

A Ghost 491

Chapter 491 Devouring The Fragment! & Reencounter Between Brother And Sister

Meanwhile, at the same time as I did that, the Ant Queen began to struggle, her power started to go down at the same time as Brunhild reached her limit and Lucifer was too exhausted to fight intensively any longer.

"GRUOOHH...! W-What the... T-This is...! T-The core!"

The Ant Queen cried desperately, suddenly, and furiously roaring, unleashing her last amount of strength and rushing towards the weakened Brunhild, who was gasping for air. It seemed that her age did indeed affect her, as she couldn't simply unleash all her power like she could do before.

"GRUOOHHHHH!!!"

The Ant Queen desperately pounced at Brunhild, now completely left without a source of large quantities of Mana, it could barely hold into its own monstrous body, and required nourishment, eating a dragon might do the trick for her.

However, the shadow covering Lucifer, me, summoned a large group of people, who were already charging a super attack just in case this damn Ant Queen couldn't give up even after her major source of power was out of the picture!

Emeraldine, Partner, Takeshi, and Laura combined their power, unleashing the same attack that Emeraldine did back then when we destroyed that Ant Nest! Merging their power together and fueling the ridiculous amount of power needed with my own Mana, Emeraldine pointed her bow at the Ant Queen while Takeshi, Laura, and Partner all imbued into her their stats and skills, merging them with her arrows!

"Holy Water Dragon Arrow!"

FLAAASH!

Her single arrow took into the properties of Takeshi's Fishing Rod as it was technically a long stick, but also into his Water Magic, turning into the enormous water dragon-like shape it took back then, but even more furious and glowing bright gold by taking the holy light element from Emeraldine as well!

Not only that, but Laura and Partner helped too. Partner's enhanced Emeraldine's power and precision by using her Blood Magic Spell [Body Enhancement] and [Blood Flow Enhancement] all while using her Cursed Eyes to decrease the stats of the Ant Queen. And Laura had already touched that arrow!

"GRUOOORRRR...!"

The furious dragon made of holy water attacked the Ant Queen, coiling around her entire body and mauling her entire torso!

SPLAAASH!

"AGGHH...!"

The Ant Queen struggled, but the dragon quickly began glowing brighter and brighter with each passing second, until...!

BOOOOOMMM!!!

An enormous explosion made a large quantity of water erupt from the ground all the way up, piercing through the entire body of the Ant Queen and making her pieces fall like a rain from the sky. Her blood, innards, exoskeleton, and more began falling one after the other, as she completely died in the spot!

Welp, and that was that!

"W-We did it..." Lucifer sighed over the floor.

"Where is... Maria?" Asked Brunhild.

"I'm here!" I said, waving my hand as I emerged right over Lucifer's shoulder. "I was always with you guys."

"Eh? T-Then how...?" Brunhild asked.

"I can divide my body a lot as a ghost, so I left half of my body to deal with the Dungeon Core, detonating it so I could deal enough damage to take over it. Now that Dungeon's Core as good as mine!" I laughed.

"T-That's... certainly relieving... Haahh..." Brunhild sighed, quickly turning into her humanoid form, which seemed to not use as much energy as her enormous Ancient Dragon form.

POOF!

Suddenly, a beautiful girl with gray hair and a pair of broken black horns over her forehead, with golden eyes and a few red and orange scales, which were losing their color around her chest, arms, and legs, alongside a cute tail and two wings emerged, covered only by a gray cloak.

"Hahh... I am so tired... I have not fought like that in years..." She sighed in relief.

"S-Sister Brunhild... that form..." Lucifer muttered, suddenly feeling surprised.

He had not realized much until now, but he quickly realized how worn down she looked, as if she was slowly falling apart piece by piece, even in her humanoid form, her claws were broken and looked rugged, and her body was also covered on scars and cracks, as if she were made of wood.

"I've... grown older." She sighed. "It has been a long time since the last time I saw you, Lucifer..."

"Brunhild!" Lucifer quickly transformed into his humanoid form, running towards her, and hugging her tightly. He immediately broke into tears.

"I'm so happy you're alive! After so long, you're still alive and kicking... I was so worried, and so scared... I really thought there wouldn't be anybody left...!" Lucifer quickly let out all his sadness and sorrow. I wanted to go hug him, but I knew he also needed the hug of his big sister.

Brunhild smiled sweetly, as she hugged him with her arms.

"I am also happy you're somehow alive, although I was sure you were dead, I felt your own life force disappear back then... Are you back thanks to the miracle of this ghost woman?" Wondered Brunhild.

"T-That's right... I guess you've figured enough, I was originally risen as a Dragon Zombie, but with her powers, I slowly evolved into this form, I am neither dead nor alive, but something in between..." Said Lucifer, feeling slightly sorrowful.

"I had my doubts at first, I really thought she was using you as an undead and controlling you, but I can tell you and her have a completely different relationship, don't you?" Brunhild smiled.

"A-Ah, yeah... Ahem! Well... That can be explained later." Lucifer quickly turned serious, as he didn't wanted to directly adress what was happening between the two of us, mostly due to embarrassment.

But I wasn't going to let him do that!

"Yeah he's my husband." I said.

"Eh? M-Maria!" Lucifer said.

"Husband, huh?" Brunhild said, her sharp draconic eyes sharply glanced into my soul, but at the end, she smiled.

"I see. You two are a really odd pair, aren't you?" She giggled. "But I can tell you're happy with her, I guess that's more than enough... I guess you've already moved over."

Chapter 492 Back To The Dwarven City

"However!" Brunhild quickly said, looking around our group and finding Partner cuddling over my chest while Emeraldine rested her head over my shoulder. "Isn't this a bit weird? Does your wife has two... erm, mistresses?"

"Ah, well, they're also her wives." Lucifer said.

"Hm?!" Brunhild looked at Lucifer with surprise. "Lucifer! A-Are you for real?!"

"What? What's wrong with this? They're good people, and they had saved my life several times already. Emeraldine is resourceful, intelligent, and nice, and Partner is... err, strong."

"Oi! I am more than just being strong!" Partner angrily barked.

"This is a bit... Ah, I guess I am the odd one here, right? Maybe the times have changed." Brunhild sighed. "Well, as long as you're happy and not suffering, then I am okay with these things."

