

## Chapter 161 - Unknown Guardian

T/N: <Darkness Drill – Magic Spear Break> -> <Darkness Drill – Magic Destruction Spear>

I activate <Blood Acceleration>.

The blood that seeped out through my skin covers the Evil Dragon King's greaves.

Strangely my blood doesn't stick to the ground.

It gathers at the soles of my greaves.

I kick the ground — wow, amazing! My speed is twice as fast.

It's inferior to <Demonic Brain Speed>, but with a quickness that's definitely higher than Magic Combat Steps — I charge forward in a forward-bent posture—

I approach the big Bone Knight with the orange light dwelling in its sunken-in eyesockets.

The magic letters carved onto the surface of its black armor stand out.

Two thick upper and two lower bone arms grow out of its sides.

Those four arms grasp flamberge-like longswords that are clad in blue light.

I suppose those are its main weapons. How refined.

Well, I don't have any intention to allow it to use them.

Let's show it my power as one and only Magic Spear Blood Chain Master.

The Bone Knight is wary of me who draws close with an abnormal speed.

It crosses the flambeges held by its upper arms in front of its chest, and lowers the flambeges in its lower arms, adopting a double-cross defensive stance.

Let's break it apart.

I carry out a feint as if trying to pierce its chest with the spear end of my Magic Halberd.

And activate <Chain Spear of the Ray System> in succession—five from a short distance—

At the same time I unleash <Chain> from both my wrists—while also releasing a 《Chain Ice Snake Arrow (Freezing Snake arrow)》.

The Bone Knight skillfully repelled the five <Chain Spear of the Ray System> with its four flambeges.

—No wonder that this guy is a guardian.

However, it can't defend against the chains and the 《Chain Ice Snake Arrow (Freezing Snake arrow)》.

The two chains that had transformed into bullets pierced its torso and one of its thick bone arms.

The chain entangles itself around the Bone Knight's legs and torso as if encroaching upon them.

At that point the 《Chain Ice Snake Arrow (Freezing Snake arrow)》 hit directly—well, no, it didn't.

The water spell is completely repelled by its armor and vanishes.

Oh well, something like that,

"—doesn't matter in the least!" (Shuuya)

I rush at the Bone Knight which can't move about as its entangled by <Chain>.

I closed the combat distance in a forward-bent stance.

The instant it entered the range of my halberd—

I step on the ground with a force that apparently leaves behind a footprint—

And trigger at the same time <Darkness Drill – Magic Destruction Spear>.

The Magic Halberd, clad in darkness, starts its characteristic buzzing—

First the <Darkness Drill> —

The devil-like halberd, which had turned into a streamline of red and black, very easily penetrates the Bone Knight's armor — a crunching sound couldn't be heard, but the spear of the Magic

Halberd penetrates up to the Bone Knight's back.  
Moreover, the Destruction Spear's Grand Pulse manifests.  
The Destruction Spear's Grand Pulse which proceeds straight ahead while rotating——advances with a momentum that overtakes the <Darkness Drill> from the Magic Halberd's tip.  
In the instant the Destruction Spear's Grand Pulse caught the Bone Knight's torso——  
The Bone Knight's left upper body half was gouged out.

"Guoooooo——"

The Bone Knight lost a part of its body in a flash.  
It screams painfully while bending backwards and collapsing.  
It's half of its body, but just by its shout, it's the true definition of The Monster.  
The Destruction Spear's Grand Pulse disappears after having broken through the Bone Knight.  
But, the real show starts after this.  
I cancel <Blood Acceleration>, and activate <Beginning of Dusk> ——  
In the twinkling of an eye darkness spreads around me.  
A dark night that's linked to my consciousness——  
<Beginning of Dusk> expanded while squirming, apparently encroaching the labyrinth's wasteland like the dark despair of the dead that creeps along the ground.  
The fallen Bone Knight is engulfed...no devoured by the dark night's dimensional field.  
—Darkness. I feel power. The bottomless power of darkness...  
The construction of a dimensional world, a world of pitch black darkness.  
I laugh boisterously due to the power welling up within me.

