

"Hell's_Contract"_HC_Project_S0rahana_Hell's_Contract



Verse 5: "The Hell's Contract"

"Tatsuoh Yatogami"; that was the name accidentally mentioned by Kanzaki right after the Executioners left and vanished into thin air.

May 08, 2006; there was a Japanese mansion near the clover fields of Hanamaki. That entire land including the mountains behind it were personally owned by the Great Yatogami Family. That land really is classified as beyond extremely vast, it's said that it's even wider than any person could ever imagine.

The Great Yatogami Family were considered as one of the wealthiest family throughout the entire country that time. They were the leading company if it comes to the technologies innovation. Actually; the income that the company earns would approximately reach to millions of \$dollars every month. That is one reason why the surname "Yatogami" is always being followed with respect and honor of every Japanese people.

Satoshi Yatogami is the main person behind from all of that success. He is already 47 years old; that age really is something. It's really obvious that he have already fulfilled his dreams. His 47 years of existence is definitely not considered as a waste of time.

The YUIS - [Yatogami User Interface Series] is the name of their company which produces computers and other gadgets such as digital cameras, smart phones, laptops, etc. It leads the innovation when it comes to technologies that time. Each unit of their limited first issue of computers have the specs of 16GB memory or RAM, 8GB graphics card, and 2terabytes of HDD. Despite the unbelievably high specs of it in that time; the price of it turns out to be the same of the other average-specs computers of other companies. That

way; they easily mass produce it as the people gone crazy on having the first order in the market. Actually Satoshi used his own personal money to mass produce its first limited edition issue. He used that certain technique in order for the company to be quickly well known in the entire world and later on; their products will be trusted by the people. That high specs Computers is only their limited issue event which is being held every anniversary of the company, their grand opening happens to be a very big hit that it led to the company's popularity.

The now known as the mastermind of Shiki Criminal Syndicate; Ryo Kirizawa is still 22 years old that time. He was an employee of the YUIS. Wearing some personal painful feelings towards that company; always being scolded by the CEO and felt like everything is unfair.

The CEO; as well as the president; Satoshi Yatogami is always one sided if it comes to his successor as well as his son. His son was named Souichiro Yatogami.

At that moment, the latest branch of the company was suddenly opened in Kyoto and the cutting of the ribbon was held by Souichiro. The ribbon cutting caused a grand celebration to all the employees including other groups of investors.

Ryo was holding a glass of wine; while consistently watches Satoshi and Souichiro from a distance.

"Hey..,"

His colleague and also his friend; Maeda slightly raised his hand while calling.

"..."

He looked at Maeda.

"Somehow; this is another success for the company."

"I don't think so..,"

Ryo disagreed; then he continued.

"-Maeda-san; that Souichiro, is he really deserving to be the president's successor? Because for what I see.., that guy still needs to improve, the president is bias if it comes to him. That way; probably he'll never grow up in this business."

"It can't be helped. Oh..., I remember it. It's only a month since you've been employed in this company. You know; the president has another son. But unfortunately; that son doesn't have any interest about business. His wife is also gone, she died ten years after she gave birth of her only child."

"-only child?"

Ryo's eyes slightly wide-opened for a split second.

"So you get it now; the President is not the biological father of Souichiro. In other words; Souichiro-san is just an orphan living under the Great Yatogami Family's custody. I guess he would be the most-luckiest person of all. Their family's wealth is inexplicable."

"So that's the reason why the President never criticizes Souichiro."

"From what I know; Souichiro-san came from the "Heaven's Will Orphanage", and the president took him by the age of seven. Souichiro-san's parents died after their house was burned by an insane arsonist. That incident really is tragic, but I guess those things are fated for him to meet that greatest man."

"-but; what about the real son. I didn't see him around these parts. Where is he now?"

Ryo questioned.

Maeda sighed...

"Now; I think he's living a normal peaceful life in his own apartment. Hmm..., I just can't clearly remember his name. I guess it's..., T-Tatsuoh?"



Yes; Maeda was right. Tatsuoh Yatogami was the name of Satoshi Yatogami's true son. At this hour..., which is currently 14:00 or two PM, he was working at a small convenience store. He was working there as a store clerk, earning a salary that is enough to support a whole family. Though also possesses the intelligence, skills and talents the same as his father, he refused to be the company's rightful heir and successor because of his father's self-centered personality. From the time he was still a child, he was enjoying himself playing with his cousin Ayumi and his half-brother Souichiro. They all savor their moments being a child in the vast areas of the clover fields.

But that enjoyment..., was only the times when his mother is still alive.

His mother is always calm, always smiling despite her health problems. She was always at the hospital because of her weak physical condition.

Tatsuoh suddenly remembered his past while he is still lying down the long cushion chair as he's still on his break for work.

[FLASHBACK...]

"Mom.., we're here to pay a visit."

Tatsuoh said; while he was together with Ayumi and Souichiro.

He and Ayumi entered the hospital's room while Souichiro was left behind as if having second thoughts upon entering. He is shy to see his step mother until now.

Mirai Yatogami was his mother's name. She was sitting there; while the other half of her body is lying down the bed. Looking at the entrance; she's staring at the quietly hiding body of Souichiro with her elegantly smiling face.

"Souichiro; come out there..., it's okay."

Mirai said in a very charming way.

"Yeah; Mom's right."

Tatsuoh followed.

Souichiro slowly entered the room with his face casted downwards. He can't make a direct eye contact to his step-mom.

"Oh.., I guess Souichiro doesn't like me at all...,"

She said playfully which is followed with a little smile.

"No! That's not right!"

Souichiro quickly replied while his face is lightly red indicating a sign of embarrassment.

Mirai smiled for the second time as she followed:

"That's the Souichiro that I always wanted to see for this wonderful day."

"Ha.., ha..,"

Tatsuoh laughed to Souichiro, then Ayumi followed as well as Mirai. All of their laughter continued too sudden..,

[END OF FLASHBACK]

His reminiscence just can't help himself but to be sad for remembering his mother.

"Okay.., time to get back to work."

He stands up and heads to the cashier's section when a man (probably a customer) goes in front of him while carrying some items.

Tatsuoh smiled as he said:

"Welcome sir..,"



A group of men was invited to enter the Iwate Prefectural Police Headquarters. It is said that they are authorized directly from the higher ranks. Among that group was a suspicious middle-aged man that is currently wearing a perfectly clean white lab coat.

That man smiles bitterly upon entering the building.

Jin happens to cross him from up close as each of their eyes met for the time being. He felt a very terrifying aura behind that man. His face were like of a high profile member of a syndicate who can commit murder for anytime. He never loses his composure; always smiling with his teeth widely shown. Jin tried to think of that man's objective, but in the end; he just can't speculate any idea of his arrival.

While the suspicious man is continuously walking away and Jin kept on looking his back; he said:

"The people around here; are interesting."



Kanzaki was still a common police officer. Actually he isn't aiming for a higher rank, he is only doing the basic duty of a police officer who can serve justice to anyone. He knocked and opened the

door in front of him. That room was named as the Police Inspector's office.

After opening the door, Kazuto Hibari happens to welcome him inside.

"Kanzaki-san;"

"Hibari-san; if you may know..., what's the name of that group who held a sudden visit? What are they really up to?"

"The higher ranks said that they are only here to observe. I really don't know the details. But I guess they are some kind of a religion group. According to their basic information, it's stated that their members came from different countries. Actually their name is really hard to remember that's why I forgot about it."

"So they are a religion group, I still have doubts that they are only here to observe. Plus; why did the higher ranks invited them to come here, most specifically; in this city."

"I have no clue at all."



It's already 19:00; it's dark, and Tatsuo just finished his shift. Now; he can rest and relax in his own apartment. Luckily, the convenience store where he is employed is only a few steps from his home.

"Okay Sir; I'm leaving."

He said to his manager with all respect.

"Thank you for your hard work. Tatsuoh-san."

The manager replied, as Tatsuoh smiled at him.

He gets out from the store's backdoor carrying his things.

"Huh; finally it's over."

He stretched his arms wide and gazed at the stars glimmering all over the night sky.

It gives him delight, more like he is happy enough for the life that he is living. He is satisfied from everything that he has right now.

"Hey...,"

That was a girl's voice that is somehow being addressed towards him. He faced the direction of that voice as he watches an elegantly looking inexplicable beauty of a lady in front of him.

"Mizuno; so you're here already."

"Of course; honestly I'm excited for tomorrow, Tatsuoh."

"Today's Saturday so tomorrow we're both free. It's time to hang out for just the two of us. I assure you; that place will be great. I know that it's going to be nostalgic for both of us."

"We'd better head home."

The girl said; with her face filled with excitement.

"Okay."

That girl's name is Mizuno Aihara, and she happens to be Tatsuoh's girlfriend. Their relationship is quite strong. They have different interpretation if it comes to things that normal couples usually does. Perhaps it may be kind of weird, it's like they are not showing each of their intimacy to the public. Whenever they are outside, any person can get to the point of judging that they aren't really couples. More like close-friends who always naturally hangs out. It's not that they aren't having affection with each other, it's just that they are enjoying their relationship as it is.

Mizuno was cooking for dinner. The ingredients prepared on the kitchen were a quarter pound of pork, onions, two big potatoes, three and a half cups of water, three carrots, and a quarter pound of curry roux. She already finished cooking a steamed rice. By those represented ingredients, it's obvious that she's cooking curry rice. Tatsuoh was on the living room watching a TV program, his room is approximately 8 tatami-sized wide. It is quite big for a common room, but that place was all from his own expense. He doesn't want to rely on his father, he wants to prove him that people doesn't need much wealth in order to live and satisfy life.

"The dinner is here..."

Tatsuoh faced Mizuno.

"Tonight's dinner is curry rice. It's been a long time since I've cooked again that dish. I hope it'll still taste as good as before."

Mizuno prepared their dinner as the two of them sits near the same table where the food is served. Both of them held their chopsticks and unite their palms, like a prayer as they said in chorus:

"It's time to eat."

Tatsuoh quickly eaten the meat as he was surprised by its superb and inexplicable taste together with its captivating aroma.

"It tastes really good, if I have known for a long time that you can cook dishes such as this great; it would have been a real pleasure."

Mizuno replied to his words with a soft but charming smile filled with satisfaction.

Then, she directed her face pointed to the floor as she starts to become serious.

"You know, Tatsuoh. I'm still very glad that you're the one that I've chosen instead of Souichiro-san. I'm just so happy because now; I can peacefully say to myself that I don't have any regrets with my decisions last month. Plus; I also wanted to take this as an opportunity to apologize, I'm sorry because I have misjudged you. I'm sorry because I have jumped to conclusions. I'm terribly sorry because I assumed that only Souichiro is the person who will fit my life."

"You're still thinking about that until now?"

"Yes; I can't even imagine that I wanted to force myself to Souichiro though he can't even prioritize me as his girlfriend. I'm sorry because I haven't seen the effort that you've done that time."

Tatsuoh held Mizuno's hand.

"Mizuno, never remember about the past okay? Because every time those memories came to flash within you, the only feeling that

you'll get is loneliness. Just think about the present, think about the seconds in this moment when we can still smile to the fullest."

He said, and at the end of those words was a severely apprehended smile.

"Tatsuoh, thanks..."

Mizuno replied with all her heart's content.



Souichiro and his Dad went home together. Souichiro is already exhausted and tired. However, it's like he's setting that troublesome feeling aside.

"Father, do you think I've done enough for you to be proud of me to call me as your own son?"

Satoshi looked behind him where Souichiro is.

"What suddenly comes in your mind to propose that question?"

Souichiro averted his eyes upon hearing his father's words.

"Ah.., uhmm; it's nothing. I'm just..."

Before he finishes his statement, his father crossed.

"So Souichiro; if I honestly answer that question, would you take all of it without hurting your feelings?"

The way Satoshi said it indicates a different meaning. What he said is obviously an indirect answer. He said that it would hurt Souichiro's feelings, then it's supposedly concluded that his answer is a negative one.

But despite that, Souichiro replied with his confident composure.

"I wanted to hear it father. I wanted to hear what you really wanted to express."

Satoshi was a little convinced by the reply that he haven't anticipated.

"Okay Souichiro; I can say that it's still too far for you to reach my success. And without a doubt, I know that you can't be my proper heir. You are one definitely incompetent apprentice..."

Souichiro really felt hurt by those straightforwardly insulting words.

"-you're the kind of person who will never save the day. A coward, worthless, pathetic son that I've had!"

His eyes widened by that loud voice coming directly from his father.

Then Satoshi continued.

"-is that the thing that you wished me to say for you?"

His face suddenly became serious as he answered.

"Of course not; father. First of all, you've already addressed me as your son just recently."

His father smiled convincingly.

"I said a worthless, coward pathetic son. If you know to yourself that you don't deserve to be addressed by those negative comments, then you shouldn't have questioned me. Souichiro, just remember this, only you, can judge everything that you have done. If you know to yourself that you've worked hard, then so be it. Remember

that people's words can deceive anyone, so you should only believe no other than yourself. People who hates you will always find a way to destroy you no matter what. That's why, you should never be carried away by their opinions and criticism. You should be strong, never listen to anyone. Only believe and trust yourself."

"You made that up on your mind because you heard that worthless employee (Ryo) right?"

Souichiro looked down the floor and answered:

"Yes; he said that I still need to improve. I heard him saying that you're bias or one-sided if it comes to me."

"Souichiro; it still depends on you if you take it as a constructive criticism or insult."

After saying so, Satoshi walks upstairs to change his clothes.

While walking briskly, he silently spoke.

"-like I have a choice."

Just what does he mean by that? More importantly, he said all those words far from Souichiro can hear. Was Souichiro's role is only to replace his position someday? He adopted Souichiro by the age of seven after he found out to himself that his own son cannot be the appropriate heir. Is that what he really meant of the concept "no other choice."?

Satoshi must've his personal reason to this. He might've some secrets to Souichiro, but it's like there's nothing that he can do with it, because Souichiro is still in a good shape because of Satoshi's help.



