A Ghost 411

Chapter 411 Freezing Enviorenment-Adapted Plants

Lucifer decided to fly into the skies and went slowly this time. It would take roughly four to five days to reach the dwarf kingdom by merely walking towards there, it was several kilometers, and in normal circumstances, it might even take over a week, it would certainly be a long trip if we went by foot or in a carriage, but this time we had decided to go conveniently through the skies. Lucifer can fly, I can fly, so it was obvious we were going to go through the skies, wasting time is not my motto.

Of course, by flying fast, we would be able to reach the place in probably about half a day, but because he didn't wanted to go at turbo speed as the kids wanted to enjoy the scenery, this might take us a whole day now. Nonetheless, we decided to enjoy the view, which was a beautiful snowy landscape filled with white clouds and no blue sky at all... quite gloomy to be honest.

"Uugh, its so cold in here..." Emeraldine began to tremble a bit, even with all the clothes she was wearing, which made her look like she was several kilos heavier in weight, she still was freezing alive.

"Let's set up a barrier then." I said, quickly using my Magic, manipulating darkness to create a barrier of shadows. Of course, this would inhibit the scenery for us, this is why I modified it and made it as transparent as I could.

"Ah, we can't see well like this!" Takeshi complained.

It seemed my barrier was still too dark to enjoy the view...

"Let me do it myself, Maria." Emeraldine said. "Can you supply me with Mana?"

"Sure!" I said, holding Emeraldine's hand and giving her my MP.

She quickly began to feel her MP overflowing. Quickly after, she conjured a completely transparent barrier that was easy to see through and that blocked most of the chilly winds of the outside, without actually blocking the air, of course, as they would need oxygen to breath.

"Wow this is awesome!" Said Takeshi.

"Much better." Laura said.

"Guhhh... I-I guess my darkness gets in the way, huh?" I sighed, feeling slightly sad.

"T-There's a time for every element to be used, Maria, don't feel down now." Said Emeraldine, petting my head.

"Yeah! The other day I used Blood Magic to heal someone that was bleeding." Said Partner. "I never thought I could heal people!"

"Well, Blood Magic has a bad reputation because Vampires usually use this power to hurt others, but blood magic can also be used to help a body heal and manipulate blood so it can cicatrize quickly. It is rather more effective than direct healing spells of light or life element." Said Emeraldine. "Although they can only target a few targets at the same time, usually only one to be more effective unlike other healing spells that can be conjured in a wide range."

"I see..." Partner said. "Maybe I can be like a doctor! I never thought I could do stuff outside of fighting."

"I guess you've got the knack for it, Partner." I said, petting her back.

Like this, we spent the rest of the day flying through the skies, enjoying the beautiful view and talking. We eventually moved above the clouds were the sun was hitting hard, it was warm and the view was simply beautiful. It felt like Lucifer had the power to just bring us anywhere we wanted, the world itself was in the palm of our hands, not even the sky was the limit.

We decided to make a small camp after six hours because everybody was feeling hungry, so we camped near a large lake in an area that had some melted snow, showing beautiful green and blue grass growing around the lake. The place was so beautiful and peaceful despite the cold temperatures that we enjoyed the camp, although with another barrier set by Emeraldine, this time a bit bigger.

While we were exploring this new uncharted lands, I began to look around for new herbs. I had never seen blue grass before, so I began picking it up while lunch was getting ready. It was really blue, and seemed to have the essence of ice within it. Was this a Magic Herb as well?

[Snow Weed (F Grade)]

Special weed that usually grows in very cold temperatures but is damaged by the high temperatures. Its necessity for high quantities of water often make them grow over snow itself or near lakes, as they extract water particles from snow. Usually growing in low temperatures, they're common Weed within freezing continents such as Jotunheim and Niflheim.

It possess Ice Attribute Mana Essence and is catalogued as a cheap Magic Herb. It can be used for low-quality Healing Potions, which can be more effective on Ice-Attribute Beings. If consumed raw, it could cause stomachache if the user has no resistance to ice.

"Oh! This is one of the plants that can grow in snow!" I said, quickly being happy to get a good find.

I have heard that Ice Giants were able to farm over snow itself using special plants that originated from their own continents, special herbs that grow in snow, trees that give tasty fruit that can also grow in snow, and other plants and even vegetables. This weed seems to be growing from here all the way to the direction where the Dwarf country should be located.

"Really?!" Asked Emeraldine, running to my side to look at the item in question. "Now that I look at it, it does indeed emanates a faint aura of magic... amazing. This normal weed is very special if it can survive this cold. This world is really filled with such amazing things."

"Indeed... So what do we do with this though?" I wondered. "Should we pick them up?"

"Yeah, let's grab them by their roots so we can try to plant them back home." Emeraldine said. "I'm sure they'll make some good materials for alchemy." Chapter 412 An Assortment Of New Materials After we gathered the Snow Weed, we also began to find other Herbs and even blue and clear, bluecolored flowers growing around sporadically, they were rarer to find, but were just as interesting. Hell, there were even clear white mushrooms that camouflaged as piles of snow, so it was rather hard to find those. [Snowflake Herb (E Grade)] A special herb whose leaves are snowflake shaped. Much like other plants within its category, it is able to survive in incredibly freezing, below zero grades of temperature, but it might weaken or have its leaves melted away if it is exposed to strong temperatures above 20 grades. This plant not only stores water from snow but also is capable of assimilating snow, making most of its body ice crystals that grow constantly. Its roots feed on the mana of the underground and various other nutrients. It has healing properties and can stop bleeding if their leaves are applied over open wounds. If prepared, it can become an ingredient for both low quality health and mana potions.

A mushroom that camouflages as a pile of snow, its map is fluffy and covered in snow most of the time to hide from predators that might find its succulent flesh a good meal for the cold temperatures, its roots usually grow around Weed or other plants, where its parasites their roots to draw nutrients and mana from them, it grows rich and big, and can often grow as big as one meter. It is comestible and can be made into a series of dishes, it can grow as long as spores are spread out over roots or wood. Due to

[Snow White Mushroom (D Grade)]

its high quantities of stored Mana, it can restore Mana upon consumption, or be used for Mana Potions
as ingredient.

