I AM AGAINST THE PLAN TO KILL ALL OF THE LIZARDMEN.

PLEASE GRANT THEM MERCY.

...CO-CYTUS,

DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE SAYING?

TO OBJECT TO THE PUNISHMENT LORD AINZ HAS DECIDED ON...

ARE YOU AFRAID OF THOSE LIZARDMEN?

BLASPHEMY.
SAY SOMETHING.
DO NOT INTERFERE.

I SHALL QUESTION HIM.

ALBEDO.

M—MY APOLOGIES.
COCYTUS,

I EXPECT YOU TO HAVE A GOOD REASON FOR SAYING THAT.

YES!

A REASON THAT WOULD BENEFIT THE GREAT TOMB OF NAZARIK.

I BELIEVE THAT INSTEAD OF KILLING THEM, WE SHOULD MAKE THEM SERVE US LOYALLY.

THEY HAVE GREAT POTENTIAL.

AND GREAT WARRIORS WILL EMERGE FROM THEIR RANKS IN TIME.
I had tried making undead out of lizardmen.

...that is certainly a nice idea.

But they turned out to be no different from humans.

Undead are guaranteed to remain loyal and require no food or water.

However, what do the lizardmen have that makes them worth that risk and cost?

Is there nothing?

Well, Cocytus?
SO YOU DON'T HAVE A GOOD ENOUGH REASON?

I CANNOT SAY IT...

THAT I AM ATTRACTION TO THEIR SPIRITS AS WARRIORS...

...I SEE.

THAT'S UNFORTUNATE.
PARDON ME FOR INTERFERING,

BUT WOULD YOU HEAR OUT MY SUGGESTION?

... VERY WELL.

SPEAK.

YES.
I am sure that you are aware of the need for experiments,

so why not make use of the lizardmen for experimenting?

Oh? That is an interesting suggestion.
THE LIZARDMEN'S VILLAGES CAN BE USED TO TEST OUT A WAY OF GOVERNING OVER AN AREA WITHOUT THE USE OF FEAR.

IN THE FUTURE, NAZARIK WILL COMMAND MANY FORCES.

THAT IS A BRILLIANT IDEA, DEMIURGE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND WORDS.

WE SHALL GO WITH DEMIURGE’S IDEA AND INSTEAD OF KILLING THE LIZARDMEN, OUR GOAL WILL BE OCCUPYING THEIR TERRITORY.

ARE THERE ANY OBJECTIONS?
Demurge,

that was a rather brilliant idea.

... it would seem no one objects.

Lord Ainz,

I'm certain you had already thought of this yourself

and were simply waiting for Cocytus to say the right words.
HOW COULD I HAVE NOT EVEN CONSIDERED THAT?

YOU ARE OVERESTIMATING ME.

DEMILURGE,

I HAD SIMPLY WISHED FOR HIM TO THINK FOR HIMSELF AND SPEAK UP.
GUARDIANS,

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT

INSTEAD OF BLINDLY FOLLOWING ORDERS, YOU THINK ABOUT WHAT THE TRUE INTENTIONS BEHIND THOSE ORDERS ARE.
THINK OF WHAT WILL MOST BENEFIT NAZARICK.

IF THERE IS A PROBLEM IN A PLAN, POINT IT OUT TO MYSELF.

OR THE ONE WHO THOUGHT OF IT.
NOW THEN, LET'S GET BACK ON TOPIC.

YES,

YOU HAD ORDERED ME TO KILL THE LIZARDMEN...

COCYTUS, I SAID I WOULD PUNISH YOU.

AS WE ARE GOING TO RULE OVER THEM NOW,

YOUR PUNISHMENT MUST ALSO BE CHANGED.
YOU ARE TO RULE OVER THE LIZARD-MEN

AND MAKE THEM LOYAL TO NAZARIK.

BUT YOU MAY NOT USE FEAR TO CONTROL THEM.

