

Chapter 173 - Black Tea Oath

While comfortably drinking black tea in the living room, I explained to Eva and Rebecca about the conversation with the evil god connected to the Millennium Plant, about the target adventurer who was brainwashed by a bug, and lastly about the mirrors' gate magic. Because of the very long talk, Rollo apparently lost interest, and fell asleep after curling up at my feet.

"The battle of the gods feels completely disconnected from me. I do get that only you, Shuuya, would intervene in the battle between fellow evil gods by siding with one of them. But, mirror gates? You even had something like that?" (Rebecca)

"Nn, never knew." (Eva)

"I'm aware of it." (Viine)

"Given that I've been together with His Excellency for a long time, it's only natural that I know him best." (Helme)

Helme proudly states.

But, it's a fact. After all she dwelt in my butt for a good while.

"...Spirit-sama, where did you meet Shuuya?"

Rebecca asked Helme timidly.

"At a certain small lake. There I was saved by His Excellency and raised with love." (Helme)

"Raised with love...I'm no match to you in regards to the length of association, I guess..."

"Nn, Shuuya, saving spirit-sama. Great!" (Eva)

"Saved, you say...it was more like coincidence." (Shuuya)

I didn't know about her settling down in my butt...

"However, I really would have liked to know about the matter with the gates a lot earlier..." (Rebecca)

"Nn, certainly. But, I could have noticed it much faster." (Eva)

Eva hints at something.

She still hasn't talked about her own abilities to anyone besides me.

Though I think it would be fine for her to do so now with these members.

It's slightly different in Helme's case, but all others are family tied together by the same blood.

"I knew about it, though." (Viine)

"I'm a bit jealous of you, Viine." (Rebecca)

"Nn, me too." (Eva)

"Who knew about it first or didn't know about it doesn't matter at all. Currently you're my lovers, wives. And, you're also my chosen bloodkin, family. Don't bicker over stupid stuff." (Shuuya)

"Yeah. Family, huh...? Somehow that makes me happy. After I lost my parents, I had only Betty-san...so that means that Eva and Viine will be my sisters from now on, doesn't it?" (Rebecca)

Rebecca addressed everyone while smiling.

"Yes. Together with Eva, we'll be eternal sisters. Blood family. Fellow bloodkin who dearly love Master." (Viine)

Viine nods with a big motion upon Rebecca's question.

"Nn, new family! Sisters! Shuuya's lovers. We all will support him. I will do my best! I will also become good at shoo shoo shoo!" (Eva)

Once again Eva swings her arms, reproducing the motions of my spear or <Chain>.

"I don't get the shoo shoo part, but let's do our best together, okay?" (Rebecca)

"Yes! Let's!"

Viine stretches an arm out towards the two other girls.

Eva transforms her wheelchair into its Segway mode, approaches Viine and places her hand atop Viine's bluish-white arm while saying "Nn."

With a little delay the small Rebecca holds out her slender hand that has a color close to a translucent white, allowing for the hands of all three to join together.

If three gather, they will attain the wisdom of Manjushri^[efn_note]Bodhisattva that represents transcendent wisdom.^[/efn_note] (T/N: This part can also be translated as: "Three heads are better than one/two.")

The girls will likely assist me in various ways in the future, not just with wisdom.

No light is emitted from those three joined hands.

But, it's not only the wisdom of Manjushri. The peach orchard oath between Liu Bei, Guan Yu, and Zhang Fei in the Annals of the Three Kingdoms pops up in my mind.

This might be passed on as the Black Tea Oath among later generations.

Just kidding.

"...It's a deal." (Shuuya)

"As expected of you, Your Excellency. To increase the bonds between the bloodkin and draw out their motivation in the middle of an explanation; your ability is truly admirable." (Helme)

"No need to flatter me so much, Helme." (Shuuya)

"Yes!" (Helme)

Helme straightens her back as if standing at attention.

"Alright. Next I will actually show you the gate magic." (Shuuya)

"Oki." (Rebecca)

"Yes!" (Eva)

I take out the 24-faceted orb (Trapezohedron) and trace one of the symbols to invoke the gate magic.

"...Waaah, amazing, wow! It's really a gate. It's the mirror in your bedroom, isn't it Shuuya? This side can't be seen from the other side?" (Rebecca)

"No, it can't. The mirror over there is just shining." (Shuuya)

"Hee..." (Rebecca)

Rebecca leaves her seat and starts examining as well as touching the gate from one edge to the other with her hands.