[Snow Princess Flower (D Grade)]

A beautiful flower in the shape of a dancing princess made completely out of magic ice. This plant absorbs Mana from environments rich in ice attribute, and grows bigger over time. It is said that if this flower is gifted to a beautiful lady, there might be a chance they'll become a princess in the future. This flower is often favored by Ice Spirits and Ice Fairies, who love to eat the flower, which has a sweet flavor. This flower contains large quantities of Mana, so it can be used for Mana Potions the most.

"Oooh, so many new herbs! I am getting excited about making stuff with them!" I said while sighing happily, I loaded my Inventory with hundreds of Weeds, Herbs, Flowers, and Mushrooms.

We also decided to cook some mushrooms right now, as we ended finding around thirty of them, and they were BIG, one mushroom was watermelon sized, so we took two and that would be enough for everybody, as I began grilling it and the white mushroom quickly turned a beautiful brown color, emanating a slightly sweet scent that also seemed similar to nuts.

"Ooh, the smell is tempting!" Said Lucifer. "Can we eat already?"

"Wait a bit more! I also chopped some into the stew, let's eat these first." I said.

I quickly served everybody some nice stew, as we began enjoying the delicious meal together, the mushrooms were surprisingly creamy when boiled, slowly melting inside of the mouth. It left me shocked by how delicious they actually were.

"T-This is way too good!" I proclaimed happily of eating such delicious food.

"Indeed..." Emeraldine said in surprise. "I had never eaten mushrooms like these!" "It tastes like nuts..." Said Partner, she didn't seemed as amused. "Hmm, with the delicious broth made from lizard meat and bones, and the meat, the potatoes, carrots, and all... Ahh, this is really comforting." Sighed Lucifer, eating everything. He had grown to love my homemade cooking. "I love your cooking, Maria, it is the best." "Hehehe, I am happy to hear that~" I giggled. "I think they're ready now." Darfu pointed at the big, watermelon-sized mushrooms grilling over the grill. I quickly touched them, suddenly feeling as if they were incredibly soft, a piece crumbled away easily. "Wow, they must be... alright, let's try them alone and then we can add salt or something else later." I said, quickly taking out both mushrooms, serving them into big plates, and then using a big knife to cut them into slices. Suddenly, a white creamy substance began coming out of the mushroom's interior, as if it were melted cheese, everyone was enchanted by the sight. I decided that this would be hard to eat alone, so I made some sandwiches with mushrooms and ham. "Lets do it then!" Everyone quickly gave it a bite, the mushrooms were soft and creamy, as if their interior was a mushroom cream soup made way back at Earth. The bread went good with it, and the ham enhanced the flavor a lot. "Uwah, this is tasty!" Partner suddenly said, she preferred them grilled over boiled. "Wow... This mushroom, why we have never eaten them before?" Asked Baldur in shock.

"Mushrooms grow in big quantities inside caves and the dungeons we had back home but we never found anything like this! Mushrooms that grow in the cold are really something else!" Laughed Balladur.

"It is incredible that this grew atop snow..." Darfu said.

"Hahh... I don't know if I I'll ever be able to eat any other mushroom in my life anymore." Emeraldine cried.

"It is indeed quite delicious..."

I never thought it would be so fun to pick up stuff on the go to eat.

After we had our lunch, we quickly decided to move over, after everybody went to the bathroom behind some trees, we quickly sat over Lucifer's back once more and flew off into the skies.

As the children ended falling asleep alongside Partner and the twin Dwarves, we conversed silently with Darfu, Emeraldine, and Lucifer about various things. The hours passed rather quickly, until we were able to finally see the mountains we had been chasing for so long growing closer and closer...

"We are here, my home, the Ash Gray Mountains." Lucifer said, his voice seemed filled with nostalgia.

Chapter 413 Encounter With Dwarves

As we traveled through the skies, the beautiful mountain range finally came closer, its beautiful gray ash colors showing all of its details. It was quite easy to tell how many caves there were due to the many openings across the several mountains lined up together, which amounted to up to over twenty of them. All of these mountains stretched across this corner of the continent, forever covered on snow. The beautiful mountains were probably as big as Mount Everest because the peak of such mountains reached higher than the clouds themselves, most of them being covered by the clouds.

The beautiful scenario in front of me quickly shocked me, making my phantasmal heartbeat faster by the second. I slowly grew more and more excited. I've been only traveling across a small part of this

enormous continent, seeing such a beautiful scenery impacted me so much that I couldn't help but look in awe.

"S-So this is the Mountain Range of the Ash Gray Mountains..." I said, barely mustering words to speak about the beauty of this place.

The mountain range was surrounded by thick forests made out of a variety of different types of trees, all of them were as resistant as pine trees against low temperatures and were growing even over the rocky slides of the mountains. There were several roads across the many mountains too, and we even saw some big carriages carrying ores from the distance, small people were carrying them across the roads, seemingly without even minding us at all.

"Wow, look, are those dwarves?" Asked Partner, pointing down.

The three dwarves looked down and then smiled.

"Ah, those are some of our guys!" Said Baldur.

"OOOOIIII!" Balladur roared from atop the skies.

"W-Wait, Balladur, we can't just show them we have a dragon with us!" Cried Darfu.

"What does it matter if we got a dragon friend here?! We just tell them he can transform or something! Not like there aren't any weird stuff in this world anyways!" Laughed Balladur.

Suddenly, the dwarves moving the cars filled with ores looked up into the sky, quickly taking a sight of the enormous size of Lucifer.

"What the ...?"

"The heck?!"



At this point we didn't had many options. I took a closer peek at the dwarves, some men had smaller bears than others, but they all were bearded, meanwhile the ladies looked like human women, but more stocked, they had long hair made into braids that were wrapped around their necks to show as if they were beards, they honestly looked rather beautiful.

