

A Ghost 451

Chapter 451 New Skills

After killing the moles and the mysterious ant (which I accidentally ate), we decided to take a break and eat something. There were a ton of moles, not only they gave a nice amount of EXP but they were also fatty and with tons of soft meat, surprisingly. I wish I could cook the giant ant, but I ended eating it entirely. Its flavor was terrible so I don't think it might had been any tasty at the end, but really, I wish it could had been better. Maybe if I cooked it, it could had tasted like shrimp. Now I'll never know that!

After we collected the materials, I quickly dropped a few Mole carcasses and began butchering them up with a big sword, Partner and Emeraldine decided to help me. Partner mostly drained the blood out of the carcass than anything else. Emeraldine was surprisingly talented at butchering monster or beasts' carcasses, as she was taught by her mother how to hunt.

Come to think of it, I never truly butchered many monsters, Emeraldine and Partner did most of the work with Lucifer and the Goblins helping as well. Now that I am doing it myself, Emeraldine has been teaching me the ropes.

"And like this, you slowly slice the skin with the pelt out of the muscles and the bones, be careful not to leave any skin over the meat." Emeraldine guided me.

"I see... like this?" I wondered, as I sliced the knife carefully below the skin of the large Mole, it slowly began to slide out.

"Yeah, yeah, just like that!" Said Emeraldine. "You're a quick learner, Maria!"

"Hm, you're doing a good job." Lucifer pointed out.

"Can we make clothes with this pelt?" Wondered Partner.

"No, I don't think we can do something for now, it is too smelly." I said.

The twins had stayed with us as they were fairly stronger than the dwarves as well, and after this Mole Massacre, they had leveled up plentifully, to the point they even said their Unique Skills suddenly evolved a bit more, growing stronger.

I guess that's what happens when you're on the early stages of Unique Skill development. Right now I can only force my Unique Skills to evolve using System Points! Wait, isn't that a quick way to grow stronger? Maybe I'll do it whenever I am in a pinch.

"We want to butcher too!" Takeshi said. "I want to learn how to be more independent."

"Me too, I have never really butchered myself..." Laura added.

"Well... Takeshi aren't you good at butchering fish?" I wondered.

"Ah yeah!" Takeshi said. "But not big monsters."

"I promise I won't blow it up!" Laura said.

"Alright, come with us then, grab a knife and join us." Emeraldine was a very gentle teacher with a lot of patience, so she easily let the kids join.

At the end, we butchered two of the large Moles, and got tons of meat out of them. Butchering really calmed us down a lot and eased our hearts as we dedicated to do something else than fighting for a little while.

Ding!

[You learned the [Dismantle: Lv1] Skill!]

[You acquired the [Butcherer: Lv1] Title Skill!]

[Dismantle: Lv1]

A Skill that only those with the ability to dismantle carcasses can learn. It grants special insights while dismantling carcasses or other things about special areas of the body that are weak and easy to butcher. It enhances the dismantling efficacy and quality of the resulting product by +30% with each Skill Level. Additionally, weak points can also be detected on living beings.

[Butcherer: Lv1]

A Title Skill only given to Butcherers! After you've butchered dozens of carcasses, you can now butcher them even better. Your ability to butcher, efficacy, and how you handle a knife is enhanced by +50% (with an additional +10% with each Level), and there's a 100% chance for the resulting product to increase in quality by one Grade.

Would you look at that! It seems that I finally learned those Skills. As I said before, I had not done much butchering myself and didn't know much of it either, so I guess it is fair that only now I was able to learn the Skills. And damn, the Skills were surprisingly awesome! With this, I can butcher even better and even detect weak points of living foes' bodies? And even more, I seem to be able to increase the quality of whatever materials and products result of what I butcher.

Wait, is this why the meat is glowing so brightly?

"Emeraldine do you have the Dismantle and Butcherer Skills?" I wondered.

"Oh, yeah, I do!" Emeraldine answered. "It took me years to learn them- Ah, don't tell me you learned them just now." She sighed.

"Y-Yeah..." I said. "I think the Butcherer Title is pretty crazy how much it increases quality and all."

"Quality? My Butcherer Title can't do that..." Emeraldine said.

"Eh?!"

[Indeed, even if you share the same Skills with others, Skills tend to vary in effects, even if the name is the same, they can be unique even when their name or distribution seems generic. Because you possess the incredible Unique Skill: System, you're able to learn Skills that are always stronger than the normal one's other people can learn through their Soul Books. Yet another amazing advantage of your Reincarnation Gifted Powers.]

I feel like you're growing constantly more cynical, my dear system. But I'll take what you said with no grains of salt, or pepper, but with a grain of sugar because that really raised my superiority complex a little bit.

"Ehem! I guess I really do have my own amazing personal Skills." I said while puffing my chest, the rest of my group raised an eyebrow in response, completely unaware of what the heck was I even talking about.

"Anyways, this meat looks very shiny, let's cook something! I'm starving!" Partner said, as she began drinking some Vampire Blood Potion I had made for her.

Chapter 452 Taking A Small Break

FSSSHH!

The sound of slices of tender meat being fried over a large pan could be heard through the grassland-like dungeon. The meat of the moles was surprisingly tender and just ideal to fry over a pan with some oil, salt and pepper. The smell of the meat quickly filled everybody's nostrils, as hunger was the only thing in our minds and bodies.

At the side, I had also cut down a large pile of meat into small chunks, and was boiling it alongside potatoes, carrots, onions, tomatoes, and other spices with water, to make a quick meat and potato stew, which had a beautiful and distinctive red color. It has a very similar flavor to tomato sauce but

with potatoes and other things added into the mix to make it a full meal. With the fried slices of meat at the side, things were getting almost ready.

Of course, it can't be a good meal without a bit of alcohol, we are all drunk bastards here after all, we enjoy our wine in our meals, so I quickly took out a big barrel from my Inventory, which was one of the high quality wines we have been enjoying! This was a wine we got from Julia back in her duchy.

"Ahhh, I am so hungry! I want to eat! I want to eat already!" Partner cried, the twins were also with her, drooling over the food being prepared.

I was honestly surprised how well the three went along, it felt like they were triplets instead.

"Can we eat yet?" Takeshi wondered.

"Not yet honey." I said, slowly looking at the stew.

"And now?" Asked Laura.

"Not yet dear." I sighed.

"And what about now?" Takeshi insisted, hugging my hips and looking at the food from behind me.

"Baby, wait a bit okay?" I sighed, petting his head and fluffy ears. He was too cute so I couldn't resist to give him a kiss on his forehead. "Mommy will get your food soon, so have patience! Go help uncle Lucifer... err, go help him do whatever he's up to."

"Okaaay..."

