

Prologue "The secret weapon of the kingdom (its people)".

Full declaration of liberation of the Demon King's territory. The news was delivered to people throughout the continent of Landia by a joint statement from the Maritime Alliance and the Great Tiger Empire of Khan. The contents of the declaration is a combined response from the Kingdom of Friedonia and the Great Tiger Empire, the general contents are as follows.

1. The Allied Forces of the Great Tiger Empire and the Friedonia Kingdom, which entered the Demon King's territory, encountered an existence called Demon Tribe in the innermost part. Although there was a skirmish, they were able to meet with the Maou Divaloid, the supposed leader of the demons, and a ceasefire was reached.
2. As a result of the exchange of information between the parties, it turned out that the demons are another type of human being called Cedians who have crossed the northern sea. They call the humans living on the continent of Landia, Landians. The battle with the demons was a war between mankind.
3. It turns out that the Cedians were also refugees who had fled to the continent of Landia due to damage from monsters. Here the monsters are a threat in the sense that they have the same goals, the Allies worked with Maou to successfully seal the "Gate to the Otherworld", the first point from which the monsters have spread.
4. With the sealing of the Otherworld Gate, the waves of demons that occurred once every ten years will no longer occur. The monsters still exist in various places, but it will not be long before they will be eliminated because they will be subdued in cooperation with the Cedians.
5. Harga, the northernmost city where the Cedians are located, will be under the joint control of the Great Tiger Empire and the Marine Alliance, and will be under the patronage of each.

..... And so it was.

From the side of the Great Tiger Empire, the fact that "the otherworldly gate was blocked by Souma and Maou" was hidden, they would rather appeal that they were also active. On the other hand, from the perspective of the Friedonia Kingdom, being celebrated by the people as a hero for liberating the Demon King's territory might over stimulate the Great Tiger Empire and the Orthodox State of Lunaria, and if the fact of Souma's birth authority and that of his relatives was made public, there was a danger that it would spread. I wanted to avoid this.

It was a statement that reflected such bilateral speculations, that people all over the continent were delighted. When they heard that the demon king's territory for which they had been suffering for so many years had disappeared and the demons (although they were actually Cedians) had ceased fire, they thought that peace had finally come. And those driven out of the north would have expected to be able to return to their hometowns.

..... However, anyone who thought, even a little, would be anxious.

Now that the Demon King's greatest threat was gone, the continent still remained divided between the Great Tiger Khan Empire faction and its allies and the Ocean Alliance faction. Now that there are no common enemies, can these two great powers form a friendship? Either one can take hegemony, I think they will clash sooner or later.

Rather, the people of the Great Tiger Empire would wish so. Fuuga, who has always been undefeated (although there were many hard victories), may succeed in

establishing the feat of unifying the continent that no one has yet achieved. The maritime alliance is powerful, but only if the Kingdom of Friedonia, the Republic of Turgis, the Kingdom of the Nine Dragon Islands and the Kingdom of Euphoria are combined, the size of each country would pale in comparison to the Great Tiger Empire.

At the end of the Seven Warring States, when the six nations were devoured by Qin, did you not expect that Qin, which became a powerful nation, could conclude the war and unify the seven nations? In the turbulent times at the end of the Muromachi period, wouldn't you wish for Nobunaga to unify Japan at the time, Hideyoshi when Nobunaga fell in half, or Ieyasu after Hideyoshi's death? Wouldn't it be even more desirable for people, who are fascinated by the myth of Fuuga's eternal victory, to defeat the maritime alliance and achieve continental unification?

People wait for the appearance of heroes. Some become heroes in a way that fulfills that expectation. But people have more expectations of those heroes. The hero picks up that expectation and leaps forward. But if a hero cannot live up to people's expectations, people give up on that hero. Heroes are not limited to just being people so they have no choice but to keep moving forward fiercely. That is the fate of the hero.

The people of the Great Tiger Empire wanted an all-out confrontation between the hero Fuuga Khan and Souma E. Friedonia, the leader of the Marine Alliance. And what the people of the Great Tiger Empire thought was transmitted to the people of the Sea Alliance, and the joy of the liberation of the Demon King's territory disappeared in the atmosphere of the inevitable battle.

In such a world atmosphere, when I returned to Parnam Castle I immediately summoned the top minds of our country. Gathered together were Liscia, Hakuya, the Chancellor of Black, who came from the Kingdom of Euphoria while I was away, Ichiha, Hakuya's successor, Julius, the White Strategist, Excel, the Adjutant General of the Defense Forces, Ludwin, the chief of staff, and Kaede, a trusted member of Ludwin's staff.

To these members I also told them how together with Maou I closed the gate of the other world, in short, I also explained to them the harsh history of this world and the authority granted to me archaic lineage (the old humans). All the people gathered who heard the story and were holding their heads or seemed to be biting a worm.

"It's not just Souma, they're going to take it to the children too..."

What Liscia said hurt me. I had the same feeling. This is because the work of the people of the land of the future will be carried by children who do not know the land.

"... The ability to talk to Maou there and open the door to the northern hemisphere, and the ability to create new dungeons as test tubes and other high-risk features have ceased. I don't think I need my kin right away.... "

"But your blood will be important when you ship to the northern hemisphere in the future."

Julius said with his arms crossed.

"I would have asked you to have one of Roroa's children adopted if the Kingdom of Lastania were alive, because I want an heir in case something goes wrong."

"That's right. From the point of view of prince consort of Queen Euphoria, the Euphoria Kingdom also wants a child of Her Majesty and Maria-dono to be adopted."

Even Hakuya is saying such a thing. I understand your feelings, but I would like you to forgive me.

"Well, the northern hemisphere issue will be a topic for the future, we must first prepare for the southern problem."

"Fuuga Khan will attack without a doubt... that's what he's referring to."

Kaede said nervously, so I nodded.

"Oh. It's Fuuga's will, or the will of the people who support Fuuga, or both. They will ask for answers to the emerging questions. The answer to the question can Fuuga unify the continent?"

"It is true. The only country that can oppose that country is the Marine Alliance."

Excel said while hiding her mouth with a fan.

"That country gains the support of the people by continuing to expand. If it stops walking just because the Demon King's territory was liberated, they will be dissatisfied inside. If that happens, civil war will occur easily and it will be difficult to maintain the country sooner or later. By the time Fuuga Khan reaches the end of his life at the latest, his great power will be divided."

"The reality is that your country has no choice but to fight."

Ludwin said with a sigh. Well, you also have talented domestic officials like Lumiere, so if they work diligently, they can make the country last longer. However, if you have a personality that asks for 100 or 0 like Fuuga, you won't be able to choose that option.

"Fuuga wants to test his abilities and his destiny. He is an ambitious person whose first priority is to ask the world how far he can go. So he never stops. He will surely declare war on the Marine Alliance and when that happens, the first target will be this Friedonia Kingdom, which he considers the most threatening."

Because of my words, everyone had a stern look. No optimism or dissenting opinions. It means that everyone recognized that Fuuga was a man and were conscious as such of it.

"Fuuga will never stop. Even if we could get rid of him several times, he would get up and attack again, without giving up, because people demand it. The people of this era demand it from him. That is the quality of this guy, Fuuga Khan. The heroes of this era are protected by the same era. That's why we have to change the era itself to stop him.

Leading an era in which people did not seek Fuuga's existence. That was the only way to defeat him. I said, looking all around.

"I think I reached Hazal, the city of Maou, and found a way. Listen carefully to what I am going to say from this moment on."

And I explained to those there the way to win Fuuga that I discovered in Hazal. They all sometimes bowed their heads in the middle of the story, but if I explained it correctly each time, they were convinced that it will be so.

"I see. so that's how it is?"

Excel smiled with a face that didn't look satisfied.

"I heard in Hazal that it's not some sort of tactic or strategy ... But it's certainly different. Fu, fu, if this could be done, the people of the Great Tiger Empire wouldn't be able to handle it."

"It is certainly an effective method. Hopefully both Fuuga and Hashim will have a hard time."

Julius agreed, but immediately turned his head and said, "But."

"Doesn't it take a long time to accomplish this?"

"... Ah. It will probably take another six months."

"Fuuga won't be able to move until he finalizes national public opinion, but he will strike as soon as he is ready. He won't wait for us to be ready."

"Oh, then you need to buy as much time as you can."

When I said that, Ichiha, who was listening to the story, raised his hand in fear. The people around me are brilliant members of this company (Kaisenyamasen), so I think he is nervous as the youngest. When I said "Ichiha," Ichiha took a step forward as if he had made up his mind.

"That ... so we think we have to take a delaying tactic. If we are attacked, we have to make sure we don't take it to the decisive battle so easily. If we try to prevent it at the border, it will be a decisive battle, so sometimes it is necessary not to be, sometimes to prevent, I wonder if it will be necessary to sneak and retreat back."

