

A Ghost 561

Chapter 561 Soul Scape Growth

"Mwuh? Mama?"

Nyx suddenly woke up, as I had left her resting over her bed, she slowly crawled outside the tent in all fours, finding her mother, me, swallowing a mountain of Magic Crystals.

"Huh? Ah..."

"Eh?"

We stared at each other for a while, it was very weird.

"I-I can explain! I am just trying to boost my soul scape!" I said.

"Bwuh... Tashty?" She wondered, looking at the Magic Crystal with new eyes.

"N-No! Wait, it is definitely not tasty!" I said.

Fuck! If Nyx suddenly somehow wants to eat them all, the pile will be gone in just a mere second! My daughter is just as gluttonous as her mother after all!

"Bwuh?"

Then Nyx tilted her head in confusion, without knowing what to do or say.

Honestly, she was such a cute little thing that I couldn't get mad at her for wanting to take a little bite...

But for now, these Magic Crystals are mine! I cannot allow her to waste them by eating them!

"I-I...."

Suddenly, Nyx's eyes shone bright red.

Oh no!

"I wan!" She said, suddenly rushing forward, her tiny wings flapped, helping her hover over the air!

"No! T-They're mine!"

I quickly jumped over the pile of Magic Crystals and spread out my body into a mass of phantasmal darkness, trying to swallow all the Magic Crystals.

However, if I had a literal black hole inside of me, why didn't I just ate them normally?

Well, well, there's a little problem with that!

The Black Hole might end up making the magic within them be destroyed altogether, so I don't want that.

And swallowing them all will be bad for my soul because they're very high-grade magic crystals, meaning that eating them all together will make my entire body blow up with too much Mana.

After all, these Magic Crystals are the crystallization of one hundred million MP! If I eat them all, my soul's gonna burst and even if I can heal from that, I'll lose all the magic power.

So I have to eat them one by one, slowly.

"Nom! Chomp!"

Nyx jumped over my phantasmal body as she began biting me, trying to get to the "main dish"!

"Nyx, baby, please wait a second! Waaaaait!"

Nyx continued chomping, but then suddenly stopped.

"Nyx... bad?" She asked out of the blue.

Oh? Did she learn that herself? It seems she's quite self-conscious of her actions!

"Yeah, you were being a bad girl, wait a bit and let your mother eat her crystals, okay baby?"

"Mwuh... oway..."

Nyx sighed, as she slowly crawled into the floor and sat down there, staring at me.

It felt as if her stare was glancing through my soul.

It felt as if she was saying: "Go ahead, eat."

I felt a strange pressure...

I-Is this the pressure of the aura of a Calamity-class being like she is?!

She gained like forty levels this night, so her power probably more than doubled.

Even her normal aura has become slightly... menacing, even when she means no harm.

Uwaah! I am just going to eat it all! Stop glaring at me, Nyx!

As I ate and ate more, I felt her glare even from behind!

It was as if... a gigantic black dragon red eyes were staring through my all.

And she was drooling at what I ate.

Yet she was restraining herself from not eating it, but still, her very desire materialized itself into this terrifying presence!

My daughter's mighty...

Gosh, what sort of tiny little monster have you created, Crystal?!

Nyx's biological mother, Crystal, must have had an amazing patience to deal with dragon children, they're really quite the handful.

After an hour of swallowing crystals, I had ended.

I sighed in relief, as I rested over the floor. Nyx quickly climbed over my back, chomping my shoulder.

"Mama... hungry..."

"I know you're hungry..."

Now... let's see my Soul Scape and watch how much it has improved!

I looked directly into the Soul Scape.

The place originally resembled a dark place, the sky was purple red, there was black grass growing over the arid land. It looked honestly quite depressing.

But now?!

Now it...

It looked the same?

No wait! There's new things.

There were small saplings growing from the ground.

They were pure black and had purple leaves.

And there were also red, purple, and black flowers...

Indeed, it barely changed, but it changed.

"I think it worked. A thousand A- Rank Magic Crystals did something to your soul by consuming them through placing them inside the Soul Scape!" Tyr mentioned.

"They did?! I don't really feel any different-"

Ding!

[Your Soul Scape has consumed a large quantity of high-quality Magic Power!]

[Your Soul Scape has developed further!]

[Your Soul Scape has developed [Withering Trees of Death] Lesser Spirit Treasure!]

[Your Soul Scape has developed [Red Flowers of Blood] Lesser Spirit Treasure!]

[Your Soul Scape has developed [Purple Flowers of Poison] Lesser Spirit Treasure!]

[Your Soul Scape has developed [Black Flowers of Darkness] Lesser Spirit Treasure!]

[You gained +100 Aether!]

[Your Soul is developing further; it has grown double as big!]

[Your Soul Scape's size has increased accordingly!]

[With each 1 point of Aether over 100, all stats increase by +1000 (invisible buff)]

Woah! There's a bunch of new stuff! Let's begin with the basics, apparently I gain +1000 stats with each point of Aether past 100! This means I already have a bonus of +10k to all stats?! Nice! Although the buff is invisible, so it doesn't show in the status as a whole...

And above all, it seems I got 1 Aether every 100 A- Rank Magic Crystals. I guess I can grind that, though A Rank monsters are super rare out there, I can get a guaranteed amount from this dungeon, and then later from the other I will conquer.

"Hey, what the heck are Spirit Treasures? Those things showed up out of the blue! Do they represent the things that grew inside my Soul Scape?"

"Spirit Treasures? Oh, so you've developed some!"

Tyr seemed to know something about this.

Chapter 562 Spirit Treasures

"Let me explain things! Ehem!" Tyr suddenly got all cocky as he smiled, his smile was creepy, showing serrated jaws smirking on his amorphous ball of darkness body.

"You see, Spirit Treasures is what everyone develops inside their Soul Scape." Said Tyr. "Every being that has one develops them eventually. Usually, gods!"

"Gods?! Wait, so am I...?" I asked.

"Something like that, you're still in the early stages, you're no even one to begin with. But you're getting ahead of them by getting these things before even becoming one! Isn't it nice? Aren't I nice to tell you the big secrets no other god would dare to share with mortals?! Bwahahahaa!" Tyr began to laugh pridefully.

"But tell me what they are then!" I asked angrily.

"R-Right... Ahem." Tyr quickly cleared his throat. "Anyways, Spirit Treasures are that treasures made of spiritual elemental essence, the essence that creates all elements in the world. Gods possess this elemental essence as part of their very lifeblood. Smaller spirits also have them, but in lesser quantities. This is how spirits are so incredible, beings made purely out of an element yet are alive, and are also not even a normal soul either!"

"So these Treasures are made of this spirit essence thing... Do they make me stronger?" I asked.

"Naturally so! Gods of the highest ranks have countless treasures over their Soul Scape. Each one decorates their Soul Scape, which can later evolve into higher forms of internal spaces. Eventually, they are able to harbor physical beings inside. To grow stronger as a god, you cannot simply level up- well, the gods do not possess such power, but you do as you were born a mortal, so if you ever become a goddess, you'll be one of the first that can level up." He said with a smirk.

