along is too much of a load to take. But even if he doesn't say so I will still stop you"(Atla)

Firo reluctantly nodded in Atla's every word

Atla who has some trouble speaking because of her illness and Firo having the same situation because of the curse. This approach may become effective

"How about you Melty?" (Naofumi)

"If it's for Firo I would do anything"(Melty)

"Don't force yourself. Because you're the next queen." (Naofumi)

"I understand but this is something more important than being a Queen"(Melty)

Can't be helped they are close friends after all

After I leave and return to my own world Firo would probably stay with Melty

"Firo!, Please wait a moment"(Melty)

"Mel····."(Firo)

"Please rest quietly in bed"(Melty)

"uhnn"(Firo)

I held Firo's face and then she cried because of the feeling of helplessness

This is the first time that I did such a thing

This is too much to bear

"It's time to leave. Portal Shield" (Naofumi)

Then we came back to the east village and have begun to walk towards the mountain filled with dark clouds.

# TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

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## *Chapter 179 - Lump of Desire*

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“It should be somewhere around here.” (Naofumi)

I climb the mountain, only to find that the ecosystem here is just as messed up as ever.

The soil is polluted, and it feels like the flow of magic here is abnormal.

I never thought that I’d have to return here someday.

Taniko stares back at the village with angry eyes. What exactly is she mad about?

Last time, Firo was able to send all of the monsters we encountered flying, but this time is different.

We wasted time fighting the battles.

Though having Sadina, Rat, Taniko and Melty here sped things up.

“I lead the flow of the power of the land, and give it the power of incarnation. Earth Pulse, become my power. 「Dark Firebolt」 !” (Taniko)

Taniko’s magic summons black flames that burn the monsters.

The incantation seems to be fundamentally different from the magic I know of.

“Her magic seems to concentrate the surrounding energy and release it.” (Melty)

“It really is a strange magic.” (Naofumi)

“Yeah… I’ve only learned the basics, but this is a magic that borrows powers from the surroundings.” (Taniko)

"I see." (Naofumi)

"Father could use much more powerful magic." (Taniko)

Taniko continues casting her strange spells. I wonder what sort of mage her father was.

Rat looks at the magic and cocks her head.

"That magic is..." (Rat)

"You know it?" (Naofumi)

"It doesn't seem to be a power of human or demi-human origin." (Rat)

But Taniko is a demi-human, right?

She has dog-ish ears and everything.

I never asked her exactly what race she was, because I wasn't interested, though.

"Could she have received special protection from something?" (Rat)

(TL: as in Divine protection, divine gifts.)

"By the way, what sort of magic can you use?" (Naofumi)

"Recovery Magic." (Rat)

"Ah, I see. I'll leave support to you." (Naofumi)

"That's what I planned on doing anyways." (Rat)

Sadina eliminates the remaining monsters in silence.

"It's not widely known, but it isn't an extinct form of magic. Perhaps I should teach her some advanced spells." (Sadina)

Sadina spins her spear and begins to cast magic on the monsters that begin appearing in great numbers. She pulls out a canteen of water and holds it out.

"I, Sadina, Draw out the power of Water to do my bidding. Dragon Pulse, eliminate my enemies. 「Saint Aquabolt」!" (Sadina)

Using a similar chant as Taniko, Sadina unleashes a shining mass of water. Everyone there is taken aback.

"By the way, I can also use the main varieties of magic as well." (Sadina)

"I who has understood the origin of power command you. Once again be read and come forth. Pierce all with spheres of water, 「Faust Aquashot」!" (Sadina)

She takes out another monster with a magic I am familiar with.

It seems Sadina is needlessly skillful.

It's not like she was hiding anything, I just don't know too much about her in general.

"Understand? Magic that takes from one's surroundings has power proportional to the surrounding environment. Make sure to prepare things to aid you beforehand." (Sadina)

Sadina hands the canteen to Taniko.

"This flask contains holy water, so it works well on the monsters of this land. But if you use it too much, the effectiveness drops so be careful." (Sadina)

"G-got it." (Taniko)

"If you're really in a tight situation, you can try borrowing power from the

sky. It's hard to control, though." (Sadina)

"Amazing, you can use the same magic as father." (Taniko)

"Only a little. I usually use magic that changes the flow of energy in my own body." (Sadina)

"What sort of magic is that?" (Naofumi)

That sounds convenient, of course it's not like I'll be able to learn it.

"Humans and Demi-Humans need special blessings to learn it, so it's rare. Perhaps Naofumi-chan will be able to use it." (Sadina)

"What do you mean?" (Naofumi)

"Ah, but with Firo-chan here, that might be difficult." (Sadina)

I can't learn it if I'm with Firo?

I'm getting more and more curious as to what sort of magic it is.

"... Are you possibly referring to that?" (Rat)

Rat seems to have figured something out. She addresses Sadina.

"One of the extinct magics. Currently only known and passed down by high class monsters, Dragon Pulse Order?" (Rat)

"Correct. I was once taught it a long time ago." (Sadina)

"T-that's kinda amazing." (Melty)

Melty seems to have never heard of it before.

"Ah, Melty-chan might have the aptitude for Choral Magic." (Sadina)

"Eh!?" (Melty)

Choral Magic? What's that?

Is it similar to ritual magic?

In the magic books I've read, was that magic there? I think I've heard about it before, but I can't remember where.

"Impossible, Impossible, not happening." (Melty)

"It's fine. Melty-chan. Even your hair color signifies that you have the talent. Trust me." (Sadina)

Melty is frantically denying it.

Ah, I think Choral Magic was that thing Bitch was doing. Casting several magics at once.

"Anyways, you have the Talent, Melty-chan. Work hard." (Sadina)

"Uuu..." (Melty)

Even so, Melty's level isn't that high. I don't think you should expect that much from her.

"I'll teach you when you're ready. Shall I lecture on magic as we head there?" (Sadina)

This has somehow begun to feel like a Picnic. You know, Firo's life is on the line here...

Anyways, we talk as we climb up the mountain. We arrive at the area that the Dragon Zombie had previously lain. It's been 3 hours since we set out. There isn't a single blade of grass growing in the area.

Even now, this land is heavily polluted...

"Where could Gaelion be?" (Naofumi)

"... I think that way." (Taniko)

Taniko points further up the mountain.

What?

As if answering her statement, black fog begins rising from that area.

"My, my... That seems quite ominous." (Rat)

"But we have to go." (Taniko)

Taniko begins to lead the party.

"You know the way?" (Naofumi)

"Yeah... This way." (Taniko)

Taniko seems familiar with the area as she leads the party.

"I see, so that's it." (Sadina)

"What? What happened?" (Naofumi)

Sadina seems to have figured something out. If you don't explain it, I won't get it.

"Naofumi-chan, are you the type of person that digs up people's pasts?

Shall I tell you this Onee-san's past?" (Sadina)

"Don't care!" (Naofumi)

She seems to be dodging the subject.

Past? Did Taniko live here before?

Was she part of a reclusive village of Demi-humans that lived with the dragon... This area's population died out from plague. Perhaps she had tried

to escape it and gotten sold off.

And the magic was passed down through that village.

Was it something like that?

...

“There!” (Taniko)

Two hours later, Taniko suddenly jumps and begins pointing. Of course, we had to fight a lot of monsters on the way. Firo’s remaining time is running out, yet we were wasting time on the way here.

Gaelion is lying down in front of a cave.

Is he asleep? He’s not moving at all.

We remain hidden as we approach him.

If we can get close enough, I can seal him with Shield Prison. After that, we can prepare magics and release them the moment the prison vanishes to weaken him. And then Rat can use her drug.

After that, I’ll just need to get Gaelion to spit up the core.

But that’s just the best case scenario.

Shield Prison’s range is 5 meters. We are 20 meters from Gaelion.

I analyze him. His level is 55. He’s stolen more than 20 levels from Firo.

“GYA000!” (Gaelion)

Gaelion suddenly opens his eyes and rushes into the cave.

“Damn!” (Naofumi)

A failure.

But now we can trap him in the cave.

We carefully peer into the cave.

Gaelion seems to be scampering around the cave, frantically looking for something.

“What is he doing?” (Naofumi)

“I think he is looking for his treasure... The villagers took it already.”

(Taniko)

“Dragons have a habit of collecting things. I think the soul in the core Gaelion ate had some lingering affections for his treasure.” (Rat)

I see, so Dragons are that sort of lifeform.

“...” (Taniko)

Taniko quietly murmurs something.

But I have no time to hear her out.

“Okay, let’s go.” (Naofumi)

“Gaelion!” (Taniko)

And we approach the target.

“GYA000000!” (Gaelion)

Gaelion shouts out.

Thump!

The Shield pulses in response to the yell.

W-what is this!?

When Gaelion shouted out earlier, nothing like this happened.

“This seems to be dangerous. We should create a bit more distance.” (Rat)

“Gaelion! Come here! Please!” (Taniko)

But the shield continues to pulsate.

A visible black aura emanates from it and begins enveloping Gaelion.

And Gaelion even begins sucking up the pollution from the surrounding land.

Gaelion’s body gradually increases in size.

“I’m getting a very bad feeling, but Rat, do you know anything?” (Naofumi)

“How should I know? Isn’t it your shield’s fault?” (Rat)

“Probably… I think I absorbed some things like Firo did.” (Naofumi)

“Hey, Naofumi. Why do you look a little happy?” (Melty)

“Ha?” (Naofumi)

Well, this did give off a bit of a ‘Boss Battle’ vibe.

… But I’m getting a very ominous feeling. Something must be wrong with me.

“Naofumi, You got power from the Zombie Dragon’s core, right?” (Melty)

“Yeah, the shield I used to defeat the Spirit Turtle, the Wrath Shield used the core’s power.” (Naofumi)

“Didn’t that shield appear whenever you got mad at Sister and Father?”  
(Melty)

“Sister? Ah… Why was I angry at her again?” (Naofumi)

“THAAAAT’S IT!” (Melty and Sadina)

Melty and Sadina point their finger at me and shout out.

“Naofumi, that thing sucked up your hatred for Sister, among other things!”

(Melty)

“W-what!?” (Naofumi)

Damn. I can't remember anything.

I get the feeling that it's something I'm better off forgetting. The world around me seems off.

Now that I think about it... Sadina is quite a beauty as well.

Why didn't I notice it before?

“Naofumi, your eyes are creepy. Go back to your normal self.” (Melty)

“Even if you tell me that~” (Naofumi)

Raphtalia. When I think of her, my heart beats faster.

Firo is in trouble. Even when she's a bird, she's quite cute. In her human form, I might fall for her like Motoyasu.

Melty looks like a standard Tsundere, which is quite nice as well.

Atlas is also a blind cute girl. I can imagine her growing up to be a beauty.

Fohl's Sis-con is understandable.

Fufufu. If this was an Eroge, it would be NTR.

... This is really bad! I don't know what's bad, though.

What's this about NTR? Useless!

Is the me without Hate, Resentment, and Killing intent just a mass of Klesha?

I must retrieve my negativity fast, or things will get dangerous.

In numerous ways.

# TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

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## *Chapter 180 - Good Fortune*

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I check the Wrath Shield.

… You have not cleared the conditions to unlock this shield.

I can't check its status!

And Gaelion's status is so corrupted that I can't make any sense of it.

"For now, the only thing we can do is defeat him!" (Naofumi)

"Defeating it is… correct, right?" (Taniko)

Gaelion was able to slip past us and get out of the cave.

His size is now greater than 20 meters, He looks like an authentic dragon.

His eyes are shrouded in darkness. I can't read his expression.

I can't find any part of this being similar to the Gaelion we know.

"GURUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUU……" (Gaelion?)

(TL: Note, this sound is written in alphanumeric)

"Ah… Yes. I'm fine. How have you been?" (Taniko)

Everyone snaps their heads towards Taniko… She's also at a loss for words.

She's one of the lower level slaves, who has yet to Class-Up.

Gaelion takes in a large amount of air.

He's, going to unleash a Breath Attack.

[Meteor Shield!] (Naofumi)

I deploy Meteor Shield, and prepare for the impact. The others get behind me.

"I'm going to borrow the holy water for a second." (Sadina)

Sadina takes her holy water back from Taniko and begins to chant.

"I, Sadina, Draw out the power of Water to do my bidding. Dragon Pulse, Protect My Body. 「Saint Aqua Shield」!" (Sadina)

Sadina's magic envelops the party.

I wonder what's its effect.

"Naofumi-chan, I made preparations in case his flames are able to inflict curses." (Sadina)

"Thanks." (Naofumi)

As long as I can withstand his blasts, we can stand a chance. It's not like it's as strong as the Spirit Turtle.

A Pitch Black Flame comes from Gaelion's mouth, and flies towards us. It immediately dissolves the Meteor Shield on impact.

W-what!? That shield was able to withstand being trampled by the Spirit Turtle, yet it was destroyed in an instant!

The Flame continues to fly right at me. I deploy E Float Shield as well, and block it.

My body feels like it's melting as my shield takes on the attack.

Just considering output, the attack rivals the Spirit Turtle's lightning!

"Saint Aqua Shield was dispelled... What a powerful breath and curse."  
(Sadina)

I quickly cast recovery magic and stare at Gaelion.

This is... without a doubt the flames of the Dark Curse Burning S.

Perhaps what I was doing was merely an imitation of Gaelion's power...

This is a monster with the power of the Wrath Shield.

It even sucked up Firo's level and status, making it a tougher opponent than the Spirit Turtle.

Retreating is always an option.

But if I run here, then I can't consider myself a Hero.

Hm? Did I just think something stupid? Something feels off.

"Rat, if we weaken it, can you get the core from its stomach?" (Naofumi)

"... By getting eaten?" (Rat)

"Possibly, but it might be quicker to cut its stomach open." (Naofumi)

"After we're done, we'll heal it, right?" (Rat)

"Yeah." (Naofumi)

Hopefully that's enough to solve the situation. Taniko is desperately calling out to the Dragon, but it seems to have no effect. If this were an Anime... There would always be a slight effect.

"Then this Onee-san has to work hard." (Sadina)

Sadina spins her harpoon as she steps forwards.

"Can you do it?" (Naofumi)

"I'll try." (Sadina)

Sadina points the harpoon at the sky and begins chanting.

"I who has understood the origin of power command you. Once again be read and come forth. Rain down Spears of Lightning, 「Dreifach Thunderbolt」 !" (Sadina)

Upon Sadina's chant, the clouds in the sky begin to grow dark, and lightning flashes between them. The clouds gather around Sadina's outstretched Harpoon.

Dreifach... It's a level above Zveit. For the Level 35 Sadina to be able to cast that is quite a feat. Could she possibly be very strong?

Her previous level had capped at 40, but I wonder what level her strength was on.

"It's a bit dangerous, so step back." (Sadina)

Sadina leans forward, and begins rushing towards Gaelion.

She's fast. Though slower than Raphtalia, she's running at a speed unbecoming of her level.

「Thunder Impaler!」 (Sadina)

With a loud sound, Sadina kicks off the ground, and throws her harpoon at Gaelion's abdomen. The Moment the Harpoon leaves her hands, lightning comes out of it, blinding the dragon and preventing it from dodging.

And immediately following, the harpoon pierces Gaelion's chest...

Or is should have.

Gakin!

A sound like the one that occurs when something hits my shield rings out, and the harpoon sticks in Gaelion's skin for a moment, before being shot back in the direction it came from.

"Ara... It seems Onee-san's signature move didn't work." (Sadina)

Sadina lands, and catches the harpoon while stepping backwards. She then rejoins us.

“... So we’re in a lot of trouble unless Raphtalia gets back.” (Naofumi)

The Blinded Gaelion puts its hands over its eyes and lets out a moan.  
We can see if other magics work... But the outcome doesn’t look good.  
But we can’t just sit back and do nothing here. Our time is limited.

“Count, can’t you do anything?” (Rat)

“Even if you say that...” (Naofumi)

It’s sucked away my offensive abilities...

Hm? Sucking away abilities?

It at least seems to have the powers of the Wrath Shield.

What will happen if I try to strengthen that shield?

“I’m going to try to strengthen the shield that seems to be his source of power.” (Naofumi)

“ARE YOU AN IDIOT!?” (Rat and Melty)

Rat and Melty call out.

“Wait, Wait. Listen to what I’m saying. Strengthening occasionally fails.  
What do you think would happen if I purposely made it fail?” (Naofumi)

“Is that how it works?” (Melty)

“Yeah, I think that Dragon is getting defensive abilities from my shield,  
blocking all attacks... Perhaps I can destroy his defenses.” (Naofumi)

“Got it.” (Rat)

Gaelion lets go of his eyes, and begins searching for us.

It’s only a matter of time until we’re found.

“Let’s retreat for now, and fight it again later.” (Naofumi)

“It will definitely stay within its territory.” (Rat)

“Probably.” (Naofumi)

I activate the Portal Shield…

… It’s not letting me select a destination.

Eh? Could it be that the abnormal flow of magic in the area is blocking the skill!?

“I can’t teleport. We’ll have to make a run for it.” (Naofumi)

“I don’t think it’ll let us.” (Sadina)

Sadina points upwards.

Gaelion is floating directly above us. We’ve already been found.

If we wanted to run away here, we would need Firo. Without her, it’s impossible.

“G Y A O O O O O O O O O O O O O O ! ” (Gaelion?)

He swoops down, and tries to slash at us with his massive claws.

I step forward and take the attack.

A great pain runs through my body.

It’s not as severe as with the Breath, but it’s still quite painful.

I had quickly deployed the meteor shield, but it’s only a matter of time before he breaks through.

The claws are followed up by his tail, and then his fangs.

All of them send great pain.

“Count! 「Zveit Heal!」 「Faust Guard!」 ” (Rat)

Rat casts Support Magic. That saved me. I didn't have the flexibility to cast it on my own.

"Then, Melty-chan. Try casting Choral Magic." (Sadina)

"Eh... But..." (Melty)

"You too. Help Melty-chan. Your Unique Magic should be more effective than the Standard Magic Systems here." (Sadina)

Sadina also issues orders to Taniko.

"Y-yeah." (Taniko)

"I'll take the front. Melty-chan, work on tuning and synthesis, you need to focus on support. Let's go." (Sadina)

I see Sadina and the others preparing their magics, and open up the Wrath Shield Strengthening window.

I have more than enough materials.

Wrath Shield +7 → +8. Do you want to carry out this reinforcement?

I select 「Yes」 .

Warning, if this reinforcement fails, the reinforcement will fall to 0-

I ignore the message, and select 「Yes」 again.

You have successfully Reinforced your Wrath Shield to +8.

Damn! Why did it have to succeed here!?

Beep...

I timidly look up at Gaelion.

Yeah, his scales begin to shine for a moment. In an MMO, when you

enhance a weapon, it usually glows for an instant like that.

Why must I be so unlucky.

“U-um, Count? He… Seems to be getting stronger.” (Rat)

“Ah, the strengthening succeeded.” (Naofumi) (TL: Tehe)

“Are you an idiot!?” (Rat)

“Yeah, I’m sorry.” (Naofumi)

“You’re acting like it’s a trivial matter. Count, there’s definitely something wrong with you.” (Rat)

“I’m well aware. If we don’t beat Gaelion soon, I don’t know what will happen to me.” (Naofumi)

I immediately prepare to strengthen again.

I once again select 「Yes」 .

You have successfully Reinforced your Wrath Shield to +9.

…

Shit.

Gaelion’s attacks begin to succeed in piercing my defense.

The pain is getting too great for me to handle.

Blood starts erupting from parts of my body.

“Count!?” (Rat)

Is this shield… trying to kill me!?

If the next one succeeds, we’re screwed!

We’ll get devoured.

I button mash 「Yes」 .

Do you want to carry out-

You have successfully Reinforced your-

Gaelion's tail attack is coming right at us.

Yeah, Gaelion shines for a moment. If this hits me, will I start seeing stars?

Gaelion's mouth is wide open. At this rate, we'll get eaten.

I continue the button mashing!

You have Failed in Reinforcing your Wrath Shield to +11!

A breaking sound occurs and the Wrath Shield Reinforcement fails.

Gaelion's scales darken, and his attacks get visibly weaker.

As he was positioned to eat me, he picks me up in his teeth and tries to bite down on me, to no avail.

"Get off!" (Naofumi)

I grab his fangs and wrench them open with all my strength. I fall to the ground.

Good, this finally seems like a battle we can fight.

# TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

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## *Chapter 181 - Choral Magic*

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“Count, are you alright?” (rato)

“Do I look like I’m alright?” (naofumi)

My whole body ached….

Damn, it only succeeded at a time like this.

My luck is too extreme. This is harassment.

I’m not one of those inherently unlucky protagonists who appear in Light Novels. [T/N: But you are actually…]

“Zweite Heal” (naofumi)

I cast recovery magic along with Rato.

As expected of a fantasy world, my wounds healed before my eyes and the pain faded.

The injury I suffered was big, but the enemy had also been weakened.

Our average level was still low. I wanted to lower another rank.

“Okay, next is to lower the Rarity!” (naofumi)

Should I attempt SR -> SR+?

I ignore the warning message and spam the button.

But for some reason, I had a bad sense of foreboding.

“H-he’s growing into a somewhat vicious figure again.” (rato?)

“Dammnnnnn!” (naofumi)

When my luck is bad, everything escalates. What was with this chain of successes!

I didn't see how many times it succeeded. If this was the Soul Eater Shield, it'd probably have been so much easier!

I was blown away when I saw the letters LR.

Not again! This probably had a success rate lower than +11 or thereabouts!

Behind me were my allies, I couldn't avoid it any further and took the attack as it was.

"Ugh!" (naofumi)

With his Rarity upgraded, Gaerion hit me with all his strength.

That hurt...I want to go home.

His offensive power rose to an impossible level just from absorbing Firo's abilities, but now even his Rarity has risen. How far will my misfortune go. It's because lately everything has been progressing smoothly. It might be the backlash from that.

Will there be another situation similar to before?

No kidding. I need to hurry up and fail the Rarity enhancement so that Gaerion will weaken.

Enhancement to AF failed!

In an instant, the rank fell to C and Gaerion visibly weakened.

The lustre of his scales disappeared and his physical strength also dropped.

At this rate, we should be able to break through his defence if we persevere.

“I’m done. How about you guys?” (naofumi)

<Earth of the Curse, flow of that cursed dragon pulse, for the sake of spitting out the congested blood, let us….>

When I looked, Melty, Sadina and Taniko was chanting magic, their voices merging together.

I saw glittering, firefly-like lights gathering in our surroundings.

“GURUUUUUUU…” (gaerion)

Gaerion inhaled deeply in order to use his Breath, as if trying to stop us.

I went out front and held out my shield in order to protect Melty’s group.

Gaerion leapt up high, faced this way and opened him mouth.

It’s coming!

“Meteor Shield! Air Strike Shield!” (naofumi)

I used the shield projected by Air Strike Shield as a foothold and protected Melty’s group from the Breath.

Gu… My whole body was roasted and I was scorched by the flames.

I was already weakened from the curse, the cursed flames added to it and caused me pain.

Gaerion leaned forward in pursuit and thrust out with his claw. At this rate, he’ll probably snap at us.

<Oh Dragon Pulse. Please grant our wishes. I, who is worthy of the origin of strength, implore you. I’ve read and understood the truth once again, grant us the power to overcome this evil!>

The light intensified, and I understood that the three had turned their attention this way.

It's hard because the defence role has to wait for this.

...The me who is protecting everyone is cool; large-scale magic is the best!

Those thoughts passed through my mind for a moment.

It was thanks to the stress you'd expect from the pain caused by the flames, but it was more or less normal.

"It might be surprising at first, but compose yourself. It'll definitely be fine, believe in big sis! Now, Melty-chan!" (sadina)

"Choral Magic!" (melty)

"Deep Sea!" (sadina)

""Ze Vire!"" (all) [T/N: ゼー・ヴィレ... The Veil?]

Was it just my imagination that it felt like each one of them cast a different magic?

Water suddenly appeared from the midst of Melty's group and surrounded us. It was as if we were in a giant water tank.

I can't breathe...

\*Splash\* Gaerion painfully tried to escape from the water tank by swimming.

"Naofumi-chan, are you alright?" (sadina)

I held my breath to prevent it leaking out but Sadina just came walking naturally and talked normally.

“It doesn’t have any effect on enemies and those you don’t acknowledge so it’s fine” (sadina) [T/N: Talking about the breathing underwater thing…]

“Eh? Ah…” (naofumi)

Just like in an anime or manga, I could move underwater and breathe normally.

I thought so before, but magic is really amazing.

If you think about it, we’ve been following the law of nature until now, or I should say, our battles have been rather simple.

I’ve been summoning my shields, we used concealing magic and Firo attacked with her claws.

We each had our own magic which would have made it more flashy~

…what flashiness. There was no need to excessively worry about outward appearances.

What’s important was the practicality and efficiency.

It looked like that has been absorbed substantially.

Let’s be a little more conscious. Otherwise my brain will turn crazy.

“Haa…Haa…no more.” (melty)

“Yeah…” (taniko)

Melty and Taniko sat down tiredly and breathed heavily. I took out Mana Potions from the shield and passed the potions to the two of them.

“Well, that’s right… then big sis shall do her best.” (sadina)

With a \*pop\*, Sadina rose to the surface of the magical water tank and swam to the escaping Gaerion.

She was very fast.

Well, it was expected from one who had been levelling up in the ocean.

Wasn't she fairly strong in water?

"As expected from the Ruka species, you're like a fish in water when it's your own field." (rato)

[T/N: Oh how punny...]

"Sadina's species?" (naofumi)

"Yes, they're famous for being the strongest in the Aquatic species and a rare species. It's been said that even Hakuko would flee when opposing them in the sea." (rato)

Amazing. So she's the strongest in the right conditions. Well, orca was written as the tiger of fish. [T/N: Orca = 鮪. 魚 = fish, 虎 = tiger]

Gaerion tried to spit flames but before his eyes, Sadina leapt out onto the water's surface, encased in water.

That form was a dragon made from water.

"Enraged Dragon's Twin Blades!" (sadina) [T/N: 激龍双刃?]

With a splash, Gaerion fell into the water tank again.

He looked to have received damage and blood trickled from his abdomen.

"Gaerion..."

Taniko murmured quietly and stood up.

“Gaerio-n!” (taniko)

“One more time! Reverse Prong Attack!” (sadina) [T/N: 逆叉撃 ?]

The water current Sadina was clad in, formed a tail and hit Gaerion in the stomach.

“...so tough.” (sadina)

The tired Sadina descended and took some quick breaths. Gaerion spit out black flames in the water.

The encasing water was eroded by Gaerion’s black flames and disappeared.

“Ah...this is tough.” (sadina)

Sadina’s fatal technique only did this much. What a tough opponent.

The Wrath Shield’s enhancements couldn’t lower any more than this and it would be difficult for Melty and Taniko to fight.

.....What should we do.

We could retreat to safety for a moment. We should be able to beat an enemy of this level if Raphtalia was here.

However, if we took too long, Firo would be in danger.

If we fell back now, we’d veer off in a bad direction...

The options remaining are... there’s Rato.

If we use the drug or anaesthetic that stopped Firo before, we might be able to win.

“Rato, can you shoot your medicine?” (naofumi)

“Understood. I’ll have a try.” (rato)

Rato threw the syringe at Gaerion with a dark ability.

It hit the area Sadina had injured and seemed to have stuck.

However, Gaerion’s movements showed no sign of stopping.

“GYA000000!” (gaerion)

Gaerion recovered from the shock received by Sadina’s attack and cried out.

Then, he glared at us in irritation.

“Gaerion!” (taniko)

Taniko called out many times.

“Please! Come back!” (taniko)

“Hey! Wait!” (naofumi)

Taniko shook me off and ran in front of Gaerion.

It’s not that I don’t understand your feelings but think about the situation.

“GURUUUU….” (gaerion)

“Gaerion…” (taniko)

With both arms spread out, Taniko glared as she couldn’t go any further.

“Hey! I’m begging you, return to normal!” (taniko)

Taniko’s words resounded in the vicinity.

However, I felt that it didn’t enter Gaerion’s ears.

I quickly started running, and tried to head to the front in order to help Taniko.

However, Gaerion opened his mouth wide and snapped at Taniko before I could do so.

“Air Str——” (naofumi)

I immediately called up the Air Strike Shield.

But, before that—

“…..Father! Stop it already!” (taniko)

Taniko raised her voice and shouted.

# TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

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## Chapter 182 - Wrath Dragon

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"G U R U !?"(Gaelion)

That way of speaking stopped Gaelion's movements

Oh! Did the parent-child love move his heart?

Is that it?

"Father?"(Taniko)

"Eh?"(Naofumi)

"I had my hunch, I knew it I was right"(Rat)

Rat is muttering something, looks like she's convinced

"Uhhh, My father... My father is the dragon that occupies this area"(Taniko)

Taniko nods and then talked to Gaelion

"It's true. There are stories about children who grew up in the wilderness and those stories usually include demons, monsters and dragons" (Rat)

What the? That's a typical wolf boy phrase(*TLN: I think he's referring to a player*)

Eh? Is Taniko really raised by a dragon?

No matter how I look her, Taniko is definitely something related to a dog, there's not even a single hint of her being a dragon

In the first place the rotten dragon is…….. Impossible. In this case, did the dragon become her parent while it's alive?

Then, is that the special way of chanting magic something she learned from the dragon?

Why does Sadina know how to use that magic?

Sadina looks this way

"SE..CRE..T"(Sadina)

She's annoying

I'll hear about it later

"Stop it already……. Father. Soon, this place will become nothing. I understand your hate for that hero who took away everything from you. However, troubling other won't change anything in this word.. So please stop it!"

"G U ……"(Gaelion)

Gaelion is groaning it seems like Taniko's words are affecting him

I covered my ears with both of my hands; I don't want to hear it

"When will this stop? I know that the hero that took away my happiness, Father's happiness cannot be forgiven. But the shield hero is different. Everybody from the village is kind and gentle. They were different from the

people of this country who beat and whipped me if I did something wrong. They were different from the people in the village who laughed while taking away father's treasures"

Taniko is crying from remembering all the things that happened while trying to persuade Gaelion

I simply covered my ears not wanting to hear their conversation

Don't tell me, when a dragon raises an adopted child... It violates one's process of maturity, Am I being influenced by games too much?

"Please... Please return that child's body back . . . . That child I'll raise it. . . . that child's name is Gaelion, the same as yours, I promise that your name will still live with him . . . and also please return Firo's strength back to her. Father, you don't belong here anymore"

"G Y A O O O O O O!"(Wrath dragon)

And then something began to move inside his head intensely

And. . . .

