

# E23 - Harvest Festivals and Staying Home

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**[00:00] Ferdinand**

**[00:00] Ferdinand**

*With the help of the people around her,*

**[00:02] Ferdinand**

*Main finally finished a book—the picture-book version of the scriptures.*

**[00:06] Main**

I couldn't have done it without you two!

**[00:09] Main**

Thanks!

**[00:10] Ferdinand**

*Meanwhile...*

**[00:12] High Priest**

Listen, leave that little devil out from the Harvest Festival.

**[00:16] High Priest**

She'll eat into our share.

**[00:17] High Priest**

She makes enough from her studio, anyway.

**[00:20] Blue Robe**

Indeed. Let's put that cheeky plebeian in her place once and for all.

**SIGN** Ascendance of a Bookworm

**SIGN** Ascendance of a Bookworm

**SIGN** Chapter Twenty-Three Harvest Festivals and Staying Home

**[02:10] Main**

It's been a while since we've visited the library, huh, Fran?

**[02:13] Fran**

Indeed. You've been busy with the picture book lately.

**[02:17] Main**

I want to read to my heart's content today.

**[02:23] Main**

Carriages?

**[02:24] Main**

What's going on?

**[02:26] Fran**

They're for taking blue robes  
to the Harvest Festival.

**[02:30] Main**

What's the "Harvest Festival"?

**[02:33] Fran**

A ritual held in the domain's  
farming settlements.

**[02:35] Blue Robe**

I see our resident plebeian  
is quite ignorant.

**[02:53] Blue Robe**

You seem to know your place  
rather well already.

**[02:56] Blue Robe**

Perhaps I shouldn't have bothered after all.

**[03:07] Fran**

Lady Main, there was no need  
for you to kneel before him.

**[03:12] Main**

Well...

**[03:13] Main**

While we may both be blue robes, I'm  
a commoner and he's of higher status.

**[03:19] Main**

If I can avoid needless squabbling  
this way, it's a small price to pay.

**[03:23] Fran**

If you've thought this through,  
I shall say no more.

**[03:26] Fran**

However, you mustn't be a pushover.

**[03:29] Main**

I understand.

**[03:31] Main**

Anyway, let's hurry on to the library.

**[03:37] Fran**

After you, Lady Main.

**[03:46] Main**

Wh-What happened here?

**[03:49] Main**

Who could have...

**(Flashback) [03:53] Blue Robe**

Perhaps I shouldn't have  
bothered after all.

**[03:59] Main**

That accursed blue stooge!

**[04:02] Main**

I know who did this!

**[04:04] Main**

It's not too late to get him!

**[04:08] Fran**

Lady Main!

**[04:09] Fran**

You should report this to the  
head priest and ask for advice!

**[04:13] Main**

But he'll get away if we waste time...

**[04:16] Main**

Hey, Fran!

**[04:18] Fran**

We're going to the head priest's office.

**[04:20] Main**

Put me down! Now!

**[04:31] Ferdinand**

What in the world happened?

**[04:32] Fran**

We found the library all messed up.

**[04:36] Fran**

Lady Main figured out who did  
it and wanted to go catch them.

**[04:40] Fran**

I brought her here instead.

**[04:41] Ferdinand**

Very good. A wise decision.

**[04:45] Ferdinand**

Main, to the hidden room.

**[04:49] Ferdinand**

Tell me how you found the library.

**[04:51] Main**

Sure. Both big bookshelves were empty.

**[04:55] Main**

Their contents were all over the floor.  
You can't even set foot in there.

**[05:00] Ferdinand**

And who did it?

**[05:02] Main**

I don't know his name, but the

blue-robed priest I met earlier said,

**[05:07] Main**

"Perhaps I shouldn't have  
bothered after all."

**[05:10] Main**

There's no doubt! He did it!

**[05:12] Ferdinand**

And so what if he did?

**[05:16] Main**

I shall hold a bloody carnival  
right here in town.

**[05:20] Main**

A bloody carnival where I'll paint  
the town red in more ways than one!

**[05:25] Main**

Raiding the library is an  
obvious declaration of war!

**[05:28] Main**

The culprit deserves the guillotine!