"Anyways, these Treasures contain special abilities, that enhance your elemental strength or can even produce special energies or even resources. Such resources you can use to craft special things with Spiritual Synthesis and the like." Tyr explained.

"Eh? Spiritual Synthesis? That sounds cool, what is it?" I wondered.

"Well what you just heard. It allows for the convergence of Spiritual Treasures to create brand new Sacred Items, often called Divine Treasures." Said Tyr. "Though that's not something we should discuss, you can't even reach that point yet... For now, "check" the Spirit Treasures. They're Lesser, but they will develop over time as you continue feeding your Soul Scape."

"Ooh! I see... Alright, let me see..."

[Withering Trees of Death (Lesser Spirit Treasure)]

A Lesser Spirit Treasure that contains the Element of Death. It resembles a withering tree with purple leaves. It is dry and can survive without water or sunlight. It might eventually evolve into something of incredible power.

Enhances Death Attribute Power by +10000

Hastens Phantasmal Essence Recovery and Soul Regeneration by +10%

[Red Flowers of Blood (Lesser Spirit Treasure)]

A Lesser Spirit Treasure made of many red-colored flowers resembling red roses containing the Element of Blood. As it evolves, its quantity multiplies.

Flowers Amount: 150

Enhances Blood Attribute Power by +10 with each Flower.

Blood Attribute Magic gains +1 Spirit Power with each Flower.

[Purple Flowers of Poison (Lesser Spirit Treasure)]

A Lesser Spirit Treasure made of many purple-colored flowers resembling purple roses containing the Element of Poison. As it evolves, its quantity multiplies.

Flowers Amount: 150

Enhances Poison Attribute Power by +10 with each Flower.

Poison Attribute Magic gains +1 Spirit Power with each Flower.

[Black Flowers of Darkness (Lesser Spirit Treasure)]

A Lesser Spirit Treasure made of many black-colored flowers resembling black roses containing the Element of Darkness. As it evolves, its quantity multiplies.

Flowers Amount: 150

Enhances Darkness Attribute Power by +10 with each Flower.

Darkness Attribute Magic gains +1 Spirit Power with each Flower.

Each Spirit Treasure was like a little bonus to my elemental power and magic power, and they even could bring special effects. The Withering Tree made my Phantasmal Essence Regeneration faster, alongside my own Soul Regeneration. Both of those are very useful! I am a ghost so with that I can literally regenerate my health faster.

Also, it seems they grant "X Element Power" which simply enhances that element in specific. Each tiny flower enhances it by +10 with their respective element, the more I have, the more bonus I get... But I cannot simply grow them normally, I can tell.

Ah, this new power is really interesting... It reminds me of gacha games where there was always a new way to enhance a character and give them even more stats or effects, each update, most of the time each year, always added this to keep the power creep increasing and give the player something to grind for even when it was virtually the same damn thing all the time.

Nonetheless, it is pretty interesting, the more Spirit Treasures, the more elemental power, the stronger and mightier I become! I guess this is also the key to the god's power, the key to Thor's lightning that could split a giant mountain in two twin mountains was his immense Elemental Power!

I wonder if everyone else could eventually develop their own Soul Scape...

"Right now you barely have a few, but it is interesting that you developed them at all by ingesting such a little amount of power into your Soul Scape. You're indeed very talented. That blessing of Hel must be helping you as well..." Tyr seemed rather amused of my Spirit Treasures.

"Are there ranks in the Spirit Treasures?" I wondered.

"Hmm... Yeah, something like that. Lesser is the lowest, if you develop further, these Lesser Spirit Treasures will increase on power to even higher grades. Naturally, their bonus stat and effects will be enhanced accordingly. Also, Spirit Treasures can evolve and take completely different shapes. Or sometimes, only by merging them with another, you can achieve their evolution..."

"Is there a way to get more aside from... developing them normally?"

"Yes... the Realm of the Spirits and the many other Realms in this world, which are spread across the various Continents have them grow naturally there, in small quantities. They're not treasures for nothing after all. If you ever want them, you'll have to snatch them away!"

I guess this has suddenly become a treasure seeking adventure...

Chapter 563 Soul Scape Skills

After deciding on trying to find Spirit Treasures if I ever come closer to one, I suddenly saw the System's notification, two new Skills were suddenly acquired.

Ding!

[You learned the [Lesser Soul Scape: Lv1] Unique Skill!]

[You learned the [Soul Scape Master: Lv1] Title Skill!]

[Lesser Soul Scape: Lv1]

The Soul Scape are internal pocket dimensions inside of Souls that serve the purpose of growing Spirit Treasures and serving as a home for Spirits and Familiars. The more Spirit Treasures grow naturally, the stronger the user becomes and the higher the availability of materials for the development of strength, material creation, or even the evolution of familiars become.

Only beings with strength that has already reached a power similar to Demi Spirits can develop such a power. However, due to your privileges as a chosen one by the Goddess of Death Hel and by eating the Fragments of the Evil God, you've unlocked this power ahead of the required strength.

Enhances all Spirits and Familiars Stats by +10%, alongside expanding the internal space by +20% and increasing the chances for a Spirit Treasure to evolve or emerge by +5% with each Skill Level. This Skill can Level up by cultivating the Soul and developing it.

So if I get this straight... My Soul Scape enhances the stats of my Familiars and Spirits too? Meaning that my Undead all grow stronger thanks to this?! Wow, well, that's not something I expected. I don't get any bonus myself though? That's kind of unfair!

...However, I guess the Spirit Treasures passive bonuses are good enough for now, to be honest. Maybe I shouldn't be so picky over free stuff. It is not as if this power was supposed to even emerge at my current level or rank, I got it all because I ate the small fragment of a God.

[Soul Scape Master: Lv1]

A Special Title only given to those who have unlocked the Soul Scape within their Mana Crystals. Grants them the ability to see through its interior as if they were the gods of this small land, alongside allowing Spirits and Familiars to enter and rest inside, recovering their energies easily. Increases Mana Recovery Speed by +50% with an additional +10% with each Skill Level. Additionally, enhances all Spirit Treasures Effects by +20% with each Skill Level.

And lastly there's this one, I guess this is the one that grants me this god-like view over the Soul Scape. The place's still very small and arid, so I would rather not put anybody there aside from Undead. It might be a handier place to put them inside than my own shadows, so they can do things in there maybe.

Although it is not really a problem for me to have them at hand, by using the Summon Skill, I can summon Undead that belong to me whenever I am, so I could even just leave them in the city and summon them whenever I require them.