"Ready yourselves!" The Dwarf in front of the others roared, raising his shield and his ax, as he suddenly enchanted them with his Mana, turning bright red in color.
"OOOH!"
The other dwarves roared in unison, as if it was a daily occurrence for them to get attacked by giant flying monsters, they all got into a circular position, Shielders upfront while those that used magic and bows were left behind. I guess dwarves didn't just main melee weapons, there were some archers and magicians as well.
TRUUUMM!
Lucifer arrived in the floor right before them, looking down at everybody menacingly. His very appearance awakened fear into their hearts, but the dwarves were more rowdy than normal people, arrows and magic quickly began to hit his entire body, his scales easily reflecting everything.
"Shit, nothing's working!"
"What do we even do now?!"
"We have to fend him off! I've got this Stink Bomb here, let me use it!"
"Wait, are you gonna act like bait?! You'll die! What about your wife?!"
"Tell her I love her!"

One of the dwarves suddenly ran in front, as if provoking Lucifer to eat him, he perhaps wanted to use the Stink Bomb and throw it inside of his jaws so the dragon would suffer from its toxic gases and run away, giving time for everybody to run into the caves.

However, Lucifer remained in silence looking at everybody without doing anything. It hasn't even been a few seconds when we arrived here after all.
"Fear not, brothers, we are back!"
Suddenly, the voice of Balladur resonated behind Lucifer, as the dwarves suddenly fell completely into silence.
"Did ya hear that voice?"
"That's no way!"
"The old man?!"
The dwarves were shocked as they looked at Lucifer.
"Did he turned into a dragon?! He got cursed and turned into a Fafnir!"
"Shit! Nooo!"
"Brother!"
"Old man!"
"Agh, shut yer mouths!"
Suddenly, the two dwarves jumped out of Lucifer's back as he lowered his body down, all of us as well decided to walk down.
"What the?!"

"They were mounting a giant ass dragon?"
"Who are you people?"
Although they were shocked to see the twin Blacksmiths that were famous due to their age and also the blessings they have from gods, which allowed them to forge amazing stuff, they were also shocked from all of us.
"We are visitors from afar. I am sorry for having scared you due to my appearance, I am not going to eat you." Lucifer spoke with a serious and cold voice, the dwarves flinched and stepped back as they heard him speak.
"A dragon that talks?!"
"Wait can it be?!"
"An Ancient Dragon!"
Chapter 414 Hilarous Small People
"Yeah, I am an Ancient Dragon." Lucifer said without even caring much anymore.
Unlike the annoying Humans, Dwarves seemed to be well knowledgeable about the dragons, especially the Ancient ones, and seemed to suddenly open their eyes in surprise, without feeling fear anymore, when Lucifer proclaimed himself as one.
"Woooah Not only you've brought us Baldur and Balladur back, but you've brought visitors"
"What is your wisdom, ancient dragon?"

"Please share some words of enlightenment!"
The dwarves asked some ridiculous things to Lucifer, he immediately refused to tell them anything and remained in silence, quickly turning back into his human form as I stored the seat that was wrapped around his body.
"Ah, he can even transform into a humanoid form?!"
"He's so tall"
"He kind of looks like a Majin like that!"
"Can't you become like a lizardman?"
"This is the art of us dragons named Polymorph Magic." Said Lucifer. "And no, I won't turn my appearance into that of a lizardman, stop annoying me!"
Lucifer's roar and his menacing aura only pumped up the dwarves even more, as they seemed excited to talk with someone like him from all things. However, the twin dwarves quickly calmed them down and explained everything to them with the help of Darfu. We were also introduced by them as the saviors of the dwarves, who were all caught and turned into illegal slaves.
"Damn humans, I can't believe they were turned into slaves"
"Humans really love their slaves, don't they?"
"They're scrawny and lack muscle, so they can only force others to do all the job for them! Lazy ass Beardcutters!"
"Damned humans! I remember when they tried to assault our home some years back, we beat the shit out of them, gahahahahaha!"

"They don't even know how to get into the mountains properly!"
"Dwarf creations are superior to their feeble magic and skills!"
The dwarves began to mock the humans. Nobody of us here was one so we didn't even cared much about them being racist against them in general, especially after all the shit they did to them, apparently. Nonetheless, we couldn't simply mock humans and not do anything else.
"You guys, can you guide us to your home? We came to buy products and sell potions." I said flatly, the dwarves looked at me and some were a bit taken aback.
"This lady's a Majin, right?"
"She got some aura of death into her, like the dragon."
"I don't know why but she really reminds me of the ghosts we have to purify sometimes when we find them in the depths of the mountain's roots."
"She's a Majin, yeah." Said Darfu.
"Everybody is one except her." Said Baldur, pointing at Emeraldine.
"Knife ear!" Said one of the dwarves.
The next thing he saw was my fist landing into his face.
BAAAM!
"AGGH!"

"Don't treat my wife as a knife ear or you're all getting smacked." I said, the dwarf that fell over the floor was groaning in pain.
"W-What the heck?!" He cried. "Lady, you're freaking strong!"
"You respect the strong, right? So try to comply with my request." I said.
"Y-You don't have to go so far!" Said Emeraldine.
"Oh, did she said wife?"
"Is she gay?"
"Are you gay?"
"Agh, you guys lack of manners is really annoying, but no, I just swing both ways, now stop asking embarrassing shit" I sighed. "Are you interested in potions or not?!"
The dwarves looked at one another and then nodded.
"We really need some, the alchemist we got are freaking slow!"
"There are not many good ingredients for potions growing around the mountains, so they're usually super expensive too."
"If you brought them here, you could sell them at a good price."