Having a vision of his seemingly blurry eyes, Tatsuoh wakes up from his ever precise good night rest. Today happens to be his promised day to his girlfriend, that's why this time, he is assured that he'll never ruin the calm and relaxing mood. Everyone must be happy; that's that assumption that he wanted to take. Getting up early with the use of his digital alarm clock, the schedule must be precise, there shouldn't be any single interruptions. He goes by towards the window of the kitchen part of his apartment; welcoming the sunrise piercing through his entire body with an ever delightful smile, he says to himself.

"This is gonna be the promised day..."

The time is already 7:00AM, and someone just knocked the door. Of course he knew who that is. A person that he's expecting the moment the day started.

"Tatsuoh?"

A voice of a girl called.

"You can come in..."

That girl was Mizuno. She slowly opened the door while saying:

"Pardon for the intrusion."

She successfully entered as she sit on her knees towards the tatamis of the apartment where in there is a single round table in the middle of it.

"So you really did wake up early.., it seems you're already prepared."

Tatsuoh said, seemingly convinced that Mizuno is quite excited.

"Of course; this is our promised day right?"

Mizuno replied; certainly addressing Tatsuo from the kitchen.



Meanwhile, there was a small establishment resided near the Shizukuishi Town, that infrastructure seems quite old. It was actually an orphanage that was established since 1990's with the name "Heaven's Will Orphanage" -the place in which Souichiro came from. There are many kids at there who lost their parents, but despite that; it feels like those children really are innocent about the world, they are happy playing along with each other, more like a tragedy never passed through their lives. There could also be a possibility that the cause of their cheerfulness is because of the orphanage's proper care and sufficient guidance, but regardless of that; they still can't fully remove the scars permanently marked all over their past.

Some of the orphans have huge and deep wound scars all over their body, it might be because of their apathetic parents who treated them as a wild animal, but some are supposedly caused by a natural disaster or accident. Those scars painted each of their bodies with painful memories that cannot be easily forgotten even if time consequently pass by till the end of their lives. But despite that; anyone couldn't really change the fact that they are still young. So for now; they should enjoy every pieces of their life with the second chance of being capable of wearing a smile again. They must be happy until they become an adult and properly think about their miserable past.

However; even if kids are supposedly playing around this time, it looks like there's someone who's kind of different compared to them. A girl; apparently in the age of 9, just arrived the

orphanage since last night. That girl; she merely resembles her face to Haruka wherein theoretically speaking; she might be the person whom Tatsuo witnessed in Haruka's image the moment the two of them met for the first time.

The same as Haruka, she has a cute looking face, though the attitude that they show to each side is kind of different. That girl is always wearing a very serious look on her face. She might have lost her parents as well, but it seemed like everything that happened to her is much worse than that. She never speaks a word since she arrived, she must be traumatized by the events or tragedies that happened to her.

Remained seating still in a chair, it's like her eyes doesn't possesses any emotions to be spared for this time. Those eyes can't even indicate a shedding tears.



Tatsuo was already driving his car while headed to their desired location. Mizuno was on his side, while taking a deep rest and slumber. She maybe got way too overboard getting to the point that she cannot have enough sleep during night. Based on that idea; it's obviously kind of clear that she's really excited. The place where they are headed are towards the promised place in their promise day.

He slightly stole a glance towards his girlfriend and noticed that she's calmly sleeping while her head is leaning to the side of his arm. The only thing that he can do is a glance, because he must be focused on having a safe trip.

In the end of the line, he smiled and said..

"You really are way too excited Mizuno..,"

Then after that is a little smile that is worth of thousands of happiness.

Thus his car passed through a site where in he can have a vivid view of his father's company, he was kind of disgusted upon seeing it because he just can't help himself but to remember his Dad as well as their never ending arguments that ended up for them getting separated.

The main branch of YUIS is exactly located at the most center part of the city. It was the tallest building in the entire Hanamaki as well as in the entire Iwate Prefecture. Actually that building also led the innovation and growth of the city if it comes to advancement, supposedly because of the YUIS, Hanamaki City became a popular place in Japan where in this time, its popularity could also be the same as Tokyo.

Though that could really be a huge success, Tatsuo still can't accept his father, because for his eyes, the insides of that company is full of darkness. For the reason that the president himself, is someone whom he'll just never place his trust to. He treats his father as a person with a different masks and faces in which depends on the person/s that he will interact.

"Old man..,"

He said.., he must be addressing Satoshi as an old man.

He was consistently driving as his car entered a dark tunnel.



"Those visitors are still around here..,"

Jin said towards his superior.

"I think they'll just about to leave, supposedly, the next place that they'll visit is the main prison of Hanamaki."

Kazuto replied.

Jin rests his chin on his hand while his head is casted downwards, he really just can't get over of that topic. He's totally intrigued of that mysterious group's true objective.

"Now; they'll visit the prison? Just what kind of observation they are taking up? It sounds fishy."

"By the way Kanzaki-san..,"

"..."

"I wanted to tell you something. Actually the NPA is already thinking of making a drug syndicate surveillance on a certain criminal group about three weeks ago. And then I volunteered to be the undercover."

"But you're the police inspector right? There's no way they'll let you do that job."

Jin crossed, while his eyebrows curled and sharply pointed.

"Actually everything happens to be already planned since the moment I've been placed into this position. That operation has already

counted years ago, I've been part of the circle before I become a police inspector."

"So that's the reason why, you almost never reveal yourself..,"

"Yes; everything is according to plan from the start, years ago, they've already decided that I will be the undercover though that wasn't their final decision. I really wanted to do this job that's why I hid my identity as the police inspector as hard as I can. Now, it happens to be that I'll fortunately still play that part. The desk obviously needs a reliable person who can do that task right?"

"..."

Jin was at loss for words.

"So today, I officially designated you as the temporary police inspector of Iwate Prefectural Police until I come back. So get a hold of yourself okay? I know that this is not an easy job, but I trust you in regards with it. Tomorrow is actually the start of my investigation. Tomorrow, you will be addressed as the police inspector."

"-but I just can't assure such responsibility."

"It's okay..., just believe in yourself Kanzaki-san. So starting tomorrow, every police will call you as the police inspector Jin Kanzaki, while I will be addressed by the criminals as Kazuto Himawari."

Kazuto said while smiling wryly.

"You didn't change your given name?"

Jin wondered.

"Of course I changed it. Do you know why?"

"I still can't get it."

"Have you ever scanned the list of the Police's ranks and the persons who are assigned to each? If you try to look at it, you'll see that the person placed as the police inspector in the Hanamaki is named as Jin Kanzaki. Being a background that this plan is already formulated years ago, the moment I became the police inspector, I intentionally faked my name and replaced it with yours. I might be pretty obsessed of having that part, but I think I just can't blame myself. This is me after all."

He then did a very short laugh, then he continued.

"I was just wonder why you still didn't noticed it until this time Kanzaki-san."

Jin remained speechless, he really didn't saw that coming., all of it just plainly happened without his concern.



They finally arrived at the Koiwai farm in Shizukuishi Town wherein they can have a stunning view of solitary century-old cherry tree. A flower viewing is expected to happen for the time being together with the amazing view of the snow-covered Mt. Iwate behind it. Koiwai is a-3000 hectare private farm located near the Mt. Iwate, it was classified as a tourist destination and is popular with its dairy products.

There are so many things that you can do at that place, in the pastoral area called Makiba-en, you can take a ride with a horse, watch an amusing sheep-and-dog show, milking cows, etc.

However, despite those activities that you can do, nothing just can't be compared to that scenery. The solitary cherry blossom is still lively taking every second of deepest appreciation.

Mizuno's eyes wide-opened as her jaw unknowingly dropped. She really haven't expected this scenery.

"So this is the promised place.., Tatsuoh.., this is the best. I couldn't hope anything for. Thanks."

"Our promised day; I still remembered those times when I came here with the old man while he was having an urgent business. We are still getting along that time. And because of that trip, I came to see you."

"The place where we actually first met. It's quite nostalgic."

Mizuno said together with a very heartwarming feeling.

The cherry blossom petals are lively carried away by the wind. Everything seemed kind of relaxing in the eye. The only thing that you can think of while in this place is tranquility. The vast sky, and the wide pasture, plus put in together the view of the Mt. Iwate and the sole cherry tree, everything is considered to be a perfect place to leave all problems behind, a perfect place to enjoy, a perfect place to live free.

That was the thoughts inside Tatsuo.

It's like the two of them saw an image of each other. Tatsuo and Mizuno were still kids that time.

[FLASHBACK]-

Tatsuo visited that actual place for sight-seeing using his camera. He really wanted to treasure that rare moment as he tries to take a photo in each and every side of that spot. It's kind of fun for him, continuously pressing the shutter as each of the photos that he takes was a part of his admiration. That camera was from his grandfather who already passed away. It would be really kind of weird that a son of the YUIS is holding a plain old camera which still needed film in order to take pictures. But he really loved that last sentiment left by his grandfather. Though Satoshi hasn't used that old camera, (because his focus is on the advancement of the world) Tatsuo personally wanted it. Since childhood, it's definitely clear that Tatsuo is absolutely different from his father.

He kept on taking pictures. Some of the photos are skies, grassland, the Mt. Iwate, birds, trees (specifically the cherry blossom), and anything that grabs his attention. While trying to caption the lady bug walking through a single green leaf, Mizuno happens to cross a gaze where he is standing. Mizuno looked at him, seemingly disappointed of Tatsuo's incompetency as an aspired photographer. She also has her own new digital camera.

"You're not doing it right!"

She shouted.

Tatsuo came to sense that voice as it ended up for him to look at Mizuno's direction.

"Hmm?"

Tatsuoh was wondering about that girl's intent.

"Can I look at your pictures?"

"You can't...,"

"Why not?"

Mizuno doesn't get it at all.

"Even if I would really want to I just can't. This isn't a digital camera. I need to develop it first at the photo studio near my home."

"Is that so? Well then, just by judging from how you're pointing your camera, it'll obviously never give a better result."

"..."

Tatsuoh just can't respond to what she's saying.

"You should try to be one with nature.., let me show you how."

Then; Mizuno bended her body and pointed her camera towards the lady bug; just like how professional photographers takes a photo. Her hands were on its focus, she carefully adjusts the lens of it, holding still in a matter of seconds. And then "click", she pressed the shutter button of her camera as it clicks.

"May I see the result?"

"I-It's okay; b-but you don't need to be s-so i-impressed okay?"

With full of hesitation, she handed her camera to Tatsuoh.

Tatsuoh looked at the picture/s taken by Mizuno. He kind of wondered.. it's because the photo that Mizuno showed to him is an image of the vast blue sky. But still he was kind of impressed with Mizuno's talent.

"This certainly is great! That photo is obviously telling a story..., and I think it's kind of amazing."

"You think so?"

Mizuno replied; with her arms crossed seemed overly confident of herself.

"Then; can I also look at the lady bug's photo?"

He said while he's smiling. More like playing with Mizuno's game. He already knew that Mizuno's reaction will be like that.

"..."

Mizuno didn't answer, instead she only conveyed a frustrated face while she's quite blushing.

Soon after, Tatsuoh insisted to look along with the further photos taken on Mizuno's digital camera, and in the end of the images, Tatsuoh managed to find the lady bug's recently taken photo.

That image was blurry, it's obviously clear that the photographer that have taken it will delete that photo afterwards for the reason that it's another mistaken shot. Upon seeing that image, Mizuno

was fully embarrassed of herself, she's kind of over confident and very proud of herself just a while ago, she perhaps thought that Tatsuo is just a kid whom she can mess up for anytime.

"This is obviously not a good shot."

Tatsuo bluntly said.

But she had mistaken from what she anticipated. Tatsuo outsmarted her as simple as that.

Because of over-embarrassment, Mizuno cannot get ahold of herself anymore. She's suddenly in the verge of tears upon saying an excuse.

"You know, that actually happens most of the time. It's not that I'm really bad at taking photos. Don't worry, I'll just delete that image after I come up with a better shot. You better watch, I'll take a better shot of that lady bug. So, can I have that new digital camera..., please hand it over quickly before that insect flies off!"

"Okay...,"

Tatsuo returned the camera to Mizuno.

He lowered his head, then afterwards looked at the sky.

"-But even photos that are classified as wrong shot isn't that bad at all right?"

Mizuno was about to take again another photo of that lady bug but Tatsuo's words grabbed her attention instead.

"Hmm..."

She looked at Tatsuh.

"Whether a taken photo is bad or not, in the end it still tells you a story. Each time you have a glance at your taken photo, you'll simply remember those memories as well as the reason why you've taken it. I guess that's the strange and mysterious thing about photo's that have taken my interest. You can share it to anyone, it doesn't need much explanation to other people that are seeing those. You can just let their imagination soar each time they watches it. It may be kind of heartwarming or nostalgic, after all everything still depends on that person's interpretation. Even a single photo of the sky tells a story, and even if a single blurry photo of a lady bug, it'll give you memories that you can share."

"..."

Mizuno was at loss for words while hearing Tatsuh's sincere thoughts.

She was about to delete that most recent taken photo as her thumb was actually placed on the button that'll execute the digital camera's delete command, but after hearing Tatsuh out, she insisted not to delete it. She casted her head downwards..., more like she came up to a realization.

She's not really suited to this kind of atmosphere, that's why she decided to change the mood.

"I wonder.., why are you still using that old camera? Because unlike mine, that one you are using is no match at all. Actually my father just bought it for me. This is the newly presented YUIS digital camera. I'm sure you're feeling jealous right now."

"Hm.., hmm."

Tatsuoh giggled, for what he is seeing is that everything seemed a bit awkward. It's because Mizuno is kind of showing off her new digital camera from the one of the most trusted company which produces those. It's the latest YUIS camera!

"Why are you smiling?"

Mizuno was kind of insulted by Tatsuoh's reaction.

"No.., there's no particular reason actually."

He replied while still holding a smile.

Then, Mizuno just ignored his answer as she proceeded again on taking a picture of the lady bug.

"This time.., this time for sure..,"

She said with her crossed eyebrows.

She was really focused starting on that pace as if she isn't moving at all. Then, she finally took a picture of it. Quickly viewing the images until she gets to see her recently taken photo.

"Yes! Finally!"

