



PROJECT SCARD: “TWIN WINGS OF THE MOON SHADOW”

TRANSLATION: NARU-KUN / K-PROJECT WORLD

EPILOGUE:

The wind across the river was calm under the blue sky.

Jin would like to say that that kind of place was refreshing, but like his predecessor, he didn't really like going out on a sunny day. Wow, the glare of the sun!

"Why do you have such a nasty face?"

"I'm not saying I want to go home, but I want to go home because the weather is nice."

"I'm saying I want to go home and I don't know why."

That kind of feeling, Ran didn't understand at all. But, at that time, Ran and Jin were in a riverside graveyard on "Finance Street".

That area was originally heavily influenced by Western culture, and there were many Western-style graves in the cemetery.

Ran and Jin were there dressed in mourning.

In front of them was a western-style tombstone that incorporated the moon and rabbits into its design.

The design was, in other words, mimicking the "Artemis" tattoo, and the engraved name was Kabane's last name.

Jin didn't like going out on such a day, but when he was there, he felt tense and naturally stretched out his spine.

Ran was looking at the tombstone.

Two weeks had passed since the battle with "Trivia".

The cost of fighting his nemesis was so great that it was a disaster in "Artemis Finance", Ran and Jin took a little longer to recover.

They were finally able to go there, to tell the lost people that they had moved on.

Ran gently closed his eyes. Jin followed him.

His hands reached out from behind, so he opened his closing eyes.

A bottle of sake that did not look good was on a western-style tombstone.

Turning around, his goddess Azusa Yuki looked sick. She had a black parasol that went well with her mourning dress.

"My predecessor liked to eat sweets while she drank sake."

Azusa narrowed her eyes and placed a small bottle next to the sake.

"It's salty squid, isn't it?"

"I like salty foods. I had a fight with my predecessor who only ate sweets."

"That? I like sweets."

"It's a different belly. I like salty better. After that, sweets are good."

"Is that so?"

It was the first time Jin heard that.

"That's right. I couldn't drink with my predecessor. I still think it was a shame."

Azusa inherited "Artemis" before she was 20 years old. Immediately after she inherited her, her predecessor died.

Yuki's surname has been inherited by the successors of "Artemis" for generations. It was also at this time that Azusa became Yuki Azusa.

In the tomb in front of them, the successive "Artemis" from the first generation to the predecessor were sleeping.

"If they were drinking together, they would have a fight over snacks, right?"

Ran smiled bitterly.

"Perhaps. The winner would be whoever had "Artemis" at the time."

"Don't use 'Artemis' for booze fights..."

Without realizing it exploded in the exchange between the two.

What will the successive "Artemis" who sleep there think of "Artemis"?

He dedicated a silent prayer as he thought about those things.

The hectic two weeks finally came to an end and it was time to relax.

"I informed my predecessor that there was a big change between "Artemis" and "Trivia"."

"Yes. "Trivia" will have no choice but to change. They will miss the double swords."

"Even if you have such a pitiful face. Azusa stopped "Hecate" and we're already at the limit. There was nothing we could do if they escaped from there."

"If "Shu" ate a little more, I could take revenge..."

Ran looked pitiful, but that situation was unavoidable.

Kaisei seemed to be a veteran and Jin didn't know what to do, it would be a muddy attrition war and they would only hurt each other.

"In any case, we witnessed the big changes in "Artemis" and "Trivia" that we had been hand in hand with in the distant past. That's good."

"So is."

Both Ran and Jin accepted it. "Artemis" and "Trivia" had a deep connection, but they believed it was the stop thinking that kept them stuck.

Footsteps were heard. Azusa's secretary came.

Azusa thanked her.

"Two people have arrived."

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Not far from the cemetery there was a medical center affiliated with "Artemis Finance". It had a strong look like a research facility.

A small futuristic building that balanced comfort and appearance, like something out of a science fiction animation.

