

## **A Ghost 531**

### **Chapter 531 One-Sided Battle**

"Come on! Don't be intimidated!" He said, I appraised him and he was a Level 38 Bandit General, yes, that's a Title. He was a Gladiator Class and had very highly offensive skills. His weapon of choice was a longsword he was holding right about now, and his name was Chuck.

The other bandits were hesitating before, but they were lifted in spirit by that man, as he smiled back at me.

"You must be pretty confident because you've got some Undead, but coming at us alone missy, that won't do! We'll have plenty of fun with you after this is over, we had been waiting for a woman to get here!" Laughed Chuck, rushing in.

"How dare you talk like that to Lady Maria!" The Goblin Chief, whose name was Gobu, ran forwards, extremely swiftly. His body had grown muscular as he evolved into a Hobgoblin and worked every day carrying heavy things, the father had to be strong for his daughter after all.

CLAAASH!

His short sword clashed against the bandit's longsword, as the bandit smiled maliciously.

"What can a fucking goblin do to ussssss?!" His cocky tone quickly changed into one of surprise as Gobu easily overpowered his own grip, pushing his longsword right over his face.

"S-Shit! Triple Edge!"

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

Chuck suddenly and desperately unleashed a triple sword technique to intercept the enormous strength of Gobu, forcing him to parry his blows and step back, giving him an opening at the same time, which he utilized right away. Woah, he's not bad at this.

"Gotcha!"

Chuck pointed his sword at Gobu's heart, attempting to piece through his chest and eliminate him in one fell swoop.

However, Gobu's eyes shone brightly, as he intercepted his blow with his own unique technique.

"Magic Sword Arts: Blazing Blade!"

CLAAASH!

FLUOOSH!

"Fire?!"

Chuck stepped back in shock as the fire spread through his sword, barely managing to get a grip of himself.

"You're... a mere goblin is a magic swordsman?!"

Indeed, Gobu's Class was a Magic Swordsman, he had changed to it just some days ago after he felt his swordsmanship had advanced enough, and he had already begun to combine his magic element, fire, and lightning, with his sword.

He had the ideal strongest attack-wise elements a magician could hope to have, combined with the talent of a swordsman, he was pretty promising!

"Stand up..." the Goblin Chief said, his eyes looking down at the bandit general.

"Tch, don't look down on me, you shitty ass green skin!" Chuk lost his patience, attacking Gobu with several swings of his blade. His muscles suddenly grew three times as big as he unleashed a special ability within his Gladiator Class [Berserker Charge], his eyes flashed with red color and his muscles grew larger, his sword gained a red aura, and his blows became intense and overwhelming.

CLASH! CLASH! CLAASH!

Gobu gritted his teeth, intercepting his blows with his own elemental techniques. His sword was suddenly covered with Lightning.

"Magic Swordsmanship Arts: Lightning Edge!"

CRAAASH!

The loud sound of lightning hitting Chuck echoed around the entire cave, as the Goblin Chief's sword unleashed a thundering slashing blow, piercing with his lightning across the body of the bandit, burning his insides and making his mouth let out a mouthful of blood and steam, his red eyes quickly exploding out of the lightning cursing across his body fucking his insides to the point he almost exploded... Lightning Magic is metal as hell.

"G-Gaaggh...! I-Impossible..."

BAAAM!

Chuck fell over the floor pathetically, the other bandits, who were all losing against my boys and girls despite having number advantage, grew nervous, stepping back in horror. However, that moment was used by my army, as they attacked them from behind, piercing their backs and slicing through their necks.

"T-They're not weak at all!"

"How come goblins are this strong?!"

"Rabbit people are the weakest of the beast men tribes, how are they this powerful?! HOW?!"

"Gyaaaaaeeeeeggh...!"

"Stop! P-Please have mercy- GYAAAH!"

"Backup! Someone! Bring backup- UUAGGHH...!"

The sound of weapons slashing and piercing through flesh was like music to my ears. In mere minutes, the forty bandits were no longer here, but a pile of lifeless corpses and a mass of wandering souls.

"Phew..." The Goblin Chief sighed, cleaning his sword from blood by shaking it away. "That was rough, but I guess I've improved myself, I never thought I had the talent for a Lightning and Fire Magic Swordsman though."

"Of course, I've been training you with everyone else since we meet, Gobu." I sighed.

"And that daily sword training with Lady Maria, indeed..." He sighed.

Daily, I've been using Phantom Clones to train with everybody using swordsmanship. My Phantom Clones are weaker compared to me and I often give them very basic split minds and orders. They cannot even compare to my power and at most, they're often just useful for scouting, but training is also a thing I do for them.

Despite being so weak my clones can still pose a big threat to them all, so they had been training almost every day since we got our village with them. Their stats slowly rise as they train their bodies, their reflexes improve, and they also gain skill proficiency for their skills. Efficiently raising these low-level characters that thought had no talents into talented and competent warriors was tough, but I think the results are finally being shown.

"Alright let's continue for now, we are not done here yet." I said, as I led everyone forward.

However, I stopped for a few seconds, looking at one of the bodies of the bandits, and noticing strange accessories with them, rings with blue jewels, and bracelets with blue jewels too, they had strange, snowflake-like decorations as well.

"What the heck are these? Magic items? But they weren't any strong even with these equipped- Eh?!"

FLAAASH!

The moment I thought things were over, an enormous pressure emerged from within the many accessories these bandits were wearing. They didn't even helped them at much stat-wise but held some strange curse within that activated once they died?!

Their souls were all instantly dragged into the pile of corpses, as the corpses started moving by themselves, ice began crowing over their bodies everywhere, and their bodies twisted and shapeshifted...

An aberration made of ice, corpses, and cursed souls suddenly emerged.

"GROOOOARRRRR!"

## Chapter 532 Cursed Accessories

The accessories these bastards had were not even to boost their power, it was a Curse meant to transform them when they died?! So the one that gifted them to these bandits did so knowing they would get killed easily?

The Ice was also like that Curse that froze the people back at the Majin Kingdom. I had already tried using the items I bought from the Viscountess of the dwarven nation and even when all of them were used together, I was unable to melt that damned accursed ice.

I had begun considering the creation of even stronger Fire Bombs, but the ones we made the other day were still not useful and couldn't do anything. And even less, my Mining Skill didn't help at chipping away the indestructible ice either.

And the ice forming this Undead Frost Monster was also similar to that one, but perhaps weaker... Nonetheless, the monstrous being that was formed out of ice was not something as easy as defeating these bandits. Syllis and the Goblin Chief stopped their charge, as they suddenly noticed the enormous beast emerging. It had the shape of a Polar Bear but made out of ice and the frozen corpses of the bandits.