**[05:33] Ferdinand**

Stop right there.

**[05:34] Main**

What? Why?

**[05:37] Ferdinand**

You seem to be having some  
rather unsavory thoughts.

**[05:41] Ferdinand**

It's written all over your face.

**[05:45] Ferdinand**

Also, the blue-robed priests have already  
departed for the Harvest Festival.

**[05:51] Ferdinand**

They won't be back for another ten days.

**[05:53] Main**

Ten whole days?

**[05:55] Ferdinand**

The church sends priests to hold the  
ritual in settlements all over.

**[05:59] Ferdinand**

While they're there, they collect taxes  
and produce as tribute to the gods.

**[06:05] Ferdinand**

It's likely that the library was attacked  
as a way of keeping you from the harvest.

**[06:12] Main**

They damaged the books for that?

**[06:16] Main**

Very well. Challenge accepted.

**[06:20] Main**

I'll clean up the library myself!

**[06:24] Ferdinand**

Everything in there was ordered  
by date of acquisition.

**[06:28] Ferdinand**

You can't handle it.

**[06:31] Main**

Then I'll sort them my own way!

**[06:38] Main**

That's it!

**[06:45] Main**

I can take this chance to  
arrange everything my way!

**[06:51] Main**

It'll be a library by me, for me!

**[06:54] Main**

I'm a genius!

**SIGN** Every Bookworm's Dream

**SIGN** A Personal Library

**[06:59] Main**

But wait just a damn second.

**[07:01] Main**

Can I really arrange the books entirely  
haphazardly, by my whim alone?

**[07:08] Main**

I know what this calls for.

**SIGN** N

**[07:09] Main**

The Nippon Decimal Classification.

**SIGN** N D

**SIGN** N D C

**SIGN** Nippon

**SIGN** Nippon Decimal

**SIGN** Nippon Decimal Classifi-

**SIGN** Nippon Decimal Classifi- cation

**[07:13] Main**

That's the system I'll  
classify the books under.

**[07:16] Main**

Now, allow me to introduce to you the  
nine major divisions of the NDC!

**[07:24] Main**

Come on!

**[07:25] Main**

General.

**SIGN** 0. General

**[07:26] Main**

Philosophy.

**SIGN** 1. Philosophy

**[07:27] Main**

History.

**SIGN** 2. History

**[07:28] Main**

Social Sciences.

**SIGN** 3. Social Sciences

**SIGN** 4. Natural Sciences

**[07:28] Main**

Natural Sciences.

**SIGN** 5. Technology / Engineering

**[07:29] Main**

Technology.

**SIGN** 6. Industry / Commerce

**[07:30] Main**

Commerce.

**[07:31] Main**

Arts.

**SIGN** 7. Arts

**[07:31] Main**

Language.

**SIGN** 8. Language

**[07:32] Main**

Literature.

**SIGN** 9. Literature

**[07:33] Main**

Eek!

**[07:33] Main**

Love you, Natural Sciences!

**[07:34] Main**

Lead me, General!

**[07:35] Main**

I'll take a quick glance  
at the books strewn about

**[07:37] Main**

and start sorting them  
into these ten divisions.

**[07:40] Main**

Then I'll place them in their appropriate  
shelves, thus completing the first step.

**SIGN** 0. General

**SIGN** 0. General 1. Philosophy

**SIGN** 0. General 1. Philosophy 2. History

**SIGN** 0. General 1. Philosophy 2. History 3. Social Sciences

**SIGN** 0. General 1. Philosophy 2. History 3. Social Sciences 4. Natural Sciences

**SIGN** 5. Technology / Engineering

**SIGN** 5. Technology / Engineering 6. Industry / Commerce

**SIGN** 5. Technology / Engineering 6. Industry / Commerce 7. Arts

**SIGN** 5. Technology / Engineering 6. Industry / Commerce 7. Arts 8. Language

**SIGN** 5. Technology / Engineering 6. Industry / Commerce 7. Arts 8. Language 9. Literature

**SIGN** Literature

**SIGN** For Example...

**[07:45] Main**

The second step will need a closer look,

**SIGN** Literature Japanese Literature

**[07:48] Main**

classifying the books into  
several sub-categories, but...