"Ahahahaha, fuhahahaha——" (Shuuya)

I'm in high spirits.  
That's the true power of a vampire.  
My expression seems to be completely dangerous.  
Oh well, whatever.  
And then I looked at the Bone Knight laying on the black ground.  
Even without using any skills, I can clearly see within the darkness.  
The orange lights in its eye sockets trembles.  
Somehow it looks as if the lights have become smaller.  
Has the mind pollution already started?  
Hmm, the opponent is a monster of the darkness as well.  
It's probably resisting.  
Without any hesitation I activate <Dusk's Stake> against that bone bastard.  
The <Dusk's Stakes> that appeared from within the world of darkness raise the Bone Knight's back into the sky with countless stakes penetrating its body and protruding out of its chest.  
Hahahaha, now that's a skewering, isn't it?  
However, I'm impressed of the guardian's toughness.  
Even while stabbed by <Dusk's Stakes>, there's still a faint, orange light dwelling in its eye sockets.

"There's no doubt that you're a tough one. But, it's time to bid farewell——" (Shuuya)

I activate <Dark Dimension's Blood Chain>.  
Like red meteors, countless blood chains appear from within the darkness world that's linked to my consciousness.

Once the blood chains tear through the darkness world while repeatedly causing many glass-shattering-like sounds, I'm allowed to peek at the original labyrinth world. The change is amusing. Of course the Bone Knight is ripped apart by the blood chains and vanishes within the world of dark night.

My visual field completely reverted back to the usual labyrinth area.

Only one of the flamberges held by the Bone Knight is left laying on the ground...

There's no magic stone. Well, I suppose it's possible that everything will be swallowed up if an opponent is defeated by being dragged into the created dark dimension field.

I guess I will pick up that fallen sword.

If it's Viine, Souther or Manami, one of them might be able to use it. Otherwise it's also fine to sell it to the Second Prince.

I put the blue-shining sword into my item box.

And then I looked at the state of my friends.

They are still fighting in the vicinity of the treasure chest.

There's still a great number of Dead Knights, Acid Bone Swordsmen and Bone Casters left.

However, not a single Dead Monk is left standing.

As expected, they placed priority on defeating the monster type that chain-fired those frozen pebbles.

In a location slightly away from the treasure chest, Rollodeen, who resembled a black lion, is fighting.

Stabbing and defeating the Bone Casters and Acid Bone Swordsmen, which she had blown away, with her tentacle bone swords, she bit and ate their bones.

She sure has strong gums.

I guess I will also join the melee around the treasure chest and kill some monsters.

I won't use <Beginning of Dusk>.

After all it's a technique of a True Ancestor Vampire.

If I use <Dark Dimension's Blood Chain>, the magic stones will be gone, too.

Let's hold back on that for now.

Having said that, I will still use <Blood Acceleration>.

Going by my examination, this can be used at the same level as Magic Combat Steps.

If I use it properly once in a while, it will allow me to feint with subtle timings.

It should definitely work well against formidable enemies.

While imagining such a tough opponent whom I haven't seen yet,

"Everybody—I got rid of the guardian!" (Shuuya)

I yell—

And swung my Magic Halberd vertically after moving my body as if performing a running long jump.

—A Bone Caster is split in two by the red ax blade.

"Oooh."

"—Nothing less of you, Master!"

While shifting the angle of my Magic Halberd by slightly changing the direction of my arm, I check everyone's state—

There, the Acid Bone Swordsmen—

I move forward—diagonally to the front and not just one or two steps—after accelerating as if

floating above the ground——

Towards a group of drifting Acid Bone Swordsmen——

I swing my halberd —— and at the same time I focus on my toes, performing a half rotation——

I felt like I could see for an instant a wind that had transformed into a crimson gale in the space between the area where I had swung my Magic Halberd to the front.

