

Chapter 160 - Level 4 Magic Treasure Map

As we are collecting the magic stones and materials,

"Thank you very much for having saved me before."

I was chatted up by the warrior whom I had roughly rescued some time ago. However, thanks to my <Magic Hand guided by Thought>, his armor and shield have ended up warped...
I felt slightly awkward.

"No, that is, sorry for denting your armor and so on." (Shuuya)

"Eh? Ah, something like that is a cheap price to pay for my life. I had resolved myself to die for the sake of my friends."

Going by this reaction, the young warrior hasn't apparently noticed the state of his own armor yet. At that point,

"Aaaaahh, Ruka! You're alive!"

"Ruka's aliveee——!"

his party members, who ran away, came back.

"Alf Rulexander, Mimi Shibishi, Scrane Zukisasagu, Sasuri, Tomilion, Chuoss...for me to be able to meet you once more! This is also thanks to you. Oh, my name is Haruka Zen Southerion. I'm the one leading the party 【Lucys' Game】. If possible, I'd like to hear your name as well." (Haruka)

After looking at his friends, who ran up to the young warrior, with teary eyes, he asked for my name while switching to a serious expression.

"The name's Shuuya. Our party is 【Innocent Arms】." (Shuuya)

"...Shuuya-san, thank you. Please take this as sign of my gratitude." (Haruka)

The chain of a golden necklace, which has three small jewels - red, black and yellow - with old styled carvings that overlap in spirals embedded into it, was clutched in the warrior's hand. Once I check it with Magic Observation, I realize that mana is swirling through the entire chain. I guess it's not merely gold.
This is quite the magic item.

"No, something like that is..." (Shuuya)

When I decline modestly,

"...It's no good with this? It's an item that possesses the effects of a magic defense up, physical defense up, and an increase in physical ability. That's a War Steel Ogre Master's Necklace which is said to have been equipped by the War Steel Ogre Cavalry Division, which exceeds Radford

Empire's Special Groundforce Brigade that's even now playing an active role in the 50-years-war. It's a war spoil heirloom that's been handed down in my family. Please, accept this as my thanks for having saved my life." (Haruka)

Even if I'm told something like this...

It's not like I saved him with the wish of getting money or items.

...I'm quite bad with things such as this.

Save, being saved. Thank, being thanked.

Isn't it fine with only that much? Though that's not something I can say here, I suppose.

"Ruka-san, I can't accept this. Your feelings of gratitude are plenty for me. We don't need any more since we defeated the Death Emperor's party and obtained their materials and magic stones." (Shuuya)

"But..." (Haruka)

He has an expression telling me that he wants to show his gratitude somehow.

This ikemen youth is quite attractive.

I guess his character is great, too.

"...To be frank, your attitude as shield bearer was too cool and dazzling. That's why I went as far as saving you. Come on, your friends, who celebrate your survival, have arrived too, so please go to them." (Shuuya)

"...I won't forget this debt. Having been able to meet a great gentleman like you is a blessing." (Haruka)

"Haha, you're exaggerating." (Shuuya)

It's a feeling as if being hit on by an ikemen...

"No, that's not true. Your performance in killing the Death Emperor, your body movements, and your assessment of the situation; all of it has been amazing...if possible, I'd like to employ you as high executive under the direct control of my Earl household...can't you come visit my mansions in either the Southerion territory or in Pelneet in the future? I will show you my personal gratitude while having a chat there. How about it?" (Haruka)

Ruka-san appears to belong to an Earl family.

An employment, huh? I'm thankful for the offer.

But, can this whimsical me be contend with working under someone else? No way.

"...No, no, umm, just the thought is more than enough." (Shuuya)

"...R-Really? An outstanding talent like you is extremely needed in the war against the Empire, though..." (Haruka)

War, eh? At the moment I have no interest in that.