She shouted with joy as it was followed with a single high jump.

"Hey! C'mon.., take a look at this. You see I'm really much better than you."

She says so while she's handing her digital camera to Tatsuoh.

Thus, Tatsuoh looked at the lady bug's photo. It's really far better compared to the previous shot. That image perfectly describes the beauty of that place.

"You've really taken a great one this time. I hardly appreciate it. I'm convinced now that you're even better than me."

Seemingly full of herself, Mizuno replied.

"I'm glad that you finally know your place. So you understand now how really great my skills and talents are."

Sooner enough, Satoshi finally came to the site to get for Tatsuoh. Tatsuoh and Mizuno watches him by the edge of that vast land.

"Okay; I guess I need to go home now...,"

Tatsuoh waved a goodbye to his recent friend as Mizuno hesitatingly returned the favor by also waving her hand.

Tatsuoh came to run headed toward as his father held his hand and moves forward with him. She watched the two of them consistently moving away from her, it's like she's kind of hesitating and perhaps regretted for something.

"I haven't even asked for his name...,"

That might be her regret, she forgot to ask for the name of that boy who had given her new thoughts and perceptions in life.

"Don't worry; I'll assure you that I'll be a great photographer someday."

She said while her fists are tightly closed upon one another. What she just said is certainly a great commitment.

Then afterwards she smiled; as she found out to herself that she cannot have a vision of Tatsuoh and his father anymore.

[END OF FLASHBACK]

"I'm really kind of stubborn that time."

Mizuno said while watching that place from distance.

Both of them suddenly came closer to the ever-bloomed cherry tree wherein they looked at the snow-covered Mt. Iwate.

"You know Tatsuoh.., actually I still kept that blurry photo of the lady bug. Because every time I look at it, it reminds me of everything that you've said before. As I reflects those words of yours to my mind, it simply reminded me that even if I mistakenly took a bad photo, I can still turn it as good. Just like life, even if I made a mistake I can still correct it no matter what."

"So you've actually solved it. Honestly it's a riddle-like-quote."

"Riddle-like?"

She just can't comprehend to Tatsuoh's reply.

"Let me explain. Actually that quote has so many interpretations that a person to hear it can learn. Just like the concept of how strange and mysterious photos are, each photos can have different interpretations just like that quote, it depends on the person who

will hear it if what kind of message he/she can absorb. Just like in your case, for you; the message of that quote is to have a chance to correct your mistakes no matter what, but for the others, I think they'll have different interpretation."

He thoroughly explained.

"So; from your own point of view..., what kind of message did you absorbed from that quote?"

Mizuno is just curious as she can't help herself but to propose a question.

"For me..., [sigh] it's kind of simple, that message conveys that every life is different, but no matter what, each second of it tells a story. Whether life may be bad or good, in the end it still shares memories to other people. They said that a single photo is composed of a thousand words, then I guess life could be worth millions and millions of it. You see, each time we look back towards our past, we can picture so many photos of ourselves together with the people that became a part of our life. It may brought us to loneliness or pain..., but indeed not everything is composed of sadness, there are still happy times around it."

"Hmm..."

Mizuno just can't think of anything to say after those meaningful words. She just stay put while continuously staring at the fallen petals of that century-old tree.



Both of them decided to head back, as Tatsuoh was having the driver seat and starts the engine, he suddenly said.

"Can we head at the "Heaven's Will Orphanage" first...,"

Mizuno looked at him.

"Of course, there would be no problem."

He started the engine and runs off his car as its tires screeches.

"I just want to welcome my former colleague out there."

"So you worked there before."

Mizuno wondered.

"Yes; Actually I was an employee of that Orphanage before I became the store clerk of the convenience store that I work in."

He answered while driving very gently.

"As I remembered, that's the place where Souichiro-san came from."

"Yes; actually the old man adopted him by the age of seven. Whether you believe it or not, but even though different people says that Souichiro is the luckiest person of all, for me; I still feel bad for him. He is just the unfortunate person who'll carry that great name for the rest of his life, I also remembering him saying to me that from the moment he became a Yatogami, he is already classified as a bird in a cage. That's why I really mean it.., I absolutely feel bad for him because I escaped that responsibility, and of course he cannot complain to the old man because he is just an orphan taking residence to that household."

"Sometimes, I just really can't understand what a person is thinking, I'm sure Souichiro-san is just forced to take the responsibility."

"Mizuno; what should I do? I'm still months older than him that's why I still consider myself as his big brother."

Mizuno let out a sigh and replied:

"[sigh] I can't think of anything either... but wait;"

She stopped as it seemed like she found out an idea, then she continued.

"Why not the two of you help each other out?"

"..."

Tatsuoh's mouth slightly opened.

"That way; I guess no one will feel bad, though you'll consider that part as a pain, at least the two of you are still treating each other as brothers right? I think it would be better to erase the misunderstandings between the two of you while working out together, and for sure; I know that you'll get along again with your father soon if you go on that way."

"-I think that would be bad though..."

Tatsuoh crossed.

"Because starting from that pace, I know to myself that I'll end up to become also his puppet for eternity. And you already knew that I just can't accept that fact right?"

He really does hate his father more than anyone could ever imagine.

"You know; right after Mom died, he didn't even cry. Hence he loudly said to me "Your mother already had enough, she already played her role in this world that's why you shouldn't cry for her!" that's what he said to me in the middle of mom's funeral. It's like for him, my mother is just his personal instrument wherein if she became useless, he can easily throw her away."

"From that day on, I said to myself; he should be the one who have died instead of mom. A person like him doesn't deserve to live for long."

"Tatsuoh, do you know the saying evil weeds die hard?"

Mizuno crossed as well; and then she continued.

"It means that evil people needs to stay longer in this world for them to have a longer chance of reaching the point of realization and repentance, I guess that's the reason why your father is still alive, I may not be really sure but, if your father is really a kind of person like that, I think God is still giving him a chance to change. And I think the exact opposite of it is what happened to your mother, I guess God had taken her early because of her good deeds that could be enough for her soul to be delivered in heaven."

Tatsuoh suddenly appreciated what his girlfriend said.

"That could be the answer, hopefully it is. Hopefully one day, he will realize his mistakes."



They finally arrived to their destination as the car stopped. Both of them gets out of the vehicle as Mizuno was quite surprised from

the playing children all over the Orphanage's wide garden landscape.

"Wow.., the kids sure are having fun."

"Mizuno; seemed like you're distracted already. Okay; I'll go ahead."

Tatsuoh said while he's already moving forward heading inside the orphanage.

"I think I'll stay here."

"Okay; have fun out there."

He made a single wave of goodbye while saying those words.

He finally reached inside as a former colleague welcomes him.

"Hey; Yatogami-san, you didn't even informed me that you're coming here."

"Hmmm..., Matsudaira-san long time no see."

He welcomed his former colleague named Matsudaira.

"So; what took you here...,"

"No particular reason actually, I just wanted to visit the orphanage before properly going home."

"Oh.., let's talk about more at the guest room."

As they strolled together, Tatsuo accidentally had a glance towards the recent orphan having the almost the same facial features as Haruka. He observed her sole in a single room while having a seat near the wide glass window.

He stopped from walking as the presence of that nine years old girl totally grabbed his attention. That kid was looking towards the playing groups of children outside. Her head is resting to her palm, more like feeling bored while waiting for something.

Actually Matsudaira still kept on saying different things as he assumes that Tatsuo were still following his footsteps, but after he found out to himself that Tatsuo isn't there anymore, he quickly looked back. He watched Tatsuo carefully looking for someone as he runs forward to him.

"I don't even know that I've been talking to myself all along, what's wrong with you Yatogami-san...?"

He said while a little bit exhausted.

"-that girl; is she new in this orphanage?"

A split second after Matsudaira finishes his sentence was Tatsuo's quick question.

Thus he answered.

"Your guess is right Yatogami-san. Actually she just came here since yesterday. They said that her entire family members were murdered by a robbery group. And until now, two of her parent's murderers is still haven't found."

"There are still scars left from that incident."

Tatsuoh quickly came ahead towards that girl.

The girl immediately turned her head towards him as she glared at Tatsuoh. But then again, Tatsuoh just showed a charming smile.

"Hey kid; what's your name?"

He softly asked.

"I'm not a kid anymore...,"

The girl said as she turns her head way from him.

"You see, she's pretty stubborn."

Matsudaira said while walking closely to them.

Tatsuoh slightly bended his body towards the girl as he asked a question:

"Do you want to play along with the other children outside?"

"..."

The girl didn't answer, instead; she just stole a very sharp glance to Tatsuoh.

"I guess it's none of my concern;"

He said; then he addressed Matsudaira as he continued.

"Matsudaira-san; can I talk alone with her? Don't worry; I'll still have a chat with you after this."

"Well; that would be okay for me; after all, if you can get along with her, then I think you'll be a great helping hand."

And thus, Matsudaira suddenly left the scene as the two of them are finally alone on that single room.

Silence came to follow...

"I suppose this would be a weird question but..., hear what I'll say okay?"

He sighed; then continued:

"Do you want to have revenge to that group?"

That question certainly grabbed the kid's attention. Her face really do resembles Haruka as she was shocked as her eyes wide-opened upon hearing Tatsuh's proposal.

"So having revenge really grabbed your attention for an instant."

Tatsuh followed up with a seemingly cunning smile.

"What do you really want."

The girl quickly said.

"Actually there are so many of them. But first, I wanted to know your name."

While casting her head downwards, the girl answered while looking away from him.

"Miuna..., Nishigaoka Miuna."

"Say, Miuna-chan; do you want to start over? It would be very unnecessary to ask because that incident only happened yesterday, but you really must think a way how to move on as fast as you can so that you can liven up an easier life right?"

"Hey; Nii-san;"

"-Tatsuoh; call me Tatsuoh."

He crossed.

"Well; Tatsuohnii-san; what do you really think of me? Do you think it would be easy for me to get over from that incident? Answer me; have someone ever died in your life? And from that pace, did you recovered just in one day because of that?"

"..."

Tatsuoh had gone speechless from her words as he can't help himself but to remember his mother's death. And the way he said those words of his towards Miuna is like the way his father did to him.

But then he closed his eyes. He just can't blame himself for that answer, it's because he knew to himself that he is just saying those words to change Miuna's perception.

Then he opened his eyes as he said:

"So I can see that only revenge can make everything at ease. Tell me Miuna, if every those criminals who killed your loved ones dies, will you be happy for yourself?"

Then he placed his face closer to Miuna and continued his statement with a whisper-like-voice.

"Then how about we make an agreement. Of course I'll feel bad to myself if I let a little kid to stay that way."

"I told you I'm not a little kid anymore."

Miuna crossed for the second time as it stopped Tatsuoh's words. However, Tatsuoh proceeded.

"If you'll let me adopt you, you will surely have your revenge."

He says so with a seemingly convincing tone of voice.

It's like he isn't joking around this time. Is he really serious?

"I told you I'm not a kid anymore, so stop making fun of me okay?"

Miuna said bluntly.

"Well; well..., there's nothing that I can do I guess, but really; I think that could be a lost opportunity. First of all, I bet there's no any other person in this orphanage who can give that offer."

Tatsuoh said while he's slowly moving away.

It's kind of weird for a nine years old kid to act as a grown up, that's why; Tatsuoh assumed that Miuna would accept his incredulous offer because of the vengeance that she's been searching for. Just what is Tatsuoh thinking this time? Would he really kill in order to give that girl's demands?

"Okay;"

Miuna answered, she finally accepted.

"I will accept your offer, but in one condition;"

She looked straight towards Tatsuo as she followed:

"-don't ever talk to me!"

Tatsuo smiled convincingly as he answered:

"Then it's already decided. By tomorrow, I'll arrange the papers and documents to properly adopt you. So from now on, better practice for being addressed as Miuna Yatogami okay?"

"I just said that you should never talk to me right?"

Miuna straightforwardly said without any hesitation.

"Oops.., sorry; my bad..,"

He raised his hand as a sign of leaving and thus left the room.



As he walks by, he accidentally crossed Matsudaira.

"So how's it, Yatogami-san."

"I bet you wouldn't believe me but, she accepted. By tomorrow I'll return here to properly adopt her."

"Wait.., wait.., are you serious about that Yatogami-san, you don't know how hard it is to take care of a child. Have you ever had second thoughts about that decision of yours?"

Matsudaira had just heard something unexpected.

"I know; I know what you're pointing out, but I can't just let her be like that right?"

"That might be true but, reality is the one we are talking about Yatogami-san.., but wait; what kind of trick did you use for her to respond to you?"

His colleague's question has a point.

As an answer, Tatsuoh just giggled and said:

"It's a secret, Matsudaira-san....,"

Of course, he certainly can't just say the truth to Matsudaira in regards with their agreement. After all, the words "kill" or "murder" is a part of it.

Suddenly, Mizuno came to look for Tatsuoh.

"Oh; you're right there Tatsuoh."

She said after having a view of her boyfriend.

The next scene is quite cliché', Matsudaira was totally enthralled by Mizuno's presence. He was watching a view of an elegant girl that's why he isn't really the person to blame about it.

"Don't tell me she's your girlfriend Yatogami-san..."

Matsudaira just can't accept it as his jaw unknowingly dropped.

"Ah.., let me introduce her to you. Her name is Mizuno Aihara, and certainly, your guess is correct Matsudaira-san. She is actually my girlfriend."

Tatsuoh answered in a very light manner.

"So you're cheating over me, Yatogami-san."

Matsudaira replied with a seemingly disappointed facial expression.

"Nice to meet you; Matsudaira-san."

Mizuno bowed her head towards Matsudaira as a sign of welcome.

"Matsudaira-san; can the two of us speak in private?"

Tatsuoh said, pertaining to himself and Mizuno.

"Okay; after all, the two of you are couples right.., there's nothing that I can do about it."

Matsudaira answered to his favor and afterwards left the two of them.

"So; what do you want to talk about? Tatsuoh?"

"Mizuno, could you follow me for a moment?"

Tatsuoh said as he advanced some footsteps from Mizuno's post.

Thus, Mizuno didn't answer but she nodded instead. They walked together as they heads to the same room where Miuna is occupying.