Several Acid Bone Swordsmen were slaughtered all at once.

Furthermore, just for caution's sake——

I shoot <Chain> from the <Chain Factor> on my left wrist.

While operating <Chain> that had extended far, I create a big shield for Rebecca and Fuu who haven't come forth as vanguards.

It might not have been necessary as the Burning Knights are standing in front of the magicians, but——

After that I shifted completely into a mode of total annihilation.

As expected, Bia, who held a big shield while struggling at the front, was covered with injuries.

However, Mamani and Souther toss healing potions to Bia while covering her so that she can use those.

Bia's wounds heal immediately.

Moreover, Manami and Souther demonstrate magnificent moves.

They wield their weapons while crossing over to the left and right as necessary.

They repeatedly advance and fall back while matching each other's timings by maintaining slightly misaligned positions.

They are like a couple that has been married for many years.

They defeat the Acid Bone Swordmen and Dead Knights while simultaneously keeping them in check.

With nimble movements Souther severs the right hand of an Acid Bone Knight while having her sword's blade trace a trajectory similar to drawing a parabola.

Those are the movements of a skilled swordsman rather than those of an adventurer.

She reliably kills Acid Bone Swordsmen while leading them around by the nose.

Eva, who's in the rear, made a swarm of metallic needles, which were covered by her violet mana, crash into an Acid Bone Swordsman.

The monster ends up covered with needles like a hedgehog, and collapses.

Moreover from a distance, Rebecca——released a fireball towards the group of Acid Bone Swordsmen surrounding Bia.

As magician, Rebecca has a perceptive tactical insight.

She's assisting the vanguards in a timely manner.

She had been magnificent when she formed a party with me and my partner, but it's obvious that her boasting about having good grades at the Magic Academy were no lies.

Viine steadily adds precise attacks as rear archer.

Her mannerism as she readies her jade snake bow is elegant and transcendental.

I'd like her to wear an archery attire (T/N: the Japanese one ofc).

Once a beam arrow pierces a Bone Caster, that Bone Caster explodes.

Next a beam arrow strikes the nether region of another Bone Caster.

It has no ballz, but its lower body half was blown off all the same.

And then she faces the last remaining Dead Knight and prepares herself.

Pulling back the laser bow string, her action is stylish yet again.

Both her arms are clad in an aura.

A dark elf who readies a jade snake bow.

The emerald beam arrow unleashed by Viine flies in-between Souther and Manami who fence the Dead Knight in by making use of their speed.

The bone horse, which carried the Dead Knight, was pierced by the arrow.  
The shot horse crashes to the ground while neighing.  
The Dead Knight also kisses the ground.  
The upper body half of the Dead Knight violently crashed on the ground and was pulverized due to the impact, but receiving concentrated fire from everyone, the Knight turned into bone scrap alongside its fallen bone horse.

—Alright.

All monsters that had spawned around the treasure chest have been defeated.

"Yahooooooo!"

"They are dead!"

"Oooohh."

"Naturally!"

"We did it!"

"Nyaoon."

Rebecca and the slaves exchange high fives.  
They appear extremely delighted.  
Helme and Rollo are happy as well, but their celebratory behavior is the same as ever.  
Even Eva makes her wheelchair transform.

"Nn, we did it." (Eva)

She rejoices while advancing in her Segway-type wheelchair.

"—Master! We won!" (Viine)

Viine ran up next to me and lowered her head while genuflecting.

"Yeah, we sure did." (Shuuya)

The Burning Knights come up to us as well.  
Everyone is safe and sound.

"Your Excellency, we played an active role in the beginning!"

"Us Burning Knights solely focused on defense at the end."

"Aye, good work, you two." (Shuuya)

The simple armor with a bra worn by Bia had become tattered, but...

"Your Excellency, the mission came to an end successfully." (Helme)

"Yeah, it did. Helme, you fired plenty of spells, right? You're tired, aren't you?" (Shuuya)

"Yes. Therefore..." (Helme)

"Got it. Come here." (Shuuya)

"Yes!" (Helme)

Helme transformed into her liquid state and settled into my left eye.