**SIGN** Literature Japanese Literature Novels & Fiction

**SIGN** Literature

**SIGN** However...

**[07:52] Main**

The sub-categories will require  
heavy adaptation to this world.

**SIGN** Literature From Unknown World

**SIGN** Literature From Unknown World Of Unknown Genre

**[07:59] Main**

Which means I'll have to create a  
whole new classification system!

**[08:03] Main**

You know, it feels like...

**[08:09] Main**

I'm a real librarian or something!

**[08:14] Main**

Please leave the library to me.

**[08:18] Ferdinand**

It's quite unsettling how your mood  
suddenly changed for the better,

**[08:22] Ferdinand**

but very well. You can handle the cleanup.

**[08:27] Main**

Thank you!

**[08:31] Ferdinand**

This is a list of the books  
I donated to the library.

**[08:34] Ferdinand**

Use it if you need to.

**[08:36] Main**

Thank you kindly.

**[08:39] Main**

*He donated so many books?*

**[08:43] Main**

*Just who is he, really?*

**[08:47] Delia**

What in the world happened here?

**[08:49] Delia**

I can't believe anyone would  
have the heart to do this!

**[08:52] Gil**

If Lady Main sees this, she's  
sure to blow her lid...

**[09:03] Main**

I need you all to clean  
up the library today.

**[09:07] Gil**

Uh, why do you seem to be in a good mood?

**[09:12] Main**

Because I am delighted.

**[09:13] Main**

I want to offer the culprit my  
thanks, and the gods my prayers.

**[09:18] Main**

I get to sort the books in  
the library as I please.

**[09:21] Main**

Nothing could bring me more joy!

**[09:23] Main**

Yahoo!

**[09:27] Main**

Now, let's get right to work!

**[09:30] Main**

First, separate them all into  
paper- and tablet-based.

**[09:34] Main**

After that, we'll place them in the  
appropriate shelves depending on their content.

**[09:38] Main**

Those go under Social Sciences,  
so place them by the "3" marker.

**[09:43] Fran**

Understood.

**[09:44] Main**

Let's see what this one has to say, then.

**[09:50] Delia**

A moment, Lady Main.

**[09:52] Delia**

Could you save your reading for  
after we clean this mess up?

**[09:56] Main**

Oh, sorry. I got drawn in.

**[10:02] Main**

Gil.

**[10:04] Main**

That book goes in the shelf above, not there.

**[10:07] Gil**

Oh, I'm sorry.

**[10:11] Main**

*I already know which books will go there.*

**[10:13] Main**

*I saw in the head priest's catalog books that can only exist in a fantasy world.*

**[10:19] Main**

That's the shelf for magic books!

**[10:23] Main**

I wonder what they're like.

**[10:26] Main**

I can't wait to read them!

**[10:28] Main**

Where are the books on magic?

**[10:32] Main**

*But as the cleanup went along...*

**[10:41] Fran**

Is that all?

**[10:43] Delia**

That didn't take too long, huh?

**[10:50] Fran**

What's the matter, Lady Main?

**[10:53] Main**

The books on magic that the head priest donated are missing.

**[10:57] Ferdinand**

Are you finished with the cleanup?

**[11:02] Main**

Head Priest...

**SIGN** Ascendance of a Bookworm

**SIGN** Ascendance of a Bookworm

**[11:15] Main**

Head Priest, I don't see these books around.

**[11:20] Ferdinand**

They're in my quarters, so it isn't a problem.

**[11:23] Main**

Oh, is that so?

**[11:25] Ferdinand**

Yes. Still, I'm surprised you figured out they weren't in the library.

**[11:30] Main**

We classified the books by genre and placed them accordingly,

**[11:33] Main**

but the shelf I set aside for these ended up empty.

**[11:36] Ferdinand**

You... classified the books?

**[11:38] Main**

Yes.

**[11:41] Ferdinand**

Tell me more. To my room, now.

**[11:44] Main**

There's a system of library classification

**[11:46] Main**

called the Nippon Decimal Classification, based off Melvil Dewey's Decimal System.