Upon reaching that room, Tatsuoh insisted not to come closer, as long as they have an efficient view of Miuna is enough.

Mizuno suddenly took pity for her.

"Isn't she looking so lonely?"

Tatsuoh said to the affected lonely face of Mizuno.

"That's why..., it may be kind of shocking for you but. Here it is, actually I kind of think that I would adopt her and treat her as my child. No wait, I think I would be too young for that, so I could be her big brother perhaps?"

Tatsuoh continued his speech with some hesitations running down his mind.

At first, he assumed that Mizuno would disagree, but then:

"I think that would be the best idea Tatsuoh..,"

Mizuno quickly agreed as if taking care of a child is so easy. She faced Tatsuoh, then she smiled and continued:

"This is going to be another part of your million-photos-worth of memories right?"

Tatsuoh faced his girlfriend, and then in a matter of seconds, he looked again at Miuna as he answered:

"You're absolutely right about that Mizuno."



The exact time was 23:11, it was dark already as there is a couple sitting next to each other in the same bed. Mizuno's lower half of

her body was lying down, she slowly stripped her clothes as Tatsuo thoroughly watches her half-naked body. Both of them have their gaze with each other from eye to eye as the cold air conditioning of that room is just right for this moment. She suddenly casted her gaze downwards, more like a little embarrassed of herself while showing a light-red face. More often like blushing in front of the person whom she loves the most.

The silence were still. As Tatsuo starts to caress her seemingly fragile and smooth shoulder, Mizuno felt the warmth of his hand. She felt like her mind is turning blank. She really is not really used to this after all, but despite that.., she'd really like to give it a shot. Their faces came closer to each other, and as soon as one of them could comprehend, each of their lips are hugging smoothly.

Then, Tatsuo hugged her tightly as each of their body slowly lies down the bed. They kept on kissing, then afterwards, Mizuno spreaded her legs open as she let out continuous moans at the same time as Tatsuo consistently moves his body with a racking motion.



Mizuno's eyes opens unknowingly as she comes to realize that it's morning already. Her naked body was covered with a white blanket observing herself alone on that room. Tatsuo wasn't there anymore; it would really be obvious that her boyfriend wakes up earlier, she suddenly gets up, and then thoroughly watches the window as the sun lights through it. Hoping that this day would be great, she smiled with all her hearts content.

Meanwhile, Tatsuo was some kind of fully awakened as he was cooking something for breakfast. He really is a morning person,

it's like waking up early every day in the morning is his daily task.

While wearing her casual clothes, Mizuno came to approach him on the kitchen. She was kind of impressed of Tatsuoh's effort.

"So you're preparing breakfast?"

"Yeah...,"

He replied in an instant without looking back.

"Why wake up early?"

Mizuno wondered..., though that actually was Tatsuoh's daily routine.

"Have you forgotten? Today would be a very busy day for me, honestly I decided to absent for my work at the convenience store for this. I am gonna arrange all the needed documents for Miuna's proper adoption."

"Ah.., so that kid's name is Miuna."

Mizuno replied with a wondering facial expression.

"Huh.., I forgot to tell you yesterday. So; I guess I would leave early today. I need to prepare it as soon as possible before she changes her mind."

Tatsuoh followed.

"So she's still having second thoughts about her adoption.., but I think, probably he'll suit you before she knows it."

"Hopefully that's the thing that'll happen Mizuno."

He replied as he looked back to Mizuno.

Then suddenly...

"RING!!!"

Tatsuoh's phone rings as he quickly looked for its caller.

The written name of the caller on his phone was:

[Satoshi Yatogami]

"Who is it?"

His girlfriend questioned.

"It's the old man."

She was intrigued of Tatsuoh's answer as she can't help herself but to be a little shock in regards with it. Just what exactly is the purpose of that call? Is it some kind of an emergency or something? Those are inside Mizuno's thoughts. But for Tatsuoh; his assumption is that, that phone call will lead him again to another trouble, that's why in order to for him not to be involved in the upcoming mess, he didn't answer.

At first he assumed that it could be the best response, but because of his action, his father only left an e-mail to him. He pressed the screen button of his smartphone that commands for that mail to be opened.

[

From: Satoshi Yatogami

To: Tatsuh

Subject: Formal Meeting

Body:

Tatsuh, I wanted to formally talk to you about something. If you are free, please come to our home. This is supposedly one of my few free time, so I'd like to use this opportunity to settle things.

]

His gaze towards his phone was kind of serious, but his eyes focused to the words "opportunity to settle things", that suddenly came up to him as a chance to settle everything, he assumes that once he goes after, everything will be over, it's like that would be the last message that he'll receive from his father.

"Tatsuh..., what is your decision? Will you go and see him?"

Mizuno questioned while consistently looking towards his direction.

"If this will really settle things, then I guess I'll go."

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"So you still haven't given up after all."

Tatsuh scowled towards Satoshi.

Both of them are inside the guest room of the wide Yatogami mansion while sitting down the chairs pointing at each other.

"Tatsuoh; let me know something..., what exactly are your demands?"

His father questioned while looking downwards.

"Demands? What are you pointing at?"

"Do you need anything? Tell me. What can I do to convince you on becoming the company's successor?"

"It sounds like your way too desperate this time. Tell me, did Souichiro did again a mistake?"

"Until now, I haven't found him as prepared for becoming someone who'll manage the YUIS. Of course you know that I've only adopted him for that single purpose right? That's why, I think the way he turned out as a failure is just how it is."

"Is that the thing which you really wanted to hear to your father? Hey Souichiro, I know that you're listening out there!"

Tatsuoh suddenly said with a loud voice that could be enough for his half-brother to be heard from that distance.

Satoshi was startled as he didn't really expected that up to come. He thought that Souichiro already goes to work, did he just disobeyed his task?

"You know, I actually forwarded the e-mail that you've sent to me towards him. I know to myself that he is also interested to know about this formal meeting that you're talking about. And it seemed like this time, he also have seen your true colors."

Tatsuoh explained to his father.

"..."

Satoshi was at loss for words in regards to Tatsuoh's actions.

"Until now you're still self centered. Honestly that's the personality that I hate to you the most. Tell me, Is Souichiro really is a failure as a successor? If he really is, then I guess you're also a failure as his teacher right? Right from the start he has no idea on anything about business, you kept on forcing him to do things that he doesn't really want. You know, once he told me, "Since I have become a Yatogami I already recognizes myself as a bird trapped in a wide cage" I think I knew what he meant about that, though his world could be classified as a wide cage, still; he cannot change the fact that he is trapped inside that place."

"Is that really true, Souichiro?"

Satoshiro looked behind where Souichiro is standing.

Tatsuoh was confident by those spoken words of his. He was about to smile for the reason that Souichiro might have find out what he really meant. It means that Souichiro has the chance to escape from his cage because of this turnaround of events. He felt like this'll be the best solution to settle everything. Souichiro will have the freedom while Satoshi will suffer his very own consequence.

But...

"Those might be true but..., honestly I don't really wanna hear it from a bird who just escaped the same cage that I'm still trapped in."

Souichiro answered.

Does he really hate Tatsuo all along? He really didn't get what Souichiro meant. He is giving Souichiro the will to refuse to his father yet he didn't, instead; he defended his father. Now he thought, is Souichiro's mind already poisoned by his father's self-centered words?

"Yes; Dad would treat me as an incompetent heir, but do I really need to care and think about it? Would thinking those solve anything. You know, I'm not like you Tatsuo, I would rather struggle with the hardships of learning than escaping a certain role. After all, all of us knows that you're the person to be blamed if I am really suffering right? It's because you've escaped your duty. You're a coward Tatsuo...,"

Tatsuo closed his eyes with his head casted downwards. Then in matter of seconds, he opened his eyes and showed a little smile.

"Until now, I still cannot read your mind Souichiro. Tell me; are you happy with this?"

That simple question from his half-brother triggered his senses. Is he really happy for himself? Now that he thought about it, he just couldn't find for an appropriate answer.

"Answer me; what are you from these two kinds of people, are you someone who works to make people happy, or are you someone who'll make yourself happy with your work? I guess neither those two kinds of people can make yourself be qualified. First of all, you can't just make other people happy if you're a failure in that field, secondly, this time it's obviously given that you're not happy for yourself at all."

Tatsuo continued with his seemingly insulting words.

But it turns out that Souichiro isn't affected at all. Perhaps, Satoshi's words really placed him to that state.

Tatsuoh walks away, he was about to leave as he stopped and turned his head towards Souichiro's direction.

"Hopefully you'll qualify to any of those two someday."

He said with his strong will.

He formally left as Satoshi came to follow him. They were far from Souichiro's vision as Satoshi tried to stop him from leaving.

"Tatsuoh wait! Please hear me out."

Tatsuoh looked behind him where Satoshi is standing.

"Tomorrow; please come again tomorrow. Hopefully you'll still think about it. I'll wait for your answer, and if it's another "no" again, then I could admit my defeat, I will stop from convincing you. That's why; tomorrow you should really come."

Then Tatsuoh walks away as Satoshi continued:

"-your Mom;"

Tatsuoh's eyes wide-opened for a split second.

"-you always keeps on reminding me of your Mom's attitude."

Then Tatsuoh holds his breath as he tried to ignore those words and proceeded to his car.



[The Iwate Prefectural Police Headquarters]

Finally; the day has come, Jin suddenly earned the rank of "Police Inspector" without doing any single task. Kazuto isn't really joking that time, he is about to leave and become an undercover of a drug syndicate. Jin knew to himself that that task is really what his friend really wanted. That's why he had his full support to him.

"So; I'll trust everything in your care Kanzaki-san."

Kazuto said, he was together with a nine years old kid that time. Actually that child was the today's Superintendent. Seto Hibari was really good and passionate since he was a kid. He really doesn't understand what an undercover investigation really means, all that he knows that time is that his Dad is having a very important work. There's no need for him to be afraid of anything, it's because he really considers his father as one of the elite police officers. More like Kazuto was his hero.

"Okay; just be safe Hibari-san."

Jin replied to Kazuto's sincere message before their formal farewell happens.

Then, Kazuto bended his body as he as he faces his only son.

"Seto; Daddy will have an important task okay? Starting this day, I think I couldn't return home because of this special task. But don't worry once everything's over, I'll surely give you a very warm hug."

Kazuto said in a much cheered up way while he was holding both of Seto's shoulders.

"Promise me that okay?"

Seto replied with his cute charming voice.

Kazuto smiled while looking at him.

"Okay; that's a promise."

As Jin kept on witnessing that very heartwarming scenery, he just can't help himself but to worry so much. He might sound like pathetic but, he is rather feeling something bad about it, more like those moments of Kazuto together with his son will be the last. He might be becoming a pessimist, but actually, he is just trying to relate everything to reality. In reality, there is no such person as a main character, though you can classify yourself as a skilled and talented individual you still cannot assure to yourself that you'll prevail as the victor.

Then Kazuto faced Jin and said:

"If something goes wrong and I fail to make it, please look after Seto Kanzaki-san."

Though also having several negative thoughts, Jin replied.

"What are you talking about Hibari-san..., you just made a promise to your son right? You must never break that very first promise to your son."

His superior was convinced with his words as he smiled.

"I guess your certainly correct Kanzaki-san."



Each any every pieces of documents are prepared. Right after he left that mansion, Tatsuoh directly drives his way to have the papers needed for the proper and legal adoption. Afterwards, he finally arrived to the "Heaven's Will Orphanage", so at that place, the face of Souichiro when he was still a kid popped up within his thoughts. He actually remembered the time that he and the old man, get him from that orphanage to have a new home. Honestly he was very excited upon his half-brother's arrival that time wherein it took him to head together with his father.

But right now, it's like those memories will just trigger his sadness, a little guilt, and sudden regret. It seemed like Souichiro didn't have fun on staying their home. Actually, right after he arrived, Satoshi bluntly said to him his very purpose on that household, Tatsuoh isn't really against to his father that time yet Satoshi already had that certain decision. Well, did he predicted that Tatsuoh will be a nuisance someday?

He lowered down his head as he proceeded. There; he was welcomed again by his former colleague.

Matsudaira; which is kind of surprised, quickly said:

"For real! You're serious about that adoption?"

He just can't understand the reason why Tatsuoh's doing it.

"Of course.., well really; when was the time that I said a joke?"

Tatsuoh replied, but it seemed like Matsudaira really ignored his words and followed:

"I really can't understand you anymore...,"

"Here...,"

And so, Tatsuoh handed proper documents for Miuna's adoption.

Both of them headed to an office, where in those documents are closely examined by the employees designated to that task. Soon after, he was thoroughly questioned in regards with the adoption.



The results finally came, and it's like he'll be qualified at all. Then Matsudaira had led him to Miuna's room.

"[Yatogami Miuna]; so, how's that sound?"

Tatsuoh said while he was right at the entrance of Miuna's room.

Miuna tried to trace that voice as she ended up looking towards Tatsuoh's direction. Then he looked downwards, more like ignoring Tatsuoh's presence.

Because of that seemingly unnecessary action, Tatsuoh can't help himself but to come closer.

"Miuna; let's go home?"

Those words; yet so simple, still it grabbed most of Miuna's attention. It's like it had given her a flash of memory. Whether if it's good or bad, still, her facial expression is inexplicable.

Tatsuoh handed his hand towards Miuna and smiled.

Very slowly... , Miuna is trying to react in regards to that action. She slowly doing her response by placing her hand towards Tatsuoh's hand.

Both of their hands held in mid-air. As if that action serves as a mark of their agreement. While still looking away from Tatsuoh, it's like she's some kind of treasuring that moment.



Upon their arrival at his apartment, Miuna was a little wondered by the new things that she can see. Thoroughly looking around while her eyes wide opens for every split second each time she witnesses something new and unparticular.

"So Miuna-chan, can you manage on staying in this house? I know, though it's kind of small... , but soon you'll get used to it."

Tatsuoh says so while he was carrying some of Miuna's things.

"I told you to never speak to me...,"

Miuna quickly interrupted Tatsuoh's further excuses.

As a result, he just lowered his head, but then suddenly he smiled as if that facial expression cannot be noticed by Miuna.