Their swirling souls were instantly cursed and melded together with the other accessories, fusing them together into the Undead Ice Monster. It looked pretty powerful; I might make one myself in the future...

[Accursed Undead Ice Golem: Lv55] [Rank: B+++] [Status: Furious]

A monstrous entity formed from the power of Accursed Frost Magic conjured by the power of several Cursed Accessories that activate once the wielder is dead. In normal circumstances, each wielder would turn into a different, frozen undead golem. However, once there are many gathered in the same place, a mutation would occur and all would merge into a powerful and stronger version. One of the many wicked creations of the Frost Queen through the fearful powers of the Cursed Crown of Skadi.

[Skills: [Accursed Frozen Claw] [Spiraling Icicle Spears] [Frozen Domain] [Freezing Curse] [Freezing Howl] [Frozen Jaws] [Berserker Charge] [Long Sword Arts] [Gladiator's Might] [Axe Techniques] [Strong Axe Slash] [...]]

Its stats were all out of this world, a B+++ Rank monster?! And above all, this thing, just as I guessed, was a damn creation of the Frost Queen! That shady bitch... is she somehow working with the damn Vampires now?! Is she teaming up with them to beat me up now?

Not only was the monster strong and had several OP Skills, but it had many Skills I had seen before. Yeah, it had all the Skills, or most of them, from the other bandits we just killed. This thing absorbed them all and even their powers... If this curse spreads out more and more, whenever we kill something, it'll turn into an Undead Ice Golem and become several times stronger, and if they merge, they just become ridiculous like this!

Well, there's no way it can use Swordsmanship Techniques or something, it lacks a sword...

"GRUOOORRRRR!"

The enormous bear shaped Ice Golem roared furiously, as it suddenly conjured an enormous quantity of ice all around, which then shaped into long swords, axes, spears, and even arrows. Its eyes shone bright red, as it suddenly unleashed all the techniques it stole from the bandits against me!

"Shit."

An enormous frozen sword clashed against my position, unleashing a freezing shockwave.

CLAAASH!

A gigantic axe quickly attempted to slice me into pieces, as I evaded swiftly, the axe hit the walls behind, clashing and getting stuck there, as it exploded into countless freezing spikes.

BOOOM!

"Shit, the spikes!"

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

I quickly erected Abyssal Barriers to protect the Goblin Chief and the rest from the freezing spikes, as I told them to stand back.

"Stand back, don't get in here, this thing is not something you can easily handle." I told them, standing in front of them.

CLAAASH!

CLAAASH!

CLAAAASH!

Three enormous frozen spears attempted to pierce through my body as I evaded them and jumped around swiftly. I quickly looked behind me, finding tens of frozen arrows being directed my way.

"I'm getting a bit tired of this."

I swung my hand as an enormous mass of darkness was unleashed, taking over the arrows and destroying the floating weapons in an instant.

"I might be a Necromancer yeah, but I am plenty strong myself." I said, looking back at the ferocious bear-shaped ice golem, as the beast suddenly began glowing red...

Like that one bandit!

"GROOOARRRR!"

FLAAASH!

The enormous bear of almost twenty meters of height rushed towards me at an incredible speed, jumping towards me and then pointing its sharp icy claws at my phantasmal body.

BAAAAM!

I was pushed down, as the gigantic beast's claws began to attempt to slice through my soul, flaring with a red aura of the [Berserker Charge] Gladiator Skill!

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

"God damn it, and just today I don't have my weapons..."

I sighed, as I quickly ignored the bear's attacks, my entire body began to shapeshift, turning into a mass of snakes and flies shapeshifting into a mass of shapeless form and then completely covering the bear's entire body.

"I can't do anything flashy so... [Black Lightning Strike] + [Dark Storm] = [Abyssal Lightning Storm]!"

TRUUUMM...!

Suddenly, an enormous cloud of darkness gathered all around the golem, unleashing slicing black winds and sharp and deadly lightning strikes, beginning to damage the enormous beast constantly.

CRAAASSSHH!!!

It's entire body eventually started to gain countless cracks. The beast tried to free itself from my own body entangling its own, but it was futile!

"GROOAARRRR...!"

The Ice Golem gave a last otherworldly roar before it started crumbling into pieces, falling into a pile of ice crystals. I quickly forced my way into the pile, finding a mass of silver-like metal with a freezing ice crystal core, which was formed by the combination of the dozens of Cursed Accessories... It could be said this thing was the golem's core.

Crack... crack...!

CRASH!

Of course, I shattered it into pieces so this thing wouldn't stand back up again...

However, things were not over yet.

"Lady Maria! There is a large group of Ice Monsters rushing from the way we came from!" The Goblin Chief said.

"So those bandits also became damn Ice Monsters?!" I asked. "It seems to have some sort of delay, and other times it doesn't... Is the Frost Queen herself controlling them and activating them as she sees fit?" I wondered, as I saw a dozen of Frozen Monsters of various shapes rushing in.

Well, at the end of the day, it's just more EXP for me.

## Chapter 533 The Frost Queen's Ice Golems

Several Ice Golems shaped as beasts approached, we had gotten rid of a dozen Bandits in the first group we found and fought, and there they were. This time they had not merged together but were a dozen of such beasts, they were smaller and not as monstrous as the others. With varied stats and Skills, each one taking over the powers of the Bandit that held their "Cores" which were the very accessories imbued with this strange curse.

[Lesser Accursed Undead Ice Golem: Lv25] [Rank: B-] [Status: Furious]

A monstrous entity formed from the power of Accursed Frost Magic conjured by the power of several Cursed Accessories that activate once the wielder is dead. In normal circumstances, each wielder would turn into a different, frozen undead golem. It is a Lesser version of a much stronger Ice Golem, but its capabilities are incredible, and holds within the power of the host that died holding its core. One of the many wicked creations of the Frost Queen through the fearful powers of the Cursed Crown of Skadi.

[Skills: [Accursed Frozen Claw] [Spiraling Icicle Spears] [Frozen Domain] [Freezing Curse] [Freezing Howl] [Frozen Jaws] [...]

Even then, these guys are still B- Rank, so they should be a decent enough amount of EXP. I think I can handle them by myself.

I quickly pointed my hands at the Ice Monsters, their very presences freezing the floor beneath them and anything within our surroundings, as I did the same thing I performed before, combining the power of two Skills into a greater one!

"[Black Lightning Strike] + [Dark Storm] = [Abyssal Lightning Storm]!"

TRUUUMM...!

Just like before, an enormous cloud of darkness gathered all around the golems, as if I had summoned a thunderstorm right out of the blue. The clouds began cracking and zapping with lightning, unleashing slicing black winds and sharp and deadly lightning strikes, beginning to damage the twelve Beasts.

CRAAASSHH!!!