"Well, even though I have Emeraldine and Partner with me, that doesn't mean I love Lucifer less, Brunhild. Don't worry about it. He's someone incredibly precious to me, one of my three most precious things." I said with a smile, however, I quickly looked at Takeshi and Laura... "Well, five..."

"Fufu, I guess you've got a big family, Maria." Brunhild said. "I remember being more stiff back then but over the years of solitude, I guess I've grown too tired to get angered over such things. Anyways, it should be enough with addressing this any longer... We should quickly set up a camp somewhere... I can still sense Ants; they are still alive."

"Yeah, and there's a ton of miasma in this third floor, we need to quickly get to the second floor and camp there for the moment, or... well, just go back to the dwarven country? I don't think it is too late." I said.

"R-Right... I guess you could do that..." Brunhild said. She seemed nervous about that but didn't said anything else.

Like that, we decided to quickly exterminate every single leftover Ant there was to gain juicy EXP, which I rose as an enormous army of Undead later. These guys will be my Abyssal Ant Squadron, and they're around five hundred strong, mixed between Giant Goliaths, Workers, Generals, and Knights. They're weaker after getting killed and turned into Undead of course, but if they end up leveling up and evolving they might recover their original strength.

For now, I also cleansed the surrounding dangerous miasma, and assigned Lancelot to take care of the Ants until we returned here. He seemed more than willing, and quickly decided to begin training the ants in the meantime, without wasting a second.

Meanwhile, we quickly decided to leave the dungeon by flying over Lucifer's back. Brunhild had fallen asleep midway through, probably too tired after such an intense fight, she might be quite rusty as well, not only was she old but apparently she had not fought in hundreds of years, perhaps, so she wasn't in the best of her fitness anymore.

When we reached the Dwarf Country once more, we quickly moved to Aquamarine's manor and called Helga and the group of Dwarves over. The news about our dungeon clear had yet to be told to the public, as we were going to do everything tomorrow, for now, we were going to enjoy a good dinner to celebrate our victory, and also talk out about everything that happened there, and what we should do from now on.

"Incredible, so that Dungeon had a small Fragment of the Evil God..." Said Aquamarine, the old dwarf woman looked into her cup of wine with shock. "How big was it? And how in the heck were you able to destroy that?"

"Well I pretty much ate it..." I said. "A part of it still remains merged with the dungeon core, but now that it is mine, it shouldn't revolt anymore." I said with a nod.

"You ate it?!" Asked everybody except my party, Brunhild was not here, as she was currently sleeping inside a room for now, with one of my familiars guarding her in case she would want to play the mysterious one and escape to "leave us happy without her bothersome presence" or something that characters like her tend to pull out when you least expect it.

"Yeah, don't worry, I've literally got a black hole inside of me so it got completely destroyed. I gained some power from it, but it is nothing too extraordinary. I've tried before and I didn't get any of the crazy magic the Ant Queen was using, sadly." I sighed. "There might be other requirements for it, or something I couldn't quite get yet."

"W-Well, that's for the better I suppose..." The old dwarf said.

"Wow, I can't believe there was something so dangerous there..." Helga said. "I can't believe it, I... Ugh, my head..."

"Don't worry, Helga. Everything's resolved now, and we even got back a lost family member..." I laughed.

"So that Dragon Girl that had been wandering around was really his sister, how incredible. This world is very small when you think about it." Sighed Aquamarine.

"Yeah, but she was very tired, so for now she's sleeping in a separate room. I hope she can wake up tomorrow so we can talk more, although Dragons usually sleep for weeks, so I don't know..." Said Lucifer.

"Hm, Emeraldine, could we make up a potion to give her more energy?" I wondered.

"Ah, something that could affect dragons?! I don't know..." Emeraldine seemed a bit doubtful. "Maybe we could use some of the ores you've mined, some of them seemed imbued with elements she might like."

"Ah, yeah, we used to chew on Ores back then, so they're good for our health. Perhaps one of the things she might be lacking is all the nutrients that eating magic ores gave to her, perhaps she had been wandering around without eating for years..." Sighed Lucifer.

"EH?! But why?!" I asked.

"Ah, it might be because of us... We occupied the entire mountain after all..." Sighed Aquamarine.
"Perhaps she didn't really wanted to bother us and take away our resources... What a good woman she is... I'll bring you a big haul of magic ores, name what you need! This is the least we can do for her! Brunhild has been our guardian for many years, actually. I believe it is thanks to her presence here that we had not been attacked by the powerful monsters roaming around the mountains, and might also be a reason why the enormous wyvern colonies always keep themselves away from us... It is the least I could do to thank her."

"Ah, thank you for your generosity." Lucifer said with a smile.

I could notice that he had a lot more life back to his eyes than before... I'm happy for him.

Brunhild seems very old and fragile despite the strength she showed back then, we need to take good care of this dragon grandma from now on, we wouldn't want her to just die and leave my Lucifer all sad again!

Chapter 493 Negotiations Before Departing Back Home

The next morning, one thing led to another and before we could ever have breakfast, we were all called into a conference meeting with both big shot guild masters, Aquamarine and Adamas, alongside the Viscountess of this area of the Dwarf Nation, Helga, and her group of dwarves, and literally anybody else involved with them.

There were several new faces I had not seen before. Apparently even the other Viscounts of the City were here. Unlike other citizens, it seems that royal family were all mostly pure dwarves anyways, although their hair color was bright and so were their eyes, completely different from the "common folk" dwarves such as Helga and her band. It almost felt like their eyes and hair color was related to jewels.

"Ruby is this true?!" A man asked, he was rather young, looking to be around twenty years of age. He had sharp blue hair and eyes, with a handsome face, but was short like any dwarf. "A Dungeon with an internal space that has an artificial sun, soil, and even vegetation inside?!"

"Yes, it is true, dear brother Sapphire." Sighed the Viscountess, the red haired dwarf woman of extreme beauty we meet the other day. "However, I am fairly sure I did not invite you here, how come you sneaked inside and even know this much?"

"Well it is not hard to just ask the Guild. Everyone is talking about that new dungeon they found in the second mountain." Said Sapphire, the young man crossed his arms.

"Yes but the information about its interior... Who leaked it?" Asked the Viscountess.

"Enough." Adamas said, his single eye shone brightly with a bit of anger over the two sibling's dispute. "Everyone in the city will eventually get to know about the dungeon anyways, it is not like we are planning to make it a secret. If what's inside is really true, then we had not only hit a gold mine, but we might even be able to solve one of our greatest issues, a stable and constant production of food, especially vegetables and fruits."