This was also a painful way to fight. But otherwise, you could not buy time against Fuuga's army. You seem to be growing as Hakuya's successor, since you can present such unpleasant and realistic opinions. I nodded.

"Yes. That's why I want everyone gathered here to devise tactics and strategies based on that policy. Gathered here are the scholars of this country. I expect you to devise strategies that exceed my expectations."

When I said that, everyone nodded at the same time. Then Hakuya raised his hand.

"If that's the case, there are possibly two people I'd like to join the Operations Headquarters."

"Hmm? I don't mind, but who do you want to call?"

When asked, Hakuya smiled.

"It's also a person known to His Majesty."

---A few days later. In the new city of Veneti Nova.

"That's why you should head to Parnam right away."

In the mansion office of the lord of this city, Weist Gallow, there was a person who received a farewell directly from Weist. The person passed by without knowing why he was suddenly called, and King Souma had just given him an order to report to the castle.

"Hah... Yes!!! why so suddenly!!!?"

The person was suspicious of his ears for a moment and made a muffled voice, but was soon surprised. Weist handed the invitation letter to that person and tapped him on the shoulder.

"His Majesty and the Chancellor in Black want your power, isn't it an honor? Then please do your best as a representative of our city. Mr. Urup."

"....."

Even the King of Amidonia, Gaius, was fooled by Weist while he had a big smile on his face, the summoned elder, Mr. Urup, standing before him, simply stood with his mouth open.

Episode 1 "After the legendary old man".

When building the new city of Veneti Nova, Mr. Urup, who talked about the "Legend of the Sea God" related to the land and reported the concern about the damage caused by a tsunami. He then moved to Veneti Nova, where his plans were modified and where construction began taking into account his advice, and in addition to being a fisherman which was his main business, he told the people of this area about legends and actions needed when a tsunami came, as a nationally recognized storyteller in this area.

After several years, Urup felt the limit of his physical strength due to the hard work of fishing, and he left the boat work to his children and grandchildren and began to concentrate on the storytelling work. Urup was telling a legend to the children in a facility to keep the children during the day, which was built with reference to a children's school in Parnam castle, but one day he suddenly thought.

(There must be legends in various places that appeal to various natural disasters. Not only tsunamis, but also landslides, landslides will occur in mountains and valleys, and even in the plains, if there is a river nearby, there is a danger of flooding. If there is a forest nearby, there may be damage from beasts. There may be legends in various places that appeal to these dangers, but are there storytellers of such legends?)

Souma understood and emphasized the value of the legend that Urup knew from memories of disasters in the world. But conversely, Urup did not understand the value of the legend he knew until he met Souma. Perhaps this legend would disappear so soon after Urup died. Y ... how many lives would be lost if the day of disaster came without knowledge of this legend.

(I am horrified just thinking about it. And ... the legend left by my ancestors will disappear unheard ... decided!)

Here, Urup woke up. As an elder, I can die at any time. Then for the rest of my life I will be a storyteller to collect and organize those legends. When I was determined, Urup's actions were swift. And I immediately wrote a letter to convey my thoughts to Souma (I learned to read and write letters at the educational center after retiring as a fisherman).

"Dear Sir, His Majesty the King. I could not beat the years and could not go out to sea anymore, but in the end I decided that I wanted to do another job."

Later, when Soma read this letter, which began with that sentence, he laughed out loud.

"Old Urup, does he want to become a folklorist? He's getting older and wants to become more popular."

Souma, who wiped away tears of laughter while Liscia and her colleagues were appalled, wrote a response to allow it on the spot and promised to pay for the research. Not only that, he prepared a certificate, "because your investigative actions were approved by the King, please cooperate," and as it would be dangerous for an old man to travel alone, he entrusted it to Yuno and Dis. Attaching adventurers as escort.

Urup's letter at this time was later donated to the museum in the royal capital and became one of their exhibits ... but that's another story.

"Hey, Urup's grandfather. It's a letter from the King."

"My child! Show it to me quickly!"

Receiving a reply from Yuno and his group, Urup immediately prepared for the trip, and said that he was a bit disguised by his family members who were worried about the effect of the cold water on the elders ...

So where are you going first? Grandfather?"

When Yuno asked him, Urup said while stroking his beard under his nose.

"I'm afraid of water-related disasters. First by the sea. Then by the river. After that, I'm going for a walk in the mountains. After collecting the legends of each place, I have to return to Veneti Nova from time to time to put them together "

"... It's going to take a ridiculous amount of time."

"Of course, I'm going to gamble the rest of my life."

With that said, Urup walked triumphantly. Escorting is basically carried out on the road from village to village, and when it was convenient for Yuno and his group, and when it wasn't convenient for Yuno and his group, it was done by a reliable adventurer sent by the adventurer's guild at the request of the country. Even if some people were suspicious of what Urup was doing investigating the legends of his land in various places, they would change their attitude and cooperate in the investigation when he showed the certificate autographed by the king, granted by Souma.

The people who were observing the situation created funny and amusing rumors, so that a play called "Urup Omanyuuki", featuring the old man from the myths, would be made later on. By the way, the accompanying members such as Suke-san and Kaku-san were based, fixating, on Yuno and his group (although in reality, Yuno and his group were not always accompanying him...).

Now back to the main story. Urup then traveled around the country, researching ancient myths and tales used as lessons in all regions → returning to Venetinova to compile → travels again to research → returns and compiles ... and so on. The compiled content is sent to the national government as a report, Souma and Hakuya were satisfied with their work.

One day after doing this work for several years. When he was returning to Veneti Nova for the compilation, Mr. Weist Gallow called him and told him that Souma had ordered him to report to Parnam Castle. The next day, a flying dragon gondola arrived to pick him up, and in the meantime, Urup was absorbed in thought.

(I ... Did I do something rude? Does His Majesty or the Chancellor have complaints about my report?)

Although it is a gondola owned by the royal family, quite long, but Urup was getting smaller and smaller in the corner. The gondola kept moving as he asked this question over and over again to himself, and when he realized it, he landed in the courtyard of Parnam Castle.

"Mr. Urup. Welcome, you may come out."

As Urup stepped off the gondola, the head maid of the castle, Serina, greeted him politely. Despite having a connection to King Souma, Urup was only a citizen from her point of view. And yet, he was treated as if he was a nobleman or a minister, Urup was puzzled and could not say anything.

Serina pointed to his right side with the palm of her right hand to guide him.

"Please come in, it's this way."

Urup followed Serina, who began to walk where he was pointed. Souma and company had grown accustomed to the castle over the past few years, but even the sight of the royal castle corridor seemed prestigious to Urup, which made him feel uneasy. Then, after walking, they led him to a room.

"Please wait in this room for a while."

Serina said so and bowed her head, leaving Urup behind. Besides the furniture, the room had only two big red fluffy sofas. Apparently it was a waiting room.

"Well, can I sit..."

Urup, an ordinary citizen, I hesitate to even sit on the couch. I was conflicted for quite a while.

"Please wait in this room for a while. His Majesty will also arrive shortly."

From the other side of the door, I heard another person's voice with a formal language similar to Serina's. When the door opened, I looked at the red-haired dragonoid maid ... Carla. Then, a large shadow entered the room from the open door. It was a bearded big guy who looked no better than Urup in the royal castle.

(What's up with this guy? He looks like a thief).

"Hmm, was the old man also summoned by the king?"

Urup's eyes met the burly man as he opened his mouth.

"It's, it's true. You're Urup from Veneti Nova."

"A, that's right, and who the hell are you?"

Urup replied thus to the big man, who would easily break his old body if he were to attack him in that room, so at least he wouldn't lose his temper. Seeing the appearance of such a ferocious creature, the big man who seemed to think he was scared scratched his head with a bitter smile.

"I am Gonzales, the captain of the mountain rescue team. Suddenly, the king called me today ... You too old man?"

"Um, that's right."

Realizing that he wasn't a dangerous guy, Urup also stopped being alert.

"I heard the story of the mountain rescue team when I toured the villages near the mountains. It was founded by His Majesty to search for and rescue people lost in the mountains. Many of the members are bandits who have reformed, and it seems that the people trust you guys a lot since you are familiar with the mountains and go everywhere to help them."

"Hehe... if you put it to me like that I can't help but feel embarrassed."

Gonzales wasn't that bad looking. If he laughed more, he would be a little more attractive. However, his face was as charming as a grizzly bear's face when he's alert.

"By the way, don't you know why they called us old man, have you heard anything?"

"No, I haven't heard any of the details yet..."

It was then at that moment that the two of them were talking about it. When suddenly the door opened and Souma and Hakuya walked in.

"Urup-jisan and Gonzales. So the two of them are already here. Sorry, for calling them so suddenly."

Souma said in a light tone, Hakuya also bowed and said, "Thank you for your hard work."

"Your, your majesty!" "King.... Oops, sorry."