"Alright, let's go! Let me also apologize for my rudeness, lady. Your strength really captivated me, so for you, we'll keep ourselves shut." Said the dwarf that offended Emeraldine, he was a black bearded dwarf with a rather sharp gaze, he seemed captivated by my strength, apparently.
"Oi, you bastard, you got a wife, don't go flirting now!"
"He really loves them strong, eh?"
"Your wife's already breaking your hips at bed, give it up, black bearded rat!"
"Pff Hahaha! You guys are so weird sometimes, dwarves are really hilarious!"
I couldn't resist anymore and I ended bursting into laughter. Dwarves simply had such a charm with their way of speaking an acting, they were not at all like humans. I really liked them I guess, even though I just smacked one. The dwarves seemed to smile as they were glad to be complimented.
"Alright you guys, lead the way, where's home? I'm sure it is in the next mountain, right?" Wondered Baldur.
"Yeah, yeah, it is like four to five hours walk from here, but we'll use our Flying Dragoons, so we can get there super quick." Said the black bearded dragon.
"Flying Dragoons?" I wondered.
"Wanna see them, lady?" Asked the black bearded dwarf with a cheeky smile.
We were quickly guided into the nearby cave, suddenly ending at the end of it, which led to the opposite direction of the mountain. Right in front of us there was three light aircrafts made from black and gray steel and decorated with paintings from dwarves.

Wait what?!



"It is possible to join the first two guilds to mine our home mountain but it's a hassle and we have to pay taxes for what we mine, we can barely keep like 50% of what we mine, so it's better to come to this free land and get 100% of it! It's dangerous because there's a bunch of monsters roaming around sometimes, but we have gotten lucky until now for none of us to kick the bucket yet. So we decided to form our own little guild, we are still just starting but we plan to take over this entire mountain for ourselves." Laughed Blackard.

"You guys are ambitious, I like that!" Laughed Baldur.

"Yeah! You remind me of my younger years, when we used to go mine the main mountain and we explored all of it, bringing treasures of ores every day, was fun!" Laughed Balladur.

"Haha, you really got good memories, huh?" I laughed a bit. "It is interesting how your entire country works. So there are two guilds governing the place?" I wondered.

At the same time, the dragoons quickly set off into the skies, they moved similar to small aircrafts, and had a motor in the back fueling the entire artifact with magic. It was amazing how they managed to recreate technology from earth but using magic as fuel. Maybe I could learn a lot from them and buy a variety of interesting products! I wonder if they got modern kitchens, that would be awesome.

The dwarves quickly put on some googles to travel across the skies, as they nodded.

"Yeah! There are two guilds, the Iron Steel Guild, and the Hammer Stone Guild, both had existed from ages, and were formerly one but split into two due to the disputes between the former guild master, twins like these two old men." Said Blackdar.

"We are governed by a King and a Royal Family, both have power over the entire territory and the guilds are the ones that control it with their permission, other mountains which hasn't gotten enough settlements have yet to be proclaimed as the territory owned by the royal family. So it is a free for all in here, the other surrounding mountains are also often visited by people that want to make some money but can't join the guilds or doesn't want to pay taxes to them. When we got such big families its sometimes hard to maintain them if we don't risk our lives a bit." Said the lady dwarf with red hair and beautiful green eyes. "Name's Helga by the by. I might look young and beautiful but I am the mother of five kids! I gotta maintain my family somehow! Gahaha!"

"F-Five kids, wow..." Said Partner in surprise.

"I've heard that Dwarves multiply like rats." Said Lucifer.

"Oi! Don't say that of this humble hard-working mother, idiot!" I said, reprimanding Lucifer.

"Gahahaha! It's fine! I was in fault for fucking my husband way too much, gahahaha! He got a workshop at home so I bring him ore and he makes stuff to sell." Said Helga. "Life's hard but every time I think about my little apple pies, I keep moving forward."

"My bad, I'm sorry if my comment was untasteful." Said Lucifer. "You're a good woman."

"Hahaha, hearing that from an Ancient Dragon as handsome as you flatters me way too much! Come on, I got a husband you know? Gahahah!" Helga began to laugh cheerfully as the other dwarves laughed in unison. They surely loved to laugh as loud as possible.

I guess the dwarves worked rather simplistically but owning an entire mountain could really hurt the rest of their population, forcing them to go out into other mountains to make a living seems a bit too much. Can't they lower down the taxes a bit? I guess it is in the nature of dwarves to be greedy but still... Well, for now I might consider joining this group into mining the mountain, if I can just take anything I want freely then it would be pretty nice.

Although also exploring the mountains' mines and the caves in there also sounds interesting, I've heard there are dungeons in there. I wonder if Dwarves got adventurers to take care of monsters. Although apparently they're all pretty capable of fighting by themselves, so maybe the necessity of an Adventurer Guild is not really necessary.

"Do you guys got an Adventurer Guild?" I wondered.

"Adventurers? No, we don't have that stuff here, but we got a Quest Board and Requests, and there's a few other stuffs. But unlike the Beardcutters we don't need to make a guild exclusive for some people that fight monsters, we all fight monsters here!" Laughed Blackard.

"All of you?!" Partner asked in shock.

"Well it was obvious after we saw them act so well against me." Said Lucifer. "You look used to deal with monsters."

"We go to a school that teaches us how to fight, and we are instructed how to level up and learn Skills since we are kids, so we just hunt monsters sporadically around our mining caves we mine when we are kids, there are a variety of nearby dungeons too, so we are all used to monster breaks." Said Helga.

"That's how we live, if we don't kill the monsters first, they'll overrun our place. We are all risen to be warriors if the situation calls for it." Said Blackard, as the other dwarves nodded.

As the dwarves finished speaking, we quickly arrived at their home.

Chapter 416 Arriving At The Stoneville City

An enormous wall made of stone erected before us, opening its enormous gates, and leading to an interior of the mountain which had been mined into a gigantic size, this was one of the biggest cities of the dwarves in the Gray Ash Mountain. According to them, there were another two more spread around the mountains, but this one is where the largest amount of their population was concentrated. The moment we arrived here, I offered the dwarves to store the aircrafts in my Inventory.

"You got Spatial Magic?!" Blackard asked in shock.

"Y-You can just store things in another dimension? That's insane!" Said Helga.

They accepted happily and without even doubting their trust to me, so I quickly stored everything for them and showed them how I was capable of easily making their job more bearable. Without having to carry these heavy things all the way back home, they felt freer to walk and relax while we moved towards the open gates of the city.