"Every time a merchant come to our country we buy everything they bring, and they always sell it very expensive. Only nobility can really afford such commodities, but if we can truly mass produce our own vegetables and fruits from now on, we could gain total independence and feed our own people..." Even Aquamarine was happy over such news.

Apparently, the entire thing caused more of a commotion than I imagined, and for the totally wrong reasons too. It wasn't because there was a Fragment of the Evil God there, as we kept that a secret with Aquamarine to not cause chaos or suspiciousness against me, but it was about the dungeon itself.

The Dungeon itself, which has now been named "Maria Dungeon" as Dungeons are often called after the name of the one that conquers them, has two enormous and expansive spaces with day and night cycles, fertile soil, vegetation, wind, and... that's all. Things such as these wouldn't be that incredible or surprising for people that lives in the mainland, but for all of us people that live in the literal butthole of the continent, we are constantly freezing to death. There's no fertile soil and sunlight is scarce as well.

Therefore, the plantation of vegetables and fruits is incredible rare, and can only be done through extensive magic technology and magic items usage. And any space available is very limited anyways. Even the farms in this dwarf's mountain are very small, the only things that grow are a few grains that are too few to feed the ever-growing population, due to being scarce, they're also expensive, so most of the time only nobles get to eat such things.

But with this dungeon, the entire game has changed, there's so much space in there that you could plant as much as you wanted. With this, people would be able to easily bring anything they want to plant here, and with the fertile soil, some magic items, and my Agriculture Skills, we could make a constant source of food for everyone. It is indeed quite insane. Dwarves had always struggled with the production of food, simply eating mushrooms and occasionally beans with meat is not healthy.

Even dwarves who often dwell in the underground are much like humans, requiring balanced diets. A lot of people get diseases due to a lack of nutrients and vitamins in their diets to protect their immune systems and other things. I guess Iceland is probably going through the same, or any country that lives in harsh temperatures.

"This is getting out of hand." Helga whispered to me. "What do we do now?!"

"Huhh... Well, let them discuss. Not like we'll let them take our dungeon. But we could make some negotiations with them. If we can get into a good deal, we could produce a lot of food not only for your country but also for my own village, and we could even begin selling it to the nearby countries such as Iceland." I said with a smile. "This is a nice business opportunity that'll change the entire world around here!"

"Hah, I am surprised you're so cheered up after just a nap." Sighed Lucifer. "After yesterday's fight... I don't want to have anything to do with dungeons for a while now."

"Me neither..." Emeraldine sighed. "I am honestly quite exhausted as well."

"Me too..." Partner said.

"I guess we are all tired, I am just enjoying the moment. For now let's take a week break. We need to discuss stuff about the dungeon and then we should go back home for a bit, then come back over the week." I said.

"Eh? You're leaving so soon?" Helga asked.

"Well I've got my whole family back there." I said. "I can't let them without me for too long."

"Hah... I guess I get it." Helga said. "Will you come back soon?"

"Maybe in a few days, or weeks?" I said. "But I'll come back soon, I've got stuff to do here after all."

"Ah... I forgot you can just fly around and get here in just an hour." Helga sighed.

Traveling the skies over a dragon was certainly very efficient.

Chapter 494 Negotiations Will Go MY Way!

"Look about the possibilities!"

"There's no way I am not getting a piece of this either."

"If we could make everything in the dungeon into a gigantic farm, imagine the profits!"

"Those from the Goldsand Confederation won't be always manipulating us anymore either..."

"We must definitely take this dungeon!"

"Enough!"

Aquamarine quickly shut down all the Viscounts, who were mostly all young. She seemed to have enough authority to even do that... The only thing left is to reprimand the King or something, but the King seemed to not have come due to health problems and had decided to leave it all to his children to handle.

So literally all the Viscounts were princes and princesses as well, we were all surrounded by the royal family of this country discussing over my dungeon as if it were a big cake where everyone wanted a big slice of it.

"No matter how much you discuss against one another the dungeon still doesn't belong to any of you. It belongs to Maria according to the laws established in this country." Aquamarine said.

"That's right. If you ever want to do something with it, you'll have to first convince Maria, stop fighting against one another as if you already have the dungeon in your pockets." Said Adamas.

The Viscounts quickly directed their gazes at me, I felt slightly nervous.

"How much then?" A green haired young dwarf said.

"How much for what?" I asked.

"For selling the dungeon, we can buy it. There's nothing money cannot buy." Said another.

"Ugh, guys, sorry to break your bubble but I am not going to be bought with money. I also don't plan to sell my dungeon. I will never give you any of its rights either. It is mine." I said.

"EH?!"

"Then why are we even here if you're going to be so greedy?!"

"What a waste of my time!"

"Don't you understand this could save all the people here?!"

"Yeah I do." I said. "But I also understand you were all drooling over the profits it could generate. You guys are also in fault for not letting the commoners enjoy the same food products you do by making everything overly expensive. People can only eat beans mushrooms and meat now, and barely at that."

"Well that's because they're commoners, they simply can't afford it! But with the dungeon things might change, the production of things will increase to the point prices will go down, everyone will be able to afford it!" Said Sapphire.

"Brother, let it go." Sighed Ruby. "Maria, what are your conditions? What do you want? We can give you anything if you can let us create farms there."

"Everything." I said with a smile.

"Eh?"

Everyone looked at me with fear except my own party, even Helga.

"My Dungeon... It's all mine, you're never getting a piece of it." I said.

"Y-You greedy woman!"

"Then why are you even here?!"

"Tch..."

"If things come to this, we might have to take... some more extreme procedures."

"What are you saying?!" Aquamarine quickly reprimanded a white haired Viscount. "It's obvious Maria is implying she's not selling her land, but I am sure she has other plans if she's here with us."

"Indeed, I do!"

I quickly crossed my arms as I closed my eyes, everyone quickly fell silent as they glanced at me.

"It is pretty simple, you'll give me the funds, personnel, and other things to create enormous farms and then we'll split the produced products. I just want a part of it for my own village and to sell to other countries to earn more money. I have some connections with the Albraun Kingdom, believe it or not." I said.

"Huh, so this is more like an investment..." Ruby said while rubbing her small chin. "Very well, what's your plan then? How much of that production will I get if I back you up?"