Suddenly, when the king and the chancellor entered the room, Urup hurriedly prostrated himself and Gonzales unaccustomed to this situation knelt down as best as he could. Souma, put on a bitter smile at the spectacle of these two people.

"No, you don't have to be afraid, so stand up both of you."

With this he made them stand up. And with faces they didn't understand, Souma said to the two of them with a smile.

"Thank you for coming, both of you. Urup-jisan. And Gonzales. There's something I really want you two to help me with."

Urup and Gonzales looked at each other at Souma's words.

Episode 2 "Chicken Naruto Theft".

It was in a certain room where Urup and Gonzales were guided. In the middle of the room, which was in semi-darkness because there were no windows, something large doden-like was placed. Looking at it, there was this huge scale diorama of the Kingdom of Friedonia, taking up most of the space in the room. Both Urup and Gonzales were impressed when they saw the location of each city and the height of each of the mountains.

Both Urup who researched the folklore of several of the country's regions and Gonzales who had traversed all the mountains and carried out various rescue activities, understood the accuracy of this diorama at a glance. Yes even detailed maps are classified as secret because of their high degree of workmanship, for this



scale model should not even be appropriate to be seen by normal people like us.

"Wh-, what is this..."

"As you can see, it is a scale model of this country."

Urup's question was answered by Hakuya, the chancellor in black who was in the room. In which, looking more closely, there was also the General Excel of the Defense Force and the White Strategist, Julius, in the room. This was the second operations room of Parnam Castle. Where, not long ago, was the place where the strategy for the support of the Great Chaos Empire was devised. Gonzales, who came to, said in a cold sweat.

"Why ... Are you showing us this, isn't this something we shouldn't see?"

"Fu fu ~, you're right. If you try to tell anyone, then we will deal with you secretly."

Excel laughed as she hid her mouth with her fan. Excel was smiling, but it was a situation that the other two could not laugh at. The cold sweat wouldn't stop. Why were they called and what would happen to them in the future? Then ...

"Excel. Don't scare them."

Souma reprimanded Excel, Excel stuck out her tongue. In a gesture that her granddaughter, Juna, does when she occasionally plays with her. Souma dropped her shoulders and said, "I'm serious!". Then Souma clapped her hands, with a resounding pan, to regain her composure.

"Well, I called them today, because Hakuya wants to borrow their wisdom."

"That's right."

Hakuya then stepped forward in front of them.

"You two have your own specialized knowledge. Gonzales knows all about the mountains of this country, and Urup collects the traditions of water disasters and while doing so, he has acquired the knowledge of someone who can be called an expert in water flow control. I would like to borrow the expertise of the two of you for the sake of this nation."

Having said that, Hakuya explained to them the situation this country is now in. The threat from the Demon King's territory has disappeared, and the only force that can counter the Great Tiger Khan Empire is the Sea Alliance. And now that the north is stable, Fuuga will invade this country in the not too distant future. Most people in this country are relieved that the threat of the Demon King's territory has disappeared and a peaceful era has finally arrived, so the story Hakuya told them was overwhelming.

"Co-, with that being the way things are isn't it?"

"That's a big problem... But, even so, I don't understand why we were called..."

Hakuya put his hand on the scale model with a slight smile put on the two people who were confused.

"Think of Fuuga's army as a flow of water. It gains momentum when it goes from high to low, and vice versa. If it splits, the momentum will weaken, and if it joins, the momentum will increase. The same is true for both water and people. A place

where water flows easily is also a place where people can easily pass through."

Hakuya said that and looked at Urup.

"In your report, Urup-dono points out the areas where there is fear of damage even in areas where there is no folklore, isn't it? From the folklore collected so far, he has gained an intuitive understanding of places where water can easily accumulate. If we think of Fuuga's attacking army as a flow of water, don't you know what kind of movements it will make in this scale model? "

"That's ....."

Urup froze, but in his head he was simulating how the water would flow in this scale model. What would it do if the water flowed from the northern border? Yes it would separate at that mountain and gather in that basin. If it followed that bottleneck, it would reach a dead end, but if it followed this path, it would reach the royal capital without any problems.

"... No, no."

While pretending like that, Urup shook his head.

"It's true that you can see the movement on this scale model. But no. The real mountain path isn't something so simple. Are there some paths that can't be expressed with any scale model?"

Hakuya nodded at Gonzales' words.

"Yes, that's why I called them together with Urup-dono."

"Is-, is that so?"

Gonzales pointed his finger at himself. Hakuya nodded with a kokuri (nodding his head in a not too pronounced motion).

"Yes. As the captain of the mountain rescue team, Gonzales is familiar with the mountains of this country. His knowledge is perhaps even comparable to that of the people who live there."

"Hmm ... well, I'm sure I'm the one who climbs the most mountains in this country."

Gonzales scratched his head. Hakuya nodded and continued talking.

"Gonzales is familiar with the hidden paths and the paths used by the animals in the mountains that Urup-dono pointed out. If that knowledge fills in the blanks on the scale model, Urup-dono will advance more accurately and be able to figure out the exact route of advance."

"I see. That's why they called the two of us."

Julius said in awe as he stood with his arms folded.

"For Fuuga to attack this country, it is absolutely necessary to prepare a large army. This country has a more substantial life than in the Great Tiger Empire, and thanks to the dissemination of information and regularly transmitted to the public through broadcasting, it is not easy to make any kind of propaganda like in the empire. And since there is no choice but to lead a large army and march in a direct way, the way to move that large army is limited."

"And if you can narrow down the route of the march, it will be easier to take action."

Excel said, as he closed his fan.

"As Ichiha said the other day, we should adopt a deferred tactic. After all, it's a time saver. The place where the water accumulates is a place where a large army can be deployed. It is difficult to protect it, so it is inevitable to abandon it. On the contrary, the place where water is separated is an easy place to protect. Therefore, you have to keep pressure on the key points so that Fuuga's army cannot deploy."

"Yes. And at the same time, if they use their knowledge, their army can be prevented from heading down unknown paths."

Hakuya agreed with the idea. Urup and Gonzales were still confused, but the brains seemed convinced. Then Souma, who was listening, opened his mouth.

"I understand Hakuya's idea. Urup, Gonzales."

"Yes, yes of course!" "What do you need?"

"I want to borrow your expertise for the sake of this country. That's the case."

With that said, Souma bowed to the two. With their heads bowed by the king, the two quickly responded. They could not hesitate, let alone refuse, to do this.

"Your-, your head please lift it up, your Majesty! If they can do anything useful these old bones, please tell me whatever it is I should do!"

"That's not right, your Majesty! There are also the benefits of having been raised in the bandit business. If you say that knowledge is useful, I'll be happy to cooperate!"

"... Thank you, both of you!"

With the cooperation of the two, Souma raised his head and said with a smile. Thus, the Second Operations Room of the Friedonia Kingdom, with the addition of Urup and Gonzales, prepared for the impending invasion of the Great Tiger Empire.

"Chancellor, there is a road on this mountain. Horses can't pass, but if you walk, you can cross the mountain and go behind."

"Hmm. It looks like you can deploy some soldiers in preparation and use them for a surprise attack on the logistic units."

"This basin is land that has been farmed, but the west side has a slope that goes uphill to the south. If you think about the water, even if a lot of water accumulates, the momentum will decrease. Rather, the accumulated water should flow across the flat land on the east side."

"I see. So, it's a place where the momentum is disturbed. Julius?"

"That's right, Duke Excel. I thought it would be unavoidable to abandon this point if I couldn't protect it, but, on the contrary, it would be better to defend it firmly and slow down the march."

"Fu fu, that is correct. I think it is easier to attack if the eastern troops stand out."

The mountain rescue team and the folklore storyteller joined the operational meeting of the chancellor, the military strategist and the general of the Defense Forces to exchange views on equal terms. Such discussions were exchanged day and night to improve the accuracy of pre-planned tactics. The result is a mix of human resources who seem to be fond of strategy at first glance. Fuuga's fear, the situation that "the big turtle (Souma) has countless snakes in its tail. The snakes attack the enemy with their own will regardless of the will of the turtle," this situation would describe exactly that.

While such a scene was taking place, in another place another scene was taking place. The place was the "Ginger Vocational School" ... No, the scale had already expanded and the number of buildings had increased as well, so the name was changed to "Ginger University". Many young women were gathering at that time in the auditorium built there. And everyone was wearing something like a white robe.

Then, a woman who stood in front of all those women raised her voice.

"Come on, everybody. Are you ready?"

"" Yes. Holy Mary ""

Mary laughed a little embarrassed by the women's response.

"I'm telling you, I'm not a saint anymore, and you're all excandidates for being a saint, aren't you?"

They were members of the "Lunaria Girl Chorus" made up of former saint candidates who had been exiled from the Lunarian Orthodox Empire.

Episode 3 "Choir and Experiments".

"No, it was Maria-sama who rescued us from the Papal States!"

"You are our savior!"

"No matter what they say, you are a saint to us!"