"It's just the right opportunity. Everyone, gather around Rebecca. I will run an experiment. I think you can pass through the gate without touching me as long as you're close to me, but just in case I'd like you touch me during the first run." (Shuuya)

"Okay." (Rebecca)

"Certainly." (Viine)

"Nn." (Eva)

Rebecca, Eva, and Viine gather together.

"Well then, all of you, please touch my body. Wherever is fine. We will pass through this gate while you hold onto me." (Shuuya)

However, it developed into a scramble for my hands.

"Spirit-sama, there should be no need for you to grasp his hand?" (Viine)

"It's better for me to hold His Excellency's hand." (Helme)

Viine and Helme compete over my right hand.

"Hey, Eva! Let go! I want to hold it!" (Rebecca)

"Nn, first come, first served." (Eva)

Rebecca hits Eva's hand that's grasping my left hand.
...It's a pleasant view, but I guess I should properly remonstrate them.

"You know, you don't have to hold my hands right now —— just touch wherever." (Shuuya)

I shake my hands, forcing the girls to let go.

"Nn, understood." (Eva)

——Ugh.

While smiling sweetly like an angel, Eva touched my nether region.

"..."

Everyone's surprised by this.
Even Helme stared intensely at my nether region and Eva's hand with her bluish-black eyes.

"Wai-! Even I..." (Rebecca)

"Then it shall be Master's..." (Viine)

"His Excellency's penis shall be protected by me." (Helme)

These girls are definitely screwing with me...
If all for of them were to touch it, it would likely become erect...
Viine is about to rub it.

"Hey! Don't mess around. Hold onto me somewhere else." (Shuuya)

"Nn, not messing around, but...I will touch your arm." (Eva)

"Got it. I will be nice and go for your arm." (Rebecca)

"I shall touch your arm, Your Excellency." (Helme)

"Fufu, I will also switch to your arm, Master." (Viine)

That damn Viine. She's laughing, so she must have messed around after all.
However, I will forgive her since she's cute. And then I confirm that everyone's touching my arms or shoulders.

"Okay. We will pass through the gate like this." (Shuuya)

""—Yes.""

"Nn!"

"I wonder whether it'll work——" (Rebecca)

After coming out through the mirror, we arrive safely at my bedroom. Same applies to Eva's wheelchair.

As usual, the 24-faceted orb disconnects from the mirror, approaches my head, and begins to circle around it.

"We really came out in your bedroom! It's a success——" (Rebecca)

While making her body spin around, Rebecca threw herself on my bed and then straightened her back, resulting in her lying sprawled.

As I grab the 24-faceted orb,

"Yeah, it is. Now we can always return to the mirror here if we use a gate." (Shuuya)

"Nn. the mirror here is plain, but amazing. Is that faceted globe you're holding the key, Shuuya?" (Eva)

Eva asked me, apparently curious about the 24-faceted orb in my hand.

"Yes. Just as I told you at the beginning, I can move to 24 mirrors scattered around this world with this." (Shuuya)

Moreover, I simply explain the places which I can visit at the present time.

1st: The mirror set up in my mansion's room, located in the Labyrinth City Pelneet.

2nd: A mirror located at the bottom of some shallow ocean.

3rd: The mirror located in the basement of 【Beltzam's】 church in 【Hesliphat】.

4th: The witch dwelling 【Saldia Wasteland】, where the wilderness spreads into the far northwest.

5th: A buried mirror showing dirt and darkness.

6th: A buried mirror showing dirt and darkness.

7th: A buried mirror showing dirt and darkness.

8th: A buried mirror showing dirt and darkness.

9th: A buried mirror showing dirt and darkness.

10th: A buried mirror showing dirt and darkness.

11th: The mirror in a warehouse in the Underground City Da'Umezalan, Viine's hometown.

12th: A mirror located on an empty island.

13th: A mirror set up in the house of either some merchant, a major dealer, or a high-ranking noble.

14th: A mirror overlooking snowfall.

15th: A mirror located at a rocky mountain or a cliff with a good view.

16th: A mirror located close to the remains of a ship that's wrecked in shallow waters.

17th: A mirror set up in a room, where time seems to have stopped. It's overflowing with armors, swords, and black frames filled with organs and eerie hearts.

18th: A mirror located in a dark, treasure vault-like place.

19th: A buried mirror showing dirt and darkness.

20th: A buried mirror showing dirt and darkness.

21th: A buried mirror showing dirt and darkness.

22th: A buried mirror showing dirt and darkness.

23th: A buried mirror showing dirt and darkness.

24th: Seemingly has no mirror or some special conditions. The gate doesn't activate.

Once I finished my explanation, Rebecca spoke up.

