A Ghost 371

Chapter 371 Leveling Up Frenetically! New Titles! Skill Awakening!
Ding!
[Calculating earned EXP]
[You defeated [Vampire Subordinates (Rank C ~ C+)] x30, you earned 60000 EXP]
[You defeated [Vampire Subordinate Werewolf: Beowulf (Rank B+)] x1, you earned 500000 EXP]
[You defeated [Abyssal Bug Spawn (Rank C ~ C+)] x357, you earned 178500 EXP]
[You defeated [Agatha, Vampire Lord (Demonite Transformation) (Rank B+ $^{\sim}$ A+)] x1, you earned 1200000 EXP]
[Total EXP earned: 1938500 EXP]
[Your Level has increased from Level 0 to Level 1!]
[Your Level has increased from Level 1 to Level 2!]
[Your Level has increased from Level 2 to Level 3!]
[Your Level has increased from Level 3 to Level 4!]
[Your Level has increased from Level 4 to Level 5!]
[Your Level has increased from Level 5 to Level 6!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 6 to Level 7!] [All your stats have increased] [You have devoured and absorbed the Flesh of an Abyssal Demon and the Demonite Heart Core, you gained +10000 Magic] [You have consumed large quantities of Miasma, you gained +20000 MP] [You acquired the [Sacrilegious Existence: Lv1] Title Skill] [You acquired the [Vampire Slayer: Lv1] Title Skill] [You learned the [Miasmic Essence Manipulation: Lv1] Skill] [You learned the [Abyss Eater: Lv1] Skill] [Several Skills have leveled up] [The [Blade Slash: Lv10] Skill has awakened into the [Cursed Abyssal Blade Arts: Lv1] Skill] [The [Strong Axe Strike: Lv10] Skill has awakened into the [Barbaric Dark Axe Arts: Lv1] Skill] [The [Possession: Lv10] Skill has awakened into the [Phantasmal Puppeteer: Lv1] Skill] [The [Fake Life: Lv10] Skill has awakened into the [Transfiguration Of Death: Lv1] Skill] [The [Soul Eater: Lv10] Skill has awakened into the [Soul Devourer: Lv1] Skill]

[The [Materialization: Lv10] Skill has awakened into the [Embodiment: Lv1] Skill]

[Name]: [Maria Fuentes Belles]

[Status]: [Strengthened, Cursed]

[Race]: [Beelzebub]

[Job]: [Dark Shadow Spectral Death Spirit Queen]

[Level]: [1/80 -> 7/80]

[EXP]: [188500/450000]

[Rank]: [A++]

[HP]: [40000/40000] -> [46000/46000]

[MP]: [100000/100000] -> [138000/138000]

[Attack]: [12000] -> [15000]

[Defense]: [14000] -> [17000]

[Magic]: [100000] -> [128000]

[Agility]: [40000] -> [46000]

[Soul Grimoire Abilities]: [Creation], [Deletion], [Transfer], [Enhance]

[Characteristic Skills]: [Ultimate Skill: Yog-Sothoth] [Unique Skill: Supreme Magic] [Unique Skill: System] [Unique Skill: Goddess] (Sealed) [Undead: Lv–] [Dark Element: Lv–] [Death Element: Lv–] [Poison Element: Lv–] [Illusion Element: Lv–] [Elemental Spirit: Lv–] [Fiend Language: Lv10] [Shadow Transportation: Lv7] [Abyssal Body: Lv10] [Supernatural Senses: Lv10] [Poison Body: Lv7] [Plague Body: Lv2] [Abyss Eater: Lv1]

[Resistance Skills]: [Status Effect Immunity: Lv–] [Greater Magic Damage Resistance: Lv6] [Darkness Resistance: Lv10] [Fear Resistance: Lv10] [Elemental Resistance: Lv9] [Poison/Toxin/Venom Absorption: Lv-]

[Physical Skills]: [Phantasmal Grasp: Lv7] [Masterful Stealth: Lv5] [Cursed Abyssal Blade Arts: Lv1] [Barbaric Dark Axe Arts: Lv1] [Phantasmal Limbs: Lv5] [Fist Strike: Lv4]

[Magical Skills]: [Greater Curse: Lv6] [Life Absorption: Lv6] [Phantasmal Puppeteer: Lv1] [Dark Sun: Lv5] [Dark Storm: Lv5] [Abyssal Spear Arrow: Lv2] [Abyssal Barrier: Lv2] [Abyss Manipulation: Lv2] [Black Lightning Strike: Lv2] [Transfiguration of Death: Lv1] [Soul Devourer: Lv1] [Undead Detonation: Lv8] [Shadow Thread: Lv6] [Disease and Poison Creation: Lv7] [Pandora's Box: Lv9] [Shadow and Death Domain: Lv8] [Gorgon's Five Cursed Eyes: Lv6] [Gorgon's Transformation: Lv6] [Chaotic Dark Meteor: Lv4] [Dungeon Manipulation: Lv1] [Abyssal Demon Transformation: Lv2] [Illusory Delusion: Lv2] [Mind Bending: Lv2] [Insect Manipulation: Lv2] [Miasmic Essence Manipulation: Lv1]

[Support Skills]: [Shadow Storage: Lv10] [Undead Healing: Lv10] [Erase Presence: Lv10] [Summon: Lv7] [Spirit Summon: Lv4] [Aura of Famine: Lv9] [Embodiment: Lv1] [Cooking: Lv4] [Hunting: Lv4] [Split Thinking: Lv7] [Mental Mapping: Lv5] [Phantasmal Stomach: Lv7]

[Title Skills]: [The Dark Witch: Lv7] [Dungeon Conqueror: Lv4] [Big Game Slayer: Lv9] [Taboo Mark: Lv8] [Bringer of Misfortune: Lv10] [Undead Queen: Lv9] [Evil of the World: Lv7] [Pickpocket: Lv7] [Apprentice Swordsman: Lv8] [Apprentice Axe Warrior: Lv6] [Apprentice Thread User: Lv5] [Spirit Queen: Lv4] [Spirit Mediator: Lv4] [Poison Queen: Lv5] [Merciless Assassin: Lv4] [God of Light Nemesis: Lv4] [Shameless Degenerate: Lv3] [Opportunistic Buyer: Lv4] [Plague Slayer: Lv5] [Gluttonous Eater: Lv5] [Saint of Death: Lv4] [Deceiver: Lv2] [Undead Slayer: Lv3] [Slime Slayer: Lv2] [King Slayer: Lv3] [Dungeon Master: Lv1] [Dungeon Destroyer: Lv1] [Queen of Flies: Lv2] [Sin of Gluttony: Lv2] [Mold Breaker: Lv2] [Sacrilegious Existence: Lv1] [Vampire Slayer: Lv1]

[Divine Protections]: [Hel's Divine Protection]

I had leveled up all the way to Level 7! Well, that's so little to be honest. I can't believe this new Evolution needs so much goddamn EXP. Well, it is Rank A++, so I guess it is quite acceptable to an extent... But even then! Isn't it a bit too much? I killed that giant meatball and I didn't even get past Level 10. Do I need to kill another ten meatballs to reach max level? I suppose a being of my caliber is not really supposed to grow strong faster, I am already quite strong, maybe too strong.