Maria was perplexed, as they all said this to her and looked at her with admiration in their eyes.

"Kakakka! Isn't that good? If they want to worship you let them worship you."

That quiet voice was heard. And Maria looked at the owner of the voice spitefully.

"That's easy enough to say. Your Eminence Archbishop Soji?"

Soji then raised his hands and said, "Oi oi, I don't want to be looked at in anger."

"It was definitely your decision to rescue them. It is said that in the Orthodox state of Lunaria Fuuga's supporters are widespread, and that the elimination of political enemies, called Heretic Hunting, is rampant and rain blood. Had they remained in the country as they were, they would surely have been persecuted as heretics. To consolidate the authority of the lady who was chosen as a saint of Fuuga, other female saint candidates are only an obstacle."

"Saint of Fuuga ... Ann."

Mary's expression clouded. A girl who did not take her hand when Maria held it out to her when she was escaping from the Orthodox State. A girl Maria could not rescue. No, if the answer was what she wanted, it would be uncomfortable to think she couldn't save her.

(Ann ... What are you thinking about now? Even though you have become a tool of authority, you who seek the way of life in what people need, what are you thinking in the face of all the blood flowing? Is it because your heart is broken? ...!?)

As Maria was thinking about it, she suddenly felt her face contract on both sides. Soji was holding her temples with both hands. Then Soji shook Maria's head as it was. Staggering ... (グラグラグラグラ [guraguragura])

"Qu-, what are you doing? Stop, please."

When Maria protested, Soji laughed.

"No, you had a funny face. Let's shake it up a bit."

"I have a proposition don't shake it out. It's already my hair all messed up."

Maria took her hands off Soji and fixed her messy hair, while puffing out her cheeks. Seeing her gesture, Soji laughed, "That's it."

"It's better to have that emotionally exposed face than to have a distressed face."

"What were you thinking..."

"If you have a distressed face, there are a lot of people who will worry."

Speaking like that, Soji pointed behind Maria with his chin. When Maria looked back, there were the former saint candidates looking at Maria with a worried look. Soji said to Maria, who wondered why.

"You must certainly be a saint to these ladies. Whether you admit it or not, you are the object of their respect. Wouldn't it be worrisome if the person you admire or respect had a distressed face?"

"That's right. I'm seriously such an admirable person..."

Mary tried to be humble, but when she looked at the former saint candidates, they all looked at her with the same concerned eyes. No less than 24 pairs of eyes. In front of those eyes it was difficult to show excessive humility. It is the human feeling of not wanting to discourage those who follow you.

"... Your life has become very important. Before you knew it."

"Hey. This suspicious priest is the archbishop. If the world and the environment change, people will change too. The important thing is to think for yourself and stand up for yourself no matter where you are. Whether you go with the flow or resist it, it is important to make up your own mind."

"Soji Your Eminence..."

Thinking for yourself .....? If Anne chose to be a saint, just as Mary chose to be released from her chain as a saint, it may be inevitable that Mary would be distracted by pondering it. Perhaps Mary, who knows how hard it is, should at least acknowledge her decision. No matter how it is viewed by the public and posterity.

Maria relaxed her expression.

"As expected, Your Eminence. You are good at pointing the way for lost lambs, aren't you."

Soji, who was kindly complimented by Maria, chuckled as he stroked his bald head.

"Kakakka! I like lamb meat in oil better than the lambs themselves. I'm in big trouble because I've been asked to take care of the lambs."

"Ara, there are lambs being cared for by a sloth. Without me, Merula-san, the archbishop would be a total mess and His Eminence's majesty would have collapsed by now."

"... Miss has come to say that again."

Maria, who was asked by King Souma to deal with Soji directly, manages Soji's private life. Since Soji is the face of the "Lunarian Orthodox Church of the Kingdom," if his authority is lost, it will have an adverse effect on all Lunarian Orthodox Christians in the country. Therefore, under strict supervision, he began to form a joint front with the high elf Merula, who was cleaning his house in payment for staying.

Merula, who was once attacked by the Orthodox State as a witch, and Maria, who was in a position to accuse her, joined forces to deepen their relationship with the goal of rehabilitating the man in front of them. Recently, Soji has been able to lead a healthy life (even if there is not really a change in his consciousness). About this of Souma said:

"The "Orthodox Church of the Kingdom" does not forbid priests to marry, so you two ask him to become your husband."

... Soji had a bitter face when she was told this. The former saint candidates smiled at the exchange between the archbishop and the former saint, who did not know what the balance of power was. Then ...

"Ah, Ohon. So you're both here already?"

A deep voice full of dandyism ([ダンディズム], you could say it's like a voice belonging to someone of "elegant and well-mannered" behavior) resounded. Next to Ginger, the president of the university, and his wife, Sandria, who were watching, there was a walrus-faced man wearing a black tie. In the republic, he was part of the elephant seal tribe (walrus beast human race), said to be the five races of the snowfield, and he was Morse (he first appeared in Volume 11), the representative of the "Labor Song Study Group" (commonly known as the "Labor Song Lab").

Morse went into the music business with the success of East-West Real Song Battle, and was now the director of the "Lunaria Girl Chorus." Morse said to Maria and Soji with a bitter smile.

"Let's start the experiment. Ginger, is everything ready?"

"Yes. The jewelry I borrowed from Her Majesty shows the inside of this auditorium."

Ginger pointed to the jewelry set up near the entrance to the auditorium.

"The video is being broadcast not only to this country, but also in the countries of the maritime alliance. The cities conducting experiments in each country are to

treat the wounded while listening to the singing voice of all in the " Lunaria Girl Chorus."

The secret technique of the Orthodox Lunarians "Range Recovery Area Heal", is to treat a large number of human injuries at the same time while listening to the singing voice of a light system magician belonging to the church. The importance of the image in the effectiveness of magic and the efficient action of the "songs" to imagine that image have been found in experiments in battles with real songs.

Accordingly, this experiment is conducted to find out whether hymns heard through transmission also have the effect of enhancing recovery magic. Realm geniuses such as Genia and Merula predicted that this was "expected". The opinion was that the effect would be less than hearing the voice sung directly, but the image of the song would not fade during transmission.

Yes, this proves out, the maritime allies will be able to set up a dedicated recovery transmission channel to help treat the wounded in the event of a global battle. Even if the other side becomes aware of this transmission, the wavelength can be changed and shared with the allies, not to be used.

When Ginger explained such an intention, Sandria came forward.

"In other words, the interaction between the two is out of the question at this point. I'm wondering if they should do it after they get home?"

"No, no, that's not it."

"....."

Soji protested against Sandria with a calm face, but Maria was embarrassed, reddened her face and looked down. In response to these two reactions, the former santa candidates at that age, were making a high-pitched voice (I imagine it refers to the typical voice of girls like screaming in anime for seeing a couple or when talking about love). Then there was a sound of clapping like bread, bread.

"Yeah, yeah. That's it. It's not good at all to meddle in someone else's love life."

When Morse said it quietly, the former saint candidates gave a good response, "Yes!". Soji was trying to say something, but couldn't say anything because she knew it would only make the misunderstanding bigger if she argued, and Maria looked like she wanted the earth to eat her, as she held her face with her hand. Morse raised the baton with a bitter smile in front of these two people.

"All of them then. Let's go."

"""" Yes """"

In this way, the "Range Recovery Area Heal" experiment was conducted through broadcasting. As a result, the result of "ant effect" was obtained as expected beforehand. Upon receiving the report, Souma and his colleagues were delighted and instructed Ginger and his colleagues to continue the experiment.

--

A clarification about the marriage of Souji+Maria+Merula, during the translation this part was very unclear, it may be true because of the girls reactions and what Ginger says, but to take this as canon or not, it's better to wait for the LN, after all it's not something so important within the story as a whole.

I have mixed feelings with this marriage within the story, but Souji so well, maybe in the end it's not such a bad thing.

--

Episode 4 "Ei~ ei~ o~"

--- The end of the year 1553 of the continental calendar.

This year is a memorable year when the Demon King's territory was liberated, and the people of every country seem to be very excited about the end of the year and the New Year's vacation. They seem to be dreaming of a bright future, freed from the anxiety they had for more than a dozen years. Even in our country, Juna is preparing a song battle (this is not for magical research, but to add color to the year-end celebration).

However, contrary to the atmosphere of the people, senior politicians and the military of the maritime alliance countries could not be neglected. Now that there is no common enemy for all mankind known as the Demon King's territory, the only destination for Fuuga's fangs is the sea alliance. When public opinion within the Great Tiger Empire solidifies and all preparations are made, Fuuga will surely invade the sea alliance.

The Friedonia faction thought so and raised that concern with its three allied countries, the Republic of Turgis, the Kuzuryu Islands Kingdom and the Euphoria Kingdom, and the Nothung Dragon Kingdom, which has not joined the alliance, but has recently been dabbling in the aircraft carrier business. Since the leaders of these countries must cooperate with the plan, he took the time to explain what was seen and heard in the innermost part of the Demon King's territory, the origin of this world and the existence of the northern hemisphere world.