"Gyaa ... Gyaaa"

"Gyu aaaa"

Something that looks like a newborn Gaelion came out from the dragon's mouth

The experience level and growth element has been sucked along with him, Seems like that prevents the dragon from rampaging

And then... .. The figure of the dragon that we fought earlier became covered in black and started dissolving while glaring at us

After that I turn my gaze towards Taniko

“Father.. I will do anything... I will stop you”(Taniko)

When taniko came back to her senses Melty and Sadina took a huge breath

“Sadina onee-chan, Let’s stop father” (Taniko)

“Understood”(Sadina)

“I have no choice but to do it” (Taniko)

The 3 of them gathered and started chanting choral magic

That was really fast, Taniko’s chant seems like it’s affecting him

I don’t think so, and then the small Gaelion flapped its wings and flew to the 3 of them chanting the magic

Then I directed my focus at the black dyed dragon that  
’s melting

“G Y A O O O O O O ! “(Wrath dragon)

This is Taniko’s father. . . . the one that I fought before. Back then he didn’t even fangs and horns. Now he looks a lot more dangerous than before

“Count, Is your wound alright?”(Rat)

“How does it look?”(Naofumi)

It's the Dark Curse Burning's flame. Well. . .the flame is getting weak, so you cannot consider it as a fatal injury

Though it felt like receiving a curse combined with another curse for additional damage

"My curse resistance decreased but there's holy water so we don't have to worry about that and somehow chant that they're doing affects it"

(Naofumi)

I move closely to protect Taniko and the others

Gaelion leaped towards us, and I held my ground

"It's dangerous, get back"

『This is perilous (Gaelion)』

"wha. . ."

Gaelion spoke

However, why is his voice so low?

『Don't lose your composure, we'll be exposed by wyndia』 (Gaelion)

"You. . ." (Naofumi)

So he's the father version of Gaelion.

It's not the child version of Gaerion who is doing the possessing.

『My daughter's growth has been a good one. Hero of the Shield, there is one thing that I'd like to teach you. Did you even notice? 』 (Gaelion)

“If I know what you’re talking about then you wouldn’t have teach me. So no, I don’t know what you’re talking about” (Naofumi)

I glared at Gaelion with hostility

It’s a different name, or should I say that I understand what his status have become

Wrath Dragon

The name of the black dragon slowly disappeared within my sight

『It is the corruption within me ate all your hatred away. All of the hate that it gathered took form and thus what’s making me lose control. Hurry, kill me before I start rampaging again』 (Gaelion)(*TLN: although they were referring to killing the wrath dragon.. I think he’s talking to them via the little Gaelion*)

“ Don’t you understand? I cannot attack you” (Naofumi)

Originally, I could attack enemies because of the Wrath shield. However, I can’t do it if I can’t summon the shield

(*TLN: he can’t use it because his hate is being sucked by the dragon making him unable to summon the curse shield series*)

『Be at ease, I will cooperate with you and release the attack. Hold your ground and endure it 』 (Gaelion)

“Yes yes, That is something that I always do”(Naofumi)

『I see that’s the case. Inside the shield、 resides the memories of the past events though it’s too much……I’m entrusting it to you』 (Gaelion)(*TLN: this*)

*is how I understand this line.. if you have a better one please tell me*  
*thnx :D* そうだったな。盾の中で、汝の記憶とこれまでの出来事を追体験していた  
我からしたら余計な事か……まかせたぞ)

Seriously, I can't shake this feeling off. I'm feeling a bit uneasy about this

Gaelion joined the party to speed up the chanting

The Wrath Dragon released its attack. The attack power of each attack kept on increasing; it was definitely getting stronger

I'm starting to feel pain and numbness, It was a similar pain that I felt back then with the curse of Blutopfer. I can't hold out much longer. This will make me go crazy

However, I was able to push him back even though he's attacking me relentlessly

He bites with his full strength; He's attacking above me attempting to pin me down

I'm using meteor shield and shield prison each time he attacks, I also use air strike shield to avoid and stop his attacks

『The Cursed Earth that bring hatred but gives the thought of a clear stream washing all the grudges away. Dragon Pulse the power that comes from the desire to save the world. I wish for a miracle』 (Gaelion)

『 I Gaelion order the heavens, order the earth, and remove the laws and ties, in attempt to discharge the sea. My power, to feel once again the controlled power that's flowing within』 (Gaelion)

The shield translates it all so I understand what Gaelion was chanting. The shield was making a relentless noise; I displayed the translation within my sight. Does Sadina notice? I faced toward Gaelion

『 『Erase Aqua Splash ! 』 』

『 『Water Dragon Destruction Wave ! 』 』

The magic that the three of them chanted is finished, then magic power overflow around Gaelion

“Eh !?” (Melty)

Taniko's raising her voice and surprised Melty who's sitting down because of fatigue

Sadina with a harpoon on one hand started to run

Gaelion gathered the magic power and turned it into a ball

“Naofumi-chan and Rato-san, Support!”(Sadina)

“Ah!”(Naofumi)

“Tsuveit Aura” (Naofumi)

“Fast Power! Fast Magic!”(Rat)

I covered Magic support and Rat covered Physical Attack Speed

"Lets go!. Gaelion-chan"(Sadina)

"Gyauuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuu"

Gaelion cries out

Gaelion took a deep breath and blew the magic ball

Afterwards a huge amount of water gushed out from the ball, and then we attacked him

Sadina entered the gushing water, swam and raised a tornado.

These guys' attacks are a lot flashier than Raphtalia and Firo. Could it be possible that she is stronger than those two?

But if you think about it Sadina's status isn't really that high

Is this somehow because of the correction?

You can't say that it is strong just because it's flashy. . . . Its bothering me

If it's the old me, surely I would complain

It should be from a robot that transforms using electromagnetic waves to combine and then attacks the enemy with a fatal technique, Sadina runs through the Wrath Dragon while turning.

Gaelion took a hit and the mass of water disappeared at the same time

"H-how is that. . . ! ?"(Sadina)

Sadina lands beside the Wrath Dragon shoulder. Of course, I checked the Wrath Dragon's health

The dragon has a hole in his abdomen but still walked slowly towards even though he's stumbling and when he got near me he roared.

If felt like victory have smiled upon us

"G Y A O O O O O O O O O O O O O O ! "(Wrath Dragon)

"He has an amazing vitality. . . Onee-san don't overdo yourself"(Taniko)

『I underestimated the emotions of thou, I never expected that after they had been eaten by me, I would have have such specs』 (Gaelion)

All of the members have reached their limits

Is it only me and Rato the only ones that can move?

"Rato, Can you do something about this?"

""It's uh..... I only have a medicine that boosts defense at most."

"Give it to me"

"Alright. . . Alright"

Rato tossed the medicine into the bucket with hot water without any hesitation

It exploded with a bang, when it dissolved it created a strange smell; which smelled in various ways.

"It was quite expensive . . . but we have to do something before we die here"(Rato)

"Give it up. . . I'll lure him, let's retreat"(Naofumi)

It will end like this after all

“I will keep him here, you guys escape first I will follow you afterwards”

(Naofumi)

I don't like self-sacrifice. I mean, I don't want to do such a thing

Though I receive damage from it, it'll be fine as long as I can avoid it

We should escape first and kill it later. We should prepare when Raphtalia is already here

What about Firo? Is she okay? She can't die. . . She's too cute to die

. . . . something's strange

I'm absolutely feeling strange somewhere

Do I always have this kind of character?

“ . . . It's time.”

I heard footsteps and a voice that I'm familiar with

When I looked back somehow, Raphtalia and Atla riding Firo just arrived at the right time

“Raphtalia onee-chan. . . Please”(Firo)

“Leave it to me”(Raphtalia)

“Raphtalia-san please Naofumi-sama and the others”(Atla)

Are the preparations for combat done beforehand? Raphtalia's sword is shining brightly

As soon as the Wrath dragon saw Raphtalia, the dragon's mouth expanded and become frightened and turned away attempting to fly into the sky

Why is that? That composure that you're showing, are you not affected?

Raphtalia is scary

"I won't let you escape"(Raphtalia)

Raphtalia used Firo as a stepping stone, leaps and slash the Wrath Dragon

"GYAAAAAAA AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!"(Wrath Dragon)

I raised a big voice. Raphtalia slashed the dragon, it created a wind pressure and the dragon was cut in half. The 2 halves fell to the ground

"Father..... I'm sorry. I won't look back any more."(Taniko)

『.....』

I stared at Taniko's back who put both hands together and shed tears for Gaelion

# TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

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## *Chapter 183 - Strange*

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Raphtalia lands, and swings her sword to get the liquids off of it. She looks towards us.

"Hm?" (Naofumi)

Wow. When I look at Raphtalia's face, I see sparkles for some reason. It's a face I see every day, but somehow staring at it makes my heart race. She's truly a beauty. She has a fluffy tail and ears, but her body is quite slender.

She doesn't have most of the traits associated with Tanukis.

"Um..." (Naofumi)

I raise my voice to try and thank her, but speaking is difficult. Something's strange. I could talk to her normally before, but now I can't even look her in the eye.

"Amazing..." (Taniko)

"Raphtalia-chan. You've gotten really strong." (Sadina)

"No, it was almost dead when it came into contact with my blade."

(Raphtalia)

Raphtalia gestures towards the Wrath Dragon's corpse.

"I believe that it was Raphtalia-san who saved you when the shield was going to control you, was it not, Naofumi-sama?" (Atlas)

"Yes, it was, but..." (Naofumi)

"It seems that Raphtalia-chan was the bane of this one throughout its

existence.” (Sadina)

“Firo, are you alright?” (Melty)

“Yeah. I was in pain, but now I’m fine.” (Firo)

Firo, with Atlas on her back, goes off and embraces Melty.

“Raphtalia-san returned right after Naofumi-sama left. After explaining the situation, we quickly set out.” (Atlas)

“Firo seemed to be doing bad, so we intended to leave her, but she wouldn’t let us.” (Raphtalia)

Raphtalia pat’s Firo’s head with a troubled expression.

I’m surprised they could get through these mountains in that short amount of time.

But Firo, without any carriage attached is unparalleled in speed.

“Firo was worried we wouldn’t make it.” (Firo)

“But it all worked out. Atlas-san, I am grateful to you as well.” (Raphtalia)

“All of this was for Naofumi-sama.” (Atlas)

Good. With this, the incident is resolved, I guess. I’ll have to talk to Gaelion later.

“KYUA?” (Gaelion)

Gaelion pounces on Taniko, and starts licking her face.

Did he return to normal? Or is he just acting?

“Gaelion, are you better?” (Taniko)

“KYUA!” (Gaelion)

"Give back the things you took from Firo!" (Firo)

"KYUA!" (Gaelion)

Gaelion and Firo are glaring at each other again. I shift my gaze to the Wrath Dragon.

"Your stats are probably over there." (Naofumi)

"Is that small dragon really Gaelion?" (Raphtalia)

"Yeah. He pushed himself too hard, and ended up small." (Taniko)

"Give me back my EXP!" (Firo)

Firo starts shouting at the Wrath Dragon Corpse.

She's an idiot, but she's cute.

But Raphtalia is better.

... Damn,

I've been holding hands with this girl and sleeping next to her.

"U-um..." (Naofumi)

I try to talk to Raphtalia without sounding suspicious.

And she returns a few words.

"Ah, Naofumi-sama...?" (Raphtalia)

Raphtalia stares at me and tilts her head. She's too bright for me to look at.

My heart is going to jump out of my chest.

"Um, you are Naofumi-sama, right?" (Raphtalia)

"Y-yeah." (Naofumi)

"But You're a little strange." (Raphtalia)

"What's strange?" (Naofumi)

"Your eyes are... strange. Also, the atmosphere around you is different."

(Raphtalia)

"Really?" (Naofumi)

This is a girl who's close to me. A girl who's travelled and fought next to me.

Alright, I'll use a cliché romantic line when we get back to the village.

...? What? I feel really bad for some reason.

I'm forgetting something.

No, Raphtalia has been working really hard as of late.

I should praise her for that first.

"You saved us. Thank you. We were in quite a bit of trouble. This is all thanks to Raphtalia." (Naofumi)

"Naofumi-sama!?" (Raphtalia)

"If you'd oblige, perhaps we can talk a little later." (Naofumi)

"Naofumi-sama, you're definitely acting weird. Your eyes are strange and you've never shown such a disgusting smile before. Your way of speaking has also completely changed. Did something happen to you while I was away?" (Raphtalia)

"Ah, Naofumi-sama has had various things sucked out of him by that corpse lying over there, and he became strange. He fought okay, but he's become somewhat creepy." (Melty)

Melty gives a strange explanation.

"Melty, were you a girl who said such rude things?" (Naofumi)

I pinch Melty's cheeks, and take on a smug attitude.

I always wanted to do something like this.

"Something's definitely wrong with this scene!" (Melty & Raphtalia)

Raphtalia and Melty both point and shout at me.

What are they on about?

"I'm concerned about my relationship with Melty from here on -" (Naofumi)

"Please shut up for a second!" (Melty)

I don't know why, but Melty backs off with a red face. Raphtalia and the others begin talking amongst themselves.

The beauties Raphtalia, Melty and Atlas are huddled together. What a perfect scene.

"What can we do to make Naofumi-sama turn back?" (Raphtalia)

"I'll follow Naofumi-sama no matter what." (Atlas)

"What are you saying. There's no way that creepy man over there is the Naofumi-sama we know." (Melty)

"The foundation is the same. This Naofumi-sama will be able to find happiness easier. Raphtalia-san, please accept this Naofumi-sama." (Atlas)

"Never!" (Raphtalia)

She plainly rejects Atlas's words, and looks over at Sadina and Rat.

Yeah, Raphtalia's beauty is a level above the others.

I think I will find happiness just looking at her.

But I feel... Strange for some reason. However, I feel really good today, so I'll let it slide.

“Can either of you revert Naofumi-sama?” (Raphtalia)

“This Onee-san has no idea.” (Sadina)

“How about chucking him into that decomposing mass of Dragon over there?” (Rat)

Both Rat and Sadina point at the Dragon corpse.

After hearing this, Raphtalia starts to approach me.

As I stare at her in admiration, she suddenly grasps both of my shoulders.

My heart skips a beat as I stare into her eyes.

And...

“W-wait! What are you people doing!?” (Naofumi)

Raphtalia and Melty, also Rat and Sadina all lift me up and throw me at the Dragon Corpse.

“I apologize, Naofumi-sama, but... Please return to normal.” (Raphtalia)

“If Naofumi-chan gets sucked into the dragon, then we’ll have a problem.

Raphtalia-chan, good luck.” (Sadina)

“Eh!?” (Everyone)

Think before you throw!

What are these girls trying to accomplish? They keep calling me creepy.

How rude!

“Master, what are you doing? Let Firo join.” (Firo)

And Firo nestles next to me in the dead dragon.

At that moment.

“Raphtalia! You are my…!” (Naofumi)

With a loud sound, the shield starts sucking something in.  
At the same time, something appears to be flowing into Firo.

…Was I forgetting something?

That was something that I should never have forgotten. My grudge towards Witch and the people of this world.

And if I made a wrong turn at the beginning, would I have turned out that creepy?

Blood rushes to my head. Why did I try to hit on the diligent Raphtalia?  
I even looked at Melty and Atlas with lecherous Eyes. Am I supposed to be Motoyasu!?

“Fumu… I’ve caused you some trouble.” (Naofumi)

Dammit. I still have my memories of a few moments ago.

Just thinking about it makes me angry.

I was acting like a dog in heat.

But at the end, what was I trying to say?

… I forgot.

It’s a thing of the past.

Anyways, it seems that being angry has become my default personality.

… At least it’s better than that previous state.

I think I should stop thinking about it.

"Ah, your eyes are back to normal." (Raphtalia)

"Naofumi-chan is more likeable when he's irritated." (Sadina)

"Ha? What are you trying to say?" (Naofumi)

"Yeah, this Naofumi is the best one." (Melty)

It seems everyone can distinguish that my personality is back.

"Raphtalia, you were a big help. We'll be returning to the village from now, but what will you do?" (Naofumi)

"I'll accompany you to the village, but I still have training after that."

(Raphtalia)

"I see. I apologize for interrupting your training." (Naofumi)

"No, it was an emergency, so there's no helping it." (Raphtalia)

I turn my gaze back to Gaelion.

"KYUA? (Gaelion)

"Explain yourself." (Naofumi)

I think that he was speaking before.

Though he was only whispering to me.

"KYUA!" (Gaelion)

He jumps at me and starts fooling around.

I stare at him with serious eyes, but his behavior doesn't change.

Has he completely returned to normal?

"Ah! Firo is the one who will play with master!" (Firo)

"You're making too much of a fuss! We're returning now. By the Way, Firo.

How is your condition?" (Naofumi)

"My body is better, but... I didn't get everything back from Gaelion." (Firo)

I look at her status.

Firo's level is... 41. It's dropped quite a bit.

And in contrast, even after separating from the Wrath Dragon, Gaelion's level is 60.

Their levels have pretty much flipped.

"Give them back!" (Firo)

"KYUA!" (Gaelion)

And the two glare at each other again.

"KYUA! KYUA KYUA!" (Gaelion)

"Gaelion is saying, 'I don't know anything about that, but the Hero of the Shield's favorite is Gaelion.'" (Taniko)

"Mu...!" (Firo)

Gaelion got a preemptive strike. He used his short tail to whip Firo's cheek. He laughs.

"Give them Back Give them Back Give them Back!" (Firo) (TL: Ora Ora Ora)

"KYUA KYUA KYUA!" (Gaelion) (TL: Muda Muda Muda)

The two are now exchanging blows.

Even though Gaelion was the cause of all of this, he doesn't seem to be repenting. He's even going as far as to feign ignorance.

That's one of my least favorite actions. I guess I should have him make reparations now.

“Okay, now then Gaelion. Please return it to Firo. If you become Firo’s dinner, perhaps she will get some of it back.” (Naofumi)

I quickly grab Gaelion, and move him towards Firo’s mouth.

“KYUAAAAA…!?” (Gaelion)

“NOOOOO!” (Taniko)

Taniko prevents it.

“Mu…! Master, what were you trying to feed me!?” (Firo)

“You’re a glutton, aren’t you? Dragon meat might bring you good luck.”  
(Naofumi)

“I don’t want to eat dragon anymore!” (Firo)

Ah, so she’s developed a hatred of the Dragon meat that caused this.  
I hope she keeps a balanced diet.

“Don’t be such a picky eater.” (Naofumi)

“No!” (Firo)

“Naofumi-sama… Please don’t give Firo any strange eating habits.”  
(Raphtalia)

“It’s a sort of punishment. Firo needs to get over her fears as well.”  
(Naofumi)

(TL: This is one of the rare times I need to ask for translation help. フィーロは恐怖の代名詞にするくらい受け入れるさ I know my translation here is wrong.)

“No!” (Firo)

“Stop doing strange things to Firo!” (Melty)

This time, Melty steps up to defend Firo.

And she starts glaring at Taniko.

“That child was the cause of this turmoil. Please dispose of him.” (Melty)

“He’s already better!” (Taniko)

Whatever. This is becoming a pain.

# TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

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## *Chapter 184 - Purification*

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“For the time being, we’re heading home!” (Naofumi)

“Just like I thought, being by Naofumi-chan’s side is definitely interesting.”  
(Sadina)

“Sadina stop laughing and use some purification magic already!” (Naofumi)

Since being recovered this late hurts you know!

Be considerate of at least that much.

“It can’t be helped.” (Sadina)

And so, Sadina uses holy water and casts magic on me. If anything, it seems like a special magic, but the fact that it’s effective at all on this curse is pretty amazing.

“Ah, Naofumi-chan. Would you give me a magic potion? Big-sis will run out of magic.” (Sadina)

“So what. We don’t plan to fight anymore.” (Naofumi)

“Ahh, it’s really troubling for me though. Please!” (Sadina)

She goes on and on but I ignore her and walk away.

“Firo, we’re going home.” (Naofumi)

“Kay.” (Firo)

“Kyua!” (Gaelion)

Once again Gaelion hangs around by my feet.

“It’s hard to walk. Move!” (Naofumi)

“Kyuaaaa!” (Gaelion)

Suddenly, Gaelion starts shining, and returns to his form from when he ate the rotten dragon’s core.

A little bit bigger than before actually, probably around 40 meters.

And then, he starts flying with me on his back, Taniko, Sadina, and Rato on his tail and in his hands.

“Ah, AHHHH-!” (Firo)

Firo lets out a regretful sounding voice.

“Naofumi-sama?!” (Raphtalia)

Raphtalia was taken aback. Even I have no words for this!

Gaelion was able to transform?

“Kyuaa.” (Gaelion)

Gaelion placed the everyone he was holding in his hands onto his back and provokes Firo.

“Mu?!” (Firo)

“Kyuaa.” (Gaelion)

He begins to fly in descent off the mountain.

“Raphtalia-sis! Hurry up! Master should only ride on my back!” (Firo)

Firo, as if refusing to be defeated, takes off running.

Even though she has no cart, she probably can't catch up.

Although Gaelion is my slave, even when I order him to let us down, he won't listen.

I can't activate the slave crest either, else we would fall.

“Jeez. This child is too pushy, huh.” (Rato)

“Rato, did you know that dragons had this type of ability?” (Naofumi)

“I've seen it often in my research, but I don't know if the possible variations are to the same extent of the Fiolials. Kids around the Count seems to always grow in interesting ways.” (Rato)

“That's not the problem...” (Naofumi)

From the sky I look down. I noticed that the polluted ground's color was disappearing.

"Did the count notice too? I wanted to see what effect the rampaging Gaelion had on the vicinity, but I guess this is the result huh?" (Rato)

I see. With this the land also returns to its peaceful state.

I wonder if I could use Portal Shield.

I guess I'll test it out and see.

"Portal Shield!" (Naofumi)

Alright. As far as I can see, it looks like I can use it. Just to be careful, I should fly in and check the situation of the land here.

Are we out of Raphtalia and everyone's range? I'll need to think about how to fly in here later.

"Ah... Naofumi-chan. I'm begging you, would you give me a magic potion?"  
(Sadina)

"Why should I?" (Naofumi)

I turn back and Rato, Taniko, and I are all at a loss for words.

“Please?” (Sadina)

Sadina… was pleading, no longer as a giant, but in the form of a human.

Huh?

“Who are you?” (Naofumi)

“That’s why I was asking for a magic potion, else I can’t keep up my appearance. Even alcohol will do.” (Sadina)

She has long black hair, and skin and face that would rival even Raphtalia.

A beautiful traditional Japanese-style woman is here.

It really was a surprise to have been asked a favor by someone who looks like her.

“It can’t be helped, huh.” (Naofumi)

I throw her a potion.

“If I thought about it, I should have realized something when Gaelion brought you too.” (Naofumi)

There’s no way he could have flown with a four-meter giant on his back.

“Don’t drink it here. We’ll crash.” (Naofumi)

“Naofumi-chan you’re not surprised?” (Sadina)

"I am." (Naofumi)

"Don't shed too many tears for me." (Sadina)

"Who would." (Naofumia)

"Did the Ruka people have that sort of ability?" (Rato)

"I'm not Ruka though." (Sadina)

Sadina answers Rato's question.

"Are you something else?" (Rato)

Now that think about it, these two are close in age so their characters look to be clashing.

Well, Sadina looks to be a little older though.

Whatever.

"I'm from the Sakamata race. Ruka is close, but they're different." (Sadina)

"How are the different?" (Rato)

"Can't you tell by looking?" (Sadina)

Well, if they're able to transform, they're probably another race entirely.

"Not at all. It looks like you're able to transform with magic in some way. I mean, there's a living example right in front of me." (Rato)

“Well, it’s too bad that you aren’t able to tell the difference. That’s all you get, I don’t have much of a migratory diet.” (Sadina)

“No clue.” (Naofumi)

By the way, I’ve read that Orcas are split into three types back in my own world. It feels just like I had seen it, but I think I remember something about their genes differing as little as between an average dog and a wolf. [\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

“Kyua!” (Gaelion)

“Gaelion grow up to be handsome… Become a fine dragon like my Father.” (Taniko)

“Kyua!” (Gaelion)

“I know that Father of yours is feigning innocence.” (Naofumi)

“What are you talking about? Father…is dead.” (Taniko)

Taniko interrupts me and refuses to believe anything I had to say.

By the way, before flying towards our village, I landed by the east village.

It seemed like everyone at the east village was happy about how the mountain became pretty again.

As expected of the Shield Hero! Saying stuff like that but, you couldn’t fool me.

To be blunt, from what Taniko and Gaelion said, I imagine they got what they deserved.

My inner evaluation of the east village's people dropped quite a bit.

They can just go to hell.

"Master can only ride on my back!" (Firo)

"Kyuaaa." (Gaelion)

Once we returned to the village, Firo and Gaelion's bout continued.

By the way, Gaelion mode-changed again and is in his small form.

"Yes, yes. That's far enough." (Naofumi)

"No it's not!" (Firo)

Firo's still fixated on that.

"Ha... For now, I'll play with you from today onwards Firo, so don't worry about it." (Naofumi)

"Yaaay! But master.." (Firo)

"If you dwell on it any more, I won't play with you." (Naofumi)

"No!" (Firo)

"Kyua.." (Gaelion)

"You're the one who caused the problem, so you'll be disciplined for a while. If you have time, I'll let you play with Firo, so be obedient." (Naofumi)

Gaelion tots over to Taniko to cry.

"Kyuaaaaa." (Gaelion)

"Even though you're covering for that bird, why do you pink on Gaelion."  
(Taniko)

"You don't understand? It's punishment." (Naofumi)

"U..." (Taniko)

The crying Gaelion glances over to me.

It's as if a child is fake crying to its parent to get what it wants.

"No way." (Naofumi)

"Kyuaaaa..." (Gaelion)

"Yaaa-y! Serves you right!" (Firo)

"Firo." (Naofumi)

After warning Firo, she turns her glance away and starts singing.

I swear, she's still a child. I wonder if she aware of the trouble she caused.

"Then I'll be going back." (Raphtalia)

"Ah, you saved us." (Naofumi)

"No problem. If anything, my apologies for being late." (Raphtalia)

"It couldn't be helped. I couldn't even imagine a situation like that."  
(Naofumi)

With that, I express my thanks to Raphtalia, and see her off.

“About how much longer is it looking?” (Naofumi)

“For the basic training to finish… it looks like it’ll take a little longer. Rishia also looks like she’s growing pretty well.” (Raphtalia)

“I see.” (Naofumi)

That Rishia that the Old Hag took a liking too, huh?

In my head, Rishia turns into a muscle freak.

“What Naofumi-sama is thinking is probably wrong, you know.” (Raphtalia)

“You understand me well.” (Naofumi)

“Well, we’ve been together for a long while.” (Raphtalia)

It’s that thing where we understand each other by breathing the same air, huh.

“I see. Then I’ll keep something like this from ever happening again. Next time report to me where you’re training at.” (Naofumi)

“I understand.” (Raphtalia)

“Your level… hasn’t really risen much.” (Naofumi)

Her training doesn’t seem like it’s just fighting fierce monsters.

Is there some sort of standard for survival when training in the mountains?

Now that I think about it, I need the Old Hag to teach me too.

“Ah…If there is time, it seems like Naofumi-sama’s training will begin after ours ends.” (Raphtalia)

“Somehow I feel commonplace.” (Naofumi)

“Naofumi-sama is the type to learn though actual fighting experience, so she was saying something about your qualities already showing result.”  
(Raphtalia)

“What?” (Naofumi)

“Not offence, but you can can’t afford a haphazard defense. Not a counter move either, but if you remember the basis for parrying, it’ll be enough to apply it later…I don’t really understand though.” (Raphtalia)

“I don’t really get it either.” (Naofumi)

Well, I heard that I should remember the technique to draw out the destructive power within…

Thinking back, in exchange for not being able to see, Atlas could see the flow of ki.

If I ask her, it she’d probably be my practice partner.

I’ll go and ask after all this is done.

After finishing our talk, Raphtalia left the village, albeit a little reluctantly.

I shall look forward to her return once her training is over.

# TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

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## *Chapter 185 - Nickname*

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"Now that I actually think about it, doing this was for the best, right?"

(Naofumi)

--That night--

I informed Atlas, who was lying in Raphtalia's bed like it was natural, and the drunk Sadina that I invited Firo to bed.

"Hehe- Master is petting me!" (Firo)

Says human-form Firo in a good mood, while clinging to me.

"You understand, right Firo?" (Naofumi)

"Yup. If Atlas-chan tries to get into Master's bed, I drive her out." (Firo)

"That's right. If you mess up, I'm driving you out too." (Naofumi)

"Ok. Got it!" (Firo)

If I'm going to pair up with someone weirdly, it's best if I only give one side favorable treatment.

After all, Firo went through a lot. I probably should comfort her at least a little.

I need to raise her level that dropped down to 41 back up, so she, herself, needs to be motivated.

"Ah, Naofumi-sama. Why are you giving me such a trial?" (Atlas)

Says Atlas in a vexing tone.

Do you really want to sleep with me that much? I feel sick.

"Firo-chan gets to sleep with Naofumi-sama. I'm...very envious."(Atlas)

"Sleep with...You're too much." (Naofumi)

I'm not Motoyasu you know.

If that guy knew that Firo was in this situation, he'd surely exhibit some criminal-like behavior.

In the end that worthless guy, didn't even show up when Firo had a crisis.

Next time he appears, I'll have him listen to more of my complaints.

As I gently brush Firo, who's leaning on me while in a good mood, knocking is heard from the door.

"What is it?" (Naofumi)

"Please excuse me, Shield Hero."

Then as if it was the natural thing to do, Gaelion opened the door and came in.

I was surprised to see Rato accompanying behind him.

Taniko isn't with them? What happened?

“Hey. Your kid isn’t here.” (Naofumi)

I don’t know if she’s his actual child, or adopted, but the all-important Taniko isn’t here.

“I came after confirming she was asleep.” (Gaelion)

“I was doing research in my lab when I was suddenly invited. I was told to hear him out with the Count… I was surprised.” (Rato)

Seems like it.

It looks like Gaelion just suddenly started using human words in front of her to call her over.

“You were Sadina, right? When I saw your transformation I was honestly surprised.” (Gaelion)

“Well, you’re in more shock than this young lady, aren’t you.” (Sadina)

Afterwards, Atlas gives her own response.

“Atlas can you understand what I’m saying?” (Gaelion)

“Yes. I always understood. Inside of Gaelion-chan was someone else.”  
(Atlas)

“I see. Why didn’t you say anything?” (Naofumi)

“At first I didn’t realize it but, since the ominous spirit left Gaelion, there was another instance where his conviction changed.” (Atlas)

"I see..." (Naofumi)

This isn't a time where you should keep something like that to yourself.

"As if in hiding, you were dormant within Gaelion-chan, so there was no need to call you out." (Atlas)

"Fumu... as expected of the Hakuko, to see through my situation." (Gaelion)

"Muu..." (Firo)

Firo glares at Gaelion.

"The next Fiolial Queen is it? It's because you ate my core that you turned out like this. Fool." (Gaelion)

"Return my experience!" (Firo)

"Fumu...It can't be helped. Is what I'd like to say, but it's mixed in with mine, so you have to be patient. (Gaelion)

Just when I was thinking about what Gaelion will do, he inhales deeply.

He spits out a large mass that looked something like a candy ball.

"If you lick that, a little of your experience will return. So be silent."  
(Gaelion)

"Bu..." (Firo)

Firo protests while staring at the spit out mass in her hands.

I guess there aren't many ways for her to get her experience back.

"So, what is this you wanted to talk to me about? Were you doing some performance for us earlier?" (Naofumi)

"There's a lot to talk about. The owner of this body, for one, is the Gaelion you know. One day, when he reaches adulthood, our minds will fuse."  
(Gaelion)

"Against your will?" (Naofumi)

"Most likely. The owner of this body also wants it to happen. Ever since you've warmed this egg up yourself, Shield Hero."  
(Gaelion)

"I see." (Naofumi)

Thinking about it, I might have seen a weird dream last night. I can't really recall it, but it was probably this guy's voice.