The lightning and winds concentrated around them as countless black lightning and slicing black winds started to destroy their bodies, shattering into pieces even more easily than their big friend from before.

CRASH! CRASH! CRAASH!

"GRUOORRR...!"

"GRAARRR..."

"GRAAAHH..."

They released pathetic roars as if trying to intimidate me, their magic attempted to pierce me but it went through my body for the most part, as I easily shattered them all into tiny pieces, and stored everything left behind inside of my Inventory. It was better to just store things right after killing them than leave them to pick up later.

I had considered raising them into zombies before, but that would have been annoying as I wanted to finish this quickly, but it ended extending for a bit too long.

"A-Amazing, we can't compare to Lady Maria's incredible magic..." The Goblin Chief said.

"In just a single spell, they all died..." Syllis said with surprise filling his eyes.

However, things were not over, the group of thirty bandits my Undead team just killed ended transforming and fusing into a B+++ Ice Golem, but they easily started to overwhelm it, the two fire ghosts were the strongest at that, easily melting the entire thing and blowing it away into pieces.

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!

"GRAAAAH...!"

CRAAASH!

The enormous ice beast fell into the ground, crumbling apart into pieces. I swiftly regrouped with the rest of my Undead while bringing my own troops, as I stored the enormous beast shattered remains, we cannot leave that thing alive for now.

"Master, we were just finishing off the Bandits when they suddenly all turned into a giant Ice Golem, we managed to defeat it though." Silvio sighed.

"Indeed, it was slightly scary- well not really, more like surprising? It wasn't a big deal." Francesco said.

"Yeah they surprise you and got a lot of power, but we came well prepared. Nonetheless, they're hardy, so it takes more than a while to completely shatter them when they're merged..." I sighed.

"OOOOHH..."

Darkbound got closer to me as he suddenly pointed at the left corridor.

I saw things through my Phantom Familiars spread in that area, finding that the remaining Bandits, being roughly 40, had dispersed into four groups, each one of 7 to 13 members, and they all ran towards the other routes of the mountain where the other bandit hideouts were located. Sadly for them, I had blocked such routes.

All these other four small Bandit Groups were apparently this very Bandit Group of over 120 men. It seems they simply split into smaller groups to walk back to these other hideouts, which allowed them to cover more terrain. This entire cave system is very amazing, I could probably use this mountain to mine for resources, as a way closer place than the dwarven mountain, although this place lacks as much magic as the other, there might be something valuable if I dig enough.

Nonetheless, for now, the mission was to exterminate them. However, I didn't wanted to stop their transformation into Ice Golems. I had already tested it, I get both EXP from killing the bandits as they are and then an extra bag of EXP by killing the Ice Golems they convert into. So to maximize gains, we'll provoke them to transform into separate B- Rank Beasts if possible, as they give more EXP when they're a big group than when they merge into a single one.

"Alright guys, this is the plan, we'll divide and conquer. Let's make four groups, I'll accompany the four groups to reassure your victory, let's go."

I quickly divided the groups into four, one led by Silvio and Francesco, another led by Darkbound and Syllis, another by Goblin Chief and Mercury, and a last one led by Pyro and Gero. Of course, I was the one leading them but... yeah, they're the leaders here. It makes them feel special.

"G-Get away from us!"

The first group finally reached one of the bandit groups, 12 men trembling in a corner, a pathetic sight for the oh so powerful bandits.

Bon Appetit.

Chapter 534 Looting The Bandits And... A Boss Battle?!

"OOOOHHHHH...!"

SLAAASH!

"GYAAAHH...!"

Darkbound ran forward, swinging his enormous black sword, his size and power were truly phenomenal. A fell swoop of his sword easily cut into halves any bandit that got closer. But he wasn't going to let the others don't get any action, as Syllis and his rabbit kin warriors surrounded the other bandits and slaughtered them in unison, earning shared EXP efficiently.

As the twelve corpses were lying over the floor after just a few seconds of finding this group, the ice quickly began to grow over their bodies as the accessories activated. We made sure to place each corpse in separate places, so they didn't had the chance to merge into a big pile.

"ROOARRR!"

An icy wind quickly took over the entire room, as twelve Ice Golem Beasts emerged. Without further ado, we slaughtered them and crushed them with ease. This time I aided a bit with my Black Lightning Strike to shatter their ice and then the rest did the deed.

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH! CRASH!

In half a minute, twelve ice golems were served in a plate.

The same happened in the other groups, they were slaughtered and then brought back to life through this strange curse. We easily dealt with them. While doing this, I relaxed and began to think how this curse exactly worked.

I had figured out most of what it was and how it did its trick, but what I couldn't comprehend completely is... why is this curse so complex? The only curses I can access to are those that lower stats, weakening someone, or sometimes paralyze them or something like that. They're very limited in what they can do.

Yet there's this Ice Curse that can do things as complex as turning dead bandits into Ice Golems... Is this really a curse or an intricate Magic Spell imbued into these accessories? Thankfully, I had managed to grab one myself. It was a beautiful ring with a snowflake-shaped blue jewel.

Out of pure curiosity, I decided to check its Status:

[Accursed Frozen Slave Ring (B+ Grade)]

[Effects]

[HP]: [+200]

[MP]: [+200]

[Attack]: [+100]

[Defense]: [+100]

[Magic]: [+100]

[Agility]: [+100]

[Abilities]

[Frozen Slave Curse]: Once the wielder's HP drops to zero, an automatic effect is triggered, transforming the user into an Undead Ice Golem Beast, boosting its power, and using the user's Skills as a base for its growth. In certain occasions, it might evolve and fuse with others to form a greater being.

Huh, for being B+ Grade in quality it gives some very low stat boosts, but I guess these boosts in stats were decent for these low-level trash tier bandits I suppose. Even more if they wore more than one. I am pretty sure I saw some wearing over five rings. Somehow, the Frost Queen can mass produce them and the Vampire aiding her gave them to these bandits in large quantities, telling them to use as many as they desire.

"I'll keep this one for later. I'll investigate the curse and try if I can find something that I could do with it... Maybe I could even find a cure for this curse." I wondered, quickly storing the ring inside the Inventory.

It wasn't a living being at the end, and it apparently wasn't being used as some sort of camera either, so storing it into the Inventory wasn't a hard thing at all.

When we were mostly finished, I quickly sent everyone to explore things and bring me whatever loot they could find, as I wandered with the two fire ghosts behind me in the last room where the Boss was.

The Boss himself wasn't even a threat, he died in a single swipe of my hands with a Black Lightning Strike, he was the highest level here, at Level 42, and even then I ended killing him so easily... I guess I've really grown too strong. Evolution is overpowered compared to the humans capped level up, I can keep evolving and resetting my Level so I can continue leveling more and more.