Takeshi and Laura walked away, and funnily enough, Partner stayed and took Takeshi's place. She began kissing my neck seductively, and even tried to give me a little bite, but I had no blood so it ended in a futile attempt at feeding from me.

"There's no blood there." I sighed with a smile, giving her a kiss.

"Uugh... I want Master's blood... When will you get blood of your own?" Partner had begun asking me this for a while. Apparently Vampires that were in love had some sort of fetish where they like to drink the blood of their partner's neck seductively.

"Technically never." I sighed. "You have my own bones but I doubt your blood is mine, as you're a complete new being altogether."

"Huhh..." Partner pouted a bit.

"Maybe if I ever become a goddess or something, I could get a body and blood? I don't know... I think the Goddess of Death got blood." I said while looking at the stew and taking a small piece of potato, giving it a bite.

It was soft and tasty; I think the stew is ready.

"Heheh... Well, I can always grab these too..." Partner smiled smugly as she grasped my breasts.

"Geez! We are about to eat..." I sighed.

"What's wrong aren't I your girlfriend too? So I have privileges!" Partner puffed her chest.

"H-Hold on there, Partner! D-Don't get ahead of yourself!" Emeraldine rushed towards us after she saw Partner doing something rather mischievous. She was currently using the Magic Cauldron to make some more Alchemy Clay for practice, saying she needed a lot for what she wanted to make.

Partner was quickly stopped by Emeraldine as she got slightly angry of being interrupted from her favorite activity.

"W-What's wrong? You got your turn the other day!" Partner complained.

"I-It is not right to do this in front of children, Partner!" Emeraldine reprimanded her.

"Aw geez, they're not even looking!" Partner crossed her arms, pointing at the kids who were playing over the big dragon body of Lucifer.

"W-Well still!" Emeraldine said.

"Okay, okay, you two can calm down a bit? You both will have the chance to do anything you want tonight but for now let's concentrate on eating. Aren't you all hungry?" I sighed.

"R-Right..." Partner said, quickly going back to her hungry mood.

However, Emeraldine was blushing as her long ears flapped excitedly about what I had said earlier.

"A-Anything?" She asked with embarrassment.

"Yeah... Do you have something in mind? Fufu~?" I asked teasingly.

"T-That's... M-Maybe..." Emeraldine said while fidgeting her fingers.

She was surprisingly perverted deep down to be so pure looking.

"Anyways! Let's eat! Hey kids! Lucifer! Come eat!"

I called everyone as we gathered around a large table I also brought out of my Inventory, alongside seats and everything else needed. I served several plates as we began eating merrily, we were all hungry.

Even me, who shouldn't feel hunger! The more the [Materialization] Skill leveled up, the more "real" my own stomach felt, even more, I even had the [Abyss Eater], [Phantasmal Stomach], [Sin of Gluttony], and the Ultimate Skill, which all enhanced my hunger!

It seems that even as a ghost entity, my very body uses tons of magic to just exist, the same that living beings use tons of energy to continue living, so I need to absorb a lot of energy to convert into magic, which become my "nutrients" in a way.

I am too strong so I doubt I could die out of hunger or something, but I'll certainly grow weaker and will not be at 100% if I don't eat a lot to compensate for my powerful Phantasmal/Demonic/Spiritual/Whatever Else body I have.

The meat and the stew were indeed delicious, the fried steaks I made were tasty and soft, the stew was comforting and warm, and the wine and bread went well with everything, it was a very nice lunch inside the dungeon~!

However, there were important topics to talk about right now...

"Alright, now that we are all gathered and eating, let's discuss what just happened..."

Chapter 453 We'll Stick With You No Matter What!

As we ate, we began to discuss everything in detail. The fight with the ant guy was quite fast paced, they were barely able to grasp what happened and just barely at that, so I had to explain them in detail some more. After that, I added what Helga had told us about the ants the dwarves encountered from the sealed dungeon which the old hag Aquamarine wanted us to go clean afterwards. If all of that fit together, it was pretty normal to think that the dungeon we found in the second mountain where we were mining might hold something related to the Evil God Fragments, maybe not really a fragment, but something of some sort.

"So this dungeon is certainly dangerous. That might be only one Parasite Ant, but there might certainly be more of them around." Said Lucifer. "You also said you weren't able to see its status?"

"Yeah, I was completely incapable of doing that." I said. "It seemed to have some sort of Skill that made it not possible to peer into its Soul Book, everything I saw was incomprehensible letters which were very scary to be honest."

"Hmm... It was very strong from what I sensed. The Miasma it generated... If it wasn't for the armor you gave us, we would have been once more intoxicated." Sighed Emeraldine.

"Yeah, even I felt weakened even when I am a Vampire who should be more resistant to Miasma." Sighed Partner.

"Only Lucifer and the twins seemed unaffected, while the dwarves were far away so they didn't get near it." I said. "The twins seem to be immune to miasma due to your origins as homunculus, right? Ah, sorry if it sounds a bit crude..."

"Ah, don't worry mama!" Said Takeshi.

"M-Mama?!" I asked in shock.

"Yeah, it is fine." Said Laura. "We also felt the strong presence, but our Demonite Cores seemed strangely stable for some reason, and we even felt more... comfortable."

"Yeah... It was weird." Takeshi said while rubbing his little chin. "And when you grabbed that dropped item too, it was strangely attractive."

"This?"

I took out the Eye of the Abyss, as the shiny purple jewel began to resonate with the twins, emanating a strong black aura of miasma. I quickly pulled it back to my Inventory, as it might have hurt Emeraldine or Partner.

"Yeah, that thing!" Takeshi said.

"It might be some sort of item related to our own cores... but was it generated by the dungeon?" Laura wondered.

"Yeah this dungeon seems to have a "Ore Drop Theme" so any monster dropped chunks of Ore, mostly things we already knew about or had seen before, nothing new, except this jewel... It is dangerous so I won't pull it out any longer, but maybe you kids have some sort of power similar to [Abyss Eater] and now that you've evolved some weeks ago and now leveled up, you might be developing some sort of miasma manipulating and even miasma eating powers." I analyzed.

"Yeah, it sounds like it makes some sense, seeing their origins..." Lucifer said. "After all, wasn't that crazy scientist trying to create some sort of powerful Homunculus capable of wielding this power? And then when we fought against Agatha using a Demonic Heart Core which she already had inside of her chest... Maybe they had yet to perfect this power, but Laura and Takeshi are the closest to it."

"Evolving really made them stronger, so they are not so tired all the time." Partner pointed out. "I guess the way evolution works is that it simply help our bodies adapt to our new, overflowing strength."

"Wow, that was a surprisingly intelligent remark from Partner." Emeraldine said.

"Indeed, it was surprising." Said Lucifer.