"In the first place, even though our minds have been fusing little by little, the moment when we ate the core, your rage occupied both of ours and wreaked havoc."  
(Gaelion)

"Then the reason why he flew in that direction was..." (Naofumi)

"According to my memory, he would have flew further. Over there the polluted land's energy was being absorbed, else he would have stored up enough power to wreak havoc at who you wanted to kill the most."  
(Gaelion)

"Who I wanted to kill?" (Naofumi)

“The person you hated more than anything… if I say it like that is it easier to understand?” (Gaelion)

So it's like that, huh.

He was planning to raise hell after finding Bitch and Scum.

Though indirectly, my rage would have brought upon the downfall of the country.

It was a really bad situation in a lot of ways.

“Thus, I can keep this appearance, but not for too long. That's why I'll explain it to you simply.” (Gaelion)

Hmm… To summarize, Gaelion can hold a deeper conscious for short periods of time, contrast to the child-like Gaelion. He made the judgment that now was a better time to talk than ever.

“Wait a second. Are dead dragons even capable of passing on their consciousness?” (Naofumi)

“Just a part. Our kind are sort of like immortal beings.” (Gaelion)

“Immortal… A pure-bred dragon!? The kind that marks territory around mountain recesses?” (Rato)

Rato, as if she saw something horrible, asks Gaelion. She really hates dragons, huh.

"How should I put this, I am that pure-bred." (Gaelion)

"What are the chances... Shouldn't the Sword Hero have killed you?" (Rato)

That would make him around level 40 when he lost.

Even so, that Gaelion shouldn't have been able to find a way to get stronger mid-battle.

Which means, originally Gaelion was pretty weak.

"It can't be helped. I am the weakest fragment left of the Dragon Emperor."  
(Gaelion)

"What?" (Naofumi)

Dragon Emperor...the weakest of the four heavenly kings.

It's a famous phrase that I tend to remember.

I don't think anyone would listen to what I'm saying but...

For the weakest dragon to be boasting is pretty lame.

"Fragment of the Dragon Emperor?" (Naofumi)

"It looks like you don't know about the ecology of dragons. Let me explain from there. Wait, maybe it would just be faster to ask that shrine maiden over there?" (Gaelion)

Murmurs Gaelion while pointing at Sadina.

"Shrine Maiden?" (Naofumi)

"As far as I can tell, it's someone who's received divine protection from the Dragon Emperor. Correct?" (Rato)

"Yuuuu-p. I'm a Shrine Maiden. That's why I'm able to use Dragon Pulse~"  
(Sadina)

Answers Sadina while playing with her hands, all curled up. It doesn't feel like she's motivated at all.

"That's also something that I've heard. A long time ago, the Fiolial Queen had forced the Dragon Emperor to scatter." (Rato)

"I see..." (Naofumi)

So it's basically an already extinct being then.

It seems like it was because they were on bad relations with the Fiolial back then.

"But speaking of the dragon's existence, in the first place, they were the only pure-bred existence on earth, everything else originated from a hybrid or cross-breed. Dragon Emperor was more of a label that us pure-bred dragons used for ourselves. Since we were able to breed with any living thing, our offspring increased. And then once extinction came, we sought whatever way we could to survive." (Gaelion)

"What a stubborn being. Like a cockroach." (Naofumi)

“That is why you didn’t die while all scattered about. It could be that Gaelion-chan is the successor of a part of that Dragon Emperor from the past.” (Rato)

“Fumu…For the most part, you’re correct. It’s because I’ve confirmed personally how weak I am that, to not get snatched away by the remainders of the Emperor, I lived near humans.” (Gaelion)

Since he was discluded from his allies from being too weak, he was in always hibernating like a bear. The more I hear about it, the more pitiful I think this dragon is.

After talking like he was all that, now this? It’s the worst.

“What I say from now is pretty important. The pure-bred fought among themselves, and the winner had power to control its fragments. Like that, they gathered for several hundred years in hopes for revival.” (Sadina)

“Come to think of it…I’ve heard often about the hero of legend who defeated the revived Dragon Emperor.” (Naofumi)

“…The battle of the struggling fragments turned into a death match of the same race. It came to a point where the next generation would lose its ability to breed.” (Sadina)

“If you don’t want to be aimed at, isn’t it ok to just hand over the fragment?” (Naofumi)

"It's because I can't do that, that I ran away. As expected no other Dragon Fragments would do anything reckless like settling near humans. If the fragments gathered, they'd just be torn apart again." (Gaelion) \*?

Pitiful.

Hasn't the Dragon Emperor itself already lost.

"That's all the information I've got." (Sadina)

"So then, let me supplement. I am but a single fragment of that Dragon Emperor, that's why I can exist right now. Originally, I was going to look for a different retainer, but in that situation I didn't have control over my common sense." (Gaelion)

Basically what everyone's trying to say is, Gaelion living on nothing but matters of the previous era.

That's why the remaining Dragon Fragments didn't realize it.

So, that Fragment's magical power reorganized into the flesh of the Zombie Dragon that Firo and I were defeated by, even though it should have been sealed.

As a result, the fragment my shield absorbed transferred over to the egg. A perfect revival with all fragments gathered...is what should have happened if the rage sleeping in my shield didn't take over.

How pitiful.

I should look down on this guy.

“Well, I am fine. Good job saving Windia. You have my thanks for her growing up into a fine girl.” (Gaelion)

“Windia?” (Naofumi)

For the most part, I didn't have enough evidence to pick out someone.

“Mu? You surely aren't planning to tell me you were planning to raise her without even knowing her name?” (Gaelion)

“It's that Monster-loving idiot slave, right? So she had a name like that.”  
(Naofumi)

“Hold on, could it be that you don't know the names of the children in our village, Count?” (Rato)

“There are ones I know, but a lot I don't.” (Naofumi)

I can only remember Atlas... Kiel and Foulou thanks to Raphtalia.

Aside from those, I'm pretty unclear. I can find some way around using their names, anyways.

Now that I mention it, there are a lot of guys I don't know.

Even the Woman Knight I talk to a lot... I don't know her name either.

“Count, What do you usually call Windia?” (Rato)

“Probably just Taniko” (Naofumi)

“Why!?” (Rato)

“A great nickname isn’t it? Or would fatty be better? OR-MAY-BE Mistress?”  
(Sadina)

Sadina asks me in a really irritating pose.

If she turned into her human form, this would turn into a brawl.

“I remember people calling her name out, and other people calling out to her. But I’ve never called her by her name myself.” (Naofumi)

“Ah…That’s true, isn’t it. Most of the time you usually just refer to people with “You” or “Over there”.” (Rato)

“Hey Naofumi-chan, have you ever called anyone by name? Tell me.”  
(Sadina)

“Head chef, Imia’s Uncle, Old Hag, and there are many others.” (Naofumi)

“Wow… this is pretty serious. Naofumi-chan isn’t fussing over it so it’s fine, but you shouldn’t call people by those names.” (Sadina)

“Isn’t Old Hag fine?” (Naofumi)

“I don’t know who you’re talking about.” (Sadina)

“Battle Advisor.”(Naofumi)

“Oh… she’s definitely an Old Lady.” (Sadina)

“Naofumi-sama, what do you call my brother and I?” (Atlas)

“Atlas is Atlas. I’ve started calling Foulu, Alps.” (Naofumi)

“Like I was saying before, why!? I don’t understand your naming scheme, Count.” (Rato)

“That’s certainly true.” (Sadina)

I’m just basing it from anime in my world. If you want reasoning go ask another hero.

Even so, there’s no way of telling if the other heroes had seen the same anime.

“What about Firo?” (Firo)

“Do you want to hear?” (Naofumi)

“Yeah…” (Firo)

“By the way Gaelion, you’re Ping Pong Dash.” (Naofumi)

“It’s longer than my real name! I don’t understand its origin.” (Gaelion)

Ping Pong Dash protests while amazed.

I wonder which Ping Pong Dash was the one who actually Ping Pong Dashed.

Hmm, this name is hard to use.

“Well that’s all well and good. I’ll ask once but, that kid is your child?”  
(Naofumi)

“That would be correct.” (Gaelion)

“Then you kidnapped her with the intentions of violating her, huh? You’re deplorable.” (Naofumi)

It’s not strange that Taniko is in blind acceptance of Dragons. Since she was young she was intended to marry into Dragon nobility. Even if Gaelion didn’t feel like it, he could still have his way.

This type has his own intentions, and will stick it out until the end to fulfill his desires.

“How dare you speak like that! I’ll kill you! Since Windia was small-!”  
(Gaelion)

# TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

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## *Chapter 186 - Dragon's Anger*

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Apparently, a group of Demi-Human Merchants were attacked while passing through Gaelion's mountain range.

Of course, Gaelion was not going to let the culprits go Scot free.

But before he could do anything, a female Demi-Human came running to his cave with a baby in her hands. She collapsed at the entrance.

"Fumu, what are you doing in front of my cave. Depending on your answer..." (Gaelion)

The woman's vision was getting hazy. She could not see who she was addressing, but still she smiled and held the baby up with the last of her strength.

"Thank god. There was someone here... we were attacked in these mountains, and I somehow made it here... I beg of you, please, at the very least, save this child..." (Female Demi-Human)

"Nu..." (Gaelion)

"This is a harsh country for Demi-Humans. I understand that I am asking for a lot, but... I beg of you."

And with shaking hands, the woman tries to hand the child over. Her eyesight is slowly leaving her.

She doesn't realize that the one she is talking to isn't even human.

"... I understand. I shall care for thy child with my life." (Gaelion)

Gaelion listens to the woman's last wish. He picks up the child in his massive claws.

"Thank... You. That child's name is... Wyn... Dia..."

After saying this, the woman stops moving.

The only thing sustaining her lifeforce was her desire to protect the baby.

"Fuhihi... So she ran all the way to this place." (Bandit)

The bandits that had attacked her earlier arrived.

They were fools who simply gave chase without seeing where they were going.

There was supposed to be a famous story circulating in this region.

One of an Evil Dragon that made its home on these lands.

"A promise is a promise. I guess I have no choice." (Gaelion)

"He? Wha-!?" (Bandit)

Before the Bandits can say any more, Gaelion releases a Breath Attack.

And the thieves are immediately reduced to rotting ashes.

"Now then. Protecting my land takes most of my effort... What should I do with this?" (Gaelion)

Like this, Gaelion started raising the baby.

With the help of the other monsters inhabiting the area, he looked after Wyndea, while protecting his land. (TL: There is a side note that these monsters are Gaelion's lovers)

And because of that, Wyndea... This is a pain. Taniko learned to treat

monsters as family.

It appears that Gaelion had many children.

And having a Demi-Human among them didn't hurt.

The story after that went into Gaelion's child-care journal, so I'll omit that.

Anyways, Gaelion awkwardly brought up Taniko.

He learned to treat her with love, but a dragon raising a Demi-Human is still difficult.

Melromark had always had a tradition of Human Absolutism, and Gaelion somehow wanted to give Taniko human happiness.

But because of that...

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On that Day, Gaelion left Taniko in the care of the other monsters, and went on a walk.

"The Dragon plaguing this land is you, right!?" (Ren)

A person wielding what appeared to be a magic sword, and his companions, appeared.

Occasionally, some humans attack Gaelion's lair in search of his treasure.

Though he understood human language, there was no real reason for Gaelion to converse with these thieves.

"GYA000000000!" (Gaelion)

With the cry of a beast, Gaelion attacks these humans.

But his opponents were too strong.

The Humans had somehow obtained an anti-dragon sword, and every hit from it put Gaelion in great pain.

Gaelion realized it.

That this was one of the summoned humans. The Hero of the Sword.

The fight itself took around 30 minutes.

The sword's properties put Gaelion at a disadvantage, so he wanted to retreat.

But in his cave was Taniko, and the monsters caring for her.

If he ran here...

The monsters would probably be fine. They were inhabitants of this mountain, and had the ability to run.

But Taniko was different.

If this cowardly fragment of the Dragon Emperor were to run here, then she would probably confront the Hero... and perish.

He thought back to what his crime was. It was his very existence.

Just by protecting his territory, he attracted greedy humans vying for his treasure.

Gaelion felt great resentment.

In the last moments of his life... Gaelion stared at the Hero of the Sword's face.

Those weren't the eyes of one who was prepared to die fighting.

He was killing him as if it were simply a job.

While Gaelion was fighting with his life on the line, this man was simply doing a job.

The irrationality made him think he was going insane.

Taniko's troubled, crying face.

Taniko's slightly lonely face when he went out.

Taniko's happy face when he returned home.

He could no longer see any of them.

The Dragon Emperor fragments are immortal.

But when will he revive? There's no guarantee he will ever see Taniko again.

If someone were to extract his core and use it, then revival would be impossible.

And with those thoughts of anger and despair, Gaelion died.

Luckily, his core was not taken.

From within the core of his lifeless body, he quietly waited for his resurrection.

He waited, and waited. Even when his body started to rot.

Gaelion wished. If only someone came by to help take on his soul.

But that wish never came true. His friends at the cave had probably been exterminated by now.

Eventually, he stopped thinking entirely, and his core's instincts took over.

He could no longer hear rhyme or reason.

His body began moving against his will.

Gaelion could no longer perceive the outside world or speak.

And all that surrounded him was tainted earth.

Taniko and the others were most likely dead.

When he finally regained his senses, he witnessed a Filo Rial eating his core. It was the end.

-He no longer cared for reputation or pride.

Just one hit was enough. He just wanted to give that Sword Hero some form of retribution.

"But the one I found was the hero of the Shield. I watched and waited for my opportunity from inside your shield." (Gaelion)

"And I conveniently obtained a Dragon's egg, so you tried to shift your conscious to it?" (Naofumi)

"Pretty much. But I never expected to find Wyndea alive here. My luck was good." (Gaelion)

Gaelion turns to Firo.

It was a long story, so Atlas is sound asleep.

If someone tells a story while you're lying down, you will tend to fall asleep.

"As expected of a Filo Rial's body. You were able to contain my power and keep control of your body. You're quite a troublesome one, you know."

(Gaelion)

"Hmph-!" (Firo)

Firo shows open hostility towards Gaelion.

"And? How did Taniko get to this village? I just bought her from the Slave Dealer, so I have no idea." (Naofumi)

"I can guess. After the Hero of the Sword killed me, the villagers probably came to my cave for my treasure. They slaughtered all the monsters there

and sold Wyndea along with the eggs there. She does have a good face.”  
(Gaelion)

Ah, Dragon eggs are quite valuable, so they were probably sold off.  
I was suspicious of how the villagers in the area were so wealthy.  
They were pretty much getting their just deserts.

But that’s just from a dragon’s point of view.

Honestly, humanity is a race that only sees things one-sidedly, and commits crimes without remorse based on this arbitrary judgment.

I learned that myself here.

Monster hunting can be considered merciless slaughter from the monster’s point of view.

“You won’t get my sympathy.” (Naofumi)

“I know. How long do you think I hath inhabited thy shield? This world is based on Survival of the Fittest, and I think I’m resigning. I can’t forgive the one who killed me without any thought and left my body to rot, but I’ve already delivered retribution on many souls.” (Gaelion)

There were many casualties at the plagued village.

I guess that was his retribution.

“I was simply waiting for mine own revival. And now I hath been given a body here.” (Gaelion)

“Yes, yes. If you don’t intend to serve me, then you can take Taniko and leave. Otherwise, I don’t mind forgiving you for the trouble you caused us.”  
(Naofumi)

“I never said I didn’t wish to serve thee. This body’s owner seems to have

taken a liking to thee.” (Gaelion)

“Master is Firo’s!” (Firo)

“Quiet, future Queen! He who wins out is the winner! This time, I shalt obtain this hero’s favor, is what this body’s owner says.” (Gaelion)

“Mu···!” (Firo)

“My Favor···” (Naofumi)

My pets appear to be fighting over me.

If they get to be too much of a pain, should I kick them out?

But Firo is currently here as an Atlas countermeasure, so I can’t really kick her out.

“So, in the end, what do you want to do?” (Naofumi)

“I wish to gather the Fragments and obtain the strength of the true Dragon Emperor.” (Gaelion)

“Rejected. That sounds troublesome. Do that by yourself. I have no obligation to do that.” (Naofumi)

“Wa, you rejected him quite bluntly, Naofumi-chan.” (Sadina)

“The Count’s decision making ability is amazing. He can say that even when he’s offering you so much information about Dragons.” (Rat)

“Information? Think you can write a paper on it?” (Naofumi)

“I don’t think anyone will believe it. We can’t really write this guy up as a credible source.” (Rat)

Gaelion finally recovers from my sudden rejection. He starts speaking.

“Can you not at least hear me out?” (Gaelion)

“Rejected.” (Naofumi)

“Then I’ll just talk, and you can choose whether or not to listen. I wish to

become strong. My vessel also wishes for this. We'll probably get much stronger than I was in life." (Gaelion)

"Then isn't that fine? Why must you search for the Dragon Emperor Fragments?" (Naofumi)

"The waves of calamity are causing the fragments to gather." (Gaelion)

"Hmm... As summoned enemies?" (Naofumi)

"No, as the world's..." (Gaelion)

"What's wrong?" (Naofumi)

"This is all the information I have on the fragments. All I know is that they are gathering to prepare for a large event." (Gaelion)

"I see." (Naofumi)

"If I win fights against those other fragments, then I can gain more and more of the Emperor's power. And here I swear, that I will use that power for your sake." (Gaelion)

"Of course you will. If you weren't going to lend me your power, I wouldn't let you get power in the first place." (Naofumi)

"Mu... Just listen to me. If you assist me in becoming stronger, then I shall grant upon you the knowledge of the Dragon Emperor." (Gaelion)

"I don't really need the knowledge of the people you beat..." (Naofumi)

I don't think this deal seems very credible.

"Even if it's forgotten knowledge on how to break the Lv 100 cap?"

(Gaelion)

# TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

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## *Chapter 187 - Release*

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“Wouldn’t the ability to break through the level 100 cap be of appeal to you?” (Gaelion)

Damn… I really hate it when people tempt me like this.

Even so, this guy… made such an uproar just a few hours ago, and is asking me to lend him help.

If the situation had gotten any worse, I, along with the three other heroes would have just been killed off and re-summoned. That’s what this world’s people are like.

In the first place, with what previously was my most combat capable party member, Firo, halved in level, do you really think I’d take you on?

My concessions are at stake here, so I’m listening.

If this is just a promise to make up for what he did, I’ll drive him out and dispose of him properly.

If anything, I want him to actually act like he understands.

Honestly, it’s true that the conditions for exchange he’s speaking are exactly what I want.

But, my instincts are telling me to refuse.

In the first place, he’s still not reflecting on the time he fought with Firo at all.

It's that habit, the one where you make up whatever reason to get what you want. Have the Dragon Emperor's fragments not had proper manners from the very beginning?

"You know, why have you just been treating me however you please? Do you really understand?" (Naofumi)

".....Ahh." (Gaelion)

As expected of the Dragon Emperor, quick to understand.

Well, maybe it's because of how his feelings were synchronized with mine for a little while.

"I'm sorry. If you can overlook what happened, I'll help you as much as I can." (Gaelion)

"Alright. Let's hear what you have to say." (Naofumi)

Jeez, you should have just said that from the start.

"Huh? Count, is that all you wanted him to say?" (Rat)

"Naofumi-chan, you just wanted to be apologized to, huh." (Sadina)

"Shut up." (Naofumi)

Ignoring Rat and Sadina, I look over at Gaelion.

"I can inform you about the truth behind the wave, the reality behind the legend, and all other knowledge accumulated by the Dragon Emperor."

(Gaelion)

"If that's all you've got, I could just ask the Firoial Queen." (Naofumi)

"The Firoial Queen, you say? Why don't you take a look at the next Queen herself." (Gaelion)

"Ah..." (Naofumi)

I take a look at Firo, and it looks like she's playing with her ahoge.

What is she doing?

Well, Firo's an idiot after all.

The actual Queen might just be the same.

"Hmm~?" (Firo)

"It's no good." (Naofumi)

Firo's wiggles her ahoge.

What's up with that reaction?

"Well you see, I can hear Fitoria's forgotten voice." (Firo)

"Is that an antenna, or what?" (Naofumi)

The reason they fought with dragons was probably some silly reason like who would get the rights to be the hero's mount.

In any case, is she even capable of talking with that to Fitoria through that idiotic ahoge of hers?

It's probably something like telepathy.

I swear, the fact that anything's possible in this world makes me feel sick.

"Well you see~, Fitoria is saying that since she was little, she hasn't understood much about the past." (Firo)

"...What do you think?" (Gaelion)

"Yeah..." (Naofumi)

That's really fascinating, but Fitoria... you shouldn't be so honest.

Firo and Gaelion start glaring at each other.

"Shouldn't we be on better terms by now? The Shield Hero's Shield will end up getting bottlenecked at this rate." (Gaelion)

"Huh?" (Naofumi)

What? Could it be that the dragon series shield being locked is Fitoria's doing?

In exchange for unlocking Fiolial Series, the Dragon Series was sealed?

That huge bird... trying pass off as royalty only to do something petty like this.

This would probably limit my ability quite a bit.

Just doing whatever she wants. Damn that bird.

“Most of my power comes from that core of mine, you know.” (Gaelion)

“Ah, that makes sense.” (Naofumi)

With your level too low, you had no choice but to transform.

Is the dragon’s core the same level of importance as Fitoria’s ahoge?

If this was a game or something, it’d feel like you could only opt for one.

I’ve been thinking recently, but I really want to know if I’ve been living in reality, or just some game.

“If you’re going to take me on now, do it. Even Firo knows you’re the weakest of the dragon fragments. Ahahaha.” (Naofumi)

“Gununu…” (Gaelion)

I don’t understand the point of pets.

Somehow I can see things from an even lower perspective.

“Look. Take out your shield.” (Gaelion)

“Ha… If you say so.” (Naofumi)

Gaelion transfers some sort of energy into my shield.

It was as though the shield sparked for a second.

A part of the core was absorbed.

Dragon Leather Shield's conditions have been met. Dragon Leather Shield has been unlocked.

Dragon Scale Shield's conditions have been met. Dragon Scale Shield has been unlocked.

Dragon Meat Shield's conditions have been met. Dragon Meat Shield has been unlocked.

Dragon Familiar Shield's conditions have been met. Dragon Familiar Shield has been locked.

"Gu... This is it. Damn." (Naofumi)

"Even then it's better than nothing, right?" (Gaelion)

"Mu...!" (Firo)

Firo and her ahoge look mortified.

Well, at least the stats make it worth it. As expected of the Dragon Series, huh.

And the stats scaling is pretty good.

The condition for unlocking is to be level 50.

Fitoria really screwed me over.

Oh? The Dragon Familiar Shield has Growth Correction Up for Dragons.

In other words, if I gathered the other fragments, we could raise Gaelion's stats even further.

"After Class Up, I can do some support techniques. I'm also willing to teach you the Dragon Pulse." (Gaelion)

Let's try looking at the ups and downs.

With Class Up, we'll get stat correction...that ahoge had that kind of power huh.

I kind of understood but, the Dragon and Fiolial's attributes are pretty different. Something like darkness and light.

"I can also handle the corruption of your cursed shield. I should be able increase its performance and duration too." (Gaelion)

Help with the Wrath Shield... Firo did it too, but Gaelion will join in, huh.

If that happens, it might be easier to handle.

"I understand. I'll help. In any case, we were planning on raising Gaelion as a dragon from the beginning." (Naofumi)

It's better if I set it straight now.

It's Taniko and the rest of the village's job to take care of the dragon, not mine.

"Also." (Naofumi)

"What is it?" (Gaelion)

"I've already been using your core in my armor. Compensate for its loss."  
(Naofumi)

"Ha... It can't be helped." (Gaelion)

He handed me a red ball just the time he gave Firo a candy ball.

"That ball is a part of my strength, and will borrow power from your armor.  
I'll be able to strengthen yours further if you get more fragments too."  
(Gaelion)

"I see..." (Naofumi)

This armor just became a lot more useful.

Firo's ahoge is showing some sort of strange response.

"What is it, Firo?" (Naofumi)

"Firo doesn't know. But it's trying to do something." (Firo)

"Wait, what do you mean by that?" (Naofumi)

"It's working together with my core to strengthen your armor further. I  
handed you a clone of mine, or so to speak." (Gaelion)

"Does this mean he'll be strengthened by both?" (Rat)

"Ah, if I recall right, Rat was studying weapons and the like used by monsters. In a way, it's close to what monsters use for protection, huh?"  
(Naofumi)

"It looks like you're getting the idea. Fumu... now that I think about it, you know about monster modification, right?" (Gaelion)

"...What is it?" (Rato)

Rat hates dragons, doesn't she?

Although it seems to be because they supposedly have no honor.

It's just because he mated with too many monsters in the past, huh?

The fact that dragons are beings with no honor isn't something that's been proven.

"Don't lay a hand on Rat." (Naofumi)

"I wouldn't do such a thing. But, if she wanted to, I wouldn't mind playing with her for a bit. Claiming this place as my territory and mating with the monsters in the area doesn't sound too bad." (Gaelion)

"No way!" (Rat)

"Don't say that. I'm greedy for strength, enough to take down that Firoliel Queen." (Gaelion)

"No... you're filth." (Rat)

"Fufu, I wonder how long you'll last with that mentality. Is this the extent of your motivation for research?" (Gaelion)

Rat glares at Gaelion with a somewhat bitter face.

What is up with this eroge-like development?

All of a sudden, I feel like driving out Gaelion now.

"If your daughter had heard this, she'd cry you know." (Naofumi)

"Gumu..." (Gaelion)

Taniko's completely against messing with monsters in research.

If her parent Gaelion is all for it, all her efforts are for nothing.

"The times are changing... is another way to put it." (Gaelion)

"What do you mean?" (Naofumi)

"I've forgotten the true meaning behind the wave itself. But, there is one thing I do remember." (Gaelion)

"What is it? Speak." (Naofumi)

"Well you see... Every time a wave takes place, monsters around the world get stronger." (Gaelion)

"What?" (Naofumi)

Stronger... somehow, what he said has a bad ring to it.

In other words, it's similar to online games from my world where the strength of monsters would scale with the player population?

"Come to think of it, how do wild monsters Class Up?" (Naofumi)

“Wild monsters work on a different system from humans. They get power from the earth itself, which is where humans also get experience from. Hence why there’s a level cap.” (Gaelion)

I’ve been told something I hadn’t known before.

“In the first place, is that knowledge a fragment like you should have?”  
(Naofumi)

“From the beginning, I’ve been a wild dragon.” (Gaelion)

“Well that’s only natural.” (Naofumi)

“Of course. Like wild monsters, we also work on a different system.”  
(Gaelion)

“How the hell do you know that!” (Naofumi)

“I heard it from an offspring of mine.” (Gaelion)

“…I see.” (Naofumi)

As a parent, Gaelion really doesn’t care about anyone aside from Taniko. Was the fact we worked on different systems supposed to be common sense?

Although, in Japan there’s no way I’d be able to talk with wild animals like this in the first place.

“I understand what you’re saying. Well, it’s not that I won’t consider it, but…if we get attacked by some dragon because of you, get out of here.”  
(Naofumi)

“If it ever came down to that, I would fight. I need to protect what’s here, after all.” (Gaelion)

“You should probably tell that to the Queen.” (Naofumi)

If the waves were to continue on like this, and the people of this world didn’t find a solution, they would die sooner or later.

Just like an RPG, the monsters around the devil king are stronger, while the beginner area is a lot weaker.

“Well then, I’m tired and going to sleep soon. Would that be all?” (Gaelion)

“Well, I guess so. I guess next we’ll need to discipline your body’s actual owner, huh?” (Naofumi)

“He’s reflecting plenty enough. Probably because of how he went against orders.” (Gaelion)

“I see. If he shows results, I’ll believe that. Ping Pong Dash.” (Naofumi)

“Gumu… Ha… I understand. It can’t be helped.” (Gaelion)

Like this, the conversation was over and I retired for the day.

Of course, Gaelion and Rat left.

For some reason, Sadina is sleeping in the same room though.

Firo is sticking to me without a shred of dignity.

Something will probably come out of this.

# TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

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## *Chapter 188 - Salute*

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It's been 3 days since I've started giving Firo preferential treatment over Gaelion.

In my free time, I've started training with Atlas.

"Training with Naofumi-sama. How delightful." (Atlas)

"Atlas, I believe you were able to read the flow of energy or something, right?" (Naofumi)

"Yes." (Atlas)

"Can you perform attacks that can breach my defenses, and damage me from the inside?" (Naofumi)

"Um... something like this?" (Atlas)

Atlas makes a gesture as if she's grabbing something out of the air, and then pushes her hand at me.

At that moment, I suddenly feel a sense of pain in my stomach.

This technique is the same one that granny used.

"Y-yeah... That one." (Naofumi)

It's good that I didn't have a powerful shield equipped.

I have the feeling that if I equipped one of my heavily strengthened shields, then I would have fallen to the ground with that attack.

But for her to be able to execute it simply after hearing the granny's explanation, Atlas truly is a genius.

"I thought I would try training to be able to control my energy to withstand attacks like that." (Naofumi)

“As expected of Naofumi-sama. You’re always trying to get stronger. Please allow me to assist you.” (Atlas)

“I’ll leave it to you.” (Naofumi)

And like that, I began sparring with Atlas.

Because of this, Atlas is too tired at night to force herself into my bed.

I’ve been able to understand the general concept through my sparrings, but applying it is difficult.

I’ve been able to use support magic to drive away the forces acting within my body, but something is different.

But I guess it’s best to learn little by little.

“Master~! Let’s play~!” (Firo)

Firo occasionally comes over while we’re training.

I wonder what happened to Melty.

So I occasionally spar with Firo as well. I also just play with her normally.

“Kyua…” (Gaelion)

I can see Gaelion watching us from the shadows in envy, but I ignore him.

“Don’t bully him too much.” (Gaelion)

The older Gaelion speaks out in protest.

“Bu…! Go Back!” (Firo)

Firo truly seems to hate Gaelion.

“Now then, Gaelion. Where shall we go today?” (Taniko)

“Gya… Gyau!” (Gaelion)

“Gaelion?” (Taniko)

Taniko is getting suspicious of Gaelion’s behavior.

Why must he hide his revival?

Even if he’s trying to fit into human society, I’m sure Taniko would be delighted if she knew.

Also, Kogaelion’s cry is Kyua. (Ko means child)

What the hell is Gyau supposed to mean?

Adult Gaelion stares at me for help with eyes like a calf that’s about to be sold. I won’t get involved.

Gaelion gets dragged off by Taniko.

He should be able to get through this with his own strength.

And so, 3 ordinary days passed.

“Firo is going to go level with Melty.” (Firo)

As I was walking around town with Firo, she suddenly blurts this out.

“… Are you sure you don’t want me to go with you?” (Naofumi)

“Yeah!” (Firo)

Her answer is very energetic.

Since reconstruction has been going smoothly, I thought I would go level myself, but…

But with an answer that energetic, I can’t really force myself into their

group.