Hell, my accumulated level should be way past a hundred by now. I guess if we consider this it is not so hard to believe I ended killing these guys way too easily.

"Ooh! So much gold! I'll buy so much with this, hehehehe..."

However, although I ended getting slightly flustered about what had happened, I still embraced my greediness, finding the boss secret stash of gold, a large hole in the cave covered by his desk. In there, I found almost a hundred doubloon of pure gold, which can be exchanged mostly anywhere for money.

Gold is still a rare material even in this world, especially now that it has become Magic Gold, which is an incredible catalyzer of magic, it is an essential item for most magic items, so it is highly priced everywhere. Bronze and Silver are the same, being magic conducting ores, they're very valuable, especially in the dwarven country which is so advanced that they need big quantities of it to continue fabricating their creations and technological advancements.

"That's certainly a lot of gold, milady." Silvio said at my side. "May I help you carry it all?"

"Ah, don't worry. Look at this! Boop!" I said, touching the gold as they all disappeared in an instant, stored in the Inventory.

"I-Incredible... Your Inventory Ability is really something completely out of this world!" Silvio admitted

"Yeah I guess it is the best part of-"

"Milady!"

Suddenly, I was called by the other fire ghost, Francesco, who was inspecting around, until he suddenly began touching a large wall.

"What?"

"I can't get through this wall... I simply... hit something very hard here." He said.

"What? But you're a ghost, it shouldn't be impossible to-"

I walked at his side and touched the wall trying to get through it.

But it was impossible.

"Wait what?!"

I quickly looked at the place, trying to get inside through my ghostly powers.

And nope, it was impossible.

"This place... is this a dungeon?" I wondered, raising an eyebrow.

"Perhaps there's an underground dungeon in this mountain as well! Do mountains always have dungeons inside of them?" Wondered Silvio.

"I don't have single clue, but let's try something..." I said with a smile.

Suddenly, I gathered a large quantity of chaotic and dark energies and fired it into a straight beam into the wall.

BAAAAAMMMM...!

RUMBLE!

The entire mountain shook for a bit, as the wall fell apart, revealing something... completely different than a dungeon.

It was a strange room imbued with a special magic that made it impossible for Phantasmal-type beings to get through.

Almost as if it were made as a countermeasure against me.

The gate leading there was destroyed by my super beam, and what was inside was an enormous altar, with what looked like a bird-shaped statue made of ice, within its chest, a glowing blue jewel shone brightly.

"The heck is this?" I asked, looking around.

"Milady, watch out!"

CLAAASH!

I quickly stepped back with the two ghosts, looking in front of me as the enormous, twenty-meter-big Ice Bird Statue... moved and fired an enormous icicle spear my way.

"CRAAAAAAHHH!"

The statue continued to move as if it were alive, flying outside the room it was confined, and freezing the entire Bandit Boss Room in a mere instant!

## Chapter 535 Against The Ice Guardian Phoenix

Out of nowhere, hidden boss battle.

And this giant bird was serious business, the aura it gave out wasn't something little to laugh at.

[Ice Guardian Phoenix: Lv70] [Rank: A++] [Status: Furious]

A powerful Ice Golem that has been created through the usage of Divine Ice and possess incredible prowess. It is capable of leveling entire small nations and was made by the Frost Queen as a special weapon to destroy anybody that gets in her path towards conquest. It possess a wide array of Magic Skills and Physical Skills and is capable of self-regeneration by absorbing the cold air of its surroundings.

[Skills: [Accursed Frozen Claw] [Spiraling Icicle Spears] [Frozen Domain] [Freezing Curse] [Freezing Cry] [Frozen Beak] [Winter's Judgement] [Ice Hammer] [Ice Axe] [Ice Blade] [Ice Weapon Shower] [Ice Meteor] [...]]

Reading the description the System Analysis function gives to me, I can tell this bastard is bad news. It was made by the Frost Queen no less as a "weapon of mass destruction" and it said to be able to easily level entire small nations by itself. Kind of like a last resort weapon she had stored in here for some reason... perhaps this was something she was going to send off into my own village at some point.

Yeah, this guy was not something that can be easily handled by just anybody... Luckily for me, I've got two other ghosts made completely out of Infernal Flames right at my side. If there is someone that could defeat this damn monster, it is us.

"CRYAAAAH!"

The Ice Phoenix cried loudly with the sound similar to a hawk, its sound echoed around the entire cave, as we found ourselves completely trapped. The ice spread out through the entire area and closed the entrance. This ice was also charged with Mana to the point it would take a bit of time to slid through it as ghosts.

And it is way more worth it to fight this monster right here and now and get the EXP it would give... Yeah, I guess it could be said I am more interested in the EXP than anything. This Frost Queen has become a really good friend of us by now, giving us so many opportunities to level up and all.

Silvio and Francesco were naturally freaking out. Both of them had just recently evolved into B Rank Ghosts, so they didn't had much of a chance against the Ice Phoenix even with their fire. The Ice Phoenix was A+ Rank, and it clearly showed it in how overwhelming its aura was.

However, I've also grown stronger from before, way stronger. The level ups I got in the dungeon we raided and conquered have not gone anywhere. If I have the help of these ghost's elements, defeating this Ice Phoenix might be quite simple.

"CRYA!"

The Ice Phoenix didn't waited any second after flying outside of its chamber, spreading its beautiful crystal wings and unleashing an enormous cold and icy aura, which made Silvio and Francesco's fire wither away.

"W-What do we do now, Lady Maria?!"

"Can you defeat this monster?!"

"Are you guys afraid? You're being overly cowardly for being former Vampires that were fearless." I sighed. "Don't worry, I've got a plan, and it'll be using your strength and flames."

"Plan?! What plan? Will you blow it away with your super overpowered magic?" Asked Silvio.

"No, it might not work completely against such a strong monster. If I do something too big, it'll blow us all away as well because of this narrow space. I am not that confident in my physical strength alone either unless I go all out." I said while narrowing my eyes.

"Eh?! T-Then what do we do?!" Francesco desperately asked.

"We have to just run away!" Silvio said.

"You guys are made of fire, have some imagination, will you?" I asked. "Come! Spirit Magic!"

FLAAASH!

I quickly touched both of the ghosts, as the Ice Phoenix greeted us with tens of magic circles emerging above our heads, quickly summoning countless Ice Weapons. Battle Axes, Spears, Blades, and more, and then sent them straight to us!

We were bathed in deadly high level ice magic imbued with even more mana, reinforcing the damage dealt even more. And to boot, each weapon projectile exploded, dealing even more damage.

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOOMMMM!!!

We felt as if we were being bathed in pure ice, and my very soul started to freeze. The Ice Phoenix continued attacking ruthlessly, until the entire floor was covered by ice entirely.

"CRAAH!"

