

A Ghost 21

Chapter 21

After evolving, getting divine protection, and all, I finally got to see my new Skills. [Summon] was pretty straightforward. It let me summon my subordinates near my position, no matter where they are! Maybe this is what Necromancers use when they make corpses pop up from the ground even when they are not even in graveyards?

But I could quite possibly use it to summon a tamed monster I've contracted with, or even human subordinates, anything, I guess. It didn't seem to have any rule or requirement aside from them being subordinates and willing.

And then there is...

...

[Abyssal Body: Lv1]

Grants the user's body the ability to become abyssal darkness and shape itself accordingly to your will. It also has the effect of reflecting status effects, mind-related attacks, and any of such powers that a foe tries to ensue over the user. The intensity and power of such effect are increased by leveling the skill up. Grants high affinity with the Dark and Shadow Attributes, enhancing damage dealt and damage resistance by +10% with each level.

...

Oh, this one is perhaps the thing that changed my ghost body to be so dark now... It also enhances my dark and shadow attribute damage even more! And it even bounces back negative effects and the like? Interesting... It's like an Uno Reverse Card sort of deal! But only at Level 1, it won't be that strong, I bet.

...

[Shadow Manipulation: Lv1]

Grants the ability to manipulate shadows in the nearby vicinity. Manipulating shadows cost constant mana and can be made solid for a small amount of time with even more mana. They can be shaped as the user likes, but the mastery over it and the control over the shadows expands as the skill levels up. Dark and Shadow Magic can be used in conjunction for greater results.

...

This was an interesting Skill. Although it consumes a lot of Mana, it can be used in a variety of situations... Maybe I could become shadows and sneak inside the room of a handsome man changing clothes, fufu... Wait, I can already do that... Agh! No! I am not a degenerate.

...

[Undead Queen: Lv1]

As an Undead Queen, you have a natural affinity and authority over death and the Undead. The Undead that you create receives an enhancement to their growth speed and evolution options while also receiving a temporal boost to all their capabilities below your command. The power of such effects enhances as the level increases. You can also, and more efficiently, tame Undead you've not created.

...

Interesting, with this, Partner can grow even faster! Though, I should really get a new Undead ally... But what could it be? After evolving, I have more than just two slots now. I believe I have a dozen slots for Undead that I can control and forcefully make "loyal" to me... Although there's still a limit, at 20.

"Partner, what friend would you want?"

I asked Partner what she would like to have as a friend this time around. I glanced at the corpses we had, which were all butchered at this point...

“Well, maybe they won’t be meaty, but we can raise a skelly friend, right?”

“Fwend!”

Partner looked at me, collecting all the loot that the slimes had dropped. There were some equipment and consumable items mixed into the pile as well.

Ding!

[You’ve acquired the following Items]

[Thunder Slime Earring (F-Grade): Lv3] x4

[Fire Slime Bracelet (F-Grade): Lv4] x3

[Water Slime Core Ring (F-Grade): Lv1] x2

[Multi-Color Slime Core Staff (D-Grade): Lv1] x1

[Mixed Elemental Slime Colorful Ooze (F-Grade)] x136

[Mixed Elemental Slime Colorful Shattered Cores (F-Grade)] x136

...

There was indeed some valuable loot in here. Slimes tend to drop a lot of accessories... But this time, there was one super rare drop at D-Grade, and it was this beautiful staff with many slime cores encrusted on it, causing it to shine brightly.

I decided to equip everything that I could, which included two earrings, another ring, and two bracelets, alongside the new staff!

And let's check the stats...

...

[Thunder Slime Earring (F-Grade): Lv3]

+20 MP

+15 Magic

+20 Agility

+20 Thunder Attribute Damage

...

[Fire Slime Bracelet (F-Grade): Lv4]

+25 MP

+20 Magic

+10 Agility

+10 Attack

+20 Fire Attribute Damage

....

[Water Slime Core Ring (F-Grade): Lv1]

+10 MP

+5 Magic

+5 Agility

+10 Water Attribute Damage

...

[Multi-Color Slime Core Staff (D-Grade): Lv1]

+300 MP

+200 Magic

+100 Attack

+50 Agility

+120 All Elemental Damage

...

Uwah, D-Grade Equipment is amazing! And it's a weapon fitting for my Mage-like role! Although I would like to eventually kick some asses with physical strength someday, this isn't half-bad! It even comes with +100 Attack, so this staff can hit as hard as a baseball bat if I wanted... Insane.

I already had my black beetle bracelets that gave me dark attribute damage, so I decided to leave the remaining bracelets for Partner. In the end, I can only equip two. The others I would equip wouldn't give me any stats, and I knew this because I had tried doing it already. Now let's check what my actual status with the new buffs looks like...

...

[Name: [Maria Fuentes Belles]

[Race: [Abyssal Ghost Queen]

[Level: [12/20]

[Rank: [D]

[Status: [Strengthened, Cursed]

[HP: [160/160]

[MP: [860/860]{+520}

[Attack: [86]{+100}

[Defense: [82]

[Magic: [770]{+317}

[Agility: [160]{+125}

...

Pretty good if I say so myself! Already at over 1k MP! With this, I can spam Skills more efficiently, even without the need of siphoning mana, so I don't have to get so close to my enemy. Also, my Agility is pretty decent, and my Magic is also at 1k!

Magic is an essential stat for me as it calculates my damage dealt using Magic attacks and reduces incoming magic damage. No matter how frail they look, the stronger a mage is, the better they are at resisting magic damage... But I would imagine there could be instances where several warriors died calcinated by a giant fireball, but a mage somehow survives even without wearing armor... Such a sight would be pretty hilarious.

After equipping her own earrings, bracelets, and rings, Partner looked very pretty!

"You really look like a cute girl now, Partner!"

"Bweute girl?"

"Yeah! Pat, pat, pat!"

I petted Partner's head, and after a bit, we decided to continue through the dungeon.

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Chapter 22

—

After showering my dear Partner with some affection, we decided to continue through this damn dungeon! It has been a nice ride, and thankfully, the next floors were cheap and easy.

“Ah! Right, I forgot, the new partner... I am just happy with only you, but I guess we really need a new party member... Or many more... It would honestly be a headache to find them EXP to level up, though...” I sighed.

“Exupe...”

“Well, I am abbreviating it, but it is said as ‘Experience Points’,” I said.

“Expewience Point...”

“Yeah, just like that! You’re learning pretty fast, aren’t you?”

I quickly took out the bones I stored in my inventory. I didn’t want to use smelly meat to make some flesh zombie or something because I don’t know if that could even be possible with butchered meat that was mushed all over. I piled up the bones of the Manticore, which were solid and sturdy, alongside those of the Lizards we fought. There weren’t any other bones than these guys, as the other creatures were boneless. The bugs had carapaces, but that’s technically not bones.

“Should I raise them separately?” I pondered to myself.

As the dungeon goes deeper, monsters become stronger, so these weak level 1 skeletons wouldn’t amount to anything against a group of slimes and wouldn’t even be able to safely leech for EXP because for that they need to land at least one hit.

And before that even happens, they will get eaten in an instant. After all, they’re all delicious bones, so the monsters around here would gladly give them a try in order to get some calcium running through their body.