I had also acquired a nice variety of new Skills to play with~! But this is not the time to check them yet, even less some old Skills awakening and becoming even stronger, especially the Blade Slash and the Axe Strike one, which both became "Arts" or something weird.

As of now, we were all cooking in the backyard of Julia's ruined house. She has brought most of her people, which was near a thousand and a few hundred, so we had to quickly make enough food for everyone to recover. It was quite annoying that she asked us to do this while we were resting after such a battle, but it's not like I can't just ask a bunch of skeletons to do it for us.

After we have managed to defeat Agatha by a hair, Julia and the rest of the people came rushing here. The Ghoulish citizens turned back to humans and were all unconscious but alive and fine, so things looked quite bright. However, a third of the city was in ruins and the duchess entire house was destroyed and made into a pile of wood, so things weren't looking good either. Despite the hardships, Julia and her maids seemed quite happy about our victory, despite everything that was lost.

"Thank you for everything, Mary... I don't know what I would had done without you and your party... I-I owe you all my life." Julia cried.

Chapter 372 Agatha's Past

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Various skeletons and zombies were walking around, constantly cleaning up the debris and the ruins across the city with the help of some of the citizens that wanted to help. The majority were tired as they had been running away and fighting the ghoulish infected citizens for a while, so not many could give a hand in these times. The people was originally frightened of Undead at some point, but I have become

such a prominent figure here as a Necromancer in such a short amount of time, that they were already getting used to "good" Undead risen by Necromancers, who lacked monstrous instincts and were very tame and serviceable.

Skeletons and zombies politely helped the people, even rescuing some of the folks that had been trapped in the debris and ruins of the destroyed houses that the entire commotion caused. Of course, there were still casualties. Julia has yet to calculate but she knew. But I had already counted over twenty dead bodies. Their spirits roaming around, but they had been dead for too long for a full revival, and most of their bodies were in terrible conditions. I could make them Undead, but it simply wouldn't be the same. I had asked Emeraldine to unleash rays of holy light around the city while I transferred her my MP, so she was able to slowly exorcize the souls roaming around

Of course, that wasn't the case for the Vampires, all their bodies were grabbed by me alongiside their souls. I decided to not eat their souls though, as I am quite the benevolent woman, and decided to raise them as Undead. They had already been risen and made to fight Beowulf, but he easily beat them down. I raised them a second time after repairing their bodies through [Undead Healing] at Level 10, which has an amazing regeneration power over the dead. After that, I put their souls back to their bodies without any specific order, so some guys might have ended in girl's bodies and vice versa. I didn't cared, forced gender bending for all of you for being evil guys!

After that, I put them inside my shadows so the people wouldn't panic by seeing the Vampire Zombies, who lost their weakness to the sunlight after turning into Undead for some reason. This also includes Catarina. I had also decided to make Beowulf into a Vampire Werewolf Zombie, or a Zompirewolf! But his soul was very weakened and damaged, and I saw that he was pretty much broken into a retarded monster, so I had to heal his mind a little bit. Although I am still angry at the bastard, he was simply another victim, I won't destroy his soul but I will slowly heal his mind and then make him repent by working for us, kind of like what I did with Catarina and the other two Fire Ghosts.

Ahaha, and about Agatha... I ate her. I kind of ate her out of desperation. But I don't know if I would had kept her alive. I didn't had much of a personal grudge against her or anything, she kind of showed up and threatened everybody. But still, she treated Julia very badly, so I guess she deserved such an end. Well, her soul simply became part of mine, which granted me her memories. Her past was quite turbulent. I saw she used to be a serf girl whose village was attacked by bandits. She escaped and survived in the wild after seeing her house and her family being burned alive. Quite the harsh childhood...

After that she kind of wandered about, slowly growing stronger and learning ways to steal and kill to survive. Eventually, she was found out by the vampires. Her obsession over wearing other people's faces is quite sickly, but comes from her own appearance, as she was born with a deformed face that made

her look hideous. Her corrupt heart grew even darker as she was recruited by the Vampires, letting loose of all her hatred and resentment against life and the world, she envied those who lived in luxury and had nice lives, so she hated Julia a lot, and came here after being offered such a job. She used to wear the faces of her victims as a hobby, and loved to manipulate life through the usage of toxins and even diseases she created.

After growing strong enough, she became one of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, an Elite of four incredibly strong Vampire Lords that directly serve the Vampire Progenitor. The bad thing is that I wasn't able to get all memories. It is often impossible to get them all to be honest, even more because the Vampires inflicted a curse into her soul, so when I ate her, the memories of her soul began to fragment and darken. No matter how hard I try to inspect further into the identity of this Vampire, or about their hideouts, I can't find anything conclusive, and only small clues at most.

The leader probably knows I have some sort of ability to read minds or something, so he decided to inflict this curse into his subordinates so I wouldn't be able to learn more about him or anything regarding this entire conspiracy that Vampires have with the entire Kingdom. Agatha's past was interesting to learn, but the things she had done to so many innocent people made it hard for me to even pity her, she had gone way too low at this point to redeem herself, more than Beowulf or Catarina, or any of the other Subordinate Vampires.

I wonder if the other three Horsemen left are just as monstrously strong and also as scarred with terrible pasts... This is not just unique of Agatha, probably many children have been suffering their entire lives. A harsh world filled with poverty, dangerous monsters, bandits, and the corruption of a government that only see commoners and serfs as trash... Life's harsh for everybody.

I guess this is why I am putting my hopes so much into Julia, she's a rare case of one of these members of such a corrupt government who has empathy over those below her. I think she might be the key for a brighter future. I have to protect her.