Azusa, Ran, and Jin walked past a room.

"Yeah. It looks like it's really fun."

It was Arashiba Eiji who indicated his unhealed wounds with his chin.

"I know that at the time when we clashed with "Trivia", Arashiba Eiji also collided with another force and destroyed those who had entered the special zone. They were trafficking. It is an evil human resource management organization. It seems that "Public Security Bureau" also launched a crusade there."

As for the "Trivia" case, "Public Security Bureau" didn't rear its head after all, but if it seemed to be popping up elsewhere, it was possible that one day they would be ready.

As he thought about that, Ran and Arashiba Eiji clashed.

"This kind of injury is the right handicap for you."

"Don't rush. I'm going to smoke, so wait a minute."

"No, not good. Cigarettes in the hospital. And why does Ran immediately feed Arashiba Eiji...?"

Jin stopped various things for the time being.

He wondered why Ran got irritated as soon as he saw Arashiba Eiji.

"Sorry. Washimine-san, Karasue-san, and Yuki Azusa-san."

That was the man who was with Arashiba Eiji.

A man with transparent silver hair and a slender figure.

He felt like he was after giving up, but Jin knew that he had been reading a book until a while ago without stopping Arashiba Eiji.

"Sorry to bother you here. Sakishima Kagami.", Azusa said.

He is a member of "Helios" led by Arashiba Eiji and also a Scard.

"No. There are several things with each other, but it is the same with "Helios" that they are thinking of special zones."

Sakishima Kagami softly returned.

"Helios" and "Public Security Bureau", among them he was the easiest person to deal with. He apparently he was a research elephant.

"So... when we got here, you had already done the inspection, right?"

"Yes. I'll confirm that I'm not an expert, so I can't say anything for sure. Tattoos are gods in the first place. It's only part of what people can understand."

"Okay. What do you think is the state of "Hecate" from your point of view?"

"This was the reason why I called Sakishima Kagami from "Helios"."

Apart from him, no researcher specialized in Divine tattoos or Scards as an academic discipline. There were very few cases, and it was also a hidden area, so a large-scale investigation was not possible. The parties were investigating in detail.

"Artemis" has a tattoo research department and a special anthropology department.

Through tattoos they can feel other tattoos, but that was too sensory. In other words, how much do you judge your physical condition by looking at your complexion?

So they needed a special anthropology department that could look at the tattoos objectively and, of course, check the status of "Hecate" there.

However, it was a violent tattoo, so they had to be careful.

So they asked Sakishima Kagami from "Helios" that he was familiar with tattoos, myths, festivals, and sympathetic magic outside of his research department, and at least he didn't want to do any harm to the city. It was a method of elimination.

Sakishima Kagami chose his words carefully.

"In conclusion, I don't think "Hecate" was activated. There was no reaction to using the spells used to relieve the tattoo's exhaustion, nor to Eiji's threat with "Cerberus". Tattoos react to hostile triggers."

"But, "Hecate" has his own will, so he may just be hiding."

"Then, if there is a hidden killing intent, it can be found with "Cerberus"."

Arashiba Eiji pinched his mouth.

"As Karasue says, there may be exceptions to fooling "Cerberus" with a violent tattoo with a strong ego..."

"No, I don't expect much from you. It's enough."

Ran said rudely.

"Ah, sorry. But I don't have to feel responsible even if it's different. Anyway, thanks."

"Oh, I'm grateful too."

"Yes. I wanted to get information about the dangerous "Hecate" here... Is it okay for businesses to have this kind of exchange?"

"Stray dogs don't work hard."

As Ran shook hands with him, Arashiba Eiji turned his back on him, followed by Sakishima Kagami.

Arashiba Eiji left the room with a smile and the attention of the staff trying to reach the cigarette.

After a while they also went into the room.

They walked through the clean corridor at the back of the medical facility, a room for detailed examinations.

The red-haired childhood friend, Mikage Ikuya, was still there.