Due to that, I decided to use the entire pile of bones to raise a single individual, hoping that adding more bones would make a difference... I considered giving it flesh, but I couldn’t help thinking that the flesh

would be left behind... Well, I don't lose anything putting some over it. I also added some slime cores, the basilisk's eyes, and a bit of the manticore's black fur, which was absolutely gorgeous.

Let's see what kind of weird thing comes out of this mix-up of materials...

"[Fake Life]!"

FLASH!

I used [Fake Life] with the intention of making a single being with the items before me. And as phantasmal energies began to be absorbed from the environment, it slowly formed a phantasmal soul, which infused itself into the pile of items.

Suddenly, a wondrous sight shone before our eyes. The bones began to pile up and rearrange themselves into a figure resembling the manticore, but way stronger and much bigger. The flesh, which was a mixture of all the fleshy creatures we killed, began to move around like a slime before sticking to the bones. The black pelt of the manticore stretched itself and covered the entire body as the basilisk eyes inserted themselves into the empty eye sockets... The Slime Cores mixed inside of the empty body it had, filling it with colorful mana.

And it was done.

Ding!

[You've Raised a [Undead Black Cat Chimera]!]

Black Cat?!

And it looked... like a cat, yeah, but enormous. More like a panther! It took some of the shape of the manticore, which was more lion-like, but its ears were more like a house cat's ears, and it had a thin black tail instead of a snake. And from within it, I could feel a strong aura radiating outwards... It looked at us with the Basilisk eyes it had, flashing with eeriness.

“A cat...”

“Cat?”

“Meow!”

The giant black cat sat down and glanced at us before meowing. Uwah, it’s actually cute...

“I’m gonna name you Kuro! Nice to meet you.”

“Meow!”

Ding!

[You’ve named your servant [Kuro]!]

Now let’s check Kuro’s stats!

...

[Name: [Kuro]

[Race: [Undead Black Cat Chimera]

[Level: [1/15]

[Rank: [F+]

[Status: [Happy]

[HP: [95/95]

[MP: [72/72]

[Attack: [86]

[Defense: [75]

[Magic: [82]

[Agility: [85]

Characteristic Skills:

[Undead: Lv-]

[Chimera: Lv-]

[Dark Element: Lv-]

[Artificial Elemental Cores: Lv-]

[Fiend Language: Lv1]

[Shapeshift: Lv1]

[Self-Regeneration: Lv1]

[Flesh Consumption: Lv1]

Resistance Skills:

[Status Effect Immunity: Lv-]

[Physical Damage Resistance: Lv1]

Normal Skills:

[Life Drain: Lv1]

[Cursed Black Flare Breath: Lv1]

[Shadow Claws: Lv1]

[Fireball: Lv1]

[Water Bullet: Lv1]

[Thunder Shock: Lv1]

Title Skills:

[Servant of the Dark Witch: Lv-]

...

I don't know what gender it is, but I will call it boy for now because the manticore was a male. First of all, the stats are pretty good! Kuro started right away as an F+ Rank Monster, meaning that it had higher stats from the get-go, but it needs more levels to evolve. But, some exciting news is that it also came with more skills than I expected!

[Shapeshift] seems to help him become smaller or bigger, with a max height of plus one meter, but he can reduce his size with much more ease. And the limit is about the size of an actual cat... Very cute.

He also comes with the [Artificial Elemental Cores] Skill, which helps him use other elemental magic without having its original affinity. Although this seems limited and doesn't have much potential, but at least it works.

He has many attacking methods, being [Cursed Black Flare Breath: Lv1], [Shadow Claws: Lv1], [Fireball: Lv1], [Water Bullet: Lv1], and [Thunder Shock: Lv1]! I remember that breath that almost killed us back then... [Shadow Claws] seem pretty good as well.

However, what surprised me is that he didn't come with an evil eye of petrification... does he need something to trigger its power? Or maybe he could get it after evolving... I hope, or I just wasted some precious materials.

"Meow!"

Kuro received our caressing as we touched his fluffy hair. After that, he let us ride on him. By materializing legs and sitting on his back, Kuro can carry me around. Partner sat down in front of me and then let me grab her shoulders. And just like that, Kuro rushed downstairs as we began to slaughter the monsters we encountered along the way.

We found some more slimes, but not as many, a few beetles, and another illusion lizard, which Partner killed by jumping over its head and impaling it with her spear. The monster's EXP wasn't as good now that we required so much to level up... but it was better than nothing! I grabbed the drops, but we didn't find anything worthwhile, and Kuro couldn't equip the items. But at least he leveled up a bit.

After a breeze, we reached the last floor...

[You gained 1156 EXP]

[EXP: [1156/1800]

Chapter 23

A large red gate emerged before us at the end of floor 19. On the other side of the gate was floor 20, the last floor of the dungeon!

“Lucifer, are you there?”

“You’ve come... Thank you... I am surprised by how strong you’ve grown....” Lucifer quickly answers me.

“Yeah, your dungeon was a pretty good source of EXP for Partner and me. We even got a new companion along the way.”

“A new companion? Ah... a black cat? I see... W-Well, step inside. I will show you how... Well, you will see how I am now....” Lucifer sighed.

As I wondered what was wrong with this depressive dragon, we opened the red gates and walked downstairs. Slowly yet steadily, Kuro carried us on his back towards Floor 20. Within the darkness, something glowed. Two blue eyes resided in the darkness, resembling phantasmal flames like those of a Will-o-Wisp. We took a torch and illuminated the place, Lucifer’s appearance greeting us.

“This is... what remains of my former self....”

“But... this is just....”

“Bwones!”

Indeed, just as Partner said... Lucifer was just bones, and bits of dry skin stuck to them. His eyes were empty, and only two little blue flames resided within the eye sockets.

"That's right... I am just bones now. I cannot move from here because my soul seems sealed into the dungeon's structure...." Lucifer sighed, his voice emerging from his soul that was stuck to his skeleton.

"So you're dead?" I asked.

"T-That's right... I saw how you were able to raise Undead, and I thought that perhaps... By raising me as your Undead, you could free me from this damned place." Said Lucifer.

"I see... But wait, couldn't you do it for yourself? You raised the undead in the graveyard!" I asked.

"No, that's different. Unlike you, who has the innate power over Death, what I did was merely infect the graveyard with Miasma that leaked from my remains. Miasma naturally corrupted the souls within that place and raised Undead without any of my powers playing into account. Miasma is even capable of forcing mutations into living beings as well." Said Lucifer.

"I see... You got pretty lucky then! I am quite a proficient user of [Fake Life]!"

"Thank you... Erm, what is your name?"

"Well.... (Should I use my past world's name? Hm... better not) Name's Maria! You can call me Mary too or whatever," I said.

"I see! When you raise me as an undead, I will end up becoming your subordinate... So I better know your name beforehand." Said Lucifer.

"Yeah! ...But are you okay with this? I thought dragons were prideful beings. Wouldn't it be a disgrace to serve a ghost after death? I would think that if you were a prideful dragon, you would rather die or go to peace than serve someone as humble as me." I asked.