Chapter 373 The Aftermath After The Disaster

Slavery, corruption, crime... this entire world is shrouded with this. It's not so different from the actual world I came from, well, not as much, perhaps. Even Earth is better than this place. But even then, I've had my own fun, found my own friends, and I am slowly building up my own place. I kind of want to make one of my goals to at the very least free and rescue as many slaves as I can. Every time I imagine myself being enslaved I can't help but feel terrible. Only thinking there are hundreds if not thousands of people in such a situation... I want to get them out of such a gruesome fate, at all costs. I'll beat the shit out of anybody that get in my way.

I've always hated how in various fictional stories I read, protagonists were often alright with corruption and even slavery. I always wondered "If they're so OP, why are they not striving to make a change, at the very least?" The novels themselves were already ridiculous and unrealistic, what's so wrong with freeing the slaves? Suddenly just because they want to do something good, all the ridiculousness becomes too unrealistic? Come on...

Ah, well, my rants are of no use right now. I just am a bit too tense right now after browsing through Agatha's life. It was just a lot to take in. I need a bit of a rest but I am being forced to work and stay awake. I just want to go nap a bit...

After Julia thanked us, we decided to put up several tables around her gardens where the people came to eat and fill their bellies. We also started distributing clothes and food for them to bring back home. But we didn't had enough for everybody, and the food wasn't endless either.

"Sigh... It seems that things are stabilizing a bit. But I'll need to bring more food from neighboring duchies, and also report what happened to the King. These are urgent news that must be known to the rest of the Kingdom. I hope the King can give us some funds to rebuild things." Sighed Julia. "Our food supplies are also very short, I am sorry Mary, I don't think I'll be able to supply you with food for a little while... Until things get better and even more stable."

"It's fine, don't worry about it, Julia. That's the least concerning thing right now. My Undead will take care of repairing and cleaning the city for you, free of charge." I said with a wink.

"F-Free of charge?! But I have... In fact, for everything you've done already, I should pay you every penny I have left..." Julia said.

"That's not possible right now, right? So calm down for now, Julia." I sighed, petting her head. "I am glad you are alive, and everybody here. I was never that interested into money. I was interested on you more than anything. You're an incredible girl, someone that is part of this corrupt government yet is capable of having empathy with those below her... I think you're an important key for a future where people might be happier. Of course, you'll still pay me, but I want to help you out."

"M-Mary..." Julia muttered, quickly covering her face in surprise, she quickly began to cry rivers.

"You're a bit too good, we should actually get a good compensation for what we did, Mary." Lucifer sighed while looking at the rest of the city. His face quickly changed into one of grimace, probably after realizing that things might be too bad to get any compensation for now. "... Never mind."

"Hmm, as long as I am with Master and drink blood, I am alright." Partner with her simplistic mind said. She looked at Julia and petted her head as well. "Don't cry."

"Lady Partner..." Julia muttered.

"I used to be a slave. I was enslaved by criminals that used to live in here before we exterminated them..." Said Emeraldine. "I always thought this entire Kingdom the entire government was corrupt. And that there wasn't any hope for the people here... But I guess you're different, Lady Julia."

"Emeraldine... I am honored to hear this from you... as well. My two servants are two half-elves as well. They used to be orphans that my mother brought home. Since I was a child that they were always there... These two girls are very important to me, I want to also fight against discrimination against non-human races, even if this continent has always been called the "Human Continent", it has been years since such a name, people came and went from all continents... It is obvious that people would come here and make it their home. The extremist nations can't keep pushing these people away..." Julia said, suddenly cleaning her tears and arming herself with resolve. "You're all right, I shouldn't be crying like a kid right now. I've cried more than enough. I have to move forward and fight as well, in my own way!"

Julia was comically brought back from her sadness into her full charge mode, even her face grew redder and steam was coming out of her nose. She was completely decided to work.

"However, before you go anywhere, we must adress everything that happened... From the Vampires to the Ghouls, and Agatha, the Vampire Lord. And even worse, the enormous demon thing she ended turning into." I sighed.

"Y-You're right...!" Julia quickly sat down again, as she drank a bit of tea and calmed down. "We must first... Assess the casualties. After all, several guards, soldiers, and even servants of my house perished in the invasion from the Vampires."

"...Right, we should assess that first. There are over... twenty bodies we found around the city at the moment." I sighed. "But with the people that were in your house, it probably adds a dozen more."

"Yeah... Some bodies have been found, but we have yet to find... Hector, my butler." Julia sighed.

"Cough, cough... I am right here, milady. Shall I serve you some tea?"

Suddenly, a butler appeared behind Julia, his clothes were all covered in dust, and he seemed to be covered in bruises.

"H-HECTOR?!"

Chapter 374 The Power Of A Butler

Hector was Julia's personal butler, he has been with her for a while, most likely. When we first went to explore the ruins of Julia's house, we took away a lot of debris and found several bodies of dead guards and soldiers, alongside maids and a few butlers as well, most of them died crushed by the house being brought down, while guards and soldiers ended being killed by the Vampires. However, some people had managed to escape in time. It was all thanks to Hector.

The butler was on the first floor when everything happened, finding several servants running away from the murderous vampires while the guards and soldiers tried to fight them, he probably suppressed his will to go help his lady to help the servants in here, bringing them to an underground room behind the back of the vampires. When the whole house was brought down, the ceiling of this room broke and it fell over Hector, crushing him over the ground. However, he had managed to take the hit all by himself, protecting the young servants who were not older than 16.

When we found him, he was barely alive, as one of the servants had some affinity for healing magic and healed him a bit, enough for us to arrive in time. At that moment, Emeraldine healed him fully and we brought him outside alongiside the other survivors. Because he was unconscious and the survivors were too tired, they ended staying behind the ruins and the camp built recently. When Julia arrived, she wasn't able to see him because he was still sleeping.

Just now, by the power of some sort of "butler's instinct" he woke up the moment he heard the voice of his lady and came to greet her as fast as he could humanly do. I had to admit it, Hector might be a "super butler" like those you see in anime based in how strong he is to just rush here at his age. He looks already in his late 50's.

"HECTOOOR!"

Julia jumped towards Hector, as the Butler was trying to clean his clothes from all the dust. The old man felt surprised as the young teen girl hugged him tightly.

"Milady?!"