The Ice Phoenix gave a cry of satisfaction, believing we were dead. However, it suddenly noticed the temperature of its environment started to increase, little by little...

"CRAH?!"

The ice began to slowly melt- no, it started to boil, bubbles coming out and steam flowing all across the caves. The Ice Phoenix roared angrily, flying back a few meters as if instinctively afraid of the overwhelming heat encompassing its surroundings.

"What's wrong? Afraid of a little warm up? Don't worry, what's the worst that could happen anyways? Turn yourself into a fried chicken?"

I appeared amidst the ice, although my HP took a big hit, I was able to survive and warm up my soul, unfreezing it. I felt red flames merging within my phantasmal body as I shared the resentment and anger the ghosts felt when they were young and burned into that old house.

The flames of their anger, resentment, and fear flowed into my phantasmal heart, as I felt such anger as well, and their flames became mine. The ghosts were within my very soul, not merged, but cooperating, connecting their whole beings into me.

I wouldn't call this a Fusion, but it is a different technique I've seen Emeraldine use with her Spirits. It is named Spirit Connection and allows the master and their spirits to make a connection and combine their elemental powers for a quick boost in magic strength.

My body overflowed with red flames, as my dress slowly turned deep red, with blazing flames all around.

"Let's quickly get done with this."

Chapter 536 Blazing Through

I've known for a while now, but ghosts I've risen become something akin to my Spirits. Solid Undead are different, but Phantasmal entities whom I've made a contract or whom I have created myself instantly are registered as "spirits" even though they used to be real people.

I don't really know the details, but they probably have similar skills than I do, such as [Elemental Spirit: Lv--] which makes you literally a Spirit of the Elemental Affinities you possess. This is something I have as well, which makes me a spirit that can use the power of more spirits.

Nevertheless, I merely connected my soul with Silvio and Francesco, and shared their pain and emotions with mine. That way, I was able to channel their Infernal Flames, and use them in conjunction with my own Stats and Mana quantities.

My own appearance changed. I turned into a blazing lady. My dress became made of red and orange fire, my hair turned into flames burning furiously, my eyes seemed to be unleashing flames everywhere, and I even grew demon-like horns out of my forehead. Strangely enough, I liked the new look.

"CRYAAAAH!"

The Ice Phoenix reacted to my flames with its ice. Suddenly, it conjured three enormous magic circles, bigger than the ones I've seen before. This was the guardian's strongest ice magic spell [Ice Meteor]!

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH

Three enormous twenty-meter big meteors made completely out of hardened ice and covered by freezing auras emerged out of the magic circles, quickly falling towards me with all their might, heaviness, and freezing power.

However, I smiled, loading my hands with blazing red flames as my eyes shone brightly. My aura continued shapeshifting into blazing flames burning through my surroundings.

I channeled my power and mana into my very fists, and then...!

"[Fist Strike]!"

FLUOOOSH!

An enormous quantity of flames gathered within my fists as I unleashed the strength of my Fist Strike Skill, which enhanced damage dealt while using bare fists to fight.

The result? Explosive punches that decimated the ice meteors, shattering them into pieces and melting them at the same time!

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOOOMMM!!!

The Blazing Fist Strikes were so powerful they unleashed arcs of flames that spiraled upwards, catching the Ice Phoenix's entire body, and burning it!

FLUOOOSH!

"CRYAAAAH!"

The Ice Phoenix cried in agony as the core within its chest shone brightly- a sudden shockwave was unleashed, spreading out and turning off my flames.

FLAAAASSSHHH!

The shockwave was filled with an icy energy and attempted to freeze me once more. However, I gathered the flames within my body into my chest and then unleashed an explosive attack, fighting against the icy wind.

"[Blazing Catastrophe]!"

FLUOOOSH!!!

The flames I summoned erupted like a volcano, reaching the Ice Phoenix once more. The monster desperately attempted to evade but the flames were too fast and spread widely, hitting the Ice Phoenix and melting half of its body in mere seconds.

BOOOOOOMMM!!!

"CRYAAA!"

The Ice Phoenix maneuvered somehow using magic and slowly managed to get away from my flames, only to attempt to regenerate its body while showering me with Ice Meteors. Just how much Mana does it have?!

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!

I unleashed a barrage of Blazing Fists against the Ice Meteors, turning them all into vapor as I flew forward, turning myself into a massive sphere of flames and clashing against the Ice Phoenix in midair!

BAAAM!

"BURN!"

I unleashed more and more flames, pushing myself to my limits as the incredible icy powers within the Ice Phoenix seemed to be desperately attempting to overpower me. It was all a battle of attrition, whoever had the more Mana would win this!

"[Blazing Explosion]!"

However, I light up my entire body with flames until it shone bright red and gold, the interior of my body suddenly turned into the core of a volcano, as it exploded with blazing fury, covering the entire Ice Phoenix, destroying its barriers, and shattering its damned core!

BOOOOOOMMM!!!

The explosion quickly melted all the ice there was, as the Ice Phoenix immediately turned into evaporated water and disappeared, only leaving a shattered metallic core with a silver color and a blue gem inside.

I slowly stood up, barely managing to get myself together. I rearranged every bit of my soul that exploded everywhere, and then my connection with Silvio and Francesco ended. The two ghosts appeared to be tired, but nothing serious happened to them.

"Master! Are you okay?! You blew yourself up!"

"That damn Ice Phoenix..."

"Don't worry about it." I said. "I am pretty alright. I used Undead Healing to recover myself and now I am pristine! That thing would have never defeated me nor really damaged me that much, I just blew myself up because it was getting annoying."

"So you did it out of being tired?"

"Wait... that shouldn't be a reason to blow yourself up..."

"Ah, details... Anyway, look at this shattered core." I said with a smile, grabbing the item in the floor and inspecting it using the System's Analysis function.

[Shattered Ice Guardian Core (A- Grade)]

A Special Golem Core made using powerful Ice Magic and Alchemy together. It possesses incredible power and is capable of bringing forth a powerful Ice Golem as strong as an A Grade Monster, with a set of Skills, Spells, and high Stats, especially Mana. It can also draw Mana from its creator if it finds itself in a pinch, making it a vicious foe.

However, it is now shattered and cannot be used unless repaired with high level Alchemy.

"I see, so this is what that Frost Queen used, huh?" Wondered Silvio.

"That woman is literally declaring war to us, milady!" Francesco angrily said.

"And how can we even retaliate anyways. I know the Ice Giants live inside a hidden dungeon with its own ecosystem and a strange tower in there. But what else than that? Nothing much. Not even Veredorr knows the exact area where we should go... It is really a pain." I sighed.

However, we still have to prepare for the worst-case scenario...

## Chapter 537 New Skills

Ding!