“That’s an interesting question, but I don’t think you’re so humble....” Lucifer muttered.

“What did you say?!”

“N-Nothing! Erm... Well, I am not like that. I’ve always wanted to live a lot. Yes, I am prideful, but I am... also filled with wrathful and vengeful thoughts. This is why my soul has stayed here for so long, perhaps... Due to that, I can throw away my pride and honor as a dragon and serve you as long as I can have the opportunity to one day exert revenge against those that did all this to me, my family, and the Demon King... my lord....” Lucifer sighed once again.

Oof, there’s a lot of things going on here that I don’t know about...

“Hm, seems like a heavy topic... Well, we can talk that out later on. No need to force yourself to talk about this stuff if you don’t want to.” I said with a smile.

Lucifer’s phantasmal eyes flicked a bit as I sensed some of his emotions wriggling.

“T-Thanks... You’re more considerate than I thought, Mary.”

“Now...! [Fake Life]!”

FLAAAASH!

I immediately used [Fake Life], causing my mana to pour into the skeletal corpse of Lucifer!

“E-Eh? Y-You’re doing it already?!”

“Yeah! Now, rise, my fallen dragon!” I shouted with excitement... I’ve always wanted to say something this edgy.

“GUUUUUUUUUHHH!”

Lucifer began to scream as if he was being showered in power. His soul began to mutate with my power as the phantasmal energies merged with him and his remains.

FLASH!

The bones began to crackle and rattle, unifying themselves with the help of the phantasmal force of his soul!

Clank... clank!

As if they were reassembling themselves, the bones quickly began to regain mass, as I realized that I could actually give him some flesh too! I opened my Inventory and threw all the meat I had, some Slime Cores, and even the other lizards' scales, eyes, and whatever else I found.

“E-Eh? What are you throwing at me? UAAAGGH...!”

“Magic materials so you can get some flesh too! Necromancy is like crafting in this world, so the more materials you got, the higher quality the Undead becomes! Now rise!”

The flesh began to spiral around his body and the bones stuck to one another. Scales were added to the areas with no scales, and the cores moved inside the empty ribcage. All the materials went into their respective places, and he even got new eyes, which were the ones from the illusion lizards.

BOOM!

An explosion of phantasmal energy was released all around us, and after a few seconds, the smoke slowly dissipated, revealing a new freshly risen Undead.

Ding!

[You've Raised a [Lesser Dracolich Chimera]!]

Eh? After all those materials, this guy is still lesser?! Damn...

Well, maybe Dracolich are strong, so even as he is now, he is "lesser" compared to true Dracolich... Yeah, let's leave it at that.

"Ugh... I feel strange, but... At the same time, familiar with this body? I really do have flesh now...."
Lucifer mutters.

Lucifer emerged from within the smoke. He had gained a more dragon-like appearance than just bones stuck together, but he still looked rather old, rugged, and dry. His eyes shone with bright colors, and he exuded a strong magical power from his chest, where all the shattered slime cores were assembled.

"Good morning, sunshine!" I said.

Chapter 24

"Awaken, my dragon!"

"What are you even saying?"

"Rise, my Fallen Dragon!"

"Stop it already...."

"I invoke you, Dracolich Chimera!"

“Cut it out!”

“What’s wrong with a little intensity? You are a legendary dragon and everything... Can’t a girl get hyped for a bit?” I sighed.

“Yeah, but that was a bit anticlimactic!” Lucifer shouted.

“Grao!” Partner roared as she didn’t like how Lucifer treated me.

I caressed her head in order to calm her down.

“There, there, calm down, Partner. We have to be more respectful with our elders. This old man lacks a lot of humoristic sense,” I said.

“D-Don’t call me grumpy!” Lucifer cried.

“Hehe, it’s funny to see you get angry,”

“E-Eeeh?”

Lucifer suddenly got embarrassed.

I decided to check his stats and see what he was made of...

...

[Name: [Lucifer]

[Race: [Lesser Dracolich Chimera]

[Level: [1/30]

[Rank: [D+]

[Status: [Embarrassed], [Flustered], [Secretly Happy]

[HP: [320/320]

[MP: [340/340]

[Attack: [185]

[Defense: [105]

[Magic: [255]

[Agility: [70]

Characteristic Skills:

[Undead: Lv-]

[Dragon: Lv-]

[Chimera: Lv-]

[Dark Element: Lv-]

[Death Element: Lv-]

[Fire Element: Lv-]

[Artificial Elemental Cores: Lv-]

[Morph: Lv-]

[Fiend Language: Lv1]

[Shapeshift: Lv1]

[Self-Regeneration: Lv1]

[Flesh Consumption: Lv1]

[Hardened Dragon Scales: Lv1]

Resistance Skills:

[Status Effect Immunity: Lv-]

[Physical Damage Resistance: Lv1]

[Magic Damage Resistance: Lv1]

[Elemental Damage Resistance: Lv1]

Normal Skills:

[Life Drain: Lv1]

[Phantasmal Flames Breath: Lv1]

[Phantom Claws: Lv1]

[Fireball: Lv1]

[Dark Sphere: Lv1]

[Mana Mastery: Lv1]

[Intimidating Aura: Lv1]

Title Skills:

[Servant of the Dark Witch: Lv-]

[Fallen Dragon: Lv-]

...

Well, well, well, would you look at that? He's strong from the get-go! Although his Skills are all Level 1, his stats are pretty amazing! He's also at D+ Rank! Hm... Well, seeing how high his stats are, it makes sense. Although his Agility is very low, he's slow, which I guess makes sense seeing how big he is. He's pretty decent... I'll give you that...

His skills are pretty good as well... He's got a nice mix of defense and offense and some magic coupled with his breath and claws skills. He also seems to have a dragon scales skill, which reinforces them. He

also has [Shapeshift] so he can grow smaller or bigger, allowing him to be able to sneak out of here. Nice.

“But what is the [Morph] Skill you got?”

“Eh? You can see through the Soul Scripts?!”

“The what?”

Soul Scripts? What’s that?

“Soul Scripts are the scripts of our soul, where our abilities are located and where they develop. Every Ability or Skill we possess is part of our Soul Script. The more they develop, the stronger our soul grows, but the bigger the burden it becomes as well...

“Huh, so that’s what you call it... You can’t see it directly like I do?” I asked.

“I can inspect my own soul and see through my power, but I am not able to do the same with others... However, It seems that you’re capable of doing that,”

“Yup, so what’s the deal with [Morph]?” I asked.

“It’s the ability that any Dragon is born with. It lets us become... Well, just see.”

Lucifer suddenly activated the Skill, and he exploded into a burst of phantasmal smoke!

Poof!

The phantasmal smoke dissipated and what remained of him was a way smaller figure...

Of around... probably almost two meters tall.

“Eh? A human?!”

Lucifer emerged in his human-like form!

“Indeed. It is more like a demon than a human... All Intelligent Races of Beasts, Dragons, Demons, and Monsters possess the Morph Skill after reaching maturity. With it, we can morph into a humanoid figure that represents us. It is a power that was designed so we could communicate better with lowly races such as Humans,” Lucifer explained.

“I see... Who are you calling lowly race?!”