"This city's called the City of Stoneville, it was founded over a thousand years ago when our Founder, King Rock arrived from our home continent, Svartalfheim." Said Blackard.

"It is an enormous city where we all live, there's a large amount of streets, shops, and several markets too, usually we are visited by various tribes of people through the year. Although the Albraun bastards are not our friends, we still got good connections with the Goldsand Confederation and the Empire of Light, they surprisingly accept dwarves without problems. Well, the entire dispute with Albraun was due to their previous King, an idiot human supremacist that thought it was funny to come invade us." Said Helga. "Well, I wasn't alive when it happened but I've heard they got their asses kicked and never came back. Gahahaha!"

"Oh, there's humans as well!" Partner said, pointing around.

"E-Even Elves?" Wondered Emeraldine.

"Around twenty percent of our population are other tribes too, we got beast-kin and Majin as well! In the fall of the Demon King long ago, our King accepted hundreds of Majin refugees that ran away from the humans, since then their families had grown here and worked with us to maintain the country." Said Blackard.

Lucifer's face quickly changed his expressionless face as he saw Goblins walking around, Orcs, Oni, and other Majin who were way taller than Dwarves as if they were normal people.

"It has been a long time since we were only dwarves, this continent is flourishing with many people, our royal family might be a bit greedy but they don't discriminate as much as the humans make us seem to be!" Helga proclaimed. "All people is welcome in Stoneville."

"Y-You welcomed the Majin refugees?" Asked Lucifer in shock. "Thank you..." Lucifer muttered, as he suddenly began to cry. "I-I... I didn't knew any of this... So the people of the Majin Kingdom is still alive here..."

The emotional response that Lucifer had over seeing such a wide diversity of people was shocking to some, as some of the passerby's coming from nearby dungeons or mines looked at him while raising an eyebrow.

"C-Calm down a bit, Lucifer!" I said, quickly trying to make him act a bit more normal for once.

"S-Sorry, I just got... I had thought they were all gone." Sighed Lucifer.

"Hm, how old are you exactly?" Wondered Blackard.

"Me? I am over a thousand years old, I've lived here longer than you. I once governed these mountains with my family of dragons... But that's long in the past now. I am grateful for what you've done though, you're allowed to use my mountain." Said Lucifer. "Though, I really wonder if you have seen other Ancient Dragons, or any dragon that can speak?"

The dwarves looked at one another and then spoke.

"There are rumors of Dragons that talk appearing near dungeons, or even inside of them. Some say there are ghosts in the shape of dragons too, and other times, we have heard about speaking dragons, or a woman that claimed to be a dragon as well, but we aren't that involved in dungeon stuff, so you would need to go talk about this in the Local Guild Building." Said Helga.

"Yeah, yeah." Said Blackard. "But we wish you the best of luck though!"

"I see..." Sighed Lucifer. "Well, let's just explore the inside for now."

As we stepped forward into the gates, we were stopped by guards. At each side of the gates there were also enormous statues resembling long-bearded dwarves wearing armor and holding an axe and a hammer, made completely out of stone.

The dwarves that were with us quickly showed some sort of medal to pass, but we had to pay some money for ourselves, the trio that came with us, Darfu and the twin old men had lost these items so we had also to pay for them, the price was a small bronze coin, so it wasn't anything expensive.

We were not asked any questions at all other than being inspect by the guards' eyes, I guess the security here is very lax, as they didn't took that much precaution with us as if we were criminals or something. However, there were over then guards lined up in the gates, and we also saw enormous golems

standing behind them, made of steel to boot, they resembled steampunk mechas to be honest, and seemed completely capable of crushing monsters into smithereens.

"Wow, are those golems?" Wondered Emeraldine. Once we were inside the city, there were several types of golems all around, smaller ones, bigger ones, some in the shape of dogs or horses, carrying things through carriages. There were also automatic carriages as well which were also some sort of golem. In fact, the dragoons were considered golems as well.

"Our true craft is the creation of golems through Magicraft." Said Helga.

"The art of creating Golem Cores so we can move our mechanical creations is something we learn as we grow up in the schools we were taught. Of course, it depends in the profession." Said Blackard.

"My husband is a Golem Maker! He makes utility golems, small in size that require a lot of concentration and talent, he earns well as long as I bring him materials." Said Helga with a proud smile. She seemed super proud of her husband's amazing talent.

"Oooh, maybe we could visit your shop, Helga?" I wondered.

"Sure thing, we are all heading there to organize things up, the dragoons all belong to me actually!" Laughed the dwarf woman.

"Yeah, she's a real backbone for our team." Blackard had to admit.

"Without a doubt."

"If it wasn't for her I wouldn't be able to earn enough for my family."

"She's a good friend!"

"Gahahaha! You guys, stop complimenting me so much! Flattery won't get you anywhere!" Helga giggled cheerily.

Chapter 417 Visiting Helga's Home

The beautiful city of Stoneville was something straight out of dreams, a beautiful combination between steampunk, magic, and medieval aesthetics with people walking all around through paved streets. Enormous streetlamps decorated each block as we saw all matter of magic vehicles and golems walking leisurely. There was only one description to this, it was a city of wonders.

There was no open ceiling, but the ceiling of the city was covered in shiny crystals illuminating the place, which were actually made through magic, specifically reinforced so if there's any earthquake, the ceiling doesn't fall over the people. Or that's what Helga and Blackard, alongside the other dwarves explained to us.

When we arrived at the shop after crossing through various streets whose wonders just made us stare at everything in shock and awe, we ended in front of a small shop in a district named "Black Rock".

"Here's my little and humble shop! We run it with my husband. My kids are eventually going to inherit it when I get too old to move properly." Said Helga with a smile. "Come in!"

When we entered the shop, we were quickly greeted by three little children and a tall man. He wasn't a dwarf by his looks. He had blue skin and long black horns growing from his forehead, he had hairy arms and seemed very tall, his horns almost touching the ceiling, he had shiny golden eyes. He was an Oni!