Oh? Melty looks troubled.

“Um, Firo-chan. I don’t have that much free time.” (Melty)

“Eh? But Mel-chan, you said that you felt weak and wanted to raise your level.” (Firo)

“I didn’t mean right now.” (Melty)

“But Melty-chan, the villagers told me that people that put things off to tomorrow, never really do it tomorrow.” (Firo)

“I have something else that I have to do.” (Melty)

“Eh… But Mel-chan, they also said that if you don’t mix in fun with work, then you’ll never get anywhere.” (Firo)

Firo enters inquisition mode again.

In this mode, she seems to lose the ability to read the situation, and just continuously asks questions.

But if I don’t do anything here, Firo’s level will remain low.

If I tell her to go level alone, will she get mad?

“Firo.” (Naofumi)

“What~?” (Firo)

“go level alone.” (Naofumi)

“No!” (Firo)

As I thought.

I look towards Melty’s subordinates.

I signal for them to open up a space in Melty’s schedule later.

It seems they were worried about Melty’s low level as well.

She hasn't been neglecting her magical studies, so her abilities go beyond her level, but it's probably better for one who is going to lead a country to have a higher level.

And there's also the problem of having a child do strenuous labor for a long period of time.

Melty also needs time to play.

Firo is more than qualified to be her bodyguard.

"There's no helping it... Future Queen, Melty. You must go on a journey to find yourself with that bird as your companion!" (Naofumi)

"Na-Naofumi? What are you talking about?" (Melty)

"And so, Firo. Go level up with Melty." (Naofumi)

"Hooray!" (Firo)

"Wait, Naofumi! Don't go deciding these things on your own!" (Melty)

"It's fine, Melty." (Naofumi)

"What is!?" (Melty)

"This isn't just my own judgment. Your subordinates have already given me permission. Even Shadow will guard you from the shadows." (Naofumi)

"That's even worse!" (Melty)

"After that, we'll have to decide whether or not to apply the slave seal on you for the stat boosts. That Queen will probably grant permission."

(Naofumi)

That Queen seems to want Melty to become my wife, so she'll probably do anything to get her closer to me.

I'll ask for the individual's opinion here.

"Never!" (Melty)

"I see. Then we won't. Firo, while you're away, what will we do for Atlas countermeasures?" (Naofumi)

"Hm... I'll ask a reliable person." (Firo)

Who?

Since it's Firo, will she bring in her subordinate Filo Rial?

"I have no intentions of sleeping next to a Filo Rial." (Naofumi)

"Then I'll ask Imya-chan." (Firo)

"How will that help?" (Naofumi)

I don't think Imya can stop Atlas.

It seems that she's gotten skillful enough for the Tailor to begin passing on her personal secret techniques.

Will she make Atlas a wedding dress? I don't know how she would accomplish that with nothing but monster skins, but that sounds like it will sell well.

"Then Firo will bring in someone stronger than Atlas-chan." (Firo)

"Who?" (Naofumi)

"Hm..." (Firo)

This isn't going to work. It doesn't look like she's even thinking about it.

"I think that person will be able to stop Atlas-chan." (Firo)

"And I'm asking who." (Naofumi)

"Well, then, we're off, Master~." (Firo)

"Wait, Firo-chan! I never said I was goin-" (Melty)

Before Melty can protest, Firo grabs the clothing on the back of her neck and tosses her onto her back.

And as soon as Melty lands, Firo runs off while flapping her wings.

“Naofumiiiiiii. Remember thiiiiisss!” (Melty)

“I expect great growth from you, Future Queen, Melty.” (Naofumi) (TL: As in Stats)

Going with the flow, I salute her. She seems angry, and tries to throw something at me. It appears to be a piece of scrap paper.

But as she’s on the back of a running Firo, the item that she throws doesn’t reach me. It just gets carried off by the wind.

She starts screaming hysterically.

But despite all of this, it’s not like I hate her.

“Now then.” (Naofumi)

I hold a meeting with Melty’s subordinates about the management of the village.

The area’s development is proceeding faster than expected.

This is in part due to the usage of the Camping Plant, which I lent to some of the stores.

This interesting plant will probably bring in a lot of customers.

-

“And… The help Firo hired was you?” (Naofumi)

When night comes, I once again hold my head in my hands.

Was that bird even thinking at all?

"That's right. This Onee-san really is troubled." (Sadina)

Raphtalia had already asked her, so why is Firo requesting her as well?  
This is double booking.

Sadina is happily drinking sake as she sits on the floor of my house.

"Anyways... you have Raphtalia, and you have Firo. Why does everyone rely on you?" (Naofumi)

"No idea. This Onee-san also finds it amazing~." (Sadina)

She's being annoying.

I activate her slave seal for a second.

"Ahn. Naofumi-chan, how stimulating. Ahn!" (Sadina)

... As the pain sets in, Sadina releases a disturbing voice.

If someone were to hear her, they would definitely misunderstand the situation.

So she isn't someone the slave seal will work on so easily. I'm seriously considering kicking her out.

But if I did that, I might damage the relationship I have with the slaves.  
For some reason, they seem to put a strange amount of trust in this person.  
And I have no idea what Raphtalia will say to me if I do.

"\*Sigh\*..." (Naofumi)

"Do you really hate Atlas coming into your bed that much?" (Sadina)

"Yeah. It's just as I said before." (Naofumi)

"... Everyone really is having it tough." (Sadina)

"With what?" (Naofumi)

“Everyone really likes Naofumi-chan, but Naofumi-chan has no intentions of responding to them.” (Sadina)

“Their feelings are more like those they would have for a parent. You can’t call that love. I don’t want to be responsible for something like that, so I try to keep my distance. It seems Raphtalia also seems to get angry when such matters come up, and Firo… I’m not even sure if she understands what Love is.” (Naofumi)

“I can understand what Naofumi-chan is saying. I think it’s best if you don’t discuss these sorts of things with Raphtalia-chan.” (Sadina)

“You’re saying it as if it’s fine to discuss it with everyone else, though.” (Naofumi)

If Raphtalia harbored those kinds of feelings towards me, would Sadina tell me to take responsibility?

Her phrasing makes it sound like Raphtalia is keeping something from me. Well, we’ve known each other for quite a while, so Sadina might be mistaking our relationship.

“… I’m grateful that you’ve been protecting Raphtalia all this time. When the first wave hit, I wasn’t able to help her. I couldn’t protect her.” (Sadina)

Protect? What sort of relationship did they have?

Or is she regretting that she was unable to protect the other villagers?

Her sense of duty is quite strong.

“Now then… This Onee-san will offer Naofumi-chan a special idea.” (Sadina)

“What?” (Naofumi)

“Naofumi-chan, don’t you have quite a convenient shield? When you sleep,

can't you just move to a different town? I don't think Atlas-chan will pursue you that far." (Sadina)

"But my money is..." (Naofumi)

The lodging fee will be quite a bit. The daily amount isn't much, but if I want to stay every night, the amounts will add up.

I can camp out in a camping plant and the wild monsters probably won't be able to damage me, but I don't think I will be able to sleep.

Perhaps I can sleep for free at Melromark Castles.

But Trash is over there, and I think I'll get dragged into something troublesome.

"Then should this Onee-san show you her secret base?" (Sadina)

"Secret base?" (Naofumi)

# TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

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## *Chapter 188 - Secret Base*

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"I see... So this is your secret base." (Naofumi)

After that, Sadina dragged me towards the ocean.

She told me to get on her back, and started swimming.

Riding Sadina, it took around 30 minutes to get there.

I saw an island in the distance. It was too dark for me to see clearly, but the island didn't look particularly big.

It looked kinda like a crescent island I've seen in postcards.

I don't really see any monsters.

I'm not Motoyasu, but I can say that it's quite a romantic island.

After we reach the island, Sadina goes onto a hill and lights a torch. She leads me to a cave-like area.

The structure is man-made, and even has windows.

"This place is regularly maintained, so it should be able to stand against storms." (Sadina)

"If we come all the way here, I guess even Atlas won't follow me."

(Naofumi)

"Pretty much." (Sadina)

If she decides to cross the ocean, or gets a boat, then there truly is nothing I can do to stop her.

... The fact that it actually seems likely scares me.

“You should be able to get back using your shield. How does the place seem?” (Sadina)

“If I’m only using it to sleep, then this will suffice.” (Naofumi)

The location isn’t bad. The only problem is that it will be a pain to bring over my medicine compounding equipment.

The island is very quiet, and perfect for work.

Perhaps Rat can move her laboratory over here.

“And so, Naofumi-chan.” (Sadina)

Sadina goes deeper in the cave and brings out a large barrel.

It most likely contains alcohol.

“Where did you get that from?” (Naofumi)

“I salvaged it from a shipwreck. It’s matured to a perfect age now.”  
(Sadina)

Ah, I see. For some reason, that barrel looks like illegal goods to me. I mean, it is being hidden away in such a reclusive place.

“Why don’t you have a little drinking contest with me?” (Sadina)

“Why would I do that?” (Naofumi)

“Onee-san wants to get Naofumi-chan drunk so he will spill out his true feelings.” (Sadina)

“Did you think I would permit it if you just asked honestly? Anyways, I can’t even get drunk.” (Naofumi)

“This is the last time you’ll be saying something like that~” (Sadina)

Sadina enthusiastically cracks open the barrel. She dips a cup in and starts drinking.

I guess I'll keep her company. I think I can sleep peacefully here.

"You said this was from a shipwreck, right?" (Naofumi)

"Yeah." (Sadina)

"Can you just take goods like that in this country?" (Naofumi)

"No problem~, This wasn't within this country's salvageable range."

(Sadina)

"Salvage range?" (Naofumi)

"There are laws that mandate the acquisition of goods from the ocean, but they aren't very definite. This barrel was picked up in international waters, so it's not subject to law." (Sadina)

It's not like anyone's going to ask for its origin anyways, so as long as we keep quiet, it's probably okay.

"With water magic, one can gain the ability to breath underwater for a while, but that doesn't mean they can match aquatic races. Melromark is a country of human absolutism, so even if they build salvage ships, most of the deeper areas of the ocean are untouched." (Sadina)

"I see..." (Naofumi)

"Fishermen will actively attack aquatic Demi-humans and Beastmen, and the reverse is also common." (Sadina)

The oceans here seem to be quite dangerous.

"Recently, the waves have gotten stronger and the currents faster as well."  
(Sadina)

So the Wave is also effecting the normal waves.

I get the feeling that the ship captain said that on the way to Cal Mira.

“If I find time, do you want me to go treasure hunting? Though if I don’t raise my level a bit, it will be kinda dangerous.” (Sadina)

“Well, your level has risen quite a bit… If you think you can do it, I’ll leave it to you.” (Naofumi)

Treasure from the sea will definitely sell for a bit.

Sadina pulls out an ocean map with one hand, while she continues drinking with the other.

“U… Naofumi-chan is a strong drinker~.” (Sadina)

While we were in the middle of the second barrel, Sadina starts swaying a bit.

“Oh? You even have Lucor fruits here.” (Naofumi)

I was curious, so I walked past the drunk Sadina and look further into the cave.

I snack on some of the fruits before returning.

Apparently, because of its ridiculously high alcohol concentration, it almost never spoils.

These ones seem to be a bit old. The taste is deeper than usual.

Mass producing these and selling them is possible, but it’s probably best not to introduce alcohol to the slaves. I can imagine quite a few of them being bad drunks.

“Uu….” (Sadina)

Seeing me eating the Lucor Fruit, Sadina opens the window and begins throwing up into the sea.

"You really are strong. Oneesan is surprised. \*Hic\*." (Sadina)

"Yes, yes." (Naofumi)

"...Naofumi-chan. Will you not become my groom?" (Sadina)

"Don't. Want. To." (Naofumi)

"Ara. Onee-san said that she would marry someone who could drink more than her. I don't think I'll find someone better than Naofumi-chan."

(Sadina)

"Why should I marry you?" (Naofumi)

"How cruel~. Well, that's part of Naofumi-chan's charms." (Sadina)

And while we continued talking about it...

"...Samaaaa..." (???)

"Was that my imagination, or did you just hear a very ominous sound?"

(Naofumi)

"What a coincidence. I also heard Atlas-chan's voice. \*Hic\*." (Sadina)

I look towards the beach.

... Atlas is approaching, riding a transformed Gaelion.

"Gaelion! Go Home!" (Naofumi)

There is still around 100 meters before they reach shore.

At this range, Atlas shouldn't do anything stupid here.

"Kyua!?" (Gaelion)

It seems it's child Gaelion this time.

I had never even considered the possibility of her using Gaelion to follow.

Atlas isn't exactly stupid. She's using all of her resources.

I guess I'll have to deal with Gaelion later.

... With him here, no matter where I go, I will be followed.

What other options do I have left now?

"Ah, Gaelion-chan. Why are you turning around!? Naofumi-sama is right in front of us." (Atlas)

"KYUAAA!" (Gaelion)

"Then you've forced me to take drastic measures." (Atlas)

"Kyua!? KYUAAAAAAAAA!" (Gaelion)

"Even if it hurts, I'm going to do my best and jump off!"

He probably thought that getting any closer would only anger me.

Gaelion frantically tries to contain Atlas, and flies back along the route from which he came.

It seems that our aerial offensive power has greatly increased.

"... We were immediately found out." (Naofumi)

"Wow~... That child's the real deal." (Sadina)

"What should we do?" (Naofumi)

"Adult Gaelion will probably refuse her, and it seems child Gaelion has found out that you dislike him coming here, so it will probably work out fine."

(Sadina)

"Ah, I see." (Naofumi)

"But it's good that you didn't choose to sleep in another town." (Sadina)

"... She would have come on the Filo Rial or another monster." (Naofumi)

"Probably." (Sadina)

After a while, Gaelion comes flying back.

This time, it's the adult one.

"... That girl doth not know when to give up. Perhaps you may say that she's simply strong willed." (Gaelion)

"I've caused you some trouble." (Naofumi)

"No problem. Also... Oh? Is that Wine? Won't you offer some to me?" (Gaelion)

"Isn't your body that of a child? Will you be fine?" (Naofumi)

"Yes, yes~ Naofumi-chan is too strong of a drinker, and Onee-san is in trouble. Gaelion-chan please drink as well." (Sadina)

Ignoring my words, Sadina hands Gaelion some sake.

"Yes, the taste of this one isn't bad." (Gaelion)

"What did you want to talk about? Speak before you get too intoxicated." (Naofumi)

"I'd never challenge the Lucor eating Naofumi to a drinking contest. I wanted to speak concerning the class up." (Gaelion)

"Ah, there was that." (Naofumi)

The monsters we keep around here are getting to be around that level. After hunting for a while, a ★ appeared next to Gaelion's level value. It seems that the experience he stole from Firo let him level up past the preclass-up limit, but after a while, his level stopped growing.

"How about you, Sadina?" (Naofumi)

"Let's see, Onee-san will be able to class up in a little bit." (Sadina)

It seems this one is hiding quite a bit of information. Or she just wont say anything until you ask.

Let me try asking.

“Did you ever Level Reset before? Besides when you did it with me?”

(Naofumi)

“Ah? You could tell~?” (Sadina)

That was a bluff, but she happily responds.

I had found a few things strange about her.

“I was able to get all the way to 75 before, but then I reset. The reason is a secret. I think it was around when Raphtalia-chan was born… My age was around that of a child I think.” (Sadina)

“I see, so does that mean you were a criminal?” (Naofumi)

(TL: Remember that Level Reset was initially a punishment.)

“Depending on the perspective you look at it from, I may have been a criminal.” (Sadina)

She starts laughing out loud. What happened to her in the past?

“Exactly how old are you anyways?” (Naofumi)

“To ask a woman for her age is quite rude, you know. By the way, I’m 23.”  
(Sadina)

Her eyes twinkle as she says this.

And… she’s much younger than I thought. I estimated her to be in her 30s. Raphtalia’s true age is quite young, so when she was born, Sadina would be around 13.

“At that time, I was an Ocean Shrine Maiden.” (Sadina)

“So you were fired, and had your level reset?” (Naofumi)

“Well, that’s pretty much how it went.” (Sadina)

Again, what exactly did she do?

Digging up people’s pasts is a pain, and generally unproductive so I don’t do it, but a former criminal…

“What~?” (Sadina)

“What did you do?” (Naofumi)

“I just went against my faith. It’s not like I killed someone or something. I won’t tell you more than that.” (Sadina)

She answers seriously for once. I get the feeling that this is a secret she will take to the grave.

My mind wanders towards Raphtalia.

Like Raphtalia’s parents, she used to be a wanderer I think.

Did she know Raphtalia’s parents for a long time?

… Raphtalia sometimes treats her as if she were her mother… Or is that just my imagination?

It seems she has no intention of saying more, so asking won’t do anything.

“And? Gaelion, what is this about the Class Up?” (Naofumi)

“You have the protection of the Filo Rial Queen, correct?” (Gaelion)

“Yeah, Firo’s Ahoge is a sort of protection I guess.” (Naofumi)

It seems that Filo Rials possess a wide variety of powers.

Or at least that’s what I believe.

"I don't really know how it works, but the Ahoge sometimes interferes with Class Ups." (Naofumi)

Sometimes regardless of the individual's will.

"That power interferes with the land the Class up takes place on, and magnifies its effects." (Gaelion)

Power of the land...?

I believe he said that also influences experience and Status magic.

"A Class up is the enhancement of an individual's power. Of course the Hero's protection also amplifies power, but I am referring to something different." (Gaelion)

"What do you mean?" (Naofumi)

"Most likely, the Filo Rial's protection will not work on people who can use the Dragon Pulse Order and other monsters. The reason for this should be obvious." (Gaelion)

"Mu..." (Naofumi)

So Neither Taniko or Sadina can use the special Ahoge-enhanced Class up. They'll only be able to depend on their selves for strength.

"I was worried about it, and thus I came here. You said that there were currently 2 who could Class Up, right?" (Gaelion)

"I think so." (Naofumi)

"Including me, that's 3. I may be able to give protection on the same level as the Filo Rial one. If you want to Class Up other Monsters, then bring them along." (Gaelion)

"Is your protection different from the Filo Rial one?" (Naofumi)

"Yeah... I forgot the reason. If you want to conduct a special Class Up, then... Ah, this is annoying." (Gaelion)

So he lost the knowledge on how to do it.

"I think doing it before I class up myself is dangerous." (Gaelion)

There's also a possibility he can't even do it.

"Sadina, do you know anything about this?" (Naofumi)

"Nope~. Though when I did it, I did get the Water Dragon Emperor's power to do a special Class Up." (Sadina)

"This one is probably incomparable to the other one." (Gaelion)

Says Gaelion.

So Sadina's conducted a special Class Up before.

"Understood. I'll have a monster that understands human speech ask them before they class up." (Naofumi)

If they truly wish to become stronger, then we can use Gaelion's protection. The monsters going to Rat for strength will most likely consider it.

"I guess I'll take Firo and Gaelion along when next we decide to go Class Up." (Naofumi)

Atlas... Still has a while to go. The Hakuko have a higher class up level than the rest.

But Sadina and Taniko, also some of the other slaves are almost ready.

"\_

“And so-” (Naofumi)

I explain what Gaelion told me to the monsters over Level 40.

I have absolutely no idea whether or not monsters can understand human speech, but giving an explanation is better than not.

I feel like an idiot right now.

“Even so, if you still want to, come with me. Today, we’ll go to the castle to Class Up.” (Naofumi)

… The monsters here don’t even move.

So they really can’t understand human words.

“Everyone who wishes to get stronger, step forward.” (Naofumi)

“Kyu-!”

“Domomo…”

“Pyon!”

“Garu!”

A majority of the monsters come towards me.

Wow… They actually understood me.

Even the Usapill steps forwards.

By the way, this village Usapill has grown quite big. Big enough to ride it.

(TL: See manga for size comparison)

And all of these monsters are striving for strength.

“\*Sigh\*… I got it. Then we’ll wait for Gaelion to class up before we go.

You’ll have to stay that way for a while.” (Naofumi)

The monsters listen to my command and return to the monster stable.  
My head hurts.

And so after speaking with the monsters, I took Sadina, Taniko and Gaelion to go class up at the castle.

I don't think I even have to talk about the Class up ceremony at this point. In the middle of Gaelion's Class Up, he began chanting magic, and the ceremony suddenly sped up and came to a close.

When I checked his Status, I found it had rose just as much as Firo's when she classed up.

Sadina's stat increase is also considerable.

Is it because she's the Onee-san that everyone relies on? She doesn't seem to be that strong on land.,,,

"Did you learn anything regarding providing providence during Class Up?"  
(Naofumi)

"Yeah, Father's power came through Gaelion, and gave us power, right?"  
(Taniko)

"No, your father is alive clinging to that dragon there." (Naofumi)

"What are you talking about? If you don't stop, I will get angry." (Taniko)

Taniko believes wholeheartedly that her father Gaelion is dead.

That very individual seems to be looking away and making a whistling sound.

What's with this scene?

...Who was it? They called me a Boomerang or something.

(TL: I don't really get this line, please help. Perhaps I'm just sleepy

(Knowing Naofumi, it's probably a pop culture reference, but...)…誰だれだ？  
俺おれの事ことをブーメランとか言いつた奴やつは？)

Anyways, like that we were able to obtain the Dragon's protection for Class  
Ups.

# TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

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## *Chapter 190 – Formal Request*

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Though I went to the Old Man's shop during a class up occasion, a “shop closed” sign was hung and he is away. When I ask the next store, it seems the old man's weapons had sold so well that production couldn't catch up, looks like he's out to gather ores.

Perhaps the shop's popularity is due to Imya's uncle.

Originally the shop was already famous in Castle Town but its reputation has increased lately.

Though I am the reason for that, recently it's due to the good arm of the Old Man himself and his increasing skills.

Is Imya's uncle a surprisingly skillful craftsman?

Or is increasing due to the fact of a possible rivalry? (TL: Between the Old Man and Imya's uncle)

I don't know.

Well, I go to the Slave Trader's place, but he is also absent.

Are you still in Zeltbur? (TL: Zeltbur, the country of mercenaries, refer to Chapter 155)

Reconstruction is progressing, but to me Castle Town feels deserted. (TL: Naofumi is feeling lonely)

Or should I say, there are none of my acquaintances?

In the first place, what I mean is most of the people I know are in my territory.

Based on that understanding, I return to the village immediately.

“Oh?”(Naofumi)

When I arrived at the village, I see some familiar faces.

The fearful girl who always seems luckless and the strong woman who's dressed in a simple armor.

“Ah, Lord Iwatani has returned.”

“I'm back.” (Naofumi)

Rishia and the Female Knight greet me.

“Well, have you finished your training?” (Naofumi)

“Yes, I was told by the Instructor that because the training has ended I'm allowed to go back earlier.” (Female Knight)

“Yes, me too. I was taught various things. (Rishia)

“I see, the apprentices has advanced so much I can take a vacation. So how did it go? What are the results?” (Naofumi)

“Well, the Instructor was so impressed by my enthusiasm that she taught me the Peerless Transformation Style.” (Rishia) (TL: The Peerless Transformation Style: also known as the Hengen Musou Ryuu)

“Enthusiasm…… eh.” (Naofumi) (TL: Not sure how to translate the ね[Ne] sound to English)

So the apprentices has managed to pass through the gate—

It wasn't like the game that I've played before— the player's character was at the front of a master's house because he's required to be a disciple.

If the player's character isn't accepted, then the game/story won't advance. Among the disciples there are three people, the one with the most determined personality has the highest probability to succeed, such a thing didn't matter here.

“That being said, but I was only taught sword techniques. I was told to keep training like I did before” (Female Knight)

“Everything was all beaten into me……” (Rishia)

The Female Knight was only taught sword techniques, and Rishia was taught everything.

What I mean is they both came back from training at the same time.

The old hag had said before that there was no specific weapon with Hengen Musou Style. (TL: Refer to Chapter 167)

Yet the Female Knight only learnt about swords, was she not taught properly?

“What is it, Lord Iwatani?” (Female Knight)

“Is it really all right? I busted my gut trying to learn it, I’m afraid you seem to be suffering like an underdog.” (Naofumi) (TL: Corrected by Kookie)

“Fuu…… Who do you think I am? I followed the Instructor to the point where Rishia-dono and Raphtalia collapsed from exhaustion.” (Female Knight) (TL: Corrected by Kookie)

“The Instructor also gave her permission for an official apprenticeship enthusiastically. The instructor even cut into her own break to teach her sword techniques.” (Rishia) (Editor's note: she taught her only focusing on sword techniques and it couldn't be helped if it cut into her break)

“It is a style where the basics of body movement, magic, and spiritual flow are more important than technique. It was very hard to get the hang of it.”  
(Female Knight) (TL: Corrected by Kookie)

So—…… according to that Style, weapons are for decorative purposes only.  
There is a place that I do not understand too well.

“When Raphtalia's training ends, this is going to be taught in the village.”  
(Not sure who says this line or if it's correct)

“Is there a reason why you guys secluded yourselves in the mountain?”  
(Naofumi)

“It is to build the basic foundation of our bodies.” (Female Knight)

“When I wrestle…… I was touched by the mountain god's mind and felt the flow of the earth.” (Rishia) (Yeah, I really need help with this line)

“Do you understand the explanation?” (Female Knight)

I do not understand at all. Is it because we are people from different world?  
Even though I am able to use magic, I never fully understand its inner workings.

“Isn't it obvious.” (Rishia)

Says Rishia with a blank expression.

Has it already become commonplace……

This girl is getting conceited with her powers?

I wonder if I will be defeated in the next battle with a single blow.  
There was such development in a manga that I've once read.

……I hate it. Something like that.

“By the way, judging from the previous story Raphtalia is still continuing her training?” (Naofumi)

“Yes, there are a lot of things Raphtalia-san needs to learn because she is Naofumi-san's right-hand man.” (Rishia)

“I see……” (Naofumi)

I had a lot of problems that were solved because Raphtalia was there.

She's like a mosquito net for the foal exposed to the elements.

Besides, there are many slaves who felt the same way because she took care of them.

“What are Lord Iwatani's plans after this?” (Female Knight)

“Oh? I think will bring some people for a Class Up and improve their levels.”  
(Naofumi)

Indeed there were some people who didn't receive a Class Up and were worried.

I was optimistic that when Raphtalia came back, she will accompany for a Class Up with Firo, but the person in question has yet to return.

I was thinking of gathering some people and making an official request for a Class Up.

But it would be bad for Firo to pull the carriage so I was planning on having Gaelion do it instead.

“Then I would also be going together with them. Rishia too as well.”  
(Female Knight)

“That sounds good. I would like to see the Peerless Transformation Style.”  
(Naofumi)

Oh, it's me, Atlas, Gaelion, Taniko, Rishia and the Female Knight.

It's a plain well-balanced party

If we are in an RPG, it's an old-fashioned formation that won't lose to most enemies.

Of course I know that it's only applicable in an adventure game and may not be true in reality.

“What about Sadina?” (Female Knight)

Annoying, the Female Knight raises that point like a meddling housekeeper.

I thought I had already familiarize myself with the village, — I forgot that the Female Knight is not one of my subordinates.

Speaking of, I should highly prioritize Sadina.

“She belongs in the sea—” (Naofumi) (Not sure if this line is correct)

“Oh, I see.” (Female Knight)

Well, I think putting Sadina in her original battlefield is what's best for her.

If I'm lucky then something might be gathered from this opportunity, I also want materials from the sea.

“Oh—…… It's Atlas—” (Naofumi)

“Yes. What is it?” (Atlas)

Atlas comes after I called out to her.

Though she should have been a sickly character at first, I quickly got used to it.

"I'm going to help you get a Class Up." (Naofumi)

"Okay. I'm looking forward to going along with Naofumi-sama." (Atlas)

"I'll be counting on you." (Rishia)

"Then let's go, Lord Iwatani," (Female Knight)

"Ah, yes of course." (Naofumi)

Looks like the Female Knight is adjusting comfortably in Raphtalia's role as my second-in-command.

But there's no need to seriously compete with Raphtalia for the role, it's a low rank position.

I haven't thought about it before.

"Gaelion." (Naofumi)

"Kyuaaaa!" (Gaelion)

Gaelion makes a happy sound when I call him.

I wonder if he was waiting for his turn. He is strangely excited.

I think it's child Gaelion based on his noise.

If anything, I have a close relationship with Gaelion since I'm his parent.

"Well Gaelion, we're going for a Class Up but which way do you prefer, pulling the carriage or flying?" (Naofumi)

"Kyu……" (Gaelion)

Gaelion's Child Mode.

Tilting his head, he decides to do an inquisitive pose.

“Kyua!” (Gaelion)

Gaelion raises his wings in the air. Oh, you want to fly in the sky.

But going by carriage is easier and more comfortable, isn't it better?

In other words, I could do some peddling since I have some products to sell.

(Not sure if this line is correct)

“Kyuaaaa!” (Gaelion)

Paa~tsu (the sound of transforming) and Gaelion becomes a dragon of about forty meters.

“Where are you going?” (Naofumi)

I ask Taniko who is climbing on Gaelion's back.

Don't act like that's the official place for you to sit.

What happened to the caterpillar which you got to ride first?

No, that guy is often with Taniko too.

“Then where is my place?” (Naofumi)

“Ah, another thing. Lord Iwatani, since you're going for a Class Up, can you carry out a formal request from the Castle? I will also help too.” (Female Knight)

“What is it?” (Naofumi)

“Recently, some bandits have built their stronghold at the base of the mountains.” (Female Knight)

"I see…… Bandits subjugation." (Naofumi)

"Why are you laughing gleefully? This is the first time I see you smiling like that, Lord Iwatani." (Female Knight)

The Female Knight tells me with a scared face. Did I make such an expression?

Perhaps it's the remnants of those guys.

When I think about it, it has been awhile, maybe now is a good time to harvest the crop. (TL: Refer to the events in chapter 152)

Those guys must have saved up quite a lot. I'm the perfect opponent to deprive them of it.

Also getting a reward from completing a formal request, it's like killing two birds with one stone.

"Can you pinpoint the place?" (Naofumi)

"Yes…… for the time being. The problem is the leader keeps escaping."  
(Female Knight)

The leader?" (Naofumi)

I have a feeling it's the same guy as before.

Being attacked in a place where it was supposed to be a safe haven for you to rest, and me doing the capturing. (TL: Not sure if this is correct)

"Based on the testimony of a recently caught thief, it seems that person has become the leader of all the nearby bandits, looks like he turned them into a strong, well-armed group." (Female Knight)

"Is it a strong, well-armed group for him to escape?" (Naofumi)

"He's there. Though I do not know for sure, the suspicious leader rarely makes an appearance but he is able to defeat any brave adventurer."

(Female Knight) (TL: Not sure if this is correct)

"I don't understand……"

(Naofumi)

The leader is someone like that?

It's good to hear that the guy is a tactician, but he's stingy too.

When I have an enemy, it's the troublesome type.

"The thieves disturb the streets based on the leader's orders, and the strategy is to hunt the person isolated in the confusion." (Female Knight)

It will be tedious if you fight me…… is that what your actions are saying?

This guy's objectives are unclear.

"It seems the leader's ability is to avoid getting captured even if his men are caught." (Female Knight)

This is a troublesome opponent for sure.