"So; how can I have my revenge to those criminals?"

She followed straightforwardly to the topic that started that agreement all along.

But Tatsuo didn't answer. Then he writes something on a piece of paper. The message written was:

[I'm forbidden to speak in front of you right?]

Miuna took those words as an insult as she suddenly get mad. The way she acts is way too far to any nine years old child. It's like he is matured enough to handle things such as revenge in a way of "killing".

Tatsuo might really be cunning, but Miuna doesn't really care about it at all, perhaps she's only focused on avenging the murder of her entire family.

This might be kind of an apathetic agreement wherein Miuna quickly believed from the words of a man whom she doesn't even know from the start, but really, no one can actually blame herself. She is just a nine years old girl after all. Even though you can classify her as an intelligent person, her sudden actions were like sparked by her strong will for revenge. Her family was killed, and in order to attain vengeance, she would rather choose to play the dice and gamble with her life.

"Then; we can break that agreement for anytime. C'mon.., speak to me...,"

She said in a seemingly insulted manner.

Tatsuo suddenly smiled sinisterly.

"Then that also concludes that I can also break our agreement right?"

"What do you mean?!"

Miuna questioned, but rather, it's like she really did comprehend what Tatsuo meant yet she just can't admit it.

"When you looked at my face..., did you sense a side of me who can kill other person? You know..., do you really think revenge is the proper solution for everything? I really didn't thought that you've taken my words seriously. Obviously everything about it would be considered as a child's play."

"-you're lying."

Miuna quickly said as her eyes were about so shed some tears because of anger.

"-Do you really think that I have the capability to kill other people. I guess despite your matured behavior, you're still but a nine years old child. You really haven't thought of the fact that laws exist. I would also become like those people who killed your parents if I do that certain act."

"-stop...,"

She said; filled with guilt inside her heart.

"-you see, it isn't truly in the nature of every human to do such hideous crimes."

"Stop fooling..., you don't understand at all!!!"

Miuna shouted, she was totally enraged for the reason that she was easily deceived by that man's words.

Thus, Tatsuoh became silent. She watches the image of a nine years old girl while her head is casted downwards as all the tears that she wanted to shed we're continuously dropping to the floor. He may have gotten way too overboard, but actually all of it is for Miuna's sake.

"Y-You..., just can't u-understand."

Miuna said while she's wiping her tears. But no matter how many times she does that action, still; her tears just kept on falling as she cannot understand what's really happening anymore.

"You don't know how hard I struggled from that hell!"

She continued.

"You don't even know how it feels to see someone you love that is slowly dying in front of you. So how come you can understand me."

Tatsuoh kept quiet, as he just let Miuna speak all the way she wants.

"Our family was wealthy, and I thought that way would have been easier rather than struggling to one's daily life. I am the second of the eldest between my two siblings, but I was actually the most childish of all. I assumed that our daily life will be at ease because we certainly never lacks in any needs. It's like from that pace, life is way too easy to live. But one day..., just because of a single day all the persons that are precious to me had been taken away. A robbery group just entered our house and fired a gunshot straightly to my father. Actually I was at the kitchen together with my big sister that time because it's about lunch. That gunshot wasn't supposed to be the thing that alarmed us, probably because it has a silencer, but because my sister witnessed my father's murderer from a distance as well as the noise of my mother's crying voice. Because of it, my sister warned me to hide quickly. I'm really not sure of anything that happened on the next seconds as

I decided to hide inside the basement from our kitchen. And so I tried to sneak at several of the floor's holes from our basement that is supposedly interconnected to the living room. At that spot I can clearly witness them. All of them except me were restrained by those five damn criminals, and because my mother is already in the state of trauma, my big sister was the one who had taken responsibility of all their demands. I clearly heard them saying that she must bring them something important which belongs to us. Then, after several minutes my sister returned with a wallet that belongs to our Dad. She gave it to the criminals with her hands consistently trembling hard. Honestly I assumed that once my sister does that action which satisfies the criminals everything will be just the way it is, but at some point suddenly, that group was quite disappointed from what she brought, they didn't even have any second thoughts of killing our four years old little brother in front of her eyes. In just a split seconds, our worlds crumbled, say Tatsuoh..., where's the implication of the existence of law from that point of view? No one of us ever thought that those damned criminals can do it without any hesitations. My father was becoming unconscious, his body wound from that very first gunshot had brought him to the state of heavy bleeding. And so, the criminals said-"In order to settle things, I guess you can satisfy us by your body". My sister quickly run away after hearing those words but she just can't make her escape, in the end, in order to satisfy their demands, they decided to gang rape my sister. Though it's unnecessary for me to know those acts at such age, but every second of it is classified as my worst nightmare. My 13 years old sister was continuously crying as she's trying hard to struggle, those screams of violence continued until I finally heard the loud sounds of the police's sirens. The criminals were alarmed because of it and then assumed that my sister was the person who had contact with the authority, at that time, my sister was fully spaced out, her mind is all blank as one of the criminals decided to shot both my mother and my sister as a consequence. Though it's already too late, still the police came to kill the three of them, while the remaining two had escaped."

"-now Tatsuoh, how can you understand anything in my life? After just an hour all my loved ones were taken from me. Now..., do you still think that laws exist in this unfair world? No one; not even

the most influential person nor God can return the life of my parents and siblings, that's why, the only thing that I can do in order to attain justice is to bring those remaining criminals in hell. I don't care if their death will be for an instant, because for sure once they die, their soul will directly be delivered to the burning hell for eternity."

"So let's assume that you've had your revenge, tell me Miuna, what'll you do next?"

Tatsuoh suddenly came up with a question.

"..."

Miuna was at loss for words while her mouth opened a little, then afterwards she said:

"What I'll do? I don't really need to think about it actually..."

"-then I guess I should..."

"-what do you mean..."

"Say, Miuna; if I happens to be the person who'll be behind those two escaped criminal's death, do you think I can still live on my daily life the same as the usual? Of course I will not, I will be imprisoned, I will suffer hell in jail..., now tell me; do you want me to go under such consequences?"

"-if it's okay for you then I guess I can never distinguish you from those criminals who killed your loved ones. You see..., no matter what happens, no matter how the situation would be, "killing" will always be a sin. And once you've committed a deadly sin like that; you'll never ever have the chance to escape it even

in the afterlife. So Miuna, no matter what happens, you must never intent to kill. No matter the circumstances would be; I will never kill, because killing is a sin which you can never atone for."

Those words suddenly made Miuna's world stop. She can't help herself but to look back towards her happy daily life while her parents and siblings were still alive.

Reminiscing the past made her tears fall hard, as if she cannot resist her bursting emotion, as if her life is an absolute form of regret.

"-then...,"

She paused while her face is so miserable together with her tears of sorrow as she continued.

"-then what should I do..., huwaaahh!!!"

Crying out loud; she really couldn't take it anymore, it's like her world will collapse in a matter of seconds. There's no home that she can call from now on..., "an absolutely ruined life"; that could be the most appropriate term for it.

But suddenly out of the blue...,

"..."

Her eyes wide-opened as her tears dropped in an instant.

Tatsuoh hugged her tightly...,

"...huwaaaahh!!!"

Tatsuoh haven't spoken a word, he just let Miuna cry everything that she can on his shoulders. Perhaps that was his intention all along- "to let out all of Miuna's hatred through a hard weep". He hugged her even tighter, more like a parent who's hugging his beloved child until everything falls at ease. That scenery was kind of heartwarming.



The Next Day... ,

Tatsuoh and Miuna are finally getting along, it's all thanks to him; it's because if he didn't do that kind of action yesterday, there would be a higher possibility that Miuna will be misleded to a miserable life.

They've already planned to have fun for today, but Tatsuoh needs to go to his father's mansion first. He decided to end everything, his answer will obviously be a refusal, after all; there's Miuna whom he will properly take good care starting today, that's why being busy for work will be unnecessary.

He finally arrived to the inexplicably vast Japanese style mansion.



Meanwhile; the representative of the so called religion group who visited the police HQ as well as the prison came to talk to someone wearing a police uniform. Based on that police's mid 50's approximated age, it's like he is the person in which Kazuto classifies as a part of the high ranks. But not only the police officer is suspected as a big deal, it's because the one talking to him is the leader of that group wearing a white lab coat. His smile is as evil as ever.

"There are still few of them that could be strong enough to see the "Boundary between Heaven and Earth".

The scientist-like-man said.

"Seijiro-san, Just tell me exactly what you need."

The police replied; seemed like the two of them are quite getting along so well.

Supposedly, the name of the man wearing a perfectly clean lab coat is "Seijiro".

"Hmmm, let's see, I think the person I need is someone who is famous in this city. I wanted to document every happenings in the near future, and if my theory happens to be correct, then I guess I can call this project as a success."

"Someone popular?"

The police questioned.

"The God's Code; I wanted to make sure if it's really true. And after that I wanted you to come and join me on my next mission. I'm sure that it'll be fun..., Commissioner General."



"So; have you already decided?"

Satoshi said...,

Tatsuoh closed his eyes, breathes heavily, opened again his eyes, and then answered:

"I won't take it."

Satoshi lowered his head upon hearing that answer.

"-then there's nothing that I can do...,"

Tatsuoh stands up after his straightforward answer.

"-please excuse me."

He said as he quickly left the mansion. Maybe he just wanted to get rid of that topic as fast as he could, but there's also a probability that he just wants the conversation to be over so that he and Miuna can finally hang out and have fun.

On the way to his car, he will first cross the clover fields, and thus at that spot, he accidentally saw a four-leaf clover. That plant suddenly brought him again towards his past together with Souichiro and Ayumi. The time he picked a four-leaf clover reminds him of his promise to Souichiro that the two of them will always be together.

But he decided to leave that sorrowful memory aside and tried to cheer himself up. He suddenly remembered Miuna as he tried to pick up that accidentally seen four-leaf clover.

"I'm sure Miuna-chan will like this...,"

Returning home just consumed about 20 minutes of his time; that was really kind of a fast formal meeting. The time is already 08:42AM. Tatsuoh quickly welcomed Miuna.

"I'm home Miuna-chan."

Thus Miuna answered with a smile:

"Welcome back..., Tatsuohnii-san."

That smile was like the same as a maid welcoming customers from a café'.

"I have a simple present to you.., actually I just freshly picked this clover from the old man's house."

Seemingly overexcited, Miuna's face were covered with delight as she receives the clover from Tatsuh.

"Do you know what the four-leaf clover means?"

Tatsuh questioned.

"-Of course I know."

Miuna quickly replied as she continued:

"-it's also called as the "lucky clover" or "lucky leaf". And according to the tradition, those leaves can bring good luck to their finders, especially if you found it accidentally. Each leaf represents something: the first is for faith, the second is for hope, the third is for love, and the fourth is for luck. So in other words, the clover's appearance to you Nii-san will bring you luck."

She says so as it had ended with a smile painted to her face.

"-nope; I guess you're mistaken..., it's because the "luck" that you've been speaking of is already there, that's why I don't need it anymore...,"

Tatsuh followed.

"-then; I think I'm the luckiest person from now on for meeting you Tatsuhnii-san."

Miuna said while her face is a little red.

"Let's go; Miuna-chan."

Tatsuoh lend his hand towards Miuna as the little grasped him in return.

Both of them goes to different places to enjoy such as amusement parks, shopping malls, restaurants, etc. From that day on, Tatsuoh; of course with also a little help of his girlfriend Mizuno; they made Miuna's perception of the world change. They made Miuna realize that the world is worth to struggle on if it'll give you a bright and new welcome in the future. She also continued her studies as she's starting to have her new friends on the new school that she's attending. Miuna might still be kind of gloomy and miserable for sometimes as she can't help herself but to remember her died loved ones, but Mizuno and Tatsuoh is always there at her side to comfort her. Anyone could misinterpret the three of them as a family whenever they hang out together. Mizuno is the mother; Tatsuoh is the father; while Miuna is their child.

Filled with good memories, the world that they live in is kind of strange to anyone. And thus, the time had passed so suddenly as the one of the worst and terrible news came over to the entire city of Hanamaki.

[June 02, 2006]

The day where in the most respected man in the world disappeared for a sudden. 28hours had passed since that ever wealthy and popular business man vanished. No can hear a single phone call coming from him, as Souichiro just cannot stay calm. Satoshi is a popular personality, that's why his disappearance is a big news throughout the media world-wide. No one has ever expected any of this, just who are the person/s that planned to kidnap him?

Because of it, the current police officer holding the position as the police inspector personally took that investigation. There's really no clue or follow up evidence for now. Satoshi just disappeared after his formal meeting at the main branch of YUIS. And as a result, Jin just can't make a move..., everything is just too precise, it's like the persons who had taken him is a part of a much, much larger group.

"So; Kanzaki-san, is there any news about the case?"

Souichiro said to the police inspector.

"... unfortunately.., there's nothing else for now."

Jin replied.

"Are you really doing your job properly? Tell me..., can I still place my trust towards your group? Can you really caught the person/s or group that abducted my father? Answer me.., Kanzaki-san."

Souichiro followed in a very fast manner, as if he just cannot fall at ease to this situation.

Meanwhile, that news also alarmed Tatsuoh, but for now, he is still in a dilemma if he will help or not.., it's because for what he thinks, if he happens to cross Souichiro, for sure an argument will just occur out of nowhere. Of course he doesn't want it to happen, that's why for the time being, he just can't come up to any idea.

[June 03, 2006]

The second person vanished as well.

It was raining so hard as a man runs over the spots near the Hanamaki Elementary School. Approximately two hours had passed since the school ended.

"Miuna!!!!"

Tatsuoh shouted for her name... ,

Just what really is happening.., everything isn't just right.

He runs over to different corners nearby the school as well as the parks, convenience stores, shopping malls, etc. but he just can't sense the presence of the girl.

"Miuna!!!! Miuna!!!! Miuna!!!!"

He was already tired and exhausted, losing his breath, and totally soaked wet. But he decided to endure it for Miuna's sake.

Keeps on calling for the little girl's name..., but in the end; no one's making a response.

Then... ,

"Ring"

His phone rings for a sudden.