"Ran, Jin. Wow, Azusa-san too!"

Ikuya who was lying on the bed got up in a hurry.

"Go to sleep."

"Is that the case? There is nothing wrong with my body."

In fact, Ikuya had not been injured in that fierce battle.

Even though he was injured, Ran was terrible with Jin. Jin really didn't want to move the day after the fight. So even though he was sleeping, Ran forcefully took him out because there was post processing.

"Although I was not injured, the inspection continued and it was difficult. I got entangled with the stray dog from "Helios"."

"It looks like it's going to be difficult, so I want you to make it easier."

"If Azusa-san says so...", Ikuya sat up on the bed.

At that moment, the stray dog sneezed.

Ikuya was unharmed, but a bandage around his chest could be seen in his hospital clothes. There was the "Hecate" tattoo. Special bandages were used as tattoo suppressants prepared by the Department of Special Anthropology.

It seemed to be a relaxing effect, but they would do their best.

"Somehow... "I can't control the power!" I think I can."

"Don't talk about anime."

He was scolded by the wing that didn't watch anime.

"Medically and magically, the ordeal is over. You will be allowed to leave the hospital in a few days."

Ran said clerically.

"Although the information department will monitor you, you can live freely in the special zone."

"I think the city is changing and I am often confused, but we will support you properly."

Azusa said that.

"We support you as "Artemis Finance". It is a legitimate right. I want you to take advantage of it."

Ikuya scratched his red hair.

"Thank you. Thank you very much. No, please help me."

His hands touched the spot where the "Hecate" tattoo was.

"But..., Jin. Is it really okay?"

Ran didn't reply. He was waiting for Ikuya's words.

Ikuya continued while he hesitated.

"He's asleep now, but "Hecate" hasn't disappeared. He'll wake up one day. And the Double Blades might move towards me again. I... "Artemis"... It's annoying."

"No, this is fine." Ran said.

Ikuya blinked.

"Now we can get "Trivia" under control. Its purpose comes down to you. It's much easier to do because it's easier to understand the purpose than before, that they had been using a third party sporadically."

Just like when he was dealing with problems, he could say it in a clerical way.

"The same is true for the awakening of "Hecate". There is a precursor to awakening. A full examination will reveal it and deal with awakening. This is also the state where "Hecate" is in "Trivia" or you are dead. And it is much better than having a situation where you don't know who "Hecate" is going to move on to."

"That's right, Ikuya. As you can see, Ran is shy when he says it on his own."

"That's right. Ran has always been like that."

"I see. Is this Ran's shyness?"

"I'm not shy! Don't believe him, Azusa-san."

He sprouts involuntarily. Both Azusa and Ikuya were laughing loudly.

Ran pinched Jin.

"A little!"

"Shut up. Whatever."

Ran sighed and turned to Ikuya.

"Ikuya. You are free from having to be a candidate for Twin Wings. You can live freely from now on."

"That's right. I think it's hard to decide right away."

"So is."

Ikuya was no longer lost.

"Ran and Jin are growing up a lot. To be honest, I feel lonely and regretful because it seems like I've been left behind. I didn't look forward to it."

He had a facial expression that represented his words, but he said it with a strong will.

"That's why I, who was the leader of the two, will find out what I want to do and what I can do."

"Oh, that's right. Self-proclaimed leader."

"Leave the support for Ran."

"Oh? You too. Work."

Ikuya's appearance and strength were the same as four years ago. It meant that Ikuya still had the unreasonable courage to jump into the flames to help someone like four years ago.

Ran believed in Ikuya, who escaped "Hecate's" curse and stepped forward, and he also believed in Ran's judgment.

When he saw Ikuya that he started talking about what he could do in that city, he realized that he was right.

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There was a night side on "Finance Street" but it was brilliant that night.

Originally there were many streetlights, and the moon was full. The golden moon was shining brightly in the cloudless sky from noon.