“Well, you’re a ghost now, so it wasn’t for you....”

Lucifer sighed a bit.

Anyways...

His appearance was nothing but handsome.

Lucifer looked like a slim and mildly muscular man, with a tall figure, pale-white skin, sharp eyes that gleamed with dark colors, long silvery-white hair that reached down to his shoulders, and two spiraling black horns growing from his forehead.

He had scales on his feet and arms and a few all around his body. He also had wings and a tail, but using [Shapeshift], he could hide those features, and even his horns and scales, if he wanted to.

He had a stoic and slender face with a pointy nose and sharp chin. He really looked like a handsome man from a dating sim game or something...

I had to admit it. I couldn't get my eyes off him...

"W-What? Why are you looking at me so intensively?" He timidly asked.

"Fuehehe... Ah! Nothing!" I said while averting my gaze.

He was able to generate clothes through [Morph], so he wore a white shirt that revealed a bit of his chest, tight black pants, and leather boots with black gloves.

Do you get it?! He looked extremely charming!

If we get him to town, all the girls will be falling for him in no time...

"Now! My loyal subordinates, let's get out of here! Wait, is there any last treasure?" I asked.

"No... there wasn't any. The dungeon core wasn't accessible to me either," Lucifer replied.

"Meh, what a letdown... Welp, let's get going,"

As we walked upstairs, Lucifer began to talk about... stuff.

"You know? I might have become your servant, but y-you shouldn't abuse it! I won't let you touch me or anything like that!" Lucifer said as if he was a bashful maiden.

"Eh?! What are you even talking about? Are you calling me a degenerate? I am a pure and virginal maiden!" I said.

"You were looking at me quite oddly!" Lucifer replied.

“It was just that... I liked your boots! I don’t even have legs, you know? So I obviously get envious when I see someone with such nice boots,”

“You’re not good at lying....” Lucifer sighed.

“But it’s the truth! Right, Partner?”

Partner was looking at Lucifer with squinting eyes...

Was she jealous?

“Hmm...” She muttered.

“Ugh, what’s wrong now? *Sigh* ... Kuro, you’re the only one I have at my side, it seems....” I sighed.

“Meow!”

TRUUUUMMM!

However, just as we were walking upstairs, a tremor shook the walls.

An enormous magic circle emerged on the floor where Lucifer’s corpse was, and... a gigantic figure began to be summoned from it.

No way...

Chapter 25

A small spherical jewel shined brightly with black light within the dungeon's depths born from Lucifer. It seemed to sense that its connection to its major provider of energy and miasma, Lucifer, has been suddenly cut.

Feeling alarmed, the Dungeon Core decided to quickly spend almost all of its saved-up energy and summon a new Dungeon Boss to protect the Dungeon, as of it was by instinct... It needed to protect itself! After all, a being so strong that it divided it from its main power source, Lucifer, just appeared. So, of course, it needed to retaliate. It needed to fend off such a threat before it could endanger the life of the dungeon core itself!

—

TRUUUUMMM!

However, just as we were walking upstairs, a tremor shook the walls. An enormous magic circle emerged on the floor where Lucifer's corpse was, and... a gigantic figure began to be summoned from it.

No way...

We glanced at the beast being born. It seemed around ten meters tall, and it had four heads, with long necks wriggling around like snakes. Its body was coated in black scales, and each head had eyes with different colors... It had a bright jewel on its chest, four limbs resembling those of a lizard, and a short tail.

To say the least, it emanated a deadly presence...

[Dark Shadow Hydra: Lv10] [Rank: D+] [State: Wrathful]

Ugeh... D+ Rank?!

"We better escape!" I shouted.

"I agree. Although we could get stronger by defeating it, it's not worth the risk!" Lucifer added.

"Meow!"

Call us cowards or whatever. I don't give a damn!

We quickly began to rush upstairs, but suddenly...

"GGRRYSSHAAAA!"

The giant Hydra seemed angry that we began to cowardly run away, as it extended one of its necks way farther than what should've been possible with its length and caught Lucifer with its jaws!

"Ugh...! Damn it!"

FLAAASH!

Lucifer was dragged down as he quickly exploded into phantasmal smoke, transforming into his dragon form once more!

"Ugh, damn it! Alright then! I will slaughter you if you want to die so badly!" roared Lucifer, as his claws began to slash through the Hydra's jaws and heads while his phantasmal breath burnt through its body.

However, those scales looked tough. They were barely taking much damage! This was because the Hydra had the [Reflective Scales] Skill which had the power to reflect a part of any type of elemental damage, effectively negating an amount of the damage taken. This made even Lucifer's powerful attacks not that strong.

"Maaoooo!"

Kuro suddenly charged downstairs without even asking me what we had to do. His feeling of companionship with Lucifer had developed quite quickly!

“Fight!”

Partner coated her spear with her mana as it began to exude a large quantity of venomous aura from within.

I guess we are fighting then...

ALRIGHT!

“[Mana Siphon], [Life Drain]!”

We quickly jumped into battle, and as we were all Undead, we began with [Life Drain], slowly draining the life of the Hydra from all sides!

“GGRYYSHAA!”

Lucifer acted as the main tank, being the only one capable of taking the hits of such a gigantic beast.

“RRAAA!”

SLASH! CLAAASH!

Lucifer slashed through the Hydra’s necks, however, the Hydra used one of its heads as a weapon, attacking and hitting Lucifer’s head with it! I never knew they used their heads in such a way...

Meanwhile, as I constantly drained its Mana slowly, I began to conjure all I had! Dark Spheres emerged one after another in groups of four, clashing against the body of the Hydra, completely bombing it. Dark Gales concentrated into a large vortex of slicing dark winds, attacked the Hydra’s heads!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOOOMMM!

“GGRYAAAARR!”

Despite its [Darkness Resistance] and [Reflective Scales] skills, the beast seemed to have taken some damage from my attacks. This was probably because my Dark Attribute Damage even has bonuses from my equipment, and those bonuses might have canceled out the damage reduction of its skills to a certain extent!

Partner used her spear to move gracefully around the battlefield. She began to pierce the Hydra's limbs with [Spear Thrust] and injected deadly venom into the open wounds. Although it didn't seem as effective due to the beast's [Poison Resistance], but at the very least it wasn't a full-on immunity, so there was some slow damage per second that ticked away at its health!

“GRAO!”

Kuro roared fiercely like a lion as he began to fire fireballs, water bullets, and thunderbolts towards the Hydra, bathing it with multi-elemental damage. It wasn't as strong as the rest of us, but Kuro was doing his part! However, the Hydra was a strong D+ Rank monster. It wasn't going to go down easily!

“GGRYSHA!”

Although Lucifer was bothering its movements the most, it suddenly glared at me with three of its heads!

FLASH!

All three heads' eyes flashed with bright lights, as a storm of elements befell upon me!

TRUUUMMMM!!!

Lightning, wind, and fire reached me as the Hydra utilized its powerful Skill [Instant Casting] to conjure [Fireball], [Thunderbolt], and [Wind Gust] combined into what seemed to be a destructive storm of elements.

