

"Sensei, that looks delicious."

"How nice..."

"It sure is extravagant."

As I'm having my lunch, acquaintances call out to me.  
It's Agnes, Betty, and Cindy, my favorite three top students of the magician class.  
It looks like they have formed a party as they are on good terms with each other.

"Sorry. Going by the rules, I can't share any of it with you."

Since procuring food and scheduling the time for eating is also part of the excursion's challenge, they'd be disqualified if I gave them any of my food.

"Those are the rules, so it's only natural."

As expected, the character of the class president type, Agnes, is the very definition of diligence.

"A party of three magicians, huh? Wend, all of them are cute girls, aren't they?"

"Erw...I'll tattle to Haruka, you know?"

"Why? Is simple praise of women treated as cheating?"

"Man, to make a pass at someone else's students."

"Those are completely unfounded accusations, though..."

Leaving the sighing Erw alone, I ask the three about their hunting results.

"We should be able to aim for fairly good rankings."

"That's great to hear."

Since all of three of them are decent magicians, that's no surprise in particular.  
There were some idiotic teachers kicking up a fuss over this year being a poor one since there are no high-level magicians among the students, but the mana of those girls is still growing.  
I think it's wrong to one-sidedly judge them at this point in time.  
Besides, there's a lot of magicians with plenty of mana around me, but in reality it's already plenty amazing to have mana at an intermediate level. After all it's normal for not being able to form parties so easily on a beck's call.

"You didn't get anyone capable of using archery?"

"It's easier for us to work together as we are, and we've got bows with us as well."

All three of them have bows and arrows. It looks like they've hunted quite a bit by using the same tactic Erw and I use, namely, enhancing the arrows with magic.

It appears they have plenty of hunted game in their magician bags.

"Because of you, sensei, our efficiency at hunting has risen greatly compared to before. Thank you."

Cindy thanks me, but seeing something like this feels refreshing. That feeling hits home all the more since I've had to always deal with ungrateful old geezers and middle-aged men full of ulterior motives up until now, instead of girls who honestly show their gratitude.

"Please do your best while making sure to not get injured."

"Sensei."

"Anything wrong, Cindy?"

"Please give us a reward if we win this."

The youngest of them, Cindy, bluntly asks me for a reward. It's a request that could be regarded as shameless, but because of her charming appearance and voice, I don't feel anything like that from her words at all.

"Only if you win, okay? It'll be an all-you-can-eat at the teahouse of the royal family's purveyor. Please inform your other classmates of this as well."

"Ya——ay! Thank you!"



ベッティ

アグネス

シンディ

「優勝したらな。王室御用達のフルーツパーラーで食べ放題だ。他のクラスメイトたちにも伝えておいてくれ」

「やったー！  
ありがとうございます！」

The three, who got me to promise them that I'd treat them if they win, quickly wolf down the bento they had prepared themselves, and go back to hunting.

I've extended the reward to the other students as well, and not just those three, because I believe it's not okay to be partial as a teacher.

"We also had a time when we were so cute, hadn't we?"

"Wend, are you an old geezer, or what? We're still below 20."

"You say that, but considering all the hardships until now..."

All of it were issues that boys and girls shouldn't experience before becoming adults. I think I put up with it because I'm an old man in a young body.

"It's better we stop thinking about those things. But you're right, they certainly feel young."

"Right?"

Even Erw, who has gone through various troubles after getting involved with me, seems to recall his past when looking at Agnes and the other two.

"Still, all of them have bigger breasts than Luise, y'know?"

"Erw, make sure to never say that in front of Luise..."

If she should ever hear of this, I'm pretty sure that she'll beat him black and blue. I would hesitate to even voice out such a dreadful taboo.

"That's obvious. I mean, in Luise's case, even her going easy on someone hurts damn a lot."



After taking a healthy lunch, we kept monitoring the students in the afternoon as well, but before long fail-parties started to stand out.

People who became unable to hunt because they didn't prepare enough arrows, or people whose movement got really sluggish as they had been too enthusiastic in the morning.

All of those were mistakes happening because of lacking experience, but well, I think it'll turn into a good experience as long as it happens now.

"The trio is really going for it."

The three girls continue to hunt without having lowered their pace so far.

At this rate, they might win.

Once we returned to Headmaster Hendrick in the evening, I was asked to shoot a 『Fireball』 into the sky once again.

This spells the end of the Big Outdoor Excursion.  
The gathered students let us tally the game they caught with their parties.  
And one hour later, Headmaster Hendrick announces the results.

"The champions are 『Magical Triangle』!"

Just as I had anticipated, Agnes' party has won the competition.  
It's an overwhelming victory with them pulling far ahead of the group in second place.  
Moreover, 『Magical Triangle』 is the party name of the three girls.  
Since all three of them are magicians, the name contains no pun or anything. I think that it suits them quite well.  
Additionally, many of the parties, which had magicians with them, achieved great results surpassing those of last year.  
My teaching might have been a little bit of use to them.  
While looking at the three girls receiving the honorable certificate and prize on the winner's podium, I alone am deeply moved.