『Good job, I will give you some mana.』 (Shuuya)

It's her reward for having done her best.  
I pour a somewhat larger amount of mana than usual into Helme.

『Aahnn, I-I'm happyyy.』 (Helme)

『Alright, I guess around this much should be fine.』 (Shuuya)

『T-Thank you very much.』 (Helme)

Helme's voice was unusually, high and passionate.  
Now then, let's check the contents of that treasure chest.

"I guess it's locked?" (Shuuya)

"Master, do you want me to check?" (Viine)

Viine lifted her face and asked me.

"Please." (Shuuya)

"Yes!" (Viine)

Viine approaches the treasure chest which is sparkling with a golden color.

"Nyaa."

Rollo-san chases after Viine.

"Master, we will collect the magic stones and raw materials." (Mamani)

Mamani said something like that, seemingly intending to represent the slaves.

"Understood." (Shuuya)

The slaves each hold a big bag and follow Manami.  
They went to collect the magic stones and monster remains.  
What a thoughtful group.

"Master, I disarmed the traps and also opened the lock." (Viine)

Oohh, you rock, Viine!

It took a bit longer than with the silver treasure chest the other day, but to disarm the traps and unlock the treasure chest; I'm sure of it, she possesses a magnificent lock-picking skill.

It's the knowledge how to disarm traps, or rather her skillfulness, but I'm pretty sure that her lock-picking skill is so great exactly because her basic abilities are a cut above others.

I also head over to the big treasure chest.

"Nn."

Rollo presses her cheek against the treasure chest and rubs it.

"Rollo, step aside as I'm going to open it." (Shuuya)

"Nyao."

Rollo purred and stopped leaving an odor mark behind.

"—You did well, Viine." (Shuuya)

Bending a knee next to the treasure chest, I give Viine my gratitude.

"Yes! I'm happy that I could be useful to you, Master!" (Viine)

Viine lifts her face and looks at me gently from below her silver faceguard.

"Wow. I watched how you disarmed the traps and opened the lock, but I must say, you're really excellent." (Rebecca)

Rebecca praised Viine's ability.

"Thank you. I'm reasonably experienced in lock-picking and trap removal." (Viine)

"Experienced, huh?" (Rebecca)

"Nn, Viine, excellent." (Eva)

Eva also comes up next to the treasure chest and praises Viine.

By now Eva's look is not the one that urged me before to be cautious of Viine after reading her mind anymore.

I think she's opening up her heart to her.

"Very well. The lock is open, so I guess we should open it." (Shuuya)

"What are you even saying, that's only natural." (Rebecca)

"Nn, naturally." (Eva)

"Yes!" (Viine)

Now that I received permission from the three beauties, I guess I will open it.

I grab the lid of the big treasure chest.

As I do, Rebecca muttered, "I think I'm about to get a nosebleed," in a whisper from behind, but let's pretend to not have heard anything.

—I open the heavy, golden lid.

At once my eyes are dazzled by various items shining with a glaring mana light.

Yeah, yeah, yeaaaah, it's here.

A huge object. I will postpone this for now...

Well, let's check it out without getting flustered, starting from the weapons first?

Two, blue, matching longswords in scabbards, a big, black shamshir in a red grape colored scabbard, a large disk weapon similar to a shuriken with a black chain attached to it, a two-handed ax with black ripples, a short spear and a dagger with yellow blades, a long wand with an embedded dark red magic gem, a short wand with an embedded dark ochre magic gem, a bundle of steel arrows that are tinged with a black luster, and for some reason a farmer's fork.

Let's next look at the armor pieces.

