A Ghost 581

Chapter 581 Wiping Out The Entire Mor	nster Population
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As I had deactivated the barrier once Root told me to not interfere, dozens more of Spear Fishes rushed
forward right at the moment Root finished the five he had stuck over his body. However, as he fought
them, he suddenly began crumbling apart!

"ROOT!"

"No need to help me, master! I want to... fight! I want to earn my weight! Gyugyuh!"

Crack... CRACK!

As his body started crumbling apart, Root ferociously battle the Spear Fishes. I wanted to help him but somehow I felt like I would be offending his battle spirit in this moment.

CRAASH! CRAASH! CRAASH!

He continued battling the Spear Fishes, several of them ended being impaled as Root grew sharp spear branches all across his body. However, many other Fishes managed to pierce through his body, his wooden body cracking more and more as he desperately absorbed their health and ate his own leaves.

"Gyugyuuuuuhh!"

SPLAAASH!

However, it was too late, a dozen more Spear Fishes surged from the water, and then pierced from below the Lily Pad that Root was standing on, piercing through all of his body.

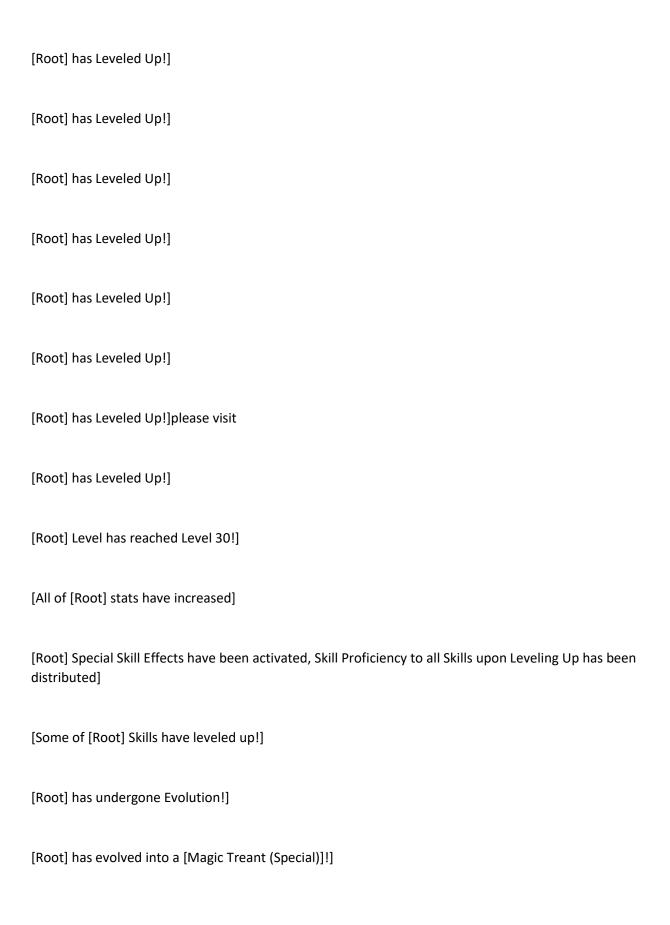
"G-Gyuh..."

"Okay that's enough!"
I was about to step in, but then I saw Root's branches absorbing the fish's life until they became dried fish, falling apart into pieces.
At the same time, his body reached its limit.
Crack!
Wait, is he actually going to die?!
Crack!
But this feeling
Crack CRACK!
As Root's body crumbled apart completely, bright light surged from within his cracks!
FLAAASH!
His body began growing larger and larger, reaching over four meters of height. His wood suddenly became darker and more resilient, like stone. His legs became bigger and stronger, and now he had four of them. His branches grew upwards, now resembling a fully adult tree! And his dark blue leaves shone brightly, waving around.

His face remained the same, with a sharp and long branch nose and two empty holes for his eyes, alongside a crack-looking mouth with a silly-looking smile. However, above his forehead there was a

small red jewel.