I barely managed to dodge, but the powerful attack clashed against the wall behind me, and some of its shockwaves of elements reached my phantasmal body, damaging me. My HP almost hit zero just from the after-effects of the deadly combination. Imagine if that thing had hit me head on!

My HP began to slowly come back to me through [Life Drain], but the monster's HP was rather high, and disappointingly, it had yet to reach 50%.

"Be more careful!" Lucifer shouted, reprimanding me.

"Well, we wouldn't be fighting this thing if it wasn't because you got so easily caught!" I shouted back.

"W-What did ya saaay?!"

CLAASH!

The Hydra suddenly hit Lucifer's head with a bonk! But Lucifer retaliated with a roar, releasing his phantom flame breath towards the beast's eyes.

"GRRRYAARR...!"

Right... its eyes! If it does not focus its eyes on something, it can't conjure magic precisely...

"Use your claws to slash their eyes off!" I shouted.

"The eyes... right!"

—

Chapter 26

In some fictional stories, you might be supposed to defeat a hydra by cutting all of its heads at the same time, right? Well, in this world, there is the concept of HP! No matter how much a monster fights, it won't die as long as it has HP.

However, due to this, they are also bound to die if the HP goes down to zero. Therefore, we decided to ignore the Hydra's [Head Regeneration] Skill, which let it instantly regenerate a whole head if it was lost.

So, we decided to slowly drain away all of its HP with a variety of attacks from all around. Meanwhile, this skill didn't seem to affect the head when it was not cut, so we just had to blast its eyes off!

"RRRAAAA!"

Lucifer used his sharp claws to reach the Hydra's front head and slashed through its eyes!

"GGRRYSSSSHAAA!"

However, the Hydra screamed furiously as it bathed Lucifer with several elemental attacks!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

"Damn it...!"

Lucifer lost one of his arms and a wing in the process, so he was forced to pull back. We had no healers here, and I was running low on options. I needed a more penetrative attack! Come on... If I have Supreme Magic, I can do whatever I want with magic, right? Then... I should be able to learn something...! I began to shape pure darkness into a long and pointy form... and then... I launched it!

FLAAAAAASH!

The spear arrow of darkness reached one of the Hydra's heads and impaled its eyes right away, from left to right, like a skewer!

"GGRRYYSSHA...!"

The head cried out in agony as blood began to flow from its enormous wound.

Ding!

[You've learned the [Shadow Spear Arrow: Lv1] Skill!]

Oh! It emerged as a skill! This is exactly what I needed! I already had an explosive Dark Sphere and a sharp Dark Gale, so now... I have the piercing Shadow Spear Arrow!

I quickly absorbed more Mana from the Hydra, which had a tremendous pool, before I began to fire Spear Arrows of Shadows in quick succession! Meanwhile, Kuro and Partner continued to attack its limbs until one of them seemingly broke, making the creature trip over!

BOOOMMM!!!

We abused this as we continued to shower it with attacks, and Lucifer roared furiously, jumping over the beast, and using his heavy weight to crush its bones!

"GRRRAAA! YOU DAMN LIZARD!!!"

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

"GGRRYYSSSHAA...!"

The Hydra was on its last moments, but I had to kill it quickly before it triggered the [Last Minute Healing] Ability it had! Seriously, this thing is seriously overpowered! Who made it?!

I created a gigantic spear made of shadows, exhausting almost all of my mana and then launching it at the beast's chest!

FLAAAAASH!

It reached its chest and pierced through its large jewel, making the creature vomit mouthfuls of blood that flowed from each and every head.

"GRRYYYSSSSHAAAAGGGHH...!"

BOOOM!

The monster gave up at long last, and its health dwindled down to zero!

Ding!

[You've gained 10000 EXP!]

[EXP: [11156/1800]

[Your Level has increased from Level 12 to Level 13!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 13 to Level 14!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 14 to Level 15!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 15 to Level 16!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 16 to Level 17!]

[EXP: [856/2600]

[You have acquired the [Dungeon Conqueror: Lv–] and [Big Game Slayer: Lv–] Title Skills!]

Oh boy... What? How much did I level up? Five times? Damn... And I got two titles out of it!

I glanced at everyone else, and I seemed to be the only one that got them... Hehe... I guess that's what you get for finishing off the dungeon's last boss?

"Hahh... How was that thing so hard to kill?" Lucifer breathed a sigh of exhaustion.

Even as an Undead, he was exhausted... Well, we get tired when we use a lot of mana, even as Undead, so it's understandable.

"Fweehh..." Partner was resting on the ground.

"Mraoo..." Kuro was also exhausted.

Everyone seemed to get a ton of levels too! Kuro reached max level right away, while Partner was just one level from it. Lucifer just barely got to Level 6 as he was so strong, so leveling up was quite troublesome. Our status also healed when we leveled up, so the exhaustion was more like the soul getting lazy. However, we didn't have time to rest. I forced myself to move and quickly decided to save the entire monster corpse inside my inventory and check it with the drops later.

We didn't have to relax leisurely. I felt some life signs above. Yeah, since I evolved, I've detected "life" as something like a sixth sense. A large group of strong life signs is approaching us from the layers above. I grabbed Lucifer's arm and stuck it to his body by manipulating phantom forces and using them like glue. It worked pretty well, also with his wing.

Ding!

[You've learned the [Undead Healing: Lv1] Skill!]

Eh? Another skill... I guess with this, I can heal everyone else! But the Mana Cost will be painful...

"Anyways, now, let's get going. I can sense several presences coming down here! We might end up fighting right away, so get prepared for what might come!" I warned everybody.

"Damn it, who else is coming now? Wait... You said there was a town nearby? It could be Adventurers... They found out my dungeon so fast!" Said Lucifer, as we all mounted Kuro before he began to rush upstairs.

We rushed through several floors in a breeze as Kuro had grown superfast after leveling up quite a lot. And within just a few minutes, we had already reached the tenth floor where we finally heard them.

"Why are there no monsters here? So weird..."

"Yeah, we only found some ooze and bug juice around. Did a monster enter and eat everything inside?"

"Wait, if that's the case, shouldn't we go back and report this?!"

"Y-You're right!"

Eh?

The Adventurers suddenly realized that they were being too reckless and rushed upstairs, running back to their town. Well, I guess they weren't stupid. We reached the surface and dived deep into the Dark Forest without any problems. I guess life doesn't always have to end in conflicts!

—

Chapter 27

The Duke of the town of Affnaria, Duke Allen, suddenly received news regarding the Dungeon.

“So, what is it?” He asked his assistant.

“Well... the first party reached there, but they found absolutely... nothing. The monsters were all cleansed. There wasn’t even a single monster carcass left... Only some of the juice of what seemed to be bug monsters and slime ooze was stuck to the ceilings and walls....” The assistant replied.

“What? Well, did they get to the last floor? Can they conquer the dungeon?”

“No, well, the first party and all those that were going there stopped traversing any deeper as they had reported that they felt incredibly powerful presences from deep down. The artifacts had said that there could be monsters above D-Rank there... E or F Rank Adventurers cannot possibly fight such beasts.” Said the assistant.

“That’s... So this monster just ate all the others?! We’ll have to prepare a raid with more competent Adventurers then... Where is Camilla?” Allen asked.