A big square shield, a small round shield, a straw hat, a half plate armor with black magic letters engraved, a chain mail with a faintly yellow glow, a three-parted one-piece made out of silver threads, a light blue dress for children, several shell-like hair ornaments, ten sets of shell swimsuits, a pearl necklace, a bracelet with embedded black and white magic gems, earrings, a helmet like those worn by Roman soldiers, a face guard and a collar like those worn by Warring States Commanders, and an iron-plate-like thigh guard.

Following, a new, enciphered magic treasure map, a chest strap with a big pocket, two small pouches with strings attached, a fishing rod, some jewels, gold bars, silver bars, and a great number of deep green and black steel ingots.

Next, a bonsai-like flowerpot that has no obvious reason to be here, and a big frame where one can affix paintings. I understand the frame since I have seen magic painters, but as for the flowerpot...

And, what stands out the most in a certain sense, a medium-sized refrigerator and a small refrigerator.

Just as the one at the prince's place.

The treasure chest's size is big as well, but even this refrigerator is fairly big.

Oh well, it's a golden chest, so I suppose anything goes.

However, from their appearance they are quite different from the refrigerators I know of.

They possessed a place where you can install a magic stone, and they had rugged, depressed spots like the surface of a rock.

Given that I can't sense eerie mana from any of the items, I conclude that there are no cursed items.

The purpose of the potted plant is dubious, but...oh well, whatever.

As I'm deeply deliberating about my impressions after opening the treasure chest, my friends patiently wait behind me.

"Huh? You won't look?" (Shuuya)

I turn around to the three and ask.

"Ah, yeah, we thought you'd like to first have a careful look by yourself or something like that."  
(Rebecca)

"—I will look." (Eva)

After simply saying so, Eva laid her hands on the golden chest and peeked inside.

"Ah! Eva! How sneaky!" (Rebecca)

A little bit after Eva, Rebecca also thrusts her face into the golden chest.

"Then me too." (Viine)

Viine tried to approach the chest while looking indifferent.

"Waah..." (Rebecca)

"Nn, amazing..." (Eva)

"T-This is..." (Viine)

Yeah, I get you.

The amount and quality is no match compared to the time with the silver chest.

"Isn't there another magic treasure map again? A golden chest is too awesome." (Rebecca)

"Nn, we won't know unless we get an appraisal." (Eva)

"Yes. It's as Eva-sama says. It depends on the appraisal, but since it comes out of a golden chest, the possibility of it being a dead map is high." (Viine)

"That's somewhat regrettable. But, we will get it appraised, right?" (Rebecca)

Rebecca asks me.

"Yeah, I don't know whether we will have it appraised right away, but well, I think sooner or later we will." (Shuuya)

"Yay! Let's tackle it together again." (Rebecca)

"Sure. But, how are we going to split these treasures now?" (Shuuya)

Rebecca gulps, "...L-Let's see. Won't it be fine if we say what we want like before?"

Haha, I thought that she would say that.

"Why not. After all we are already close friends in Innocent Arms." (Shuuya)

I agree while laughing.

"Yahooo." (Rebecca)

Rebecca frolics around with a very happy face.

Eva looked at her with an angelic smile.

Viine is staring at the contents of the chest. I wonder, is there something that has piqued her interest?

"Viine, what's wrong?" (Shuuya)

"Yes. This special tree growing in the flowerpot. It might be a legendary item. It's possible that it's a "Talking and Moving Plant" as considered to have been owned by the 【8th ranked Sorcery Noble Sal'Mayarl】." (Viine)

Legendary!?

Certainly, there's mana dwelling within it, and the potted plant is moving slightly.

Ah, its branches moved a bit as well. Small, bluish-white fruits are growing on them.

『What mysterious item.』 (Helme)

Seemingly interested in the treasure chest as well, Helme says so while moving her legs as if performing a breaststroke within the treasure chest.