Anyways, the bonuses are nice though, increasing the speed of my automatic Mana recovery is all what matters! The faster it recovers, the faster I can spam magic to my heart's content! Also each level enhances the spirit treasures effects and even adds chances for new ones to pop up

All in all, this was all an amazing investment. I could have gotten so much money out of those thousands of Mana Crystals, but I guess I'll just be missing them for now. Selling the materials of these monsters, such as their bodies, should be enough though... Although making them into powerful high rank Undead could also be a nice idea.

"Ugh, it is so hard to decide!"

"Mama..."

Suddenly, Nyx looked at me with puppy eyes.

"Ah right, okay... Want some breakfast?" I asked.

"Breakfast!" Nyx got excited about food.

She suddenly pointed at a nearby Termite Carcass, as a flow of Phantasmal Essence flew from her hands and reached the corpse. The termite started to slowly begin to move, its eyes flaring with blue-colored will-o-wisps, and then, it stood up.

"Clank clank!"

The termite clicked its mandibles as it ran towards us and then lowered its head, Nyx hopped over it.

"Eh?! You've already figured out Necromancy so quickly..." I sighed. "I guess you're really my daughter!"

Nyx not only inherited powers from Lucifer, but also from me. The very reason why she evolved into her current race and all the skills she has is also because of the power I granted to her egg before hatching.

In fact, she leveled up a lot too... let's check her status.

[Name]: [Nyx Luna]

[Status]: [Hungry]

[Race]: [Three-Eyed Dark Ghost Dragon Princess Vritra]

[Level]: [0/40] -> [26/40]

[Rank]: [B-]

[HP: [55000/55000] -> [133000/133000]

[MP: [110000/110000] -> [188000/188000]

[Attack: [33000] -> [111000]

[Defense: [45000] -> [d0]

[Magic: [67000] -> [145000]

[Agility: [44000] -> [122000]

[Characteristic Skills]: [Dark Element: Lv--] [Death Element: Lv--] [Poison Element: Lv--] [Illusion Element: Lv--] [Fiend Language: Lv3] [Shadow Transportation: Lv3] [Abyssal Dragon Body: Lv10] [Supernatural Senses: Lv4] [Poisonous Scales: Lv3] [Ancient Dragon Heart: Lv--] [Morph: Lv--] [Shapeshift: Lv2] [Super Self-Regeneration: Lv3] [Hardened Dragon Scales: Lv3] [Ancient Death Dragon Domain: Lv3] [Little Gluttony: Lv3] [True Dragon Form: Lv2]

[Resistance Skills]: [Status Effect Immunity: Lv--] [Magic Damage Resistance: Lv3] [All Element Resistance: Lv3] [Poison/Toxin/Venom Absorption: Lv-] [Erosion Resistance: Lv3] [Holy Light Resistance: Lv2]

[Physical Skills]: [Phantasmal Grasp: Lv4] [Phantasmal Limbs: Lv3] [Abyssal Chaos Breath: Lv3] [Phantasmal Death Claws: Lv3] [Venomous Dragon Scale Powder: Lv3] [Third Draconic Eye of Death Perception: Lv2]

[Magical Skills]: [Greater Curse: Lv3] [Life Absorption: Lv4] [Phantasmal Flame: Lv5] [Dark Star: Lv4] [Mana Mastery: Lv3] [Ancient Dragon's Aura: Lv3] [Dark Shadow Spear: Lv4] [Blood Feast: Lv3] [Soul Devourer: Lv2] [Spear of Death: Lv3] [Summon Phantom Dragon Familiar: Lv2] [Fake Life: Lv1] [Shadow Sneak: Lv1]

[Support Skills]: [Shadow Storage: Lv2] [Undead Healing: Lv2] [Summon: Lv2] [Spirit Summon: Lv2] [Materialization: Lv2] [Phantasmal Stomach: Lv2]

[Title Skills]: [Daughter of the Apostle of Death: Lv2] [Little Dragon Princess Of Death and Darkness: Lv2] [Chaos Bringer: Lv2] [Lesser Calamity: Lv2] [Gluttonous Eater: Lv2] [Tail Biter: Lv3] [Dragon Slayer: Lv1] [Plague Slayer: Lv1] [Little Devil: Lv1]

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

Chapter 564 Everybody's Stat Growths

Just by taking a peek at Nyx's stats, I could tell her Stat Growth was insanely high and also... all-rounder. She didn't specialized in anything and merely exceeded at everything. She probably had 3000 Stat Growth for every stat per level. I had already calculated her Stat Growth.

<STAT GROWTH PER LEVEL>

[HP]: 3000

[MP]: 3000

[Attack]: 3000

[Defense]: 3000

[Magic]: 3000

[Agility]: 3000

And for a comparison, these are my own stat growth:

<STAT GROWTH PER LEVEL>

[HP]: 2000

[MP]: 4000

[Attack]: 1500

[Defense]: 1500

[Magic]: 4000

[Agility]: 2000

She's clearly an all-rounder that exceeds at everything. Dragons themselves are like this too. They're just amazing at everything, physical might, defense, magical offense, speed, everything. Coupled with my own specialization with magic, it turned her into a little calamity by itself.

Meanwhile, my specializations are still MP quantity and Magic, I gain a lot each Level. Agility and HP are my second-best stats, while Attack and Defense the worst of the bunch. This growth can easily be reflected on my own stats whenever I take a peek at them.

I had discovered this some time ago already, but everybody simply has their own Stat Growths. They only change once special Passive Skills or Titles are given to them, or once they evolve into higher ranks.

Lucifer, Partner, Emeraldine, Takeshi, Laura, even Onyx and every single Undead in my army all can level up, obviously, each time one levels up, stats are given. These stats are based in their Growth Rates. It is not something that shows up normally, but it is easy to calculate once you compare previous stats with the increase's stats.

That's how I got my own Growth Rates and Nyx's Growth Rates so easily... And well, here's other Growth Rates for better comparison:

Lucifer Growth Rates:

<STAT GROWTH PER LEVEL>

[HP]: 5000

[MP]: 1500

[Attack]: 5000

[Defense]: 5000

[Magic]: 2000

[Agility]: 2000

Partner's Growth Rates:

<STAT GROWTH PER LEVEL>

[HP]: 3000

[MP]: 2000

[Attack]: 4000

[Defense]: 2000

[Magic]: 2500

[Agility]: 5000

Emeraldine's Growth Rates:

<STAT GROWTH PER LEVEL>

[HP]: 1000

[MP]: 3000

[Attack]: 3000

[Defense]: 1000

[Magic]: 3000

[Agility]: 3500

By just seeing their Growth Rates, it is very easy to figure out their specializations! Even if he's a Dragon, Lucifer specializes in defense and offensive might, he's our major tank too. Then comes Partner, she's an agile offensive fighter that pierces a foe's weak spots with her flashy speed. Lastly, Emeraldine is very frail, but she has a good balance between Attack, Magic, and Agility, perfect for a Magic Bow User.

I had calculated their Stat Growths after checking their stats upon leveling up after this whole ordeal... And now that Nyx was ordering me to make breakfast, I couldn't spend all time looking at other people's status, I was honestly also quite hungry.