He quickly responded as he looked at the caller. With eyes wide-opened, he was shocked because it was an anonymous caller. But even so, he still replied.

"God."

Why does he suddenly addressed as "God?", that voice had suddenly given him the chills down his spine. It was a distorted voice the same as the demons has. It's like he just suddenly heard a voice of a devil.

"..."

He was speechless as the unknown caller continued:

"I know that you're smart enough to comprehend what this means, so; I'll get straight to the point. Minutes from now, a man will come over at your position, you must follow our directions carefully or else you'll know what will happen."

Thus the anonymous caller suddenly hang up as Tatsuo cannot make a follow up response. He is sure to himself that that caller is the one behind Miuna's disappearance. But still, he just can't fully think of that group's reasons and intentions. One theory remains inside his mind; is this involved to the criminals who robbed Miuna's family?

Just like the unknown caller has been speaking of, a man suddenly came over to him with a black car. Tatsuo decided to keep quiet, for the reason that he knew to himself that he'll just know the group's intention once they arrive to their destination. He insisted to enter the car as he observes two men (including the driver) inside it.

He was suddenly blindfolded, according to his own senses, he was supposedly taken to a tall building as he, and the men escorted him enters an elevator.

Now that he's finally inside, he just can't think of anything. Perhaps like asking the question to himself "Why did I came here in the first place?" It would be obvious that everything could turn out to be one sided in favor of that unknown group, that's why Tatsuo wondered to himself... "Why did I quickly accepted their demand?" But he just cannot blame him, first of all, he already sensed something very terrible from that group, just from hearing that distorted demonic voice, he is sure to himself that they aren't really capable of joking around. And once Tatsuo made some faults, Miuna's life will pay the price. He just don't want that possibility to happen, that's why he's already out of options from the start. Miuna is his weakness, it's like the group holds the card of ace in this case.

At last, they reached the peak of their destination. His blindfold was removed by one member of that group as he observes Miuna's overly terrified face, but after he moved his sight a little, his eyes wide-opened for a very sudden.

Satoshi Yatogami watches him from a distance. The two hostages were seated to each of their respective chair while they are bind with it. Just what really is that group's intention?! Tatsuh's messed up to the max. He really can clearly observe to himself the feeling of guilt as he witnesses Miuna's totally terrified facial expression. She's about to reach the point of trauma, it's like this incident could be compared to her entire family's murder.

Then; a man wearing a completely clean white lab coat suddenly entered the scene. A very terrifying presence is spreaded all over this man as he never loses his composure while wearing a satanic smile.

"Welcome, God. Please have a seat."

Just like what that man said, Tatsuh had a seat on a luxurious-looking chair. He needs to stay calm at this point so that he can follow the criminal's demands.

"My name is Seijiro, and I'm glad because you voluntary followed our demands."

Without any warning, two men came over to him as he was tightly cuffed in the chair that he's sitting. This is clearly the one sided situation that he anticipated. It's like he's useless this time.

"Now; God..., there's no need to think of anything for now. That's why..., you just need to rest at ease."

Seijiro said as he decided to walk away.

"Tell me! What are you plotting?!"

Tatsuoh shouted.

Seijiro turned around towards his direction in return.

"Then you'll break the surprise if I'll tell you..., but don't worry, you'll know it soon enough. It is going to be an entertaining game, better make yourself prepare."

Thus after a single step forward, he continued with his eyes averted from Tatsuoh.

"-better prepare yourself to kill."

He said with a low tone of voice as it cannot be heard by Tatsuoh from that distance.

"Hey! Can I come closer to them...,"

Tatsuoh followed.

Seijiro turned his head towards Tatsuoh.

"Of course; there's no problem."

Then Seijiro finally left the scene.

Tatsuoh's chair that he's been sitting was dragged nearby Miuna.

"Miuna..., everything's alright now. There's no need to worry, I'm here."

Miuna just came back to her senses, she's slowly making herself calm as she watches her big brother right next to her.

"Tatsuohnii-san..., what's happening..., is it gonna turn out again like what happened before? I'm scared Tatsuohnii-san."

Miuna said while her eyes are about to drop again some tears.

"Everything's gonna be alright; Miuna."

Tatsuoh said closely to her face.

[June 04, 2006]

Three o' clock AM just started. A man with a long brown hair was crying out all of his tears while he was surrounded by four men with their handguns sharply pointed towards him.

Tatsuoh was holding a knife with his continuously flowing tears.

"No! I just can't do this...,"

He said with his loud voice.

[FLASHBACK]

Seijiro returned as the time was exactly 2:45AM. All of them are just fully awakened for that very unparticular time set. Miuna is finally feeling calm as Tatsuoh fully comforted her.

Seijiro raised his arms wide.

"Now! Let the game begin...,"

He smiled sinisterly as he continued;

"God.., the concept of this game is simple.., actually this is just a survey from our group. We just want to know the person whom you love most. Everything is simple to comprehend right? So, in order to know the answer from our special survey, you just need to do this task."

Tatsuoh was already feeling terrible since Seijiro started his words. Afterwards, so sudden that the three hostages just cannot cope up, but the three of them are being pointed by the men surrounding them with handguns.

"What is the meaning of this?!"

He shouted.., feeling like this'll turn into a worst possible scenario.

"I'm disappointed to you.., I thought you already understand."

Seijiro handed a knife to Tatsuoh.

"..."

"You still can't get it..."

Seijiro said with a disappointed facial expression. It's like he isn't getting entertained anymore.

Just from that simple devil look on his face, Tatsuoh was intimidated as he quickly grabbed the knife.

Then afterwards, Seijiro resumed with his smiling face.

"God; do you know the "Boundary between Heaven and Earth"; that is supposedly the place that I wanted for you to see. They said that

it's ever more beautiful than any place on earth. Now let's go back to the main topic,"

Then he looked again at Tatsuoh with a very serious facial expression.

"-kill one of them."

He straightforwardly said.

All of the hostages eyes wide-opened. Just what the hell was that? Tatsuoh was released from his chair and his handcuffs are removed. He was only grasping his knife while his hands started to tremble. He didn't came here to become a murderer. He was on a dilemma. This is certainly a game of death that he wasn't expecting. Then he looked around as he can't help himself but to observe the men with their handguns pointed through each of them. He is certainly sure that gunshots will follow once he disobeyed the rules of this one-sided freaking game.

He closed his eyes for a while. Feeling that his body still kept on trembling as his heart beats so fast. He just can't come up to any countermeasure, everything was so sudden. Everything is just way too unfair. Thinking that if he disobeyed the rules, all of them will see each other in the afterlife, and an instance were in even if he follows the rules, there will be no guarantee that everything will be at ease. All of it still depends on Seijiro's short tempered state of mind.

He closed his eyes tight and at the same time opened it wide. Then he slightly raised the knife that he's been holding as if he finally come up to a decision.

But...,

"Tatsuohnii-san..., please don't! You said that no matter the circumstances would be you will never kill. You said to me that

*killing is a sin which you can never atone for. So.. p-please!!!
Tatsuohnii-san! Please never attempt of doing what you're thinking
right now! You're the person who changed me..., so this time; please
let me return the favor....,"*

Miuna shouted as Tatsuoh suddenly remembered what he said.

*<<if it's okay for you then I guess I can never distinguish you
from those criminals who killed your loved ones. You see..., no
matter what happens, no matter how the situation would be,
"killing" will always be a sin. And once you've committed a deadly
sin like that; you'll never ever have the chance to escape it even
in the afterlife. So Miuna, no matter what happens, you must never
intent to kill. No matter the circumstances would be; I will never
kill, because killing is a sin which you can never atone for. >>*

*Upon hearing those seemingly irritating words in his ear, Seijiro
came closer to Miuna.*

"What are you gonna do to her...!"

Tatsuoh said.

"Being a nuisance is also a form of disobeying the rules."

*Thus, Seijiro held Miuna's hair as he was about to smash her head
towards the armchair..., that action was prevented because of Tatsuoh
call.*

"Seijiro please stop..., I'll do everything that you want."

Seijiro smiled.

[END OF FLASHBACK]

Three o' clock AM just started. A man with a long brown hair was crying out all of his tears while he was surrounded by four men with their handguns sharply pointed towards him.

Tatsuoh was holding a knife with his continuously flowing tears.

"No! I just can't do this...,"

He said with his loud voice. He still has so many second thoughts running down his mind. But then he witnessed a very unparticular occurrence.

Satoshi..., looked at him with a calm facial expression as if he is already prepared for all of this.

"My son..., it's okay;"

He said in front of Tatsuoh.

Tatsuoh eyes wide-opened again for a split second as he looked at his ever pitiful father having a seat with all his tears coming out of his eyes.

Then he casted his head downwards. In order to fully do this action, he don't have to look on the faces of those two hostages.

He half raised his knife, with his eyes tightly closed, he pressed the knife towards his father's stomach.

"-father..., this sin is something that I can never atone for even in the afterlife."

He said as he feels the blood of his father running down his hands.

With all his remaining strength and ability to talk, Satoshi replied:

"-finally, you can call me again as your father..., s-sorry T-Tatsuoh..., "

Closing his eyes like he just suddenly fell asleep while resisting such pain, he still smiled with all his heart's desire. It seemed like he treated his death as his compensation to his mistakes in the past. But being forcibly killed by your only son might be classified as the worst punishment for his sins, even so, he was still smiling as if he had finally fulfilled his life.

Tatsuoh kept on crying while hugging his father's dead body, it's like hell was raised within his surroundings. "Everything is beyond one-sided, everything is beyond unfair"; that; was the thing that he thought of first.

"Bang!!!!!!!!!"

[A very loud sound coming from a single gunshot.]

[The motion of everything turned slow.]

"..."

Silence... ,

[Long hair of a girl sways down as blood splatters out of her head.]

-silence...

[Tatsuoh's eyes wide-opened.]

-silence

"..."

Tatsuoh's eyes was all blank. Just what is happening.., of course no one can admit this scene. With a smile that never losses composure, Seijiro watches Tatsuoh's state of total shock.

That gunshot directly came from Seijiro as he fired it closely at Miuna's head. Because her body is still tied on the chair, she didn't fall down the floor. Instead, her head remained lowered down as blood consistently flows from it.

isn't in the city anymore because of the refreshing air and environment. It's like he isn't on his normal self.

While slightly wondering why still having his phone, he quickly remembered what happened on the last hours. Both his father and Miuna was murdered. The worst case is..., their death is very terrible. He killed his father within his involuntary will, while Miuna was shot in the head without a single notice.

Everything was awful as he cries so hard., feeling like he wanted to shout., but his voice just can't come out of his mouth. Then., an e-mail was unexpectedly sent to him. He looked at his phone and opened the mail coming from Mizuno. From that time he realized that Mizuno already sent him for up to 24 mails. It's like he made Mizuno worry for the most because he vanished the same time while in the middle of Miuna's disappearance.

<<Tatsuoh..., please answer my call...>>

That was the content of the messages (the same interpretation actually). But still, he kept on opening those until he arrives to a mail from an unknown sender.

<<Remember what happened..., >>

That was the message that he read from it as he opens the attached image inside.

"..."

His eyes wide-opened as he unknowingly dropped his phone.

He suddenly recalled those miserable memories., in which he witnessed Miuna's sudden demise. The image content was a picture of Miuna sitting on a chair with her head casted downwards while her hair turned scarlet red.

He suddenly remembered what Seijiro said:

<< That serves as a warning, for now..., we will let you free..., but for the next hours, you need to make sure that you'll protect everyone, better warn them..., warn them that they'll die soon..., because from now on..., all people that are related to you will die! No one can escape death..., remember that! >>

He quickly picked up his phone, as the smiling image of Mizuno was pictured in his mind. He stands up, and then runs wild as fast as he could. There's no time left...

From now on...,

He will protect everyone. The time from his phone was already 8:30AM. Surprisingly..., he has money inside his pocket that is enough for him to travel from Oshu to Hanamaki city.

"Mizuno..., I'll save you!"

He said while he is still running.

Soon after..., another e-mail was sent to him by the same unknown (probably Seijiro's Group) sender. That mail informs him of his father's remains' location.

※※※※※

Seijiro was again talking to the Commissioner General of the National Police Agency.

"Why did I let him escape? The answer of that would be a part of the test. He needs to be known first all over the entire Japan. According to the previous documents of the [Facilis Descensus Averni] it is stated in the [God's Code] that our [Gods] memories will be vague under the human's mind once they reach that certain state. But that possibility is still less supported by now that's why it is the thing that took my interest."

Seijiro answered.

"-if you wanted a famous person, then you would've chosen Satoshi-san all along."

The Commissioner General followed.

"That might also be right, but do you really think that businessman will have his full commitment of becoming a God? That Tatsuoh have already seen hell..., everything is just going to be the way I anticipated."

Seijiro said with a smile on his face.

"But Seijiro-san; what if he doesn't come back...,"

"I know he will;"

He said convincingly.



Tatsuoh quickly rushed towards his girlfriend's house. Mizuno witnessed him extremely exhausted, it seemed like he'd already gone crazy as he was having a terrible race against time. What makes his appearance even worse is that his clothes are soaked by his father's and Miuna's blood.

"Tatsuoh..., what ha..."

Mizuno said with her eyes wide-opened and seemingly shedding tears.

But before she finishes her statement, Tatsuoh quickly grasped both of her shoulders tight.

"Mizuno! Listen to me!"

Tatsuoh said with his loud voice.

"..."

Mizuno just can't tell what is actually happening as she remained speechless.

"Mizuno; I made a mistake..., so, so please..., run away from this place as soon as possible!"

Tatsuoh continued with his dropping tears.

"-Tatsuoh I can't understand..., what did really happened?"

He suddenly lowered his head.,

"I want everything to be over..., Mizuno. Let's break this relationship."

He bluntly said.

"..."

Mizuno's eyes opens wide for a split second.

"I said leave this place!"

Tatsuoh quickly said as it directly hurt Mizuno's feelings.

"Why...? Explain it to me..., why...?"

With her tears consistently falling, Mizuno followed up with a question that only Tatsuoh can answer.

"I killed someone."

That answer wasn't something that she's expecting.