[You and Your Party have slain [Random Bandits] x120]

[You and Your Party have slain [Undead Ice Golems (B- Rank)] x97]

[You and Your Party have slain [Undead Ice Golem (B++ Rank)] x23]

[You and Your Party have slain [Ice Guardian Phoenix (A++ Rank)] x1]

[You earned 5480000 EXP!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 43 to Level 44!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 44 to Level 45!]

[All your Stats have increased!]

Well I leveled up two times, that's more than I had ever thought I would. Also it seems the Ice Phoenix gave over a million EXP, which is pretty crazy already.

Ding!

[You learned the [Spirit Connection: Lv1] Magic Skill!]

[You learned the [Infernal Queen: Lv1] Title Skill!]

[You learned the [Ice Monster Slayer: Lv1] Title Skill!]

[You learned the [Ice Resistance: Lv1] Resistance Skill!]

[You learned the [Human Slayer: Lv1] Title Skill!]

Oh I got five Skills out of the blue?! Well, let's check them I guess...

[Spirit Connection: Lv1]

A Skill that can be learned by powerful magicians capable of connecting with their contract Spirits after Summoning them. Upon Connecting with a Spirit, the user and the spirit share senses, thoughts, and perhaps even memories. Elemental Affinities are melded together and the power of the user is enhanced greatly.

While activating Spirit Connection with a designed Spirit, All Stats increase by +10% with each Skill Level, Magic, and MP increase by +20% with each Skill Level, and MP Consumption decreases by -5% with each Skill Level. Additionally, powerful Spirit Magic Spells can be conjured, unique to the user and the designated Spirit.

Alright this one seems like a straight boost whenever I activate the Skill and use Spirit Connection with my Spirits. All those stats increase seem really amazing to be honest, and the ability to use special "Spirit Magic Spells" seem promising. I already had a taste of that by conjuring a bunch of explosive fire attribute spells, they'll come pretty useful against the army of the Frost Queen.

[Infernal Queen: Lv1]

A Title Skill granted to a powerful Fire Attribute Magic Wielder who has burned many powerful foes to death and defeated an incredibly strong being. You've crowned as the Queen of Infernal Flames and your Fire Power is enhanced. Increases Fire Attribute Damage by +50% with an additional +20% with each Title Skill Level and Decreases MP Cost of Fire Attribute Magic Spells by -30%. Fire Magic can be conjured more easily and controlled more dexterously.

This one seems like a totally unlearned Skill. I mean I don't even have fire magic affinity. I cannot even conjure Fire right now. Only... phantom fire, but that's Death Attribute Magic, it just has fire shape. But maybe it works with that as well?

I tried it out as I conjured Phantasmal Flames like Lucifer always does. And the flames did emerge. Beautiful and eerie blue flames similar to will-o-wisps. Their power had been enhanced by a tenfold, I was able to control them way better than before (I wasn't that good at this one actually), and its MP Cost was reduced greatly!

Ding!

[You learned the [Phantasmal Flames: Lv1] Magic Skill!]

Woah, it seems I even got enough control over it to learn the Magic Skill as it is! I suppose the Spell got ingrained into my soul pretty quickly! All thanks to the Infernal Queen Title. This Skill is pretty self-explanatory, but I still checked it.

[Phantasmal Flames: Lv1]

A powerful combination of Fire Attribute and Death Attribute Magic. It combines the intensity of flames with the cold of death into a deadly blue flame that spreads easily, freezing to death any living being and draining away their heat, life, and even mana. While conjuring Phantasmal Flames, damage dealt is increased by +100% with an additional +20% with each Skill Level, and MP Cost is reduced by -5% with each Skill Level. Additionally, Fire and Death Attribute Resistances from a foe can be ignored by -20%.

Wow, alright, this is pretty strong. I didn't thought the Phantasmal Flames would receive such a boost! I guess I am finally wielding the fire more... Although I can only bring this cold fire that drains heat and all, but against Ice monsters it is useless. For that I'll need the fire that actually burns, which the Fire Ghosts can lend me.

Anyways, moving on...

[Ice Resistance: Lv1]

A Skill learned by those naturally resistant to the ice element or that have received a large quantity of Ice Damage and survived, slowly adapting to its freezing and deadly might. Decreases Damage Dealt from Ice Attribute Attacks or Spells by -10% with each Skill Level. Additionally, grants immunity to Freezing Status Effects.

[Ice Monster Slayer: Lv1]

A Title Skill granted to a powerful warrior that has slain over a hundred Ice Type Monsters of great strength. Increases damage dealt against Ice-type foes by +50%, with an additional +20% with each Skill Level. Ice-type foes Physical and Magical Resistance can be ignored by -20%, and Elemental Resistance to Fire-type Attacks from foes can be ignored by -50%. Additionally, decreases damage from Ice Attribute Attacks or Magic by -30%.

Oh wow these two guys go well together! I never thought I would get such a good harvest out of this Bandit Hideout Assault, but now I might have a better chance at fighting these overpowered Ice Golems.

And lastly, the shady Title Skill of the bunch.

[Human Slayer: Lv1]

A Title given to those who had slain hundreds of humans. You're a terror to the human race, good for you. Maybe some gods will get angry at you though, be careful. Increases Damage Dealt to Human-type foes by +50% with an additional +20% with each Skill Level, Physical and Magical Defense can be ignored by -30%. Additionally, the user is more likely to awake fear into unsuspecting humans.

Oh man, this one's DEADLY. Alright, I'll be using it very well in the future, when I'll have the beautiful task of slaying the Dukes that fucked up my life and that of my family in that little meeting between royal family members.

Chapter 538 Back Home

After we were done with all of the Bandit stuff, we decided to quickly move over. We investigated and inspected the whole mountain and its surroundings, finding no strange areas anymore. I was honestly half-expecting another chamber like the other one where another Ice Phoenix or something worse would attack us, but there was nothing else. With that out of the way, we decided to move back home while I spread out hundreds of tiny, baby snake-sized Phantom Familiars.

And not only those, but also Fly-shaped and just as small sized Phantom Familiars. My Phantom Familiars can be created in two forms now, the classic snakes and then the flies. Both can be modified to become big and all. And they can even share a few of my Skills that I assign to them. However, without wasting much Mana they are not as strong as actual Undead in terms of fighting and all, and are better at scouting, or eliminating targets stealthily.

Maybe more things can be done, but it is a hassle to explain them. I guess abusing Gorgon Eyes to inflict status effects to targets might be a nice one. Though ice golems are just immune to all the status effects I can inflict. They cannot be turned to stone, nor paralyzed, nor poisoned, nor confused... Ugh, well, I still can use them into ice giants, if we ever fight those guys.