It's a situation where as long as the leader survives, the lower ranks can be replenished.

It looks like I can't do anything fancy at his hiding place. (TL: Not sure if this is correct)

That being said, bandits' subjugation is profitable.

It's regrettable the Firo is absent. I could really use her to make it more threatening.

Oh, how about I let Gaelion fill in the role.

I'll have to make sure Taniko stays silent.

"Well then, I'll go patrol the area where the bandits appear and you guys go hunt down some monsters." (Naofumi)

"Roger that." (Female Knight)

"Understood." (Rishia)

"Okay."

"Kyua!" (Gaelion)

That said, we set off while riding on Gaelion for a Class Up and some bandits hunting.

# TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

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## *Chapter 191 - Later Bloomer*

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"Your movement has improved beyond recognition from before" (Naofumi)

Possibly the fruit of the Old Lady's training, Rishia took the initiative and is defeating the monsters. Weapons are a throwing knife attached to a short sword and a whip. While throwing the knife, the whip entangles the opponent, and as the knife lands, the opponent is drawn in and skewered by the short sword. Peerless Transformation style, Binding Thrust is what the attack seems to be called.

Though the name being too simple could come off as chuunibyo, but everything else I value highly. Not only that, it is a fast technique. As expected of the Old Lady's said favorite area of expertise.

Peerless Transformation, as expected from such an exaggerated name, seems painful just from seeing it. Mixing that technique with defence piercing seems formidable. If I recall correctly, I heard Rishia was taught everything from the style. Then that means she could fight with weapons besides the current ones I suppose.

On a side note, Rishia's current level is 70. Her strength that did not match her status honestly surprised me quite a bit. How should I put it, "Who is this girl?", is how it is.

Just guessing, but if Itsuki saw the current Rishia it feels like he'd say "Please come back." Well, Itsuki is doing a perfect hide in Zeltbur with a

broken mind though. Just stay like this in perfect hide until the world becomes peaceful.

"Is that so? Though I can't really tell the difference myself..." (Rishia)

By the way, Rishia is currently wearing the Firo costume. Quickly taking out the outfit after returning was surprising.

I guess spiritual support was needed. Even when stronger, the base does not change it seems.

Maybe if Itsuki put on the Firo costume he could return to normal. No no....

"I've thought this from a long time ago, but why does Rishia-oneesan have the same form as Firo-chan?" (Taniko)

Taniko asked as she tilted her head. Well, the appearance of efficiency and practically are very different after all. Explaining is such a pain. Let's pretend I didn't hear.

"Is that so?" (Atla)

It appears Atla has only just now realized. -Thinking back, Atla's eyes cannot see so it's not like she should've known. As expected, ki does not seem to leave the costume. Though it'd be a little unpleasant if it did leak.

"It's just, I can see a stream of power coming from Naofumi-sama flowing around Rishia-san" (Atla)

"Ah, that so?" (Naofumi)

"Firo-chan and everyone from the village have the same power flowing, but that power is strong" (Atla)

Ha...Atla's perception ability is also considerable. While feeling such admiration, female knight defeats monsters with her sword.

Over here too, though not as much as Rishia, has considerable skill. After is the extent Atla will come along, and decide how far to get. Well, I tag along with her training so I know in general.

"Please look okay, Naofumi-sama" (Atla)

"Aa" (Naofumi)

Atla received the wild boar monster, Razorback's charge head-on with her empty hand and stopped it. Only one finger is on the tip of the Razorback's nose. The Razorback put forth all its efforts to move, but could not even take one step. What? It seems she has mysterious superhuman strength.

"I'm sorry" (Atla)

Tsun. Atla faced the Razorback's forehead, jumped, and poked it. From just that...the Razorback revealed its eye whites and foamed at its mouth as it fell over. Is it dead?

...I've experienced a new thing. It's almost like an assassination technique or something. Why is it scarier than defeating it normally I wonder.

"I did it!" (Atla)

"I see..." (Naofumi)

Geniuses are amazing huh. Even far stronger than Rishia and female knight it appears. Rather, even barehanded. Thinking carefully, she wasn't given a weapon. No, she was given a sword at first, seems she didn't use it.

The average level of monsters is...approximately 40 huh. This'll be smooth sailing. //面子?

"Kyua!" (Gaelion)

Just like how Firo does it, Gaelion came and threw a live Razorbaby, a miniature Razorback, into his mouth and chewed. There's blood at the edge of his mouth-.... Yeah. They're both carnivores, but Firo might be better. That side's a bird so there's no blood. I don't know about times when using the claws to tear apart and stuff cheeks with flesh.

"Somehow-...I'm kinda plain?" (Taniko)

After using magic in battle earlier, Taniko was feeling down. The mysterious style, Peerless Transformation style and the genius Hakuko tribe's Atla. Certainly against weak monsters it feels like power is lacking, but I think Taniko is also suitable. Like magic, or maybe Gaelion.

"Don't mind it. I'm pretty much just watching." (Naofumi)

The need for me to tank was not necessary, becoming reversed. Was there meaning in coming? For now I just use Hate Reaction to lure monsters, while focusing on strengthening.

Before long we flew deep into the mountains and a monster part dragon came out. Ah, dragons inhabited remote regions if I recall correctly. Because of Fitoria, the dragon series could not be released even if raw materials were put in. Well it'll grow along with Gaelion so I guess it wasn't pointless.

As expected my turn came, pinning down the monster. And in that opening, one of the others attacked it. After, the weakened monsters are each exterminated.

I turn to look at Gaelion during that time. Taniko was there so he stayed hidden but I needed to talk to the father side. If the Dragon Emperor were to appear here it'd probably be difficult too.

"Oh yeah, Iwatani-dono..." (Female Knight)

Looking for a chance, female knight asked me a question.

"What?" (Naofumi)

"I heard you've attached weird nicknames to us in your head" (Female Knight)

"Oh. That talk huh, let's see, I just call fellows by their image if they don't say their name in front of me." (Naofumi)

"...Is that so?" (Female Knight)

Taniko looks at me with doubting eyes.

"Mu, by that logic, I haven't said my name. How on Earth am I being called?" (Female Knight)

"Female knight" (Naofumi)

"That is not my name but my official position" (Female Knight)

"But there aren't many female knights in Melromark, and there is only you in my territory so isn't it fine" (Naofumi)

"Honestly...you're just like they say, Iwatani-dono" (Female Knight)

The amazed female knight stopped speaking. If you want to be called by another name then name yourself. What are you trying to do.

"What about me?" (Taniko)

"Taniko" (Naofumi)

"Why!? You know my name don't you?" (Taniko)

"Windia wasn't it? It's troublesome so isn't it fine?" (Naofumi)

"No good! Not good!" (Taniko)

Sadina said not to say it in front of the person but, whatever.

"It's better than Ping Pong Dash though" (Naofumi)

"Is, Is that about Gaelion!?" (Taniko)

The noisy gya-gya-Taniko is ignored, and I talked to Atla at the perfect spot.

"Atla knows about this matter right" (Naofumi)

"Yes...I also want a nickname" (Atla)

...Is she a pervert? Thinking about it would be fine, but I feel no need so let's stop. Well if speaking of necessity comes up, nicknames would be unnecessary.

"It's not really long enough to need a nickname right. I remember it anyways" (Naofumi)

Raphtalia...I don't really wanna call her by nickname. I wonder why. Firo is short so there's no problem. Originally the name Firo itself is something like a nickname for Firo Rial.

"But, I think receiving a wonderful name from Naofumi-sama would be nice" (Atla)

"Ye-ah...your brother would come any number of times though" (Naofumi)

Alps was at first, Sis-con, like an Ateuma so Ateuma. Recently, he's matched Rishia in plainness position, so something new might come.

"I see...big brother, is jealous. Envious" (Atla)

"By the way, Rishia. You are Itsuki groupie." (Naofumi)

"Fueee! I didn't say anything!" (Rishia)

"Besides fueee right" (Naofumi)

"Fueee..." (Rishia)

I'm already exhausted. While conversing about such things, I talk to Gaelion as Taniko's eyes are stolen. It seems from their presences that the dragons

inhabiting this area no longer hold fragments. Though thinking it troublesome, on the other hand it is for Gaelion's stages of growth so it is just fine.

So, everyone has raised their level, but there is one who grew the most surprising amount. The moment when 70 rose to 71, every status remarkably grew approximately thirty percent.

Name is Rishia=Aiuiredd.

Is it the result of training?

No, I'm sure physical training and magic statuses were treated separately, so it should not have risen this rapidly. She leveled up to 72 that day, yet certainly it increased approximately thirty percent.

I calculated after I had her remove the Firo costume, her status has come up to half of Raphtalia's status that I last saw. Before the difference was one third so I am just speculating, but at this rate of growth Raphtalia would be overtaken by level 75. Speaking of, the Old Lady did mention before....

"This child is a talent found once every hundred years-!" (Old Lady)

Said something like that. Did the Old Lady foresee this? Rapid growth from level 70, I'd think even for late blooming great talents there is a limit.

By the way, Rishia was tossed away by Itsuki, becoming my subordinate at 68.

Anyways, from now on I must observe Rishia I guess.

# TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

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## *Chapter 192 - Masked Man*

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"And so, since our levels have increased too, I think it's time to hunt bandits. We can resume levelling again after taking the treasure."

(Naofumi)

"Wait a moment! What are you planning with the stolen goods!?" (Female Knight)

The next morning. We, who rested with the camping plants, set up preparations at a mountain near the highway that the bandits had settled down at. By the way, female knight's tsukkomi was ignored. The bandits treasures are mine.

"About the bandits, at most 40 should be the limit"

If there is no credibility, Class Up can't be done. So the bandits levels aren't that high. Of course, some wanderers could have Classed Up in Zeltbur or something, but even now I have not encountered any. You'd probably need achievements in the Colosseum I guess. However it's hard to say if someone who earned income at the Colosseum would become a bandit. Well it has nothing to do with me though.

"For now, team up in twos and search for the base. There is not enough information on the boss." (Naofumi)

Inquiring bandits about information with threats is needed or we will get nowhere. Many bandits must be captured from the outset.

"Hmm, Rishia and Atla, Female Knight and Taniko, team up and search"  
(Naofumi)

"Reason?"

"None in particular. If unpleasant then split up how you like" (Naofumi)

"Why is Gaelion with you" (Taniko)

"Since we're aiming for the boss, we'll have Gaelion scout and I will be a decoy with my high defensive power" (Naofumi)

"Ah, so it's like that" (Taniko)

"If your end finds them, fire illumination magic. I will quickly rush over on Gaelion" (Naofumi)

"Don't make Gaelion do dangerous things" (Taniko)

"Of course he'll be flying in the sky, Gaelion's mission will be to gather the members" (Naofumi)

"Kyua!" (Gaelion)

"I see, I got it. Then let's go" (Taniko)

Female knight patted Taniko who came to an understanding on the back to start walking.

"Atla, your perception ability is high so I'll be depending on you" (Naofumi)

"Please leave it to me" (Atla)

"Then, see you later" (Rishia)

Rishia is also settled huh, she and Atla started searching together.

"Well then..." (Naofumi)

Gaelion and I also began searching for the bandits hideout.

"Fumu...human hands have entered this mountain" (Gaelion)

"Because the highway is nearby, is there anywhere peculiar?" (Naofumi)

"Some...like, a naturally formed cave, or was something like a fortress made?" (Gaelion)

"It'll vary between bandits. This time I think it'll be a cave." (Naofumi)

"Then it'll be hard. This area has an extraordinary amount of caves."  
(Gaelion)

"I see" (Naofumi)

Somehow chances to talk with Gaelion are increasing. I can talk with him normally, so even though he's a pitiable dragon I might be relying on him. Or rather, besides Fuol he's a rare male after all. Honestly, the conversations are comfortable.

"Then I will go higher to look for figures of people" (Gaelion)

"I'll leave it to you" (Naofumi)

"Aa" (Gaelion)

With a basaa- Gaelion flapped his wings and flew off. Well, I shouldn't be injured even from a bandit surprise attack, so this mission will go smoothly. With a walking mood, I strolled the mountain road alone.

There suddenly--

"Assassin Sword!"

"Guha-!" (Naofumi)

Suddenly I hear a voice and at the same time with a gusa- I felt a stabbing pain from behind. Well, it's about to the extent of "That really hurt", still though-.... Blood is coming out. My armor let out a sound like it was breaking.

Penetrating my defense, what the heck! If it was any of the other guys wouldn't they die?

"That hurt! What are you doing so suddenly!" (Naofumi)

With a bun- I turned around with my shield and received the idiot's thrust coming from behind. I confirm the identity of the one thrusting at me with a ba- sound.

"It's a fair and square match...!"

"Wha-"

Being aware myself that someone unbelievable appeared, I became speechless. Their face was hidden by a suspicious skull mask, but from the figure, voice, and stance, the masked man's identity rose to the surface.

Amagi Ren, the Hero of the Sword took a stance while wielding a pitch black, sinister-looking sword.

"Chi-!"

Maybe it's my imagination his equipment appears much cheaper than before, his eyes that were visible through the mask's cracks looked strangely sulky. No, it's being said by me but, it's not to that level. Maybe he's worn out emotionally, his pupils look empty.

"Re, Ren!?" (Naofumi)

"...Hide...Sword" (Ren)

With a yura- sound Ren's figure disappeared like a heat haze. What? Did I see a weird phantom made by illusion magic or something? Anyway, using a skill like hide is exceptionally suspicious. Thus I also entered a battle state.

In the first place, while saying it's a fair and square match, then suddenly attacking from behind or using a skill that erases your presence, what kind of nerves do you have? Do you intend to say it is fair from a game system perspective? Nevertheless, his voice was strangely lacking strength. Oh well, let's focus on the opponent for now.

"Hate Reaction!" (Naofumi)

A skill that lures monsters. Actually it has one other hidden effect that was confirmed on Cal Mira Island. It can drag out the real form and reveal opponents lightly concealed by magic and skills. It was when Raphtalia released Phantom Sword, and I used Hate Reaction. Raphtalia's state of concealment was cancelled. Therefore detection can be used in cases of concealment.

Trying to circle around to my rear again or something, Ren was moving to my left rear. It was a bit of an idiotic scene but, conversely felt annoying. If you're going to use a skill like that then retreat for a moment.

"Ku..." (Ren)

"You're...Ren right" (Naofumi)

"..."

It would've been fine if it was an illusion but-...I did not expect him to be lurking around here. Could it be Witch is the bandit chief?

...Amazingly suitable.

She's princess caliber isn't she. If I had to say one or the other then she'd be better suited to be a pirate or bandit.

"Rakshasa Meteor Sword!" (Ren)

With the motion of Meteor Sword, Ren swung his sword at me. Using Meteor Sword, the black fragments of his sword scattered like meteorites, then faced and headed towards me.

"Chain Bind! Chain Needle!" (Naofumi)

Gu...I was poised with my shield, but a slow pain spreading. In that interval, Ren used consecutive skills.

"The punishment I have decided for the foolish sinner goes by the name of execution by decapitation. With no time to cry, simply feel despair from the separation of your head and body!"

"Guillotine!" (Ren)

Suddenly chains came from the ground and bound my body, moreover, the thorns on the chains pierced into my skin. And then an enormous bladed execution tool appeared above me. This attack...the atmosphere feels like a similar type to the Shield of Anger's Iron Maiden I think.

Ku...No way I'm going to receive and bear it.

"Don't mess with meeeeeeeeeee!" (Naofumi)

The chains were torn off, the falling blade restrained with my hand. That hurt. Blood is coming out.

However, it appears to have not been an unendurable attack. Gu...but my SP is completely depleted.

"Ren...that's enough!" (Naofumi)

Should I switch to Wrath Shield too? I simply open the menu and go to the refining screen.

For actual combat, +4 and a rarity of R should be enough. Blutopfer should also not be needed, Iron Maiden will finish this. Refining failed consecutive times with a bokinbokin sound. Don't mess around!

"Gyaooooooooooooo!" (Gaelion)

Gaelion sensed the strange situation and came after a bit. Good, just like that go pin Ren down!

"Transfer Sword!" (Ren)

"Ah, you!" (Naofumi)

Faster than I could grab him, Ren had disappeared with his transfer skill.

Wh, What was that?

Was it a monster or human that pretended to be Ren? No, it would have to be a considerable monster if it could penetrate my defense. Other than that, something like the Old Lady's attacks that ignore defense or an attack proportionate to defensive power would be needed or it wouldn't work.

The Assassin Sword skill was released right behind me. It's fine to presume from its skill, name, and concealed state that it's a certain kill attack from stealth and hiding. Furthermore...it somehow smells of the Wrath Series, with that sinister looking sword.

Out of nowhere, that attack from behind...is he a PK that often appears in net games or something. Identifying Ren, now that I know the bandit boss is not a resident of this world, this matter has completely become PK...Player Killer. Well he did say he had a background with suspicious games like VRMMO.

To begin with, having experienced serious things to that extent, you still feel like it's a game huh. If it wasn't me it'd go beyond instant death, wouldn't they be split in two? Really, I feel like vomiting.

"Are you ok?" (Gaelion)

"Aa...but" (Naofumi)

"I understand, I also saw it" (Gaelion)

Gaelion gave off bloodthirst. It was the arch-enemy that destroyed the lifestyle with Taniko, his own life, and his wife after all.

"What's with this mountain"

For the time being, I cast recovery magic to heal the wounds I received. Aah, incidentally because of Blutopfer's curse, that Guillotine attack skill really hurt.

Not only that, the recovery is slow....

Meeting up with Taniko, with the holy water's Ability Restoration magic taught by Sadina, I was narrowly able to have a complete recovery.

Bandit searching lasted only 30 minutes. I became extremely uneasy about the future of the mission this time.

# TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

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## *Chapter 193 - Seven Sins*

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We found and searched the bandit's hideout, but Ren was nowhere to be found.

He will probably take up a cowardly tactic such as dividing us and picking us off one at a time.

"Now then... What should we do?" (Naofumi)

"I never thought the Hero of the Sword would be the boss..." (Female Knight)

"I wish it weren't so. He should have Witch backing him right now."  
(Naofumi)

"The former princess... There's been an order issued to arrest her, but how long will she continue this idiotic cycle." (Female Knight)

We didn't find any signs of Witch in the hideout either.

She may be waiting to ambush us somewhere.

"Hey, you." (Naofumi)

I approach the bandit that seems to be managing the place.

It's quite a familiar face.

One that I've seen quite recently... Wait, isn't he the one who was apprehended by Ren, and embezzled by me?

Why is he in a place like this?

"Oy... Didn't you get captured?" (Naofumi)

These are the thieves that I always threaten with Firo.

It seems they've been left to manage this hideout.

They had an arrogant atmosphere around them, but as soon as they see me, they start shaking in their boots.

"Ah, this time we don't have Firo with us." (Naofumi)

"S-shut up! I don't care about that!" (Bandit)

"Instead, we have..." (Naofumi)

"KYUA!" (Gaelion)

And Gaelion steps forward in a fighting stance.

"Your opponent is this guy." (Naofumi)

"Wha!? He seems even more menacing than that man-eating bird!"

(Bandit)

"I'll leave that to your imagination." (Naofumi)

Well Dragons give off more of a man-eating vibe than Filo Rials.

I guess my arsenal is improving. The Bandits' faces are blue.

I think I can easily draw out some info on Ren.

"Ha. Ha. Ha. Now then, Gaelion." (Naofumi)

"Kyua?" (Gaelion)

"Dinner is ser-" (Naofumi)

"We surrender!" (Bandit)

The bandit surrenders immediately.

Some of the people around him also have looks of resignation. The people who don't know me are whispering among themselves.

"Hm? If you want to fight then come at me." (Naofumi)

I provoke them.

And some of the bandits lift their weapons and rush at me while yelling.

"KYUA!" (Gaelion)

"Earth Break!" (Taniko)

"Tei!" (Atlas)

"What is your relation with these bandits, Iwatani-dono?" (Female Knight)

"These people's movements are too poor." (Rishia)

We have quite a few people with us, so it was extremely easy.

"W-what are these people!? Are they monsters!?" (Bandit)

"T-that's right. This one is a monster stronger than that oppressive leader."

(Bandit)

"Flattery will get you nowhere, now pay up." (Naofumi)

"Ku..." (Bandit)

"Anyways, why are you still running rampant after getting captured?"

(Naofumi)

It's weird that they got out so quickly.

They should be in this country's equivalent of a prison.

"... The carriage we were transported in was attacked by robbers, and we escaped." (Bandit)

"I see..." (Naofumi)

What a messy reason.

So the carriage was attacked... That sounds really cliché.

This country's security is surprisingly unreliable.

"With the help of the leader." (Bandit)

"Reeeeeeeen!" (Naofumi)

I unintentionally shout out.

So that idiot saved the bandits.

He released the bandits he apprehended himself.

"How long ago was that?" (Naofumi)

"Um... Around 2 weeks ago." (Bandit)

That means... Right after Witch invited him, he made a Bandit Organization.

That was around the time when Gaelion was born I think.

I met Witch when I was still carrying his egg.

"I see, then Ren... wait. Did your leader have a gaudy redheaded woman with him?" (Naofumi)

"Woman? The Leader was always alone." (Bandit)

Well, he did always act alone.

In a Net Game, he would be a so-called Solo Player.

It doesn't appear that these Bandits are covering for her.

They really don't know. They really haven't seen her.

So Witch isn't with Ren?

Now that I think about it, Ren's equipment was quite rusted.

Assaulting adventurers seems to be quite profitable. But he hasn't been able to sell and live off these and profits.

Is he earning money for the Witch?

Yeah, the treasures that the thieves have saved up is quite large.

Could the hidden leader have already been cast away?

... There are a lot of possibilities, but I can't jump to any conclusions now.

He had a sword that seemed to be from the Curse Series.

From its skills and power, it's definitely related.

But I don't know what sort of curse it is.

Wrath... I think the series relates to the Seven Deadly Sins.

The skill he used was... Guillotine I think.

Like Blutofer, it summoned a torture or execution device. It had similarities, but the skill was clearly a different one.

If it's a sin besides Wrath, it probably summons a different weapon.

I think the Sins were...

-Pride Envy, Wrath, Sloth, Greed, Gluttony, Lust.

I think.

For me, my hatred towards Witch, Trash and the people of this world awakened Wrath.

I don't think Ren... awakened Sloth or Lust.

But all the others seem plausible.

I don't think I will be able to identify it.

“Anyways, why did no one notice that the Bandit Leader was the Hero of the Sword?” (Naofumi)

“Most likely, no one would believe someone if they said it. The fact would merely remain as a rumor.” (Bandit)

He did hide his face with a mask. If I didn't see his Sword, I might not have recognized him myself.

If they haven't heard his voice before, they wouldn't have been able to identify him...

If he was so easily recognizable, he would have been captured as soon as he was found out as the cause of the Spirit Turtle Incident.

If everyone could recognize a hero, there would be a problem.

Is that why he began wearing a mask and asking as an adventurer?

Also, the lower soldiers of this country probably don't know the whole truth. The Queen and other country leaders agreed to make Melromark the only country without restrictions on the Heroes movements, in order to gather them in one place.

It seems that that this method successfully drew in Ren and Motoyasu. Hide Justice is acting as a mercenary in Zeltburg.

However... The residents of this world believe rumors very easily.

They try to act on their own sense of justice, and cause trouble for those who are said to be evil.

But in this vast world, it is difficult to tell what is justice and what is vice. Some may arbitrarily believe that the cause of their misfortunes are the heroes.

(TL: Thanks Obama)

But a ridiculous claim such as The Hero of the Sword being the Bandit Boss would never spread very far.

“Did none of the bandits here recognize the Hero of the Sword’s voice?”  
(Naofumi)

“He threatened to kill me if I told anyone else. He told me not to start a commotion.” (Bandit)

Ah, so Ren also has a habit of concealing himself.  
And that’s the reason for his mask.

“Honestly, I’m relieved. I can finally stop working here.” (Bandit)

“I see.” (Naofumi)

What exactly is Ren doing?

I think as I tie up the bandits and collect the spoils.

“I guess I should report to the Queen later.” (Female Knight)

“Go do so. I think I have sufficient Authority to take these thieves’ belongings, and no matter what you report, it is of no concern to me.”  
(Naofumi)

“\*Sigh\*…” (Female Knight)

Female Knight’s personality is troublesome.

Why must I make a compromise here?

These bandits have tried to swindle me and call me a fake. They’re a perfect example of the corruption that plagues this world.

“Really… Are all of the Heroes like this?” (Female Knight)

“No Idea, but don’t compare me with that guy.” (Naofumi)

"I am under the impression that Iwatani-dono is the most wicked of them all." (Female Knight)

"I'm more earnest than those guys that just do whatever they want."  
(Naofumi)

They're always just living in a game. When things look bad for them, they'll follow whoever offers them sweet words.

On the other hand, I distrust whoever tries to be kind to me.

Those people are the most suspicious.

It's no concern to me whether or not they can get back up after their footholds are crushed.

"This world revolves on money." (Naofumi) (TL: Unlock the Shield of Greed)

"\*Sigh\*..." (Female Knight)

The Female Knight sighs deeply.

What is everyone else doing, anyways?

"KYUA!" (Gaelion)

"Gaelion! You can't play with that!" (Taniko)

Child Gaelion is diving into the hoard of treasure.

Dragons are a race that loves treasure.

He seems delighted. Taniko is trying to calm him down.

Rishia is looking around with a very troubled expression. Atlas is facing me with a flirtatious pose.

"As expected of Naofumi-sama. Your ability to instantly annihilate the bandits is amazing." (Atlas)

"Really?" (Naofumi)

I left it to Atlas and the others, and didn't really do anything, though...

Though I am treating them as a harvestable crop.

How should we bring these back? The current Gaelion will probably happily carry them.

"And so, Taniko. You were listening, right?" (Naofumi)

"... What of it?" (Taniko)

"Ha?" (Naofumi)

Taniko's father's enemy is hiding in the area, but she seems calm.

"The one who killed my father is definitely the Hero of the Sword. But I am not the type of person who would enthusiastically vie for revenge." (Taniko)

"I see. I thought it would motivate you." (Naofumi)

"... No." (Taniko)

Taniko tilts her head sideways.

"After being killed by the Sword Hero, Father never came home... So I don't want to fight him. I don't want to see him, and I want him to die in a ditch somewhere. But I have decided that I won't involve myself with him."

(Taniko)

"...I see..." (Naofumi)

Her resolve is good. This is the first time I respect Taniko.

I always hold grudges. I want to see the people I hate suffer.

When I act as such, Raphtalia and the others get angry, but that's just my personality.

I know I'll have to get over it sooner or later if I want to be happy.

I somehow feel like I've lost.

“...”

Gaelion quietly stares at Taniko.

“So, what does Iwatani-dono plan to do? I think that reporting to the country is the best option.” (Female Knight)

“Let’s see... It is quite a pain, but if we let the Hero of the Sword do as he pleases, it will most likely affect my social status.” (Naofumi)

I don’t want people coming to the conclusion that all the summoned heroes are villains.

I’ve finally gotten a force to oppose the wave. I don’t need this sort of trouble now.

... Yeah, the Hero of the Sword is a problem that we have to deal with.

I never thought he would commit crimes of his own accord.

He needs to feel the pressure of being pursued.

Like what I had to face during the time with that Second Princess assassination attempt.

He helped me during that pope incident, so I thought I would leave him be for now, but I never forget.

“In the end, my workload will just increase after this, right?” (Naofumi)

“R-right. The 7 star heroes will probably send you requests after this.”  
(Female Knight)

“Then we better take care of this while we can.” (Naofumi)

If it's something I'll have to do eventually, then there's no helping it.

I'll have to enhance the Wrath Shield.

Recently I've been having nothing but failures. My ingredients aren't going to hold up.

"Atlas, can you sense Ren's location?" (Naofumi)

She can sense something outside of human perception. She should be able to find him.

My Hate Reaction has a cooldown time, so I can't use it consecutively. Its range is large, but I don't think I'll be able to approach Ren so easily.

"Yes, I think I can, but... He has a teleporting power similar to Naofumi-sama, right?" (Atlas)

"... yeah." (Naofumi)

That's right.

Even if Atlas manages to find him, if he finds himself at a disadvantage, then he'll run away.

To capture him, we'll have to take him out in one blow.

He's a hero that has something like the Curse Series. This will be difficult.

"GYAU!" (Gaelion)

Gaelion runs at me and puts me on his back.

He puts his head near my ear.

"I have an idea. Will you not leave it to me?" (Gaelion)

He speaks in a small voice so Taniko doesn't hear.

"Do you have a reason?" (Naofumi)

"Yeah, I have a desire to broil his entrails, so I would like to have a rematch with him." (Gaelion)

"Understood." (Naofumi)

And in whispers, we discuss a plan.

"I'm putting Gaelion in charge of drawing him out. Everyone else is on standby until he gives the signal." (Naofumi)

"What are you deciding by yourself!?" (Taniko)

Taniko raises an objection. Well, it's her beloved dragon. I guess she doesn't want him to face the same fate as her father.

Rishia... is as nervous as always.

It's as if she hasn't grown at all.

"Can we leave it to you?" (Female Knight)

Female Knight looks troubled.

"GYAU!" (Gaelion)

Gaelion makes a confident pose.

However, Gaelion.

Remember this. Child Gaelion says Kyua.

"Rishia, go with Taniko and keep watch outside." (Naofumi)

"Listen to me!" (Taniko)

"Gaelion says he wants to do it." (Naofumi)

"GYAU!" (Gaelion)

“Gaelion can’t do it!” (Taniko)

“GYAUGYAU!” (Gaelion)

Gaelion makes several gestures in protest.

If only he would speak…

“KYUA!” (Gaelion)

He returns his mind to the child one.

This one gestures as well.

It seems both dragons want to duke it out with the Sword.

“Mu… I don’t care anymore!” (Taniko)

Taniko pouts and walks off.

Rishia rushes after her.

“Now then, Wyndia is away.” (Gaelion)

“It Spoke-!?” (Female Knight)

Female Knight jumps back in surprise.

Ah, she didn’t know.

I never told anyone, so the people who know that he can speak are quite few.

“Let me introduce myself once more. My name is Gaelion. I am the Dragon Emperor Fragment that acted as Wyndia’s father.” (Gaelion)

Female Knight points at Gaelion.

"I have a grudge against the Sword Hero, so I want to be the one to lure him out. Also, I have an idea." (Gaelion)

"What sort of idea?" (Naofumi)

"I haven't tested if it was possible yet... and the time between shots is quite long, but..." (Gaelion)

Gaelion begins explaining his idea to us.

"I see... That might work well. I'll leave it to you." (Naofumi)

"Much appreciated." (Gaelion)

"Somehow... I was surprised with Firo-dono, but it seems that strange monsters do gather around you, Iwatani-dono." (Female Knight)

Female knight scratches her head as she speaks.

Why does she seem so amazed?

With that attitude, you won't survive in that village.

Everyone there grows quite weirdly.

"Fufufu... I'll let that brat taste the true terror of the reincarnated me."  
(Gaelion)

"Watch out for his surprise attacks from his concealed state." (Naofumi)

"Who the hell do you think I am? I'll never let such low class attacks effect me." (Gaelion)

His concealment skill isn't that high in level.