"H-Hey! Why are you saying that?! I am smart!" Partner said while pouting.

"Anyways, she's right." I said. "The Vampires might be perfecting this power they're seeking, which might give them the power to turn into those horrendous demons or whatever they are."

"And well, these monsters in here... that parasite, could it be a result of the miasma as well? could there be endemic life forms that surge from the miasma itself?" Lucifer wondered.

"It is very possible that that is the case." I answered. "That ant was amazingly strong, probably being a B+ Rank in power if not even reaching A Rank due to the Miasma and Chaos it can wield... However, that one was some sort of Commander, so we might find weaker versions of them in larger quantities. We might be able to deal with them easier... The big ones, I'll have to take care of them myself, I don't really want to risk you guys, it was too strong..."

"NO!" Lucifer roared. "There's no way I'll let my wife do it all for me, I'll help as well!" Lucifer's dragon pride seemed to resurface as he spoke. "I want to help you. I am also immune to miasma due to my

nature as a Death Dragon, it seems. Even if I am sliced into pieces, you can recover me anyways, and there's nothing saying I can't regenerate myself either. You have to trust my strength some more, Maria."

"Lucifer..."

"Yeah, he's right, we are helping too!" Partner said. "I am a Vampire, even if I am cut in half I can survive anyways, your Undead Healing can also heal me, so don't worry."

"I can probably die... so I'll attack from the distance. My light element is very effective against these monsters, I believe... And well, even if I end up dying, I am sure that Master will bring me back right away as an undead. I will be glad to become an Undead if it means I can remain for eternity at your side... I don't really mind, after everything I've experienced, I had wished for death many times anyways... It is only for you that I stay alive, Maria."

"Y-You guys... Don't say such mellow things out of nowhere! And Emeraldine, there's no way I'm letting you die!" I said. "You're staying in the back, okay? And you kids protect your auntie."

"Got it mama!" Takeshi said.

"We'll do everything we can!" Laura added.

Chapter 454 A Mysterious Little Wyvern

While eating, we were deciding various things and planning, however, as we enjoyed our food, someone suddenly sneaked inside our camp.

"Groar!"

We were not even able to detect this little monster, a creature resembling a small wyvern the size of a dog entered the camp and began to groan at us innocently.

"Huh?! Eh?! What's that?!" I ended panicking, as everyone else jumped out of their seats when they saw the little creature.

Partner quickly pointed her spear at the creature as the monster slowly stepped back afraid.

"A monster sneaked inside! I'll kill it!" Partner said, as she ran towards the creature to impale it.

"W-Wait a second!" I asked, quickly stopping Partner. "Don't you see it is not aggressive? Also I am fairly sure there are only moles here... Where did this little guy came from?"

"It looks strangely wyvern-like..." Said Lucifer.

"I heard there are various Wyvern nests around these mountains, could this be a wyvern pup that ended following us over here?" Emeraldine wondered. "Uwah, it is so cute..."

"Groar!"

The wyvern began waving his long tail as if it could understand Emeraldine praising him.

He seemed slightly old though, or was it my idea? Its red scales were discolored, and its eyes slightly grayish as well... it also had a few patches over its body where there were no scales. Could this be a weaker wyvern thrown away of his nest?

"Yeah, it is not attacking..." Lucifer said. The wyvern slowly approached him, as he began licking his fingers while he was on his human form. "Ah..."

Lucifer suddenly felt slightly moved, as he petted the wyvern's little head.

"Are you hungry?" I wondered. The wyvern immediately responded to my words while groaning, and walking to my side.

"I see, so you were attracted by the smell of meat most likely... Here you go!" I gave the wyvern a big steak as he immediately devoured it entirely, munching the meat, his eyes shone brightly, he seemed quite happy.

"Groar!"

He groaned again, as if asking for seconds.

"Haha, can wyverns eat stew?" I wondered, serving him a bit of stew over a small plate.

"Groaaarr!"

The wyvern immediately began digging in without reservations, drinking the stew's broth, eating both potatoes, carrots, and everything else without any problems. At the end, the little scaled friend licked his mouth happily.

"Well, this is unexpected... Did we just tamed this creature?" I wondered. "I think this is the first time ever I make a monster friend that is not an Undead-"

Ding!

[You have learned the [Taming: Lv1] Skill]

[You acquired the [Gotta Catch Them All!: Lv1] Title Skill]

"...Seriously?"

FLASH!

Suddenly, a flash of bright light reached the small wyvern, hitting its head and forming a small mark. For a second there, I felt some sort of connection. However, the little wyvern panicked and canceled the taming, so it ended being unsuccessful. Did the system just tried to forcefully tame him for me?!

"Groar! GRAR!"

The little wyvern got slightly angry, spreading his wings, and waving his tail angrily, even furrowing his "eyebrows" which were just thicker scales.

"I'm sorry! I didn't really had the intention to forcefully tame you!" I sighed. "(Also System, what the heck was that?)"

[Because you've tamed many Undead you've been almost getting this skill, but you required the other requirement, actually taming a living monster, and it just appeared due to this, don't blame me. The Skill was activated automatically.]

"(Hahh... Well, whatever.)"

"So what do we do with this guy?" Wondered Emeraldine. "C-Can we keep him?"

Emeraldine approached the wyvern and she succeed in petting him. At the end, everyone petted our new scaly friend, and even the twins were charmed by its small cuteness. It really looked like a small wyvern, although it had some strangely similar aspects to Lucifer, but I guess that's something that all dragon-types share. Wyverns are considered more animal than intelligent dragons, like the equivalents of apes to humans I guess.

"Alright, we'll keep him. He seems to love Lucifer; he can't get enough of him." I laughed, seeing the little wyvern licking Lucifer's face.

"Ahahaha... You're quite the playful little brat... You kind of remind me of my sister... when she was small." Sighed Lucifer, suddenly recalling a bit of his infancy.

After having recruited a new friend which we had yet to pick a name for, we decided to move forward after having our meals and feeling better. I had already decided to make a specialized formation for our entire group. I will be standing in the front with Lucifer, while Partner is right behind us. She'll mostly also protect Emeraldine while Emeraldine offers support with her Magic and Archery from afar, all while the kids protect her in the back.

I know the two are weaker than the us, but thanks to Laura's Unique Skill: [Twin Connection], she can share all Skills and Magic with Takeshi and vice versa, so they can actually become even stronger when together. Recently she even told me they can share 50% of one another's total Stats as long as they're closer by around 20 meters range, so that's already insane enough.

Unique Skills are really heaven-defying sometimes to be honest, so it was totally possible that such an effect existed, I guess... I have yet to find any other people with Unique Skills though, but I am fairly sure the twins won't be the only ones. But for now, our formation seems pretty good.