"Even if you talk about war, I'm just an unsophisticated adventurer." (Shuuya)

"I understand. However, since I will inform everyone in the mansions of an adventurer with the name Shuuya, please feel free to visit my mansions at any time." (Haruka)

I don't plan to go, but let's be polite,

"Okay." (Shuuya)

He released an ikemen smile and obediently returned to his friends.

That person is very likely popular with women.

The members of 【Lucys' Game】, who had gathered and were waiting for him, all made merry due to Ruka's return while crying.

"Ruka! How wonderful! It finished without me having to tell your father sad news."

"Haha, Toren Chuoss. It's likewise great that you're safe. Don't forget who retreated the fastest after saying, "The hell we can die in such place before dying in the war against the Empire," okay?" (Haruka)

"Ugh, I mean, didn't you frantically shout that all of us should run away as you will become our shield...?" (Chuoss)

Hearing that, Ruka smiles.

"That's true. Fuhahaha, it was just a joke." (Haruka)

I see, going by the situation, I suppose that option was very probable.

Since they escaped far too quickly, I misunderstood it as them abandoning him.

Those members must have run away while harboring overwhelming sorrow.

As I'm looking at them with complicated emotions,

"Something like not accepting the remuneration, Shuuya, that's admirable. I got a better opinion of you." (Rebecca)

the one who praised me is Rebecca.

The blinking of her golden eyelashes made her blue eyes stand out.

It's a commendation with a smile while her eyes sparkle.

"...Well, that's only natural, right?" (Shuuya)

Since I was seriously praised by Rebecca for a change, I became happy and talked to her with a broad smile.

"Ah~ It's the expression when you're getting cocky." (Rebecca)

Rebecca immediately identifies my expression.

"Nn, certainly, Shuuya has a well-proportioned, flat face." (Eva)

Ugh, Eva.
Saying something unnecessary while smiling gently.

"Nyaa."

Even Rollo, who's resting on my shoulder, meows once and unreservedly hits my shoulder with a cat punch.

"Rollo-chan is obviously thinking the same as well!" (Rebecca)

"I love Master's face and smile." (Viine)

Oooh, good job, Viine.

"Eeh!? A nonchalant confession!" (Rebecca)

Rebecca squints slightly and glares at Viine.
Without being perturbed by her gaze, Viine looked at me as if elated by her victory.

"His Excellency is a supreme being of a great blood line..." (Helme)

Next even Helme, who bowed her head while genuflecting next to me, stated something like this.

"Nn, I also love Shuuya's flat face." (Eva)

Eva casually goes along with the flow of the conversation.

"Eeehhh! Spirit-sama and even Eva, too...then..." (Rebecca)

Somehow the flow of the conversation urges her on.
Rebecca's faces becomes bright red and she mumbles...

"Me too..." (Rebecca)

She whispered.
I will tease Rebecca, who is showing such a cute reaction, a bit.

"Umm, Rebecca-san. Can you say that once more, a bit louder this time?" (Shuuya)

"...ngh. Bah, I don't care!" (Rebecca)

Seemingly understanding that I'm messing around since I'm laughing while putting my hand to my ear, Rebecca turned her back on me in a huff.

"Haha, Rebecca, don't be so mad. I'm sorry, okay? Can't you turn that adorable face of yours in my direction?" (Shuuya)

Once I follow up like that, it causes her back to twitch and Rebecca turns around with a smile on her face.

She's easy to understand.

"Humph, so you do get it?" (Rebecca)

"Nn, Rebecca is getting carried away as well." (Eva)

"Ugh, my bad. Even Eva...your violet eyes are pretty, aren't they...?" (Rebecca)

Rebecca couldn't be angry at Eva who smiles tenderly while sitting on her wheelchair.

"Nn, thanks." (Eva)

My slaves silently watch the spectacle.

They don't have faces as if asking "Just what are they doing?"

The raw materials and large magic stones of the Ghost Knight and Ghost Priest were resting in their hands.

It looks like they completely finished collecting everything of value.

Once I look their way, they approach after seemingly having read the situation.

"Master, it's the loot."