"Alright Nyx, let's make- Huh?!"

Suddenly, I noticed several of the carcasses of the monsters had risen as Undead just now. An army of a dozen of Termites were gathering around Nyx, lowering their heads to her as if she was their princess. The turtles were also nearby, and even the big lizards. I guess she has made herself a little army of around thirty Undead.

She wasn't capable of this before, but through leveling up she learned skills automatically, such as Fake Life, the one which she has been playing around with just recently. Many more Undead popped up almost automatically, all serving her with loyalty.

That's actually nice, my Undead Queen Skill should actually make them my allies instead almost forcefully, but perhaps because she has the Title of being my daughter, that power is also passed to her and both don't overlap.

It is as if I was assigning Nyx her own squad of bodyguards! However, she's so strong that I doubt any of these little guys could ever protect her as well as she can protect herself.

I quickly brought out several things from my Inventory and began cooking breakfast. I decided to go for something more simple this time, scrambled eggs, bacon, and grilled meat of course, we've got some

rather intense meat eaters that desire meat even in breakfasts. Aside from that, I quickly began baking some bread I made myself right there.

The bread was growing spongy because I added yeast I created using [Disease and Poison Creation] which allows for the creation of bacteria and fungi. The name of the skill might seem deadly and lethal, but once I got the hang of it, I can purposely create yeast and other friendly bacteria to help create spongy bread, wine, yogurt, cheese, and more almost instantly at that!

That's why aside from the spongy bread I was baking, I took out two large bottle with white and creamy yogurt, some fruits, fresh white cheese and yellow parmesan cheese, and even a little bottle of wine for me.

"Phew! Ah, nothing better than getting drunk in the morning!" I sighed in relief, as I quickly saved the bottle inside my Inventory once I noticed Nyx looking at me confusedly.

"A-Anyways! Everyone, wake up!" I called everyone, as they slowly started to wake up. Brunhild and Lucifer were on their big and fat dragon forms, so they were so big they hit the ceiling once they sat down.

BAAAAM!

"Ouch..." Brunhild cried. "Huh? Ah... Did I fell asleep in this form? My bad." Lucifer's big sister apologized.

"We should get to a smaller form for now. Oh, that smells nice!" Lucifer quickly came to sit down around the large table I brought out.

"Oh, what's that white creamy stuff?" Asked Partner, looking at the yogurt.

"That's yogurt!" I said with a nod.

"Y-Yogurt?! When did you made it?" Emeraldine asked, suddenly beginning to drool.

"Like a few days ago? It is still fresh and ready to eat. Come, I've got some fruit to add to it, and also fruit jam and corn flakes the dwarves buy from Goldsand." I said with a smile.

"Cornflakes... This is all so new! And it goes well with yogurt!" Emeraldine seemed to love yogurt, eating it with everything offered.

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Chapter 565 Beautiful Greenery

"I used to eat yogurt with my family..." Sighed Emeraldine. "When I was a little girl, my uncle and my mom always gave me yogurt with fruits for breakfast... It is a nostalgic flavor."

Emeraldine ate the spoonful of yogurt with berries on top, licking her lips happily. She was certainly having a good time and enjoying herself.

"Alright, here's more! Now I've finally figured out one of your favorite meals, ufufufu!" I giggled. As her wife, I had to know these kinds of things to make her mornings happier. "I think I could make flavored yogurt next... Strawberry or peach flavored yogurt might be possible..."

"Flavored yogurt?! Is that a thing?" Wondered Emeraldine. "Yes please, I want that too..."

"Sure!"

"Hey, my favorite food is blood by the way~!" Partner said.

"I know..." I sighed. "It is a great deal of trouble to secure you blood as it is!"

"Ehehehe..." Partner giggled with some hints of embarrassment.

"Anyways, let's go back to more serious conversations." Lucifer said. "Now that we are done leveling up here, we should quickly go to see the fields and how they're doing. After that, maybe we should take a day off before departing into the dungeon inside of the country. The faster we conquer that dangerous nest of Miasma, the safer the country will be from suddenly getting attacked by monsters."

"Yeah, the dwarves must be our top priority in helping, I agree." Brunhild said. "I have made a pact with their ancient King to protect their country, so it is the least I could do for them before departing and staying with you guys for longer time."

"If their country suddenly is destroyed, we'll lose so many opportunities as well!" Sighed Partner.

"And Helga and our Guild, they're also our friends." Said Emeraldine.

"Of course, I was already planning that anyways! Why else would I have wanted to come level up here quickly?" I asked with a prideful smile.

"Oh, another dungeon then?!" Wondered Takeshi.

"I wonder if are up for the task though..." Laura wondered.

"You two and Onyx should suffice, you've leveled up enough, just remember to stay behind us and support us with your Skills from afar for the most part." I said with a nod.

"CRAAAAH!"

Onyx had became large now, he was the size of a cow and his black feathers were shiny and beautiful. He resembled a majestic bird by now, a mix between a crow and a phoenix. He's only there to support the twins more than anything, I don't think they need more help than Onyx, which can also cover wide distances using his magic and amazingly sharp gaze, and of course his flight.

After we were done having breakfast, we decided to move out right away. This time, Lancelot came with us while we left the Abyss Ant Zombies mining for more ores which regenerate at a rather fast pace.

Now that the dungeon core is emptied of its MP, it won't be summoning any weird monsters any time soon, so we can relax.

We quickly traveled upstairs, reaching the second floor. The forest was as calm as I remember, but the Undead Skeletons have already begun preparing the soil, plowing the empty land that I had left from cutting so many trees.

"Oh they're already halfway through! Did they spend the entire night doing this?" Asked Emeraldine.

"Yeah, once they learned how to do it they can easily replicate it themselves without problem." I nodded.

Nyx was still with her army of bodyguard Undead, but I was mustering the resolve to tell her to leave them behind or store her in her shadows. She liked to show them off, so she's going to get slightly mad.

"Nyx, baby, we are getting close to the outside, how about you store the undead inside your shadows? Like mama does?" I asked her.

"Nuh!" Nyx said while denying my request.

"She's really attached to them..." I sighed.

"Hm, Nyx, don't be like this. It is so people are not scared of monsters crawling around..." Lucifer added.

"Nuh!" Nyx continued being rebellious.

"Well then, if you don't do it like mama and papa told you, then there's not going to be any meat for lunch... nor dinner." I said while crossing my arms.

"EEEEH?!" Nyx quickly took the bait, getting all angered.

"So?" I asked her. "You don't have to get rid of them or something. Whenever we get back home you can hang around with them anywhere."

"Yeah, we were going to have such a delicious meat for this lunch and dinner, what a pity if my daughter wouldn't get to eat it with us." Lucifer added.

"Mwuhh..." Nyx seemed slightly sad, but her shadows quickly stretched out of her body as if they were a spider net, in seconds, all the Undead disappeared and she flapped her wings, reaching my arms.