"Wend, those three won without any particular troubles, didn't they?"

"I have to treat them just as I promised. Sensei is someone who keeps his word."

"Is that how it works?"

"Yep."

"Well, do as you like then?"



And then, three days later, I take the three to the teahouse just as promised.  
This place is a well-established fruit teahouse, and because they're also providing the royal family with fruits, they've put a signboard identifying them as royal purveyors.  
They're also running a cake shop. The sweets using the fruits they procure have become quite popular.  
Given that the Baumeister House also sells fruits native to the Demon Forest through the adventurer guild, they're our valued clients.

"Sensei, is it really okay for us to come to such an expensive place?"

The serious Agnes seems to feel apologetic after seeing the extravagance of the store's appearance and building.  
Since even the cheapest sweets cost ten cents per piece, it's a teahouse that's usually out of reach for commoners.  
She's probably thinking that it's beyond her position to come here.

"It's a celebration of your victory. I think it's okay to not mind it for today. I promised you, so sensei will keep his word."

"Thank you very much."

Still, because she's a girl, she does have a soft spot for sweets after all.  
Agnes looks very happy.

"I'm going to eat plenty! Yaho——o!"

"Feel free to do so."

Cindy, who had asked to be rewarded in case of winning the competition, is innocently overjoyed.



"Limited cake. That's what I always wanted to eat."

Since Betty is full of delight as well, it's great that I chose this place.  
Once all four of us enter the teahouse, a refined, elderly man awaits us.

"Earl Baumeister-sama, we have waited for you. I'm Cäsar, the owner of the teahouse 『Brunhild』.  
We are very pleased for you to visit us today."

"Oh, we're pleased to be greeted by the owner himself."

Since it's a popular teahouse, I made a reservation in advance, just in case, but I guess that led to us  
being welcomed by the owner himself.  
It looks like I'm treated like a VIP, after all.

"Most recently the Demon Forest fruits and the sweets using those are very popular. We have been  
expanding our business, too. I'd like to express my gratitude for that with this."

The owner of this teahouse seems to be an acquaintance of Arterio-san.

Joining up with him, the two seem to be in the process of establishing a branch network in the  
capital and its circumference.

The goods distribution in the northern regions took a hit during the Empire's civil war, but overall  
the area around the capital has been booming, seeing as there's also the southern Pangenia  
Grassland development, the capital's redevelopment, and a drastic decrease of slums.  
Therefore the cases of commoners occasionally coming here to splurge as 『Brunhild』 has the  
image of being the right place for it, albeit being expensive, have been increasing.

"We have prepared the deluxe suite for you. Please come this way."

"Sorry for making you go out of your way."

"Earl Baumeister-sama, you're famous, so well..."

There're many guests in the cafe space of Brunhild, and especially the nobles pay attention to me.

If I had my meal in the same area as them, it would become annoying as they would chat me up, so the owner has taken this part into consideration.

"I shall lead the way then."

The owner himself guides us to a private room exclusively reserved for VIPs.

"This is our menu."

"Go ahead and order what you like. Even if you don't manage to eat up everything, it will be fine to take it home with you." (Wendelin)

"We have our magic bags, after all."

In a lesson some time ago, I practiced with them how to create a magic bag for magicians as I was taught by my Master.

If your mana is low, you can only store the content of a single satchel in there, but these three girls can store quite a bit into their magic bags.

If it's at the level of cake souvenirs, they should be able to fit in as many as they like into their bags.

"If you put them into your magic bags, they will remain fresh. In other words..."

"Ya——ay, I'll be able to enjoy Brunhild's taste for some time."

Cindy and Betty check their magic bags with happy faces.

"Thank you for your wait."

"Wow..."

"All of it looks delicious."

"It's just like a dream."

Plenty of sweets such as cakes, puddings, bavarois, and parfais were lined up on the table.

It looks like they also served new products that aren't on the menu yet, and products we haven't ordered.

"These are products we plan to sell starting next week. We'd be very happy if you could tell us about your impressions."

The owner has dished out new products for free, taking our needs into consideration.

I think I'll also take some back home for Elise and the others.

"Then, let's enjoy these without reservations, right?" (Wendelin)

""Yes!""

We begin to eat the sweets in order.

Since I've skipped lunch for this, I should be able to eat quite a bit.

"It looks like I can eat as many as I like of this as it's not too sweet."

"Delicious."

"Pure bliss."

All three pull happy faces while eating the sweets.  
It was worthwhile to have brought them along.

"But, I feel somewhat bad towards everyone else..."

"The condition was to win, so it's totally okay."

It's a view suiting the serious Agnes, but the worlds of adventurers and magicians are ability driven. I have accepted the condition that I'll treat them if they win. Since Agnes' party cleared it, I brought them here.

Since their classmates were given the same condition, it'll be pointless even if they complain about this.

They should have simply won if they wanted to get treated by me.

It's normal for everyone to think like this in this world.