Representing the slaves, the courteous Mamani handed over the loot.

"Got it." (Shuuya)

Let's put into my item box.

"Well then, listen up everyone. We will challenge the magic treasure map after taking a break."
(Shuuya)

"Roger." (Rebecca)

"Nn, agree." (Eva)

"Okay." (Viine)

"Certainly!"

We construct a camp.

Eva, who has stacked up rocks and stones, ignites a campfire using the firewood she gathered.

We all set up a big tent which was as big as three tents.

I don't bring out the magically-built house (Magic Home).

After all there wouldn't be enough beds, and it would be too small with the slaves included.

In exchange, I took out an abundance of food ingredients from my item box, and when I treated everyone to a simple stew using the deep pot provided by Eva, they were delighted.

"This soup was delicious. I already said it the other day, but Shuuya, you can cook quite well."
(Rebecca)

"Guess so. But, it's mostly because of the ingredients' freshness. It's also thanks to Eva having brought along a deep pot." (Shuuya)

"Nn, Shuuya, that's not true. Your cooking skill is fairly good. I'm sure Din would agree with me." (Eva)

The chef working at Eva's restaurant, huh?
His dishes were really amazing.

"Thanks, though I feel the opinion of an expert would be a lot harsher. Well then, let's get a rest soon? I will summon Helme and the Burning Knights. They will stand watch, so feel free to sleep without worry, everyone." (Shuuya)

"Oh, I haven't seen those Burning Knights yet." (Rebecca)

Rebecca says with great curiosity while staring at my ring-shaped magic tool Darkness Prison Bone Knights.

"That's true. Want to have a look?" (Shuuya)

I hold up the ring while smiling.

"Of course. Right, Eva?" (Rebecca)

"Nn, I'm interested." (Eva)

Rebecca brings up the topic with Eva.
Eva agreed by nodding, and gazed at my face.
Her two violet eyes appear to be sparkling.

"Here I go then..." (Shuuya)

In order to meet the expectations of the two beauties, I hold out my hand in a grand manner.
I nailed the pose with my finger.
While acting all cool, I touch the ring and summon the Burning Knights.
As always, two similar threads stretch into the air from the ring, draw an arc, and cling to the ground.
Two burning knights materialized alongside a seething smoke on the ground.

"Your Excellency, the Black Burning Knight Zemetas has arrived."

"Your Excellency, the Red Burning Knight Adomos is eagerly awaiting your orders."

The two burning knights bow their heads while having one kneed placed on the ground.
The slaves immediately reacted due to the Burning Knights' appearance.

"Oooh, they were summoned!"

"Wow...how to say it...Master! You exceed our imaginations in everything - martial arts, magic and

tactical insight."

While Mamani and Souther raise their voice in admiration, they imitate the Burning Knights and bow their heads while genuflecting on the ground.

"T-This is mysterious." (Bia)

For a change Bia showed a surprised expression.
What's mysterious here is a surprised expression on a snake face.

"Summoning technique, a first-class warrior...you really are a great magic spear user who has exceeded even magicians..." (Fuu)

Fuu whispers with her pupils dilating.
Rather than being surprised, her expression was one that seemed to be driven by fear.
Next,

"Nya."

Rollo releases a light meow.
The belly of Rollo-san, who finished eating stew, stuck out like a potbelly.
Approaching the Burning Knights with a relaxed pace, she takes enigmatic actions such as entangling her tail around their bone legs and pushing her paws against them.

"Those are the Burning Knights..." (Rebecca)

Rebecca watches Rollo playing with the Burning Knights while her eyebrows twitch.
It doesn't look as if she's overly surprised.

"Yea, indeed." (Shuuya)

After casually affirming Rebecca, I turn my face in the direction of the Burning Knights.

"You guys are going to watch the perimeter of this camp. Let me know if monsters appear. It's fine for you to fight them, but it's important that you tell me." (Shuuya)

"Yes! I shall demonstrate the patrolling skill of the Black Burning." (Zemetas)

"Leave it to the Red Burning." (Adomos)

Patrolling skill; as if you have something like that. I didn't voice that retort out though.
The Burning Knights begin to patrol outside the camp.