"Did he just evolved?!" Asked Partner.
"Woah, he did!" Emeraldine said. "Such a beautiful and lustrous tree body!"
"You're such reckless dummy!" I sighed, giving him a smack in the tree-like body.
SMACK!
CRACK!
"GYUH! S-Sorry master! I just wanted to level up and evolve as quickly as possible!" Root cried, his cracks quickly regenerating as I healed them myself. I felt slightly sorry.
"Okay, fine Sorry for hitting you." I sighed.
Ding!
[Root] defeated [Spear Fish (D Rank)] x37!]
[Root] earned 111000 EXP]
[Root] has Leveled Up!]



Magic Treant? He must have learned magic now, wouldn't he? What's his elements anyways? I quickly checked Root's status as I stopped the Spear Fishes from getting closer using Shadow Barriers. [Name]: [Root] [Status]: [Cursed] [Race]: [Magic Treant (Special)] [Level]: [0/40] [Rank]: [C+] [HP]: [12825/12825] [MP]: [16640/16640] [Attack]: [6125] [Defense]: [8630] [Magic]: [8530] [Agility]: [5715] [Aether]: [40]

[Characteristic Skills]: [Dark Element: Lv--] [Nature Element: Lv--] [Seed of Calamity: Lv3] [Spirit Nest: Lv3] [Wood Shapeshifting: Lv3] [Life Drain: Lv2] [Powerful Endurance: Lv1]

[Resistance Skills]: [Physical Resistance: Lv4] [Magical Resistance: Lv4] [Status Effect Resistance: Lv4] [Poison Resistance: Lv3] [Water Resistance: Lv2]

[Physical Skills]: [Uproot: Lv4] [Rest: Lv4] [Wooden Needle: Lv4] [Draining Roots: Lv3] [Automatic Recovery: Lv3] [Piercing Spear Attack: Lv1] [Defensive Shield: Lv1]

[Magical Skills]: [Sharp Leaf Projectile: Lv4] [Relaxing Aroma: Lv4] [Wooden Spear: Lv3] [Wooden Shield: Lv1] [Plant Growth Enhancement: Lv1] [Shadow Bullet: Lv1]

[Support Skills]: [Healing Leaf: Lv5] [Magic Leaf: Lv3] [Healing Nature Light: Lv1]

[Title Skills]: [Servant of the Apostle of Death: Lv3] [Treant Progenitor: Lv3] [Forest Master: Lv3] [Nature's Guardian: Lv2] [Merciless Killer: Lv2] [Fish Slayer: Lv4] [Amphibian Slayer: Lv3]

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

Would you look at him! He had really grown quite stronger now. Those stats were way higher than with the ones he started this morning. Leveling and Evolving is sure a broken mechanic... But I guess that without our assistance he would had never gone so far himself.

He gained several new Skills, one that enhanced his endurance, some resistance skill against water element, then two weapon techniques of Spear and Shields, most likely based over his own body which he uses as weapons.

Lastly, there's [Wooden Shield: Lv1] [Plant Growth Enhancement: Lv1] [Shadow Bullet: Lv1] and [Healing Nature Light: Lv1], all of them are self-explanatory skills. Plant Growth Enhancement might come in handy for us once we go back to the farms too...

But all of that is nothing much compared to the other revelation... Yes, the revelation that Root has a Divine Protection of nobody else than Hel! Yeah, she gave me one to me and my daughter and of course she aimed at Root as he's a growing calamity.

Kind of annoying, feels like she's planning something nasty somehow, somewhere... But I can't really complain, a Divine Protection boosts growth so its pretty good to be honest, even though it awakes my suspiciousness about the whole situation.

"Damn he has really grown bigger once more..." Lucifer said. "How much do you want him to grow?" Asked the dragon.

"Well as long as he can? We still need to wipe out the entire monster population here first." I said with a smile.

"Wait, what?!" Asked Helga. "You can't just do that..."

"Yeah, that's impossible..." Blackard sighed.

"No, if its Maria and her friends..."

"It is probably possible."

"Y-Yeah..."

The dwarves thought I was talking nonsense, however when I decide something, I do it!