Wow, so Helga's husband is actually a Majin, and her children are all... some are pure dwarves it seems, but others are half dwarf and Oni, I believe. They all looked so cute! There was a little boy with a single black horn growing from his forehead who was looking directly at me when we entered as well, while another two boys were playing in the floor with some little toys, and a girl was helping her father in the shop by organizing stuff they had in the store.

"Mama's back!" Helga said, the moment she spoke, all her kids looked at her and screamed in unison.

"MAMA!"

hugged all five of them. The other two were in the workshop behind the doors to the end of the room. She had two girls and three boys, apparently.
"Mama, you're back early!"
"Did you brought sweets?"
"Mama can I have a shiny gem? Papa said he'll teach me how to make accessories!"
"I'm hungry, let's make lunch"
"Mama, mama!Who are they?"
"Come on, come on, calm down a bit. I'll give you what you want later, my apple pies." Helga said. She hugged and kissed them all without failing a single one of them, and then quickly greeted her husband with a kiss.
"You're back early." He said. "The kids are hungry, should we have lunch- Ah, you brought more friends this time?" He wondered.
"Yes honey, look, we even brought a dragon!" Said Helga, pointing at Lucifer.
"D-Dragon?! Where?!" The Oni asked in shock. However, there was no dragon here. Just three Majin, more dwarves, and an elf. "There's no dragon Helga, what are you even talking about?"
"Hahaha, c-come on Helga, don't joke around!" I said. Quickly telling her through [Telepathy], an Illusion Attribute Spell I had learned on my own a month ago to not talk about Lucifer as a dragon, and that it was better to pretend he was just a Majin. "My man might be grumpy but he's no dragon, haha!"

They ran towards her as fast as possible, ignoring everything and jumping over her, Helga kneed and

"R-Right Never mind." Said Helga with a forced smirk, her husband raised an eyebrow. "So who are you guys? Clients?" her husband already greeted Helga's colleges so he directed his gaze towards us. "We are closing soon for lunch, so please buy anything you need right now."

"Come on Myriad, don't be so rude." Sighed Helga. "Sorry he's a cinnamon roll deep down, but he gets rough sometimes. Dear, these are my new friends, we encountered them in the second mountain, they come from a far away town to sell potions."

"Ah, potions... WAIT, POTIONS?! I'LL BUY THEM ALL!" Myriad immediately changed his attitude. "Potions are rare nowadays with the Alchemists getting commissioned by the guilds so we don't get to have any for ourselves..."

"Hahahah! I knew he would change his attitude right away." Laughed Helga. "Come on, we can talk about that later."

"Anyways where are the Dragoons? And the ores? You didn't brought a single thing. Also where are the potions they're talking about?" Asked her husband. "Don't tell me you lost the dragoons or they got destroyed! They were so hard to make!"

"Fear not, she got them." Helga said.

"She?" Her husband asked.

"Hehehe, I have Spatial Inventory Magic." I revealed my strongest power, Helga's husband was shocked.

"T-That's... really?" He asked.

"Yep!"

I quickly looked into my Inventory, seeing every item inside as game-like pixel art icons, and grabbed a potion from within, a red-colored potion bottle appeared out of thin air in the palm of my hand.

FLASH!



Helga then invited us to her home, as we were allowed to walk into her living room. We moved to her backyard first though, as we put the dragoons and all the ores they mined in there. The dwarves with her quickly assessed everything with her, calculating everything, the weight of what they mined and their efforts, and quickly divided their profits, because some of them simply needed the money to maintain their families and were to crafters, most got money directly from her as she bought what they mined at a good price, while some got fifty percent of what they mined and the rest in money. After that, they decided to go back to their homes, Blackard included. We didn't knew if we'll ever see him again but he said he'll come here tomorrow. We might see him in here maybe.

Because of the friendliness of Helga and everything else, we decided to sell her half of our potions while keeping the rest for us to see how the prices varied from place to place. She was happy to have made profits, as she said she was going to sell them at an even higher price to some wealthy guys she knew. It seems she got her contacts alright... I had thought about asking her for their contact too, but I decided to not do it for now. I didn't wanted to see opportunistic and cocky after earning her trust. She was grinning greedily and happily after our sale.

"Thanks for your patronage, if you need any help around this place just ask me! Let's become friends from now on too!" She said, quickly trying to make a connection with us.

"Sure thing!" I said. "After lunch, could it be possible to help us go to the Guild you talked about? We kind of want to investigate what Lucifer had said. After that, we are interested in going mining, and buying ores in bulks too. And quite possibly explore the dungeons in here..."

"Oh, you've got a big backlog of stuff to do then, alright, we'll get through a bit of it today, I can't go out all day because I got my kids in here." Said Helga. "If you don't find anywhere to stay, there's a nearby Inn just some meters from here, the stay is cheap so you can stay there, the breakfast they serve is also tasty." Helga said.

"It is run by my sister, so we can get you some discounts as well." Said Myriad.

"Wow, thank you guys!" I said.

"Your sister runs an Inn? Is the work tiring?" Wondered Lucifer. "I had once thought about opening an inn."

"Oh, yeah, it has some work to do but she got her husband and her two little daughters to help. It is run by the entire family." Said Myriad. "It is a peaceful job and they generate enough income, there's people always coming in and out so they got a lot of clients. However to set an Inn you need to pay a license like this shop. We simply decided different jobs at the end, I always wanted to dedicate myself to crafting things and selling them."

Myriad began to open up a bit more with us, as he started to speak and show the gentleness Helga had spoken about.

"I see, it seems interesting. Well, we got our town to maintain so I guess we can't really make an inn if we got everything to take care of." Sighed Lucifer.

"You got a whole town?" Wondered Helga.

"Yeah, I inherited it from... A deceased family member, I am the chief." I said. "It is super cold outside, so we have to take a lot of precautions."

"Yeah, but it's a nice place, it is cozy too, I've grown used to that place." Said Lucifer.

"Me too!" Partner said.