"Viine, do you know the name of this potted plant?" (Shuuya)

"If I remember correctly, its name is Millennium Plant." (Viine)

"Millennium, huh? I wonder, what kind of effect does it have?" (Shuuya)

"Once it grows up, it will become able to move and talk. It has been passed down that your mana will increase if you eat its fruits. The secret medicine made out its blue fruits is sold for a lot as mana recovery medicine and item to increase ones mana. I heard that this is the reason for the Sorcery Noble Sal'Mayarl household to have become wealthy." (Viine)

Viine explains fluently.

It's such a smooth explanation that I feel like retorting with "Are you an appraiser?"

『So it's such an item. Certainly those fruits do look delicious. Your Excellency, please give me a fruit when I come out next time.』 (Helme)

She wants it?

There are growing several of those fruits on the plant, so I can spare at least one for her.

『I will consider it. Please remind me when we have some free time.』 (Shuuya)

『Yes.』 (Helme)

Come to think of it, this also made its appearance in Viine's talk about her past, didn't it?  
In short, it's a transcendental bonsai.

"...If it's such an item, we will place this potted plant at home as replacement for a vending machine." (Shuuya)

I think it will be alright to give one to Helme once it's been set up at our house.

"Vending machine? I don't quite understand, but I think that's fine."

"Nn, potted plant, amazing. Viine, you're well-informed." (Eva)

Eva looked into the treasure chest, but responded to Viine's words.

"Hmm, this and the frame, it might be usable by chance, but this is also really nice. Whaaa, the necklace..." (Rebecca)

The eyes of Rebecca, who was next to her, had turned into \$ marks as usual as she was rummaging through the treasure chest.

But, her clearly expressing her preferences is likable as well.

"Now then, let us choose as well." (Shuuya)

"Yes." (Viine)

"Nn." (Eva)

The one I want the most among these is...

I don't think that I will use it much, but I think it's the short spear with the yellow blade.

No, the potted plant, I guess. It's a legend after all.

At the moment when Rebecca's excitement had calmed down,

"...So, did you make up your minds?" (Shuuya)

"Ya." (Rebecca)

"I did." (Eva)

"Yes." (Viine)

The three beauties focus their eyes on their respective desired items.

"Well then, we will start from Rebecca." (Shuuya)

"—This!" (Rebecca)

What Rebecca pointed at with her white finger is the the long wand with the embedded dark red magic gem.

So it came down to this wand after all.

"What about you, Eva?" (Shuuya)

"Nn!" (Eva)

Eva's slender hand stretched out towards the deep green ingots.  
Ores again?

"You, Viine?" (Shuuya)

"Yes!" (Viine)

The bluish-white finger of Viine pointed at the bracelet with the embedded black and white magic gems.

"Got it. Everyone, take your respective, desired item. It's before the appraisal, but I think we can test them out." (Shuuya)

Everyone picks up what they want.

"I will take this potted plant and the short spear." (Shuuya)

I directly store the two items in my item box.  
Since I might not use the short spear, I will pass it to Bia in due time or use it as simple throwing spear.

"Now then, there's still plenty left, but what are we going to do with it?" (Shuuya)

Eva nods.

"Nn, plenty." (Eva)

She says while looking at the chest strap and pouches in the treasure chest.

"Let's see. These pouches and chest strap might possibly be item boxes?" (Shuuya)

"Oh, it seems so." (Rebecca)

"Yes, you might consider that to be correct." (Viine)

As there are three of them, I shall pass them to those three.

"Well, as there are three of them, Viine, Eva and Rebecca, you can each take an item box." (Shuuya)

"Eeeh? Is that really alright?" (Rebecca)

"Shuuya, generous. But, I have one." (Eva)

She shows the small silver tube located at her waist.

"So you already had one, Eva." (Rebecca)

"Master, is that really fine with you?" (Viine)

Rebecca and Viine don't show hesitant expressions.

"Don't worry. We are friends. The more the number of people who possess one increases, the bigger the loot we can carry." (Shuuya)

"Nn, certainly, I agree with Viine and Rebecca getting one." (Eva)

Eva consents.

We encourage the two to take an item box.