Chapter 582 Root's Second Evolution

Root was now C+ Rank. Possibly we would want him to be at least B Rank before bringing him with us to the Sealed Dungeon, that's like the minimum Rank necessary to get to that one nasty dungeon. It might be rather dangerous but it is worth it. This dungeon has up to B Rank monsters, but those B Rank are all bosses. Naturally, they probably can't give enough EXP themselves, so my plan is to just wipe out the entire monster population of the Swamp 8, and maybe move to Swamp 7, 6, and so on if the EXP is still not enough.

If someone ends up complaining that we are taking everything, they can always go complain to our backers, the Duchess, and the Guild Master of one of the most prestigious guilds in this country, I am sure they'll be able to get their answers in there!

[Race]: [Magic Treant (Special)]

A Special Treant that has attained Magical Properties and has evolved to become incredibly strong. It has Mana flowing across its entire body and its healing and tanking abilities are top notch. They're resilient fighters that can take on many enemies at once with ease. Regenerate, and create countless branches, wooden spears, and wooden shields for attack and protection. Their leaves hold healing properties and their sweet aroma can drive enemies towards them.

However, this is a special one which has developed a special Red Magic Jewel, which enhances Magical Power and Magic Spell Effects and Damage by +50%.

Interesting! Merely by looking at Root's Race I can tell he's powerful. The red jewel on his forehead seems to boost his magical prowess even more, resembling more of a special benefit of him being "special" in a way.

CLASH!

CLASH!

CLAAASH!

However, the Spear Fishes were not stopping to annoy my moment with my walking tree at all! I wanted to admire his greatness a bit more, but these damn bastards...

"Alright Root, let's turn them all into Grilled Fishes!" I said with fury.

"Gyugyuuh! Got it master!" Root quickly decided to join as I opened the barriers and let the Fishes in.

I greeted them with my Phantasmal Flames right away, roasting half of the hundreds of Spear Fishes rushing towards me in a mere second!

FLUOOOOSSSHHH!

"Gygyuuuuh!"

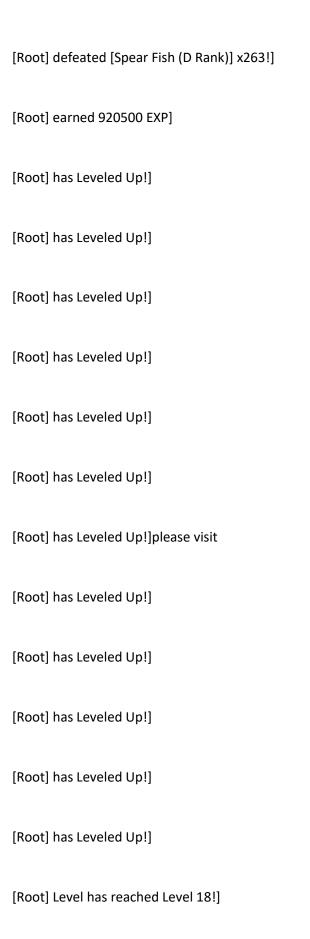
And Root jumped forward without any fear whatsoever, his Rank already surpassing the vicious Spear Fishes! His body quickly shapeshifted. The dozes of branches he had quickly became sharp wooden spears, a combination of skills quickly unleashed a thunderous storming attack of many piercing blows against the Spear Fishes all at once!

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

Dozens of Spear Fishes were impaled all across the sky. When Root finally fell off into the swamp water, he didn't mind at all, as he began shooting his own wood as sharp spear projectiles, and then began shredding apart the Spear Fishes fighting from below.

His bark had grown incredibly hard now, it was very easy for him to tank their hits like nobody's business! In just ten minutes, all the fish was gone- or well, it was ready to eat!

Ding!



[All of [Root] stats have increased]
[Root] Special Skill Effects have been activated, Skill Proficiency to all Skills upon Leveling Up has been distributed]
[Some of [Root] Skills have leveled up!]
[You and your Party gained a large sum of EXP!]
[Your Total EXP Earned has been boosted by several Skills]
[You earned 1220500 EXP]
Heh, still not enough EXP to level up, this is painful!
"Anyways, time to take a break, no?" I wondered.
"Gyugyuh!" Root agreed.