After packing everything inside my Inventory, we made our way across the grasslands of the first dungeon floor atop Lucifer's large back, reaching the large entrance that led us even deeper.

"Here we are... Let's go!"

Lucifer didn't falter, as he quickly delved inside the cave, we quickly reached deeper and deeper, until we finally arrived in yet another open landscape, this time, it resembled a big forest, with lakes, rivers, and mountains in the background. The songs of birds could be heard around beautifully.

"Woah, such a beautiful forest!" Said Partner.

"If we could really conquer this dungeon, we would have all of this for ourselves..." Emeraldine.

"And yeah, there are monsters too!" I pointed out, pointing at the group of creatures which quickly detected us, they resembled giant flightless birds with colorful feathers and enormously deadly golden-colored beaks, each one was at least three meters tall!

"I guess we can't really take a break and enjoy the scenery, huh?" Lucifer said, as we all got ready to yet another EXP grind.

Hm, and even more, behind those giant birds, I can clearly feel the presence of something strong and darker...

Chapter 455 Reaching The Dungeon's Second Floor, Meeting An Army Of Angry Birds!

Birds! Countless of birds! They were all colorful, and there were not only the flightless three-meter-tall ones, but there were some falcon-like birds flying across the skies, some black crow-like ones, and even some more land birds with feathers as hard as steel. This was a gigantic flock of different types of bird monsters, all gathered here just to kill us! Great, just what we needed!

Well, actually, yes, this what we needed, I wanted more EXP after all. Those moles delivered a nice amount of it and I even reached Level 15, but for my next evolution, I need to reach Level 80, so it is nothing particularly easy to pull out, I am 65 levels off reaching my next evolution after all! If I ever am planning on defeating those goddamn Vampires and whatever other dangerous threat might emerge in the future, I need to keep evolving and strengthening my allies.

And so, I must channel my innermost gamer and get grinding as much EXP as I can!

"CRAAAH!"

BAAAM!

An enormous, five-meter-tall, flightless bird with colorful feathers and a massive beak reached us in an instant by literally jumping here. Are you a frog or a bird?!

Its enormous legs were built with muscles, and its sharp claws broke through the ground below us, several trees flew away the moment the bird hit the ground, generating a powerful shockwave. The other birds stepped back due to the bird's intimidating presence.

"Ohoho, did we got the last boss already?" I wondered, looking at the monster in front of us.

[Rainbow-Crowned Brawler Bird: Lv61] [Rank: B+++] [Status: Furious, Protecting its Territory]

A monstrously enormous Bird, the leader of a flock of Rainbow Brawler Birds. Due to the feathers growing atop of its head in the shape of a crown, it is recognized as the "Rainbow-Crowned", although this specimen is still young, as it lacks the total power of adulthood, which would easily bring this monster to A- Rank.

It is capable of delivering deadly kicks and beak attacks that can shake the earth and destroy anything on its path. Despite its big body and lack of wings, it can move swiftly and incredibly dexterously. It is ruthless and territorial and will fight anything that steps into its territory while its underlings will assist it.

Skills: [Brawling Master] [Kicking Arts] [Blazing Kick] [Fire Breath] [Flare Explosion] [Meteor Smash] [Catastrophic Beak Blow] [Beak Explosion Attack] [Intimidating Aura of the King]

"This guy's weaker than the Mole King?" I wondered.

"CRAAAAH!"

BAAAM!

The bird didn't even wait for us to analyze it any further, as its enormous claws hit the ground, making everything tremble, suddenly explosions of flames erupted one after the other, as hundreds of colorful birds and other birds joining the flock flew towards us.

"Shit, there's no time to talk, we have to fight!" Said Partner.

Partner readied her two spears as she imbued them with her Blood Aura. Her beautiful red eyes shone brightly as they unleashed a ray of curses, this was due to her [Cursed Evil Eyes].

This incredible ability granted Partner the power to lower her foe's stats by merely glaring at them through the infliction of Weakening Curses such as the [Curse of the Weak], [Curse of the Slow], [Curse of the Frail], and so on, a very useful Skill she had been leveling up ever since she became Lesser Vampire.

"[Scarlet Moon]!"

TRUUUUMMM...!

Partner started with a banger before all of us, she seemed to really want to have some action, as she conjured her [Scarlet Moon], the evolution of her [Darkness Bullet] Skill which allowed her to conjure an enormous sphere of darkness and blood, combining both of her primary elements and unleashing a devastating explosive attack by firing the scarlet sphere of darkness against her foes!

FLAAAASH!

The sole presence of the sphere of darkness and blood began to drain away the life of the weakest birds charging towards us in an instant, as they blood only intensified [Scarlet Blood]'s power. The Crowned Bird detected the enormous power of the blow, as it quickly rushed forward, imbuing flames over its entire body and then its beak, which grew three times its original size, turning completely red as if it were boiling!

"DIE!" Partner said ruthlessly.

"CRAAAAAH!" The Rainbow Crowned Brawler Bird cried furiously, as its beak clashed against Partner's strongest magic attack!

BOOOOOOMMMM!!!

An enormous explosion ensued, consuming everything within the skies and completely emptying the sky from any clouds, the shockwaves alone killed a few dozen of flying birds nearby that didn't manage to run away in time, as everything turned red for a few seconds.

BAAAM!

Suddenly, amidst the smoke, the bird fell from the skies, reaching the ground.

It was... standing?!

"CRAAAHHH... CRAHHAH..." The bird seemed to be gasping for air, but it had survived. Its furious red eyes seemed completely filled with the conviction to fight even more.

"Oh, so it took my magic attack!" Laughed Partner. "Well, I've never been good at fighting with magic anyways!"

"You think so?" Sighed Lucifer.

"You've only enraged the bird more!" Emeraldine reprimanded Partner.

"Geh... I am just doing my best!" Partner cried, as I ended patting her head.

"Don't worry, let's take on them all together... I've also got an army of my own after all!" I quickly enhanced my Undead troops and summoned my shadows amidst the Dark and Death Domain, enhancing my Undead's strength all while bringing them out.

There were still some surviving skeletons and zombies, alongside several other monsters, but the majority of my new troops were dozens if not almost a hundred Moles, some even enhanced with ice and lightning element, giving them a greater power.

"Now go!" I commanded them, as the Undead marched forward, clashing against the Brawling Birds, the Wind Falcons, and the Metallic Feather birds at once.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

The sound of their fighting could be heard all around as I smiled, my loyal Frost Ghost emerged behind me, granting me the power of Ice...

"Let's see how far you can go little birds..."

Chapter 456 Powerful Mid Bosses Appear!