**[11:54] Ferdinand**

Melvil... Dewey?

**[11:56] Main**

Dewey is a name etched forever in the history of libraries.

**[12:01] Main**

Time for a history lesson!

**[12:03] Main**

Melvil Dewey was an American librarian, educator,

**[12:06] Main**

and inventor of the Dewey Decimal System,

**[12:08] Main**

which influenced libraries across the world!

**[12:11] Main**

He's a man who left his mark on culture as we know it!

**[12:14] Main**

I went by the Nippon Decimal Classification,

**[12:17] Main**

and sorted books into General, Philosophy, History, Social Sciences,

**[12:20] Main**

Natural Sciences, Technology, Commerce, Arts,

**[12:23] Main**

Language, and Literature, and put

them in their respective shelves.

**[12:28] Main**

I couldn't decide whether to classify magic books as Natural Sciences or Technology.

**[12:37] Main**

So I'd like to read them before making the call.

**[12:40] Main**

By the way, how would you classify them?

**[12:49] Ferdinand**

Hmm...

**[12:50] Ferdinand**

You could say the basics of magic are all about observing and understanding nature.

**[12:54] Main**

Okay, and?

**[12:56] Ferdinand**

But magical items are a different story altogether.

**[13:00] Main**

Ah, is that so?

**[13:03] Main**

Okay, so what will you do?

**[13:09] Ferdinand**

I'm highly curious about these "classification systems,"

**[13:11] Ferdinand**

but classifying books on magic isn't a matter you need to concern yourself with.

**[13:16] Main**

Why, Head Priest?!

**[13:18] Ferdinand**

Because these books won't ever line the shelves of the church's libraries.

**[13:22] Main**

What?

**[13:23] Ferdinand**

Magic is the exclusive domain of the nobility.

**[13:26] Ferdinand**

Blue robes have no right to peruse these books as they please.

**[13:29] Main**

But aren't blue robes nobles?

**[13:32] Ferdinand**

Technically, blue robes are of noble birth and possess mana.

**[13:38] Ferdinand**

But nobles aren't recognized as such  
unless they graduate the Nobles' Academy.

**[13:43] Main**

"The Nobles' Academy"?

**[13:45] Ferdinand**

It's a school for noble children.

**[13:48] Main**

You mean nobody's a noble unless  
they complete their education there?

**[13:51] Main**

That's a harsher criteria  
than I was expecting.

**[13:55] Ferdinand**

Nobles are allowed to channel  
the great power of magic.

**[13:58] Ferdinand**

Thus, peerage isn't granted  
to those who haven't learned

**[14:01] Ferdinand**

the right way to control or use it.

**[14:03] Ferdinand**

So I have no intention of  
letting you see these books...

**[14:07] Main**

Head Priest!

**[14:08] Main**

Let me read them!

**[14:10] Main**

Please!

**[14:13] Ferdinand**

No means no.

**[14:15] Main**

Pretty please!

**[14:20] Fran**

What's wrong, Lady Main?

**[14:23] Main**

I couldn't get him to let  
me read the books on magic.

**[14:28] Main**

*Lutz and Tuuli are visiting  
the orphanage today.*

**[14:31] Main**

*They're teaching the kids how to bind books.*

**[14:34] Lutz**

Nice, looking good.

**[14:35] Lutz**

Then you push the needle through the hoop and pull it out the other side.

**[14:39] Orphan**

Like this?

**[14:40] Lutz**

Yeah, that's the way.

**[14:42] Tuuli**

Then you put the leftover thread into the hoop and cover it up.

**[14:46] Orphan**

Wow! I did it!

**[14:48] Tuuli**

Good job!

**[14:49] Orphan**

Will this do?

**[14:50] Orphan**

Teach me how to do this.

**[14:52] Orphan**

Hey, Tuuli!

**[14:53] Main**

Hmm... I don't have any specific complaints, but just do it better.

**[15:00] Orphan**

Uh... How, exactly?

**[15:03] Main**

You'll get better with practice!

**[15:05] Orphan**

R-Right...

**[15:09] Lutz**

These kids have never even used needles before.

**[15:12] Lutz**

Looks like we'll only get through half of what we planned.

