

Chapter 4 - It Seems to Proceed towards a Search

In reality, Renya didn't have much trust in Shion's words about persuading Rona. The part about her declaring that the friendship is unrelated to the other party being a demon or human was something that made him openly admire it as magnificent as it largely exceeded his own expectations.

However, saying that Shion might have suddenly become excellent because of that, wasn't anything Renya would believe. Even when he tried thinking that it would be fine to do so, there were still the blunders she had piled up so far.

The possibility of Shion simply not thinking too deeply over matters always followed her around. Of course, no matter the method, she had shown him the way to reaching the most ideal solution, which Renya couldn't embark on by himself, so he believed that he ought to acknowledge her for that.

'Even a fool stumbles upon a truth said to surpass a wise man every now and then. Considering it like that, Shion's speech and conduct lacks reason, and persuading others without reason should be called paramount to very difficult.

'Not to mention, the other party here is Rona. She has the role of watching Shion, and going by her position, she's capable of remonstrating Shion's speech and conduct. Since he has that calculative part about her on top of it, there's no way that she'll agree with a search for a demon, which would only offer many demerits. Moreover, since she's recently obtained the title of saint, it's not like she can permit something like a cooperation with demons either.

Since it'd be a quite difficult endeavor even if one's fairly skilled at talking, it probably won't work out with Shion's skills,' Renya judged.

"Shion won me over.

It was early afternoon of the next day when Rona visited Renya's office with a slightly gloomy expression and somewhat dropping shoulders.

With the situation being what it was, there was no way to seek Mayria's assistance for this case. While thinking that he had to search for Emil together with just Shion in the worst case, Renya sat at his desk while pondering about the arrangements of the necessary goods, and racking his brain just what kind of transportation he had to prepare, seeing how the area to look for Emil alone would be ridiculously huge on top of the distance to the demon country being too far with the need to cross the Miasma Forest and whatnot. When Rona suddenly rushed into his office, he at first didn't understand what he was being told. For a short while he stared at Rona's face, who returned his gaze with a somewhat glum and reproachful look.

What puzzled him first was just when Rona might have entered his room, and the fact that he didn't lock the door. When he was focusing on it, Renya was sensitive to the faintest hints of people's presences, but otherwise he was lacking vigilance so much that surprised those around him.

'Even when you approach ferocious carnivores, their reactions will be thin, especially when their bellies are full, but I wonder whether it's something similar to that?' Rona thought while looking at

Renya who was staring at her blankly as if unable to grasp the situation.

They stared at each other like that for several minutes. After taking that much time, surprise slowly dyed Renya's face as his thinking had apparently caught up with reality at last.

"Won over? Eh? Who did? Shion did? You? Why?"

"I'd like you to at least add that it was against my will, but going by your look, it appears that you hadn't expected this at all." Rona said while sighing.

Renya immediately shot back, "I mean, Rona is a Rona, right?"

"My name has completely registered as the definition of black-hearted in your head. Would it be fine for you to stop using me as a synonym for a malicious woman who doesn't listen to others?" Rona demanded without even trying to hide her displeasure while massaging her own eyebrows with her right hand.

Renya nodded at her while believing that he hadn't said anything that terrible, nor intended to do so.

"Leaving that aside, I thought that you definitely wouldn't consent, you know?"

"That sounds as if I've been deceived in a weird way, but normally people don't have anything they definitely wouldn't consent to."

"That basically means, you're scheming, Rona?"

"Could you please stop talking about me as if I'm incompatible with human society?"

Sensitively grasping how anger started to dye Rona's voice this time, Renya nodded. He didn't have the slightest intention to tease her. As he was just pursuing his own curiosity, he didn't want to rub Rona the wrong way.

"Even I told Shion that I'd like her to stop getting involved with Emil any longer when I heard of Emil's true identity."

Renya thought that this might have been a very natural response for a human. But with just this much, he couldn't spot a route leading to Rona being persuaded.

"Shion took my hands, and said that demons were being proper to be hated by us since they are a harm to humans, but that Emil was our comrade and friend, and that she hadn't harmed any humans at least after becoming our friend. She added that we should treat her as our friend and comrade then, and asked whether it wouldn't be only natural for a human to help a friend who might be in trouble."

"What cliched lines."

"Those are splendid words. But, they're too splendid and sounded like an empty slogan. At the very least, they don't sound like words that would touch Rona and make her do a 180° turn in her thinking."

"They were like a trite beauty, but once I considered how Shion had become capable of saying such words, it made me all teary, even if it was a blunder on my side."

"You're really easy..."

"No, even I wouldn't fold in with around this much, so I tightly endured, but..."

Seemingly recalling that time, Rona pressed both hands against her cheeks, and breathed out shortly.

"Once she fixedly stared at me from close-by with those pure eyes full of trust while saying 'Umm, I'm sure you'll understand me Rona' and 'You're going to agree with my view, right?'..."

"You're really very easy..."

"There's no way that I could do something so cold-blooded, atrocious, terrible, and cruel like rejecting Shion's words with those eyes in front of me, is there!?"

Even when she raised her voice to emphasize her words, Renya found it difficult to agree. If it had been a man who got cornered in Rona's place, Renya might have still understood, but this behavior was impossible for Renya to understand, if it came to a talk between two women.

"I will rather die than betray Shion's trust! I just got to feed my title of saint to the dogs!"

"The title of saint sure is cheap...wake up!?"

A sound similar to something loudly falling down in the far distance reached Renya's ears as he wondered what the human's goddess might think about this if she heard those words. Since Renya heard screams that seemed to originate from the maids working in his mansion at the same time, he grasped that a person or something must have toppled over within the building, but Renya only absentmindedly wondered, 'Now then, I wonder what might be going on?'