Most of the moles decided to dig underground and create large pits, letting the flightless birds fall to their demise, as the Moles conjured [Boulder Blast] and crushed them to death in there. Other Moles who had died by being frozen or electrocuted had different fighting methods. The Lightning Moles moved fast in groups, attacking the flying birds by jumping from the ground and slashing them with their claws, while the Freezing Moles unleashed Ice Magic and froze their targets body parts to take them down more easily.

I had also summoned my loyal Gero, as the giant Venomous Salamander spread out his own Venom Domain, intoxicating several of the birds from both the air and the land. Many of them couldn't even step close to him, opting to use magic, only to get attacked by enormous car-sized fireballs made out of phantasmal flames, which Lucifer began to fire everywhere while flying on the skies.

"ROOOARRR!"

Lucifer's claws were covered on his darkness and phantasmal flames, as he began burning and slicing into pieces the flying birds, shredding their bodies apart with utmost ease. He didn't used any particularly fancy Skill for now as he wanted to take care of the small fry first, but his very body was already a deadly weapon both in bed and in battle.

As he shredded apart the Wind Falcons, a furious cry came from the skies, an enormous, fifteen-meter-big Falcon with green feathers and a golden beak emerged from the skies, it seemed to be a leader of the Wind Falcons as well, and it looked almost as strong as the Rainbow-Crowned Brawler Bird!

[Emerald Storm Falcon King: Lv58] [Rank: B++] [Status: Enraged]

A powerful King of the Storm Falcons, birds that can fly across the skies rapidly and manipulate winds. The powerful jewel on its forehead enhances its power several times, granting incredible capabilities and wind manipulation powers. It can summon storms of winds to take down gigantic foes with ease and is feared as the "ruler of the skies" below True Wyverns and other scaly competitors. It is often considered even more ruthless than them, as it protects its flock furiously against predators and attackers.

Skills: [Windstorm] [Slicing Wind Spears] [Emerald Wind Barrier] [Mercilessly Claws] [Sonic Flight] [Crushing Beak Attack] [Storming Wind Domain] [Intimidating Aura of the King]

It was seriously a strong foe!

"CRAAAAAH!"

It didn't even look at Lucifer twice as it attacked furiously and even recklessly. Flapping its enormous wings and then unleashing a terrifying wind attack that spread out like a storm, attempting to encompass my beloved dragon husband!

FLUOOOSH!

"Oh? Interesting!" Lucifer, however, responded with amusement, as he let himself be consumed by the slicing winds that exploded over his entire, gigantic draconic body!

BOOOOMMM!!!

The bird kept looking in silence at Lucifer, only to open its eyes in shock, my dragon was of course, completely alright!

"Hmph, that's certainly an amazing wind magic, you will become a good servant for Maria...!" He laughed proudly, his entire body was unscathed.

"CRAAAH!"

The Falcon didn't waste any second as it seemed to use its [Sonic Flight] Skill to approach him like a flash of green light. The jewel on its forehead shone brightly at the same time, conjuring a windstorm that shaped itself into an enormous spear, and quickly attempted to pierce through Lucifer's chest.

FLAAAASH!

"A commendable effort. However... [Dark Moon]."

TRUUUUUMMMMM...!

Suddenly, space distorted atop of Lucifer's arms, as a sudden enormous magic circle emerged, materializing a gigantic, fifty-meter-large sphere of pure obscurity, encompassed on black phantasmal flames, and then, the enormous [Dark Moon] flew directly towards the Falcon King, clashing against his Windstorm Spear.

CLAAASH!!!

"C-CRAAAHHH...!"

The entire Falcon King was caught in the explosion, as its entire body began to burn by the black phantasmal flames, its life being drained at the same time as its body slowly started to freeze. Phantasmal flames didn't burn conventionally, but they froze like ice.

BAAAM!

Its gigantic body, left like a frozen mummy, fell from the skies, falling over the forest and leaving an enormous crater behind, the other birds were intimidated enough that they tried to fly away, but Lucifer

mercilessly caught them all, shaping his Darkness into countless spears and firing them at the escaping falcons.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

"You're not running away." Lucifer mercilessly said. "After all, we require as much EXP as possible."

"Good job Lucifer, keep it up!" I praised Lucifer while being down here, as I quickly waved my hand.
"[Transfiguration of the Dead]!"

FLUOOOSH!

A wave of phantasmal essence flew across the forest, quickly rising the monsters that had been dying, massacred by my companions, as I quickly added them to my army of Undead. Especially that big Falcon King, which was healed from its mummy-like state and had its wings turned dark green instead, with menacing red eyes, it evolved into a [Shadow Storm Falcon Death King], and countless other Falcons were also turned into loyal Undead subjects, joining their former leader and flying across the skies with him, attacking the other birds with storms of shadows and darkness.

I didn't had the time nor I really wanted to rise them through the System Points way, as I simply raised them conventionally, and it ended being good enough, their power helped us push further against the hundreds of birds attacking us, as we gained more territory and that allowed us to take a bit of a breather... However, it wouldn't be enough, as hundreds of birds continued rushing our way. I quickly decided to step in and fight.

"Veredorr, give me a hand!"

"Very well, Master!"

The Frost Ghost quickly granted me Ice power, as I gathered it within my shadows and channeled his powers through the [Spirit Summon] [Spirit Queen] and [Spiritual Mediator] Skills, which all worked with Ghosts I've made with my own powers.

FLUOOSH!

A sudden storm of icy winds emerged from my presence, as I pointed the palm of my hands against the hundreds of monsters approaching.

"Eternal Ice Prison!"

CLAAAASH!

Chapter 457 Beating Down Overpowered Chickens One After Another!

The sound of the water in the environment freezing was heard loudly, as the sound of ice crystals constantly growing over dozens if not almost a hundred birds at once reverberated across the forest, half of this landscape quickly turned into a land of pure ice, as the birds were all frozen into statues. The Rainbow-Crowned Brawler Bird barely managed to evade by using its various Fire Attribute Skills and unleashing Blazing Kicks everywhere, but its minions were long dead.

"Phew, that was a strong Spell." I sighed in relief, I had spent 60% of my MP in a single attack in there, but this surely created a better situation. Now that a lot of them were taken down in a second, the rest of the birds began to get intimidated by our presence.

The wall of ice formed by my attack also worked as a great obstacle for any non-flying birds, although the big ones still broke through them and charged forwards, even more furious than before.

"Let's absorb some of the Mana of the environment to recover..." I said with a smile, as I began to slowly drain Mana and recover it.

Meanwhile, the rest of my party used the opportunity I gave them to fight back and push forward, finally acquiring an advantage as we were not being completely overwhelmed any more. Lucifer took care of the skies, protecting us from anything that might be a surprise attack, while Partner was right behind me, working as the bodyguard of Emeraldine, the twins, and me. She used her abilities to take down any of the monsters that got near us.