"Nn, Shuuya, summoned from that magic tool ring?" (Eva)

Eva asked.

"Yeah, I explained it a bit before. It's the ring-shaped magic tool Darkness Prison Bone Knights (Dark Hell Bone Knights)." (Shuuya)

"...An item related to the spirit world (Sebdora). Shuuya, you fine?" (Eva)

Eva asks worriedly.
Her violet eyes seemed to flicker.

"I'm alright...I have a strange emotional connection with those guys. —They are my important subordinates who have turned undead." (Shuuya)

As I'm saying all that, I draw close to Eva and hold out my hand.
It held the implicit message "Go ahead and read my mind."

"Nn!" (Eva)

Seemingly guessing my intention, Eva grasps my hand.
Although her hand looks like the white hand of a noble lady, it's actually quite firm.
There are many calluses on its palm.
It's evidence of her having practiced a lot with those black, extending rods (tonfa).
Eva is truly admirable. She's a beauty and I like her angelic smile.
Her boobs are in reality big, too. What blessing would it be if I could massage them.
As I was pondering such things while Eva was touching my hand, her eyes began to swim and her white cheeks reacted by gradually becoming red.

"...Nn, Shuuya, ecchi." (Eva)

Eva releases my hand while looking embarrassed.

"Aaah~~! Shuuya, what weird stuff are you doing to Eva while grasping her hand!" (Rebecca)

Rebecca said and stood in front of me, apparently trying to protect Eva.

"What do you think I'm doing? I have just grasped her hand. There are various things about our strategy from now on that have to be..." (Shuuya)

"Humph, despite not having said a single thing..." (Rebecca)

"No, you don't get it. I tried to form a deep cooperative link with Eva using eye-contact, but I suppose that's still too early for you to comprehend, Rebecca-kun." (Shuuya)

"...Somehow that cocky face of your reaaaaallly pisses me off." (Rebecca)

Rebecca hits my chest armor with her small, white-fish-like hand as if nudging it.

"Ah." (Rebecca)

"—You do have some nerve to hit His Excellency." (Helme)

Helme lightly slaps away Rebecca's hand, apparently protecting me.

"Master." (Viine)

Viine stood in front of me, too.

"Auu, Spirit-sama...I beg your pardon." (Rebecca)

"Hitting His Excellency is not allowed. Make sure to pay attention to that from now on." (Helme)

"Y-Yes, Spirit-sama..." (Rebecca)

Rebecca withdrew her hand from me and apologized.

"Helme, it's okay, so go back into my eye." (Shuuya)

"Yes, Your Excellency——" (Helme)

Accepting my order, Helme liquefies within milliseconds and flew into my left eye in a spiral.

"...Fast. Spirit-sama is really dwelling in your left eye, isn't she? How mysterious. At first I couldn't believe it, but employing a living spirit, moreover a Spirit-sama with a consciousness...I can't even begin to imagine what kind of spell is needed for that. It goes beyond my understanding of what I have learned..." (Rebecca)

Rebecca is dumbfounded and astonished by the spirit who entered my eye.

"Is your hand alright?" (Shuuya)

"Ah, yeah." (Rebecca)

Rebecca shows me her right hand.

Given that the finger marks on her hand have become slightly red, I grabbed her slender hand and pulled it towards my chest.

"Ah." (Rebecca)

"Let me see——" (Shuuya)

I cast the advanced 《Water Cure》 and activate it.

A shining, transparent clump of water directly hits Rebecca's hand.

In an instant the finger marks disappeared and the skin returned to its normal color.

"Thanks, but for you to expressly use magic for something like this..." (Rebecca)

"It doesn't matter, does it? It doesn't cost us anything anyway." (Shuuya)

I smile pleasantly while holding Rebecca's hand.