And today, through the transmission, I, Kuu, Sha Bon and Jeanne held a summit meeting of the four countries of the maritime alliance. When everyone was ready, I spoke first.

"Now, let's start the talks."

"Oh" "Yes" "I understand."

When I saw that the three of them nodded, I also nodded and looked at Kuu.

"First of all... Kuu"

"Mmm?" "What's up big brother?"

"It looks like you will be born from your first child to the fourth. Congratulations."

"Ukkakka. It's a little embarrassing."

When Kuu scratched his cheeks with a feeling of shyness, Sha Bon and Jeanne also congratulated him with "Congratulations." It seems that Tal and Leporina were pregnant at the same time. In addition, Leporina seems to be pregnant with triplets and her stomach seems to be getting bigger every day. Originally, the White Rabbit tribe seems to be a race known for their fertile nature, and it seems that it was



inside the mind of Kuu and others, but it seems that he was deeply shocked when he was suddenly told that he would be the father of four children.

Kuu then shook his head to regain his composure and smiled with a smile.

"Well, it's for that reason. If I have four children, some of them will get along with their older siblings. Let's engage them with Kazuha, Enju or even Kaito."

"You're going too fast and they're not even born yet..."

Kazuha would be engaged at age 6. It is well tolerated in terms of world values, but I would like to avoid engagements that the person does not like. However, Kuu shook his head, "No."

"Ever since I was told about the importance of the blood of archaic humans... Big brother, I want to secure a lineage in the republic. The Kingdom of the Nine Dragons has a betrothal between Cyan and Sha Ran, and the Kingdom of Euphoria wishes to have the child between your brother and the former Empress. I cannot accept a no as head of state."

Kuu's opinion was also valid. He would do that if he was in Kuu's position.

"... I understand. When your children are born and grow up a little bit, let's meet. I think it's okay to involve the people who will be engaged."

"Ou! (Yes) That's a promise, big brother."

When Kuu smiled, Jeanne nodded.

"I certainly want the lineage of the archaic humans. If a child is born between Souma and my sister, I definitely want my country to adopt it."

"That's too fast... Jeanne-dono."

"Oh, Jeanne is fine. Brother-in-law."

That's right, she became my sister-in-law. She's my second sister after Tomoe-chan.

"By the way...sorry Jeanne. Normally I would have called Hakuya as soon as they got married."

When I said that, Jeanne shook her head with a bitter smile.

"Well, the situation is what it is. It can't be helped."

"It would be helpful if you could say that..."

"Well, more than my husband...rather than Hakuya's absence from the country, I'm more concerned about my sister, who was brought back, not doing anything. It seems that she is working on projects to ease the pain of her being separated from Genia."

Trill ..... is not true, it seems that Princess Trill is still the same? Jeanne sighed as if she was tired.

Even before the meeting, "There's no trick to just protecting a castle! You don't think it's right to have a castle that completely crushes the enemy!" ... I was remodeling the walls."

"En-, I understand..."

"Hakuya has examined your inventions and proposed ones that could be used, so our country's technological capabilities have increased tremendously..."

"Ukkakka! Miss Trill is still interesting! Let her come to our country and supervise the cities she stole from Zem! "

Being an eccentric person Kuu himself said this, Jeanne made a gesture by extending her hand, "Please, please. Although I am familiar with tunnel construction, I feel that Kuu and Trill are like volatile and dangerous chemicals when mixed. So ...

"Souma-dono..."

"Mmm?"

When Sha Bon, who had been watching with a kind face until then, suddenly corrected his posture, I leaned into his place.

"About the failure of our fleet during the past expedition to the Demon King's territory. I'm really very, very sorry."

"... Oh, it's only about that?"

When our country sent a fleet to the Demon King's territory at Fuuga's request, Sha Bon also contributed some ship from the Kuzuryu Islands as escort. However, when we encountered the enemy humanoid weapon, Jungal, some of the ships from the Kuzuryu Islands attacked Jungal without listening to the instructions "Do not start any conflict" and entered into combat phase.... The battle resulted in the loss of the aircraft carrier Shimagata and numerous casualties.

Sha Bon had already apologized for that. Once Sha Bon apologized after returning to the kingdom, but he apologized again in this very public hearing.

"Those who violated the order were punished according to the law of our country, but I apologize for the terrible diligence of my subordinates."

"Raise your head, Sha Bon. It was all too unexpected. Originally, it was a mistake on my part to decide to send a fleet like that, being swept away by Fuuga. I heard that there were many dead on the side of Kuzuryu's fleet, and if you've already taken care of that, don't say it anymore."

"...Thank you for your understanding, it is very painful."

Apologize in public and forgive in public. It can be important to make a move this way. I said, looking around at the three of them.

"More than that, I have something to ask you three from now on."

"Is it about Fuuga Khan?"

I nodded my head at Kuu's words.

"Oh, next year I'll definitely have to fight against the Great Tiger Empire."

"Hakuya also says so. They will definitely invade the Friedonia Kingdom."

When Jeanne said that, Kuu bowed his head.

"Ukya, is it okay to state that? Even if they are adjacent to the land that was the former mercenary nation of Zem, they are too far away and aside from that they have the Kuzuryu Islands Kingdom across the sea, are you worried about the Euphoria Kingdom being attacked?"

"That would take too long. As long as we have the 'plan' I explained to them beforehand, time is on our side. If Fuuga invades Euphoria Kingdom in earnest, we will do everything we can to thwart him. Fuuga will run out of time while dealing with it.... I would be sorry if Jeanne was to be attacked, but it's a development that I hope and expect to come true."

That said, I sighed.

"But to that guy he has something like an extraordinary and wild sense of smell. You'll note that we're likely to have something planned. Recently, a covert force under Hashim's direct control have become more active these days."

Don't. ask me if it's

"What if he senses that plan and invades the Friedonia Kingdom to destroy it? "

When Sha Bon asked me, I nodded "Oh."

"Rather than inferring about the plan, I have a feeling that that is 'something more than likely.' It may challenge us to a quick battle of attrition. If that is the most painful policy for us at that time, Fuuga will choose that policy without hesitation. Probably because if he doesn't, I will prepare for it, and with that I can endure anything, in the hope that he will choose another policy."

"Ukiki ... I was born in the same era of a troubled man."

Kuu said with a bitter smile. He is absolutely right. In a certain Sangokushi manga, there was a scene where Zhou Yu, who was surpassed by Komei, was indignant and said, "Because the heavens gave birth to Zhou Yu and even Komei at the same time." If he had to challenge Fuuga as only a human being, he might have thought the same thing.

"But we don't challenge Fuuga alone."

The relationships between people who have been bonding so far. That's what has cultivated the Marine Alliance. Some of our allies have become friends early on, while others like Castor, Julius and Maria have interacted as enemies. And before they knew it, they formed a loose coalition and, before they knew it, they were working together for the same purpose. That's the strength of the maritime alliance.

I raised my fist to show my resolve toward the three of them.

"Let us work together to overcome this difficult situation and bring down the curtain on this era in which only Fuuga shines. We will show that man the strength of what we have built so far."

"Ou! I've been waiting for this moment!"

""Yes!" "

Kuu, Sha Bon and Jeanne raised their fists with Ei- ei- o-.

## Episode 5 "New Year at Camp Fuuga".

Almost at the same time. Fuuga was about to celebrate the New Year at his castle, Khan Castle.

Fuuga and others who returned to the castle from the Demon King's territory have been consolidating the country for a while. The Demon King's territory was completely liberated and, except for the area around Hazal, the northernmost city of the Cedians, the territory was exactly that of the Great Tiger Empire.

If you can look at things objectively, you might think that you are forced to return to a devastated land. However, in the eyes of many people and refugees who were finally ready to return to their homelands, it was seen as a brilliant achievement. They are delighted, although the painful work of rebuilding awaits them, which they will be happy to do.

There are no complaints from those who are likely to be dissatisfied. This is also part of the strength of Fuuga, who has an overwhelming charisma that attracts people. Fuuga then sent troops to different regions to exterminate the remaining demons on the continent of Landia. There are dungeons and so on, so they can't be completely eliminated, but since Souma and Mao have closed the northern gate, no new monsters will enter. Whereupon the area of human activity will surely be expanded.

However, there is no such thing as a lot of tactics, and neither Fuuga nor Hashim, or the staff members, showed any interest in exterminating monsters that are only hunted one-sidedly, leaving the subjugation of demons to Shukin and other talented generals.... Recently, Fuuga has spent a relaxing time with his wife, Mutsumi, for the first time in a long time.

If you think about it, it can be said that this time was the most peaceful time Fuuga has experienced up to this point. It also means that he has survived a lot of turbulence. But peace did not fill the hero's heart.