"I thought you were dead!"

"Oh... Certainly, I almost did die. But it was thanks to Lady Emeraldine that I was able to recover. Sadly, I was asleep until now. However, the moment I heard your voice, I immediately woke up. It appears that things have wrapped up?"

"Yes... A lot of stuff happened, many people died too..."

"I see... Well, I am very grateful for what you've done, lady Mary and company. You're all the heroes of our small fiefdom. As the head servant of the house, I owe you my life."

Hector seemed to be a very good man. He was probably like the father Julia never had. It seems that whenever she speaks about her family, she only mentions her mother. Her father? Nowhere to be seen. He might had died, or just disappeared.

"Hm, it seems that there are yet to be many things we need to do. How about I make some tea to lift up your spirits while you all discuss what has happened? I won't dare bother you." Hector said, as Julia nodded.

"Okay... After all these years I can only drink your tea, Hector..." Julia sighed like a spoiled girl.

"Haha, milady. It would be more convenient if you could let go of me, so I can begin moving..." Hector said, as Julia still had him wrapped in her arms.

"Ah... Y-Yeah, you're right." Julia muttered.

After Julia let go of her butler, she sat back again and then we saw two green-haired maids walking towards us. These were the half-elf twins that served Julia, both were well versed at fighting and protected her against the Vampires, buying a lot of time for us to finally reach here. Faerie is the silent and calm one, with short dark green hair and sharp eyes, and Faire is the cheerful twin of the two, with bigger and brighter eyes, and long light green hair.

"Lady Julia, we are back."

"We brought some bread and meat we were able to collect!"

"Eh? You two brought food? Wait, that's for the citizens, give it back!"

Julia began to reprimand the two girls, but I stopped her.

"Julia, you also need to eat. Don't go overboard, okay?" I asked, as she seemed to sigh. The girl sat down again and her two maids began to share large pieces of bread and the meat, which looked like curated ham.

As we enjoyed the food and I was able to quench a bit of my hunger. Which was rather big after this entire thing happened, we began talking about the important stuff.

"Now let's go back to the main topic, Julia... About Agatha and everything else." I said to her, as Julia nodded.

"It all happened suddenly. The moment you went into the dungeon, the Vampires showed up out of nowhere... I was sure that I had checked every nook and cranny of my house and the surrounding neighborhood... But they just appeared so suddenly it really surprised me." Julia sighed. "Later, we learned that Emiliano was a traitor, obsessed with power, he decided to betray us and work for the Vampires in exchange for being given the blood of these monsters, so he would be able to break his Level Cap... Bastard, I trusted him so much... I feel ashamed of myself for having trusted such a person."

"So that guy betrayed us?!" I asked in shock.

I could had never truly expected this. He was always such a goody-two-shoes! Maybe I should begin doubting people a bit more.

"So that green haired human was a traitor that joined the Vampires? Wait, wasn't he a Court Mage?" Asked Lucifer.

"Precisely, he was the one maintaining the barrier. He was the one that always let the vampires inside... the first attack was provoked by him, he wanted to eliminate me for a long time..." Julia muttered, her eyes showing the clear frustration she was feeling.

Chapter 375 The Traitor

Emiliano, the Court Magician resulted to be a filthy traitor. After learning such a truth, I felt bad with myself as well. Perhaps I was too trustful of everyone related to Julia. I guess I could had inspected things better, or investigated more, but it hasn't even been a week since I arrived here, and I was mostly rushing things so the fiefdom could be left in peace.

The Vampires did all of this just to get the chance to kill her. Raising Undead in the graveyard, fueling the dungeon with miasma and souls so it can produce deadlier monsters, and even using experimental drugs to transform the citizens into monsters to throw chaos over the entire city.

They were very elaborated, and this just show their resourcefulness, just how many materials and money they have to do all this expensive stuff? Are they getting the backing of the Kingdom? Is my theory of a conspiracy that involves both Vampires and this Kingdom's Royal Family a possibility? Well, for now I want to continue listening to Julia's version of the things so I can get a better grasp of what had occurred.

"After that Emiliano betrayed us, he showed us his true nature. He was always a man that lived wearing a mask. He pretended to be nice and thoughtful, and even innocent, but he was always a rotten and heartless man. He confessed to us he always was searching for the "true meaning of magic" above all things, and that his research ended the moment he reached his level cap... Since then, he tried to find ways to increase the Level Cap, finding out about Monster Evolution, and how when monsters reach max level, sometimes, if they have the talent, they can evolve. Even demi-humans can do this

sometimes, he envied them all, and said that being a human was in fact a weakness of all of us..." Julia said while slowly growing more serious. Her face seemed to distort by thinking about the jackass.

"So he was a power-hungry nutter?" I asked. "Alright, I get it... Quite the cliché development, but you can't really expect much from a guy that was born in nobility and had everything from the beginning, I can say the only thing that brough him joy was growing stronger. Getting hit by a progression wall that he might never be able to cross was clearly going to make him go mad."

"I-I guess... I suppose Emiliano has a very different mindset. I remember finding out he grew without parents, as both his parents died from a disease that attacked this fiefdom long ago. He grew raised by servants. Perhaps he never developed well enough like that. Even I had my mother there most of the days of the week... Even though she was terribly busy, she was always there, she taught me many values I hold within my heart." Julia answered. "I suppose Emiliano never had any opportunities to grow emotionally, and he attached himself to the only thing that brought him some sort of joy and exhilaration in a life where he had everything except the love of his parents, power."

"Humans are truly ungrateful for the things they're given... The god of light created humans this way because he wanted them to unify. They were given great talents but also restrictions. In exchange, unlike Majin, Elves, Dwarves, and Beast-kin, you can multiply and grow incredibly quickly. Humans always have been seen as the "rabbit people" for some of us Majin, as you simply multiply too fast. With enough food and land, your population often doubles in merely a few years." Lucifer added. It seems that unlike Humans, most other races were long lived, but also reproduced very slowly and also developer slower than humans.

"Y-You think so?" Sighed Julia, feeling a bit down. "I guess every people's tribe has their advantages and disadvantages. But I simply want to create a place where my people can live and prosper. I know I cannot bring them the best luxury possible, but at least, I want them to have three meals a day, a job, and also to be able to sleep without having to worry about a grim future."