Nonetheless, when I arrived back home, I was greeted by my family. Lucifer brought Nyx on his arms, Emeraldine and Partner looked to be sleepy, probably having spent the night doing alchemy, and even Brunhild showed up, yawning behind Lucifer, she probably just woke up to greet me.

"You guys are back!" Said Partner. "Master, did you slay the humans? Did you bring their blood?"

"Yeah, they're all frozen though, but we can just warm them up later to get you the blood." I sighed.

"Did something wrong happened? It shouldn't had been really hard to kill a few small fries." Said Lucifer.

"Well yeah, a lot happened..." I sighed. "I'll explain things to you in the castle. For now let's assess what we got and bring things to the storage houses. I cannot simply hold everything on my Inventory if someone will ever need something at hand."

"Alright. Leave it to us, you should rest a bit." Brunhild said with a gentle smile.

"Thank you." I sighed, patting Lucifer's sister head, she was nice and cute to be honest.

"Mama...! Bwah!" Nyx greeted me, stretching her tiny claws at me.

"You want mommy to hold you baby? Alright, mommy will spoil you lots and lots today, okay?" I quickly stole Nyx from Lucifer's arms as I kissed the little treasure's forehead.

"Hungry!" She said.

"Oh right, we were preparing lunch. Let's talk about everything while having a meal." Said Lucifer.

"Would be nice, alright..."

Like that we all moved back to the castle.

The Undead just went back to their former positions and the Goblins and Rabbit kin squadrons went back to their respective houses for the most part. They were all tired so I didn't wanted to force them to do anything for now. Some of them were killing humans for the first time so they got a bit shocked and need some time to rearrange their minds and thoughts.

However, the Goblin chief quickly went back to his daughter Gofumin and Syllis with his little sister. I guess this was an opportunity for everyone to both level up and also learn more about killing, although it might be better if we never engage in any sort of war, you never know what this crazy world as prepared for you.

And as we began eating lunch and I relaxed after taking a warm bath, we decided to finally begin speaking about what happened. I quickly explained the whole bandit accessories thingy, the ice golems, and that ice phoenix golem.

And above all, I also summoned a soul of the bandit boss I brought with myself here. He had memories of what happened, so I quickly extracted them out of his mind before I left him inside a zombie body that walked away quickly after to not bother our meal. He's lucky I decided to not shatter his soul.

"According to what this guy's mind says, this one masked vampire woman came to their hideout some time ago, offered them money, resources, and these magical accessories." I said, putting the ring over the table. "After that, she told them to attack our village after a week of preparing. It was a good thing we slain them before it were to be too late. This was also probably the only group of bandits here, which was just a single gigantic group split into many."

"Interesting..." Said Lucifer. "If I get this straight, not only the Vampires are trying to kill us indirectly, but this magic accessory and the golems, they're all made by this mysterious "Frost Queen", right?"

"Yeah, Veredorr told me everything he knew about her, I've been looking for more info in the Iceland Kingdom, but they have little knowledge about the Ice Giant Tribe apparently, and nobody knows where they live either. Another shot would be at the dwarves but I honestly doubt they know much either." I sighed.

"I see... So we are completely in the blue about this." Lucifer said. "Can't we find her?"

"Without clues, in this snow-covered landscape? I don't think so... I've already sent a hundred familiars EVERYWHERE." I said. "Maybe they'll find something, or maybe not."

"Sigh..." Lucifer seemed slightly dispirited. "At least now that those bandits are gone, at least there'll be some time before we get threatened by something else."

"I hope so." I said, drinking some wine.

"I guess the Vampires really found our weakness, this village. And just want to exploit it and make us worried all the time that something will pop up out of the blue." Said Emeraldine.

"Well, there's still something we could do." I said, quickly thinking of an idea.

## Chapter 539 The Crown Of Skadi

I began thinking what we could do to make the place more secure. We have already fully repaired these enormously tall walls the kingdom of Majin had before. But that alone won't do. Any powerful magic attack could easily break them and if there are airborne enemies, then they can just easily ignore the whole walls and attack directly into the village.

A Magic barrier in the shape of a sphere which protects the entire place would be ideal. But that'll cost too much Mana and I would need to constantly supply it. If something ever happens to me then it would be quite problematic, everyone would be left to just die...

Maybe what we need is some sort of Magic Artifact, items that generate Barriers by being given fuel of some sort, Magic Crystals that come from monsters, for example.

"Maybe we should make the place more secure, perhaps? How about making Magic Barriers?" Asked Partner.

She stole the idea out of my mind!

"That's... an actually good idea. I think we could at least do as much... Emeraldine, do you think we could make some sort of magic device to form barriers?" I wondered.

"Hmm..." Emeraldine started to think. "I honestly don't know, but most likely it could be a thing. Quite honestly, I only know how to make the very basics of things, small stuff... Things such as devices that generate barriers to protect a whole village are... quite beyond me."

"Damn it..." I sighed. "However, can it be possible? Maybe if we work together with the Dwarves? We could also borrow the aid of the Dwarven Country."

"Yeah, that sounds good." Emeraldine said. "If we all get our minds together into this, we could actually think of a possible idea that could somewhat work, I hope."

"I really would like to do it without asking help from the Dwarven country, it would delay everything a lot to be honest..." I sighed. "But yeah, we should give it a try."

Though, I wonder if there is any Undead I could make that could somehow make a barrier? Especially one that resists Ice Attribute Magic? Is there any of such things anyways? An undead wall, or a golem made of bones could work for the walls, they would certainly be stronger than normal ones, but it would still end up being easily ignored with flying monsters.

Hey System, could there be any Undead Recipe like this?

[Searching...]

FLASH!

The Soul Grimoire suddenly emerged before my eyes, as its pages flickered rapidly. And then, something showed up, several results at that. One of them was Undead Metal Slimes. They were good at shapeshifting, becoming incredibly hard, being good at resisting all elemental damage, and were amazing at self-regeneration. The only one we had right now was mercury, but we could make more of his by using his divided parts as ingredients.

Undead Metal Slimes could help reinforcing the walls, and if something happens, they could unify all into an isolation liquid metal bubble all over the entire territory... but they cannot do it underground, so we would be susceptible to underground invasion if the enemy has something that can dig and get to the other side... this is why a bubble-shaped barrier is better, protecting both above and below.

There were no Undead available that could just maintain a barrier endlessly, but I got several results, Magician Undead and other things like that. But even those guys got a finite amount of Mana and

they're rather weak... It even suggested a squadron of Living Armor for defense, it does seem quite alright I guess, but not what I wanted either.

Aside from that, there's nothing much. The other thing might be raising a ton of ghosts and fusing them together using Undead Synthesis to create a massive ghost, incredibly long, that would cover everything... but this also has a lot of weaknesses and might get destroyed easily anyways, it is just a ghost, and they're not good at defense at all, I know because I am one.