"What do you mean by..."

"-Mizuno, this is my last wish for you..., please stay with Souichiro; you'll be safe if you'll remain beside him."

He continued as if that is his last words to close the conversation.

"Tatsuoh..., explain me what exactly is happening, of course I'll never straightforwardly believe on what you're saying. Now you're telling me to stay on Souichiro's side..., just what is really our relationship means for you? Tell me Tatsuoh..., you don't need to keep secrets from me..., we can help each other out."

"-please..., we can work this out Tatsuoh."

Mizuno said while she was really crying, this isn't only sadness, she's also miserable and about to breakdown.

"Mizuno! I killed them! I killed my father!"

Someone just dropped a phone from the outside as it resulted for them to face that person's direction.

Souichiro was the person who dropped the phone.

"Just what the hell did you said...,"

Ignoring Souichiro's words, Tatsuoh said directly straight to Mizuno:

"-please believe me this time."

He conveyed a very pitiful facial expression while saying those seemingly meaningful words.

Then without a single warning, he runs out of the scene as Souichiro tries to follow him.

But really, Souichiro isn't some kind of an athlete to begin with, he easily gets tired as he had no other choice but to give up. He punched the asphalt road as he can't help himself feeling guilty of what's happening. He's too helpless, the culprit (Tatsuoh) was already on his sight but he cannot even make a move.



Running as fast as he could, Tatsuoh really did fall all the accusations to himself.

"Mizuno..., please believe me."

He said in his thoughts.

He's really out of options since this game of death started. And Souichiro's appearance made everything all worse. This time, the only thing that he needs to do is trust the person whom he loves the most.

"I need to stay calm..., just what are the options left for me this time?"



The time was 13:00. An e-mail was sent again to Tatsuoh from Mizuno.

<< Tatsuoh; where are you? Please make a reply, I believe in you but..., I just want to have a talk. Everything still isn't clear until now, Tatsuoh; I'll follow what you'll say..., but my only favor is, I wanted to personally talk to you. >>

Then he quickly replied:

<< Then this is my location >>

He sent the mail together with an attached image of his smart phone's GPS.

After about half an hour, Mizuno came while riding her car.

Both are already inside, as Tatsuoh questioned:

"Where are we going, Mizuno."

"..." But Mizuno stayed quiet with her ever-painted lonely facial expression.

The place that the car headed was: "Koiwai farm".

It was already in the month of June, that's why the solitary cherry tree isn't in blossom anymore, but still; it was so beautiful. Both of them gets close of that tree as Mizuno looked back towards Tatsuoh.

Her tears fall at the same time. Casting her head downwards, she's already broken. It's like she is really helpless, hence, she breathes heavy as she said:

"The "Koiwai Farm"; this is the place where everything started; and at the same time, it'll also be the place where it all ends. Tatsuo, I still believe in you, based from what I've observed all along, I know to myself that you are lying to me. But still; all of it is for the best. Though I don't really know what to do., I will try,"

Her tears are already taking over her entire self as she continued.

"I'll believe in you., everything is really out of nowhere, but even for only once., please believe me., Tatsuo please trust me., please tell me the truth."

"I killed both Miuna and my father."

Tatsuo straightforwardly said.

"-please don't lie."

But Mizuno tried to cross him as quick as she could.

"-I know that you're lying., you can never do such things., you loved Miuna so much., just how could you. You're saying a very obvious lie, are you being forced by the escaped criminals who murdered Miuna's family? Tell me!"

Ignoring those concerned words, Tatsuo turned around and head's back. But then after commencing for about five steps forward, he suddenly runs fast towards Mizuno and hugged her tight.

"Mizuno, I don't want to lose you like my father and Miuna does., please, leave this place quickly, going to other country is the safest way."

Mizuno just cannot understand every details. But she is sure to herself that Tatsuoh had given a death threat by someone. Because of coming up to that idea, she had no other choice but to accept.

"Okay..., Tatsuoh.

Tatsuoh lowered his head, afterwards he looked at the weeping face of his girlfriend as he turned around and commenced steps away.

Then on the middle of his walk, Mizuno breathes heavy as she spoke:

"There is still time, hide if you want to hide; but when you started running, don't you ever look back. Because if you do, there will surely be a change that's gonna happen in your life, and the worst part of it, is that we don't know whether it's good or bad."

Tatsuoh didn't turned his face around towards her, more like carefully thinking of what she have said. This time, he decided not to look back, because he knew to himself that changing ones decision can result to the ruin of everything. But despite that, he still answered with his heads down.

"I'll remember that."



The time was 16:00; Kazuto Hibari was on the middle of his undercover investigation. Actually, that present time were classified as the group's hour for a deep rest. That drug syndicate is having their stay at a somehow classy building. The infrastructure is personally owned by their Boss, in which Kazuto is already being closed with. It's like the Boss trusted him more than any other persons inside as he was the one in charge of the small faction.

Meanwhile; that classified group (involving Kazuto) was currently watching a TV show from an LED flat-screen TV as a breaking news suddenly comes up.

The news announced that the culprit behind Satoshi's disappearance was finally found.

"The initial report says that Satoshi Yatogami's son turned himself over to the police. Tatsuoh Yatogami claimed himself as the person behind YUIS president's disappearance. After turning himself over, he pointed the location of his father's remains as the police finds out that he has been murdered. A stab wound happens to be his cause of death."

The news anchor reported thoroughly.

Kazuto was shocked from what happened. Of course he's also observing this big news throughout the city, after all; his friend is the person holding that case.

"-it can't be...,"

He said in his thoughts.



Tatsuoh turned himself over. This time; there's no turning back, his actions might be his way to break Seijiro's plans. First of all, Seijiro says that by June 05, they will meet again. He knew to himself that the only way to disobey that certain order is to claim to the police as his father's murderer.

"I'm sure that they will never go after Souichiro once I turn myself over because the case about the disappearances might be opened again. Now that Mizuno is starting to leave the country, and thank God because Ayumi-san is currently under her vacation with her fiancée'; there's no one that I could think about anymore. It's all thanks to Seijiro's help for giving me the location of my father's body. Catch me if you can..., Seijiro; I don't know what you're really up to, but the only thing that I care is that you're my worst enemy this time."

He said within his inner voice.

"-if this one fails..., then there's only one option that I can do."

He insisted to enter the police's armored vehicle. The engine started as its tires screeches and runs off. The next thing that he knew is that he was getting drowsy little by little until he blacks out.

[June 05, 2006]

He slowly opens his eyes with his seemingly blurry vision. But in a matter of seconds, those blurred images were quickly replaced with vividness as he watches the most terrifying person within his imagination.

That man really never loses his composure.

That smile is as malicious as ever.

He witnessed Seijiro's face while wearing a big satanic smile.

*With eyes wide-opened, he really is clueless of what's happening. What really is this sh*t? That question would really come out of nowhere.*

"Now our [God] starts to become notorious. The certified "Murderer of the richest man in Japan" how's that sound to you?"

Seijiro said with his ever relaxed posture.

Tatsuoh's plan might have already been successful if that group and the police doesn't have their conspiracy over him.

<< Now..., do you still think that laws exist in this unfair world? No one; not even the most influential person nor God can return the life of my parents and siblings >>

He remembered what Miuna said to him during their argument.

Does the concept of law really exist in this unfair world called reality? Even he himself is starting to doubt human's ethics. But then he thought, perhaps Seijiro isn't a human to begin with. He is already beyond the capability of humans, more like "demon" is an appropriate term to address him.

"I'm glad because you're never breaking a promise. You've finally proved to me that you are worthy for becoming a "God"."

"What are you talking about."

Tatsuoh followed up quickly.

"To become a "God" is to see Hell. To become a "God" is to see "The Boundary between Heaven and Earth". And to become "God" is to witness the truth."

Those words really made Tatsuoh wonder.

"-Our group is called [Facilis Descensus Averni]. Do you know the other meaning of the word "Executioner"? Executioners are

classified as Gods created in this material world. According to our doctrine, The Executioner's soul will be sealed under the Agreement and their body will be resurrected on earth to serve as a vessel of salvation and death. Have you ever heard the Executioner named "Liberta" in Rome? She was the Executioner who revealed the truth with a use of a song."

"..., "The Executioner's cry"; that was the song that she performed after she vanished. Anyway, today is actually June 05, we'll just wait for one day..., and after that; the new history will be written on the entire world."

"-so in other words, your group is the so called "Executioner Religion"?"

"Yes; you're right."

"-tell me! What is my role in this insane child's play!?"

Sejiro closed his eyes, then he unexpectedly walks out as it really bothered Tatsuoh. His actions really is so unpredictable, it's kind of obvious that he's enjoying this game.

[June 06, 2006]

The most awaited day of Sejiro had finally come. The exact time was 1:47AM, it was still pitch black as Tatsuoh's glance was very sharp towards the gun that was closely pointed at his forehead.

"Tell me, just what are you really planning?"

He questioned to the man who was pointing out that gun to him.

Still never loses the essence and aura of his terrible presence, Sejiro answered.

"Tell me Tatsuh, do you want a decent and memorable way of death before you become God?"

-But that wasn't actually the answer that he's expecting. All that comes out of Seijiro's mouth are absolute nonsense.

As Seijiro continues, he says:

"Rest at ease my friend, are you really that curious? Okay; I'll tell you. But first of all, do you really believe that there is someone watching us from up there? Do you really believe in the concept of God itself? The people across the world assumes that the Executioners are creations of God;"

He paused as he smiled so evilly as if his following words will terrify Tatsuh.

"-what if I tell you that, even myself can create an Executioner? Would you also call me as a God?"

That statement really did terrified Tatsuh as his eyes were still wide-opened.

"Don't tell me-.."

"-yes; and whether you believe it or not, you'll be the person who will witness it from beginning till end."

He turns around and looked at his analogue watch..,

"-let's have a stroll outside, the stars are still out there."

Then after that was again another smile.

[02:06][Jun 06, 2006]

Tatsuh's hands were still cuffed while the two of them together with Seijiro's men walks and heads towards a certain place. They

are inside a forest-like place, perhaps they are actually headed to the heroes graveyard near the police headquarters. Seijiro looked up the sky.

"How unfortunate, we can't even see a single star, the weather this time is really against me."

It was cloudy, as neither the stars nor the moon was sharing even a little gleam of its light.

"Are you really planning on making me as an Executioner? Just tell, what is the benefit that you'll gain from this stupid research of yours?"

Tatsuoh suddenly questioned out of the blue.

"Actually there are other people that'll benefit from this aside from me. Tell me our God, haven't you ever thought of changing the world? This place is as boring as it is don't you know it? The Stygian once tried to recreate the world in his own image, but unfortunately he had failed to do so in the end. Most humans never refrains from their mistakes, that's why the Stygian made them realize the true hell on earth. But on Liberta's case was different, she wasn't a big hit on the news, but all the deeds that she secretly succeeded is an even greater accomplishment than the Stygian does. Do you know why I am telling you this? It's because I wanted you to surpass those two, so once you've finally arrived to your destination, do your job properly okay?"

"Just tell me how can I become an Executioner? Will you burn me in hell?"

"ha ha.."

Seijiro did a short laugh.

"That's totally absurd..., of course we aren't doing that."

He looked again at his watch as Tatsuo took a suspicious glance at that certain action. He was starting to doubt something.

"Is he waiting for someone, no; it isn't like that..., but what is actually this feeling?"

He said in his thoughts, then his eyes suddenly wide-opened for a split second as he figures out something.

"You will have your decent death that's why there's no need to worry about."

Seijiro said to him.

"Everything just makes sense, now; the only thing that I need is to prove that assumption." His train of thought brought him to a theory that might help him otherwise. Then he suddenly recalled his father's death as well as Miuna's.

He took a deep breath, as his following actions will be his so called "test" to prove his assumptions.

Then; [-steps...]

Continuously stepping forward as fast as he could. The trees surrounded all over really did the greatest advantage for him. He suddenly runs wild, but what is really the meaning of that? That action will just lead him to his early demise.

After having several steps away. He said in his thoughts:

"So I am right all along, how come they are not firing gunshots towards me? From the moment he forced me to kill my father, he is already making precise procedures."

Few seconds after that unexpected action, Seijiro looked again to his watch. The time displayed was [02:48]. He suddenly wears a displeased facial expression, it's like he can't smile anymore.

"Find him! Quickly!"

He shouted to his men as they quickly responded.

The chase commenced, Tatsuoh's assumptions is making a sense in this turnaround of events. Carefully hiding himself behind the stone graves of that cemetery, the pitch black of the night helps him in this situation. But certainly, there is a question that comes up to his mind.

[Now that he figured something out about Seijiro's actions, what'll be his countermeasure?]

[Will he just hid himself right there until someone finds him?]

He's really out of options but;

His eyes wide-opened as he remembered what said after he turned himself over to the police.

<<-if this one fails..., then there's only one option that I can do>>

He sighted a sharp-edged branch near his post and picked it up.

"Is this really the only option that is left for me?"

Questioning himself while he is between the devil and the deep blue sea, his eyes remains wide-opened.

With his hands in constant tremble, he slowly pointed the sharp edge of that wood towards his stomach.

Just what really is that one and only option that he thought?

"Suicide; this is my last option, with all the considerations that the [Facilis Descensus Averni] had given to me, it's obviously clear that they need this body of mine. Seijiro said that I will become an Executioner, I also recalled him saying that Executioners

serves as a vessel of salvation and death. If I am supposed to be a vessel, then it's concluded that they need me, they need this body. And so, in order for them to fail, the only option that is left is for me to die." -he thoroughly analyzed in his thoughts.

The only thing that is not clear for him begins with the question "how". How can he become an Executioner? Seijiro said that he will kill Tatsuoh at the heroes graveyard, is that place required so that he can be an Executioner?

It just doesn't make sense out of it.

Lightning flashes down at the same time with the loud roar of the dark clouds. It seems that the lightning was so close to that place. Seconds after that beam of light, heavy rain started to pour as Tatsuoh was soaked wet all of a sudden. Despite that, it seemed like he is ignoring it, his focus was only pointed to the piece of wood that he is holding.

His arms are stretched out...