"...Of course, there are exceptions. You're a good person, Julia. I am not someone that discriminates humans, despite the things they did to the Demon Kingdom years ago... I am slightly resentful, yes. But through my journey with Mary, I've learned various things, I've meet a lot of people, and my perspective of life has changed several times. Discriminating an entire group of people based in the actions of some is not something right... The Demon King would had never wanted that either." Lucifer seemed to recall his past for a bit.

"S-Sir Lucifer, just how old are you?" Wondered Julia. "I do know that Majin can live very long... as long as elves sometimes, depending in their tribe..."

"Older than you can imagine." Said Lucifer. "...I don't want to disclose anything personal. Go on with your conversation. I believe I've said enough."

"R-Right, sorry for trying to intrude in your personal life." Julia apologized. "Anyways, when the Vampires ambushed us, we ran away while fighting. Your Undead proved to be of great help to aid us in buying time. The valiant Darkbound, a former enemy became my protector, and it was thanks to his sacrifice that we were not killed in the early stages of the ambush... Your two Undead Beasts also helped greatly, alongside your Familiars, although all of them ended perishing..."

"Oh, don't worry. I can always make another Darkbound later." I said. "And the two beasts were revived and combined together, they're there." I said, pointing at the enormous Kuro and Raven who were one single chimeric creature flying atop the skies, resembling a winged six-limbed panther.

"Oh..." Julia answered in surprise.

"I already caught Darkbound's compound soul, as long as I have that I can bring him back later, though I lack enough materials for now." I said. "He said that he's happy you were grateful, he worked hard."

"I-I see... Undead are truly intriguing." Julia smiled.

Chapter 376 Time For Some Little Rest

"Moving on, when Emiliano betrayed us, he was given the blood of the a "Pure Blood Vampire". The moment that happened, he started to scream as his body twisted over the floor. We left him behind as we continued fighting and running away, so we were unable to see what happened with him... Have you found any corpse of a man with green hair? Perhaps he died and was unable to transform, the Vampire woman said that the blood might kill him instead of transforming him into one of their kin." Julia said while feeling intrigued if that possibility could be true.

"Sadly, we haven't found any green-haired guy laying dead." Said Partner. "I've been checking the surroundings myself."

"I see..." Julia seemed to sigh in frustration.

"Then that leaves only one possibility the little bastard escaped." I said.

"Yes, that seems to be the case." Julia said.

"What about Agatha? Did she said something else? Anything that could be useful for our research?" Wondered Emeraldine.

"Well, she said that they were using this fiefdom as an experimental field, and when the previous duke, my uncle, died and I took over, I ended ruining their plans. They wanted to make this place a faraway and small area where they could experiment with all their strange creations." Julia said. "That vampire woman said the drugs were made by her, and that she was controlling the people and turning them into monsters... Naturally, when she was finally killed, the people ended turning back. It was perhaps some sort of magic that targeted those that consumed the drug."

"It seems to be the case..." I sighed. "Anything else?"

"Hmm... Hahh... I am so tired but I think there's nothing either? ...Ah! She also said her Lord wanted this entire place to be brought down... Because they didn't wanted to leave evidence of their acts. This probably means that there might be those that oppose them, if they feared leaving evidence... Maybe not all the Kingdom is corrupt. I hope?" Wondered Julia.

"I hope so as well..." I said.

As we were thinking in silence, Hector came back with tea and even... cookies and cake?! Where did he got that?

"Milady, everyone, I've bought you some fine tea and sweets to give you energy. Today was surely a tiring day, but you must first recharge your energies before doing anything else. Let's go one step at a time." Hector said, despite his clothes being almost ruined and his face covered in bruises, he seemed to be rather cheerful.

"Hector...! Where did you found these sweets?!" Julia asked.

"The underground storage is where most of our food is stored. That was where we hid with the other servants. So I simply went down there to bring food, there is plenty for everybody." Said Hector.

"Ah, I thought the underground storage was buried in debris, what a relief..." Julia immediately began drinking some tea and then eating cake. Her heart was instantly soothed.

I was also feeling extremely tired, so I immediately joined her as I drank tea and ate some cheesecake. It was truly more delicious than I had imagined. Perhaps what I truly needed was to eat something sweet to brighten my day!

Lucifer, Partner, and Emeraldine were also enjoying the food while drinking the relaxing and soothing herbal tea. This assortment of sweets was perhaps what we all needed. I really love myself some sugars. Even if I lack a brain, sugary food still kind of jolts me back to reality.

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We spent the rest of the day helping Julia and everyone else in the city. And even until now, my Undead were still restlessly moving debris and cleaning the streets. They were an amazing work force to be honest. Without needing food to move, only requiring Mana to move around, and being intelligent enough to do various tasks, we could employ them as workforce to easily lift the economy of this fiefdom.

At first, people was quite afraid of the Undead, but after everything that happened, my identity as a powerful Necromancer spread out and became well known by basically everybody. This caused the view on Undead to change. Maybe only a bit for now, but it is slowly changing.

By announcing that all Skeletons and Zombies walking around are friendly and merely working for me. People seemed to be able to tolerate them. The zombies look like very pale people with gray eyes, they don't reek either, as I've made them all through the Soul Grimoire and are not directly risen from

corpses, but I used the corpses to recreate Undead out of thin air as if they were materials in a crafting game.

The Soul Grimoire is pretty amazing, like this, I can design and create special Undead, such as the Living Armors I made that could resist the power of Miasma and other dark elements to protect Partner and Emeraldine while we flew through the Miasmic Domain of the Demon-form Agatha.

I plan to help the fiefdom of Julia because I owe her a few things still, such as her hospitality, and how she has supplied me with food and other resources. For the moment, however, after having eaten and worked a lot, we moved towards an Inn for the moment, while Julia went to temporarily stay inside a Noble's house that is related to her. There weren't enough rooms for us and we didn't wanted to ask her servants to sleep in the couch or something, so the second room was for them. We decided to simply move to an Inn, as we are mere Adventurers in their eyes, it was the most obvious thing to do.

I was quite tired despite being a ghost. I have noticed that I grow exhausted after using tons of Mana, especially when I use the power of my soul too. It is a deep exhaustion that can only be properly healed through sleeping. So I will do a little shuteye, tomorrow there's a lot of work to do, so we are going to be quite busy.

Chapter 377 The Vampire Progenitor

(Some hours ago...)