"Even so, she had an insurance method."

"Hmm?"

"I was told that she'd let her fists talk just like back then when she got to understand Emil, if she couldn't get me to understand."

It looked like the physical persuasion was Shion's final means to get her point across. It was unclear whether Shion really had the intention to resort to violence. Still, in Rona's eyes, talking through fists with the current Shion would very likely lead to a danger to her life.

"I think it was the right call of me to have chosen to give in mentally before being forced to do so physically."

"That makes sense."

"Besides..." Rona hesitated to say for an instant, but immediately continued, "...if not for the information about her true identity, I would have immediately supported the notion to go save Emil right away as well. If you and Shion say that you don't care about her true identity, I have no reason to keep opposing indefinitely either."



"Sorry, that'll be a big help."

Thinking that he had to be proper about what he should say and do, Renya apologized and bowed his head towards Rona. In response, Rona waved her hands in front of her chest in a fluster.

"Please don't mind it. Seeing how I was persuaded, you have my consent as well."

"Please allow me to express my gratitude despite that."

There was no way that danger wouldn't follow them around if they went to search the area from the Miasma Forest to the demon country. Since Rona had been forced to go along with that, it was only reasonable for Renya to feel indebted to her.

"I shall gratefully accept your feelings. Though, in fact it would be much better if I could get you to lend me one thing here."

"On top of black, you're really greedy, eh...?"

"It's a joke. Putting that aside..."

Rona approached Renya a bit, and held out her palm. Not understanding what she wanted, Renya wondered whether she might request money from him, but it was something totally different from what Rona demanded from Renya.

"Please lend me Emil's hair clip."

"I don't mind, but what are you going to use it for? A curse?"

The idea of casting a curse on someone with their belongings as catalyst was relatively popular in Renya's former world. Renya wondered whether Rona might curse Emil as insurance while considering the possibility that Emil had only feigned her friendliness so far seeing how she actually was a dangerous demon.

"I'm a saint for what it counts, okay?"

"There's no law that it won't work if you're cursed by a saint, is there?"

"In the first place, I don't know of any methods to curse others. Anyway, please hurry up and pass me the clip."

Rona, who snatched away Emil's hair clip just as Renya took it out, tucked it away in the pocket of her priestess' garb.

"Since I was appointed as saint, I was blessed with the opportunity to read through various books, and the number of divine arts I can use has grown rapidly, too."

If it had only been an increase of knowledge about divine arts, it shouldn't have resulted in what Rona described just now. The current Rona having attained the foremost ability on the continent as divine arts user was triggered by Shion's rampage a little while ago.

If Rona hadn't healed Shion to the extreme of fainting, the aggregate amount of Rona's divine power shouldn't have increased. Considering from there, it wasn't as though you couldn't say that Rona's current abilities were owed to Shion, albeit in a very indirect way, but Renya felt that most likely no one was grateful towards Shion for that.

"Among them exists a divine art skill allowing to search for someone by using their belongings as catalyst."

"You will know Emil's whereabouts by using that?"

"I will only know the rough direction if there's a big distance between us, but I think it will become more detailed if we continue getting closer to her."

On the one hand he considered it as rather convenient, on the other, Renya wondered whether that wasn't actually a kind of curse as well. Of course, since he felt like he'd get into an argument with Rona if he mentioned those thoughts, he decided to keep them to himself.

"Because it will take a bit of time, I will leave the preparations of the necessary goods to you in the meanwhile, Renya."

"The goods are one part, but the means of transportations is also a problem. It's certainly not like we can cross the Miasma Forest and head to the demon country by foot, right?"

Renya didn't want to think just how many days it'd take to reach their destination if they were stuck walking. Moreover, there was no doubt that the amount of goods to be carried would become ridiculous.

"Please leave that side to Shion."

"To Shion?"

'Now that's an unexpected person to entrust this duty,' Renya felt. 'Leaving aside Mayria, I only feel worries assail me when asking myself whether it'll be alright to leave this in Shion's hands.'

"Shion is currently explaining the situation to the heroes and Klinge's soldiers."

"You do act quickly, don't you...? Or rather, is she spreading rumors about Emil!?"

Explaining the circumstances would result in exposing Emil's true identity. But then again, there was no way that anyone would understand them going to the demon country while keeping Emil's identity hidden.

"She told me that she would definitely convince everyone."

"That'll become physical in the end."

"Who knows, I can't tell you anything about that."

Rona was evasive, but it was almost certain that Shion would use the troublesome way of persuasion called talking it out with her fists towards those trying to persist to the end.

'It'll be great if no one dies from this,' Renya held his forehead.

While Renya was in this state of mind, Rona further added further, "It looks like she's going to arrange for a means of transportation by asking Her Majesty, once she finished her persuasion."

"The archduchess...that'll cause an uproar, won't it?"

The other party was a person shouldering the fate of a nation. Renya couldn't believe at all that such a person would shrug off the information that one of her country's noble was close to a demon as trivial matter. The transportation that she would get the archduchess to prepare also drew Renya's interest, but it couldn't be helped that the archduchess' attitude currently worried him more than this interest.

"In that case, she's going to persuade her as well. Probably."

"Won't that easily turn into a coup d'etat!?"

If it led to something like Shion and the archduchess talking it out with their fists, it would almost definitely end with Shion having replaced the archduchess around the time they finished talking. In that case, it'd like lead to Mayria immediately succeeding her, but it would be extremely difficult to deny that Renya, the lord of Klinge where it all started, had pulled the strings in the back.

"Won't it work out somehow? It will be a simple quarrel between parent and child, right?" Rona laughed out loud after saying this in a very casual and irresponsible manner.