"Well, I think I will accept it then...I will do my best as member of Innocent Arms." (Rebecca)

Rebecca shyly picked up a pouch and declared those words while holding it up.

"Very well." (Viine)

Viine grabs the chest strap-shaped item box.

"...Whoaaa, this and this fits in there. Awesome." (Rebecca)

"So this is an item box." (Viine)

Both of them put in and take out the items in their hands.

They seem fundamentally different from the item box owned by me. The pouch and chest strap item boxes apparently don't show detailed displays of the capacity and similar.

Next the shell-like hair ornaments and the pearl necklace.

Let's give those to the three as presents.

I pick up three hair ornaments. I deliberately ignored the shell swimsuits without saying anything.

"Hey, come over here, you three." (Shuuya)

Viine, Eva and Rebecca draw close.

I affix the hair ornaments in their beautiful hair.

"T-Thanks." (Rebecca)

"Nn." (Eva)

"I'm happy." (Viine)

Since the three show embarrassed faces without saying anything, I ended up becoming embarrassed as well.

"What are we going to do about this pearl necklace?" (Shuuya)

"How about janken, fist-scissor-rock?"

Even in this world, janken is the same, huh?

"Alright. It's a match, Eva, Viine!" (Rebecca)

"Nn, won't lose." (Eva)

Eva casually touches the arm and leg of Rebecca and Viine with her hand.  
I see...it looks like she doesn't want to lose, no matter what.

"Me neither. I shall monopolize Master's love." (Viine)

Only Viine had a zealous enthusiasm for a different reason, but I pretended to not have heard it.

"All together now, jan, ken" (Rebecca)

"Fist""Scissors""Paper"

A draw, eh?

"Once more!" (Rebecca)

"Nn." (Eva)

"Yes." (Viine)

They tie two times with Eva winning in the end.

"Nn, victory!" (Eva)

"How regrettable, I lost..." (Viine)

"Eva, you're really strong." (Rebecca)

"Well, then this is Eva's. Eva——" (Shuuya)

I placed the necklace around Eva's neck as if hugging her while she's sitting in her wheelchair.

"Aah..."

I can hear Viine's and Rebecca's sighs from behind.

"...Shuuya, thanks——" (Eva)

Eh, a slushy, soft sensation!

"Hauaah!"

I had been kissed on my cheek.  
In surprise, I look at Eva.

Eva stared at me ecstatically with her eyes, and let alone her cheeks, her entire face had become bright red.

"Aaaaah!" (Rebecca)

"How very unfair!" (Viine)

Rebecca and Viine shout, glaring at Eva.  
I separated from Eva while having a having a lewd look on my face.

"Master, later, I will also..." (Viine)

"Wai-! Right after Eva, now even Viine is going to show off...even, I..." (Rebecca)

Since it had turned into an extremely embarrassing talk, I bring up a different topic.

"By the way...is it fine to distribute the remaining treasures to the high-class combat slaves? Even though it's before the appraisal at **【Suloza's Old Sorcery Shop】**." (Shuuya)

There's a short silence.  
Ah, yeah, I guess I changed the topic too suddenly.

"...I don't really mind." (Rebecca)

Rebecca, who had been slightly ignored, joined in on the topic even while having grown timid.

"Nn, me neither." (Eva)

"I will follow your decision, Master." (Viine)

Rebecca and Eva didn't object in particular.  
After having seen the combat of the combat slaves from nearby, I think they honestly welcome the raise in combat power.  
Alright, since I got their approval, I will take out what seems to be useful for them.

"I will go ahead and take what they need." (Shuuya)

The pair of matching, blue longswords; these are for the sworduser Souther.  
The black, broad shamshir is for Bia.  
The dagger and the large disk weapon similar to a shuriken with a black chain attached to it; these two weapons for Mamani who looks like she could use them skillfully.  
The short wand with the embedded ocher magic gem for the magician Fuu.  
As for defensive items; the big square shield, the half plate mail with its large size, the thigh guard and the Corinthian helmet that similar to the helmets worn by Roman soldiers fit Bia.  
The chain mail with its faint yellow glow, the collar and the face guard for Mamani.  
The light blue attire for children goes to Souther, and the one-piece made out of silver thread for Fuu.  
I take those items out of the chest.  
Well then, time to retrieve the rest alongside this golden chest.