At night. Fuuga, who was in the bedroom, was sitting on a chair by the window with his upper body naked and brushing his sword. Fuuga's favorite weapon is the Zaniwa sword, a blue dragon sword, so he rarely took the sword out of his waist, but, even so, during the long battle some damage was done to the blade. I am diligently polishing such a sword.

"... Can't sleep?"

When my name was called I looked back, Mutsumi, who was wrapped in a blanket on the bed, stood up. At this moment she doesn't wear anything under the blanket. Fuuga said with a bitter smile to Mutsumi.

"I'm sorry. did I wake you up?"

"No... I was freezing, because my husband was not beside me."

"Oh. For some reason I woke up."

Fuuga held the sword up to the moonlight entering through the window. On the polished, gleaming blade reflected the scarred face of Mutsumi's younger brother, Gauche. Fuuga sighed as he looked at his face.

"It's too quiet... I just have to relax. And it's going to be that way for quite a while."

"If so, please help me with the domestic matters," Lumiere was saying.

Mutsumi said, remembering Lumiere, who is probably the one working the hardest in the Great Tiger Empire right now, to quickly turn the expanded land into his own national power. Fuuga knows this, and he's not bad at domestic affairs, but he doesn't feel it's worth doing, so he doesn't work overtime and wakes up in the office like Souma and Maria. I guess that's why he delegates so much work to Lumiere and Kasen, his assistant....

"I'm quite grateful to them. But I'm better off running on the battlefield."

"Even if you become emperor, your roots are those of a hero. Dan'na-sama."

Mutsumi laughed and got up from the bed with a blanket wrapped around his naked body. And when she approached Fuuga, she hugged him from behind.

"No matter how warm this area is, it gets cold on winter nights."

Having said that, I invited Fuuga to the blanket. Fuuga had no particular resistance.

"Oh sorry."

"No. It would be hard for my dan'na-sama, who will keep running, to catch a cold."

"....."

Fuuga made a slightly worried grimace at Mutsumi's words.

"Is there still somewhere to run ... even if there's only south left?"

".....That's right."

South of the Great Tiger Empire. That is, the countries belonging to the maritime alliance. There are also Fuuga's younger sister, Yuriga, and Mutsumi's brothers and younger sister, Ichiha, Nike and Sami. Of course, Mutsumi understood that. Still... Mutsumi rubbed her cheeks against Fuuga's bearded cheeks.

"Still, if you can't stop, I'll just follow you. I'll watch to the end the hero's tale, until then."

".....I see."

Fuuga replied, touching Mutsumi's cheek next to his face. They were cuddling like that for a while.

January 1554 of the continental calendar.

And the new year arrived. The festivities of the people of the Great Tiger Empire were incredible. Immersed in the celebration of the liberation of the Demon Lord's territory, which was achieved by their emperor, the first hero, Fuuga Khan, wondered what a wonderful year this would be.

"Is there anyone who can stop our emperor?"

"Is there any enemy who can stop our emperor?"

While singing that song, people were drinking alcohol at the New Year's party. A New Year's party was also being held at Hahn Castle, where a large and luxurious carpet was laid out under the gaze of Fuuga and Mutsumi who were in the upper seat (because it is difficult to eat and drink on the throne) along with many magnificent dishes. And the renowned generals sat on the left and right to surround such a feast, below Fuuga.

The appearance was mandala-like, but there were some who did not appear.

"Oh, I can't see Kasen-kun."

[Tiger's Flag] Gaten, the best looking best man in Fuuga's army, looked around incessantly while holding a cup of sake. Gaten often teases Kasen, the youngest of the Fuuga army's leading warlords, so he seems to have noticed his absence from the beginning. Shukin, the tiger sword, who is Fuuga's right arm, told Gaten with a bitter smile.

"Kasen is working as Lumiere's assistant. And Lumiere is working during the New Year's vacations, so he can't just take a break as an assistant."

The internal bureaucrats of the Great Tiger Empire had no time to rest during the New Year's Eve and New Year's vacations. The appearance of the struggle, to keep the land expanded, is as devastating as that of the bureaucrats of Parnam Castle during the first year Souma was invoked. Incidentally, Hashim also did not participate in this party because he was turning his thoughts over considering what his next moves would be. Gaten shrugged, "So that's what he's doing then."

"Because Hashim's wisdom and the internal issues Lumiere is carrying are now two wheels behind the scenes. They can't stop striving. Especially Lumiere, who is a newcomer but supports the consolidation of the kingdom, and Kasen, who supports his talented wife."

"Oh. They are the ones who will be indispensable to the Great Tiger Empire in the future. If you are only good in the military, you can be replaced. In terms of importance, you can say that they are more valuable human resources than us."

"Fumu. In case of emergency, do I have to protect him?"

In case of crisis, Gaten chuckled, imagining himself falling for Kasen. The imagination that came to me made me think it wasn't unexpectedly bad. It goes against the style of a good-looking man to lay down his life on behalf of another man, but it doesn't seem wrong for him to die looking at Kasen's shocked face. So ...

"Shukin-sama! This dish is delicious!"

A girl who appeared behind Shukin said that. It was Elul, the daughter of Garla Garlan, the spirit king of the Garlan spirit realm.

Episode 6 "Those who can't get drunk in the New Year."

When Shukin saw Elul, who was casually holding a pile of food on his plate, laughing nonchalantly, he smiled and at the same time lowered his shoulders in a carefree manner. Elul was not afraid to be among the warlords under Fuuga, who had

many men of caution.

"The dishes lined up here are local specialties. As expected, from the Great Tiger Empire. It's a wide variety of dishes suitable for this whole vast land. All of them are delicious."

"Elul... Why don't you calm down a bit?"

Shukin sighed as Elul munched deliciously on the food.

"I didn't ask you to come with me, but you came anyway. Please calm down a little."

"Yes..."

Elul replied, wondering whether he knew or not. Because Shukin is close to Elul, he was in charge of administering the northwest region of the Great Tiger Empire and because he was also familiar with the independent government of the Spirit Realm Father Island and his home country the Spirit Realm. He traded not only with Father Island, which is virtually under his control, but also with Mother Island, where the original country of the Spirit Realm is located, which has begun to follow a path of openness.

One might think that this is a lukewarm attitude on the part of Fuuga and Hashim, but if the two islands of the Spirit Realm, which are island nations, do join the maritime alliance, the maritime alliance will be able to suppress the entire coastline of the Great Tiger Empire. The same would be true if Fuuga's army were to occupy the two islands by force. As long as the sea domain cannot be secured, the landing party will easily be in danger if the sea alliance blocks the sea.

Elul who spoke of her country in earnest. As expected, Shukin and Gaten were impressed already after all she was still the princess of a country, Elul threw a fruit from her plate into her mouth.

"There are so many delicious things in the outside world. It's a waste not to know it."

"You ruined it, Elul."

Shukin held his head as he saw the same attitude of Elul as usual, and Gatten laughed at the appearance of the famous [tiger sword], it was strange that he would laugh so much and sway.

---- On the other hand, at that time.

Lumiere, who became the chief financial bureaucrat of the Great Tiger Empire, was busy with his duties as people celebrated the New Year. He must arrange for personnel to be assigned to the Demon King's newly acquired lands, to connect roads, transport supplies, and destroy the remaining monsters to ensure safety. Unfortunately, he was learning the lessons that Mary had learned during the era of the Great Chaos Empire.

Since Maria was influenced by Souma's government, it can be said that Lumiere is a human resource that can hybridize the government of the Kingdom of Friedonia and the government of the Great Chaos Empire.

(Fuuga-sama is seeking to take on the maritime alliance. If we don't solidify his country, even a little before he starts moving.... Otherwise, there would be no point for me to be here).

Lumiere, who was opposed to Maria's idea of changing the world slowly, even if it took a long time, Lumiere thought that, if the problem could be solved, it should be done immediately, even if violently, Lumiere gave up on Maria and allied with Fuuga. As a result, the problem of the Demon King's territory, which threatened humanity, has been solved.

However, Lumiere also understood that it was not possible to stop here because of Fuuga Khan, who was able to solve the problem quickly. It is fragile, because it has a rapidly building country. Unless you always create a virtual enemy and join, you will always worry that soon everything will collapse.

(Maria-dono didn't you hate this? You couldn't embark, even if you had the power to solve it until you were ready to stop while solving the problem?)

It wasn't that she couldn't understand the idea at all. However, I was frustrated by your negative attitude. Which is why I felt that if I were in this position I would be a little closer to Maria's ideas. Still, Lumiere, who likes speed, might have come to the same conclusion.

(... It is too late. This is the path I chose. I have to complete it because it was what I chose).

That was the moment when Lumiere changed his mind and looked at the documents at hand. When the door to the finance department room opened wide, [Tiger's Ballista] Kasen came in pulling a wheelbarrow. On most of the wheelbarrow was stacked a pile of documents.