"Y-Yeah..." (Rebecca)

With her face being bright red, Rebecca brought her face close to my violet armor.
A faint, nice, citrus scent wafts over from her.
Taking it in through my nose, it's indeed a pleasant scent. Wonderful.
At that moment,

『Your Excellency...sorry for having caused you trouble.』 (Helme)

Helme appeared in my field of vision and apologized.

『I fully understand your sentiments. You also went easy on her, didn't you?』 (Shuuya)

『Yes, since you are a supreme gentleman, Your Excellency, I ended up getting agitated against my better judgment.』 (Helme)

『Aye. I will respond to your feelings.』 (Shuuya)

Helme vanishes out of sight once I give her mana.

『Nnh, aahn, thank y-you...v-very mu-much.』 (Helme)

I poured plenty of mana into her.

『I will rely on you from now on as well then.』 (Shuuya)

『Yes.』 (Helme)

"Master...what are you doing?" (Viine)

My flirting with Rebecca was stopped by Viine's scornful look.

"Umm, it just happened, I guess?" (Shuuya)

"I-It's nothing——" (Rebecca)

Rebecca separates while apparently embarrassed.

"Is that so? Then it's fine——" (Viine)

Viine seems to be slightly jealous.
She clings to me while pressing her big boobs against my right arm.
Man, she's so adorable.

"Aah~~~~~! Doing something like this immediately after I distanced myself!" (Rebecca)

"Nn, Viine. Bold." (Eva)

Rebecca and Eva closed in while saying those things, and clung to me on the opposite side of Viine.
Since Eva is in her wheelchair, she's close to my nether region...
This is one incredible harem.

『Even those girls, who saw the divine works of you, probably realized it. Your Excellency's greatness, fufufufu.』 (Helme)

Helme is overjoyed without getting angry.

Probably because it's right after a fierce fight, everyone seems unable to suppress their excitement or it's the after-effect of the adrenaline that was discharged by their brains.

Even though the main act will follow after the break.

At this point I focus my mind, return a friendship hug to them for the time being and shift to a stern expression.

The heartwarming scenery will have to stop here.

"...Everyone, you're tired, right? Let's take a rest. After all we will challenge the magic treasure map afterwards." (Shuuya)

I talk while focusing on embracing them with my words.

"Oki, your right." (Rebecca)

"Nn." (Eva)

"Okay." (Viine)

Rebecca, Eva and Viine regain their faces as adventurers and separate from me after agreeing

I sit down in one of the tent's divisions and take a rest.

Come to think of it, Rollo isn't here.

Once I looked around, I found her.

Rollo has transformed into a black panther and is giving instructions to the Burning Knights while using her tentacles.

They were performing joint patrols.

I wonder, is that Rollo's way of acting like the Burning Knight's boss?

Well, let's leave them do their thing.

Finally the magic treasure map, huh?

Just what kind of Guardian is going to appear alongside the treasure chest?

If it's a Death Emperor, it will be relatively easy since we have already experience with that kind of monster.

Hannibal, whom I had decipher the map, mentioned the names Ogre King and Black-tentacled Red Octopus (Za Shurk).

He said that it would be random, but...

Oh well, I will lay down for a bit now and check my status.

Let's check the new combat occupation and my new skills.

Status.

Name: Shuuya Kagari

Age: 22

Title: Super-Warrior of the Water Goddess

Race: Light Demon Lucival

Combat Occupation: Magic Spear Blood Chain Master

Strength: 22.3 → 22.9
Agility: 23.0 → 23.5
Stamina: 20.7 → 21.2
Mana: 26.3 → 26.9
Dexterity: 20.3 → 21.0
Spirit: 28.3 → 29.2
Luck: 11.2

Current Status: Calm

It has gone up quite a bit.

At once I touch the evolved Magic Spear Blood Chain Master.

※Magic Spear Blood Chain Master※

A peerless lancer, only attainable for the very first time ever after meeting conditions which are riddled with overly complex obstacles.