I could easily close the lid without hitting the refrigerator.  
I suppose this golden chest is special, too.  
Thus I will just place it in the storage of my item box.

"Well then, we haven't retrieved all the items from this golden chest. As I will take it out once more at **【Suloza's Old Sorcery Shop】** on the surface, I will collect this chest for now——" (Shuuya)

...It's damn heavy, but I could carry it in one hand. I tossed it into the item box, and it entered properly.

The previous silver chest vanished after we took out everything, but it was possible to retrieve it.

"With just one arm, how cool." (Rebecca)

"Nn, superhuman strength..." (Eva)

Ignoring the remarks of those two, I checked the situation over at the slaves.

They had apparently finished collecting the magic stones and material, and have now gathered in one place.

I knew from the inflated bags each of them held.

Once I shift my eyes towards them, the slaves assemble.

"Master, we finished looting." (Mamani)

Once again Mamani speaks to me as their representative.

The slaves passed me the materials from their knapsacks and bags.

"—Sure, thanks." (Shuuya)

I toss all of it together with the big magic bags into my item box.

"Alright, there are rewards for you guys, too." (Shuuya)

"R-Rewards, you say?" (Mamani)

"For us?" (Souther)

Mamani and the small Souther ask in surprise.

"Eh?" (Fuu)

Fuu widened her eyes in the same way as them.

"You will give something to this me?" (Bia)

Only Bia stayed calm and asked me while extending her snake tongue.

"That's right. Come over here." (Shuuya)

I showed them the bunch of items which I had divided and placed on the ground.

"Nyaa."

Rollo casually joins them, but ignores everything as she delivers cat punches against the items.

"Whoaaa."

"T-These are..."

"This many."

"There is mine favored shield!" (Bia)

I hand them the items while lightly explaining why they seem usable for them. While looking at the slaves after they equip the items in satisfaction,

"It looks great and the sizes fit perfectly, too. I will take care of the equipment you used before."  
(Shuuya)

I place them in my item box.

"Such equipment...Master, thank you very much!" (Mamani)

The one who thanked me first is Mamani.

Her torso is covered by the yellow-glowing chain mail. On her back is a quiver full of arrows, several daggers are equipped at her waist, the collar at her neck, and the face guard on her face; Mamani truly looks like a tiger warrior. She carries the disk weapon in one hand.

"Master, thank you. I will serve you to my utmost." (Fuu)

Fuu wore the one-piece and held the short wand close to her chest as if hugging it.

"I will also be loyal to you for eternity, Master!" (Souther)

The child clothes suit Souther. She affixed the two longswords to her back, but going by their size, the swords are barely not too long for her. At the moment they look like oodachi because of her small stature.

"This me is blessed by the best master." (Bia)

Bia's appearance has changed the most among the four. The helmet fits her perfectly.

Her upper body is covered by the big half plate mail, she's grasping the black shamshir in her right hand, and the big square shield in her left.

The thigh guard covered her to protect her snake belly as it extends to her lower body.

Even under normal circumstances she possessed a sturdy skin, but now she had become a perfect vanguard knight.

Well, I think with this even she, who's prone to suffer injuries, will become tougher and it will become more difficult to injure her.

"Everybody, it suits you well. I'm also curious about the top of those towers, but our goal, the magic treasure map, has been accomplished. Let's return to the surface?" (Shuuya)

I began to walk after telling that to everyone.

Except for the towers, the ruins of the evil god bother me a bit too, but...

We won't go out of our way as we will advance until the area where it's possible to use the transfer crystal.

While testing the new weapons as we refine our tactics——

We returned along the path we came from while hunting monsters.