"What a good girl."

"Well done."

We praised her for doing as we told her, it was essential to always praise children for anything they do right, so they can learn it is the right thing to do too. Children are very often desperate for attention after all, Nyx probably wanted the attention of all her Undead Friends.

"Hehehe..."

She went from sad to happy as she received our love and attention. We quickly made our way to the first floor, and there it was, the beautiful field of veggies, fruits, and tuber plants we have planted just yesterday.

Many of them had already sprouted, and the fields were covered by small green leaves everywhere. It was a beautiful scenario, too beautiful to be honest.

The clear sky, the bright sunlight, the sound of the rivers in the background... I wouldn't mind spending the rest of my eternity in such a relaxed and lay back manner.

"It seems everything has grown a lot already!" Takeshi said happily, wandering around the fields.

"Yeah, this is amazing!" Laura happily said, wandering around as well.

"Uwaaaah! Gwreeeen!" Nyx said, as she admired the greenery.

Chapter 566 A Mysterious Voice

Of course, there were also a dozen of skeletons wandering around leisurely. The two things contrasted a little bit, I wouldn't blame someone if they saw it ruined the view. But these skeletons had the job of watering the plans and eliminating any pest they find in the way of the veggies.

"It is growing well!" Emeraldine began wandering around the fields happily, inspecting every plant using her abilities. "They might be fully grown in about a week from now- Oh!"

We quickly noticed certain patches of the fields where plants were growing more rapidly and larger than in other places. These were the areas where we placed the dust made from the magic ores we mined, the Rainbow Crystals, Earth Topaz, and Turtle Shell Stones.

Apparently, Rainbow Crystals gave the most enchantment. The small sprouts were flowing with a rainbow aura as well. Upon inspecting, it was revealed the aura of rainbow color covering the sprouts was called [Multicolor Aura of Life] and it enhanced the growth of all plants it covered by +100%, while imbuing into them Spiritual Energy.

"Woow! This is amazing! Rainbow Crystals seem to be the most effective in this regard!" Emeraldine seemed naturally drawn into the plants, which now emanated Spiritual Energy.

Wait... wait a second.

They emanate spiritual energy?

Could they be Spirit Treasures?!

I tried checking the plants growing, they were tomato plants, some potatoes, and onions. However, it still said they were merely magic plants, not spirit plants.

Ah, I got excited over nothing!

We quickly moved to the other plant patches. The patch with the Earth Topaz dust turned into a [Earthy Aura] which enhanced the Plants Durability by +200%, making them able to withstand the lack of water, sunlight, and even resist the bites of pest and keep themselves pristine.

They didn't got the buff of the Rainbow Crystals in terms of speed and quality enchantment. But it was certainly true what Helga had said, Earth Topaz is the best ore if you want to help plants grow in the most unwelcome of places, such as the top of mountains. I guess this is why they're so essential.

We've got tons of Earth Topaz from the mining the Ants did, and we'll keep getting a steady supply. I know the skeletons won't be able to fight all the pests that will show up here, so I might as well leave them around a hundred Earth Topaz and some Phantasmal Familiars to crush the topazes and then make them into dust.

Phantasmal familiars are the best at distributing this, as they can just easily fly anywhere. Rainbow Crystals are too rare, even after the Ant's mining, we only secured twenty, and they're too precious as they can be used for a variety of alchemy items I want, so sadly I'll be keeping them for now- Wait, a second, can't we just mix them up? I'll leave five Rainbow Crystals and mix them with the hundred Earth Topazes, might as well just mix everything. Even if the effects will become thinner, it is better than nothing.

And lastly, Turtle Shell Stone seemed to create a [Long Life Aura] which made plants have higher vitality, increasing it by +200% and also giving them regeneration abilities. This means we could breed our own medicinal plants, vegetables, tubers, or fruits by using these stones! They're just as rare as Rainbow Crystals, if not more, as the Ants couldn't find any in this dungeon's third floor mines. Which only means they don't even grow in this dungeon and we need to find them outside.

I gave out only two of them to mix with the others, hopefully some of the veggies turn to become medicinal. I could sell those at even higher prices. The rest of the Turtle Shell Stones will remain with me for now. I think I could use them either for alchemy or... I don't know, give lifespan to someone? Maybe the old grandmas and grandpas at my village, although evolving and leveling give more lifespan and can even rejuvenate.

As my Phantom Familiars began to spread the dust made out of mixed ores, we quickly decided to go back to the dwarven city. The beautiful fields were rather relaxing to be around, most of us didn't wanted to leave so soon, so we took a relaxing stroll around.

"Rat!"

Nyx began chasing around a wandering rat, while Takeshi and Laura were playing around with Onyx. Partner, Emeraldine, and Brunhild were talking about how to keep their hair clean. Emeraldine shared her secret of using oil extract from medicinal herbs using alchemy.

Meanwhile, Lucifer and I were walking around while keeping an eye on Nyx. As strong as she is, she might get into trouble anyways, we wouldn't want that to happen to our dear daughter.

Nonetheless, I still remember something that happened yesterday.

When we were done with the fields and all, some hours later, I felt "something". It was a presence directly linked yet not to the dungeon.

It was strange... I wonder what it was.

I thought something might come out, but nothing has really happened yet.

Maybe it was my imagination?

"Hey Nyx, don't get into the forest now!"

Lucifer began chasing down Nyx to not let her get lost inside the forest, as I was left alone while looking at the fields calmly.

"Help..."

And as I was- Huh?

"It hurts..."

What is that voice?

"Guuhh..."

I quickly began looking around, trying to find some clues as to where that voice was coming from. It was so faint and small yet so close. I looked back at the rest of my group, everyone didn't noticed anything, not even Emeraldine with her amazing hearing abilities.

"Must have been my imagination?"

No...

That voice was surely something deeper, like a soul asking for help.

"Hello? Who's there?"

I continued chasing this little presence, getting inside the fields, until I suddenly stumbled upon something.

There was a small sapling, I think it was... an apple tree.

It was black, dry, and withered, and a bit of miasma was coming out of the dirt in there.

The tree was more than dead now, it didn't emanated any aura of life at all.

Yet... it spoke to me?

"I don't want to die..."

Chapter 567 A New Little Companion

All multi-cellular life have souls. It is something I have learned after becoming a Ghost. Plants are included. However, bacteria and other little things seem to not possess one, or it is so small I simply cannot see it. But there's a logic behind souls. Living beings can live without one, as long as their very existences are not complex. Bacteria live by very simplistic chemical compounds, perhaps their complexity hasn't allowed them to develop proper souls.

Meanwhile, mostly all multicellular life, down to the smallest little bug or worm have a soul. Plants are included, of course. They all have souls, when I cut down a tree, I am killing a living being, and I can even see their souls come out of their bodies and fly away somewhere.