Like that, we returned to land by flying and quickly decided to relax. There was so many fish and frog meat that we had a big feast. Mostly everybody aside from the dwarves, Root, and I had been just spectating everything while mostly relaxing and enjoying the view. I felt slightly bad I brought them all here just for that, so I made extra sure to cook them some delicious food.

Aside from grilled fish, I also made fish croquets covered in breadcrumbs and deep fried, and also made fish broth where I added potatoes, carrots, and also some tasty seaweed I found in the swamps. There was a lot of edible plants growing around here, and they all had rather unique and refreshing tastes.

It wasn't hard at all to just grab them all and begin cooking something tasty with it. The smell of grilled fish and fish broth filled the surroundings. Several wild monsters popped out to check where this delicious smell was coming from but were quickly stopped by the barriers I had set up.

"Mama, look what we found!"
"Look! Look!"
Takeshi and Laura who were playing around near the swamp suddenly brought large cat-sized crabs and crawfish, and even fatty shrimps!
"Oh, those are Tyrant Crabs and Swamp Crawfish and Shrimps!" Helga pointed out. "They're sneaky little monsters. They're the weakest at around F Rank or even G Rank."
"This crab's a bit heavy and strong, but I can easily handle him, hahaha! Let's eat them!" Takeshi said happily, holding into the big green crab trying to pinch his face with its claws.
"Sure, let's boil them out then!"
I quickly washed them out and then put them inside a large pot, boiling them right away for their delicious fishy flavor. There wasn't anything better than enjoying this delicious meal with everyone here! The smell of the boiled crustaceans quickly began covering our surroundings as we enjoyed the fish feast, a few minutes later and it was all done.
"Alright, let's try them out!" I grabbed the crab and cut one of its massive claws.
I lightly opened it by hitting it with one of my fingers, cracks quickly spread through the shell.
Crack!
And then it opened wide, a beautiful, shiny white meat inside!
Chapter 583 Spirit Embodiment

"U w a a a h! Now this is delicious!" I said, happily taking a bite off it. "Yum!"
The sweet taste was the real deal, and it was so spongy, juicy, and just delicious!
"Heey Master don't eat it all! That's not fair!" Partner complained, trying to steal my claw.
"Heheeh, no, it's mine!" I laughed evilly.
"No! Give me some!" Partner complained, as she started to try to steal my claw constantly.
"B w a h a h a l I'll eat it all! You can't do a single thing!"
"Mama"
Suddenly, I saw Nyx in the floor while I floated upwards, looking at me with puppy eyes.
"Ah Okay for my princess anything." I quickly gave her the whole claw as she started devouring it.
"Nom, nom, nom! Wawaah!" She said happily, continuing to devour it. The claws was so big her entire little head fit inside of it.
"Come on, there's crab for everyone." Lucifer tried to calm Partner's hunger as she looked at Nyx while resisting the urge to steal her crab, giving her a large crab leg filled with meat.
"R-Right" She poured some sweet sauce on it and ate it with shell and all. "Hm, the shell's so soft and crunchy!"

"Really?" I wondered, grabbing a leg, and giving it a bite. "Right! It is nothing as hard as I imagined, kind of like eating hard bread crust at most. No, it is more like soft eggshells?"

"Certainly the crunchiness add to the texture and flavor, but this sweet sauce you made is great. What is it called?" Lucifer wondered.

"I made it by fermenting beans with sugar and honey, I call it Unagi Sauce, though it is not the same..." I said while pouring more into the crab leg.

"Huh, your abilities are sure useful Maria! This means you can even produce wine like this, right? And cheese?" Asked Helga.

"Precisely. I can control the little bacteria that ferment things and turn them into other things. Yogurt, cheese, wine, you name it! there's tons of delicious things only made when they're fermented." I smiled.

All these things used to be part of my daily life back on Earth, but now I guess they're a very rare thing which I was missing.