"I'm curious about Viine's hometown. I think I'd like to see the underground city, the city of dark elves." (Rebecca)

"I don't recommend it...the dark elf society is prejudiced towards the world above the lid. They ridicule humans by calling them magul...dwarves or gnomes are alright, but since there are no elves or human in the underground, you will be either slandered heavily or need to fight for your life, once they find you." (Viine)

"...I-I see. So the empty island or ocean are better? Ahaha..." (Rebecca)

Rebecca became pale as Viine calmly talked about something so cold-hearted. Releasing a dry laughter, she spoke about a different gate as if she had never mentioned the previous one.

"Nn, I'm interested in the one with the waterfall." (Eva)

Eva casts her vote for the mirror with the cliff that looks like it's a huge waterfall.

"I leave the decision to you, Your Excellency." (Helme)

Helme says while floating.

"I think the ocean is fine since I want to wear the shell swimsuit we talked about before, Master." (Viine)

Excellent. Nothing less of Viine.

It's no wonder that she became my very first <Head Servant Leader>. She sure understands my preferences.

"Ah, I remember! We spoke about it, didn't we?" (Rebecca)

"Nn, let's go to the ocean then." (Eva)

"Really? I will give you the shell swimsuits. But, you will wear them, right?" (Shuuya)

"Yeah, I will. I have fully experienced with my body how much of a pervert you are, Shuuya. Fufu." (Rebecca)

Rebecca's blue eyes shone brightly as she lifted the edges of her small lips.

"Nn, please hand them over quickly so that I can change into them once we arrive over there." (Eva)

"Your Excellency, please give me one as well." (Helme)

"Master, me too." (Viine)

I swiftly retrieved the swimsuits out of my item box, and distributed them.

"Alright, I think the second and the 16th gate are both located at the sea. To which one shall we go?" (Shuuya)

"We don't know whether we will need to swim for a bit at the second mirror, right? Thus it might be better to go with the 16th mirror which is close to the remains of a ship." (Rebecca)

"Nn, agree. Even with the second mirror, you won't get wet as long as I surround everyone with my <Mind Force>." (Eva)

"Ooh, that's possible?" (Shuuya)

"Probably. I don't know sine I never tried it, but...like this..." (Eva)

As she says so, Eva's violet eyes begin to shine.

Releasing violet mana from her entire body, she covered Rebecca's, Viine's, Helme's and my body with it.

Our bodies float a bit.

"Is the mana consumption acceptable?" (Shuuya)

"...I have grown as well, but the consumption is steep with four people!" (Eva)

"Eva, don't try the impossible." (Shuuya)

"Nn." (Eva)

Eva stops the violet mana with a sullen face.

Rebecca drops back on the bed while Helme and Viine land on the ground.

"...Your Excellency, I believe it will be easy if I cover everyone with water, but..." (Helme)

Helme says hesitatingly.

"Ah, I guess that works. After all you're a water spirit of everlasting darkness." (Shuuya)

"Yes. If I wrap up the others with water like I do when cleaning your body, they should be able to swim smoothly for several minutes without the need of breathing or experiencing much of water resistance." (Helme)

"I see." (Shuuya)

"...Wow. We'll be able to watch spirit-sama's skill." (Rebecca)

"Something like that is..." (Viine)

"Nn, it sounds as if being wrapped up in water feels good." (Eva)

Rebecca, Viine, and Eva look at Helme's face full of admiration.

The bluish-black leaves across Helme's entire body sway, repeatedly creating waves like ripples.

Though I wonder for how long I wouldn't feel any water resistance...
I guess I will try to ask her.

"Helme, if you cover me with water, can I withstand the pressure of soil?" (Shuuya)

"I wonder. I don't know since I never did it, but it might not be possible if it's too deep." (Helme)

In that case...it's too risky to directly pass through the buried mirrors, I suppose.
Should I experiment by digging into the soil somewhere to find out whether it's possible to crawl up after entering some hole and being buried while wearing Helme on my body? No, wait...if I pass through the gate while covering my body with blood chains, and whittle down the soil around me while at the same time transporting it upwards with my blood chains...that might actually work.
I activate <Banquet of Blood Chains> by manipulating my blood to release it from both arms.
Several dozen blood chains shoot out of my arms.

"Your Excellency?" (Helme)

"—Kyaa!"

"—Nn, Shuuya, red chain..." (Eva)

Seemingly excited, Eva tries to imitate me.

"Master, where's the enemy?" (Viine)

The girls were surprised since I released the blood chains all of a sudden.