Sitting over a black chair, a pale-white man with bright red eyes and short silvery-white hair seemed to be meditating. His eyes were actually closed, even though, the gleam they emanated resembled an aura of blood energy coming out of his shut eyes. In a second, his eyes opened, however, as they unleashed a flash of red light across his room.

A servant entered the room without any noise, mixing with the shadows themselves, a figure covered in robes kneeled before him, as he was the "Lord" of the Vampires, the Progenitor himself.

"Milord, the squad led by Lady Agatha has...!"

"I know. The lost, right? They're all dead. I am well aware."

The moment that Agatha died, he had felt it. After all, unlike the hundreds of Subordinate Vampires, Pure Blood Vampire such as the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse were very connected to the Progenitor through the power of Bloodlines. While Vampire Subordinates had a very weak Bloodline Connection with the Progenitor due to their weakness and impurity as Vampires, Pure Blood Vampires had a strong Bloodline Connection with him thanks to their great power and the purity of their Bloodlines.

When Agatha almost perished, he also felt that. However, as she had yet to die, he imagined that his Plan B had begun. After all, he had given her a Demonite Heart Core that not only made her stronger, but also had the power to revive her and transform her into an abomination that could destroy the entire fiefdom that she went to ruin. Confident of his own creations, the Progenitor let Agatha destroy everything in her new Demonic Form.

...But things didn't ended as he planned.

Ultimately, Agatha was somehow defeated. The Mercenaries that were employed by the Duchess Julia were the culprits behind Agatha's death. Due to his [Bloodline Connection] Skill unique to Progenitor Vampires, the man was able to see through some of Agatha's memories and even through her eyes, for a few seconds, as it was limited. And ultimately, he noticed it was them, as he had seen them before from the images sent to him through Illusion Magic Artifacts by the Vampires scouting the fiefdom of Affnaria.

However, there was something weird about the woman named "Mary". He remembers having seen her before, in the incident that happened some time ago in another Fiefdom... It was about the ghost of Maria, the "Dark Witch" or the "Witch of Misfortune", a woman shrouded in mystery who was attributed to the misfortune of people. She used to be born in nobility, but was stripped from her title as a noble, captured, and beheaded after being accused of cursing her hometown with bad luck.

Although her appearance had changed drastically and she looked almost like a completely different person, the powers she had, and that look in her face. And that information she got from Agatha about her being a "ghost"... It was more than clear she wasn't simply a Necromancer named Mary, but the one and only ghost of this witch, who has been reported to have ruined his plans for a long time since her resurrection as a phantasmal undead.

"Milord?"
"Hmm Call the other three Horsemen, we are making a meeting with them."
"Yes milord."

The Progenitor looked into a glowing sphere in front of him, emanating bright purple light.

"This woman is faking her identity... Just how strong has this ghost grown? Is it possible for a ghost to use magic that is capable of making them resemble a living person?" Even the Progenitor of the Vampires of this Family was shocked that an undead could evolve to the extent it was able to fake their own appearance into resembling a living being.

Even the strongest ghost he has ever fought resembled a phantasmal entity, it was completely impossible for him to imagine that beings that looked to be made out of pure phantom could somehow materialize their souls until turning completely physical, enough to easily trick people.

The only entities similar to her that he had ever met would be the Great Spirits, powerful elemental spirits that live in certain areas of the world. They are able to take humanoid and physical forms despite being completely made out of elemental essence.

"Could a Ghost... evolve into a Spirit?" He wondered. However, he quickly waved his head, thinking the idea was completely ridiculous and out of the ordinary. "No... She's simply in another level of complexity altogether. And for a while now, I've felt a powerful Divine Protection in her. Is she blessed by a god... The Goddess of Death, perhaps? But why? Why would Hel bless a ghost? What are the gods planning?"

The Vampire Progenitor wondered and pondered this question while he looked over the map of the world, the most accurate map ever made. This magic artifact was once created by an ancient Summoned Hero of the Midgard Continent, and he traveled the entire world and mapped it.

In there, it showed several enormous continents, each one colored different to show their primary elements. The large continent in the middle of the other ones was Midgard, where the most quantity of humans dwelled. The continent had the shape of Northern Europe from Earth, interestingly enough.

Meanwhile, other continents such as Jotunheim, Niflheim, Alfheim, Svartalfheim, Muspelheim, and a Vanaheim surrounded the continent, some of them smaller than others, but each one respectably massive. Each of such continents had a "dominant race" as well, such as Ice Giants for Jotunheim, Fire Giants for Muspelheim, Elves for Alfheim, Dwarves for Svartalfheim, and Beast-kin for Vanaheim, while Niflheim also had Ice Giants, but not in bigger quantities.

"Seeing the world's vastness, stressing over this little detail shouldn't even be a thought that passes through my mind." The Progenitor sighed. "This ghost... We'll exterminate her alongside her little party. But for now, it would be better to leave Julia and her fiefdom alone. That place is of no use for me anymore."

Chapter 378 The Four Horsemen

Shadows suddenly converged in front of the Progenitor, taking the shape of a man covered in black robes.

"My lord, things are prepared. The Horsemen have arrived through the Teleportation devises. Shall we prepare a feast for all four of you?" Wondered his servant.

"No, I don't have appetite." The Progenitor man spoke with a cold voice, suddenly turning into a mass of bats that flew across his enormous castle, in seconds, he emerged before three figures sitting around a rectangular table. They were accompanied by three other figures, their most trusted retainers.

The three figures looked simple at first sight, but at closer inspection, their very auras emanated enormously strong presences that would easily frighten somebody to death. Their distinctive crimson red eyes and skin as pale as candle wax was quite frightening. They resembled living corpses that had suddenly moved out of their graveyards and sat down here. The Progenitor was no exception to this rule.

These three powerful figures were the last three Horsemen of the Apocalypse, two men and another woman. Their appearances were barely discernable as they were shrouded in shadows and their own Blood Auras.

"I am glad you've all come. A you may already have guessed, Agatha died a few hours ago." The progenitor spoke.

"We know. Just what happened there?" A slightly silent, serious, and overly cold voice spoke first. One of the two males that were part of the last three Horsemen of the Apocalypse, a man whose entire face was being protected by a mask with the shape of a skull.

"She was killed by a band of mercenaries employed by the Duchess of the Fiefdom of Affnaria..." The Progenitor promptly said. The other three Vampires and their retainers felt slightly surprised based in their reactions.