"Lumiere. We've collected documents from every department."

Kasen said, "Whew," wiping the sweat from his forehead. Lumiere instantly smiled at the amount of new work brought to her, pretending to be calm.

"Thank you for your hard work, Kasen-san."

"No, this was nothing."

Kasen said as she carried a packet of documents to Lumiere's desk. Lumiere laughed bitterly as she received the packet of documents from Kasen.

"I'm very grateful for your help, but aren't the military commanders meeting at the New Year's party now? If you let them, can you join?"

Kasen, who was told that, shook his head and said, "No, it doesn't make sense."

"I can't just leave you working Lumiere and enjoy the party. Let me help you."

"Is...is that so."

"Yes, and you see."

Once Kasen left the room, he brought in the cargo cart that had been placed outside the door. The upper and lower levels of the cart were filled with magnificent dishes. With Lumiere's round eyes, Kasen giggled like a child at a successful prank.

"In addition to looking for the documents, I've been collecting some dishes in the kitchen. Let's do the best we can while eating them."

"... Fufu, that's right."



Perhaps Kasen's appearance so carefree, Lumiere also had the wrinkles between her brows removed and smiled softly.

---- On the other hand, around that time.

Similarly, after returning from the New Year's party, Hashim was plotting in his room, and a member of the intelligence unit under his control was visiting for his briefing. Hashim asked him, "Was it successful?" without looking at him. The intelligence personnel ducked his head and reported.

"The formation of public opinion in the country is progressing smoothly. People's voices for Fuuga-sama to conquer the continent are increasing day by day."

"Excellent."

"But... the intelligence on the part of the Friedonia Kingdom is not good. King Souma's intelligence is quite skilled, and he seems to have a lot of loyalty to the royal family. It seems impossible to do an inside job as in the Great Chaos Empire."

"Hmm... that's surprising too."

Hashim remembered Souma's face. It was surprising that a mediocre looking king, who had neither Fuuga's dignity nor Maria's charm, had such a powerful force of intelligence. Of course, he knew that Friedonia's intelligence existed, but he did not think that he would completely destroy this work. The unity of intelligence is the existence of the dark part. There is a certain amount of darkness in those who have powerful intelligence force.

"Does it mean that people are not what they seem..."

"Uh...?"

"No. Don't delve into Friedonia and concentrate on forming a national public opinion."

"Ha ha~" (As a way of accepting something).

When Hashim ordered his subordinates, he changed his perception of Souma.

Episode 7 "His determination and choice"

--- Late January 1554, at night, Parnam Castle.

Around the time the New Year's celebratory mood had waned. Just as always, there was a furtive shadow behind Souma, who was working overtime in the government office. Aisha, was sitting on the sofa in the room and sleeping with a slightly disappointed face with her mouth half open, suddenly jumped up and put hand on the handle of the sword. Should I praise her ability to escort me while she is asleep, or should I complain that, if she is escorting, she does not sleep?.... When I was worried about that, Aisha asked sharply for someone behind me.

"Who are you?"

"... It's me. Madam-sama."

I heard the voice of Kagetora, the captain of Black Cat Squadron, from behind. Well, the only ones who can pass through Parnam Castle's network of guards and can't have their signal detected by Aisha at such a close distance are the Kagetora. That's why he was calm even if Aisha jumped.

"I have a report."

"Understood."

"It's okay. Aisha. Stand by the door and don't let people pass."

"Eh. I understand."

Aisha stood by the door of the government office to avoid eavesdropping. Of course, the Black Cat squadron under Kagetora's leadership was also being monitored, so it makes sense to be careful. After preparing myself, I looked toward Kagetora.

"Then?"

"Haa (way of stating something). It seems that the Great Tiger Empire's intelligence forces, which had been actively acting last year, are reducing their activities this year. We can't let our guard down, but it seems that, as far as internal work on our country is concerned, they have given up."

"Well...we have crushed every possible seed of dissatisfaction."

Of course, there is no way people can govern without any dissatisfaction. However, even if one is dissatisfied, one can suppress it by measures in which one does not want to correct it by using force. Hashim and others would like to incite people to rebel against the country, but the rebels put their lives at stake.

Unless you suffer from a tyrant and are forced into a "bad" state, like waiting for death anyway, you will not try to rebel so easily. Moreover, even if there is a person who wants to provoke a rebellion, it is conceivable that relatives and acquaintances who do not share the same discontent will report it in advance for fear that they will be affected.

On this, Machiavelli also wrote in "The Prince," Chapter 19, "How to Escape Contempt and Hatred."

[Plotters always believe that the death of the monarch will satisfy the people, but they do not have the courage to take such measures when they believe that they might offend the people (because of the king's death)]

[A person who hatches a plot cannot be alone, and can only be a companion to those who think they are dissatisfied].

..... They established. After all, the rule that says the less dissatisfied people will save the king of the country. Recently, my new wife, Mary, has been traveling around the country as a charitable activist, collecting the discontent of powerless people and communicating it to us for correction. Such communication seems to be a painful move for Hashim.

I looked up at the ceiling with my arms crossed.

"Otherwise, if you could incite in this country, you would be the one who could sit on the throne, or the one who opposes the current trend of meritocracy, but in the

days of mother-in-law Elisa, Elfrieden's royalty family, was destroyed. And both Roroa and Julius, the royal family of Amidonia, are reliable allies."

"There is no royal family that can be the flagship of the rebellion."

"Oh. And the corrupt aristocrats who would probably rebel right now have been purged in the first year after taking the throne.... Rather, if you think it was around that time, it means that this hand is dyed in blood. I wonder if there is also.

I looked down and looked at my hand. I couldn't believe the significance of the decision at that time, but I'm glad I made the decision at that time. If I think that those guys were still here until this moment... I'm horrified. Well, that's what I can understand for now.

"... That's right."

Kagetora was nodding as well. The atmosphere has become calm between the two of us. I shook my head to shake off this feeling.

"Well, if it reduces the pressure, that's fine, though I've never done that. We're on time and ready for the next battle."

"Of course."

"Y... maybe we'll need to enlist the help of the 'dead'?"

I was half joking and sent a meaningful glance at Kagetora. However, Kagetora didn't make even a slight movement.

"Don't worry, sir. In this country, the youth powers are growing day by day. There is no need to pray for absurd antics, such as the resurrection of the dead."

"... I hope so!"

A solid, heavy voice was heard. When the voice said "I hope so," I felt that it was really good. So ...

"Your Majesty! Someone seems to be coming!"

Aisha who stood in front of the door said. Her presence had disappeared before she could look at Kagetora. .... He's really polishing being a ninja. After a while, there was a modest knock on the door of the government office. When I called out, "Come in," it was Yuriga who appeared. Yuriga, who entered the room, looked at me and Aisha and made a hesitant gesture to say something.

"What is it, Yuriga?"

When I called out, Yuriga raised her face as if she was determined. and,

"So-so, Souma-san! I want to go home!"

As soon as I opened my mouth, I said this.

-- The story happened about two months ago. It goes back to the end of last year.

In the waiting room of the multi-purpose stadium "Parnam Stadium" built in Parnam, Yuriga was hanging out while wearing a magic soccer uniform. Just a moment ago, in order to decide this season's magic soccer champion team, a direct confrontation

was held between "Parnam Black Dragons", to which Yuriga belongs, and the "Lagoon City Doldons". This important battle was won by the better team. The result was ...

(I lost... I was just one step away...)

The Parnam Black Dragons unfortunately lost the championship after a fierce battle that was decided in the penalty shootout, with no points scored between them, it was settled in overtime. After the match, she had a towel hanging on her head Yuriga.

"Thank you for your hard work. Reina-sama."

In response to that voice, Yuriga removed the towel from her head and sent a cold glare at the voice.

"Can you stop calling me that? Senpai."

"Oh my gosh. Don't you like it?"

It was the captain of this team who laughed when she said that, a half-dragon woman who was also in the last year of the Royal Yuriga Academy era. The senpai didn't seem particularly worried and sat down next to Yuriga.

"No, just barely. We missed just a little more."

"...Don't you feel frustrated senpai?"

"It's painful. I didn't come out of the private bathroom room until a while ago."

Because my senpai was joking like that, Yuriga thought that she could have the usual light talk for a moment, but.... If you looked closely, there were some tears in her eyes laughing. It's the same with me, but she probably didn't want to look like it because she was a captain. Yuriga shook her hand tightly.

"Our team is so strong that it wouldn't be strange if we could win the championship...but I'm thinking about what to do right now, or what we should do more."

"That's right. Today's battle was influenced by the Doldons' eccentric strategy. Rumor has it that Duchess Excel was having fun during the Doldons' strategy meetings."

"Ku, that b" Wow ah! Not good!" "Damn."