"It is very cold! But I think I've already developed a Cold Resistance Skill..." Sighed Emeraldine, as everybody burst into laughter over her unintentionally funny comment.

"Hahaha! You guys are fun! Sorry for being so harsh back then, I am not too trustworthy of people. you see, as a shop keeper you gotta have two eyes in the back of your head sometimes, people sometimes will try to play you as a fool or even steal from you, I am often said to be overly cautious by my wife." Sighed Myriad.

"Ah no, it is only natural to be that way, don't worry." I said.

"Now... about you three." Said Myriad, quickly shifting the topic of conversation to the three dwarves wondering the living room while inspecting the large wooden box filled with ores. They were obsessed with seeing fresh raw ores extracted directly from the mountain.

"Oh, yeah, those guys..." I said. "Well, Darfu's the youngest and nicest, the other two old men are Baldur and Balladur, they're old artisans from here, right? The three used to be slaves and we freed them some time ago, welcoming them in our town."

"Y-You freed them?" Asked Myriad. "You've fought the Beardcutters?" Asked Myriad, he was an Oni with a rather prominent white beard, he took the traditions of the dwarf family of his wife very seriously.

"Yeeah. We usually free slaves and beat the criminals holding them." I said. "We are mercenaries and adventurers."

"Wow, that's amazing... you guys must be plenty strong!" Helga said.

"We are, and I don't fear admitting it, haha." I laughed rather cheekily.

"We had been freeing many slaves for a while now, we were happy to know that slaves are completely illegal here and that slaves don't exist." Said Lucifer.

"Oh yeah, sometimes slaves run away into the mountains and become citizens after working for the country after a while. There's a lot of former slaves around here. My own family descends from former slave refugees." Said Myriad. "It is truly wonderful that this country and the nearby ones are able to accept all kinds of people... In this continent filled with discrimination, my family once didn't knew where they could even fit simply by being how they were born."

"I see, so your family is a family of strong warriors." Said Lucifer. "I am sure you're honoring your ancestors, Myriad."

"Haha, thanks, Lucifer." Said Myriad with a bit of embarrassment.

Chapter 419 Dwarven Meals Are Sure Tasty

After some more conversations, Helga and her husband quickly served us some delicious-looking meals. The dwarven meals were rich in mushrooms, beans, and meat the most, as they seemed to be able to harvest mushrooms from large cave sections where they planted edible ones in sections. Mushrooms grew relatively quickly compared to crops, so they had all sorts of mushrooms to eat which grew quickly and were the cheapest.

Aside from that, there are also various types of beans they grow around the mountain in large areas, these beans seem to be able to grow quickly and absorb the rich mana in the mountain's rocks. They are said to have come from their original continent, Svartalfheim. Aside from that, they had many cattle animals, chickens, cows, and pig made up most of what they had, which multiplied quickly. Vegetables were the rarest thing they had and they often were imported from the Goldsand Confederation, alongside fruits, being often quite expensive. Oh right, tubers were also quite common and grew in mountain dirt just fine, such as potatoes and carrots.

Due to these mountains being farther from the cold and only their peaks being covered in snow, they often received the grace of the sun a few times per week, good enough for whatever crops they had to grow. Of course, the usage of special magic tools to artificially enhance plant growth was also there, and they had even designed similar things to make cattle grow faster as well.

Of course, they consumed monster meat in large quantities too, and it was often cheaper. There was Salamander Meat and Man-Eating Fish meat in the table. The man-eating fish was a giant fish capable of swallowing an entire person that swam inside of large pools inside of dungeons, while the Salamander was a big, two-meter-long lizard that had fire breath, it was the weakest member of the dragon-type monster family, and its meat was rather common.

"It's not the fanciest but I hope you can enjoy it." Helga said, putting everything over the large table.

The delicious dishes lined up just nicely, and without holding back at all, we began to dig in almost as if our lives depended on it. The last time we ate a full meal was yesterday at around 5 PM, we had been only eating dried meat, bread, fruits, and juice/water ever since then, and mostly snacking it. I haven't really eaten anything myself so everybody else could eat their fill, I was a ghost so it wasn't even necessary for me to eat, I only did it out of enjoyment.

"Oooh! This stew is delicious. It has been a long time since I've eaten such tasty beans." I said while being enchanted by the simplistic red stew seasoned with red pepper that had beans, potatoes, carrots, onions, mushrooms, and salamander meat cut into little chunks. The five children were devouring their plates happily too.

"Yeah, the food is delicious." Emeraldine said. "It is filled with the warmth of a family."

"Haha, you're going to make me blush! It is something simple we make through the week. The beans are a specialty of our country, they're grown all over the mountain and we consume them daily." Said Helga.

"You can purchase some in the market, they're often sold in kilogram bags." Said Myriad.

"Thanks for the info! Will do, I want my people to taste these delicious beans as well, to be honest." I said happily.

After that, we tasted the delicious fish. This fish was also a monster and considered a "cave fish", apparently there's a small dungeon near the city which is like an enormous cave with many ponds or small underground lakes, fish monsters appear all around in there, with an occasional Salamander. They said the dungeon was only D Rank at most in difficulty, so we could get there and just grab a bunch of fish and salamander meat later.

"So what is Baldur and Balladur planning to do?" Wondered Helga.

"We came here to go back to the guild, missy." Said Baldur.

"We are looking for news about what had happened, probably we want to look at our apprentices and see how they're doing." Balladur said.

"Wait a second..." Myriad said. "You two are... Baldur and Balladur, the two old twins?! T-The ones blessed by the goddess of earth and the god of blacksmith?!" Asked the Oni in shock.

"Yeah, we are." Said Baldur.

"Hm! We are now going to work for Maria." Said Balladur.

"T-This is an honor! T-To think you were enslaved, this is really something impactful... I am grateful for meeting you two in here!" Myriad said. "I admire your work so much; it was thanks to you that golems had advanced so much into what we had accomplished right now! I grew up admiring your job!"

Myriad got all emotional out of nowhere.

"Hahaha, no worries, youngling." Laughed Baldur.