“Camilla... The B-Rank Adventurer of this town is currently on a mission in the duchy of Veredictus, fighting against the Monster Tide that had spawned there....” Replied the assistant.

“Damn it! That damn useless Hansel! Grabbing my strongest adventurer away!” Allen roared before slamming his desk. Duke Hansel was the Duke of the Veredictus Duchy, and was a younger sibling of Allen.

It could be said that Allen didn’t had such a good relationship with any of his siblings, which he despised.

“Duke Hansel had paid a hefty sum for Camilla’s assistance, my lord....”

“R-Right... Well, we’ll have to employ other adventurers from another place, or... we could contract mercenaries and send them to die until they find out what monsters there are so we can build a proper counterfeit....” Allen said.

“My lord, that’s quite barbaric....”

“Well, why should I care? Call the mercenary guild and put up the quests there. Adventurers can go on if they want to investigate the monster.”

“V-Very well...” Sighed the assistant.

As the assistant walked away, Allen sighed.

“Ugh, what am I going to do?”

Suddenly, a small bat emerged in the open window, glaring at him with flashing crimson-red eyes...

“Do you want our assistance, mortal?”

“Tch...” Allen clicked his tongue.

“We can do it without a problem. The night has already fallen... Just say the word.”

“I don’t want to owe any more favors to you bloodsuckers than I already owe!” Allen responded.

“You’re missing a great opportunity. The profit of owning a dungeon is immense....”

“Ugh...”

“Heh, well, if you don’t want to... But let me tell you something. Aside from the dungeon, I sensed something else going around the edge of town. Three strong monsters are roaming this place....”

“W-What?!”

“Well, let’s see how you can handle it by yourself.” Said the bat before flapping its wings and flying away.

“W-Wait! Damn it... more monsters?!”

Duke Allen began to drip cold sweat as he rushed outside his office to tell his assistant to quickly prepare a knight brigade to defend the town from these monsters that the mysterious bat had noticed wandering around.

Meanwhile, the bat flew through the air, above the forest, glaring down at the entities lurking around town...

“Hmm... This scent... Undead? Well, I shouldn’t care about this. My lord has already told me not to intervene anymore. These arrogant humans believe they can handle things by themselves, so let’s leave them to do so... Kukuku...”

The bat flew far away, leaving the town and the forest behind...

We had been walking for around half a day around the forest, exploring the place and mostly resting as we just had an intense journey through the dungeon.

Night came quickly, and Kuro had also evolved in the meantime... He had reached max level from the EXP from the Hydra, and now, he looked even more beautiful. His body grew larger and more muscular, and his eyes flashed with eeriness.

He also had golden marks across his body, but when he reduced his size, he still looked like a cute black cat. Here are his stats now as a reference:

...

[Name: [Kuro]

[Race: [Undead Darkness Cat Chimera]

[Level: [1/25]

[Rank: [D]

[Status: [Happy]

[HP: [235/235]

[MP: [122/122]

[Attack: [275]

[Defense: [110]

[Magic: [215]

[Agility: [250]

Characteristic Skills:

[Undead: Lv-]

[Chimera: Lv-]

[Dark Element: Lv-]

[Artificial Elemental Cores: Lv-]

[Fiend Language: Lv3]

[Shapeshift: Lv3]

[Self-Regeneration: Lv3]

[Flesh Consumption: Lv3]

[Evil Eyes of Petrification: Lv1]

[Shadow Mane: Lv1]

Resistance Skills:

[Status Effect Immunity: Lv-]

[Physical Damage Resistance: Lv4]

Normal Skills:

[Life Drain: Lv3]

[Cursed Black Flare Breath: Lv4]

[Shadow Claws: Lv4]

[Fireball: Lv3]

[Water Bullet: Lv3]

[Thunder Shock: Lv3]

[Intimidation: Lv1]

[Roar: Lv1]

Title Skills:

[Servant of the Dark Witch: Lv-]

...

He had jumped all the way to D-Rank! And he's quite strong! I can't help but admit it!

Additionally, he gained four new Skills, [Evil Eyes of Petrification: Lv1], [Shadow Mane: Lv1], [Intimidation: Lv1], and [Roar: Lv1]!

Yes, he seems to have gained the power of petrification! With this, he had become quite deadly, but because it is level 1, it would take a while for it to actually do some potent damage.

[Shadow Mane] is a Skill that summons a mane of shadows around his head and neck, which he can control at will. It even comes with a small pocket space inside.

[Intimidation] releases a natural intimidating aura, which can make weaker enemies tremble and become paralyzed. Foes of equal strength might also be frightened... and [Roar] is a shockwave-based attack. It can deal damage by merely roaring.

As of now, I was sneaking around the town's walls, stalking over them, and looking at what the humans were doing inside. Damn, there are a lot of people here... all sorts of humans... And there are also some Elves, people with pointy ears, and I think I saw some dwarves and halflings... interesting.

My goal as of now is to infiltrate a library in this world and figure out where the heck I am and where I should go. But I am a terrifying monster! How can I sneak into town?

Well, when night fell, the darkness came, and as a ghost of shadows and darkness, I am more comfortable here. Also, for the most part, the citizens went into their homes. I decided to leave my team outside the walls for now while I sneaked into the town at night.

"Come back soon! Don't you dare get lost!" Lucifer said.

Does he thinks he's my father or something?!

Chapter 28

As I sneaked across the streets of this town, I heard some people walking around, so I hid with [Shadow Sneak] utilizing the shadows of the night.

"Have you heard the news?"

"Oh yeah, the dungeon that spawned...."

“They said that there was a big D-Rank monster there that ate all the other monsters... Man, what the heck is wrong with the knight brigade? Can’t they move their asses and exterminate that thing already?”

D-Rank Monster?

Wait, dungeon? Lucifer’s dungeon? I see, so the guys we heard running away already informed the town...

Also, this place has a knight brigade... Should I ask these people? Wait, I am a ghost... Maybe if I suppress my power and shape myself as a woman and... Oh, there’s leather right there. I take a leather piece that is covered in some nasty stuff I found in an alley and then slowly approach the two guys talking near a bar.

“Heeey... Can you tell me what’s the name of the tooown?”

The two men slowly move their faces to glance at me.

“Huh?”

“Eh?”

“Pretty please?”

Their eyes are suddenly filled with utter fear as their eyes turn black, and foam begins to rise from their mouths.

“G-G-GHOST!”

“GYAAAAAGH!”

BOOM!

The two cried in fear and fell onto the ground, unconscious...

Ding!

[You've gained 300 EXP]

[EXP: [1156/2600]

Eh?! One of them died out of fear?! You've gotta be kidding me! Am I that scary?!

Wait, was that my Abyssal Body's effect?

"Eh? What happened?"

"Someone cried..."

"Oi!"

Shit, people are finding out... [Shadow Sneak]!

I quickly dived into the shadows and rushed away. I better not ask any humans ever again. I seem to be lethal just by talking to them... Geez, how are they so weak, I mean, seriously? Maybe I am too strong? I need some way to suppress my scary aura.