Meanwhile, Emeraldine and the twins were also relentlessly fighting from a long distance. Emeraldine had been channeling the power of her Spirits almost nonstop, as the Spirit of Light and Nature floated around her, granting her new power. She suddenly enchanted the magic arrows she had made specifically for herself back then and covered them on Spiritual Essence and Mana, pointing ten arrows at the same time using her bow at the approaching Metallic Feather Birds, which were vicious and the hardest to kill, their leader was a robust, steel-plate covered monster with a metallic beak and sharp as blade wings.

[Giant Metallic Steel Feathered Bird King: Lv57] [Rank: B++] [Status: Enraged]

The king of the impossibly resistant and powerful Steel Feathered Birds, its size surpassing over ten meters, its wings shaped as deadly blades, and its metallic armor covering its entire body makes it a deadly foe capable of slicing anything and easily resist most magic and physical attacks.

Incredibly tough to take down, they're often considered impossible to defeat by Adventurers, who run at the time they spot them. Vicious by nature and incredibly bloodthirsty, it seeks to slice and devour its prey, and is incredibly enraged by almost any sort of provocation. They will chase down their prey to the end of the world.

Skills: [Metallic Defense] [Steel Feather Armor] [Harden Body] [Metallic Cry] [Slicing Blade Wings] [Swordsmanship Arts] [Metallic Kick] [Kicking Technique] [Metallic Beak] [Flesh Shredder] [Merciless] [Intimidating Aura of the King]

This bastard was definitely min-maxing defense and physical attack, he's deadly strong! I never thought birds could even look like this. It seems I have yet to even visit all the dungeons in this world, or even continents. By just seeing this fantastical monster, I can already imagine what sort of others monstrous beasts I could find in my journey...!

"CRAAAAAH!"

The monstrous bird moved forward, its entire body covered on metallic scales or feathers which created metallic wounds over the grass and ice. The gigantic monster had taken my freezing spell directly and was unscathed, seemingly resistant to magic and the ice element.

However, Emeraldine readied her Light Arrows, imbuing them with the elemental power of her spirits, as they shone brightly like stars.

"Light Spirit Bow Arts: Starlight Arrow Shower!"

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

Emeraldine suddenly fired all her arrows not directly towards the bird, but into the skies! The arrows reached the skies and then shone brightly as if they were all a beautiful group of stars in a night sky. The bird seemed confused only for a few seconds before each arrow began falling from the skies, even bigger and stronger than before, resembling stars that were falling from space itself!

"C-CRAAAH?!"

The bird quickly enhanced its body defense and tried to evade the blows while running towards Emeraldine, but suddenly, it tripped over the floor!

BAAAM!

"CRAAAH?!"

The bird once more was shocked by finding its legs entangled on an incredibly hard metallic thread with a hook that emerged out of the ground below itself! Takeshi was standing behind Emeraldine while looking at the bird, using his [Fisher] Unique Skill amazing Fishing Rod, and capturing the bird from moving.

CRASH!

However, the bird managed to break out of the thread, only for more to catch the monster and push it down once more. Takeshi was infusing Mana into his Fishing Rod constantly, making it possible for the thread to constantly regenerate and grow stronger and more resistant. It was not indestructible, but it was incredibly tough!

And to boot, the arrows were already reaching the bird from above, clashing over its entire body and bombarding the bird with explosions of burning light constantly, it couldn't evade a single attack!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

"CRAAAAAAHHHH...!"

The bird gave out agonizing cries as its hard feathers and scales were destroyed one by one, wounds emerged over its soft and tender flesh below them, splattering blood constantly and generating a pool of it below it... However, it was still somehow alive, and furious!

"CRAAAH!"

The bird slowly attempted to stand back up again, only for Laura to smile, touching the Fishing Rod of Takeshi.

"Boom." She said with a smile.

BOOOOOOMMM!!!

The entire fishing rod exploded, as the threads turned red and then blew up, destroying the bird's legs and the rest of its body was roasted alive. Even the delicious smell of roasted chicken could be smelled from afar...

That was utterly brutal!

Chapter 458 An Unexpected Situation!

As my friends massacred our foes, the Rainbow-Crowned Brawler Bird was constantly attempting to catch me up. I had already told everybody that I was strong enough to deal with it myself, but this beast was relentless! It wasn't even letting me take a break, the moment the Metal Bird King died, this thing began chasing me down constantly.

I fired more and more Ice Spells against him, but he easily destroyed them with blazing kicks, and when I fired darkness at it, its beak shone as bright as light, destroying most of my darkness. I was recovering more of MP so I could throw a stronger spell, but it was already forcing me into a close-quarter combat. And one where I will definitely not lose.

"Fine, let's end this then! If you're such a stubborn bastard!"

I rushed forward without moving away from his range anymore. The bird, as if recognizing my bravery, stopped rushing towards me and stood there.

FLUOSH!

A sudden Domain was invoked, the bird's rainbow feathers shone brightly as a domain of blazing rainbow flames emerged around its surroundings. These were no normal flames as they didn't burned the trees, but mystical flames, something similar to spiritual power. These also contained the element of light too, which was lethal against me even as I am right now. Maybe small fry can't hurt me but a monster with the potential to become A Rank is certainly strong enough.

But it's not like I was scared of getting a bit hurt when I had such a big HP pool and the powers to easily avoid death- well, I was already dead to begin with!

BBBBZZZZZ...!

SHAAAAA....!

The sound of countless swarms of flies and phantasmal snakes resonated across the forest, as the bird's face suddenly shown a shocked expression, seeing that my entire body suddenly divided itself into a swarm of snakes and flies was not something it could had ever expected to ever happen!

"Let's see if you can take this!"

By combining my transformation with Death and Darkness Domain's boost, the buff from all other Skills put together, and the enormously strong magic I was readying, I unleashed my all, as five enormous eyes suddenly emerged amidst the swarm of flies and snakes, unleashing rays of curses!

This was, of course, my infamous [Gorgon's Five Cursed Eyes]!

FLASH!

"CRAAAAH!"

The bird immediately evaded the rays that could inflict curses, but ultimately ended taking three of them, Paralysis, Poison, and Confusion, barely evading the most lethal, Petrification.

SPARK!

Suddenly, its entire body was paralyzed and poisoned at the same time, the enormous bird was incapable of moving at all, and felt rather shocked at that. Poison began consuming its health bar while paralysis and confusion made it hard for it to move with its bones and muscles being constantly tormented with sparks of electricity while its mind was being confused.

"You'll be a tasty roasted chicken!" I laughed almost manically, as I channeled the power of a classic one. "Pandora's Box."