My Hate Reaction is unable to lift the current Raphtalia's invisibility magic.  
Gaelion'll probably notice him.

Though I didn't notice him, and took a critical to the back.

Without the Shield's protection, I am but an ordinary person.

I don't know exactly how it works, but I'm merely using its power.

I can't call this power my own.

The only thing I can really brag about since coming to this world is my knowledge of the language.

But that's common sense to a large part of the population, so it's nothing special.

To draw the Hero of the sword out, Gaelion became the bait.

# TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

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## *Chapter 194 - Dragon Sanctuary*

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“The problem is…” (Naofumi)

“What is it, Iwatani-dono?” (Female Knight)

“Will Ren go out of his way to target a lone dragon chick?” (Naofumi)

“Isn’t that the entire basis on which this plan is relying?” (Female Knight)

But he seems like the type of person to immediately pick a fight if he knows it’s an opponent he can beat.

Gaelion looks like a child. He’ll probably attack.

As long as Gaelion senses Ren, things will probably go fine.

As long as he pretends not to notice, he can launch a surprise attack.

If that sword is of the curse series, then the sin that would make him attack the lone Gaelion would probably be…

Gluttony… Ren may attack him to sate his desire for EXP.

He seems to like to have a high level, and Solo Players like him generally have such tendencies.

If those feelings of desire were to reach their peak, then he would definitely attack any lone enemy.

Another possibility is Greed… The fact that he’s become a bandit leader, and is collecting treasure may come from his desire for wealth.

I want to say that I have a monopoly on Greed, but I never unlocked that series.

It may be that each weapon has a different curse it can unlock.

Last is perhaps pride.

People who believe that level is everything, and look down on those of low

level are common in Net Games.

Perhaps his lone wolf-like attitude is actually a form of conceit.

No, that's probably Itsuki.

There's also a possibility it's of the older variant.

The 7 deadly sins have changed over the years. There were original 8.

Gluttony, Lust, Greed, Dejection, Wrath, Sloth, Ostentation, and Pride.

(TL: Ostentation is pretty much showing off. This list is from Evagrius Ponticus' Logismoi (A.D. 4<sup>th</sup> Century). The version listed in the bible is once again a different one (Proverbs 6:16-19).)

Envy wasn't present, and Dejection and Ostentation were in its place.

Eventually, Dejection was fused with Sloth, and Ostentation with Pride.

Additionally, Envy was tacked on.

If it's the old version, then Ostentation, devoting yourself to showing off your possessions to others, is possible.

In Online Games, strength is merely an illusion, but an individual's attachment to such strength may be considered as such.

Of course, one can also gain true experiences and strengths through games as well.

In my former world, it was possible to find work with online connections. I had an online friend who asked me whether I wanted to work for them when I graduated college.

I had met him before in real life as well.

I'm not sure his true intentions, but he said something like, 'Your upfront personality and Guild master Charisma are wanted in this company.'

Now that I think about it, perhaps he was merely praising me to make me work harder down the line.

But from Ren's personality and relationships (lack thereof), it doesn't seem likely that he's had such an experience.

I can imagine him being a lone player going around and showing off the rare items he got off of a boss.

It's not like he was the strongest, so having him brag over every little thing would just get annoying. As I guild master, that's my opinion.

But there are plenty who find joy in doing as such, and that's one of the very reasons for the profitability of the Net Game Industry.

Perhaps Ostentation is the one that fits Ren best. But Itsuki fits it as well.

The activation requirements for the Curse Series are still a mystery.

Perhaps it's an explosion of emotions equivalent to the destruction of one's heart?

But... If I don't discover the specific triggers, I may be in trouble.

Greed is especially dangerous.

This is something I can understand well.

I have learned to control my Wrath, and I have companions to help me.

But Greed would make one covet wealth, right?

When I think of the pile of treasure behind me, a dark desire stirs in my heart.

And an unquenchable desire at that.

... I get the feeling that if I keep thinking about it, my mind will get corroded, so I switch my train of thought.

Anyways, the Curses that Ren is likely to have are Gluttony, Greed, Pride, and Ostentation.

Based on this, he will probably attack the lone Gaelion, as all of these sins deal with the gathering of EXP.

The problem is that he assaulted me, the Hero of the Shield.

Even if he beats me, I don't think he'll get much EXP.

And there are way too many risks involved in killing humans in this country.

"Ah, that's right." (Naofumi)

I approach the bandits we tied up.

"When your leader fought, did anyone die?" (Naofumi)

"No, there were no deaths. He knocked them unconscious without dealing the finishing blow, and left them in the middle of a field after stripping them of their equipment." (Bandit)

"I see..." (Naofumi)

So he still has the conscience not to commit murder. Even though he tried to assassinate me from behind.

Perhaps he was thinking rationally, and first tried to weaken me, the one with the strongest defense.

From that train of thought, Gluttony is out.

The other possibilities are...

"Iwatani-dono!" (Female Knight)

My thoughts are interrupted as Female Knight calls out to me.

“What’s up?” (Naofumi)

“That!” (Female Knight)

Female Knight points outside the cave to the spout of fire streaming above the forest.

“So you found him?” (Naofumi)

That’s probably Gaelion’s signal.

I thought this would take a few days, but it seems Ren’s still close by.

… Transfer Sword has probably finished cooling down.

Even with the Curse Series eroding his mind, he’s thinking quite well.

He hasn’t lost his rationality.

“The problem is… we can’t help until the preparations are done.” (Naofumi)

“Yeah.” (Female Knight)

The idea Gaelion suggested required some time to set up.

If we approach before that, then Ren will simply run away.

No.

“Hey, can you use any concealment magic?” (Naofumi)

“I’m not Raphtalia. I never learned how to do it.” (Female Knight)

“I see…” (Naofumi)

I thought we could Use Ren’s strategy and sneak up on him to unleash a powerful attack while he was distracted with Gaelion.

I never thought Raphtalia’s absence would be this irritation.

Taniko is skilled at some magics, but I don’t think she has any concealment

magics.

… Wait, we have Rishia.

She's a jack of all trades. She may have something.

"Rishia!" (Naofumi)

I exit the cave, and approach Taniko and Rishia. Both of them look troubled.

"W-what is it?" (Rishia)

"Can you use any concealment magics?" (Naofumi)

"I know some low level ones…." (Rishia)

"What sort of effects do they have?" (Naofumi)

"Um, the range is me, and one other person. The time limit is one minute."

(Rishia)

That's surprisingly low.

Even when she just knew the basics, Raphtalia was able to hide for quite some time.

"So it's a different magic from Raphtalia?" (Naofumi)

"Raphtalia-san's magic affinity is different, so…." (Rishia)

It seems that Tanukis specialize in light and dark magic.

Even though it's a low rank, I guess it's amazing that Rishia even knows it.

On top of Hengen Musou, she can use almost all types of magic.

I guess it's fine.

"Then Me and Rishia will approach Ren and Gaelion to observe the situation.

If the plan succeeds, I'll call you so be prepared to come over." (Naofumi)

“Understood.” (Female Knight)

“Will Gaelion be alright?” (Taniko)

Taniko looks worried.

“Yeah, he’ll be fine.” (Naofumi)

Though he lost once, the current Gaelion is several times stronger than the other one, at least according to the older one.

I don’t think he’ll lose too easily.

It will be troublesome if Taniko rushes over in worry.

“Then, let’s go Rishia.” (Naofumi)

“Yes!” (Rishia)

“Be prepared to come to our aide.” (Naofumi)

“I shall also assist.” (Atlas)

“Got it.” (Naofumi)

I leave Atlas, Female Knight and Taniko, and fepart with Rishia to observe Gaelion’s battle.

We reach what I think is just beyond the edge of Ren’s perception.

Keeping as low a profile as possible, we watch from the trees.

“GYAUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUU!” (Gaelion)

“Tei! Derya!” (Ren) (TL: Sound of putting effort into swinging a bladed object)

Ren and Gaelion are locked in a bout of fierce combat.

Gaelion is in his giant form. He avoids Ren’s attacks as he fires his breath.

He's putting up a good fight.

Ren is moving at quite a fast pace. His style probably relies mostly on speed. Since I'm in charge of defense, I also focus on speed, and physical ability is a must. But people don't seem to understand this.

Ah, I started complaining.

Well, if they can get past the shield, then there's no real point.

Anyways, if we get any closer, Ren will probably notice us.

「Hide... Sword!」 (Ren)

Ren instantly disappears.

“Fool... Did you think such weak abilities would make me lose track of thee!?” (Gaelion)

Gaelion shouts out as he swings his tail at the area to his right which appeared to be empty space.

If I strain my eyes, I can see dust clouds rising as he steps.

There is also a trail of broken grass. Even from here, I can get an idea of his location.

It seems that Gaelion can sense him fully.

“Fueee... Gaelion-chan is speaking.” (Rishia)

“Ah, so Rishia didn't know either.” (Naofumi)

I didn't really tell anybody. And of course I keep it hidden in front of Taniko. Raphtalia probably doesn't know for the same reasons. I wonder how surprised she'll be.

「Flashing Sword!」 (Ren)

“That again!? You really don’t learn!” (Gaelion)

Gaelion uses his claws to hide his face as Ren uses his skill.

The area is illuminated for a moment.

“You keep using small, superficial skills… What are you trying to accomplish?” (Gaelion)

「… Rakshasa Meteor Sword!」 (Ren)

Gaelion twists his body to avoid the black projectiles coming out of the sword.

He’s putting up a really good fight.

Will he just win like this?

No, Ren will run when he is at a disadvantage. There must be a reason why he hasn’t run yet.

“There!” (Gaelion)

Gaelion unleashes his breath attack on Ren.

At that point, I clench my fist, thinking it was Gaelion’s victory.

But I was naïve.

Ren knocks away the Breath with his hand.

So an attack of that caliber isn’t going to do it.

Should I really be doing nothing and watching?

If I get closer, I’ll get in Gaelion’s way, and I may miss a chance.

Thinking back, it was quite good luck to have encountered him so quickly anyways.

If we let this opportunity get away, Ren probably won't approach us carelessly again.

『I, Gaelion now order the heavens and the earth. Cut and fasten the knot of reason- 』 (Gaelion)

While battling, Gaelion continuously chants magic incantations.

『The Creation of my territory, the reason of my existence-』 (Gaelion)

It seems he's building up quite a spell.

Ren seems oblivious to this, as he continues to unleash his skills.

The previous Ren would have noticed by now... So the Curse Series does deplete one's wisdom.

If he were a simple wild dragon with no fragment, I guess Gaelion would have fallen by now.

I don't know what sort of expression he has under his mask, but I think Ren's getting impatient.

Using his game knowledge, he must be thinking something like, 'This species of dragon shouldn't be anywhere near this tough.'

Even so...

"... Hey, Rishia." (Naofumi)

"What is it?" (Rishia)

"When you look at the Hero of the Sword's stance, does anything come to mind?" (Naofumi)

"Let's see... Is it some sort of style? His footwork is strange." (Rishia)

Is it something from Kendo? He's using a shuffling movement, and I think I can see the Jodan Stance.

(TL: one of the stances of Kendo, I'm not really that familiar. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C5%8Ddan-no-kamae>)

But am I imagining it? Something's strange.

Recently, I've been sparring with Atlas and the castle soldiers so I can tell. In a real battle, Kendo isn't all that useful.

Of course, I can't really tell you its shortcomings, but Ren's swordsmanship and footwork seems a bit awkward.

He probably learned a bit of Kendo, and mixed in his own style.

Based on his age, he probably didn't get that far in it, and he spent a lot of time on VRMMOs, so he probably didn't devote too much time on it.

And so, after seeing masters such as Granny and Female Knight, his style seems a bit sloppy.

I look at Ren's movements.

His strokes are full of confidence, but he isn't putting his back into it, and he's swinging his blade quite recklessly.

He's relying on the abilities of the sword, and not displaying much of his own skill...

"Um, Female Knight-san can fight with much more elegance." (Rishia) (TL: Nicknames are spreading)

"Right." (Naofumi)

Female Knight's straightforward personality can be seen in her blade, and she has no wasted movement.

I've seen her and Raphtalia cross blades before during training, so Ren's swordsmanship looks childish.

Gaelion seems to have gotten a sense for it, and none of Ren's attacks are hitting.

But I guess there's no helping it.

Even if he's a hero here, he was originally a civilian from peaceful Japan.

In this uncivilized world, Ren would have his share of troubles.

『And here, I proclaim the creation of my sanctuary. The dominion of a Dragon.』 (Gaelion)

“It seems it will be over soon. Rishia, let's get closer.” (Naofumi)

“Ah, yes!” (Rishia)

“I, who has understood the source of power commands. Let the truth once again be read forth and manifested. Hide our form from the world.” (Rishia)

「Faust Hiding!」 (Rishia)

The magic calls forth a rain a leaves that wash over us, and cause us to become invisible.

The time limit was one minute, right?

We start running forward as soon as the magic finishes.

… As we're running, I can see that we occasionally become semi-visible.

It seems that the quality is lower in comparison to Raphtalia's.

“Mu!?” (Ren)

Damn. Ren noticed us.

「Transfer-」 (Ren)

“Too Late! 「Dragon Sanctuary!」 ” (Gaelion)

With Gaelion's magic, a barrier like field is deployed around the area. What is it specifically? I think as I look at it. Suddenly, I feel a light jolt on my skin. I get the feeling that something intangible just passed through my body.

「- Sword!」 (Ren)

Ren shouts out.

However...

“What!?” (Ren)

Ren's words are colored with surprise.

Gaelion had used his experiences 'til now... As a Wrath Dragon and an Emperor. He managed to make a skill that blocked off the use of teleportation.

“The game of tag ends here, Ren.” (Naofumi)

# TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

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## *Chapter 195 - Greed*

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"Ku..." (Ren)

Ren let out a vexed sound.

Looks like it turned out well. The thing Gaelion planned with us was stopping the transfer skill. Referencing from when we did not run from Gaelion's former territory before, it seems Gaelion researched and was able to produce the magic. Normally it awakens the magic element from the vicinity, a power within the extent of power enhancing Dragon Pulse magic, but this time a large amount of magic element was activated to interfere and obstruct or so I heard.

Supposedly, specific attributes of normal human magic could be sealed if this magic was figured out. For example, the fighting power of Melty and Sadina would greatly diminish if water was sealed.

"Okay! Rishia! Fire a signalling magic!" (Naofumi)

"Y, Yes!" (Rishia)

My order was followed. The effects of concealment magic wore off on Rishia as a magic aria set in. Immediately after, magic flew upwards. Okay, everyone should gather within a few minutes. Until then it'll be fine if pursuit is maintained so there is no escape.

"..." (Ren)

Ren understood he could not escape, readying his sword. I'll acknowledge you for not losing your fighting spirit in this situation.

"Finally time to pay the piper huh. Ren." (Naofumi)

"Piper? That's my line" (Ren)

Running from reality as usual it appears huh.

"A guy who can't do anything without numbers looking at me. Even being accompanied by a dragon...let me judge personally" (Ren)

"...Do you understand your own standing?" (Naofumi)

I can't even say I'm surprised. Is the equation "dragon=evil" or something? Pride's Curse...?

"A coward who challenges me to a match with two, I won't lose to you!"  
(Ren)

"Is concealing yourself against an opponent who has no attack power, even using a certain kill attack from behind not considered cowardly?" (Naofumi)

"Not being able to sense it is the fault" (Ren)

"So you say" (Naofumi)

As I thought, it's "my rules" full throttle.

His speech and conduct are somehow strange too, I wonder if his inner thoughts are coming to the surface. Almost like, or rather just like those who often appear claiming to be strongest in net games.

By Ren's terms, not having companions is bad, though it's fine to say dim things, in the end returning inflammatory words with inflammatory words will become a pissing contest. Frankly, I want to say his defeat was because of a lack of useful pawns, but he's not someone who'll listen.

"Here I come!" (Ren)

"Listen to me--" (Naofumi)

Ren started running faster than I could give caution. Then facing me with his sword he--or not, his target became Rishia as he ran.

Oi....

There's definitely something strange about the current Ren. Inconsistency or how should I put it, lacking direction.

"Fue!?" (Rishia)

Rishia raised her voice as the attack suddenly changed direction. This guy, aiming at the weakest looking person in this situation.... It's the basics of tactics but targeting the weakest first, where did fair and square go. Nevertheless, you've made a big mistake. Rishia is now....

"Deryaaaaaaaaaaa!" (Ren)

Ren brandished towards Rishia, letting out an enthusiastic shout at the same time. But Rishia promptly leaned over as if breaking her stance, threw a rope-attached throwing knife at a nearby tree, and quickly took distance

with a su-. While in the motion of taking distance, four iron skewer-like things were thrown towards Ren.

"That surprised me" (Rishia)

"Rather I'm the one surprised" (Naofumi)

What was with that quick evasion. It pretty much took only an instant. Isn't it only this fellow who fights like from another world? No, it can be seen so it's not like it can't be defended against.

Where did she even get those iron skewers? Is it a hidden weapon of the Peerless Transformation style or something?

"Ku..." (Ren)

The skewers did not stick, but Ren let out a troubled voice since it did not go as he'd thought.

"It's troublesome if you forget about me" (Gaelion)

Gaelion threatened while flapping his wings with a basaa-. Oh yeah. It's three versus one, not like I don't feel unfair at all but it's a habit. Well, originally I can't fight alone after all.

"However, to only possess strength of this extent...the disappointment is tremendous" (Gaelion)

"I didn't see anything like damage being inflicted" (Naofumi)

"Of course I held back. Although, I shall not deny I lack the strength to defeat him." (Gaelion)

"Is that so" (Naofumi)

The more hands, the easier it gets I guess.

"Oi. Witch isn't coming?" (Naofumi)

"..." (Ren)

Ren's face distorted at my question and I sense the swelling presence of an ominous aura emanating from his sword.

"It appears you chose the wrong words. His power has increased" (Gaelion)

Mu...questioning him poorly backfired. In which case, getting information will be difficult. I wanted to at least know where that fellow was at though.

"Well then I'll have you let me get serious. Hero of the Shield. Take out the abominable Cursed Shield" (Gaelion)

"No" (Naofumi)

With the Wrath Shield at it's initial state from failed enhancements, the effects of the curse just makes it an item that puts my self in danger. Of course, it wouldn't be to that extent if I use the certain kill Blutofer, but I've been told that I could even die if I use it again while cursed. It's not that I don't have a technique using Iron Maiden to submerge, but I could probably win without it.

"It's okay. I have secret measures. Moreover...there is no need to drag it on" (Gaelion)

"Really-?" (Naofumi)

It's pretty suspicious to me. Ma, it should be fine just quickly changing shields if the corrosion gets out of hand.

I put my hand on my shield and change to the Wrath Shield. As expected, my vision becomes black with a bashi-

...I still have my reason.

Hateful emotions are surging upwards, but still within bearable range.

Hm? 3:00 appears in my field of vision and decreases to 2:59.

"Gyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!" (Gaelion)

Gaelion's body is swelling with a black shine. A sinister jet-black aura, overflowing sentiments of rage. An appearance like a Wrath Dragon.

Materialized there was Gaelion as a Great Dragon.

"Fumu...my power is swelling" (Gaelion)

Letting out a dark flame, Gaelion spoke. A-...probably, this number is the transformation time. Since with Firo it lasted five minutes, the time is lower.

Well, it probably also depends on how much ability Gaelion possesses.

Even so, Gaelion...what a villain-like appearance. It's starting to feel like I've become the boss-like character. The truth is that the Hero of the Sword is the bandit chief though.

"Lowly demon that takes the pretense of a hero. I shall pass you judgement!" (Ren)

Not giving up, Ren roars. Aren't you not looking at reality? If the opponent you've had a hard fight with until now powered up, no matter what you consider you can't win right.

"Awaken! My power! In battles I get stronger!" (Ren)

Oww! So painful! Chills ran down my back.

Stop going so far with your chuunibyou! This is settled.

Because what Ren awakened without killing was his chuunibyou.

There are those guys who suddenly, after cruelly committing atrocities until then, become enlightened and stop killing in anime right. I wonder if this is like that.

"How foolish...I will let you witness the difference in our powers" (Gaelion)

Oi...Gaelion, that line is for the losing side. Why are we only acting and speaking like the villainy role.

As the time fell to 2:30, Gaelion inhaled a large amount of air. This appearance...I guess there are Wrath Dragons too. The inhaled air was

probably for a Breath. Because of the time limit, it seems to be a powerful Breath.

"Take this!" (Gaelion)

While flapping his wings, Gaelion let out a breath toward the ground.

Oi! I'm here too! It was a jet-black flame. No mistake, it is the flame of Dark Curse Burning S.

"Instant - Dragonslaying!" (Ren)

Ren cut the flame, slashing at Gaelion. A fighting spirit in the form of a dragon flew up. I think I'll simply commend being able to cut through the flame.

Well, it is of no concern to me.

"Tsuveit - Aura" (Naofumi)

I chant support magic for Gaelion.

"...Fumu. How lukewarm" (Gaelion)

Maybe my support magic had an effect, Gaelion caught Ren's attack with one hand. The dragon made from fighting spirit was grabbed by the neck and crushed.

"Oh yes, you may not know it, but now I shall allow you to witness a dragon's...Dragon Emperor's serious Breath"

"I, Dragon Emperor Gaelion command the heavens, command the Earth, cut off reason, connect. My power. Manifest a strength to destroy the foolish one before me!" (Gaelion)

I saw the development of countless magic formations overlapping in front of Gaelion. Even though you had such a thing, why was it not used until now. I hate stinginess you know.

No, could it not be used? He's a Great Dragon right now as well, so that possibility is high.

"Fuee...somehow it feels dangeroussss" (Rishia)

"I suppose so. Let's run" (Naofumi)

We quickly escaped.

"Like I'll let youuuuuuuuu!" (Ren)

Ren is boldly attacking Gaelion. Energetically. I myself wish to pass on attacking in such a situation. Such work is for Heroes.

"I will become stronger than anyone. Yes...my desire has no limit...I will awaken to even more power in this place and defeat you, my desire has no limit! Feeding off of desire, I will become the strongest. Awaken power, triumph, prepare equipment, collect gold, increase power, become the strongest of all, everything wishes for me!" (Ren)

Is his head okay? This guy.

How many times are you gonna say the same thing. Desire, desire, annoying.

Awakening powers? You've already awakened as the Hero of the Shield....  
Do you become that ridiculous if the curse erodes far enough? There's only a painful guy left now.

...Somehow, I've distinguished what curse Ren committed.

--Greed.

But I wonder why. It feels like a very pitifully small greed. It's hard to call that greed.

Greed is so to say, a bottomless desire right. To want anything and everything, desire with no bounds.

In Ren's case, it can be summarized by his wanting to become strong. Of course I'm not saying that is not a desire. But, guys truly driven by desire are more unsightly, coveting anything and everything.

After all, to be involved with just power...ah, I see, I understand why.

If I had to say, the process was the objective.

Desire is obtaining something because you want it. This has been obtained, but you also want that other one. That kind of feeling.

But in Ren's case, becoming strong is his intent, the reason he wants to become strong is not to attain something else. The result and process are reversed.

I understand all the more because I've had a similar experience. Previously, when I was peddling...I should have been earning gold to get equipment, but my objective became earning gold, something like that. Would the Curse Series lend power even to this degree.

That would also become the reason why it can't beat my rage. No matter how much you increase the power of the Curse, with that greed, you cannot beat my rage. That is a transient greed.

"I am the strongest hero who will save the worlddddddd! Obediently admit your defeatttttttttttttttttttttttttttttt!" (Ren)

# TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

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## *Chapter 196 - Reality VS Ideal*

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"...Foolishness" (Gaelion)

Gaelion gazed at Ren with scornful eyes. I'm sure I have those same eyes right now, probably.

"Foolish one who acts superior. It is the way of the world for the strongest to be overtaken. The knowledge of the Dragon Emperor who was once the strongest speaks of such. Know that being the strongest is but a tower built from sand" (Gaelion)

The time left is 1:30.

"Let that one be carved! Flames of purgatory! Prominence - Dark Nova!"  
(Gaelion)

With a ka-, Gaelion unleashed a Breath with the might of a sea of flames towards Ren.

"Instant - Dragonslayer! Chain - Bind! Change Chain!" (Ren)

Ren boldly fired consecutive skills, but--.

"Useless! Foolish Hero of the Sword!" (Gaelion)

All of Ren's attacks were erased by the might of Breath.

"Not yet! It's not over yet!" (Ren)

Ren's sword changed once again. Grow Up huh? Certainly, there was the thing with my shield of anger changing into the Wrath Shield. There is no doubt this looks just like that. In that case, the chances of Ren's sword becoming stronger are high.

"That's right. I've discovered a new technique! Rakshasa - Meteor Sword"  
(Ren)

You just used that earlier!

Speaking as if you've just discovered a technique you've been using until now. Even by manga principles, that does not apply to techniques you've already put to use once. What is this. Really.

"For this sinner the punishment I have chosen is crushing by God's name!  
Using what is mine, have this one receive God's attack!"

"Goltaofushtant!" (Ren)

Ren raised his sword to the heavens and out of nowhere, gold and silver treasures gathered, forming a human shape in the air. Profoundly ominous, it was a gold statue made with extremely bad taste. The statue changed its shape and descended towards Gaelion.

What happened to Rakshasa - Meteor Sword. No matter how you look aren't you using a different technique. The means are gradually becoming foul. Are you going to say this is the Greed of wanting to win.

That's...probably, a skill equal to Blutofer huh. The compensation is the caster's possessions huh. Ah, so that's why Ren's equipment is so poor?

"Take this" (Ren)

"I can't even say I'm shocked. Decide your aim" (Gaelion)

"E!?" (Naofumi)

"Fueeeeeee!?" (Rishia)

Gaelion flaps his wings with a basa-, scoops up Rishia and I with both arms, and flies away. The distasteful gold statue summoned by Ren descended with the shape of a gigantic hand, but we had already escaped out of it's range. Only one minute was remaining by the way. Getting quite irritated, I'm at my limit.

"Oi. Hurry and finish it" (Naofumi)

"Fueeeee" (Rishia)

"Fumu, the conclusion has already been reached" (Gaelion)

"What?" (Naofumi)

"Did you think I was only breathing flames?" (Gaelion)

While I was wondering what he was saying, the sky was dyed red. What, a sphere that looked like meteorite magic fell from the sky in a second.

"Ku..." (Ren)

The statue Ren made instantly fell apart.

"Well then, Hero of the Shield. You surely understand what you must do"  
(Gaelion)

"Indeed" (Naofumi)

Though there isn't much time left, it's not that I won't do it. Gaelion even left the best part. Letting me deal the finishing blow.

Kukuku, how long I have been eagerly waiting for this moment.

"Shield Prison!" (Naofumi)

The shield's cage appeared towards Ren who was trying to escape. Oh, Shield Prison's range is longer than before. Is it an effect of the Wrath Shield?

A gan gan sound came from inside. Ma, the Ren now will take a couple seconds to destroy it. Just that much time is plenty.

"Change Shield (Attack) !" (Naofumi)

Let's change to the Spike Shield. With a bashin-, damage was inflicted on Ren.

"Well then" (Naofumi)

Letting loose Iron Maiden would be fine, but.... The sun created by Gaelion had already fell towards Ren in an instant.

"Gyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa--" (Ren)

The shield's prison was destroyed, Ren's scream and a flash like the sun enveloped the area.

The flash seemed to go on for eternity. It actually lasted probably 5 seconds.

"The short time it lasts relative to it's cost is a demerit" (Gaelion)

We landed on the burnt ground. Ah, the Wrath Shield has been changed to another shield for a while now. I am not dumb enough to maintain the transformation with less than thirty seconds. With that said, Gaelion returned to the size of four meters.

"Wouldn't there not be a trace remaining?" (Naofumi)

"I had no intention of holding back. If he is to die from this, then that is merely the extent of his existence" (Gaelion)

"Fueee...the Hero of the Sword has been killed" (Rishia)

Hmm. Nothing to do with me.

"Guha..." (Ren)

Turning to face the voice, aside from being burned black Ren was physically fine, while his mask fell after being charred and broken.

"Tough, huh-" (Naofumi)

Quite sturdy, this guy. Was it the influence of the Curse Series? Just vanish without leaving a trace after receiving such a flashy attack. Good grief....

"Well then, Gaelion" (Naofumi)

"Umu" (Gaelion)

Gaelion gently stepped on the fallen Ren, opened his mouth widely towards the head, prepared his fangs and--.

"What are you doing!"

Female knight shouted as she approached.

"What, you say, just giving Ren the finishing blow?" (Naofumi)

"If the hero can be captured then capture him!" (Female Knight)

"He might run away though" (Naofumi)

"Was that not why all paths of escape were made invalid!" (Female Knight)

"Ha! I accepted the request to subjugate the bandit boss, not to capture the Hero of the Sword" (Naofumi)

"What you are saying is sophism!" (Female Knight)

Female knight glares sternly at Gaelion with a ki-. Gaelion did not care and was about to bite.

"Stop!"

This time it was Taniko who came and raised her voice at Gaelion.

"That's not good Gaelion! Certainly that person is my father's enemy but, you can't do such a thing!" (Taniko)

"What are you saying! That guy is an evil to this world! More people will meet disaster if he's not killed!" (Naofumi)

I shouted, and Taniko just shook her head objecting with a bunbun sound.

"If we kill this person, next time it might be us who are killed. I don't want something like that!" (Taniko)

"No problem! Even if this guy is killed there will be those who rejoice but none who would mourn!" (Naofumi)

"That's not possible!" (Taniko)

Good grief, Taniko's righteousness is depressing. How much do you think I've wanted to make this guy drink boiling water.

"Wyndia-san, that is mistaken" (Atla)

"Eh?" (Taniko)

"If you show hostility once, you can no longer withdraw" (Atla)

"Why is that!" (Taniko)

"If you have sympathy now, the debt will someday fall on Naofumi-sama" (Atla)

Atla spoke with an unusually strong tone. Come to think of it, Atla is from the Hakuko...they were a war-minded species if I recall. Also taking from what I've heard Fohl say, the chances that they have the mindset of a military family is high. Either way, more than Taniko's idealistic words, I feel more familiarity with Atlas' views.

"I will answer contrarily. Even if this person is not harmed now, the hatred will not cease" (Atla)

"Atla, what are you saying!" (Female Knight)

"Then I wish to inquire, why is there a grudge between this person and Naofumi-sama?" (Atla)

"Hah...?" (Female Knight)

"Unfortunately, I do not wish to understand all of Naofumi-sama's thoughts. However, the gentle Naofumi-sama has been made to go this far. I think they are quite an evil person. And if this person is a hindrance to Naofumi-sama, I would gladly dirty my hands" (Atla)

"You...that idea is dangerous!" (Female Knight)

"Please say anything you wish. However, I will continue to stay by Naofumi-sama's side no matter what" (Atla)

Atla and Female Knight started glaring at each other. Though I say that, Atla can't see.

"Fuee...let's stop this..." (Rishia)

Rishia was just getting flustered and wandering around with oro oro uru uru sounds. Things like idealism and realism, either way is fine.

Right now, I want to kill Ren.