"Hmm... Well, this country is way larger than mine. My population is quite small, but let's leave it at 40% for you, the other 60% is mine, if you want more from my stash, you'll have to buy it." I said.

"Huh, I see... Well, 40% of all production is certainly immense..." Ruby said. "I guess you were just teasing us, you're really a nice person at the end, someone truly greedy would probably give us something even lesser than that and we would have to suck it up."

"Don't worry, the production will be dependent in your aid and funds, although I've got some of my personnel that will also work there to boost plant growth and their richness. Including Emeraldine and I." I said with a smile. "We have the [Agriculture] Skill and we are both proficient at Alchemy, using it we could even modify plants to yield more crops, be richer, and so on."

"R-Right..." Emeraldine said. "I suppose we can do that."

The other viscounts were greedier than Ruby, they wanted the whole dungeon rights for themselves and have the production controlled by them. How I proposed things, the production will be all handled by me, and even the distribution. They'll still end up just buying things from someone else, not so different from what they had been doing.

"Of course those that decide to become my partner in this business will receive special benefits." I said. "Such as a 10% of the profit in money I make my selling my own part of the harvest, and so on. this 10% will be distributed by everyone that joins, so not everyone will get a 10%, the same goes for the 40% of harvested crops, so I suggest you all to join into a confederation of sorts and handle all profits and harvested crops to the people, which is your primary target, is it not? If you hoard all things for yourselves I might even change my mind and end our business."

The viscounts were all shocked, I had them all dancing in the palm of my hands. They had no other choice but to agree or they would be losing a lot in the long run.

"I... I accept."

"Me too..."

"Sigh... There's no other way."

"Fine..."

"Thanks for your business!" I chuckled.

Chapter 495 End Of Negotiations

"I can't believe you've controlled the situations so well..." Lucifer said.

"Yeah, this was insane..." Partner said.

"I never thought you had this on you, Maria. You never cease to surprise me." Emeraldine said.

As we walked outside the hall, everyone praised me. It was only natural; I've got myself a great deal! Of course, I wanted to help the dwarves the most, but I wouldn't let them take over my entire dungeon either. In fact I was indeed very generous in what I offered to them.

I gave them 40% of production and 10% of the profits I make selling my own products so they can both get a lot of food and some more money to support all the investments they'll be doing with me. I had already signed a big document I read carefully down to the very last word before signing it.

"Hehe, it is only natural!" I said with a smug. "Now we should probably go rest for a bit, the preparations for the dungeon will begin once I can clean the dungeon from all the Miasma left, which I am doing right now using my familiars."

"It is incredible what you can do, Maria." Said a beautiful red haired dwarf woman. "At first I really didn't believed how strong you were, but not only I've realized that, but that you're very intelligent and sharp as a woman."

Ruby, the gorgeous red-haired Viscountess was also at my side, she seemed to have taken a liking on me and wanted to probably forge a more formal friendship with me as the first one to have decided to accept my proposal.

"Hahah, i-is that so?" I said while feeling a bit nervous. She was so gorgeous that she created this aura of majesty around her. I had only taken a few glances at her before and she seemed mostly neutral, but now that she was so close to me and smiling charmingly I couldn't help but feel nervous.

No, I can't fall for her charms, I am a woman of three, no more than that!

But damn she's thick...

I had already realized that when I saw Helga, but dwarf women really do have big hips and muscular, well-developed thighs that could crush a watermelon or your head. And not only that, but they also even got a big chest too, all compacted into adorable sized shortstack.

As I giggled a bit at her comment praising me, I could sense the glare of my three lovers behind me. Okay, I might find her hot but it doesn't mean I am going to cheat on you guys or something! Sheesh, they should have a bit more faith on me. I didn't cheat on them with Catarina either yet they were always jealous whenever I spoke with her.

Lucifer pretends to not care but he cares a lot actually and has become one with Emeraldine and Partner now. It is surprising how well coordinated they are when they stare at me like that.

"Maria?" Ruby wondered, her bright eyes curiously looking at my own. She was way smaller than me, making her cute as well. I could just grab her with my arms if I wanted by how pocket sized she was.

Dwarves usually don't reach more than a meter and forty centimeters, and I was already a meter and eighty if not a bit more, so she had to look at me from below like a little girl. Well, everyone had.

"Uuh, nothing." I said, patting her head. "Anyways, should we go eat something? Do you really want to stick with us commoners, Ruby?"

"Of course, if you're really okay with that, I can invite you to my manor! Let's have some lunch with everyone here." Ruby said.

"You heard her boys, make sure to behave with the Viscountess." Said Helga, quickly telling all her rowdy dwarf friends to behave.

"You got it boss."

"Alright!"

"Time to eat, I am starving..."

"Yeah! Let's go!"

"Come on, don't be pushy with the lady!"

Ruby began to chuckle at the dwarves, her charm quickly shut them all up.

"Don't worry about formalities, we are all dwarves here. It is in our nature to be like we are." She said.
"Let's go."

She quickly brought a big "Carriage-Model Golem" which was pretty much a car that moved with a Magic Core. These Magic Cores... I have yet to wrap around how they even make them, so I'll try to ask Ruby about that. She owns several factories that produce golems and magic items, apparently. She's one of the richest Viscountess here.

The enormous car-like golem carriage was of a bright bronze color, with beautiful decorations resembling wings and hammers, in front of the carriage there was a beautiful woman with a very voluptuous body. This was the Goddess of Earth, or how the dwarves envisioned her as a beautiful mother with wide hips and a big chest. I suppose they're not so rare from human culture back in Earth.

"Here we go." Ruby quickly pressed some buttons with her hands in front of the car as it immediately started to move automatically, like a robot. After all golems are kind of that, magic robots. "Let's go back home dear."

"Beep beep!"

The car gave out a sound, as it began to move rapidly across the streets. There were many other designs for carriage-model golems all around, even commoners could afford them as Helga said she once had one, but she ended selling it because it was too old and had yet to buy a new one. Maybe we could bring some of these bad boys back home.

"This is amazing, a carriage that moves itself..." Said Emeraldine.

"I don't detect any soul on it, so it is all automatized through magic technology..." Said Lucifer.

"That's right! This is how advanced our magic technology has become. And a reason why many countries want our technology and products. The only one that has managed to maintain a stable business with us is the Goldsand Confederation, although lately, they had become quite greedy."