"There's also this other salty sauce that is also black!" Helga pointed out. "Is this the same thing? Ooh, it is also slightly spicy, it has something special about it..."

"Yeah that's Soy Sauce with a hint of spiciness. That flavor is something they call "Umami" though it is just saltiness and spiciness combined." I shrugged. "With a bit of bitterness sometimes, depending in how concentrated the soy sauce is... Anyways, this goes well with anything. I prefer it over other types of sauces used on seafood... though nothing beats some nice lemon juice over a crab leg."

I poured some lemon juicy over the crab leg I was snacking on, quickly taking a few more bites, the critic flavor really went delicious when combined with everything else, and once poured on soy sauce and unagi sauce, it just became even better.

"Wow this is amazing..." Said Lucifer. "Maria thank you for making these sauces! I never thought I would be in love with food this much before."



"It seem she's been having a lot of fun." Said Lucifer. "Unlike back home, there's no day where she's not happy. I remember there were some days where she was rather grumpy."

"Indeed, dragon children like adventuring. Staying stagnant in a place bores them." Said Brunhild. "Of course that changes once we grow up, we prefer being in a closed space, relax, and nap for a few centuries."

"I see! I wonder how she'll turn out at the end..." I sighed.

I quickly felt some branches lightly touching my back, as I found Root there. He suddenly had grown... extremely small! He was not bigger than Nyx now, and had an oval, egg-like shape with two tiny chicklike wings

And this was due to one of his newest Skills, [Spirit Embodiment]!

"Master, I am small, can I join, gygyu?" He wondered, looking around.

"Baby!" Nyx said, suddenly rushing over Root and hugging him with her tiny arms.

"Gyyyyhhh...! Y-Young lady please don't be so brutish!" Root cried as he was given rough love from Nyx.

"You've certainly gotten smaller, how's that possible? Does he has polymorph?" Asked Lucifer.

"I remember Maria said he had Body Shapeshifting?" Asked Emeraldine.

"Yeah but that skill can't help him reduce his body size, he actually became a Forest Spirit through the Spirit Embodiment Skill he gained. It is a way for him to become smaller and more practical at the time of moving around. Also he seems to gain the ability to fly and his stats shift, increasing his Magic and MP stats above his defenses or physical strength." I said while analyzing Root's transformation.

He had indeed become a cute and small companion!



"At least I can say I won't tell anybody about this. What's told in our guild stays in the guild."
"Yeah!"
"Though this doesn't make it less weird"
The dwarves had all mixed opinions but they were loyal.
Partner seemed to be in their same boat while beginning to rub her chin and think. But she clearly wasn't getting it to be honest. Takeshi and Laura joined her, and perhaps even Nyx.
"Huh, so that's that, eh? I see, I understand everything now." Partner acted smartly.
"Yeah, that's right." Laura nodded.
"I get it, of course" Takeshi added.
"Floating black egg!" Nyx wanted to grab Tyr but he managed to escape her grasp. She was still happy with her egg-shaped Root though, he was clearly struggling with her.
And Emeraldine? Well, my elf wife was excited about it. She grabbed Tyr and began touching him. now that he was a spirit his miasma and chaos didn't hurt people, but this whole thing was new for her.
"I can't believe it! A Miasma and Chaos Spirit?!" She wondered. "This must be the first spirit to have ever existed with this element to begin with! I-Incredible, this is amazing, even! And you're also a god's soul fragment?! Even more amazing! I need to see how you were made!"
"Uwaaggh! Stop touching me! This is sexual harassment! Get off! AGGH!"
Tyr complained but he was just a black sphere of dark energy I think there wasn't much sexual about touching his little body. I think he doesn't even have a sense of touch to begin with!