Plant souls and most other souls of living creatures that are not intelligent at all yet are still complex, are very dull. They usually don't get closer to me and often simply fly away somewhere else. They lack egos, personalities, emotions, or minds. So they're like the wind and simply disappear. They don't grow grudges or anything of the sort, even if they're killed gruesomely by being chopped down.

It is a bit sad but, I always wondered if there would ever be something different, a different plant. I have yet to find plant-type monsters to turn Undead now and had never crossed in my mind to get myself a dead tree into a zombie tree or something, mostly because a walking pile of wood would be too weak to ice, fire, and a lot of other things. Too frail.

But this is... It's different.

This little tree has a mind, and feelings, and it was asking for my help.

Like the Undead Queen I am, I somehow feel pity for innocent souls that are in pain. Of course, those that aren't innocent are none of my concern. But this little one...

I found this small apple tree sapling growing from the corner of the fields, the dirt beneath had a bit of Miasma in there. The sapling seems to have been intoxicated and died on the spot.

Yet its soul had yet to leave the dead body, and was somehow climbing to it while asking for someone to come to help the little thing.

"Don't worry... [Purification]"

FLASH!

I conjured [Purification] from my [Purifier of Chaos] Title and quickly cleansed all the miasma in the soil and on top of the dead sapling, and then I sighed.

"Well, you're certainly unique if you've got a mind of your own... [Transfiguration of Death]"

FLUOSH!

Phantasmal Powers surged from my hands, as I decided to raise this little sapling as an Undead. There were no recipes for it though, mostly because I had never risen a Plant-type Undead before, this was the first ever.

Undead Creation Recipes only show up once the type of Undead that can be risen is unlocked within the Soul Grimoire, this little sapling had no recipes other than being made into an Undead in the most classic of ways.

Crack... CRACK!

Suddenly, the sapling grew thrice as big, as long as 30 centimeters. The soft body suddenly grew a slightly thick wooden coverture, as the branches grew several tiny dark blue leaves. Its roots slowly began to come out of the floor, shaping into two funny-looking legs, and then, it suddenly grew one branch in the middle with a tiny leaf at the tip of it, like a nose, while two empty holes surged at each left and right side, a small curling mouth appeared, with sharp wooden teeth.

It looked so cute!

"Gyugyuh... Thank you... for giving second chance! Master!"

The little tree began speaking right away! Usually Undead of this Rank can't even speak at all. Only the smartest souls can speak. Even zombies that used to be people can't talk, and only in very rare cases they can develop complex thoughts and personalities.

The thirty-centimeters-tall, little walking tree reached my legs and suddenly hugged my legs with his branches, which stretched into many leaves. It seemed rather affectionate. And it was so cute!

Ding!

[You have raised the [Lesser Treant (Special): Lv1] [Rank: E+] Undead Monster!]

[You have unlocked Plant-type Undead Recipes]

[You have risen a Seed of Calamity-type Undead Monster!]

[You acquired the Title [Calamity Kindergarten: Lv1]!]

Wait, what?! Calamity?! This little thing was a Calamity?!

H-Hold up, let me check those stats right away!

"Right, a name..." I sighed, looking at the little Treant. "Alright, how about... Groot? No that's copyrighted... Alright, Root it is! Easy enough."

"Gyugyuh!"

[You have named [Lesser Treant (Special): Lv1] [Rank: E+] as [Root]!]

[The [Lesser Treant (Special): Lv1] [Rank: E+] has been granted a [True Name]!]

[The [Lesser Treant (Special): Lv1] [Rank: E+] acquired the [Treant Progenitor: Lv1] Title Skill!]

[The [Lesser Treant (Special): Lv1] [Rank: E+] acquired the [Forest Master: Lv1] Title Skill!]

"Would you look at you! You even got two Title Skills- Wait a second... Three Skills?!"

Ding!

[The [Lesser Treant (Special): Lv1] [Rank: E+] acquired the [Spirit Nest: Lv1] Characteristic Skill!]

What the hell...? What's that mysteriously interesting Skill name?

A-Anyways, I should check his status...

[Name]: [Root]

[Status]: [Cursed]

[Race]: [Lesser Treant (Special)]

[Level]: [0/20]

[Rank]: [E+]

[HP]: [25/25]

[MP]: [40/40]

[Attack]: [25]

[Defense]: [30]

[Magic]: [30]

[Agility]: [15]

[Aether]: [2]

[Characteristic Skills]: [Dark Element: Lv--] [Nature Element: Lv--] [Seed of Calamity: Lv1] [Spirit Nest: Lv1]

[Resistance Skills]: [Physical Resistance: Lv1] [Magical Resistance: Lv1] [Status Effect Resistance: Lv1]

[Physical Skills]: [Uproot: Lv1] [Rest: Lv1] [Wooden Needle: Lv1]

[Magical Skills]: [Sharp Leaf Projectile: Lv1] [Relaxing Aroma: Lv1]

[Support Skills]: [Healing Leaf: Lv1]

[Title Skills]: [Servant of the Apostle of Death: Lv1] [Treant Progenitor: Lv1] [Forest Master: Lv1]

[Description]

A Dead Tree that has been risen as an Undead. Instead of becoming an Undead, however, it has mutated into a new type of living monster, a Lesser Treant. They often stand still and absorb the vitality of nearby trees in the forests. They're known as pests in the Alfheim Continent, where Elves constantly have to hunt their many variants.

However, amongst all Treants, it is said there's a special one, a Treant Progenitor, said within myths to be the Seed of Calamity.

Chapter 568 Little Root

Little Root had several interesting Skills I had never seen before to be honest. I guess those are unique to a Treant! Seed of Calamity though... seems like a passive that boost his earned EXP and stat growth. Pretty handy so he can grow quickly. He got Physical and Magical Resistance right away, and even status effect resistance.

Then Uproot is the ability to uproot himself and walk in two legs. Rest allows him to... rest? If he goes to sleep, his HP and MP recovery are increased by x2, seems to increase with every level. Wooden Needle is the offensive Skill, it allows him to shoot needles made of wood that deal physical damage.

Sharp Leaf Projectile is the magic version of Wooden Needle, but it seems that it can summon several leaves at once, so it is actually quite stronger. Relaxing Aroma makes it so Root emanates a sweet and relaxing aroma, which calms down the anger of monsters and might even put them on a dazzle. Allies in the other side are able to focus their minds better without letting fear take over their minds, also HP and MP Recovery speed increases.

Healing Leaf is... the ability to create a leaf that once eaten can restore a bit of HP! That's interesting. It seems Root can just create this leaf as much as MP he has. It is a new sort of material we could use for alchemy. The higher the level, the more quality and healing will give.

Lastly, Treant Progenitor gives him some sort of authority over other Treant-type monsters we might encounter, while enhancing his stat growth and EXP earned once more. And then at the end of all, Forest Master gives him some sort of power up when we are inside forests, while giving him the ability to guide himself easily around, so we can't get lost. Kind of like the Lumberjack Title.