Chapter 496 The Greedy Goldsand Confederation & Visiting Viscountess Ruby's House

"Greedy?" Wondered Lucifer.

"Well, you see... The Goldsand Confederation is made up of many merchant groups unified together they have a king which they decide every five years through the votes of nobles. Sometimes the government becomes nice and gentle, others times some asshole takes control over everything and gets pushy and greedy..." Sighed Ruby.

"They choose a king every five years?!" Asked Emeraldine. "I can't imagine such a country, it would constantly change so much... how can they keep it from turning into just chaos?"

"Well they have many rules and regulations they enforce." Said Ruby. "Nonetheless, the current king is corrupt and has been raising the taxes of products of our country exported there, and things sent here had also become incredible expensive, one kilogram of tomatoes costs five gold coins. They're insane." Said Ruby. "No commoner can afford to eat like this."

"Five gold coins?!" Asked Helga, the other dwarves answered the same.

"So that's why nobles can eat this and nobody else..."

"Man, I do remember I once ate a tomato, they're juicy and sweet."

"Yeah, they're rare here though..."

"As you can see, they're doing this because they know we have no other choice. Our country mostly produces items and barely any food, so we are forced to adjust to their demands or we'll starve. Eating only monster meat won't do." Sighed Ruby. "The last fifty years our population has tripled as well, demand for food is bigger than ever."

"So that's how it is..." I said. "Then let's do our best to make the biggest farm this continent has ever seen in the dungeon. There are two enormous floors there where we can plant all sorts of plants, and on the third floor there's an enormous underground world of caves where many ores and crystals are growing, and regrow at a steady pace due to being a dungeon."

"Eh? You never spoke about the third floor...!" Said Ruby.

"Because it will be our guild's secret! Aside from the surrounding mines where there's a lot of rich ores and crystals to extract, there will also be the third floor of this dungeon where we can get a nice and steady supply of ores. I doubt there are many varieties, but I saw at least five different ores while we walked around." I said.

"Yeah, it is an enormous third floor of just caves. There were ants living there which we exterminated." Said Lucifer. "It was a hard fight."

"Hm, yeah..." Emeraldine said.

"T-That's right..." Said Partner.

"Well, you must be tired. Let's quickly have a meal and then you can go back to Aquamarine's place. I don't want to bother you too much." Ruby said humbly.

"It's okay, don't worry about it, we are fine now." I said.

Like that, we quickly reached Ruby's enormous manor, which was painted bronze and red like her hair color. There was a large garden surrounding the entire house, which was made entirely out of different types of colorful mushrooms, they were the only things that progressively grew here without issue, plants simply can't grow easily in places without sunlight aside from some types of mold.

"Welcome to my house." Ruby said, as she gave us a small trip around.

She was apparently a "Mechanic Designed" or so was her Class, and she had several engineering skills and crafting skills which she uses to create new models for golems and magic items of her own. She's certainly more than just a noble dwarf lady. She showed us all sorts of golems she had been designing and creating, even showing some unreleased models.

One of them in specific resembled a large metallic dragon, with a large red core on its chest and several other cores around its body. It seemed unfinished though, but this was definitely an enormous, twenty-meter-tall mecha! I've seen dwarves using golems as mechas already, but this one in specific resembles a Lucifer's version of mecha Godzilla...

"This is what I've been working in my free time. It is a new model of fighting model golems that can be manually piloted. I call it Steel Dragon, and it is my pride and passion. I am still halfway through, but I am using the most high-quality materials I can find. One day this big boy will become one of our country's defenders. I am designing this as a part of a new generation of powerful piloted golems that can fight even monsters at B Rank or A Rank... It is only a dream for now, as golems cannot level up, adjusting

their total power to reach the strength of such monsters is very hard." She said. "Using high quality materials from such monsters helps though, so I was thinking that if you've got any materials of B or A Rank Monsters, I can buy them from you. Scales, bones, and even their blood and internal organs all can be used, synthesized through alchemy to make stronger materials that can be used for the construction of golems. It is rather sad that we lack Alchemists in our country, I lack talent for it as well, and the only one left is too picky, he's already working for another viscount."

"Huh, I see... Well, me and Emeraldine are Alchemist." I said.

"Oh, I see- Eh? You are?!" She asked.

"Yeah don't you remember we sold potions we made? Emeraldine is the best here though, I am her humble apprentice, but we are slowly learning more. These mountains are awesome as they can offer a wide variety of materials and ores, and even monster materials, so we are excited about doing some more alchemy using these items." I said.

"Maybe we could give her our help, perhaps." Emeraldine said while narrowing her eyes. "Only if she behaves..."

"Behave?" Ruby wondered while raising an eyebrow. "I-I can pay you as much as you want if you can become my Company's Alchemists! Funds, materials, anything you want!" She said desperately.

"Sorry but we aren't compromising that hard." I said. "We want to do our own things as well, but I am willing to cooperate with you if you can also teach us the ways of creating Magic Cores, and other things such as Mechanical Engineering and so on."

"Ooh, I see, a fair exchange then... Sure thing!" Ruby said with a smile, as she suddenly showed a blazing passion in her red eyes.

This dwarf woman was more than we had expected, we might have made ourselves an amazing ally. Just imagining an army of golems at my disposal makes me laugh evilly!

Chapter 497 New Items

Mechanical Engineers or "Golem Creators" are a special type of Crafter Job in this Dwarf Country that only people that has accumulated great talent with Crafting and Blacksmithing can even fathom to reach. This is why they're rare, and often pioneers of their own.

Apparently the twins got the talent for Golem Creation as well, but they seem to lack all the new knowledge that has been accumulated over the years as they only do the most ancient of techniques and specialize over the creation of armor and weapons mostly.

Although I don't want to compromise into becoming Ruby's persona alchemist, I do want to help her out. She looks like she can create a bunch of interesting things that might even make our lives easier back in our village. And in exchange for my help she'll share her technology and knowledge about how to make it too. A fair exchange, seeing how rare Alchemists are, Emeraldine and I have become even more valuable!

However, that's not there is to it.

"I was wondering if you've ever made a devise capable of uncursing things? Or unfreeze a specially made magic ice?" I wondered, thinking about the frozen people back in the village.

"Uncursing or unfreezing items? Well, we do have a few of them..." She said while rubbing her chin. I quickly noticed Lucifer's eyes shining brightly.