TRUUUUMMM...!

Poison, Darkness, and Death concentrated into a single sphere which emerged right before the bird's face, its flames, and the domain it held was incapable of turning off this sphere of three deadly elements.

Creaaaak...!

Suddenly, the illusion of a black chest emerged before its sight, slowly opening, and then, unleashing utter chaos.

BOOOOOMMMM!!!

The darkness, poison, and phantasmal death quickly consumed the Rainbow-Crowned Bird entirely, as a smile surged in my lips, I laughed.

"Hahahaha! Let's see if you can take this!"

"CRAAAHHHH...!"

The last cry of the Rainbow-Crowned bird was heard, as its body fell into the ground, completely covered in darkness and poison, and dying... oh, it somehow survived with barely any HP.

"A commendable effort but it would be better if you die for now, I can turn you into an even stronger Undead..." I said with a smile.

However, the bird looked directly into my own eyes, its eyes flaring with flames of... conviction? Was it pissed at me? Oh come on, you're just a Field Boss, let's not give you more time than needed-

FLUOOOSH!

Ah, bad timing to say that.

An eruption of flames emerged out of nowhere, the flames shining with bright rainbow light and encompassing the entirety of the bird's body, healing it, and at the same time, making it grow bigger.

Is this... a new Skill?

Did this motherfucker just awakened a new Skill?

Wait... it wasn't mature yet, right?

So what does a Rainbow-Crowned Brawler Bird even becomes when it matures?

[The [Rainbow Crowned Brawler Bird] has suddenly gone through a Life and Death situation, provoking an early awakening of its latent powers!]

[The [Dungeon Core] has influenced the Bird's evolution!]

So it is the dungeon core! Is it trying to kill us because it knows we are trying to conquer it and take it for ourselves? Bastard, so this Core is just the same as the previous dungeon at the end, huh?

FLUOSH!

The enormous bird quickly changed entirely, growing thrice as big, as its gigantic body constantly unleashed an enormous burst of rainbow and bright golden flames, which easily burned through most of my swarms and consumed them! Damn it, it had to be Holy Light Element, right?!

Although I am overwhelmingly overpowered, I've always had this weakness since I was born as a ghost, the element of holy light! Light alone is still somehow bearable, but when it becomes Holy Light, it is serious fucking business.

I had to retreat if I didn't wanted to get consumed by the light, as I flew away and made a good distance from the enormous eruption of golden rainbow flames coming from the bird... Its entire body had changed, its feathers covered its body gloriously as they shone with bright red and golden colors, with a majestic and divine rainbow aura... its beak was smaller now, but sharp and beautiful, golden as if made of pure gold ore. Its eyes were sharp, bright yellow, and atop its red-feathered head, there was a crown of golden feathers with the tips of the color of the rainbow.

Without a doubt, that thing was a Phoenix.

"CRYAAAAAH!"

Chapter 459 Versus The [Rainbow Crowned Holy Flames Phoenix]!

A glorious looking bird emerged before us, one that people would only describe from legends! Who would have thought that the kicking brawler bird was actually the chick of an actual fucking Phoenix?! Were all the smaller ones also chicks and only the biggest one managed to reach enough strength to become something like the King of the chicks? Well, whatever, this was definitely bad news because, just as I had stated earlier, I am weak to the element of this Phoenix, Holy Light.

Apparently, this Phoenix not only wields Ultimate Fire, but also Holy Light as a secondary element, merging both its flames with its light and turning rainbow flames out of it, an incredibly powerful and potent combination. Can I even defeat this on my own?

[Rainbow Crowned Holy Flames Phoenix: Lv66] [Rank: A+] [Status: Evolved, Enraged, Ready for Revenge]

The Rainbow Crowned Brawler Bird was nothing but the Chick of an Actual Phoenix, the powerful Rainbow Crowned Phoenixes, a race of incredibly rare and powerful Phoenixes that wield not only Fire but also Holy Light as a secondary element. They're often perceived as the symbols of light by the Holy Church of Light and are incredibly protective of their territory and kin.

They possess the power of both of these elements, amazing reflexes, flight speed, explosive attacks, destructive physical blows, amazing magic talent, and several other skills. It is said they're natural enemies of Undead, and often travel across the world to purify them from the face of the earth commanded by the God of Light... albeit that is only a myth.

Skills: [Holy Flame Spiral Storm] [Golden Flames Domain] [Consuming Super Nova] [Holy Flame Familiar Creation] [Phoenix Domineering Presence] [Holy Flame Creation] [Rebirth from Ashes] [...]

It had so many Skills that there was a gigantic list of them! And not only that but this damn bastard could be reborn from ashes?! Can this dude just come back from the dead if I kill him now?! Well, it is only worth giving it a try.

"You've already forced my hand, I won't wait for you to come kill me... [Chaotic Meteor]!"

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

I began absorbing the Phoenix MP the moment it evolved, and used the MP immediately into conjuring five Chaotic Meteors at the same time. All five of them fell towards the phoenix at the same time, the gigantic spheres of crystalized darkness, poison, death, and even chaos fell over the Phoenix as its enormous flames were still stabilizing themselves.

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOOOOMMM!!!

"CRAAAAAHHHH...!"

The five gigantic meteors fell one after the other consecutively, the gigantic Phoenix agonizingly cried, its voice reverberating cross the entirety of the Dungeon's floor as the meteors consumed its entire body, even its flames couldn't-

FLUOOOOSSSHHHH!!!

However, against my very own expectations, they could. The flames erupted out of its body, consuming my gigantic meteors and their explosive impact, completely turning them all into ashes... You've gotta be fucking kidding me.

"CRYAAAH!"

The Phoenix furiously looked back at me, although its health bar was now at 50%, it was slowly recovering! This bastard even has an automatic self-recovery ability which I couldn't properly see amidst its enormous quantity of Skills I didn't wanted to memorize.

FLASH!

In an instant, the Phoenix flew towards me, resembling a fireball in the shape of a majestic bird, clashing against my Barriers, which I materialized one after the other constantly!

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH! CRASH!

However, each barrier was getting completely destroyed one after the other, as its holy flames began reaching up to my body, attempting to consume me entirely.

FLUOSH!

"Damn it...!"

I gathered all the power I could within my soul, opening a gigantic Black Hole once more, the same one I used to kill that Ant, and then shapeshifted my entire body into my truest form, an endless abyss of darkness!

TRUUUMMMM...!

By combining [Phantasmal Stomach], [Abyss Eater], [Sin of Gluttony], and several other skills alongside my [Ultimate Skill: Yog-Sothoth] and my [Supreme Magic], I created what I called... [All Devouring Gluttonous Black Void]!

"CRAAAAH!"