"Gaelion! Give the finishing blow!" (Naofumi)

And, as I was giving the order, Gaelion who changed to young dragon mode flew towards me.

"Why did you return. Quickly kill him!" (Naofumi)

Because Taniko was here, he whispered near my ear while acting playfully.

"I also had that intention. I recalled something" (Gaelion)

"What?" (Naofumi)

"Carelessly killing a hero must not be done. The Seven Stars are still fine, but something unthinkable will happen if it is one of the four saints...supposedly. That much is firmly engraved on the few fragments as something that must be prevented" (Gaelion)

"Don't lose your nerves from the kid's words! This good-for-nothing dragon!" (Naofumi)

# TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

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## *Chapter 197 - Flash*

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"If you won't do it then I will--" (Naofumi)

"No, I shall do it. Though I hold no grudge" (Atla)

Atla went forward saying that. Hou, I must raise my evaluation of Atla.

"Enough of that!" (Female Knight)

"You're in the way! Move! Shield Prison!" (Naofumi)

Because Female Knight was being annoying, this should silence her.

"Hmph!" (Female Knight)

Female Knight easily destroyed the Prison with a bakin- and got out. Oi. To destroy the prison in one blow when Ren needed a few seconds, just what kind of specs is Peerless Transformation style hiding.

"If Iwatani-dono has that intention, I also have my own thoughts" (Female Knight)

Female Knight drew her sword and took a stance toward me.

"...Having me as your opponent, I'm guessing you do know the significance of that?" (Naofumi)

"Yes, Iwatani-dono, can I have you obediently withdraw your weapon? I also want to avoid having you as an opponent if possible" (Female Knight)

"You have the prospect of winning?" (Naofumi)

"I wouldn't do this if not. Moreover I have no path of retreat" (Female Knight)

Honestly, this fellow doesn't know her own place. I've seen Female Knight's strength from the fights up until now. From what I saw, her status and fighting ability greatly fall short of both Raphtalia and Rishia. Yet still wanting to fight me, even foolishness should have limits.

"I've said this before. If the Hero of the Sword is captured, I said I'd personally educate him" (Female Knight)

"Like I'd know" (Naofumi)

"...That's fine. I'll have you be my opponent seriously" (Female Knight)

"Fuee!? Naofumi-san. Please put down your weapon here!" (Rishia)

Rishia says toward me while being oro oro-flustered.

"Even you are going to speak nonsense" (Naofumi)

"This person received the secret sword arts of the Peerless Transformation style in just a few days you know!? She is a very tough opponent for the Naofumi-san who's hung on with self-study!" (Rishia)

"Like I'd know!" (Naofumi)

I thrust Rishia away and confront Female Knight. Hmm, no matter what attacks this fellow tries, if we get within skill range or Atla reaches Ren, it'll be checkmate.

"Well then, I will accept this one versus two" (Female Knight)

Female Knight thrust her thin sword in front of me. The weapon did not appear to be that good. She'll stand in my way even then huh. Chivalry is a troublesome thing. I thought chivalry in reality was something filled with pride and ego.

"Go, Atla!" (Naofumi)

"Yes!" (Atla)

Though she could not see, Atla nimbly ran towards Female Knight with a sutatata-. I followed after her.

"Here I go! Please go to sleep for a while" (Atla)

"Hmm...as expected of the Hakuko, so agile. However, Peerless Transformation sword technique...Four Cross!" (Female Knight)

"Kya!?" (Atla)

Female Knight parried Atla's certain kill thrust attack and slashed. It looks like two crosses engraved on top of each other, a magic sword technique. There appears to be a combined X and + attached to Atla.

"Let me say instead. For the time being, please sleep. Be at ease, the wound inflicted is not that strong" (Female Knight)

"Such...Naofumi-sama, I'm terribly sorry..." (Atla)

Atla was blown away, not moving as if she'd lost consciousness. It's probably fine to see this as having an additional effect. In the first place,

there was too much difference between Atla and Female Knight's foundations, level, and experience.

"That's the so-called Peerless Transformation style's spirit?" (Naofumi)

"Yes, I'll have her sleep for a bit" (Female Knight)

She readied the tip of her sword. Female Knight stood in my way. Ku...to think there'd be a hindrance here.

"Next is Iwatani-dono" (Female Knight)

"You, think you can deal damage to me?" (Naofumi)

"Of course I think so, rather there is a perfect technique for Iwatani-dono"  
(Female Knight)

The technique the Old Lady used on me I guess. However, countermeasures for that technique have already been completed.

"If you can then try!" (Naofumi)

"Then here I go! It'll hurt a bit, but I must have Iwatani-dono hear what I say" (Female Knight)

Female Knight headed towards my chest. Fast! But, not faster than I can prepare defences. I parried Female Knight's first attack and took distance.

"As expected. It requires considerable capability to avoid this thrust"  
(Female Knight)

"So you say" (Naofumi)

"Then I'll have the next go" (Female Knight)

With her hand in front of her sword, Female Knight runs towards me preparing to lunge.

Female Knight's attack appeared to have the tip of her lunging sword multiply numerous times. It seems as hard to avoid as expected. Let's block it. The thrusts were repelled away one by one---. Gu....

"With the basics, I am aiming for various places that have a high chance of effectiveness. It's not good to forget" (Female Knight)

That fellow came and used internal attacks on my spirit flow whenever I blocked. You...thanks to the training with Atla it's not like I don't have a counter technique, but I can't defend against so many attacks. Isn't she stronger than expected.

Moreover, if I purposely give an opening to avoid the attack, I will likely be stabbed. Female Knight's barrage will end eventually. It was a good attack. And sharp.

I certainly thought she was capable but for it to reach this extent. As I thought, with just light sparring with Atla, it's too difficult in an actual fight? I'll be quickly caught up to even if I'm able to get past.

Alright, though there isn't much time left, I'll switch to the Wrath Shield. With Dark Curse Burning S's power, I'll create flames at the points of attack.

If my desire for vengeance burns stronger, the power should increase. Yes, immediately after deciding so, Female Knight opened her mouth.

"To begin with. Just how much resentment does Iwatani-dono hold towards the Hero of the Sword?" (Female Knight)

"Resentment? That's, any amount will come out!" (Naofumi)

First is when he did not cover for me when Witch deceived me. He only watched as Raphtalia was about to be taken away right? I was suddenly hit with an instant kill skill from behind. Starting with Motoyasu, Ren also said "annoying" while using the transfer skill to escape. After that, after that....

...Huh? Less than I thought.

Yeah. That's right. Thinking carefully, I don't have much resentment towards Ren. Exactly what is this?

He tried to help when I was suspected of trying to assassinate Melty. There was something wrong with that proposition so I did not negotiate, escaped, and only promptly attacked. Though it was Ren's mistake in Gaelion's case, I stuck my head in when actually, I had little relation to it. When Witch was spreading salt on my wounds with deceptive rumours too...he was just a spectator so the involvement is small. Rather, a complaint was raised when there was unfairness in my duel.

I just paid him back for using the certain kill skill from my back too...I enjoyed his miserable state to my heart's content. From Witch's sweet whispers, falling for her temptation is the crime. After was a situation where

he'd be killed to spit out Witch's whereabouts. Thinking about that, there was no need to go as far as killing I guess?

That is to say, I have a preconception of resentment towards the heroes?

I see, I've also been corroded by the Wrath Shield. It is annoying but, I must reconsider a bit. Like Ren's weird speech and conduct, I've also been affected by my anger huh. Thinking about it, Raphtalia has not been nearby like up until now, so I've been absorbing anger like the time with the Wrath Dragon. Gaelion is suppressing it for the time being, but our time spent together is too short compared to Raphtalia and Firo.

Perpetrator of the Spirit Turtle issue...is said but, in reality the Spirit Turtle still would've revived someday. Whether or not diplomacy could do anything, with this guy's reasoning it seemed impossible. The authority of the heroes too, the world leaders seeing that the Spirit Turtle's brainwashing did not affect them is fine. Melromark is a good example.

After all heroes have the aspect of being pieces in religious and international diplomacy. Running away or dying poorly could trigger war, is what the Queen and the leaders of other countries have said. That's why I was able to survive in Melromark.

If running away is no longer an option...this is also a means.

"Won't you reconsider? If possible I want to have Iwatani-dono's name in history as an upstanding hero. For Raphtalia's sake as well" (Female Knight)

She hits where it hurts. However, this woman, she did nothing when I was suffering right. ...Come to think of it, I don't remember seeing her until the Queen arrived. Was she an imperial guard or something?

Well, thinking back on it, my grudge's basis is on Trash, Witch, and Motoyasu. Even that Motoyasu fell into sorrow, to the point that I don't wish to meet if possible, since it disturbed my mind. Only Trash and Witch remain...my own grudge with Ren is not to the point of killing.

"This concerns a prediction of the conclusion of this world. At the time of the waves, there is a theory that the killing of heroes will promote the end. For that reason, do not kill him so easily" (Female Knight)

Gaelion also said something similar. I don't know what is being promoted, but the question I've had since the start about what the waves are still remains.

Frankly, the incident with the Spirit Turtle was just the heroes' self-destructing as they pleased. If asked, I do not hold a grudge against Ren because of the Spirit Turtle incident. Well I heard the scope of damage was considerable, but whoever dies does not particularly concern me.

I can't say it out loud, but honestly I dislike the bunch from this world. Of course there are exceptions, but it's impossible for me to come to like those who badmouthed me as a devil and what not. Because of that, when a just cause is found, "kill kill", and a clamour is made. Like that, my hate for this world's lot won't change.

The inhabitants of this world are to judge the three heroes regarding the Spirit Turtle, not me...how should I put it, it's that. There is war in a foreign country, several hundred casualties occur, or similar...no skin off my nose or rather, somebody else's problem or something. Of course, I am involved since I fought the Spirit Turtle, but not to the extent of being angry for them.

Rather, the matter with the Spirit Turtle could be said to have improved my standing in many ways. I have no intention to give gratitude, but I do not hold much of a grudge towards Ren himself. Ren's pretending not to see too, that applies to this world's bunch as a whole. Towards Ren who came this far full of holes with a boko boko-, the sour feeling from the preemptive attack are settling down.

But, the sentiment can't be forgiven.

Left practically naked after being treated like a criminal for a nonexistent crime, called weak, small fry, disgusting, Trash, my feelings as I was thrown alone into a strange other world, no one could understand. No, I won't stand being understood.

There is no way this fellow could comprehend a rage able to make food lose flavor.

This woman is proudly enumerating these just arguments, yet she did nothing when I was truly in trouble. Coming after all that and acting like a good person...just who are you trying to be. You have no right to preach. I won't stand it.

It's the same with the Queen. When I was truly troubled, the one who put all else aside and became my ally, was only Raphtalia alone. What is this hypocrite who was not there at that time prattling on about.

But, Raphtalia who scolded my laughing at the misfortune of the other heroes, what would she think if she knew I had a hand in killing a hero? I wonder...I have a very bad feeling.

Or rather, saying "kill kill" repeatedly has made it hard to retreat. Thinking calmly, rather than hurting my reputation by untactfully killing a hero, making use of the situation would be better. Of course, because I may be punished if I overlook a criminal, for now capturing him would be the best course of action. Even if he's executed, my legitimacy will be damaged if the proper legal process is not used.

Alright, now to let Female Knight save face and while pretending to give up during discussions, I'll get advantageous bargaining chips to--

"U...uoooo"

I shifted my attention to the voice just as Ren was getting up.

"I...won't lose. I, to acquire the strength, to be the strongest, will take everything, take, this!" (Ren)

Ren's sword...the ominous one-handed sword transformed into a large, dusky great sword.

"Wha, what!?" (Naofumi)

Not only that, a black aura has been strongly gushing out for some time now.

"Fuee!?" (Rishia)

"Wh, What's this!?" (Taniko)

With a ba-, Gaelion grabbed my shoulder and whispered near my ear.

"This is bad. I sense a power stronger than even before. I dare say I cannot offer opposition" (Gaelion)

"Shit! It came to such a situation because we were doing something like chatting leisurely!" (Naofumi)

Should retreat be considered?

"Rishia! Taniko! Wake Atla up!" (Naofumi)

"...Iwatani-dono" (Female Knight)

"What!?" (Naofumi)

"I will take responsibility for this. In exchange, if I bring down the Hero of the Sword alone, could you entrust the dealings with the Hero of the Sword to me?" (Female Knight)

"You still say that even after causing this situation!?" (Naofumi)

"Yes, I must not stray from my own path you see. But if it is still too much to stop, people can be gathered to kill the hero. If it becomes like that, the Queen can make a decision" (Female Knight)

"Do you think you can win against that?" (Naofumi)

"I don't know! However, I do not have any swords so simply bent after deciding once!" (Female Knight)

It's fine if we directly bring Ren down while Female Knight is getting taken out. If comrades are taken out, even Raphtalia should compromise. It is not blind slaughter. Female Knight should know he's stubborn. I think Raphtalia understands too.

Besides, the plan was to settle by discussion anyways, it's all good. If it's genuinely dangerous, it'll probably be fine to sell a favor and owe a debt. Time to wait for a chance.

"...I guess so" (Naofumi)

"Is it fine to take that as affirmation?" (Female Knight)

"Aa, if you can bring Ren down alone that is" (Naofumi)

"You've promised" (Female Knight)

"I keep promises. Both good and bad. I'll lend a hand if it gets dangerous" (Naofumi)

"I understand. That's fine" (Female Knight)

While there was deception, I hate wasting promises. Well, I think I'll deceive you as many times as needed about making the promise though. Now then, let's watch Female Knight's fight.

"Try not to die" (Naofumi)

"Ha? A, aa-...n!? Iwatani-dono, can't possibly...!" (Female Knight)

"I don't know" (Naofumi)

Female Knight's face became incredibly amazed. You may think you've just been had, but it has only been deception since the middle. Hm, with this there'll probably be a misunderstanding if you use your head. Though nothing was actually used.

"Honestly! Then, let us name ourselves, Hero of the Sword. My name is Eclair=Siaette! To reform your spoiled nature as ordered by the Queen, I shall wield my sword!" (Female Knight)

She had that kind of name huh. I don't understand why she did not put on airs and give her name. You'll just be called by a weird name if you don't name yourself. I wonder if Raphtalia knows? I suppose she thinks I've already heard from Raphtalia.

Oh well.

In any case, the battle between Female Knight and the curse corroded Ren is beginning.

# TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

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## *Chapter 198 - Purpose*

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Well then, let's bear witness to this public execution. How good of a fight Female Knight can put up against Ren corroded by the curse. For now let's try analyzing.

Of course, I have taken shelter. What is happening with the current Ren's status I wonder?

From Greed, the sword transformed. Looking carefully, there are various ornaments on the sword. On the sword guard is a dog-like being...a fox? In addition, something pig-like is on the handle. But...Ren's manner of speaking became strange after the transformation. Obtain everything and consume, huh.

Presuming from this, changing to consume, the possibility that he has also awakened Gluttony exists. There is a chance that the curse increases if one is easily defeated. I must be cautious if a chance to fight Itsuki comes.

Motoyasu? I don't want to get near that guy. It has been peaceful lately because he has not appeared. At that time, he will probably be chasing Firo.

...An intensely pointless thought. Let's concentrate in front of me now.

"I, will become the strongest! I'm growing even in this instant, gaining strength eternally from the future, watch me defeat someone like you and consume the EXP!" (Ren)

Raising the great sword overhead, Ren broke into a run. His movements have gotten quite fast yet not stiff. Just like Gaelion said, that he's stronger than before can be seen. In these circumstances, I probably can't use Portal Shield because of the effect of Gaelion's magic. For now, let's retreat and gather more people.

"Rishia, Gaelion, Taniko. Bring Atla. We're backing off further" (Naofumi)

I carried the fainted Atla like a princess in my arms.

"Bu, but..."

"As it is, that fellow will also have difficulty fighting right?" (Naofumi)

I used a random excuse, but if the plan is to use support magic, a little more distance won't matter.

"Deryaaaaaaaaaaaaa!" (Ren)

Ren began recklessly swinging the great sword. Not even a drop of style. By leaning backward or forward, Female Knight continued to dodge. It's hard to make a prediction similar to children's swordplay, like "how dare you see through my attack".

"I understand"

Taniko and Rishia nodded and backed away as directed. Gaelion may have sensed my intent as he kept alert with his wings spread and ready to escape at any time.

"Ku...hit! My attacks should have become able to blow anything away!"

(Ren)

"Like you'll hit. Though the sword contains power, swordsmanship with no depth is like having no intent to hit" (Female Knight)

I don't know Female Knight's status, but it might be unexpectedly high. She is dodging with no wasted movements.

"Why is it, why can't I hit!?" (Ren)

"...Why, is Iwatani-dono the Hero of the Shield? In my eyes, it'd be better if Iwatani-dono was given a sword" (Female Knight)

"Shut uppppppppppppppp!" (Ren)

If it was Raphtalia or Firo, how would they deal with it I wonder? Maybe instead of avoiding with paper-thin margins, dodge simply with speed? Let's ask their fellow student Rishia.

"Hey Rishia. What's your impression?" (Naofumi)

"Fuee? Um let's see. The Hero of the Sword's attacks are all dull. I think anyone with battle experience would be able to avoid it" (Rishia)

"Hoh-..." (Naofumi)

Well, I guess so. It does have speed, but even I'd probably be able to dodge it. He is swinging his sword that simply. Basically, he is only using

vertical and horizontal slashes. They sometimes bend to a right angle, but it's completely obvious. My eyes are good from training with the troops so I know. Atla's good too.

The genius Atla's attacks have an instinctual depth, so even I have difficulty avoiding them. Rather Atla is the one who becomes stronger every time she fights. I have not seen anyone visibly grow stronger in the middle of a fight like Atla. In the way not relating to status.

Earlier, she probably lost to Female Knight due to lack of Class Up and level. Thinking about it, it's not likely a knight-like person would be below level 40. Atla has not gotten a Class Up yet, and has only fought monsters up until now. She's fought with me, but it'd be more correct to call that training.

Compared to that, Ren's current attacks amount to child's play. Rather wasn't he stronger when there was depth, before he was corroded by the curse? He's only gotten stronger status-wise right? I thought it meant something else.

"Well then, is your seriousness only to that extent? Then I will have my turn" (Female Knight)

"Ku...not yet! I will win one-sidedly!" (Ren)

What a line. Offense is everything, huh? Ah--oh yeah, the shield class died out in Ren's VRMMO games if I recall. Because of that, is he saying something like defeat before allowing counterattack? I think there was something about evasion as the premise...it's somehow suspicious.

Since the antiquity of net games, the meaning of defensive classes have affected many. Recently I've thought Motoyasu, Ren, and Itsuki as novices to anti-personel combat. Of course, the games are probably exactly as they describe. But it is different in this world. I am saying this with conviction.

"Take this!" (Ren)

Ren recklessly swung his sword downwards in a big manner. In the moment the tip of his sword hit the ground. Tremors were felt as cracks spread on the ground. O-, an attack able to open up the ground. High attack power.

...It's a match for Gaelion's showy magic if judging by appearance.

"An opening!" (Female Knight)

Female Knight struck at Ren's shoulder. Raising a thunk sound, the attack resounded fruitlessly.

"Kkukkuku...the sword I am currently using has the effect of Self-Recovery(Large). There is no meaning to your meager attacks. Obediently admit your defeat" (Ren)

Ren laughed evilly. His eyes are shining. Ah, he's laughing since he's figured that Female Knight can't deal a decisive blow.

Why was it explained? Well even my armor has a Self-Recovery effect.

"Fumu...you are soft compared to Iwatani-dono, but instant recovery huh. How troublesome" (Female Knight)

Female Knight muttered while looking at the tip of the sword.

"Obediently accept your defeat and become EXP! Instant - Meteor Sword!"  
(Ren)

That again! Maybe because it's great sword, the scope of flying black meteors is bigger now. In the midst of all that, Female Knight...becomes a blur while avoiding.

"Th, that's one of Peerless Transformation style's evasive techniques, Heat Haze!" (Rishia)

...Yeah. Female Knight's chuunibyuu percentage is no different. And Rishia, stop with explanation character. Even if you say that, "What!? That's!", is all we'll really get. Also, it'll feel like we're weak if you say that from the backline so stop.

"There's still more! Chain Bind!" (Ren)

"Hmph!" (Female Knight)

The chains summoned by Ren flew towards Female Knight, but she swung her sword and destroyed them.

"What!?" (Ren)

"As expected...if a point is used, even firm chains can easily be broken...simple compared to Iwatani-dono's prison" (Female Knight)

You dare say so even when you destroyed it so quickly.

"There's still more! Try receiving my certain kill skill! Hide Sword!" (Ren)

Ren's form vanished to darkness with a yuraa-. You...your attacks are getting repetitive. What happened to Handlet Sword and Thunder Sword? If you had countless methods of attack, even Female Knight would lose without tactics.

"How lukewarm. Even when Raphtalia becomes invisible, her ki cannot be tracked" (Female Knight)

Female Knight swung her sword with a supan-. With just that, Ren's concealment skill was erased, revealing him. Is Ki...possibly that power flowing out from Ren?

...Oi. Somehow, I've started to understand ki or whatever.

Wh, what is this? I'm getting stronger by watching others fighting! Do you think I'd say that, idiot.

...Have I gotten strange from being poked by Atla and Female Knight too much? I've become unable to understand myself.

In any case, immediately seems unreasonable, but with training I can probably get countermeasures for defense penetrating attacks. What's essential is creating a flow from the magical power within the body. Not softly and not shittily. It's fine to just place the flow of magical power before an opponent's attack grows violent. Making a soft portion would be the method for beginners. That Old Lady, trying to tell me something so hard to understand....

It's likely that the Peerless Transformation style uses this power to attack and sense. While Female Knight has been dodging, she probably does not use ki for defense. That might be why the Old Lady couldn't teach me.

Speaking of things I get now, the flow of my ki is strange because of my extreme defensive power. This is like saying please aim here. Ki, can also be called the flow of magical power.

I see, I understand a bit of what it means to be called strong now. Three more times. I'll understand if I receive that attack two, three more times...I think.

I say, this'll be useful in the future if grasped. The extent of Female Knight's talent is unknown, but though just the sword, it was learned in two weeks, could the village guys learn with a month? No, seriously trying to learn the Peerless Transformation style, even Rishia touted as a hundred years' rare talent is taking a month. Even Raphtalia who has been pursuing knowledge since very early on, has still not completely learned it.

I got a late start from half doubting. Offense being essential to martial arts, I thought it was unrelated my defense-focused self. There seems to be merit in learning this. Since such a rule like "heroes should not learn martial arts", does not exist.

Anyways, not matter how you look at it, the best plan is to have the fellows with high status learn this style. Not only martial arts like Female Knight and Rishia, I'll take them in if they are useful. Let's enquire Rishia or someone after getting back to the village.

Incidentally besides me, there is another fellow with a strange flow of ki here.

Hero of the Sword, Ren.

It might be the influence of the Curse Series, it is clearly different. If Motoyasu and Itsuki were also different, then it would be that heroes possess a special factor.

Hm? Rishia is...very difficult. So I say, but there is no flow of ki. No, not that there's none but...thin. What's going on?

But the Old Lady happily called her a rare talent, so why? There is too little to compare with. Let's confirm back in the village.

"That attack is for when the opponent can't be sensed. Hiding is futile"  
(Female Knight)

While I was thinking hurriedly, Female Knight turned her sword towards the detected Ren. She's putting up an unexpectedly good fight. Though she doesn't have a decisive attack.

"Well then, let's have you receive from me as well" (Female Knight)

Female Knight stooped low and dashed, aiming a thrust towards Ren. Ren that guy too, thinking defense is unnecessary...no, he quickly jumped far backwards.

"Futile" (Female Knight)

Faster than the retreating Ren, Female Knight came to Ren's chest.

"Four Cross!" (Female Knight)

The attack that knocked Atla out was used on Ren.

"Fu..."

Female Knight's attack landed on Ren. It somehow looks like some kind of light passed through Ren's body. But the wound healed as damage was dealt, Ren stood up as if nothing happened and smiled.

"To hit me with an attack, you are pretty good. I'll be your opponent a bit seriously" (Ren)

...What's he saying? That Ren, even though he's had a hard time despite fighting with his all, is he acting?

By no means, how many times were you defeated. Running away after not defeating me with a certain kill skill, and completely losing to Gaelion. Then standing up with the Curse Series, you're receiving attacks again. Rather, is Ren not affected by the Curse Series' curse? He's just moving around like normal.

Chuunibyuu is also a power or something? "The curse doesn't affect me, the curse itself is my power", is what he'll probably say so I won't delve.

"You jest, to hold back against your opponent in actual combat, there is a limit to discourtesy. Don't try to act composed, fool! Iwatani-dono came seriously to kill! Receiving my thought out certain kill attack, he just had a slightly pained face! How many years do you think it took to think that up!"  
(Female Knight)

Oi, isn't that a complaint towards me?

Anyways, Female Knight can see right through Ren. He has speed, but everything's seen if he's just fast. Like that, there's no meaning in speed.

However, Female Knight also has a problem with offensive ability. The defense penetration attack like with me, cannot be used unless there is an extremely high defensive power. She's excelled at swordsmanship since the beginning, but it's difficult with a curse corroded hero as the opponent.

Moreover, there is something unnatural about that skill that seems anti-Hero of the Shield. I don't know where the Peerless Transformation style was born, but if it was Melromark, the technique might have been created for anti-Hero of the Shield purposes. It might have another side. Let's seriously think up countermeasures.

It's a relief I can come up with countermeasures because I've understood the general idea of ki. Couldn't this be used for something besides defense penetration?

"My attacks consume everything. Yes, even your EXP!" (Ren)

"No matter how strong your attacks, there's no point if you can't hit!"  
(Female Knight)

But the battle has stagnated. Ren who can't hit and Female Knight whose attacks don't work. Female Knight is disadvantaged if the fight is dragged out. Because even if he can't hit, it's not like he doesn't have power. With this match as it is, Ren's prospects of victory are high.

Well, even if Ren is temporarily defeated, he might just awaken a curse and rise back up. If that were to happen, the only choice this time would be to dispose him. If it gets that far there's no turning back. Even then this guy....

"Now then Hero of the Sword. What is your purpose? By the way, Iwatani-dono seems to want to return to his former world it seems?" (Female Knight)

"Annoying! Don't compare Ren to me for every little thing!" (Naofumi)

My scream did not reach. Oh? Ren is a bit flustered.

"I..." (Ren)

"Purpose. What are you seeking strength for!" (Female Knight)

Oi oi. Even if you ask that kind of question, there'll just be an idiotic reply. Ren's eyes are weird too, that's no longer thinking about anything.

"I can't stand not being the strongest! I will become the strongest in the whole world, all of time, all of space! That is my Greed, I will consume all EXP with my gluttony!" (Ren)

A pitch black aura spouted from Ren as he declared. Seems like a useful ki.

"That's why, you too, become EXP for me to become strong!"

"For this foolish sinner, the punishment I have chosen is consumption by God's name! I offer the power of my acquired lands to shred that one with decay, and consume!"

"Schtarkfuaafar!" (Ren) //シュタルクファアファアル

Ren clenched his fist in a grandiose manner, and a firefly-like glow leaked from his entire body, disappearing into the ground. With a go go go-, the area started trembling, splitting the earth beneath Female Knight. Oh, a derivation of the attack that caused cracks on the ground earlier? The aria was similar to Blutopfer's. With a jyaki-, fangs grew from the fissure and tried to consume Female Knight.

"That attack has too many openings! Iwatani-dono would come to hit!"

(Female Knight)

"Like I said, annoying! Don't bring up comparisons!" (Naofumi)

Ren's attack was avoided by the way.

...Somehow, it's just like Blutopfer. Ah, but it seems to differ a bit.

With a doba-, some gray object came from the ground and gave off a stench. Like the disgusting gold statue used earlier, even I'd find getting hit by that to be severe.

That's in short, if Blutopfer too is avoided, the compensation alone has to be paid. It's indirect truth but, I won't even think about missing, considering my situation. Yeah. The next time I need to use it, I need to make sure it hits with certainty. Let's engrave into my soul that there was the Queen's help with the Pope, and the Spirit Turtle was just pointlessly huge that I was able to hit.

"Fu, Fueee...what is that!?" (Rishia)

"I wonder. But it seems dangerous to touch it" (Naofumi)

For now, it's probably still okay since there's distance, but the ground is dissolving into mud. Stuff like mushrooms or mold began growing around the affected area, giving off a dreadful stench. That decayed land, sea of rot...formed into a fly monster-like organism.

It's a parade of curse skills. Female Knight seems to be the only target. Before long, the fly monster headed incessantly towards Female Knight.

"Decide your aim. And the attack's readiness is lacking. The similar attack used by Iwatani-dono was more brutally powerful. I...thought that attack was coming, you could say I was disappointed" (Female Knight)

Female Knight quickly, regarding the fly monster...unexpectedly climbed over it from the front and stood before Ren. The fly monster who lost its direction soon crumbled and disappeared almost tragically. Ah-...hasn't it become awfully polluted around here? No matter how, he'll cause damage to people huh.

"Oi" (Gaelion)

Gaelion whispered close to my ear.

"You have a face like it's none of your business, but your curse's flames also polluted the earth" (Gaelion)

I don't know. That's something time can solve.

"Well then, I will inquire once again. After becoming the strongest, what do you desire?" (Female Knight)

"After...becoming the strongest, you say...!?" (Ren)

"That's right. You were aiming to be the strongest right? What will you do with that power?" (Female Knight)

"Gu..." (Ren)

He's stuck on his words. Ah, as I thought it's like that. I've thought about why Ren's greed is weak. I also thought before that the process and purpose were reversed. But, beyond that...Ren has no greed.

That might also be the reason I didn't awaken Greed. I want to greedily earn gold. But in the end, this world's money is just a necessity for me to survive the waves, nothing else interests me. Since I'll be returning anyways, before I go I'll just give it to Raptalia as recompensation for everything up until now. Of course I've thought about living in luxury for a bit, but I'd just end up spending it on equipment and investing in facilities.

Gluttony is the same. His wanting to become strong derived it's awakening, but either way, there is nothing after consuming opponents as EXP. He'll become satisfied after becoming the strongest. It's a gluttony to the degree of being satisfied once the stomach is full. A hunger without bound, his Gluttony did not come from a hunger that cannot be satisfied.

My curse is anger. The rage dwelling in my body feels like it'll drive me crazy from irrationality. With Witch at the top of the list, it directs itself towards this entire world.

Of course, I expect this rage will disappear once I return to my world but...I think there'll probably still be unreasonable anger in the real world. I must bear it no matter what. Having to constantly suppress endless rage or futilely trying to become the strongest, which one is the greater burden on the body I wonder.

"I, I'm...once I'm the strongest...I, I'll save the world!" (Ren)



Letting out a baki baki sound, my attack is stopped. Female Knight is glaring at me, but I don't care. Is it like throwing cold water into a duel?

But, in doing this, Female Knight's grip on Ren is getting loose. Even if you complain, do you really think you could win against that Ren? Stirring it up like that, now I can butt in when Ren is being preached to as well. It's a little small-minded, but it'll eventually just end up like this later if you think about it.