Chains, martial arts, blood, mana, spirit, and physical ability; all of it can be considered to be at its peak.

That was all.

It seems to be a unique occupation no one else has achieved.

I don't know how many people live on this planet, but I'm pretty sure that it's a very rare occupation.

No matter where I tap the explanation screen, no further windows are shown.

Next is checking the skills.

Skill Status.

Obtained Skills: <Throwing>, <Demonic Brain Speed>, <Hide>, <Night Vision>, <Inhalation of Odour Technique>, <Blood Chains Banquet>, <Thrust>, <Meditation>, <Life Magic>, <Guidance Sorcery>, <Magic Combat Style>, <Magic Hand guided by Thought>, <Sage Art>, <Summoning>, <Ancient Magic>, <Crest Magic>, <Darkness Drill>, <Darkness Drill – Magic Spear Break>, <Language Magic>, <Chain Spear of the Ray System>, <Powerful Slash> (NEW), <Blood Acceleration> (NEW), <Beginning of Dusk> (NEW), <Dusk's Stake> (NEW), <Blood Chain Search> (NEW), <Dimension of Darkness Blood Chain> (NEW)

Permanent Skills: <Power of True Ancestor>, <Natural Gift of Magic>, <Torrent of Light Darkness>, <Drain Soul>, <Immortality>, <Darkness Adaptation>, <Blood Mana>, <Suzerain of Bloodkin>, <Super Demonic Brain Nimble Sensation>, <Magic Combat Style Knowledge>, <Guidance Magic Knowledge>, <Spear Sparring>, <Chain Sense Guidance>, <Magic Crest Construction>, <Instant Staff of Water>, <Spirit Employment>, <Divine Beast Serene Mind · Soaring>, <Blood Path - First Gate>, <Blood Path - Second Gate>, <Blood Path - Third Gate> (NEW), <Factor Engraving Increase> (NEW)

Extra Skills: <Language Comprehension>, <Granted Seal of Light>, <Chain Factor>, <Demonic Cerebral Spine Revolution>

There's really many of them now.

First I will check the permanent skills which I acquired recently.
Let's start with <Factor Engraving Increase>.

※Factor Engraving Increase※

Chain factor increases by one more.
As long as it's your own body, you can apply a new Factor wherever you like.
However, <Factor Engraving Increase> can't be used more than once.

I touch the Extra Skill <Chain Factor> which seems to be the origin from where the new skill was derived.

※Chain Factor※

- Special Armor-Piercing Derivation <Banquet of the Blood Chain>
- <Chain Sense Guidance>
- Special Pierce-Through Derivation <Chain Spear of the Ray System>
- <Factor Engraving Increase>
- Special Blood Derivation <Blood Chain Search>
- Special Dark Blood Derivation <Dimension of Darkness Blood Chain>
- ????

It seems to have evolved, and I can still acquire more.

Now then, where should I add a <Chain>.

For sure I won't mess around and add it to my forehead, my belly or my butt.

It's fairly ridiculous to imagine a chain shooting out of the forehead or butt, so let's stop it at the level of imagination.

So, in the end the foremost candidate is the right wrist.

Or rather, I don't think there's any other place than there.

It will be fine since there's a little space at the right wrist which has the item box installed.

I invoke <Factor Engraving Increase>.

In front of my eyes the exactly same mark as on my left wrist floats up accompanied by a strange sound of water.

...It's a snake-like chain spiral.

For an instant I had the impression that it moved towards a part of the right hand's palm and wrist.

Then <Chain Factor> was engraved at a spot between palm and wrist.

As a test, I try to slightly extend a chain from the new Factor mark.

Ooh, it worked. It was a success.

I also make a chain appear from the existing mark on my left wrist.

Making the two chains float in midair, I casually play around by creating a small puzzle ring and changing it into a Moebius strip.

As they properly extend from and constrict into the marks, they will be useful.

Having the sharp, tear-drop shaped chain tips face each other, I have them poke each other.