AS WE WILL USE THIS AS A MODEL IN THE FUTURE.
I, COCTUS,

SWEAR TO SHOW
RESULTS THAT
ARE BEFITTING OF
THE MERCY YOU
SHOWED ME,
LORD AINZ!

UNDERSTOOD.
ONE GROUP IS TO ACT AS A DECOY.

WHILE THE LIZARDMAN WILL SHOW THE GUARDIANS WHAT WE ARE CAPABLE OF.

... IF IT APPEARS YOUR ACTIONS MAY INTERFERE WITH OUR ABILITY TO RULE OVER THEM LATER, YOU ARE TO STOP.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I SEE NO PROBLEMS.
IN THAT CASE,

YOU ARE TO ALL GO AND PREPARE.

YES, MILORD.
...ARE YOU ASSUMING THAT A THIRD PARTY WILL BE WATCHING

AND AIMING TO GIVE THEM THE WRONG IDEA OF OUR STRENGTH?

UNDERSTOOD.

ALBEDO,

PREPARE TROOPS FOR ME. I WILL ALSO HEAD OUT.

EXACTLY,

THOUGH I DO INTEND ON STRIKING FEAR INTO THEIR MINDS.

NAZARIK OLD GUARDERS ARE CERTAINLY STRONG...

...AS EXPECTED OF THE LEADER OF THE GUARDIANS.

WHAT ABOUT A FORCE CENTERED AROUND NAZARIK OLD GUARDIERS?

IN THAT CASE,
IN THAT CASE, WHAT IF WE ALSO MOBILIZED THE NAZARICK ELDER GUARDIERS AND NAZARICK MASTER GUARDIERS?

WE WOULD NEED AT LEAST TWICE THAT MANY TO TERRIFY THE ENEMY.

THAT'S NOT MUCH.

HOW MANY DO WE HAVE?

3000.

ALRIGHT.

AND WHAT OF GARGANLUA?
EVERYTHING IS FINE,

THERE WILL NOT BE ANY ISSUES.
WELL THEN, SHALLTEAR.

That will be beyond what I can do with my mana.

Move all of the troops at once with the 'gate'.

Understood.

Have Festonya assist you by transferring mana.

If that isn't enough, ask Lupisregina.

Now then,
Everyone is to start.

Tomorrow

The lizardmen will bear witness to Nazarick's power.
...Thank you, demilurge.

There is no need to.

I believe that Lord Ainz wished for everything to turn out this way.

Cocytus,

No, I must.

If it weren't for you, I would have had to kill the lizardmen.
Nod

Lord Ainz seemed quite happy when you opposed his proposal to destroy the lizardmen.

As expected of Lord Ainz! He predicted everything perfectly!

Perhaps the reason Lord Ainz had you lead the force was an attempt to make you say something like what you said earlier.

I had realized that Lord Ainz was a genius after the battle with Shalltear.

But he is also a brilliant strategist as well.

What an impressive feat.

This was a plan that relied on knowing Cocytus' personality well.

You simply cannot help but admire him.
HAAH...

Ainz's room.

I just want to get drunk... Unfortunately, I can't...

I'm so tired...

I didn't think Cocytus would say that...

That was completely unexpected.
THOUGH...

BUT I HAVE NOW FIGURED OUT THAT THE GUARDIANS CAN MATURE AND LEARN.

THAT KNOWLEDGE IS VALUABLE.

IF THEY KEEP MATURING AND EVENTUALLY ABANDON ME...

KING HUNGER

DUKE FEAR

IF ONLY THERE WERE SOMEONE IN HAZARICK WHO COULD TEACH ME HOW TO BE A GOOD LEADER...

WHAT A TERRIFYING THOUGHT...
THERE'S A FLORAL SCENT...

ANYWAYS...

DID SOMEONE SPRAY PERFUME ON MY BED?
CRUSCH... CRUSCH.

Mm...

There's something going on.
SO THEY'VE

COME AGAIN...

THE NIGHTMARE RESUMES ITS ASSAULT.