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"Ugh...so I was transported to some place, as expected..."

"Sensei, are you okay?"

As I open my eyes after having been sent somewhere by the mysterious magic crest, I meet Agnes' face right in front of my nose.

It seems she's been looking after me after I fainted by giving me a lap pillow.

Because my body has reverted to that of a child with a low magic resistance, it has apparently needed time to recover. It looks like everyone has waited for me to wake up.

"Oohh, it seems like you have woken up." (Arnest)

"Sensei, can you move?"

"Somehow...huh?"

I try to stand up as is, but I get dizzy and fall back onto Agnes' lap.

Unfortunately it appears that I've currently only got the stamina of the five-years-old me immediately after reincarnating into this world.

Just having mana is already a gain.

With my mana capacity being at elementary level, I won't be much of a combat power, which means I'll need to rely on Arnest and Agnes.

It's unknown what's awaiting us ahead of this point, but a magician-only party is way too lopsided. Erw not being here is a real bummer.

"Sensei, you have to rest for a bit longer."

"It's unfortunate, but it looks like my current state is as you can see."

Anyway, right now I must recover the stamina I lost through the transfer.

I'm having Agnes giving me a lap pillow, but I don't have the leeway to get embarrassed about it. There's no one else besides us here anyway...

"I want to investigate this underground ruin as soon as we return." (Arnest)

"Say that after we manage to get back."

After all, the possibility of investigating this ruin depends on whether we can safely return to the surface in the first place.

"Agnes-chan, let me take over."

"Please do. I'm going to explore our surroundings a bit."

"Agnes, don't go too far. Make sure to search with 『Detect』."

"Okay, I got it."

Given that they don't have the time to just bother with me, the one with the biggest mana among them, Agnes — leaving Arnest out of the quotation here — has Betty take over in giving me a lap pillow, and immediately begins to investigate the vicinity with 『Detect』.

"There are no responses typical of monsters around us."

As I thought, I guess we won't know any details unless we actually move further in after I recover.

"Sensei, is the area beneath your head not too hard?"

"It's okay, I'd say."

Agnes' thighs were quite soft.

Seeing how she's the top student in the classroom, she probably spends a lot more time studying at home than getting physical exercise.

The thighs of Betty, who hunts often, are tighter than those of Agnes, but smooth.

I wonder how Cindy's thighs feel...bah! Am I some perverted old dude!?

Right now's not the time to check out stuff like that!

"Sensei, sorry. Because I carelessly approached the rat..."

Cindy feels depressed over being the one at fault for us being stuck in such a situation.

"Cindy, with the circumstances being what they are, worrying about things that already happened won't change anything. For now we should only think about how to safely get out of here. That is something important for adventurers."

"Okay!"

As I stroke her head while saying this, Cindy finally recovers her usual cheerfulness. After all it'll become a big impediment for our escape from this place if she loses heart.



"The dizziness is gone at long last."

"Sensei, laying down for a bit longer is..."

"Betty, I thank you for worrying about me, but there's no guarantee that we will be safe here forever. I'm already fine."

"Sensei, please tell us right away if you get tired, okay?"

"That's a matter of course. After all, I have this body..."

For the sake of getting back to the surface, we start scouting out the vicinity first.  
Since nothing has attacked us while I was taking a rest, it means this area is safe for now.

"Earl Baumeister, it would be better if you were to change your clothes." (Arnest)

"You're right."

The clothes I've been wearing are baggy, and the robe is too long and heavy, resulting in me dragging it along the ground as I walk.  
Accordingly I quickly put away my clothes and the robe into my magic bag, and take out the clothes I wore during my childhood.

"Those have lasted quite long." (Arnest)

"I just had forgotten to throw them away."

It proves to be lucky that I have a poor man's mentality of thinking that I might use them for something someday, and that I'm sloppy as in finding it a pain to throw them away.  
They're slightly worn-down, but it's not like I can't wear them.  
While at it, I also take out and equip the lightest short wand, given that I can't use anything higher than elementary magic at the moment.  
This should up the fire power of my magic a bit.

"Good grief...what an outrageous disaster...eh? Why are your faces so red?"

I notice the girls looking my way with blushing faces.

"Sensei, please tell us before you change your clothes."

"I'm sorry, but we're in a state of an emergency right now."

I don't want to waste a single second, and my body is currently the same as that of a child.  
I tell Agnes that it doesn't matter that they've seen my naked body.

"Sensei, it's also an issue of tact."

If it's a party of men and women after they've become adventurers, it's not like they won't ever see the naked body of the opposite sex by accident.  
Such times are the wrong occasions to be oddly conscious of it, not to mention getting aroused. It'll be a problem if it'll cause an influence on the party's teamwork.  
I explain to Agnes and the other two girls that they should quickly get ready to move without minding it.

"Understood. We won't look at the small sensei."

"Now listen...it's because I'm a child right now."

That damn Betty. Taking her attitude towards her big brother into account, I wonder whether she isn't actually an S.



"...Considering that it's a corridor, it sure is spacious. I can't see all the way inside..."

"The width and height is around ten meters. It is extending quite far ahead." (Arnest)

Once I have finished changing clothes, we quickly start moving from the place where we had been transferred to.

We continue proceeding through the corridor, or rather the cave looking like it had been merely drilled through the rock, while relying on magic lamps.

"My pace is..."

Since I've become a child, my steps are small and thus my walking speed is slow, so I'm troubled. Agnes and the others have dropped their pace to match me, and since I get tired quickly, we have to often take breaks.

Being unable to do what I had been normally capable of until now is truly tough.