After going to visit Ikuya, each of them went back to their normal activities.

Jin was reluctant to work all day, and after everything he had done, Ran's car picked him up and finally returned him to the "Artemis Finance" headquarters.

Ran parked his car in the underground parking lot. When Jin came down, he rarely bit back a yawn and killed it. It seemed that apart from Ran no one was looking.

"Jin. I'll get paid tomorrow."

"What? It's weird taking a break. Where are you going to play?"

"What? It will be paid for the break."

"Eh?"

"I took a day off after the "Trivia" incident, but I'm getting tired."

"I see. I'm tired and maybe I'll get paid. Oh, that's right!"

He clapped his hands, and Ran looked at him with a smoky look.

"So what do we see in my house tonight? The software just arrived. I told you before. Theatrical version."

"I'm telling you to rest your body."

"Watching anime will make you feel better."

"I'm not interested. I can't get my strength back."

To say the least, they took the elevator. It was a little late, so they were the only ones.

They headed upstairs where Azusa's private room was located. After that, Azusa returned to the front lines after various group meetings and such.

"Jin. After I inform Azusa-san, I'll go to the usual store."

"It's a coffee shop that's not near the office. It's fine, but do you say that when you decline the invitation from the anime?"

"Oh, yeah."

He replied with a serious face.

"Anyway, my car is on the way home. I've checked it out."

"Well. It's okay because the cake is delicious, but that's how it is!"

"Huh?", Ran said, "Don't try to say something stupid again."

"No, even if you look like this. I'll invite you to watch anime again this time."

"Don't invite me."

"I promised Azusa-san I'd take her to the store I'm going to. I missed the chance because of "Trivia"."

"So is."

Ran coughed and said head on.

"I'd like to suggest it if Azusa-san has time."

"I think it will feel good on a full moon night."

"I'll take him there to Ikuya when he's discharged."

"So is."

The driving sound of the elevator echoed silently. It still took a bit of time to reach the upper floors.

After a while of silence, Ran opened his mouth.

"Azusa-san almost died again from sealing "Hecate"."

Ran said depressed.

"That's right, but as you told Ikuya, we were able to bring "Hecate" under our control and discard the double-edged sword. It's not just our power, it's information. Thanks to the successive "Artemis" and Twin Wings that left, and they trained us."

"Oh, that's right. It's also the fate that Azusa-san has inherited for generations that "Artemis" pays for that life. Fate repeated saved Ikuya."

They were at the end of the path opened by "Artemis" and the Twin Wings.

"Jin. There is a word for a dragon bird."

"Like a bird on a dragon, I say that I am deprived of my freedom. I wonder if I didn't have to answer."

Ran didn't say the "correct answer".

"When I was in Tamabbit Garden, I was wondering what life in the dragon meant. The answer is simple. If you are deprived of the rice fields, you can leave."

Instead, he said such a "correct answer".

"We shouldn't have to follow the fate of the past. We also decide what our Twin Wings should be and if we are outside the dragon."

"I don't hate that idea."

It seemed to be the same for Ran.

It was the idea of the incredible Ran enclosing his hot emotions with his wings of ice.

Because he was Ran, he could even open the bird cage.

"If it's an anime, it's about meeting a certain fate. Would you like to see that?"

"Don't talk about anime, I won't watch it, even if you always recommend it."

"Huh?! I remember! So, a masterpiece that resists the fate that I wanted to see at that time..."

"I won't look at it. It's the same as that time."

That return was also typical of Ran. They were ahead of the road.

The elevator rang announcing that it had reached the target floor.

Ran and Jin walked side by side towards Azusa.

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This is the story of the fate of the Twin Wings and the death of their goddess.

But Ran will try to resist that fate, and Jin will too.

Because Karasue Jin and Washimine Ran are a pair of wings.

In other words, this is actually a story where the Twin Wings go one step beyond destiny.