Meanwhile, Lucifer and Brunhild freaked out.
"So you're the God of War Tyr?!" Asked Brunhild.
"You're him!?" Lucifer wondered.
"Ugh!" Tyr quickly managed to run away from Emeraldine's grasp as he flew towards the pair of dragons and nodded. "T-That's right! I am the God of War, you know me?!"
"We've heard old legends about the God of War Tyr, that existed before the Evil God." Said Brunhild.
"There was an Era in the past, before dungeons were widespread everywhere, and before the Fragments of the Evil God were everywhere as well." Said Lucifer.
"Indeed, those times were Gods were more connected with humans than before and monsters didn't roamed everywhere as much." Said Brunhild.
"Those times I cannot remember them well." Tyr sighed. "I need more of my memory fragments for that. But yeah, that time."
"Our ancestors said the War God Tyr was defeated by the Evil God and devoured by him, this was what caused the other Gods to fight him to the death, crush him into pieces and seal every one of his pieces" Said Brunhild.
"So all of that was it not the truth then?" Lucifer asked while feeling slightly demotivated.
"Indeed, that was all bullshit!" Tyr angrily said. "I was the Evil God, they set me up! Those damn traitors! My father did it because he felt threatened by my existence, all of that just to crush his own son! That man You can't even call him a normal father, he's a monster! I want to go and kill him back!"

"Woah, woah, that's definitely not going to happen, okay? We are not killing any gods here." I stopped him. "I would rather not get myself involved in these stuffs!"

"You're already his enemy, what got you so fearful of him now after everything you've done anyways?" Tyr wondered.

"Hey, this is not the time to talk about these things." Helga suddenly shut down the God.

"Huh? And what do you even have to say about this then, Dwarf?" He asked angrily.

"Didn't you said you wanted to talk with us? Is talking about killing your family the only thing you're going to talk about?" Helga reprimanded Tyr.

"T-That's... not it!" Tyr said angrily. "But... you clearly don't understand how frustrated I feel..." He sighed.

"Well I clearly don't but that doesn't mean you can just talk about that." Sighed Helga.

"Well said. We have our own lives here as well. If you've been with Maria for a while, I am sure you should know these things, don't you, Tyr?" Asked Lucifer.

"Sigh..." Tyr sighed. "Right, I got ahead of myself. This wasn't what I wanted to talk about, but the subject you two dragons brought really got to my nerves."

"I guess it is really frustrating to know that, yeah. Seeing how the gods lied and all of humanity believes you were killed by the Evil God, even when you're actually him..." I sighed. "Look, I'll try to bring back your fragments so you may regain more of your memories, but I don't want to go kill myself to fight Odin or something, okay? I have no such plans! ...But whatever happens in the future, happens."

I wasn't into going to commit suicide now, but if in the future I were to find myself in a situation similar to that, I guess there won't be much I can do about it.

Chapter 585 Divine Messages

When things with Tyr were resolved we enjoyed a nice and slow-paced talk about everything involved with his problems and... anything else, really. Although he's still overly grumpy, which kind of reminds me of the old Lucifer, he did said he wanted friends. Despite acting prideful and all, he probably has felt so lonely he had become desperate enough to leave his godly pride aside.

"So how did you used to look like when you were alive?" Wondered Partner.

"Were you a burly and bearded guy?" Asked Emeraldine.

"Yeah, like this..." Tyr said, his shadows quickly taking shape into a tall, muscular bearded man with several scars over his body. He was around three meters tall, I guess he was really a Viking God.

"Woah he's really a Viking God of War, alright." I laughed.

"Damn." Helga smiled.

"You two are a bit too thirsty, no?" Lucifer sighed while crossing his arms.

FLASH!

However Tyr quickly went back to his other form.

"Shapeshifting in this feeble Spirit Body is a pain... I cannot keep it up for too long." He sighed. "Hahhh... Well, at the very least I can move freely in the outside world without causing disasters. I had tried this many times before. I ended corrupting everything, monsters mutated, and most of the time I was either split into more pieces and sealed again by Thor, or a monster found me and I ended instinctively parasitizing the monster and making the creature go mad..."

"So you weren't able to take into this form ever before?" Lucifer wondered.

"That's right... this form is something unique I attained thanks to Maria." Said Tyr. "It is indeed very unique and interesting. I guess her powers allowed this. Although for such a thing to occur, I had to be eaten, which is not something... I am a fan of."

"I can understand." Sighed Lucifer. "Well, she's indeed very unique."