"Sensei, you okay?"

"Want to join hands with me?"

"It might be better for me to carry you."

"Agnes, make sure to only concentrate on the front. Cindy, if we hold hands, one of your hands will be blocked, which will be no good. The same for you, Betty. If you carry me as rear guard, won't I be in danger instead?"

Currently, Agnes is walking in front watching for any dangers, Cindy is protecting Arnest and me in the middle, and Betty is cautious of our back, but since all three of them are only paying attention to me, I give them a light scolding.

"Proceed in the formation we have decided on in advance. There are times where you will be attacked by monsters or fall into traps when you act on your own accord."

I caution them strongly since it's a matter of life and death right now.

"Even if you warn them with such a body, it lacks persuasiveness." (Arnest)

"It's none of your business!"

I loudly retort at Arnest who makes a witty remark.

Going by amount of mana, this guy should be our strongest combat force, but he's really difficult to use.

"You're also cute when angry, sensei."

"..."

Of all things I end up being called cute even by Agnes who I had considered the final bastion of rationality. It proves that Arnest has spoken the truth, but I don't want to admit that at any cost.

"So, is this going away at some point?"

"That is impossible seeing how the rat has not been destroyed. That rat is a guard to prevent intrusion into the ruin by casting a spell to turn the invaders into children." (Arnest)

Because the invaders will weaken in mana and strength if they are turned into children, it'll become easy to repel them.

"There is nothing here that would be of scientific value." (Arnest)

Arnest seems to be disconcerted with this underground ruin where he can't see anything but rock face as we advance.

He hasn't been looking as joyful as usual.

"Nothing but corridors, caves, and spaces. That will not be able to stir my imagination." (Arnest)

"It's truly nothing but a cave. Still, I wonder how long that will continue to be so?"

"As invaders are sent here through a magic crest, it is a space with some kind of purpose." (Arnest)

It won't be anything good anyway. I've understood that much at the 『Deadly Inversion Regulation』.

"For a magic crest to be projected by the eyes of a dragon carved into a stone pillar, that was unexpected for me as well. Since we also discovered the rat that came from underground to check the situation as a result of us being noisy above this underground ruin, it can be called a lucky break." (Arnest)

"You have it nice, being so carefree, don't you?"

I guess you can also describe it as his nature as a scholar.

Thinking that we could immediately chase after the rat if we widened the hole beneath the stone pillar was a mistake.

To think that there would be a trap that'd send us down here through a transfer crest with the mana, when the three girls tried to use magic, serving as a trigger...

We had been totally unprepared.

Elise or Lisa likely wouldn't have carelessly used magic at that place.

"Because we were transferred, it's also become difficult to return through 『Teleport』."

"It should not be that far away from the basement beneath Baulburg's suburbs, but I think it will at least be a distance that can obstruct 『Teleport』." (Arnest)

Even if not, it's impossible for me to use 『Teleport』 with my current amount of mana.  
In addition, there's many other spells I can't use because of lacking mana.  
Right now I'm no more than a burden.

"Sensei, it's exiting towards a space that looks like a room."

After walking for around ten minutes, we come out in a room, or rather a space that's spreading out a bit.

Just when I wondered whether this corridor would end in a dead end here, there's a pedestal made out of stone in the middle of the room. A dragon statue with an overall-length of three meters has been placed on top of it.

On a closer look, it seems like there's an ascending stairway behind it.

"That means we will be able to go up a floor if we climb those stairs." (Arnest)

"It's a well-made dragon statue."

"It's an object from the Ancient Magic Civilization's era."

"What are you so carefree for..."

Even if I might be in the body of a child, it's obvious to me.  
Or rather, leaving the beginner Cindy aside, Arnest must have noticed it long ago.  
I instantly shift into my combat mode.

"You three, get your 『Magic Barrier』 ready."

I order Agnes' group to immediately enter into their combat stances.  
Arnest...I can't believe that this guy will move upon my orders. Besides he possesses more mana than me.  
Even if his initial response will be slightly delayed, he probably won't die that easily.

"Eh? What's wrong?"

"I mean, that dragon statue is..."

"Then it must be a man-made object..."

"No, that's our enemy."

"Earl Baumeister, look closely above the head of that dragon ornament." (Arnest)

"Picking a fight with me, eh...?"

The artificial rat, who has transformed me into a child, has taken up position on top of the dragon's head.

I wonder, should I interpret this as the rat manipulating the artificial dragon?

"All things considered, 『Detect』 doesn't work on that rat."

"It has been built in such a way. It is a highly-efficient structure allowing the usage of special magic by miniaturizing it to the extreme. Earl Baumeister, I would like you to defeat it as undamaged as possible." (Arnest)

"I can't really promise you that."

After all, I'm not of much use in combat right now, so I have to make Agnes' group fight as the main force.

"You got to do your best then, Arnest."

"My magic attribute is 『Darkness』. It is a magic focused on manipulating the minds of people, demons, and living beings. In other words, it will not work against these artificial creatures. What I can do is to protect you, Earl Baumeister." (Arnest)

With those words Arnest deploys a firm 『Magic Barrier』, sheltering me within. It looks like he has acknowledged my value as sponsor for the sake of his underground ruin excavations.

"That thing is what you'd call a dragon golem."

"Do your best, little ladies." (Arnest)

"Agnes, Cindy, Betty, it's not an enemy you can't win against with the mana of you three. Calm down, and fight while remembering our lessons."

""""Yes, sensei!""""

I make Agnes' group calm down with that speech, and immediately after the three confront the dragon golem, it roars, and we're plunged into battle.