However, there could be a way to fuse the principles of this idea with Necromancy, Alchemy, and Forging to create some sort of Magic Artifact that uses my powers as well to work way better...

Maybe I'll get some ideas when I talk with Emeraldine and the dwarves later.

We continued eating, deciding to just relax and enjoy the rest of the lunch, however, Brunhild who seemed mostly silent suddenly spoke.

"I think I might know something about those Ice Giants. I don't particularly know anything about a "Frost Queen" but I do know there used to be a strange Magic Artifact left behind by the gods named Skadi's Crown. It was left behind inside a hidden Dungeon where there's an Abandoned Tower of the Gods in there... I think the Ice Giants moved to live inside of that dungeon to protect themselves from the people of the outside world. This tower is something akin to their god in a way and pray to it."

"Wait so you know this stuff?!" I asked. "Also Tower Of the Gods?"

"It is an old relic of the past. In the past, Gods supposedly walked amongst the world's surface alongside the Ancient Titans and the Divine Dragons. However, the war against the Evil God broke out, or something like that. Which made the gods retreat to a different Realm. Divine Dragons and Titans went almost extinct due to the wars they went through, but left descendants behind." Brunhild said. "Lucifer, Nyx, and I are Ancient Dragons and descendants of the Divine Dragons, guardians of the world."

"So that's a thing huh." I said while thinking. "This Crown of Skadi... why was it left behind?"

"It was said that the artifact was broken and didn't work as intended. The gods left it behind by sealing it inside a tower inside a dungeon. Nobody should have ever found such an item. If an Ice Giant

woman got it and became this "Frost Queen" the crown might be slowly taking over her mind..." Brunhild seemed concerned.

## Chapter 540 Divine Artifacts

"If the crown takes over her mind then she'll become mad. It is no wonder she's trying to amass forces. She might go into full offensive against not only us but the rest of the continent. Although I wouldn't really mind if those humans died, there would be a lot of good and innocent people mixed in between the slaughter. Her whole mission is probably to turn this entire place into an icy landscape." Brunhild said while looking at the windows. "I don't know where the dungeon is, sadly. But I do know it is within this territory. I hope your familiars can find it."

"I hope so too." I said. "Well, is there any more of these weird items around the world we didn't know about?" I asked politely.

"Lucifer hasn't told you?" Brunhild wondered, looking at her brother.

"I've forgotten about most of my memories." Lucifer sighed. "So no, I cannot really remember as much as I would had wanted."

"Then I guess I can tell you about them..." Brunhild said. "It is rumored that in the era where the Gods fought the Evil God and his forces, they left behind many treasures of their Ancient God Civilization hidden within dungeons. These are called Divine Artifacts, Divine Treasures, or Divine Items, whatever's the case, such items are of an incredible, indecipherable value that hold within great power. The Crown of Skadi is one of them, which grants the wilder an incredible power over not just normal Ice Magic, but the Divine Ice Magic Skadi, the Goddess of Snow, wields... or something close to it. This might be a reason why the "Frost Queen" can make such incredible items and golems of great strength out of just mere ice."

"Divine Artifacts..." I felt slightly drawn by the name. If I could get my hands into one, maybe I would be able to contend against her Divine Ice.

"Oh, I know that face..." Lucifer said.

"Maria, no..." Emeraldine said reluctantly.

"Master wants to find one?" Wondered Partner.

"Yes! I do! Do you know where there could be a Divine Artifact?!" I asked.

"It is said they're scattered around the world, hidden too well to be easily found. We only know about the Crown of Skadi because the Ice Giants discovered the crown by accident." Brunhild explained. "Sorry about that. But we have no clue whatsoever."

"Dang it!" I angrily roared. Although at the end I just calmed myself. "Well, the items the dwarves are upgrading for me will be akin to Divine Artifacts based in how strong they'll be."

"Haha, I guess that's a nice way to put it." Said Brunhild with a smile.

"Hm, well maybe one day we'll find another." Said Lucifer. "Though we are not really supposed to grab them."

"Meh, who cares about the gods or whatever?" I sighed. "We do whatever we want here! We are already all protected by Hel. They'll have to fight the goddess of death if they want to touch her protegee."

"That sounded extremely cocky, I hope you understand what you're talking about..." Lucifer facepalmed. "Maria, dealing with monsters, humans, even Kingdoms and Nations is okay, it is possible. But going beyond that and trying to fight gods themselves? Are you serious?"

"I-I am not! Okay, okay, calm down. I was just joking... I know they are rulers of everything and all. I am not going to mess with them or something. but the Frost Queen took one and she's like completely fine with it. Why hasn't a god messed with her yet?" I wondered. "Also the Albraun Kingdom got themselves probably several fragments of the Evil God and they're using them to produce all sorts of insane shit too! Nobody complains about that with them right?"

"Yeah, I always heard Gods would exert divine punishment into those that touched what was considered taboos, yet they had yet to even act at all. Could it be that gods actually cannot do such things as freely?" Brunhild wondered.

"Or maybe they're just lazy and not doing it because they don't want to." I said. "Or maybe they are just letting anybody do whatever they want, specifically because they get in our way, so they're letting them violate the rules just because they could be our obstacle!"

"Maybe that's being a bit paranoid, with a whole world out there, why would they do that specifically for you?" Asked Lucifer.

"Haven't you seen my Titles? I am literally hated by the God of Light so much the Title levels up automatically." I sighed.

"Pretty hypocritical for a god to hate you so much in specific though..." Sighed Lucifer. "With so many people out there, he could hate someone else."

"Yeah he's just a retard." I sighed.

"Anyways, I feel like we are going in circles here, let's go plan that Barrier Artifact for now, Maria." Emeraldine said.

"Right, right! I wasn't ranting or something..." I said.

"You were definitely venting." Said Partner.

"I am also angered for her so I kind of understand her." Said Lucifer.

"Brother, let's take care of Nyx for now until everyone's back." Said Brunhild.

"Alright, you girls can go I suppose." Lucifer said.

"Partner is staying too." I said.

"Eh?! Why me? I know Alchemy!" She said.

"This is a reunion of experts and you're a newbie, so you might end up disturbing our plans rather than... well, helping." I said.

"Guhh... So cruel..." Partner sighed. "Partner will behave! Promise!"

"Ugh... Can't you take care of Nyx though? I thought you liked her." I said.

"Nyx is like my beloved daughter too but I want to help! I think I can give some ideas... maybe." Partner sighed, fidgeting around.

"Okay, okay, you can come with us." I said.

"Maaaa! Bwauh..." Nyx didn't wanted to leave me, as she was sitting right over my lap.

"Sorry baby, we'll go see something and come back later okay?" I said, giving her a kiss in her little nose.

However, Nyx started to look like she was about to cry...