But he gave me 300 EXP, and he looked like an average guy. He didn't even have any noteworthy skills... And his stats were abysmal compared to a monster that could give me that amount of EXP... How strange... are humans naturally juicy in EXP? Are they born as EXP bags?

Or maybe, as a monster, I get more EXP by killing humans?

Huh...

Anyways, this wasn't my mission. I rushed around the streets until I suddenly found something interesting, a large building that had a big book-shaped sign on it.

The library!

Somehow, I can talk and even read this world's language, which was probably from my knowledge while I was alive. I entered the library, which was closed, through trespassing the walls like the amazing ghost I am.

Being a ghost is pretty cool, by the way. You can just phase through anything. Through my natural dark vision, I looked at the library's interior and began to see the piles of books lined up on the shelves.

Oh damn, so many books. Wait, why do I have to sit here? I can just steal everything... I opened my inventory and began throwing every book I saw inside. Yeah, don't mind me! It's just books!

Hehehe...

I emptied the entire library in just a few minutes! I love to read books, so this is amazing loot for me! Now, what else? I might as well steal these pens, papers, and this... is this a watch? I threw it inside anyways.

And, done!

I quickly sneaked outside as I had already acquired what I wanted. I could get greedier and go steal food inside some shop or even magic items, but honestly, I don't want to, and I fear that I might be found out by some Overpowered Priest who will purify me into the afterlife if I stay here for too long.

I rushed into the sky before flying outside the town.

Phew, success!

I also summoned my guys near me once I got outside.

“Uwah! Is this the Summon Skill? Don’t summon us without telling us beforehand!” Lucifer shouted.

“Master! I missed chu!”

Partner hugged me as she rubbed her face against me.

“I was just gone a few hours, Partner. It wasn’t too long....” I sighed.

“Mrao!” Kuro rubbed his face on my belly.

“Aw, you guys are so lovely!”

“Now, what did you get? I could explain to you a bit of how this world is, you know? You didn’t have to go steal books....” Sighed Lucifer.

“Yeah, but you’re super old, so your info must be outdated,” I said.

“That’s... true.”

We decided to move farther away from the town as we began to browse through the books.

“The Secrets Behind Magic, Top 10 Best Fire Magic Tips for Beginners, How To Raise Your Giant Bird, Lingerie For Witches, 60 Shades of White... So many literature books and magic teaching texts... I mean, they look interesting... But it’s not what I want....” I sighed.

We were browsing through a pile of books I threw onto the ground until Lucifer found something.

“Look, this one should have some info,” He said, as he gave me a book with the name “Encyclopedia of the World” and another book named “Yggdrasil’s Birth”.

I quickly opened the Yggdrasil’s Birth Book, which seemed to be something similar to a Bible for this world. It spoke about the gods, religion, and a lot of tales regarding them, alongside the presumed origin of the world...

Encyclopedia of the World spoke about the known world, the continents, countries, and even endemic life, tribes, and races... And to resume the first book... this world is named Yggdrasil. Yeah, very original.

The book says something about the world being born from the seed of another tree, which they named “Cosmic Tree of Life”. After that fruit was released into the universe to rot, a seed was left behind, and the plant grew from the rotten fruit, fusing with it and absorbing its nutrients.

It is said that the Gods came into motion after they looked at the enormous tree and decided to use it as part of their world. Taking care of it, they eventually used it as the pillar of their world.

This World.

There are approximately... 86 gods, or more. Yikes. All these gods represent an element of nature or even an aspect of humanity too. All of them combined their efforts and built this world using the tree as the pillar for all of it. Several continents were created, and many moons as well... Wait, even the sun?!

Chapter 29

Aside from the very confusing “beginning” of everything, which is spread through the religion of the 86 Gods, there was also the explanation of things such as Dungeons and Monsters. Apparently, Dungeons were made by the God of Chaos, who is named Loki... Yes, like the Norse Trickster god.

He made them a trial for all of humanity which also allowed them to grow stronger. Although it also takes the life of innocents with the monsters these places produce... However, according to Lucifer, his dungeon emerged naturally... So I guess Loki made them possible, but they can also grow naturally through tons of miasma...

Confusing, I don't know what to think about this. Maybe Loki really just looked over Lucifer and said, "what a nice ingredient for a dungeon!" and made it into a dungeon...

Anyways, aside from this confusing lore, which I prefer to discover slowly instead of info-dumping myself with stuff that won't be even important for 60% of the story, I decided to look up more important things, such as the regions and continents.

There were several continents, all of them represented a Realm of Norse Mythology, it seems, such as Muspelheim, Jotunheim, Niflheim, Alfheim... But currently, we were at Midgard, the Realm or the continent dominated predominantly by humans!

However, the races of the other continents had spread over the millions of years all across the other continents, so you can find elves, dwarves, and even beast-kin people making up to around 15-25% of the population per Duchy.

However, due to being a minority, they are obviously discriminated against in some parts... Haha, and here we go with the classic cliches, such as slavery, wars, and more...

Well, not like I care about it, so let's jump it.

We are in the vast continent of Midgard. I don't know how vast it is, I can't calculate, but I would assume it could be as big as the entire Europe and Africa continents combined, or maybe all of North and South America?

Well, there are way too many Kingdoms, with some tyrannical Empires and even some seclusive Clans. There is a variety of everything around here, and we are currently in the territory of the Kingdom of Albraun, made up of various Duchies spread across the vast grasslands and forests.

This Duchy over here is the small Duchy of Affnaria, governed by the 6th son of the King, Allen Albraun. There was a book with him. His face was very familiar. He looked like the guy at my side when they cut off my head... He was the one celebrating my death!

Hmmm...

What should I do? Should I go and kill him?

Nah... I am not such a monster!

...

Wait, I am.

Though, if possible, I would really like to know more about the whole context... But he's definitely getting killed.

Call me a psycho, an insane woman, or whatever. I don't care. If someone actually celebrates my fucking death, no matter the context, I am going to kill them.

I explained this to my partners, and they nodded. Partner only understood the part where I wanted to kill someone, while Lucifer was the one that understood things better.

"I see... So you were executed here?" He asked.

"Apparently, according to the latest history book, my death was registered several years ago. From what I read, I was a witch who had some kind of power that brought misfortune to others, and due to that, I was always escaping from town to town, only becoming more hated over the years...." I muttered.

"T-That's..."

"And the worst part is that it seems that it was true, my Title Skill named "Bringer of Misfortune" does exactly that... It was gifted to me by the lovely Goddess of the Underworld," I said.

"O-Oh... W-Well, that's tragic...." Lucifer stuttered.

"Not really for me. I don't remember anything of when I was alive, so I feel very detached from everything, to be honest... The only thing I remember is that guy celebrating my death, which makes me pretty angry. You would never tolerate someone celebrating your death, right?"

"Certainly... So... You want to kill him? I am all for it. Let's wreck him." Lucifer said.

Uwah, what a supportive friend!