Come to think of it, when I wandered through the dark underground, this chain definitely served as emotional and physical support...thank you, my chain.

I manipulate the chains, making them nod. (Sure thing.)
In such manner I became childish inside the tent, continuing to play with the chains.

Now then, enough of playing around.
Next I will check the new skills.

※Blood Acceleration※

A unique skill acquired through the Light Demon Lucival's Blood Mana's <Blood Path - Third Gate>.
Using blood, the body's speed will be accelerated.

Hmm, going by its name, it's simple. But it's obvious that it's a very essential skill.
A speed-up that used blood.
It's equal to an increase in the ability to handle things impromptu even better, in addition to Magic Combat Step.
It can create a faint difference in timing.
Gaining the strategic advantage of possibly several milliseconds in close combat is an extremely big deal. Speed is a very big factor in combat after all.
It might be more important than a special or lethal move.
Fuhahahaha, I can incorporate it into my spear techniques.
...Now then, let's touch the next skill.

※Beginning of Dusk※

A special, unique space-time skill acquired through the Light Demon Lucival's Blood Mana's <Blood Path - Third Gate>.
A dark, imaginary, different dimension world is created in the surroundings. If an opponent is within that imaginary world, nightmares that encroach their mind can be freely specified and planted. Moreover, in case the target's mental resistance is low, the target, who's mind was polluted, goes crazy and dies in an instant.

This is the very definition of a vampire skill, moreover it's not a common one either.
I tap the next.

※Dusk's Stake※

Instantly produces darkness stakes that can be arbitrarily and easily manifested in the dimensional world of darkness.
Its specification range is limited to what's within the user's visual field.
Furthermore it's freely possible to make countless stakes appear from a dimensional darkness space that was created through Beginning of Dusk.

I see.
Next.

※Blood Chain Search※

A blood probe, a special Light Demon Lucival's Blood Mana-type Derivation of the Extra Skill, Chain Factor.

I think, if blood is spilled on a blood chain or if a bloodstained object is pierced by the blood chain's tip, the blood chain's tip will probably indicate the direction towards something related to that blood.

It's not about detecting water or ores, but a search skill, huh?

It fits perfectly to search for missing people.

The start of a different world version of Private Detective Kagari's^[efn_note] Seems to be a character from a detective drama series aired in Japan from 2003 to 2008^[/efn_note] bureau?

With Viine as assistant.

The culprit is among these people! Grandpa, you're wrong.

The criminal is Ya○! No, that's wrong, too.

Well then, let's stop with the delusions and check the next.

※Dimension of Darkness Blood Chain (Dark Dimension Chain)※

Blood Darkness, a special derivation of the Extra Skill Chain Factor, and a space-time skill of the Light Demon Lucival's Blood Mana category.

In a state of having created the dimensional world of darkness; a blood chain that completely tears up the target including the imaginary dimension.

The explanation ends with only that much, and even after touching around, no further details are shown.

However, it's easy to understand.

I think it's fine to regard this as combo derived from Beginning of Dusk which is connected with the space-time attribute.

It's restricted, but I will consider it as powered-up version of <Banquet of Blood Chains>.

I want to try testing it in the next battle at once.

Hehe, I'm looking forward to it.

At that point I erase the status and shut my eyes while putting both hands on the pillow.

I don't think that I will be able to sleep, but I will take a rest while using <Meditation> for a bit.

◇◇◇◇

Several hours later, everyone has woken up, and all members assembled at the towers' entrance.

We settle our positioning by splitting up in vanguard and rear guard.

By the way I woke up and stopped <Meditation> within several minutes. Afterwards I joined,

Rollo, Helme and the Burning Knights on their patrols, hunted Dead Knights, Bone Casters and Poison Flame Wolves that spawned in the area between the camp and the towers' entrance, and gathered a big amount of large magic stones and medium magic stones, exceeding the numbers needed for the requests.

"Alright, I'm going to use this magic treasure map. Everyone, get ready! ——The rear guard's preparations are finished, right?" (Shuuya)

I loudly say.