"Can we see them? I am willing to buy as many as you've got." I said.

"Eh? For what reason... exactly?" She wondered.

"Well... Err, it is a special reason." I said while looking away. "We've got someone... that was cursed with a freezing spell. The curse is incredibly powerful, so we are trying anything that might work. He's still alive somehow..."

"O-Oh..." Ruby covered her mouth in surprise. "I am sorry for asking this, I didn't knew... Well, here, before eating let me guide you to my Atelier, it is where I make all my things, I also have a large storage with many items classified by type and everything else, let's go there."

Ruby quickly guided me downstairs into the underground area of her house, an enormous place bigger than her own home. The storage rooms were probably over twenty, each one bigger than the previous one.

"Room number 14... Here." She quickly touched the door as it glowed bright gold, opening itself.

As we entered, we found countless magic items laying around the entire place, stored over large shelves. Ruby began running around looking for something, until she finally brought a large wooden box and took out several items from inside.

"Here..." She said, grabbing an item resembling a wand with the tip of a sapphire. "This is the Unfreezing Wand; we barely have much use for it. The item's power depends in the MP input." Then, she grabbed another resembling a large black sphere. "This is the Uncursing Orb. I had tested it and could absorb a lot of Curses; power can also depend in MP input..." And then, she grabbed the last item, it resembled a flamethrower.

"This is an old prototype, I don't know if it might completely work though, but I designed it in case someone was frozen but remained alive. It has the ability to make ice quickly melt at an incredible speed but doesn't affect a living organism inside, and can even unfreeze them easily too. But I don't know if it could work with a Freezing Curse..."

"I see, thanks for your help, Ruby. How much? I'll buy all three of them." I said. "We might get a good shot at it if we get them all."

"Well, the first two are sold in the market at around a hundred gold coins each, they're rare and not produced as much. Lastly the flamethrower is a prototype so it doesn't have a defined price, but it would be around 150 gold coins, I believe." She said. "I can gift them to you, I don't really mind."

"Ah, no, I don't really want to owe you things..." I said. "It wouldn't be nice for our business. Here." I didn't really wanted to owe stuff she could take advantage of later. She was a good person but still quite ambitious. I had a lot of money at hand anyways, so I easily paid her for everything.

"Y-You really paid me 350 gold coins..." She said in surprise. "How much are you carrying around- Wait, did you just brought these coins out of thin air?!"

"Ah, you don't know, huh?" I sighed.

"Maria has the [Inventory] Skill, which is an amazing ability that allows her to store all sorts of things inside a space." Said Helga, introducing my powers. "That alone makes mining much easier!"

"A-Amazing..." Said Ruby. "I had never meet someone capable of doing that unless they had space magic."

"Well it is something like that... Err, let's keep it a secret for now." I said.

"Very well, let's go have some meal now. I hope these items can be of help." Said Ruby.

Like that, we sat down around a large table as several maidservants and manservants started to serve us with delicious plates we had never seen before. There were higher quality beef, a lot of salad, and other delicious things such as meatloaf with eggs, fries, and even dessert in ice cream.

Apparently, the Dwarves were the ones that invented the magic device that can create ice cream, which works very similarly to the ones back on earth, slowly freezing cream put inside by whipping it around over and over.

"Oh man, I've never eaten so good in my life!" Helga said while tears flowed from her eyes.

"This is so good!"

"Boss, this amazing!"

"Lady Viscountess food's the best!"

"Oh man the booze is to kill for!"

"You damn bastard's are already drunk?!"

The dwarves were the most festive out there, and Lucifer, Emeraldine, and Partner enjoyed their meals a lot. Partner asked for many plates, and ended eating every last bit of food that was cooked...

Chapter 498 Moving Back Home

"Well, see you in a few days, or maybe a week?" Wondered Ruby.

"Sure, sure! We'll come back as soon as we can, thanks for the hospitality." I said.

"No problem Maria, I hope we can become friends in the future." Ruby said with a humble smile, yet I could notice there was a lot of greediness behind such a charming beauty.

"Sure, I hope I can get done the cleansing of Miasma in the dungeon as soon as possible so we can begin the grand plantation plans." I said.

And like that, Ruby asked her "car" to leave us right in front of Aquamarine's home, where we had left the twins with Lucifer's sister, Brunhild. The twins had not come because I didn't wanted to bring them to that meeting between adults, as they would end up making things a bit too hard to deal with.

And well, as for Brunhild, she's still sleeping. Lucifer and I really wanted to talk a lot with her, but we were unable to do so because she was too tired. She said dragons' naps might take several days or entire weeks. She was trusting us a lot to fall asleep in that bed for all this time though.

"We might end up having to bring her back home by carrying her if she keeps sleeping like that." Said Partner. "She's really like a granny!"

"I hope she woke up by now..." Sighed Emeraldine.

"I hope so too. I want to ask her so many questions..." Lucifer sighed.

"Ugh, the twins are going to get mad we had such a big feast without them. I'll cook them something delicious for now... Ah, maybe Aquamarine feed them well. She had taken a liking on the kids." I said.

"I hope so..." Emeraldine said. "I want to go sleep right now..."

"Me too..." Partner sighed.

The battle we had yesterday was really quite too exhausting, especially because everybody was forced to empty their energies several times. We fought against several big bosses and thousands of monsters too, I guess everybody got a lot of accumulated exhausting, me included... After all, my soul shattered into pieces constantly. I've managed to recover a large part of what I've lost, and I've stitched and stuck together all my surviving fragments, but I am still not completely okay.

Although I "ate" a large part of that Fragment's energy, nothing within me awakened or something, and it didn't helped at recovering or regenerating my soul damage either. Also, my Aether inside my Status suddenly dropped to 60 out of the blue, and it was even worse at 40 before, but it has been recovering over time.

Could this 100 Aether mean something like a percentage of my total soul? Maybe if I one day exceed this number, it'll meant my soul grow stronger. Maybe if I evolve the next time, my soul might be able to fully repair itself and grow bigger and stronger as well, evolution always works, though I am still halfway through it.

However, I do remember that eating souls recovered my soul damage too, and it also recovered my MP and even HP, so maybe I should begin snacking on souls. The thing is, I don't want to eat innocent souls, it'll make me feel awful.