"Don't lower your head to us, we are just, at the end, a pair of old men." Laughed Balladur.

At the end, the dwarves ended talking a lot with Myriad, the Oni, and gave him some insights about his work when he tried to show them what he had been working for all this time. When lunch ended, the children quickly went back to what they were doing, they are already practicing and learning how to maintain the shop clean, how to organize things, and are even being taught how to craft stuff as well.

"I'll take care of the kids for now, go on Helga." Said Myriad.

"Thank you honey." Said Helga, as Myriad kneeled down to receive her hug and a kiss, and then petted her head.

"Let's go now!" Said Helga, guiding us through the beautiful and large streets of Stoneville.

After a few minutes of walking and watching at the many wonders, we reached an enormous and tall building.

"This is the Guild, it manages both Guilds I spoke you about before, if those two old grandpas want to inform they're back, this is the best place to do it."

Chapter 420 The Old Dwarves Are Back Home

"Hello! Welcome to the Guild! Oh, you're new faces, I've not seen you around... Could you be visitors?"

A cute pink-haired half-dwarf girl greeted us. She had pink-colored rabbit ears atop her head and was currently the receptionist we ended talking to in the Guild.
"Hello, yes, we are visitors here. However, we have brought some people here that had gone missing for a long while." I said, quickly presenting the trio of dwarves.
"Oh, you're former citizens?" Wondered the young lady.
"Yes, I am Baldur." Said Baldur.
"And I am the old man Balladur." Said Balladur.
"I-I am Darfu, I had left my country some long time ago, but was enslaved I went through a lot but lost most of my things, it is the same for these two old men, we would want to regain our ID Cards." Said Darfu.
The advanced society of the dwarves had special ID Cards that every citizen had to have. However, these three had lost them.
"I-I see Darfu, Baldur and Balladur Let me check." The lady said. Apparently, they keep the registration of all people in large magic books. They lacked technology enough to make things as convenient as computers, so they kept things registered all written in papers. Of course, these books were magical and it was easier to look for people in them.
"Here Darfu Rockstrike! Oh yes, it is you, you have the same face. Can you show me your thumb for a bit?" the girl wondered, as Darfu put his left thumb over the book's page.

FLASH!

The book shone bright red, quickly showing that it was indeed him.

"Very well, getting a new ID will cost you a small silver coin, we can begin the creation process right away." She said.
"Alright, here." Darfu paid and then, after a few minutes, a small artifact in the shape of a cube at the side of the girl began to emanate a lot of steam, opening up with a shiny metallic medal.
"There you go."
"Thank you!" Darfu grabbed his medal, which was like his ID, and couldn't help but feel happier.
The same process was going to be done for the two dwarves, however, the lady quickly stopped looking for a little while as if she was trying to make sense of the history and the actual status of these two old men.
"V-Vice-Guild Master of the Iron Steel Guild? And Vice-Guild Master of the Hammer Stone Guild?" The girl was left shocked. "Y-You're the Old Masters Baldur and Balladur, in the flesh?! It was already thought that both of you had died! In fact, it was registered that you died!"
"What?!" the two old men asked angrily.
"There's no way we died! These old bones still got enough energy to live another hundred years!!!" Baldur roared, hitting the table.
BAAM!
"My flesh is just as youthful as before! My muscles had yet to go away too, so I am as good as I was when I was twenty years of age! I am not dead!" Balladur said, hitting the table as well.
BAAM!
"Uwaaaah! P-Please calm down! I'll do my best to contact both current Guild Masters about this!" The girl cried, feeling flustered.

"You two stop making a scene!"

I smacked the head of the two old men, quickly shutting them down. They were annoyingly temperamental sometimes.

At the end, and without realizing it, we found ourselves inside a large hall right in the enormous house of a Noble, the Viscount that was living in this district. We were sitting right in the same table as the Guild Masters of the two most prestigious guilds of this country, the old men were also here, and even Helga ended getting mixed into this, she was as stiff as a frozen tuna, she felt too nervous to even blink.

Two figures sat down over the chair, one was an old dwarf lady, with long gray hair made into braids tied around her neck, she had a long nose resembling the beak of a bird, and she wore a brown coat with several beautiful jewels. The other figure was rather young instead, slightly taller than the lady, he was probably another half-dwarf, however, in difference to her, he had a single big eye in the middle of his face, he was a half-cyclops and half-dwarf, amazing. He had a long black beard and was wearing black armor.

And sitting at the end of the table was a young Dwarven Lady, the Viscount of this area of the city, apparently each descendant of the royal family was given a District within the enormous cities to manage by themselves, she was the one in charge of this area, so she was forced to come. She was rather gorgeously beautiful, despite being small as a dwarf, only reaching at most a meter and a half, she had a sexy body, with a big chest, wide hips, long and silky red hair, and captivating green eyes with pale white skin. It was obvious she had never forged in her life if her skin was so purely white. She paired it all up with a beautiful red dress, however, her face seemed very nervous.

"Hahah, long time no see, old hag!" Laughed Baldur.

"Wow, you're still kicking? I was sure you were dead by now." Laughed Balladur.

"You two...!" The old lady that was the guild master of the Hammer Stone Guild roared, hitting the table furiously with her hands. "DO YOU KNOW HOW WORRIED I WAS?! I EVEN CRIED YOUR DEATHS! AND NOW YOU LAUGH AT MY FACE COMING BACK FROM YOUR DEATH?!"

BAAAM!

"P-Please, Lady Aquamarine, calm down a bit!" Cried the Viscountess, desperately attempting to calm down the old lady.

"You shut your mouth little girl; this is a talk of the adults!" The woman roared, the young lady shut down immediately, despite being probably already over twenty, she was considered a young girl somehow...

"You're making a fuss again, grandma Aquamarine..." The cyclops man sighed. "Shouldn't you be happy they're alive and back here?"

"Happy? Yeah! I am happy that they're here so I can smack them good!" The old hag suddenly jumped over the table and began chasing down the two old men that started to run away from her in circles...

This was already a bit beyond ridiculous, are all dwarves this crazy?