"What?! A band of mercs just killed our Agatha?! Are you sure, my lord?!" Roared back the second male. Unlike the first one, his energetic and loud voice was very contrasting from the other man. He wore a red-colored mask with the shape of a furious demon. His body was twice as tall as the Progenitor himself, and he was covered in muscles despite Vampires being known to be skinny.

"Agatha... She was the youngest of the three of us and also the weakest, and she was also very childish... I wish we could had taught her to be more cautious." Muttered the third of them, a woman with a serious and dignified voice. She had long blonde hair, but her face was being covered by another mask, that of a benevolent-looking man with a golden mustache and a golden crown, a king.

"Bastards! Milord, tell me where they are! I am going to go and tear them all apart into pieces! I won't forgive them! Agatha must be avenged!!!" The tallest man roared, hitting the table as his fury was clear in his eyes beneath his demonic mask, the light of his eyes flashing brightly.

"Likewise. If we all join together, even someone that defeated her should have no hope of winning." The second and skinnier man spoke. His cold voice filled with ruthlessness and conviction.

"I also agree..." Said the woman, seemingly saddened by Agatha's passing.

"...No, fools." Sighed the Progenitor. "This is exactly what those bastards want. To separate our family and bring us down. If you all end up going out, what about each of our facilities? And all the effort we have spent building our underworld empire? We have reached so far already, do you want to throw everything into the trash now and recklessly charge against a foe that has proven to be out of the ordinary?!"

The Progenitor furiously roared back at his dogs, as they calmed down their fury, and remained in silence while lowering their heads. Although Vampires were ruthless and often treated even their own kin harshly, those that knew each other for many years would build eventually relationships. Usually, the bullying was directed to newbies, which became these bloodsucker's playthings until some of them survived long enough to be actually considered part of the family.

Between the Progenitor and the four Horsemen, alongside the Horsemen closest retainers, there was a strong bond, and above all, an incredible sense of pride about their family, which has struggled and survived over many years since he fall of the Demon King.

"We have only been able to survive this long because we have kept together with one another. Alone, we cannot fight against the accursed humans, but together, we can slowly advance and seep our venom into their society. Slowly biting away their flesh and drinking their blood.

We have ben doing this for a long time since the Demon King's death. I always knew his ideals would amount to nothing before the ruthlessness of these monsters. The only path to our victory would be by becoming ruthless ourselves and exterminate them."

The Progenitor spoke words that were conceived as wise by his family, the Horsemen remained in silence, until they were allowed to speak when he finished.

"I know that, my lord." Sighed the woman. "However, what do we do now then? Should we simply let this be and that's it? Don't you feel any remorse for Agatha's death, when you himself raised her and made her into the powerful warrior she became?"

"Certainly I did. I've always been worried about her childishness... This is why I gave her the power to revive into a new and power entity if she ever were to die, but even that didn't seem to work against this powerful foe... This woman, the same woman we once plotted her death and that of her family so the royal family could finally acquire the Fragment of the Evil god... She was there, she killed Agatha." The Progenitor spoke. The other Vampires gasped in surprise, without an exception.

"Y-You mean...?!" Asked the tall male vampire.

"It can't be... Has that ghost grown so strong in this little time?!" The skinny man couldn't help but ask.

"She's... Maria Fuentes Belles, the Witch of Misfortune, isn't it?" The woman asked.

"Indeed... This woman... Since her resurrection as a ghost, that she had only been trying to ruin our plans!" The Vampire Progenitor roared in frustration, hitting the table.

BAAM!

Chapter 379 Plans

The Vampire Progenitor couldn't contain his fury, slamming the table. The other Vampires remained in silence, their frustration was clear as their retainers panicked a bit over their overflowing emotions.

"Then what do we even do, my lord?" Asked the tallest of the Vampires.

"We mustn't let this slide. We have to plan something." Said the skinny Vampire.

"But the meeting between the Dukes and the King is approaching, the golden opportunity for all of us to join together and take over this country..." Sighed the woman.

"Fear not, my informants have told me that the King has learned what happened in Affnaria and has decided to delay the meeting between the governors of his nation until the next year... Probably fearing that something might happen to him. He is a cautious man indeed." Sighed the Progenitor. "He also will probably begin to fund Julia, so we cannot easily approach to her again, if we all go there, we'll become the target of the church as well. Their magical technology has evolved over all this time, supplied by the Holy Empire, they're not a foe we can easily mess with, even if our strength might guarantee our victory against the average priests, they'll chase us down and the strongest of them might eventually find us. The Holy Emperor is a threat we cannot easily provoke... yet. We must grow further first."

"You've being too cautious as always, my lord..." Sighed the tallest man, crossing his arms. "But I suppose this time might also give us some more time to gather our forces and earn more money in the meantime."

"Hm... If attacking the Duchy of Affnaria is forbidden, how can we track this woman?" Asked the skinny male vampire.

"We have already tracked, our scouting squads are more efficient than you three believe." Sighed the Progenitor. "She had settled down with the Goblins and other demi-humans very far away, in the former ruins of the Demon Kingdom. Our influence and family has yet to reach such a faraway place, especially the Kingdom that lives in such low temperatures. However, from the scouting team, it was said that there were survivors of the Demon Kingdom living there not so long ago, but they were suddenly all frozen by a mysterious figure. They're not dead, but frozen through a strange curse."

"What?! So there were survivors?!" Asked the tallest vampire. "Tsk..."

"You muscle for brains, we have already gone past the moment we could have helped them. The ancient demon kingdom and their survivors... are not our problem anymore." Sighed the man wearing the fox mask.

"But...! If I had known there were still survivors there somehow I..." The tall vampire muttered, but quickly remained in silence at the end. It has been years, many, many years already. It was too late for regrets.

"I see, so what you recommend us is to kill Maria when she's back? But we have also learned about these threats. Whoever created that magic ice is not someone we can just ignore. If they did such a thing, they might even be territorial." Said the vampire woman. "What do you have in mind, my lord?"

"I have investigated enough. It seems that a large tribe of the mighty Ice Giants have settled in there... Some time ago, a member of their tribe, a young woman, found an ancient relic made by the gods named "Skadi's Winter Crown", this powerful crown granted her incredible and insuperable powers. And with them, she had been commanding the entire tribe and strengthening her forces. For some reason, she showed hostility to the surviving Majin, despite having been peaceful for so long... This treasure, whatever it is, might have some power capable of brainwashing the wearer. She's a threat we must be cautious about."