"No, there's no enemy. I'm doing research in my own way. Sorry for startling you——" (Shuuya)

I attempt to further improve what I had tried doing as countermeasure against the bug infesting Fuu's head.

——I focus even stronger on <Blood Path - First Gate>.

Prompting the blood chains to shrink, all the chains become smaller and smaller.

Oohh...it works.

It's such a mysterious phenomenon that it even surprises me as the one manipulating the chains.

At that point I release blood from my entire body, and activate <Banquet of Blood Chains> once more while making the blood chains transform.

While focusing on <Blood Path - First Gate>, I make the blood chains, which have been emitted from my entire body like living creatures, shrink, and concentrate to not break the item box or the necklace on my chest...

My entire body is covered by small blood chains. I manipulate the blood chains while wholeheartedly imagining underwear, armor, and various costumes, believing that thoughts can move mountains.

In an instant my silk jacket and the stylish trousers are torn apart, but what's visible beneath is not my naked skin, but a complete set of blood chain armor that's perfectly fitting my body.

Even the area around the small bracelet of the item box is surrounded by the armor in a streamlined shape.

"Awawa...Shuuya transformed...into something like an ogre." (Rebecca)

"I-It's you, Master, right...?" (Viine)

"Mysterious. Crimson blood chain clothes? Armor?" (Eva)

"Your Excellency, what a superb idea. But, your face..." (Helme)

Oh? Once I touch my face...its surface certainly feels rough.

I can see since I haven't covered the eyes, but I'm wearing a mask.

I'm sure it's because I focused on my whole body.

A blood chain costume.

I approach the mirror —— and look at my appearance.

Uwah, the personification of evil. A blood-colored, armored monster.

Isn't that the perfect example of a mad warrior? If I had a broadsword, I think I could slay a hundred people with ease.

My face is also like that of an ogre with sharp spikes at several places. The helmet of a mad warrior. There are spikes similar to the pointed ends of my <Chain> on my shoulder and upper body half, but the clothes look like a jacket.

A layered cuisse with pointed <Chain> ends on the lower body half continued until my toes.

The key necklace I received from master is located in the central part of the blood chain armor, giving one the impression of being a unique mark.

With this armor, it seems possible to use my whole body as a ram.

And, it might be usable for recovering the mirrors buried in the ground while digging through the soil.

But, to the bitter end it's just a possibility.

I think I will actually experiment with diving into the earth while cladding my body in this armor, if I have some spare time.

"Now then..." (Shuuya)

At that point I stop manipulating my blood.

Erasing <Banquet of Blood Chains>, I became nude.

"...I guess we will test the gates and make a brief journey to the sea, beginning with the 16th mirror and then the second one." (Shuuya)

"Pfft, you saying all that while being naked is ridiculous." (Rebecca)

Rebecca laughs.

"Certainly, I guess I look like an idiot." (Shuuya)

"Yeah. Well then, I will go prepare for a bit——" (Rebecca)

"Nn, looking forward to it. I will also get ready——" (Eva)

"Your Excellency, I can go anytime." (Helme)

"Me too." (Viine)

Rebecca and Eva swiftly leave my bedroom, returning to their own rooms.
Viine and Helme remained and drew closer to my naked body.

"...Master, you said there are remains of a ship, but maybe it's an uninhabited island or a bay that's isolated from the outside?" (Viine)

"Maybe. But, since the mirror doesn't seem extravagant, a heavy mirror might have been left behind by pirates that had traveled there for an exploration. Since there could be a pirate base or similar outside the ship, you should get your equipment ready in advance, just in case." (Shuuya)

"Yes, certainly!" (Viine)

After bowing, Viine immediately confirms the items in her chest strap, puts her jade snake bow on her back, and draws the snake sword from its black-scaled scabbard at her waist to check the greenly-shining point of the sword.

"If there's anyone turning their weapons at you, I will drown them in water without any questions asked, Your Excellency." (Helme)

Words that suit the everlasting darkness part of her race.

"That will depend on the situation and time." (Shuuya)

While Helme moves her long eyelashes subtly, her beautiful eyes with their blue and bluish-black hue smile as she answers,

"Yes...I will limit it to sticking ice into their butts at first." (Helme)

...I feel like that's not overly different from what she planned to do before though.

"Well, keep it moderate." (Shuuya)

Viine smiled a bit as she watched our usual exchange.

"Nyao~n, nyao~"

Rollo leaps into my room while raising an unusually lonely meowing.

"Nya."

She extends a tentacle and transmits her emotions to me.