But there's another Skill that caught my attention, Spirit Nest. It was a Skill that Root just acquired. I seemed to be more than its simple name suggested.

[Spirit Nest: Lv1]

The user has become connected with Nature and the Spirits themselves, becoming a natural nest for them. Spirits of Nature and other elements might naturally come to the user's aid once they are in a pinch, be it in combat or something else. Enhances chances for Spirits to come to the user's aid by +20% with an additional +5% chance for them to stay permanently with each Skill Level. Additionally, enhances Spirits Magic Power by +200%.

Wow, yeah, it is an amazing Skill! This little tree will become the nest of spirits in the future!

"I've hit the jackpot by finding you out of nowhere Root! But how come a Calamity Seed just showed out of nowhere? I can't believe my luck..."

"Gyugyuh... Dunno!" Root seemed like a clueless child.

"Hey Maria, what are you doing over there?"

Lucifer called to me as he suddenly noticed the little walking tree at my feet.

"What is that thing?!" He asked in surprise.

"Woow!" Nyx ran towards Root, as she began to touch his branches.

"Gyugyuhhh..." Root seemed timid, running away from her, which only made her want to chase him around more.

"It is a Lesser Treant I just raised. It was just a tiny tree that died, it suddenly called for me for some reason. Trees usually don't have minds like these, right?" I asked.

"Yeah... Unless they're Spirit Trees, but those often are only from the Alfheim Continent." Lucifer analyzed. "Maybe we should show the Treant to Emeraldine... Nyx! Don't terrorize that thing..."

Lucifer quickly stopped Nyx from annoying Root, as we walked away from the fields. When Emeraldine was able to check on Root, she felt surprised.

"I had never seen something like this before! A living and walking tree... Though, I remember my mother once told me about them, they were called false trees, and they often camouflaged as normal trees and attacked unsuspecting people." Emeraldine said. "It is an interesting new Undead, though it is very weak compared to other Undead you've risen recently."

"Yeah I mean it was just a tiny sapling, but I might as well invest on him and help him level up... I heard there's several dungeons from low level to high level in the dwarven city, we could take a break while visiting those." I said with a smile.

"Eh? Why are you so invested on this little thing?" Wondered Lucifer.

"Yeah it looks weak and boring!" Partner said while crossing her arms.

"Gyugyuuuhhh..." Root suddenly began crying.

"Come on Partner don't be so rude with the child!" I reprimanded Partner, as she felt slightly taken aback by my reaction.

"A-Ah, sorry..." She apologized.

At the end, I explained to them what Root truly was and also his Skills, which were all very Unique, especially Spirit Nest.

"Spirit Nest?!" Asked Emeraldine. "That's a powerful Skill only the highest Nature Beings can develop... I think only the Elven Empress has that Skill as well! What an incredible surprise."

"This little thing has it?" Asked Lucifer.

"It also has a Calamity Seed Skill, this thing is a small calamity, but how?" Wondered Brunhild.

"That means that with Nyx we've got two Calamities? Cool!" Said Takeshi.

"I don't know if it is that cool though..." Laura sighed.

"I felt some weird feeling, as if a strange concentration of Miasma emerged yesterday but it hid somewhere... Maybe this Dungeon still had this Calamity Seed thing, whatever it truly looks like. It ended expulsing it somewhere else and it randomly landed in this sapling that died due to overcharge of Miasma and Mana... And then when I raised it, everything just came together." I theorized.

"Maybe but it still rather too convenient... There must be something more complex than just pure coincidence." Said Lucifer.

"Well, we can discuss it as we walk outside, let's go."

For now, we all went back to the surface and then flew back to the Dwarven Country to meet with Aquamarine and the rest in her mansion.

Chapter 569 An Unexpected Offer

Once things were settled we came back to Aquamarine to report her our job was done. I told her I would be inspecting every 24/7 using Undead and Phantom Familiars, and that the first crops should begin emerging in a week from now. With this information, Aquamarine, the old lady, was finally able to relax, quickly telling the news to Ruby as the gorgeous red-headed dwarf lady came running here at the same time as Helga and the rest of our guild decided to come to visit us as well.

"So things have wrapped up quite nicely. A week from now is a very short time, are you sure you want to tell the nobles this?" Asked Ruby. "They'll take it for granted, if you don't do it they'll begin complaining again. Some are a bit crazy so they might even try to take over your dungeon and that'll only make more disputes... I wish our father could do something about it, but he's sure a lazy old man."

"Don't worry, I can feel the crops and their vitality, they'll be ready to harvest in six days, actually, but giving them an extra week would be better." Emeraldine said.

"H-How much will we get from all of it?" Aquamarine wondered.

"Probably over a thousand crops?" I asked. "I know it is small, but we can probably harvest three or four times a month."

"T-That means three thousand crops a month?!" Asked Ruby. "And a year... 36 thousand?! Wait, how many crops of what vegetables?"

"Well..." Emeraldine began thinking. "A single crop of potatoes is a large set of several potatoes stuck together, usually a dozen. Tomatoes single crop is over twenty fresh tomatoes, corns too, and like that..."

"So that's... 360 thousand, maybe even half a million a year vegetables, fruits, and tubers all at once..." Said Aquamarine.

"T-That's..." Ruby muttered.

"Is it bad? I guess it is... There's still a lot more space in the first and second floor, we are expanding there too. I think we might be able to multiply the yields up to four to five times once the expansion is completely finished." I nodded. "Also the third floor has mining fields where elemental spirits and even

rainbow crystals grow naturally every few days or weeks, so we can keep mining them endlessly as long as we wait for them to regenerate naturally."

I knew that it wasn't going to be enough, half a million crops is completely garbage as a number for a country with over a million inhabitants. We need to hasten the production even more. but even if we multiply it... people usually eat vegetables every day, we might not even be able to supply everyone even then. I would hate if my vegetables became something only nobles can enjoy. I have to try to give it to the poorest of commoners as well.

"I know it is not enough, okay? I can't do much about it..." I sighed.

Remember back then in Earth, there was probably billions a year to feed a single country, or even trillions, so compared to what people on Earth can do, I am completely and utterly pathetic, yep.

"Not enough...?" Aquamarine asked with a trembling voice.

"M-Maria, do you understand what you're even talking about?" Ruby wondered.

Oof, both got angry. Did they seriously expected to get a billion crops a year?

"Listen I can't just give you a billion crops okay? It is not something realistically possibly right now. Maybe if we conquer the second dungeon..." I said while thinking.

"Maria snap out of it! They're surprised because it is a ridiculous amount!" Helga reprimanded me.

"Eh?! It is?" I asked while raising an eyebrow. "I am fairly sure it cannot feed everyone every day though, right?"

"Girl, we don't need to eat vegetables every damn day..." Sighed Aquamarine.

"Maria the amount you're offering was already ridiculous and then you multiplied it even more..." Ruby sighed. "With this amount our country could even export it and sell it to other countries. In fact, through transactions we could even open opportunities for peace with the human nations!"