""——Yes, Master!""

"Yes."

"Affirmative."

"I shall do my best."

"——Gooo ahead~" (Rebecca)

I had the magician-type members gather on the far distant side.

The strategy is for them to keep away at the beginning.

Once they confirm, I take out the magic treasure map from my item box.

The "IV" and the "Floor 5" characters float up distinctly.

The drawing of the two towers and graveyard, and the highlighted X mark clearly overlap at the location in front of me.

It seems the treasure chest will spawn if I place the map over there.

The instant I put the map on the ground, a magic source gush forth gushed out of the ground.

——A huge golden treasure chest had appeared.

A little later, a big Skeleton Knight, which had boarded an ancient chariot with bone wheels and pulled by three bone horses, appeared alongside a strange melody behind the golden treasure chest. Furthermore, ten Dead Knights, two Dead Monks (Deathray), as well as several dozen Acid Bone Swordsmen and Bone Casters spawn around the treasure box as if piling up on each other.

As they stack up too much, there are also some that collide with fellow monsters and collapse.

I summon the Magic Halberd into my right hand in an instant.

I deliver a <Thrust> against a Dead Monk at the moment it spawned by extending the red spear of my Magic Halberd.

Unable to react, the blue robe, which covered its body, instantaneously goes up in flames, and the Dead Monk collapses with its pierced bones falling apart.

Immediately after defeating it, I pull back the Magic Halberd while widening the distance for a moment.

Rollodeen (Black Lion) deploys her six tentacles and her tail at the same time.

Mowing down the Acid Bone Swordsmen and Bone Casters, she blew them away into the distance. The Burning Knights get going as well.

The Black Burning Knight crushes a bone horse while being assaulted by a Dead Knight. The Red Burning Knight decapitates the boss of the Bone Knights who tumbled over and fell down.

They displayed splendid combination work.

At that point Bia raises a war cry.

She invoked a provocation skill to temporarily draw the attacks of the Dead Knights and the Dead

Monks towards herself.

Perfectly timed with that, ice pebble spells, beam arrows, earth pebble spells, chakrams and fireballs were released by the rear guard and directly hit the Dead Knights and Dead Monks. The Dead Knights, alongside their bone horses, who had gone into a charging mode, are blown away.

Following up on the assault vanguards, Souther and Mamani, whose movements I watched with a sidelong glance, I unleashed <Chain> from my left hand towards the big Skeleton Knight who was riding the chariot.

However, that shitty Skeleton Knight evaded the first, quick chain attack by crouching.

I make the chain wriggle in midair, and try to hit the Skeleton Knight by making the chain's tip draw an arc, but it continues to dodge.

I thought that it would be my win if I could directly land the chain only once, but I was too naive. Despite being big, its reaction speed is abnormally high.

Very well. I changed my aim to the chariot.

Piercing the ancient bone chariot with my chain, it's entangled manifold around a bone wheel in no time.

In order to guide it from around the treasure chest to the right side, I pull the chain alongside the Skeleton Knight on the chariot, while moving myself to the right as well.

The bone horses, which were tied to the chariot, fell down while crashing into the ground. The Skeleton Knight was also tossed on the ground.

Great, I guess he won't be able to use that chariot any longer.

Everyone would have become quite confused if they had been attacked with that chariot.

The Skeleton Knight, which was thrown off the chariot, doesn't seem to have suffered overly much damage.

While standing up, using its four arms, the eyes in its blackened skull brightened up as two orange dots within its sunken-in eye sockets.

I glare at those orange lights.

I suppose I will quickly finish off that Skeleton Knight and join up with the others.

Time to test a new skill! ——I start running in a forward-bent posture.

"Let's goooooooooo!" (Shuuya)

I release a battle cry, and without making use of <Demonic Brain Speed>, I trigger the new vampire-type skill, Blood Acceleration.

——Blood Magic <Blood Path - Third Gate>.