So I'll have to select souls in specific, maybe from monsters? Though most of them had been repurposed into Undead, as I now have an army of several hundred Abyssal Ants which are being taken care by Lancelot.

Also, just sleeping and letting my soul recover works too. Maybe I also need a long nap. The pain is still inside of my soul, like an old wound that takes a while to fully recover. When we returned to our area of residence, Helga and the dwarves decided to go their separate ways back home.

"Take care, have a nice trip!" I said.

"Yeah, we'll do. Make sure to get back safely." Helga said.

"We'll do."

As we entered Aquamarine's home, we were greeted by her and the three old dwarves, they were currently having lunch with the twins and... Brunhild.

She was awake!

"Welcome back you guys, it really took you a while to come back. Come, we just began eating lunch."
Said Aquamarine.

"Ah, we are already stuffed though..." Emeraldine said.

"Food! I can eat some more food!" Partner immediately decided to join everybody. Who would have known a vampire would have such a big appetite for normal food... Then again, it is a way for her to deal with her anxiety caused by her craving for blood, eating tons of delicious food can certainly make her forget about it I guess.

"Your stomach will burst if you eat more!" I reprimanded her.

"Ehehe, I am hungry though." She said, sitting next to Takeshi.

The twins quickly ran to my side, hugging me.

"Mama welcome back!" Said Takeshi.

"Mama, how was it?" Laura wondered.

"M-Mama again?!" I asked, feeling like I was about to pass out.

"You don't like us calling you like that?" Wondered Laura. "At this point you've been taking care of us and loving us so much... You really feel like the mother we never had."

"Yeah... You don't want me as your son, mama?" Asked Takeshi while looking at me like a sad puppy.

"Uwah... Of course I do, you're my two lovely kids..." I sighed. "I just get a bit embarrassed, that's all... I never thought you would ever see me like a mother, but I... guess I secretly always wished for it." I ended hugging both of them and giving them kisses all over their faces.

"Everything went well too! We got a big business going, we'll use that big dungeon to convert it into a gigantic farm. Like that, we'll have tasty veggies and fruits at home any time we want." I said with a smile.

"Oooh!" Takeshi got happy. "Fruits! Maybe we can make jam! I want jam..." He sighed. Apparently it was one of the things he liked from his previous life. "Also we could plant rice and make Mochi..."

Chapter 499 The Seven Calamities

"Mochi?" Wondered Aquamarine.

Of course they don't know about Japanese food, this world seems pretty Western-like. Takeshi in his previous life was a young child in Japan, who died in a boat accident. He's of course still missing food from his home country.

"They're rice cakes! They're yummy when filled with fruit jam!" Takeshi said, as Aquamarine nodded.

"Rice... You mean white grain? We have some here, but its hard to grow because it needs a lot of water... I've heard Elves are good at it back in their original continent." Said Aquamarine.

So Rice exists in this world, woah...

"I do remember that in the past Rice was introduced by a Hero Summoned from another world." Said Aquamarine. "He popularized the white grain which he seems to have created by modifying existing grains with alchemy and magic."

Eehhh... So that's how Rice was introduced into another world, now that's interesting. We really need to get our hands into some rice. I do remember the first and second floor of the dungeon had a lot of shallow waterways everywhere, so rice plantation shouldn't be that hard.

But for now, there was a more important topic than rice and mochi... And that's my sister-in-law Brunhild! She was still rather sleepy, but was surprised when she saw us.

"Ah, everyone..." She said with a low tone of voice.

"Brunhild! You're awake!" Lucifer ran towards his sister and hugged her body, which was smaller than him in her humanoid form.

"Ugh... Don't hug me like you're a child...!" Brunhild got slightly angry, as she began to slam Lucifer's head with her tail.

"Hahah, you always did that to me back then." Lucifer laughed, quickly letting her go.

"Old habits die hard." Brunhild said.

"I thought you were going to sleep for way longer..." Said Lucifer.

"I forced me to wake up, I couldn't just sleep all the time while I finally meet my little brother again. Fate has made us encounter with one another after so long... I can sleep later." She said.

"Brunhild, I have so many questions..." Lucifer sighed, sitting at her side.

"I do too, let's continue this conversation in our room later." Brunhild said, giving Lucifer a head pat using her tail.

Like that, we waited until everyone ended eating while I explained what happened to the children and Brunhild. Only Laura got the gist of it while Takeshi lost himself halfway through, Brunhild seemed to not understand how humans did things, so even when she heard it all, she didn't seem to make much sense of it.

"So you humans agree about things by simply writing them in a paper?" She wondered.

"That's how it usually goes, yes." I said. "That paper had magic on it so people cannot easily break the contract."

"I see, well, I suppose that's fine. I never thought a dungeon could be used for the production of food, but what are you going to do about the monsters inside?" She asked.

"I've become the Dungeon Master; I can control the monster population or make them spawn elsewhere. Monsters never really stop appearing, but I can make them appear elsewhere, and even give them orders such as not attacking people if I want to." I said. "However, I will limit the production of monster to the bare minimum, I'll use the dungeon's Mana to enrich the soil and vegetation instead. That'll make monsters spawn less frequently, and they will all be weak versions of those that showed up before too."

"I see, makes sense now..." Said Brunhild. "So you can even possess dungeons and become a dungeon master. I never thought of such a possibility. I always thought such a thing was only possible for those chosen by the gods to possess a Dungeon, such as the Seven Great Calamities..."

"Seven Great Calamities?" I asked.

"They're the strongest Dungeon Masters. Powerful monsters like nothing ever seen before, they grow powerful over time and usually control thousands of their own species. Amongst the Calamities there is the Arachneia Queen, the Abyss Ant Queen, the Kraken King, and so on..." She said. "What we defeated there was one of them, didn't you realize? It had yet to reach its fullest potential though, this is why we were able to defeat her... This means that more Calamities will emerge around the world."

"O-Oh, so she was really becoming one, huh?" I wondered.

"Wait a second, does that means you've defeated a Calamity?! Then you're all heroes..." Aquamarine said.

"Well, we don't like that sort of fancy title." I answered while shrugging. "I prefer to just be called by my name. Also lets keep this a secret to not make the entire population panic."

"R-Right, I suppose..." Aquamarine said. "But still, this is big. Not only those annoying Vampires are there, but a new Age of Calamity might soon approach."

"Age of Calamity?" I wondered.