"Peace is always better than ambiguously being enemies." Sighed Aquamarine. "Money always talks better than words most of the time in this world."

"Nonetheless, this is incredible. Maria, thank you so much for offering all of us this opportunity. We'll make sure to pay you well- in fact, how about increasing the amount we pay you? With the amount you'll be providing and all..." Ruby seemed too excited.

"Yeah, sure, I guess. I am still keeping a big part for myself. I've got people to take care of and also want to build my own big capital, doing transactions with other places will eventually be a thing. Iceland Kingdom seems like the closest for that so I might as well aim at them." I said with a nod.

"Sure thing! But I feel this is just not enough... Ah, I've seen you have wives and husbands, would you be interested in taking my hand? I will be a good wife. It is the least I can do to repay you! If you marry me you could even become a noble yourself!" Ruby suddenly and out of nowhere offered her hand to me, looking at me with her bright eyes.

"Huh?"

I was still processing what she just said, while everyone else behind me was just as flabbergasted.

"EEEEHHHH?!"

It was as if everyone joined together for a chorus, their reaction was to be expected, I had also joined them in such a thing.

"W-Wait a second there!" Lucifer quickly tried to stop her.

"We never talked about this!" Emeraldine angrily said.

"You're overdoing it!" Partner was angry as well.

"E-Eh? I was?" Ruby was confused. "I apologize I just... it feels like the right thing, right? Political marriages are a logical step!"

"Sorry Ruby, your life is not an object to go offering it like that. I am happy with those I have right now." I decided to just reject her offer.

Chapter 570 Discussion

"Oh what a pity! I hope you don't accept the advances of other nobles though..." Ruby sighed.

"So you were just trying to secure me all for yourself, huh?" I sighed. "Anyways, we were thinking on going to conquer the Sealed Dungeon tomorrow, or past tomorrow. For now I kind of want to go explore low ranked dungeons with my party, I've got a little friend I want to power level."

Root was already wandering around. He was quite the noticeable one, as he was a tiny walking tree. Every single servant in the house was looking at him with wide eyes. A maidservant even dropped the things she was carrying out of the surprise Root caused to her as she saw him at the other side of the corridor.

"Gyugyuh..."

But now he has relaxed and was drinking honey. It seems he like sweet things, especially if they're not processed and natural. Honey, tree sap, and fruits are his favorite meals. It could be said he's a cannibal...

"Power level that tree? Why? It is just one of the many monsters you have, right? Why that one in specific?" Wondered Aquamarine.

"It is a very special monster, that's all." I smiled. "I'll just go after we have an early lunch. How about we begin preparations?"

"Heh, alright. I was also thinking that you should buy yourself a noble title, with the money you'll be earning, you might end up being as rich as the other princes." Aquamarine laughed. "With your money and your prestige, your guild might become comparable to our own very soon, if not surpass it eventually... the profits we are making won't even compare once you begin mass producing more and more crops and mine resources inside an endlessly producing cave of that dungeon. Owning a dungeon like that really feels unfair!"

The old dwarf grandma began to complain a bit over the unfairness of life. But well, that's just how things are. Some win and others lose, bwahahaha! ...Although she has so much already that she doesn't even have the rights to complain at this point.

"Anyways! For now let's enjoy the rest of the day." Ruby smiled. "Servants! Please begin preparing lunch for today, a feast to celebrate our future prospects!"

"Hey lass don't go ordering MY servants!" Aquamarine said angrily. "...And yeah, do that."

Maidservants and butlers quickly ran off to prepare everything, as Ruby began talking about a topic I was more interested into, regarding the Frost Queen.

"I've got news about the Frost Queen."

"That was... quick."

"Indeed. First of all, I've already reported what you fought and saw with the other nobles and even father and mother, the King and Queen. Showing them the ring really did the trick to believe what you said, and they had already begun preparations. They'll reinforce the defenses of all our country and the cities across the mountain. We'll be also sending expeditions group made of seasoned explorers with advanced high-quality golems to the surrounding lands, to find any clues about the Frost Queen." She said.

"Well I am glad everything went well..." I sighed.

I had expected some news regarding her though.

Veredorr, the Dhampir that used to be friends with the Ice Giants and got killed doesn't remember where the dungeon is, so I cannot really get any info from him. He's most of the time sleeping though, so he's not that cooperative unless I call him to fight. I've already read his mind but I haven't gotten anything new.

"Aaaand, they found clues right away." She said with a smile. Ruby quickly brought out a magic artifact which quickly projected a 3D Map with several red dots everywhere, showcasing everything in fine detail.

"Oooh, this is amazing..." Partner was surprised.

"I have never seen something so detailed before, only Maria's Map Skill." Said Emeraldine.

"It is even more detailed than that Map Skill though!" Lucifer added.

"Amusing, dwarves technology is truly incredible." Said Brunhild.

"Wow! Can we watch TV in there? I want to watch Mazinger Z! And Astroboy!" Wondered Takeshi.

"TV?" Ruby asked while raising an eyebrow. "What's that?"

"Ah... Err, nothing." Laura quickly made it so Takeshi just made up that word.

"Anyways, the team that we sent just a day ago already got some clues. Their special scouting golems already found a large area emanating a large quantity of Mana in the northeast of the mountains, a place surrounded by enormous trees and filled to the brim with monster nests of Ice Wolves, Frost Bears, White Wild Boars, Ice Gorillas, and many other ferocious monsters, some up to B+ Rank, or more... They were only able to see a large quantity of Mana and even... Miasma overflowing from that place. The same amount of Miasma Dungeons often emanate." Said Ruby.

"What? That's insane..." I said. "So you really found something!"

"A Dungeon though?" Wondered Partner.

"I remember you told me that the Ice Giants live inside a Dungeon, right? And inside that dungeon there's a Frost Tower where the Crown of Skadi was found by this certain Ice Giant girl that went insane..." Said Ruby. I had explained what Veredorr knew to her and everyone else. Partner simply didn't remember most likely. "As we have speculated, that woman might be growing into becoming a Calamity-level entity and she's already slowly planning to overtake this entire area of the continent where we are making our homes. To make things worse, Vampires are cooperating with them. That Bandit Hideout was just the beginning, like they were merely testing the waters..."

"Yeah, I am sure that woman has the intentions of annihilating us. She's a total warmonger filled with the desire to conquest. Perhaps part of the brainwashing the crown is giving to her head." I sighed. "Veredorr told me she didn't used to be like this."

"Indeed... it might be the power of the crown. Divine Artifacts possess incredible powers. But most of them were left behind for a reason, they're defective. I've heard in myths about a similar item in our Dwarven history, an ancient Dwarf King named Fafnir was incredibly greedy, and wore a legendary Golden Crown of Odin. However the crown cursed him and turned him into a fearful dragon instead. Divine Artifacts are not items made for our mortal hands to reach... They will only bring disasters or transform us into monsters, making us forget our families and everyone we love."