"I do plan to, but I want to extract info from him too... Do you think he could talk without him freaking out? I just killed a guy recently by just scaring him to death, so... I am a tad bit worried,"

"Eh? You did that?! Well... I guess I could teach you some spells. Your amazing use of magic should really let you do more than what you're limiting yourself to. Your attributes are also quite normal but strong. Death and Darkness go well hand in hand... Let's see, how about you conjure the [Erase Presence] Spell? I had a friend long ago, a Death Witch who had such a spell, it erased her presence completely by quite literally "killing" it." Lucifer explained.

"T-That's sounds weird... But let's see... Death Attribute, right?" I asked.

"Yes, do it as you can. I am sure you'll make it far. Your ability over magic surpasses every genius I've ever met in my long life." Said Lucifer.

"Let's see... Can you tell me more about it? And who was she?" I asked.

"Well... As it erases things like bloodthirst, animosity, and heroic presence, it makes the target's presence completely imperceptible. Those casting this skill likely appear as dreams or ghosts that can be seen during the day... the woman that used them was a powerful Majin of Death Magic. She was also

able to summon her Undead army anywhere...I wonder how she's doing. She used this to sneak around entire armies undetected and assassinate enemy generals quite sneakily," Lucifer rants.

"Oooh! I like that,"

"Yeah, but strong enough enemies were still able to find her, so she usually went around with her strongest Undead, which she customized using [Necromancy],"

"Necromancy? That's a Skill?"

"Indeed- Oh? You made it already?"

"Eh? I did?"

Ding!

[You've learned the [Erase Presence: Lv1] Skill!]

Chapter 30

Damn, I guess I am amazingly talented at Magic, all thanks to my awesome cheat [Supreme Magic]! I only had to die buried by books and filled with sorrow and regrets to get it... How easy!

"What's the difference between [Stealth] and [Erase Presence]? Isn't the latter a better version?" I asked.

"Not really. [Erase Presence] erases your presence, the presence you emanate naturally, such as bloodthirst, intimidation, and heroic will, but it doesn't let you stealthily move around, nor does it let you become more proficient at hiding. I suppose both Skills are connected, and if you could get

[Camouflage] as well, you could make a killer combination, but they are different enough to be different Skills.”

“So? Did my presence go away?” I asked.

“Indeed, the Abyssal Darkness within you that even made me a bit wary has almost completely disappeared. It was very strong.” Said Lucifer.

“O-Oh... Maybe Abyssal Body had to do with it....” I said.

“Abyssal Body? Wait, so you’re not a Darkness Ghost?” asked Lucifer.

“Haha... No... I am an Abyssal Ghost Queen!” I confessed.

“WHAT?! I have never... I thought incredibly powerful Necromancers could only summon those things... To think that a Ghost could naturally evolve into one...! You’re certainly quite a handful,” Lucifer says.

“Am I? Anyways, now that we are done here... Let’s just go,”

“How will you make him talk?”

“With intimidation!” I replied.

“Hmm... We’ll see how that goes,” Lucifer sighed.

“Hmm...”

“And what’s with that thing? Can’t it stop glaring at me like that?!” Lucifer shouted, pointing at Partner.

Partner was currently hugging my mildly materialized ghost body as I sat down on a log. She was glaring at Lucifer with squinting eyes, acting very jealous. But I couldn't help but feel flattered by her overprotectiveness.

"Hehe, she really loves me! Isn't it cute? I feel like a mother now...." I said.

"I-I think she sees you as more than just that...." Lucifer says.

"Come on, Partner, relax. Lucifer is your ally! Treat him more fairly, alright?"

"I don't wanna!" Partner shouts while crossing her arms.

"Sweetie, why are you acting like this?" I sighed.

"I want... Master and Kuro only!"

"Eh? A-Am I that much of a nuisance?!" Lucifer cried out.

He was getting emotional.

"I want master... all for myself!" Partner says, pouting cutely.

"Aww..."

I hugged and petted her head.

"Don't worry. I am all for you!" I said.

"Really?" She asked.

“Sure!”

“Then it’s ok,” Partner calms down a bit.

“I-I think you misunderstood what she meant....” Sighed Lucifer.

Anyways, after this little incident happened, Partner became more accepting of Lucifer. Maybe she wanted me to be only her mommy... She’s so cute... I don’t even see Lucifer as a “son” candidate, so she shouldn’t worry!

“Alright, you guys can stay here. I will summon you whenever I get to the place,” I said.

“Good luck,” Lucifer replies.

We waited for night to fall again the next day as Partner, Lucifer, and Kuro ate Hydra meat for lunch. I tried eating, but the meat fell to the ground after I munched it...

Sigh

I sneaked around with my new and amazing Skill, [Erase Presence]! I also merged it with [Stealth] and then [Shadow Sneak], so no one could detect me anymore!

Sneaky, sneaky...

I am here!

I knew it. The biggest building in the entire duchy was the Duke’s home... so obvious.

I sneaked inside the building and flew around, some lights were illuminating the room, and the entire place had mildly okay guards, but nothing a few Dark Spheres couldn't handle... Well, I didn't kill them any anyways as this was a stealth mission!

I looked for this little and big-nosed man around the building until I found him on the last floor, sitting in front of a giant desk stacked with paperwork.

He looked stressed.

"Ugh... So much paperwork...." He groaned.

Damn, he already looks like he's getting punished well enough... Agh, at the very least, I need to know the full story. I confronted him as I provoked the light bulbs to burst.

BOOM!

I expanded my shadows into the entire room and created what I call a "shadow domain". It was completely soundproof from the outside world, so it was a fitting title.

"EH?! W-What's going on?!" Allen cried out in surprise.

"Hello there! Do you recognize this face?" I asked, materializing from the darkness into the shape of my "human" form, although I was still rather translucent and pale.

[Erase Presence] helped him not die out of horror.

"GRYEEGH! G-G-GHOST!" Cried the man.

"Yeah, I am a ghost now. Do you remember this face, Duke? The Witch of Misfortune?" I asked.

"Eehh?!"

Allen was breathing heavily; I think he might succumb to a seizure at any moment now. He opened his mouth wide as he realized who I was...

"M-Maria Fuentes Belles! T-The Dark Witch?! You're back! N-No... It can't be! Your soul has become a ghost?! And so powerful...! Such strength... it could even destroy the entire city!" Allen cried out with pure fear.

"Yeah, long story short, stuff happened. Anyways, I wanted to ask you a few little things... Come out, guys,"

I summoned my party just in case and placed them around me. Allen was also just as shocked, especially by Lucifer's power.

"T-This... What is that?! A Majin?!" he asked.

"I am a Fallen Dragon, thank you very much," Lucifer replied.

"Kill?" Partner asked.

"Not yet..."

I approached Allen as I touched his chin with the tip of my black nail.

"Now, you sly-faced bastard, tell me a few things... Why was I killed? And who was I? Tell me everything and I might consider forgiving your life! And even more... giving you a little gift," I said.

"A-A little gift?!"

"Well, if you tell me honestly,"

“Y-Yes! I don’t know why you don’t remember your past, but... You were known as the Dark Witch. Wherever you went, you spread misfortune everywhere... Although most of it ended being plots made by aristocrats and enemies of your family... I-I myself ended colluding with them, and with their help, we apprehended you and used your death as a way to take ahold of the masses... I-I had no other option! If I didn’t cooperate, they would have targeted my family and me!”

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