The Phoenix was easily caught into my own gigantic Black Hole of a body, as its flames began to be consumed and turned into MP for me to absorb! However, the monster was struggling annoyingly, unleashing constant storms of flames that consumed my own body.

"Ugh, you bastard, just fucking die!" I roared, trying to completely devour the Phoenix as I encompassed its entire body with my soul.

"CRAAAAH!"

However, it didn't work.

The phoenix cried madly, unleashing one of its strongest spells [Consuming Super Nova], as I felt the gigantic sphere of light and flames consuming my entire interior. My soul began growing like a balloon, as I felt like I was being consumed by this fire...

At the end, Holy Flames is still not something I can brute force.

BOOOOOMMM!!!

"MASTER!"

"MARIA!"

"MARIAAAA!"

My friends cried for me as I felt my entire soul and phantasmal body fragmenting into pieces and exploding, I flew into different pieces all over the dungeon floor, falling into the floor like black slime. My HP bar was going lower than 20%, but I somehow survived. It all depended on my own mass. As long as I can keep some of my mass of my soul and phantom, I'll always be over 100% HP, although I lost roughly 70% of my entire mass, I am still alive, somehow!

Ugh... but completely weakened, and everyone is panicking to boot!

"Agh! Goddamn it!" I cursed the heavens as I emerged like a little version of myself at the side of Emeraldine and everyone else who had regrouped.

"Maria! You're okay!" Emeraldine cried, hugging my little self.

"Master, I thought you died! Everything was too fast!" Partner cried.

"You're okay?" Asked Lucifer, panicked. "How did you even survive that- ah, well, it doesn't matter how, I am happy you're okay but how can we deal with this?!" Lucifer was more grounded than the others due to his maturity and looked at the ferocious yet tired Phoenix in the skies.

The bastard had not ended unscathed either.

Chapter 460 A Plan And The Phoenix's Birth

As I fell into pieces, I realized I had managed to hurt the Phoenix quite a lot. Although I lost around 70% of my entire body in the process, the bastard was no way below 30% of its total HP, I would say even almost at 20%! Of course, my near-suicidal attack could easily become nothing if the bastard regenerated quick enough. His entire body was covered on holy flames, healing all wounds slowly, even broken bones and destroyed organs were regenerating at a fast speed, amazingly so. If we didn't destroy him before he could regenerate any further, we won't be able to beat him for real... or not if we don't sacrifice something.

I felt my presence in the entirety of the forest though, each fragment of myself. I ended getting broken into 23 pieces of my own soul and phantom, and each one was moving independently. But even if I hurried up, it would be useless to recover myself by merging with all pieces, as I would still be weakened. I would need to spend several minutes healing myself using [Undead Healing] which is honestly too slow, and the Phoenix will easily recover in that time.

My thoughts are usually faster than most people, probably dozens of times if not a hundred times faster, therefore, I can think of strategies while not wasting much time. And right now, the only strategy we have is... it is all on Takeshi.

"Master, we have to recover your soul pieces!" Partner cried.

"No, we don't have time, the Phoenix will catch on us, the bastard is not moving because he's recovering, but if he sees us doing something, he'll charge at us or unleash his attacks or magic..." I said. Even my voiced had changed slightly as my body was small and compact.

"Then what can we do?" Emeraldine wondered. "The fire element and the holy light element are too strong, and we lack a way to counter them ourselves..."

Elemental Affinity and the interaction between elements has always been a big thing in this world, especially in the fights there had been. Although usually most elements can hit each other neutrally sometimes, the weaknesses or resistances are strong when the recipient of such elements are also stronger. My darkness, poison, death, and illusion can't even fathom to damage the Phoenix enough to kill it, so I had to rely on my Skills to damage him, but even then... I failed.

We need someone capable of countering the elements the phoenix has, and between all of us, only one can realistically do it, the fire element can be countered by Takeshi's amazing Water Attribute Affinity and his Unique Skill [Fisherman]. Nobody else has an elemental advantage except him.

"Takeshi!" I called him, as the boy was startled.

"Mama, are you feeling okay?" He asked while feeling worried about me.

"I am okay my boy! But I need your help." I said with a smile. "We'll grant you the strength and the opportunity, you have to strike down that bird!"

"E-Eh? Me?!" He asked.

"Oh?" Laura seemed surprised.

"Fire against Water dear, can you make the math?" I sighed.

"R-Right... I am the only one here with fire... the ice of your ghost can't do it either?" He wondered.

"Nope, and my miasmic darkness gets purified by the holy light. But holy light only deals neutral damage to water." I said. "You're the chosen one!"

"M-Me?!"

Takeshi was honestly shocked. Although I found it incredibly adorable he started calling me "mama" instead of auntie as before, so much that I wanted to cuddle with him for an entire day, I had to force my son to do something that might be over exceeding his own limits.

"Okay..."

He quickly answered.

"I'll do anything I can! Please grant me your strength!"

"Atta boy!" Lucifer said.

"I can see you've grown stronger not only on stats, but also on conviction, dear." Emeraldine said.

"Can he do it tough?!" Partner wondered.

"I'll help in any way I can!" Laura said.

"Then it is decided!"

I quickly commanded everyone for battle, swiftly giving them my instructions...

Long ago in this dungeon, there was once an egg. A red egg as big as a building, when it broke, several chicks came out, hundreds of them, almost a thousand. They were all colorful and beautiful, but ferocious as well. Their powerful kicks and sharp beaks easily shredded into pieces the competition and helped them eat. Amidst those chicks, one of them ate the most and was the bravest, protecting its family from the various other monsters that roamed the dungeon.

Eventually, it suddenly grew bigger than the other chicks, gaining a crown of feathers. Suddenly, the other birds heard its call, and even those from other species seemed to obey him for some reason. The clan of birds which had been on war for a long time came together to serve him. He really didn't know why, but he was someone special.

And it was not until today, when invaders came from the "outside world" that the bird knew its true purpose, to defeat the evil coming here. However, it was not strong enough, against the endless abyssal darkness of this demonic invader, the bird fell to its death... only to be reborn.

Before dying, it heard the soothing voice of a woman resonating within its mind, this was the "God" that every monster believed on inside this enormous dungeon, or well... the Dungeon Core.

"You're the most talented and the strongest of all your siblings. You're the chosen one... I shall grant you power, my child. Now awaken your bloodline and defeat this evil from taking over our world!"

FLASH!

Without any sort of doubt, the bird took upon this brilliant power, as Mana flowed into its body and soul. All of its wounds were healed, and its entire body evolved, changing, and turning into something completely new, a completely new entity altogether. As its body was shrouded on divine flames, he finally realized who he truly was...

A phoenix!

And his duty was nothing else than defeat this evil darkness from the outside world.