[Bang!!!]

Someone just shot his hand as he can't help himself but to let go of that sharp-edged wood.

"You don't have to die right now..."

That voice, yet demonic, it was already familiar on Tatsuoh's ear.

Seijiro shot his hand with a pistol. Because of hesitations, Tatsuoh didn't do what needs to be done. This is the worst case scenario.

Thus, Seijiro looked again to his watch, afterwards he gazed Tatsuoh's direction with a maliciously disgusting smile.

"It's time!"

Seijiro shouted because of unexpected excitement!

"-You're really a pain in the ass if you know it. But don't worry, you can rest at ease. Now; I shall give you the most glorious death that you've been searching for."

Tatsuoh just cannot make any response for much long. Now he's absolutely sure that the game's over for him.

[Bang!! Bang!! Bang!!]

Seijiro fired his gun for three consecutive times. The first shot hit Tatsuoh's left leg, the second was on his right foot, while the third was on his right shoulder. Those fatal shots ended up for him to totally lose his balance as he falls down.

Actually, he would have really been lying down that time, but the grave at his back serves as his support that's why the upper half of his body hasn't fallen down yet.

Seijiro slowly comes closer, smiled for the last time as he closely pointed his handgun towards Tatsuoh's forehead.

"When you come back, I will certainly welcome you as my God."

The motions of everything started to slow as it conveys Seijiro's actions wherein he is slowly pulling the trigger together with the normal speed of the lightning.

The motion returned to normal as a loud thunder suddenly occurred.

At that same time, Tatsuoh's eyes were already closed, his forehead has a deep small hole in which blood slowly drops from it together with the rain waters.

Then afterwards; his entire body burned into ashes, more like his soul was being dragged to hell. His body was missing, there is no trace of it, is that really a sign that he will proceed on the next steps of becoming an Executioner in which the group of [Facilis Descensus Averni] treats as Gods?



Upon opening his eyes, he observed a so unexpected scenery. This isn't considered as "hell" for the very least, more like "heaven" is the most appropriate term for this. He was observing himself floating in mid-air; no, that's not something like that. He wasn't floating, it's only that his reflection were as clear as a mirror. His entire body together with the cumulus clouds above him is completely reflected in this seemingly universe-wide-place. Maybe this is really "heaven", but for his perception; it isn't.

"The Boundary between Heaven and Earth."

He said while looking up the vast sky.

This is really similar to the border between heaven and earth located on the largest salt flats in Salar de Uyuni of southwest Bolivia.

"So you're finally here."

Then suddenly, a distorted combined voices of a boy and a girl was heard by him.

In blink of an eye a shadow in an ethereal form; most likely a formless being came to approach him. That shadow has no definite appearance, and [his/her] voice turned into a mechanical tone of a speaking demon.

"I am "The Hell's Contract"."

The shadow said. [His/Her] name was "The Hell's Contract". [He/She] might be the one taking the authority in this world.

"It seemed like you've finally reached the circumstances of becoming an Executioner. So; Tatsuoh Yatogami, do you really know why you are here?"

"-what are you talking about...,"

With seemingly widened eyes, he unknowingly replied.

"Humans are merely tools for the ones who created them. They are created for one purpose, and that purpose is to serve their lords. Tell me; why do you think people keeps on having their very own remorse and suffering? It's because of their selfishness, it's because of their sins, and it is also because of their emotions. Tatsuoh Yatogami; I believe that you've become a sinner because of your love and desire to save someone right? Now answer me; is it worth it to have such decisions? Do you consider your decision as right? Remember that thinking capabilities of every humans is exceptional. On your world that you are living, you cannot tell whether someone is telling a truth or keeping a lie. For that moment, you've been crying..., and forcibly following the orders of your lord, because if you don't, your loved ones will die. But what happened is different, even if you fully follow their orders, still; they instantly taken away the life of the person whom you've chosen to save. Isn't that just so unfair? That time you're likely compared to a machine created by humans. That moment; do you consider yourself as human?"

"The Hell's Contract" was still on the middle of [his/her] words but-

"-yes; I still consider myself as a human."

Tatsuoh crossed.

Then on the middle of their conversation, their world suddenly changed into a universe-like-environment wherein "The Hell's Contract's" body were reflected by the bright shines of the stars.

"The Hell's Contract" smiled:

"-and how do you suddenly come up to that answer?"

"It's simple; I still consider myself as a human because the ones you are addressing as my lord isn't a part of mankind to begin with. They are demons, a disgusting being just like you!"

The shadow still showed a sign of amusement.

"Yes; you might be right. They're disgusting beings just like me, but first of all. What is "me" for you?"

"You are simply a very disgusting creation who had given the supernatural abilities to those Executioners right? But on earth, people believes that Executioners are creations of God. They believed that he sent those judiciators to make people realize how hell really feels like..."

He was continuously speaking when "The Hell's Contract" suddenly followed.

"-then it concludes that I'm also a "God" right? And those damned humans who placed you in this situation are treating the Executioners; my Creations as their "God" ha ha..., what a very funny capability of thinking in which only humans can come up. Do you really think humans are the most rational beings? "God" has created humans; and I had created the "Executioners", based from what you have experienced, do you still believe that human rights, laws, and ethics exists? You've already seen so many unfair scenarios in your life, do you still want to see good people suffering from an unfair society?"

Then their environment changed again. This time, this is the real one. The place where they are both standing is "hell". The endless

heat suddenly submerged all over his body as he kept on hearing never ending cries.

Tatsuoh witnessed hell by both of his eyes. He witnessed every suffering of all those tortured souls.

Souls that are full of regrets and agony. Every sin has a corresponding punishment that those demons of murder executes.

He believed that those demons totally hates humans for the reason that humans are creations of God. The demons are the ones who are taking over of hell which gives endless scourge to every souls.

At that time, he was hearing thousands of them begging for the Savior's help for their souls to be cleansed, and afterwards; be saved. All of them are crying, but then again, their repentance is already too late for a very long time. Their names weren't written to the Book of Life, and their souls will never touch even a tiny bit part of the heaven.

"Tatsuoh Yatogami, this is what I call "Hell". It is a place of last and never-ending regrets. But then again, it's no different compared to what you have seen on earth right? Answer me, do you still want to see a nine years old girl being killed by an unreasonable gunshot to the head?"

Tatsuoh's eyes wide-opened upon hearing that mechanical demonic voice as Miuna's death was pictured to his mind.

"You see, your world is twisted, but you still have the chance to change it all. Somehow, all the past Executioners couldn't really understand their role, but I think you are different compared to them. It's because you really understand the value of one's life. "The Angel" is doing things on her own ways, the "Stygian" went

too overboard and abused his power, "Thanatos" only wants to search for other Executioners that can have a fair fight with him, while "Liberta" disobeyed the rules. All of them are merely failures as an Executioner. But by observing how they fail, you can simply distinguish their mistakes right? So let's get straight to the point."

[He/She] paused; the continued:

"Do you want to become an Executioner?"

"-Of course you have come in here because you are qualified to become one. Now choose; do you want to become an Executioner and change then cleanse the dark side of this world, or you will burn your soul for eternity. It's really great offer right?"

"-now; you can take your time to decide."

Tatsuoh was bereft of speech. Everything were just too sudden, he really needs to take his time, after all; this isn't just a virtual game. Though this scenes were only on his imagination before he comes to realize that everything is true. However, as long as he kept on thinking, the more times he remembers Miuna's suffering.

"The [Hell's Contract] is created so that humans can realize that they are inferiors to beings like us. But before you fully decide, there are questions that you need to reconsider to yourself. Are you prepared to oppose the heavens once you starts to agree with the covenant? Will your entire life won't be the same as before? Your soul will be sealed under the deepest parts of the burning Avernus."

Before [he/she] finishes [his/her] words, Tatsuoh finally come up to an answer.

He had already made his decision:

"I will not have any regrets about this, I will prove them that their world is already twisted for a long time."

He was overcame with hatred and suffering. According from what he said, it seemed like Tatsuo isn't afraid of anything anymore for he had already witnessed hell --- the scariest place within a person's imagination.

"I will accept it."

"The Hell's Contract" smiled bitterly.

"Then let's proceed to the contract signing."

Flames spread out of [his/her] ethereal hand as a scroll-like-paper suddenly appeared from it together with a burning feather pen.

"-this is what I called [Hell's Contract]. It consists of the Executioner's rules and Natural Order. You can first analyze it if you want, after all; this is a covenant that should be agreed by both parties. But don't worry, you can review it anytime even if you're already on earth."

"-then it won't be necessary to read about the further details right now isn't it? Perhaps, I'll just need to follow the rules right? There should be no trouble to think about it then."

He crossed.

"-you're really something, Tatsuo Yatogami. Okay, so now I'll just tell you one of the most important rule. "Executioners can only kill unrepented sinners. If you kills or accidentally kills a non-heavy sinner, then I will send another Executioner to eliminate you."

"Okay; I understand."

"The Hell's Contract" handed [his/her] contract paper to Tatsuo. Tatsuo held the burning feather pen and finally signed the [Hell's Contract]. After doing so, the [Hell's Contract] was torn into pieces and burned; converted to glimmering balls of light. Those lights entered his heart and felt like all of it flows through his entire body.

"-that is the sign that our Covenant started from this moment. The [Hell's Contract] is now on your entire body. As stated on the Executioner's Natural order, "Every Executioner's soul is sealed under the agreement, no one; not even myself can manipulate it". And from now on, there is going to be a printed roman number on your body. It was actually printed on your right palm."

Tatsuo looked at his palm and witnessed a letter "V".

"-It is a roman number "five"; which means that you are going to be the fifth Executioner. In other words, "Fifth from the strongest"."

"The Hell's Contract raised [his/her] hand and pointed its palm towards Tatsuo's forehead as Tatsuo starts to glow like the flames.

"-Tatsuo Yatogami; the world that you'll face will be different, because you're going to be the person who will change it. This world must be cleansed, and the death of those unrepented sinners shall be the world's salvation."

Thus Tatsuo finally vanished as "The Hell's Contract" looked at his soul being delivered back to earth together with the gleaming flames coming from the [Hell's Contract].



Already ten days had passed since he roused from the dead, observed himself in the middle of nowhere. The scene were covered with thick mists where almost nothing can be seen by a normal person's eye.

But not in Tatsuoh's case, he was surprised by his even clearer vision. He felt that something changed on his physical state. He felt the warmth all over his entire body. His flesh were rejuvenated.

His long brown hair turned to straight silky white. He observed himself wearing clothes that are all black from top to bottom. His coat were like the shadows, and in the darkness, only his white hair stands out.

As he started to make a single step, he suddenly heard a clank, it's like a sound of a metallic material. Thus, he looked underneath his coat, he was filled with surprise for he observes a very dangerous weapon.

It was a katana, but this isn't like those common type of Japanese sword that he have witnessed in his past life. It is a short single edged sword which makes it multiple times faster to be removed from its sheath casing so that its user will always be the one who makes the first assault.

It also take lesser weight compared to any other katanas. A perfect weapon for executing 200 years of assassination.

He started to make a smile as he said:

"The Hell's Contract was true."

He looked up above those darken clouds and thick mists.

As he goes beyond that dark and foggy place, he observed himself in his hometown. The place is Hanamaki City, Iwate, Japan.



He really doesn't understand this sudden gut feeling to himself, though there's no any basis, he just assumes that there are unrepented sinners at some forsaken looking warehouse at the city. More like that feeling is some kind of information that he can rely on, perhaps that's another capability of an Executioner- to naturally place a jurisdiction to an individual if he/she is a heavy sinner or not. If it were so, then that ability is really classified as a basic advantage.

He went to that place and found out that his feeling is right all along. That forsaken looking warehouse is being used as a drug den. He entered the site in a flash and finished his first execution as fast as he could. His last victim was unfortunately Kazuto. He really cannot understand himself that time. He keeps on questioning himself:

[How can I do such hideous acts?]

[How come I'm not feeling disgusted of what I'm doing?]

[The scene was all gory, but why am I so calm?]

He was about to reach the gate of that warehouse as he formulated an answer from those questions.

"Those are simply facts proving that I'm not a human anymore."-he said in his inner voice.

His answer was absolutely correct. He isn't a human anymore, from today on, he will carry his sins until he finishes his task. Though his way of execution is inhuman, he really cannot blame himself, after all, human's ethics and the Executioner's ethics are different.

Leaving the warehouse completely covered in blood and dead bodies, he was walking, thus, while on the middle of his calm footsteps, a kid unexpectedly shouted.

"Wait! Don't leave yet."

His eyes was like burning because of rage, his eyebrows were closely pointed to each other while continuously breathing heavily. He confronted Tatsuo without showing any sign of aghast.

"Why did you left me alive!!"

The kid's reasoning has a point. What could be the reason why he spared the kid's life? Is there at least a bit of mercy that remains on his heart? No; that's not the answer, it is because that kid isn't classified as a heavy sinner, and he knows to himself that getting a non-heavy sinner involved to his murders is against the rules.

"I will take all of this as my responsibility. One day...,"

"-I will avenge all these loss!!!"

The kid grabbed Tatsuo's attention. While behind the darkness, he looked at the kid and smiled convincingly.

"Then; you must remember this face until you're prepared to see hell itself."

"Well then kid, you must remember this face and you should call me as an—"

He paused; then he continued.

"-Executioner."

After commencing a single step away...,

"Ha! Ha ha aaah ha!!!"

Unexpectedly, the kid laughed so hard.

Though he really cannot admit it to himself, but Tatsuo was quite terrified by the presence of that kid.

The kid was bursting out of excitement. It's like he was the real scary devil that time.

"So it's true, that people that are afraid to kill doesn't deserve to kill, because in your case, it's clear that you deserve to do so because of the calm expression that you are wearing until now."

Tatsuo never expected those words to come out from that kid's mouth. He suddenly thought the future that awaits that kid- he will be a serial murderer or even beyond that.

Tatsuo left the site and looks up the sky as the sunrise is about to start. From this day on, he will carry that fate. From this day on, he will be the villain. From this day on, he will never look back. From this day on, he will cleanse the world!

----- END OF CHAPTER 5 -----