『Worry』 『Disappeared』 『Was there』 『Play』 『Love』

"Haha, sorry, Rollo. You were asleep, so I didn't want to wake you." (Shuuya)

"Nn, nyaa."

Rollo climbs on my shoulder and licks my cheek with all her might.

"Haha, that tickles. We won't leave you behind." (Shuuya)

"Rollo-sama, you felt lonely, didn't you?" (Viine)

"Nyao——"

Rollo got off my shoulder onto the bed and transmitted her feelings to Viine next after extending a tentacle towards her cheek.

"Oh my...thank you very much." (Viine)

Viine's cheeks become slightly red.

"What did Rollo tell you?" (Shuuya)

"Y-Yes, boobs, sliver hair, smell, good smell, love..." (Viine)

"Hee~. I guess Rollo also likes the smell of your hair and boobs, Viine. It's the same for me as well." (Shuuya)

I think it's probably that vanilla-like scent.

"Master, my...smell?" (Viine)

"Yes. Everyone has a characteristic scent. It's difficult to smell it yourself, but your olfaction should have become stronger thanks to the Lucival powers. You don't possess <Inhalation of Odour Technique>, but I expect that you're able to smell it to some extent as well." (Shuuya)

"Certainly...I love your scent, Master..." (Viine)

Viine moved her nose in an unusual way and looked embarrassed.

"I wonder, what are you doing here, staring at each other and flirting while naked?" (Rebecca)

"Nn, can't be careless around Viine." (Eva)

The two showed up at the room's entrance.

"Oh, those are awfully casual clothes, aren't they?" (Shuuya)

Rebecca wears a fillet cap and a dress exposing her décolleté.

The straps of her lingerie are visible on both her shoulders, and her legs are hidden by a loose, silken gown with a sash. It's the perfect outfit for going out during summer.

Only Gulfon's magic wand and her item box are visible at her waist.

She carries a straw bag over her shoulder.

Eva wears a leather cap, the silver-threaded dress we obtained in the labyrinth, and a height-long skirt.

The metallic black tonfa are affixed to her arms. Her small item box in the shape of a silver tube

hangs down from a thin, white belt at her waist.
Emerald-shining, steel feet are visible below her skirt.

"Fufu~. Those are the clothes I bought the other day~. What do you think, Shuuya?" (Rebecca)

Really cute.

"Yeah, can you try spreading both hands?" (Shuuya)

"Hands? Like this?" (Rebecca)

Ooh...her smooth armpits are wonderful...

"How nice. Your armpits are especially magnificent because of the décolleté. I rate it quite highly.
It suits you and is adorable." (Shuuya)

"Ah, thanks." (Rebecca)

Seemingly delighted over being praised, Rebecca shows her happiness by shifting her golden eyebrows while thanking me.

"...Nn, Shuuya, what about me?" (Eva)

Eva's eyes trembled a bit.
It appears she's looking forward to my words.

"The small violet feather sticking to your cap is lovely. It suits you very well as you have violet eyes. The dress holds back on emphasizing your breasts, and the height-long skirt gives an impression of being neat and tidy. It's wonderful. The overall rating is high. You might be the winner in this time's examination of Shuuya's Fashion Panel." (Shuuya)

I say as if I had become some kind of examiner.

"Fufufu, thank you. You're acting as examiner while nude?" (Eva)

"I lost because of a naked examiner!" (Rebecca)

Rebecca laughs.
Once I praise them, they show truly nice smiles.
Naturally I end up breaking into a smile, too.

"Well then, nevermind the nudity, I will go change as well." (Shuuya)

A nude man runs through the corridor with his balls swinging around while heading for the living room.

I don't care that the servants and maids scream after seeing my penis.

I put on the violet armor, overcloak and bandolier.

After revealing my violet armor by spreading the overcloak to the left and right, I returned to my room where everyone's waiting.

"...I will activate the 16th mirror then. Come." (Shuuya)

Rollo climbs on my shoulder, and for the time being I hug everyone.

"Nyaa."

As if saying 『Time to depart nya』, Rollo taps my shoulder with her paw.

"Nn." (Eva)

"Oki." (Rebecca)

"Yes, Master!" (Viine)

"Your Excellency, I'm ready to go." (Helme)

I trace the lines of the 16th symbol on the 24-faceted orb, and activate the gate.
The scenery with the old ship remains unfolded in front of us.

"Waaah, I can somewhat see the ship and shallows." (Rebecca)

"Rebecca, keep the impressions to yourself until we are on the other side." (Shuuya)

"Ah, oki." (Rebecca)

A little bit later than the others, she hugs me.
Just like that we passed through the gate.