"Yes... when these Seven Calamities emerge, it is often called the Age of Calamity. This is already seen as just ancient legends because the last time it happened; it was over fifty thousand years ago. Many don't even believe the Seven Calamities to be real, and only to intimidate the masses." Said Aquamarine.

"Indeed, but they're real." Said Brunhild. "Our parents one taught us about such entities, our ancestors were known as the Dragon Gods, guardians of the world created by the Creation Gods Tiamat and Ymir. They were siblings of the Titans, who were given the task of protecting the land and nourishing it. The Dragon Gods once fought against the Seven Calamities in the past, which were created by the God of Chaos to stir destruction and change in the world..."

"Of course, not many gods liked that, and there had been many disputes between them. However, it seems that Gods had never dealt with their own problems directly and do everything indirectly. Even the battle between the heroes and the calamities of the past was like their indirect fight."

Brunhild seemed to know a surprising amount of information about the gods...

Chapter 500 A New Family Member

"So gods are like a group of children afraid of fighting for real so they just use little bugs to fight with one another?" I wondered.

"I don't know. I cannot truly fathom what Gods might think, what I am saying is merely what I've been taught." Said Brunhild.

"I can't really remember much of what our parents had taught us, my memories are quite fuzzy." Sighed Lucifer.

"It's fine, they'll come back one day." Brunhild said.

"Hmm... I wonder if I will get them back..." Sighed Lucifer. "My soul- well, we can talk that later."

"Yeah, for now, maybe we should go back to our room." Brunhild didn't wanted to talk with so many people hearing us, so we ultimately went back to my room and then she finally decided to speak some more.

"First of all, I would like to sincerely thank you, Maria. For everything you've done. Taking care of my little brother's soul, even raising him as an undead until he could evolve into this life-like form... I am really grateful; you've taken good care of him." Brunhild said, as she held my hands. Her beautiful golden eyes seemed to be shining like pearls. She was actually a beauty too! Ugh, my husband really got himself a got big sister...

"I-It is nothing, Brunhild. I am glad we could find you. I was hoping we could find even one person." I sighed in relief. "Thanks for being here and approaching us. You were the dragon girl rumored to be wandering around, right?"

"I believe it is me." She said while sighing. "This... everything feels like a dream." Brunhild began to cry tears of happiness, as she rested her head over Lucifer's chest, her brother hugged her.

"It also feels like a dream... I always thought everyone was gone, to think that you would be left... I am so happy too, Brunhild." Lucifer said.

"Since that day you left that things went downhill... It has been so many years, so my own memories are also confusing. Perhaps the trauma of what I saw, of what I experienced made me feel this way..." Sighed Brunhild. "I'm sorry... I couldn't protect them... I couldn't protect anybody..."

Lucifer seemed to be sorrowful as well.

"It's fine... It is long in the past. You don't have to feel like this anymore..." Said Lucifer.

"Did the humans really defeated... you guys? Weren't dragons super strong though?" Wondered Partner. "I can hardly imagine someone being able to beat you in your prime, Brunhild..."

"This world is vast, there are stronger people than you imagine." Brunhild said. "Although we should had ran away, my father decided to stay and fight, and all other dragons decided to stay too and fight to the end... They were so stubborn... The powerful humans that came used powers we never saw before, I believe they... were from another world, the last summoning ritual which brought humans from another world was to defeat the demons and the dragon's alliance. People brought from another world usually develop powerful abilities known as Unique Skills... With such ridiculous powers, they easily broke the balance of this world and even wiped us out."

"So they summoned people from Earth... didn't they?" I sighed. "Damn it... Now I feel bad being a reincarnated person."

"I've already learned this from the twins, don't worry. It was not your fault." Brunhild said with a gentle smile. "Since I lost them all that I had already assumed I was dead. I don't know how I was able to survive, I was sure that I was struck down, a powerful attack reached my chest from the Ancient Hero of Lightning, it pierced my chest and burnt my heart."

"Your heart was pierced by lightning?!" I asked.

"Yeah, I should had died back then yet... when everything ended, I woke up buried in countless of boulders, with most of my bones broken, but still somehow alive... I crawled out of my own grave made from the rubble produced by the mountain itself when the fight occurred, only to find the bodies of everybody... I was the only one that survived the catastrophic attack, everyone else, down to the youngest child... they were all... dead..."

Brunhild seems to have an amazing regeneration ability, although she looks old, I am fairly sure her bones have recovered, and I've noticed a very ugly cross-shaped scar in her chest, which was also present in her dragon form, but she seemed to have recovered from that as well.

"You were always the hardest of all of us, your Defense was the highest. And your scales the toughest too." Lucifer said. "I suppose you survived due to your talents."

Brunhild sighed.

"If I could, I would have exchanged my life for that of one of your children, Lucifer..." Brunhild sighed.

"It is fine... You know that's impossible." Sighed Lucifer.

"I... guess..." Brunhild said.

"So that's how it was." Lucifer said, quickly cleaning his sister's tears with a handkerchief. "For now, how about we go to the village, we'll show you the place. Now you're officially part of your family, Brunhild."

"Is that... so?" She wondered, timidly looking my way.

Although she was quite strong willed back in that fight, now she's probably showing her frail side to us. She seemed rather afraid and timid, maybe the traumas of the past and a life of solitude made her feel this way.

"Yeah, it is fine by me. Right guys?" I asked everyone else, as the twins nodded.

"Auntie Brunhild is nice, she saved us all yesterday! She's super strong!" Said Takeshi.

"Yeah, thanks for helping mama yesterday." Said Laura.

"You're part of the family already, right? You're like Master's sister-in-law! So it is fine, feel free to relax around us!" Partner said friendly.

"It's fine by me too, it is nice to have someone new from time to time." Said Emeraldine. "I am happy Lucifer could find his sister. You're very beautiful as well, Brunhild, have you thought about wearing new clothes? I've got a knack as a designer, I might make you something pretty to wear instead than a cloak."

"But my clothes break when I transform..."

"It is fine, I can make you some special magic clothes!" Emeraldine said.

"O-Oh... Thank you for your help and consideration." Brunhild said with a smile, sometimes she had a hard time articulating words, she had probably not spoken with anybody in tears. "However, before we depart, there's something important I must show you... It is related to the past, and also to the Dungeon in here."

"Something?" I wondered.

"Yeah, I'll show you the way after we leave the house." Brunhild said.