The senpai stopped the bad words on Yuriga's part that seemed to unintentionally come out of her mouth, covering her mouth. There are some forbidden words for Excel's opponents, and there was a rumor that Excel was after them before they realized it. By the way, the source of this rumor was the old naval base, and it was said that it was easy to reach Excel's ears at that time, but it seems that the rumor was just that.

Then, the senpai removed her hand from Yuriga's mouth and smiled with a chuckle.

"Well, we must do our best next year. Let's raise the championship cup next year."

"Next year... that's right."

When she heard that next year, Yuriga's excitement disappeared for a moment. Next year, her brother Fuuga Khan will attack this country. Souma, who became her

husband, and other high ranks of the kingdom have begun preparations with that in mind. Will there be a magical soccer match next year? How do people view Yuriga, Fuuga Khan's sister, being a player?

Thinking that way made her uncomfortable. But at the same time, she wanted to protect her days in this country. Therefore, Yuriga also understood that there are things that only she can do. Understand Souma's policy. But besides that, Yuriga was thinking of a decisive move.

(To have a bright next year ... I'm going back to my brother! "Decided"!)

Yuriga decided to return home "temporarily" to the Great Tiger Empire.

Episode 8 "Something Known to Look Like an Exit."

--- Me, I want to go back home!

At Yuriga's sudden suggestion, both Aisha and I doubt our ears. Even if there are days when I have a fight with Liscia and get a little angry, someone else will step in and calm me down. Most of the time, it's Juna-san, who is the grease for the family, takes care of it, and very rarely, if Juna-san gets mad, everyone will be in the mood to help because it's a family crisis.

It was a line I had never heard because it kept my family in good condition. However, this Parnam castle is sometimes referred to as Liscia's parents' home. However, when it happened I was stunned, "...it was a line that caused a lot of damage when they actually told it to me," Aisha, who had returned to the room, pressed herself against Yuriga and grabbed her by the shoulders.

"No, don't be hasty, Yuriga-san! I can understand that divorce is not a shame in royal families! If there's something His Majesty did, I'll fix it!"

Is the premise that I was the one who did something!?! ..... No, in fact, I wonder if I did something. Aisha shook Yuriga's shoulders as I thought.

"Please think again! Yuriga-san!"

"Eh~, Aisha-san, divorce? What do you mean?"

Yuriga, who was being shaken, rolled her eyes. It seems like we had a misunderstanding between us because of the appearance so suddenly. After taking a breath to calm down, Yuriga cleared her throat.

"... I'm sorry. I was so distracted that I didn't have enough words. Returning to my parents' house doesn't mean that I want to get divorced, but that I want to return to the Great Tiger Empire temporarily and meet my brother. He wants to get that permission today."

"Temporary return...at this time?"

I felt my eyebrows coming up. The predictions and sense of crisis that Fuuga will attack the country later this year are shared by our family, the country's top officials and military leaders. There is no doubt that Fuuga is trying to manage domestic public opinion with a voice that wants to conquer the mainland. And this was also told to Yuriga, who decided to cooperate with us.

So Yuriga's proposal should be a decision based on that. Even with our rough expression of doubt, Yuriga did not budge.

"I decided that there was something I could do just for this time."

"... Okay. Let's hear the proposal."

"Eh~, is that okay?"

Aisha asked me, but I nodded.

"Is there something you have in mind? If so, let's hear it first."

"Thank you very much."

Yuriga bowed her head slightly. And when she lifted her face, she looked me straight in the eyes and said.

"I've been thinking about it. If the battle with my brother is inevitable, I wonder if it is possible that the duration of that battle can be shortened. If the battle continues for a long time, both sides will suffer great damage and be exhausted.

"......Fumu" (expression similar to ok).

"When I thought of something I could do to prevent it, it suddenly occurred to me."

"What occurred to you?"

When asked again, Yuriga nodded her head.

"It's about putting a time limit on my brother's ambitions. If you put a time limit on how long he can fight like in a magic soccer match, you can reduce the damage to this country."

"Hmm, I don't understand... Is it a truce during the winter or something?"

"No, it's more like attacking when it will be warmer next year, but if you say he will attack this year, I'm trying to put my brother in a situation where "if he doesn't win this year, he won't have a chance to win again."

I get it. It's certainly a time limit on his ambitions. However.....

" We're going to cause enough pain so that in one battle it's all over. In fact, we are prepared for that, But, from Yuriga's point of view, is it any different? "

"Yes. Even if my brother does not attack this year, he is destined to put us in a situation where he will have the ambition to conquer the continent again next year and beyond. To 'end my brother's ambitions this year, whether with a war or not.'"

"... Is that possible?"

"Of course, it's not absolute, but I think it's a good way to do it, and it can only be done by my brother's younger sister."

And Yuriga confided her plans to us. Immediately after I started listening to the story, I had a strong feeling of "Is it really going to work out that well?.... As I listened to it, I thought it might be a good move. In particular, the fact that

this plan has its roots in "what Yuriga has researched in Hazal" I can honestly evaluate. Even if it's in vain, it would be possible to open a small gap in Fuuga's ambitions.

"Hmm... I think it's effective."

I expressed while folding my arms.

"But I still want to hear Hakuya's opinion."

"Oh, I consulted with Professor Hakuya first. He gave me some conditions, but he said it would be worth a try. He said His Majesty should make the final decision."

Ah, so you already have the approval? As expected, I finish his apprenticeship together with Tomoe and Ichiha, the sharpness and mental footwork around here is really amazing.

"So what are the conditions?"

"Make sure to prepare for your return to this country" and "This plan is good if you can meet and talk with your brother, so don't limit yourself to visiting Khan's castle."

"Yes. Well, that's what I'm curious about."

If Yuriga, who was married to our country, were to go nonchalantly to Khan Castle, it would be good material to hinder our country. The conflict between men and women of the royal family has been used as a cause of war since the time of the Trojan War. Because I treated Yuriga rudely, Yuriga ran away...and there are many ways to publicize this. And even if that Yuriga in question were to apologize, the facts will be completed in the end, and that Yuriga will not be able to return to this country either.

"What do you think about that?"

"I understand that returning to your country is a bad thing to hear, so even if I don't return to it, I would like to have the opportunity to meet my brother near the border."

"Border? Call Fuuga to the border with our country?"

Would you bother to come to the country you intend to attack in the near future?

"... I don't think I'll answer."

"That's right, so I'm thinking of meeting near another border."

Having said that, Yuriga pointed to the world map on the table. Her finger was placed on the northernmost land of Landia's continent.

"Hey, near Hazal?"

"Yes. It's virtually a place we're monitoring together the Marine Alliance and the Great Tiger Empire. I'm thinking of calling my brother to meet us in this desert area. It suits me to be near Hazal, even in my plan."

"Perhaps, but it is far away. What is the safest way to return to our country that meets the conditions?"

"The Demon Lord of the Cedians ... Rather, Maou, their leader, could use magic to transfer people and things like the Virgin Dragon Tiamat, right? If you cooperate, I should be able to guarantee my safety."

Is this a plan that has already incorporated excessive engineering skill on Maou's part? Yuriga then looked a little worried.

"But... this is based on Maou's cooperation. What if he decides to remain neutral... If he doesn't cooperate, you'll have to give up on this plan."

That's right. If Yuriga's safe return isn't promised, I can't give permission.

"... But, do you want to ask?"

"Huh?"

I said to Aisha, while looking at Yuriga, who looked confused.

"Aisha, open the Kamidana."

"Eh. I understand."

Aisha reached out to the Japanese-style Kamidana, which had been installed in a high position in the government office for some time, and opened the door of the small shrine (which was made by a do-it-yourselfer). The red magatama that Maou gave me that day is displayed there. In the meantime, I activated the simple receiver. I stood in front of the Kamidana, looking sideways at Yuriga, who had her eyes wide open without knowing what was going on, I clapped my hands towards the magatama.

"Maou. can you come out if you hear me?"

"Are you calling? Souma-sama

Immediately a voice was heard and when I looked back, there was a figure of the DIVALOID "Maou" projected by a simple receiver. Maou gave me this magatama as a tombstone for me, who was cut off from my previous world and could not bring anything to show any connection with my family. This magatama was said to contain biometric data of my ancestors. However, it had some functions in addition to the data storage function.

That was the means of contact with Maou. Maou is an artificial intelligence. Once activated, it can respond instantly, it does not need time to sleep or private time, and there is no need to adjust the schedule when conducting broadcast conversations such as with the leaders of each country. Of course, it has no physical body, but it was possible to have a conversation at any time as long as there was a device to project images and the magatama.

This was a function added because of Maou's desire to take immediate action if something went wrong again with Maou and my approval (from my bloodline) was required. And the fact that Maou is an artificial intelligence means that Maou, who just appeared in this room, is here in a sense.

I who suddenly called Maou, (I don't know if it is programmed that way), told Maou that I was confused.

"Maou. I want you to decide if it is possible."

"What do you mean?"



I told Maou about Yuriga's plan.