"A hindrance has come. But I'll continue speaking. You actually understand it. If you have the time to rot here, prepare yourself to live while carrying the burden of your crimes, atone by fighting for those who've fallen!"

(Female Knight)

"Sh, Shut uppppppppppppppppppppppppppppppp!" (Ren)

Ren does not stop even with that, turning his sword to Female Knight.

"I will wield my sword in place of those who died while believing you until the end!" (Female Knight)

Female Knight lifted her sword to her chest and used a technique.

"Peerless Transformation sword technique! Multilayer Crumble Attack!"

(Female Knight)

The barrage Female Knight had used on me was now pouring towards Ren. Receiving that many defense penetrating attacks is not something that can be accumulated. The chill going down my spine tells the story.

"Gaha!" (Ren)

"Hero of the Sword, you are weak. For that reason, become stronger by accepting your weakness. People lost won't come back. But, it's fine if you atone for your sins from here on. I'll also lend as much strength as I can"

(Female Knight)

Informed Female Knight as she returned her sword to its sheath.

She tried to look cool, but it appears not much damage was actually dealt. Though rotten he's still a hero, he has two types of the Curse Series too. It was probably a considerably close fight even for Female Knight. For argument's sake, wouldn't she have been split in half if she'd received even one of Ren's attacks?

Also, you're trying to look cool, but if the people, King, or Queen want the death penalty then there's no meaning. Atoning for your sins is good and all, but your life might be taken for recompensation. Well I'm fine with that though.

"U...guha..." (Ren)

Immediately afterwards, Ren swoons and collapses. Ooh, he collapsed like in anime.

"Don't try to run from the sins you've committed. I'll stand in your way every time you try to run away" (Female Knight)

"U..." (Ren)

In his collapsed state, tears shed from Ren's eyes. Is he unconscious? Other than that, he did not even twitch. Then, the great sword returned to normal. The ominous look is also gone.

"Did you take care of him?" (Naofumi)

"Don't say it like I finished him off!" (Female Knight)

Female Knight glared at me. Therefore I said it.

"To strike at the mind, you're pretty skilled" (Naofumi)

"What an unpleasant way to put it..." (Female Knight)

He actually wasn't defeated physically, after all.

"Iwatani-dono has not run away from his own crimes" (Female Knight)

"Are you praising me?" (Naofumi)

"No! Without running, you continue to knowingly add to your crimes. Even more than the Hero of the Sword, a difficult nature" (Female Knight)

"I don't know" (Naofumi)

Female Knight let out a wholehearted sigh.

"Why someone like this is saving everybody...Iwatani-dono is the biggest enigma to me, I've no confidence you can be rehabilitated" (Female Knight)

"Rehabilitate? For what?" (Naofumi)

"...I can completely understand Raphtalia's hardships. Sorry Raphtalia, your request doesn't seem possible to fulfill..." (Female Knight)

Raphtalia, what did you request from this straight lace? Well whatever. Probably nothing good would come even if I asked.

"Well then, since it seems Ren has been defeated, I'll uphold the promise. His management will be left to you" (Naofumi)

"What do you mean promise. You just set me up!" (Female Knight)

"Hahaha" (Naofumi)

"Don't laugh!" (Female Knight)

Meanwhile, Atla finally regained consciousness. Honestly, what an unreliable fellow. Saying you want to become my shield is just a dream within a dream.

"Fuee...what are we doing from here?" (Rishia)

Rishia asked while looking at the rotten sea that was once burnt ground.

"Of course, we're escaping" (Naofumi)

"Iwatani-dono!" (Female Knight)

"What do you want me to do? The one who did this is that Hero of the Sword over there. You are Ren's patron right. Take responsibility!"  
(Naofumi)

"Muu...is it like that? Haa...I'll report to the Queen and request a purification of this land" (Female Knight)

Female Knight said while greatly troubled.

"I'll leave it to you" (Naofumi)

"Why do you sound so self-important, Iwatani-dono!" (Female Knight)

"Because you are the one responsible. Pressing responsibility is fun after all.

Let's complain to Ren too when he wakes up" (Naofumi)

Commonly referred to as middle management. After this, Female Knight will probably start a lifestyle like stress was opening a hole in her stomach.

"Can you not get carried away with rubbing salt in open wounds!" (Female Knight)

And while exchanging complaints and idle chatter, we teleported to the village with the fainted Ren. I don't know if I'll take Ren to the castle after this, but that's out of the question when Ren's consciousness has not returned.

# TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

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## *Chapter 199 – Morning of the Shield Hero*

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I have to get up early in the mornings.

I wake up much earlier than the slaves.

Of course, this is only when I don't stay up too late into the night.

Occasionally I stay up making medicine or completing other miscellaneous tasks.

Yesterday, we dragged Ren to the village. I was tired from battle, so I slept early.

I look in the bed next to mine, and see Sadina sleeping peacefully with Atlas.

“Uu… Sadina-san. You're being too forceful…” (Atlas)

“St…op~…” (Sadina)

What exactly are these two dreaming about?

Are they training in their dreams as well? What sort of Manga is this?

“Kyua… Kyua…” (Gaelion)

Just in case, child mode Gaelion is on standby in my bed. If Atlas tries to crawl into the bed, he has to drive her out.

Now then.

I crawl out of bed and leave the room.

I randomly do some stretches, and quietly walk through the village, listening to the quiet sound of the waves.

I'm heading towards the Camping Plant house Ren is currently staying in.

Ah, by the way, Gaelion's Dargon Sanctuary has already been set up. When I asked him what the maintenance cost was, he said something like once it had been activated once, the spell permanently made an anti-teleportation area until he dispelled it.

But as soon as the magic was activated, the Filo Rial ran away at an alarming pace.

It seems he has a bad affinity with it.

He will no longer enter the village, so we had to make another stable for him outside. But this is just a temporary measure. I don't know what to do later.

Perhaps I should teleport to the castle and report to the Queen.

But before that, there is something I must do.

The house Ren is in is used by Female Knight.

I reach a wall of the room Ren is in.

In order to stop Ren from escaping, many knights and slaves are stationed within the house. I can't go through the front door.

[... Emergency Exit] (Naofumi)

I whisper these words to the Camping Plant while infusing my voice with magic.

And in response to this, a door appears on the wall.

The plants have been altered to take certain commands from me, and I can create a passageway anywhere.

Only me and Rat know of it. It's a secret function.

"Good." (Naofumi)

I infiltrate Ren's room, and confirm that he's asleep.

And then proceed to whisper in his ear.

"Among the Heroes, you are the weakest. You are nothing but a king of Thieves. All of this is your fault." (Naofumi)

"u...uu..." (Ren)

Whap!

From behind, a fan like thing made from folding numerous Bioplant leaves comes in contact with my head.

It doesn't hurt at all.

I turn around and find Female Knight staring at me angrily with her arms crossed.

"What do you think you're doing, Iwatani-dono!?" (Female Knight)

"Don't shout. You'll wake up Ren." (Naofumi)

I just wanted to give him a few nightmares.

Now then, to whisper more...

"The ghosts of those killed by the Spirit Turtle are..." (Naofumi)

"Won't you stop!?" (Female Knight)

"Where did you come from, anyways? This is Ren's room, right?" (Naofumi)

"That's what I should be saying." (Female Knight)

"Well, the Camping Plant was an innovation made by me and Rat. What about you?" (Naofumi)

In order to prevent his escape, the room should be locked.

Why is she in here?

Could they have possibly slept together?

No, that wouldn't happen with these two.

"It's too late to act once something happens. I was resting in the closet."

(Female Knight)

"You sure like to sleep in strange places." (Naofumi)

Like that blue cat thing.

The closet is the only difference.

"You're... wrong. Oh, Raphtalia. I am unable to contain Naofumi-dono.

Please come home soon." (Female Knight)

Female Knight complains as she drives me out of the room.

"Ah, so you fell for Ren." (Naofumi)

Though not as handsome as Motoyasu, he is a pretty boy.

I don't know Female Knight's actual age, but she seems young. Around my age, perhaps?

"There's a limit to fooling around. I have no time to spend on something like love. And also, I declare that this boy is not my type!" (Female Knight)

"How unexpected. He's not my type either." (Naofumi)

"Iwatani-dono enjoys getting people mad. I heard as such from Raphtalia.

You really are quite a villain." (Female Knight)

"Yeah, that's right." (Naofumi)

"\*Sigh\*... why must all the heroes be like this..." (Female Knight)

Female Knight's sigh is quite heavy.

What could be troubling her so much? No, I know the answer.

Will she complain to Raphtalia about me?

I can't even count the misdeeds I've committed since I got here.

Quite a few nobles of this country have become my prey.

I sold second rate gems at a high price, and used cheap medicine to give pricey medical treatments using my shield's enhancements.

I guess I can't help it if Raphtalia comes to be skeptical of me for it.

She'll probably believe it if this diligent knight calls me a villain.

"Oh yeah, you're quite strong." (Naofumi)

"I was able to see the flow of magic from the beginning. But neither you nor the military instructor would train me. But still, I desperately tried, and finally got the instructor to train me. Even though she taught me techniques, those were only the basics. Most of my techniques were ones I made on my own." (Female Knight)

"I see..." (Naofumi)

"The move I used was one I just finished recently. I wasn't sure if it would work." (Female Knight)

Is she similar to Atlas?

Energy and Magic.

She can see the flow of the power known as magic, and can utilize it.

Though there's probably some differences.

Atlas reads the flow of Chi and Female Knight, the flow of magic.

Currently, the only one I understand is the latter.

When I returned, I asked the villagers, but besides me and Ren, there doesn't seem to be much of a difference in their magical flows. Though Rishia's flow is notably smaller than that of the others.

One thing that I did learn was that the flow of magic was something used in these people's everyday lives.

Like how we don't realize that our muscles are moving and that our blood is moving, magic flows within the body without their conscious input.

"Raphtalia has a technique where she fires the energy released by a defeated enemy and converts it into an attack, right? That's an improved version of my technique." (Female Knight)

Ah, that's right.

Raphtalia called it something like Ying Yang Blade.

I thought it was a strange technique. So this person taught it to her I guess she's also a genius. And she isn't neglecting hard work. Even though her status is low, she manages to hold her ground all the same. I guess I should ask.

"Hey, do you want to obtain strength by becoming a slave?" (Naofumi)

"The prospect does seem fascinating, but my status prevents me from doing so." (Female Knight)

"I see... By the way, why was someone as diligent as you not there when I was summoned?" (Naofumi)

"Let me first apologize. I'm sorry. The knights were unable to right the wrongs of this country because of my incompetence." (Female Knight)

Female Knight gives a deep apology before she continues.

“This may sound like an excuse, but when Iwatani-dono had been summoned and was being treated as a prisoner… I was in a jail cell in the castle.” (Female Knight)

“Hm? So you were a criminal?” (Naofumi)

“If that were the case, I would never be chosen to become a knight. Though my status has fallen.” (Female Knight)

Well, a criminal wouldn't be able to become a knight anyways.

But why was this straight-laced person being imprisoned?

Perhaps it was her straight-lacedness that put her in prison.

This country is full of trash, so I guess there's no helping it.

“Perhaps my heritage was a contributing factor, but the actions I took by myself were judged as crimes by the country.” (Female Knight)

“What is your heritage?” (Naofumi)

“This territory.” (Female Knight)

“What?” (Naofumi)

“I'm the daughter of the person who used to be the lord of this land.

Though I say that, I was away at the castle for a long time training to be a knight. I never spent much time here, so my memories of the place are vague.” (Female Knight)

“Ah… I see.” (Naofumi)

So that's why she could talk to Raphtalia so easily.

They got close to each other through common heritage.

Her face made me think she was from some noble family, but I never thought it was here.

"My father fought on the front lines during the first wave in order to let the people flee... and perished." (Female Knight)

"I see." (Naofumi)

"Before he died, my father told me to, 'Live nobly without any regrets'."  
(Female Knight)

The Queen, then Raphtalia and Sadina all praised the lord. He must have been a good person.

I think Raphtalia said he was a kind man who treated Demi-Humans well. And this is his daughter.

I took over his role and am now a Count.

Perhaps the reason the Queen pushed a title onto me was to make me follow in his footsteps.

"Later, I and many others were stationed in this land, but... Adventurers, and a portion of the Knights and Solders began hunting Demi-Humans."  
(Female Knight)

"Ah, so this is where the villagers got dragged in." (Naofumi)

"Yes. I objected to these people, and was imprisoned for standing up for the Demi-humans who were supposed to be living peacefully on that land."  
(Female Knight)

"..." (Naofumi)

"Of course, I consider the slave system to be a necessary evil in this world. But for people who were being devastated by the wave, people who, until that day were citizens we were supposed to protect, What meaning is there for knights to assault them!? Just because father died, the world will treat them as such?" (Female Knight)

Yeah, this country truly is rotten.

Other people who thought the same as Female Knight were incarcerated as well.

Many of the knights helping out in the neighboring village are the ones who were imprisoned with Female Knight.

"Eventually, I was proclaimed innocent by the Queen and released. This was around the time Iwatani-dono was at Cal Mira Island." (Female Knight)

"I'm surprised you avoided execution." (Naofumi)

"It was quite close." (Female Knight)

"Really?" (Naofumi)

"Fufu. I was accused of having Demi-Human blood, and being a brainwashed follower of the Devil of the Shield. I was told that I was not a suitable individual for knighthood." (Female Knight)

"How the hell was I supposed to brainwash someone imprisoned before I was even summoned...?" (Naofumi)

Were they planning to execute her and all of those in support of Demi-Humans along with me when they caught me?

The Three Hero Church did hold resentment towards Demi-Humans so perhaps that would have happened if we lost.

Trash seems to have a deep-seeded hatred as well, so that's a likely possibility.

"Got it. I get that now and before, you lived as your father told you and became a straight-laced person. Now what you have to do is become a little more underhanded." (Naofumi)

"Rejected!" (Female Knight)

What she wanted to say was that she was in prison so she couldn't defend me, right?

If she were there, then if she raised an objection, Trash and Witch... would have imprisoned her anyways.

Either way, she would have gone to jail... how absurd.

This is a rotten society that punishes honest people.

I won't say the people who weren't there are in the wrong.

I consider Female Knight to be my ally.

Even though she tried to fight me yesterday, I'm the one who started it.

"And so? You said Raphtalia left something to you, right? What was it?"

(Naofumi)

"...Ah." (Female Knight)

Female Knight stares at the horizon.

There's nothing there, you know.

"To summarize, she told me to stop you if you did something bad. She told me a lot of other things too." (Female Knight)

"That does sound like something Raphtalia would do." (Naofumi)

Raphtalia complains whenever I do something unbecoming of a Hero.

Inversely, Atlas agrees to whatever I do, and it's hard to contain her.

I can't control myself well, so it's difficult for me to deal with that type of person.

She seems to see an illusion that everything that I do is just.

Because of that, Raphtalia's orders were correct.

If Raphtalia were there, she would have taken similar actions as Female Knight.

"Today I'm going to the castle. What will you do?" (Naofumi)

"That depends on the Hero of the Sword's behavior. After I question him... I'm tired. I'll just continue keeping watch over him." (Female Knight)

"Gaelion has set up a barrier, but if he escapes beyond its bounds there's nothing you can do so be careful." (Naofumi)

"It didn't look like he intended on running. If he runs, I intend to take full responsibility for it." (Female Knight)

After returning to the village, Ren regained consciousness.

But his expression was dark. He said he would take any punishment thrown at him, and he sat down and waited patiently.

He regained consciousness quite late at night.

We were all quite sleepy, so we let him sleep.

"Should I wake him and ask for his story?" (Naofumi)

"Stop it. Just let him rest peacefully for now." (Female Knight)

"... Then I guess I'll wait. It's no fun interrogating a sleepy person anyways." (Naofumi)

I guess I'm being too harsh.

If I do any more, Female Knight will tattle to Raphtalia.

Though I think it's already too late for me to worry about that.

After that, I stopped by the monster stables. I distribute food to the monsters, and let them run around for a bit.

I played with them using the Frisbee shield, branches and balls. We also

played something similar to tag.

Some of the slaves who also woke up early joined the game.

It's only the people who aren't out peddling.

Dunes are domestic monsters, so they always participate.

They get along well with the Lemo slaves.

"Wan Wan! Shield Niichan! More!" (Kiel)

Kiel comes to me holding a branch in her mouth.

...Yes, this one's definitely a dog in every definition of the word.

When I returned to the village, the first thing that surprised me...

Was Kiel's dog form.

She looks exactly like a puppy. As for breed, she looks like a Siberian Husky.

(Google image search Siberian Husky Puppy. You won't regret it.)

"Niichan, welcome home!" (Kiel)

When I got back, I was greeted by a loincloth-clad puppy walking on two legs. I thought I was going crazy.

"You..." (Naofumi)

"Hehe, cool, isn't it? Sadina-nee-chan taught me." (Kiel)

Kiel seems very proud... but the other villagers have complicated expressions.

It is quite amazing. She looks like an animal you would keep for a pet.

She isn't menacing at all.

"Kiel-chan looked like she had the talent, so I taught her~" (Sadina)

"Talent..." (Naofumi)

Oh right. Sadina keeps up that form through transformation as well.

"Wa... Kiel-kun has become cute." (Rishia)

Rishia picks Kiel up and starts petting her.

I can understand her feelings.

I also have the sudden urge to pet her.

"So? Are there more people who can take up a beast form in the village? Is it even useful?" (Naofumi)

"It depends on the race, but the ability generally increases stats. Like me."  
(Sadina)

"I see..." (Naofumi)

"There's also a matter of talent, so most people in this village probably can't do it." (Sadina)

"I see. How about Raphtalia?" (Naofumi)

"I don't think Raphtalia-chan can." (Sadina)

I'm slightly happy that Raphtalia won't transform like this.

For some reason, I imagine Shigaraki. (TL: Standard Tanuki Statue. Google it)

I don't really want to ruin my mind's image of Raphtalia.

If she were here, perhaps she would think the same.

"Niichan, are you thinking of something strange right now?" (Kiel)

Kiel asks with a curious expression. No idea.

“Well, is it really something that great?” (Atlas)

“Yes, Kiel-kun looks cute.” (Rishia)

Atlas is tilting her head.

She can't even see the change, so her response is understandable.

“Don't call me cute! Aren't I cool?” (Kiel)

“Not with that appearance.” (Naofumi)

After I say this, Kiel looks crestfallen. Her head droops.

“This can't be... I thought I had finally become cool...” (Kiel)

“Even your normal form is better in that aspect.” (Naofumi)

Her face is quite girlish though, so she still falls into the cute category.

Watching us, Sadina starts laughing to herself.

Don't depress the girl any further.

“By the way, Fohl-chan also has the talent.” (Sadina)

“What... was that?” (Atlas)

Atlas is at a loss for words.

What? What exactly could be pulling on her heartstrings to this extent?

“Onii-sama just got a wonderful nickname from Naofumi-sama, and on top of that he learns to take on a cute form. He must be aiming for Naofumi-sama's heart. I'm envious. I'm jealous.” (Atlas)

... This is no good.

# TATE NO YUUSHA NO NARIAGARI

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## *Chapter 200 - Repent*

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After I thought the time was right, I went off and made breakfast.

Some slaves had already begun preparing it, so I worked with them to cook.

After that, we distribute food to the villagers.

By the way, the second thing that surprised me was that the amount of child slaves increased.

While I was away, it seems the Slave Dealer stopped by and dropped them off.

He left the materials needed to engrave the slave seal with Kiel and the others.

The village has reached a point where the slaves will train the new slaves without my direct involvement.

Apparently, I'm too soft, so the actual manager is Raphtalia, and to some extent, Kiel and the other slaves I brought over first.

The fact that I'm the leader hasn't changed, but most of the training and tasks are done by the slaves themselves, so I don't have to do much.

Perhaps because of this, the new slaves are too afraid to approach me.

That's good. In a few days, they'll get used to me, but it feels good when someone actually listens to my orders.

"Now then, the people in the castle should be awake. I'm going out for a bit. Anyone who wants to go to the castle, follow me." (Naofumi)

"Ah, Naofumi-sama." (Atlas)

Atlas raises her hand.

Ah, that's right. It's around the time when Atlas should be able to Class-Up. But she's only around level 50 now. It will take a while for her to reach 60.

"What is it? I'll be back really soon." (Naofumi)

"Is that so?" (Atlas)

"Yeah, and Firo isn't here, so I'm not taking anyone to Class-Up." (Naofumi)

"I see... That's unfortunate." (Atlas)

It seems that Atlas wants to stick to me...

I'm fine with some forms of friendship, but having her climb into my bed is a bit much.

I've compromised and said she can sleep close to me.

For some reason... Her appearance hasn't changed with her level.

I wonder when she'll grow up.

From what I've seen, Firo and Gaelion haven't had to drive her out of my bed yet.

She sleeps peacefully with Sadina.

After that, I step out of Gaelion's territory and activate the Portal Shield.

... The Queen was out.

It seems that she left to resolve local affairs, and she'll be back tomorrow.

But she has received Female Knight's report, and has left behind some orders.

The Hero of the Sword's punishment is currently on hold. We are to look after him until then.

There's nothing I can really do about it. This country is full of trash.

Next is... This may be serious. The Shadow who was watching over Itsuki issued a troubling report.

They had lost sight of him.

I have a bad feeling about this... What should I do?

Right after we capture Ren, Itsuki disappears.

Problems pop up one after the other.

After that, I stopped by the Slave Dealer to hand over money, but I'll omit that.

My money is beginning to pile up, but we are still shorthanded.

Perhaps I should buy any Demi-Human slaves as long as they're cheap.

At the Weapon shop... Imya's uncle was tending the store.

"Ah, Hero of the Shield." (Imya's Uncle)

"Yo. How've you been?" (Naofumi)

"Oh, that man's been in a good mood. He's working hard." (Imya's Uncle)

"How about you?" (Naofumi)

"I've been able to get back the skills I had before, and have begun working to improve my skills." (Imya's Uncle)

"The store is currently open, right?" (Naofumi)

The store's been exceptionally prosperous lately, and all of the shelves are currently empty.

"No matter how much stuff we make, it keeps disappearing. I've put a portion of my profits towards the villager's equipment fees." (Imya's Uncle)

"That'll really help. Imya and you, and the rest of the skillful slaves. I'm causing a lot of trouble for you all." (Naofumi)

“What are you saying? You gave me a job I enjoy. I should be thanking you. I’m having fun experimenting with the overflowing materials from that mountain.” (Imya’s Uncle)

So he’s making Spirit Turtle-based equipment.

I guess I should wait expectantly.

“Ah, right. Could you ask the old man to use this in the armor I ordered?”

(Naofumi)

I take out the core I got from Gaelion and hand it to Imya’s uncle.

“What’s this?” (Imya’s Uncle)

“The core of a formerly rotting dragon.” (Naofumi)

“I see, so this is it! It’s quite a pretty, red stone. It’s different from anything I’ve seen in the marketplace.” (Imya’s Uncle)

As expected of a skillful race. He could see the difference in a second.

“I planned to have that integrated in my new armor. I stopped by to see if it was possible.” (Naofumi)

“Understood. Even if it seems impossible, I’ll work to make it possible.”

(Imya’s Uncle)

“… I’ll leave it to you.” (Naofumi)

It seems that the Old Man’s shop has gotten livelier.

After that, I return to the village.

Thank god for the Portal Shield. Movement has become ridiculously easy.

"And that's how it is. Before we receive further orders, you'll be on house arrest in this village." (Naofumi)

I tell Ren as such.

Female Knight is also in the room, watching us with her arms crossed. Between me and Ren, I wonder who she is watching.

"... I see." (Ren)

Ren listens to me expressionlessly.

"For now, I'll have you tell me Witch's location." (Naofumi)

"... I apologize. I don't know." (Ren)

"Cut the crap. Weren't you a bandit under Witch's orders?" (Naofumi)

"You're wrong. The one who made me a bandit... was none other than myself." (Ren)

Ren starts speaking.

Apparently, the day Ren joined Witch, she said there was a person she had to meet. The two proceeded to a certain village.

It was quite close to where they teleported.

And there, Ren was introduced to a man.

He got the feeling they had met somewhere before, but he couldn't remember where.

That man drew out a sword, and offered to spar with Ren.

"I see, so you want to train with me." (Ren)

Ren lightly exchanged blows with the man for a while... and then the man began exchanging words with Witch.

"Honestly... Expectation---. With this---" (Man)

"So— is what it'll be..." (Witch)

"But, won't that---" (Man)

"Right--- Stubborn, and hard--- advantage of." (Witch)

The two stared at him, making him feel nervous. But the Witch he trusted in was smiling, so he thought nothing of it.

"Now then, Ren-sama. You're tired, right? Let's go rest at the inn." (Witch)

And Witch dragged Ren off to an expensive looking inn.

"Truly, we look forward to travelling with Ren-sama." (Witch)

"Yeah! Ren-sama is much better than the Spear Hero." (Woman 2 I think)

"I-I see. I'll also work hard to save the world for you all." (Ren)

Ren strengthened his resolve for the people who believed in him.

Sick of the people of this world turning on him, he clung to whoever said they trusted him...

The next morning... all his possessions were gone. Besides his sword, they had taken everything.

In their place was a single letter.

"This is that letter." (Ren)

He was keeping it on him?

Ren hands that letter over to me.

It looks like it's been crushed before, but it's still barely legible.

“Let’s see… 『After much deliberation, we found that we would be unable to use you, so we took the liberty of taking everything we *could* use from you. I’m grateful you helped me escape from the Shield and the Spear, but neither your personality nor looks are of my preference. Let’s see… If you defeat the Shield, then perhaps I will show you some affection. But if it’s you it will probably be impossible. Ohohoho』 .” (Naofumi reading Witch’s letter) (TL: Can Ren even read?)

Annoying!

… Witch! She really deserves no salvation!

And to give up on Ren in only one day, that woman really works fast. Could she have been aiming at Ren’s equipment and loot from the beginning?

“That’s when my head started to become a little strange… My field of vision turned pitch black, and I unlocked the Curse Series.” (Ren)

The person he decided to trust turned on him immediately. I can understand his feelings.

If Raphtalia betrayed me right after I decided to trust her, then my Wrath Shield would have unlocked much sooner.

“After that… I fell. I left the inn, looking for money to replace what was lost… Just as it was taken, I wanted to take but I wanted to hide so I wore a mask…” (Ren)

He assaulted the bandit’s carriage, made them his subordinates, and built his Bandit troupe.

His story was very straightforward.

“Naofumi… I’m truly sorry for not believing in you. This may be asking for too much, but will you not forgive me for the things I’ve done to you?”

(Ren)

“I have no intentions of forgetting.” (Naofumi)

“I see… Then If I cannot be forgiven for the sins I’ve piled up, I will lend you power to make up for them. Please remember those words.” (Ren)

Ren faces me and earnestly lowers his head.

… It seems he’s really repenting.

The fact that I even considered forgiving him at that moment must be due to my weakness.

I have no idea whether I’ll ever forgive this world’s people.

And I plan to continue teasing him. I should at least have the right to do that.

“I never thought Witch was that low of a person. I had my doubts, but… She seemed to offer true kindness so I believed in her. It truly was a foolish move that shouldn’t be forgiven. That might have been out last chance to capture that woman…! No, I can’t let that be the last one!” (Ren)

“Well, she does have a needlessly good face, and she can tell lies without care. That woman.” (Naofumi)

“Badmouthing the former princess? Well it’s not like I don’t see where you’re coming from…” (Female Knight)

Female Knight scratches her head and murmurs to herself.

But where exactly could that woman have gone?

From Ren’s story, she definitely has a conspirator.

Someone we might have seen before... Someone connected to Ren.

Who could it have been?

I have no idea.

For now, let's put Witch's letter aside and worry about Itsuki.

After coming to me, Motoyasu and Ren, there's a high possibility she'll go to Itsuki.

I don't know what she'll do, but it definitely won't be anything good.

She never brings anything but trouble.

"Next is... Ah, right." (Naofumi)

I guess I should teach Ren how to get stronger.

He's repenting, and it doesn't sound bad to make him an ally.

Personally, I think he should suffer a bit more, but if Ren, the Hero of the Sword, were to grasp all the strengthening methods, and if he were to move at my command then he will have much more uses than leaving him be.

But I guess that depends on Female Knight.

"I'll be having you do training to polish your body." (Female Knight)

"Even when I might be executed?" (Ren)

"What of it? I want you to polish your heart along with it." (Female Knight)

"...Understood." (Ren)

Ren follows Female Knight's words.

I'm starting to see Female Knight as a muscle head. I wonder why.

“What is it?” (Female Knight)

“Nothing…” (Naofumi)

“It’s fine if we move as long as we’re within Gaelion’s magic, right?”

(Female Knight)

“Yeah…” (Naofumi)

“You said that you would give your strength to Iwatani-dono. I will trust those words. Don’t let down my expectations!” (Female Knight)

“Y-yes!” (Ren)

Ren immediately submits to Female Knight.

I guess it works out for me just fine.

“Ren, if I gave you freedom of movement, what would you do?” (Naofumi)

“… I’d help the people I caused trouble for.” (Ren)

“I see. Then what will you do about money? The guild won’t pay you, right?” (Naofumi)

“About that. There’s something I want you to look at.” (Ren)

Ren beckons me closer. I wonder what it is.

“Naofumi, please give me a copper coin.” (Ren)

“Hm? That sounds like a pain, but I can lend you one.” (Naofumi)

“I can’t give it back.” (Ren)

“Ha? Why not?” (Naofumi)

“It’s fine, just hand one over. I’ll trade it for drops.” (Ren)

Ren pulls some fur out of his sword and tosses it over.

Its quality is poor…

But there’s no helping it. It’s worth more than one copper. I hand over one

copper coin to Ren.

And... The second it comes into contact with Ren's finger, the copper begins to turn black and erode away. It crumbles to dust, and gets swept away by the wind.

"What!?" (Naofumi)

"... It's apparently the compensation for using my Curse Skill." (Ran)

My Blutopfer deals great damage to me and decreases my stats.

Ren's skill's compensation... is like this because it is Greed?

I guess the inability to hold anything precious can be considered a curse.

I guess Ren won't be able to hold money for a while.

"All the drops also become of poor quality. I think it also decreases luck."

(Ren)

"How long does it last... Wait, didn't you use another one as well?"

(Naofumi)

"... When I used that one, my level fell from 95 to 85... I don't know if there are any other repercussions as well." (Ren)

Oy, the price was quite high.

Though mine is as well.

But from the extent of its effects, the side effects shouldn't last as long as Blutopfer's.

"You seem to have a lot of problems. So what will you do?" (Naofumi)

"Honestly, I wish to assist you as thanks for returning me to normal. This world isn't a game. I need to make sure I don't become conceited again. If I make a mistake, I want you to tell me. I've decided to believe Naofumi's

words." (Ren)

"I see..." (Naofumi)

... What's with this sudden change?

His face shows some resolve, but his obedience is quite suspicious.

I should handle this with caution.

"I won't run from my crimes anymore. If I am to be executed for my crimes relating to the Spirit Turtle, then I will gladly present my neck. But, I am to be forgiven, then Welt, Bakter, Terishia, Fauly, I will fight to achieve the peaceful world my four comrades wished for. That's all I want now." (Ren)

Ren says, as he begins to do pushups.