**[15:16] Tuuli**

I wanna teach them how to sew sometime.

**[15:18] Tuuli**

That'll help them patch up their own clothing.

**[15:21] Main**

Yeah, it'd be a great help if you could teach them.

**[15:26] Lutz**

Anyway, here. Copies for the people who helped us.

**[15:31] Main**

Thanks!

**[15:32] Main**

Lutz, let's go give Benno one tomorrow.

**[15:35] Lutz**

Sure.

**[15:39] Main**

Ta-dah!

**[15:41] Main**

The picture-book version of the scriptures for kids is complete!

**[15:44] Benno**

Oh?

**[15:46] Benno**

It's rare to see a book without a leather cover.

**[15:48] Benno**

A flower watermark, eh?

**[15:50] Benno**

Is this bound with thread alone?

**[15:53] Benno**

You haven't used glue?

**[15:55] Main**

That's right.

**[15:59] Benno**

This art is amazing.

**[16:01] Main**

Wilma really outdid herself.

**[16:04] Benno**

Very good.

**[16:06] Benno**

You did a great job.

**[16:07] Main**

Thank you!

**[16:10] Benno**

So, how much are you going to sell these for?

**[16:13] Main**

Huh? I'm not selling them.

**[16:15] Main**

I'm going to use them as textbooks in the orphanage.

**[16:18] Benno**

What? You're not selling them?!

**[16:20] Benno**

What are you thinking?!

**[16:22] Main**

And what are *you* saying?!

**[16:25] Main**

These books are going to

be textbooks for kids!

**[16:28] Benno**

Good products ought to be sold!

**[16:29] Main**

Hell no!

**[16:36] Mark**

Have you two calmed down?

**[16:39] Main**

I'm going to make a bunch of similar picture books for the time being.

**[16:43] Main**

My artist doesn't leave the cathedral, so she can't draw what's considered common.

**[16:48] Lutz**

But I don't know about making book after book about the gods.

**[16:53] Benno**

Lutz is right.

**[16:55] Lutz**

Aren't you going to make any books that customers would want to buy and read?

**[16:59] Main**

Of course I'm going to make some for the general public eventually!

**[17:03] Main**

And also books with no pictures, only prose!

**[17:05] Lutz**

Do it now, not eventually!

**[17:07] Lutz**

This isn't a game!

**[17:08] Main**

I don't need you to tell me!

**[17:11] Main**

But to do that, I'll need to get my hands on some other stuff first.

**[17:16] Benno**

Like what?

**[17:17] Main**

Stencil paper for the mimeo.

**SIGN** Mimeo = Mimeograph Machine

**SIGN** Stencil Paper

**[17:22] Main**

Either that, or...

**[17:24] Main**

Types for a letterpress.

**SIGN** Letterpress Printing

**SIGN** Type

**[17:28] Benno**

Stencil... types?

**[17:30] Main**

Yes. With those, I can  
mass-produce books efficiently.

**[17:35] Main**

However, I can't make either  
without lots of capital.

**[17:40] Benno**

Why don't you just pull another  
product idea out of your hat?

**[17:43] Main**

How about playing cards?

**[17:46] Benno**

What're those?

**[17:47] Main**

A plaything much like  
those flash cards I made.

**[17:50] Main**

Even adults can play with them.

**[17:52] Benno**

Nobles are sure to love 'em, huh?

**[17:56] Benno**

Can you visit Corinna before you head back?

**[17:59] Main**

For what?

**[18:00] Benno**

She wants to get you fitted for  
your ceremonial garb, it seems.

**[18:08] Main**

*And so I got fitted for  
my ceremonial outfit,*

**[18:11] Main**

*and we dove headlong into winter prep.*

**[18:14] Tuuli**

You visited Missus Corinna?

**[18:17] Main**

Yeah. Her belly's all big now.

**[18:20] Main**

The baby's going to be born over the winter.

**[18:22] Eva**

I think we'll have to wait for spring.

**[18:26] Tuuli**

Will it be a boy or a girl?

**[18:28] Main**

Which would you like, Dad?

**[18:30] Gunther**

Hmm...