"Hmph... Wait, how about we simply ally them?" Wondered the woman.

"What?" The Progenitor asked.

"Isn't it normal? I mean, if we can gather aggressive tribes that are hellbent into taking over others, we can manipulate them and simply use them to invade her precious little country. We destroy them and then laugh at the face she makes when everything she has built is destroyed. It's not as if we are not good at negotiations. Whatever those demons did to that "Frost Queen", we can use it to our advantage and obtain a valuable and tyrannical ally." Said the woman, she was ambitious.

"Hm, not bad." The Progenitor said. "If you're so willing, then you'll do it."

"Of course, I shall take care of the preparations. It won't be immediate. But on its due time... We got plenty of time until the beginning of next year after all." Said the woman, giggling maliciously.

"Wait! Shouldn't we just go and smash her place? Not like we can't do it right now, right?" Asked the burly vampire man.

"You're seriously just muscles for brain, aren't you? We have not survived this long acting like idiots. You have to remember she's a necromancer, and the Undead she can create have begun to become stronger and stronger with each time. She can probably make B Rank Undead without even sweating... She used them against Agatha to corner her and her squad after all." Sighed the fox mask-wearing vampire.

"Indeed, muscle head, we have to think this through and do roundabouts. Also, what's better than others doing our work than ourselves? That way, we never truly risk it. This is how we have always worked. Make others do it for you, your life is left intact and even if they fail... You just find more people willing enough. A rotten and corrupt world such as this... has plenty of people willing to do anything for a bit of food, a bed, and place where to sleep beneath a ceiling." The woman smiled. "Isn't this how we gathered our lovely family together?"

"Then it is decided... As for the other things, we'll slowly begin planning them. Agatha's death won't be in vain either. I shall support you with resources, but make sure to bring me notable results."

"Understood, my lord. Things might take a while, but I shall bring you fruitful results."

Chapter 380 A Wild Night

(Maria's POV)

When I woke up, the sun was already rising from the horizon. The light of the sun was warm and comforting, and for some reason it really felt nice despite being a ghost. It felt as if it permeated my "skin" very deliciously... Wait, deliciously?

There's something odd. I feel more... real than before? It seems that this might be related to a Skill-Wait, right! [Materialization] had evolved into [Embodiment] last night! I forgot about that... Is this why I feel so "real" now?

I looked into my hands, and touched them, they felt so fleshy it was slightly frightening. I had the impulse of grabbing a knife, cutting myself, and seeing if blood would come out, and I did. But what came out was just bluish phantasmal essence. And the "wound" wasn't even one, as everything healed automatically.

Wow, I guess I am even more "real" yet inside, I am still a phantasmal entity. This feels very odd, but I'll take it. Is this why my hands feel slightly strangely warm? Not really warm, I am still almost dead cold, but I can absorb warmth better, the sun feels nice because of this... Perhaps my materialized body is like that of a lizard now and I'll need to bathe inn sunlight to warm up a bit.

Before, it was impossible to gain any type of warmth after all, not even to retain it. So it felt slightly weird. It even made me slightly... sad. I have now three lovers, although we have yet to make things completely official, but I feel I cannot even give them the warmth I wish I could give to them.

Maybe this is why I only I've done it with Partner... Though she was slightly pushy. But I've restrained myself from doing anything aside from kissing and hugging because I know I cannot... properly give them the warmth they deserve.

Of course, I love being an OP Ghost, but sometimes... It kind of makes me sad. I was alive once, so I remember the warmth of the living, how it felt to be so energetic and everything. It kind of gets me sad every time I remember I cannot even give comfort and warmth to those I love so much...

Could the path towards a more "living" body be in the Embodiment Skill? I'll have to practice with it some more to see how far it can get as well. Maybe... Just maybe I could give them more comfortable

hugs, and hold their hands, and share warmth... And kiss them without feeling like I will give them a cold. And love them some more... Ugh, I've been working a bit too hard lately, I might need a small break from all the fighting and war. What should I even do for now? My job is actually done here but of course, I'll help Julia get everything going. But I suppose that after that... We'll grab food and supplies and then run back home. I am missing everybody there. And after that... I have no idea. We might just wait until the meeting between rulers of the Kingdom while finding the clues for my little brother and my aunt that is taking care of him. I also want to meet him. Hm, yeah, waiting is not my style though. Although I am saying I'm tired, I am a hyperactive girl, so I like to go around. We might use our free time to visit the Dwarf Kingdom in the Ash Mountains and try to find any survivors of Lucifer's Dragon Family. I would really like to meet new people too. And of course, we have to investigate the whole ordeal with the cursed ice and how to uncurse it. Though... I wonder if I can do it now that I've grown strong enough. It might be worth a shot whenever we get back home. "Hah~ Yeah, no, there's actually a lot to do! Alright, time to get up! We'll spend the week here and then we'll go back home, it is decided!" I said triumphantly, suddenly realizing I was buck naked. "Huh? What happened here?" I looked at my bed and quickly realize there were three buck naked people there as well. It was Lucifer, Partner, and Emeraldine. Hold up a second. Wait... wait a bit. "D-Did we do it?" I wondered, looking back at my memories, things were dizzy.

But I do remember I just got very drunk in the celebration night, like, too much. It seems that the alcohol Julia shared with us was made with a very strong liquor that was made by the Holy Empire, and they kind of blessed it with light or something? For resume, it affected me a lot because that's my weakness.
So I got super drunk and began doing a bunch of stuff I usually don't do But
Ah!
Now I remember a bit. I carried Lucifer with my arms and brought him to bed.
And then I sucked his thing.
Ah Why did I just do something so lewd out of nowhere?!
Well, it's not as if he wasn't enjoying it!
Okay, I have to calm down. Memories are flowing into my mind constantly as I begin to recall everything. That night I got super drunk, fucked Lucifer in bed like a barbarian, which surprises me now, as I consider he left himself be dominated so easily while being a prideful dragon and all And lastly, Emeraldine and Partner joined in when Lucifer was left half-dead over the bed. After that we had fun between girls and then I passed out.
Damn.

This wasn't how I expected I would have sex for the first time with Lucifer and Emeraldine. It was too sudden, but I can tell I enjoyed it. I wish I could had been a bit more conscious there though, but I know they liked it as well. Though next time, I'll try doing it while I'm not so drunk.

Well, there's always more opportunities in the future, right?