**[18:33] Gunther**

A boy would make me happy, since  
I'd finally have company at home.

**[18:37] Gunther**

But a girl would also make me happy,  
since she'd be the cutest little thing!

**[18:40] Main**

Same here! I'd love them either way!

**[18:43] Tuuli**

I can't wait!

**[18:45] Main**

I'll help you lots around the  
house over the winter, Mom.

**[18:50] Eva**

I'd very much appreciate that, but...

**[18:52] Tuuli**

Don't work too hard and fall sick, okay?

**[18:58] Gunther**

Ah... You'll get to stay right  
at home through the winter, huh?

**[19:05] Main**

Yep!

**(Flashback) [19:17] Ferdinand**

What?

**(Flashback) [19:18] Ferdinand**

What do you mean, you finished 30 copies  
of this book in such short order?

**(Flashback) [19:23] Main**

We inked cut paper and  
printed several copies.

**(Flashback) [19:27] Ferdinand**

Printed?

**(Flashback) [19:28] Main**

Right!

**(Flashback) [19:29] Main**

My goal is to make a ton of cheap  
books that everyone can read.

**[19:34] Ferdinand**

I had no idea she was capable of this.

**[19:38] Ferdinand**

She's going to turn society on its head.

**[19:42] Fran**

Head Priest, I've brought Lady Main.

**[19:46] Ferdinand**

Good.

**[19:50] Main**

Head Priest, I have a request.

**[19:54] Main**

While processing pig meat for winter,

**[19:57] Main**

I would also like permission to make  
glue and candles at the orphanage.

**[20:02] Main**

The stench will be terrible, you see...

**[20:04] Ferdinand**

So long as you finish before the other  
blue robes return, you have my permission.

**[20:09] Main**

Understood.

**[20:11] Ferdinand**

Also, Main, you stand out  
too much in whatever you do.

**[20:15] Main**

Believe me, I'm trying not to.

**[20:18] Ferdinand**

You lose yourself when books are involved.

**[20:22] Main**

I'll take more care from now on.

**[20:24] Main**

I never want the library to  
be attacked like that again.

**[20:28] Ferdinand**

You fool!

**[20:31] Ferdinand**

Petty harassment like  
that is not the problem.

**[20:38] Ferdinand**

Anyway, the more pressing  
issue now is your winter work.

**[20:42] Main**

Uh, I was planning on doing it at home.

**[20:45] Ferdinand**

You're not aware, then?

**[20:47] Ferdinand**

The Dedication Ceremony  
happens over the winter.

**[20:50] Ferdinand**

It's where all of the divine objects  
in the cathedral are replenished,

**[20:55] Ferdinand**

which calls for a vast amount of mana.

**[20:59] Ferdinand**

Your participation is mandatory,

**[21:02] Ferdinand**

and we must avoid a situation  
where a blizzard keeps you away.

**[21:06] Ferdinand**

As such, you will live here over the winter.

**SIGN** Next Chapter Knight Orders and Requests

**[22:48] Main**

Head Priest, what do you think of  
*Cinderella* for my next picture book?

**[22:53] Ferdinand**

Oh? What's it about?

**[22:55] Main**

I'll tell you all about it!

**[22:56] Main**

A long time ago, there lived  
a truly kind and pretty girl.

**SIGN** Fast Forward

**[23:03] Main**

And so, Cinderella lived happily ever after.

**[23:08] Main**

What do you think, Head Priest?  
A great story, isn't it?

**[23:11] Ferdinand**

How truly absurd.

**[23:12] Ferdinand**

Your story involves a poor commoner  
girl marrying the prince.

**[23:18] Ferdinand**

Do you seriously think that that's possible?

**[23:20] Ferdinand**

Don't ignore their difference in status.

**[23:22] Ferdinand**

And if it does go through, the prince  
will be stripped of his royal status,

**[23:26] Ferdinand**

and his younger brother will be  
named successor to the throne.

**[23:28] Ferdinand**

As such, I find it hard to believe  
Cinderella truly achieves happiness...

**[23:31] Main**

You're far too cynical, Head Priest!

**SIGN** Illustration by Izumi Mitsu