"Perhaps her Necromancy has something to do with it?" Asked Emeraldine. "God Fragment or not, it still something like a soul, right?"

"I had never thought about it deeply but yeah. Perhaps my Necromancy Powers and something else caused his Soul Fragment to become something like a ghost. Veredorr and Francesco and Silvio are also kind of like Elemental Spirits, the possibility he became one is there." I recognized.

"It was a combination of that and other factors such as your unique powers." Tyr said. "But now that I have the time to assess how all things came to be, I also can assure you it wasn't just your Necromancy... I felt some sort of divine intervention in the process. Hel helped you raise me as an Undead, something that shouldn't be possible for a mortal to turn the soul of a god into an undead to begin with. From there, I probably reacted to this effect and due to my power, I became a Spirit instead."

"Woah, now that's quite the explanation." Partner said.

"Wait, Hel?!" Emeraldine wondered.

"Hel has taken a liking on Maria and all of you. I can feel her Divine Protection in that dragon child and the walking tree." Said Tyr. "All of you are also connected with Maria, so therefore you're like also part of this divine protection... Hel seems to have the intention to help everyone grow stronger. She has plans with all of us."

"Wait, if she secretly helped Maria revive you as this Spirit form... Then doesn't that means...?" Brunhild asked in surprise.

"Yeah, I had already assumed it but yes, it probably means that Hel is a traitor of Odin and the other Gods, and desires something from me and all of us. I don't know if that girl is capable of doing good things for the sake of it though, I never got to know her well, but if she helped me in such a way, I can tell she's our ally." Tyr said. "It still feels strange. She wasn't involved in what happened to me, but she's still the daughter of Loki. That bastard used his Chaos Element Divinity to corrupt my soul after I was weakened by Thor's Mjolnir and my Father's Gungnir... The other Gods also ganged on me, I can remember every single one of them... the only ones that didn't acted were the Vanir Gods, but they didn't interfere either."

"So Loki was the one that turned you into the Evil God?" Wondered Partner.

"Yes, that effeminate bastard..." Sighed Tyr. "I thought he was someone I could trust, but he ended stabbing me in the back when I least expected it! To think he would end up cooperating with father despite hating him so much..."

"It must've been painful." I sighed. "Well, at least Hel's not as evil as her father in that regard, even while being a Goddess of Death, we can already tell she has not as bad intentions as her beloved papa." I laughed.

"Yeah, I suppose that's right." Tyr nodded. "Nonetheless, it would be good if we could talk to her, though I doubt we can right now. She had always been a secretive woman... But if she had been open with you, maybe she could communicate somehow through Divine Messages."

"Divine Messages?" I asked.

"They're special Messages that Gods are able to send to those that hold their Divine Protections. It is directly connected to their Soul Books. Sometimes, when someone holding the divine protection does something that amuses their god or makes them content, they can even receive a gift from them." Tyr said. "It is common sense to incentive our divinely protected."

"Oh... Maybe that's why I get so many benefits sometimes, like the special evolutions of Lucifer and Partner... the Titles and Skills?" I wondered.

Although the System still had a lot to do with that, but it is nice to know that Hel might be helping me more than I had originally imagined. Nonetheless, right now I wish I could speak with her for a change!

Ding!
[Master, it seems there is an interference of Divine Power.]
The System suddenly spoke to me.
"Eh?!"
Chapter 586 Gifts From Hel Herself
Interference of Divine Power?
What the fuck is that?!
Ding!
[The Divine Interference is very powerful; however, it is indeed possible to stop it through the Unique Skill [System] powers.]
[Do you desire to stop it?]
No Wait a second, who is it?
[It says [Goddess of Death, Hel]. It is perhaps her; she seems to have overheard what you were talking. She always hears and sees through you, mostly thanks to this divine protection. I have tried to take it

out before due to this annoying spying woman, but it is impossible, it has merged with your soul.]

Wait what? You've tried to take out the Divine Protection without my permission?!
[Only for my master's safety, of course]
You're acting way more serviceable than before, weird
[I am merely trying to do as my job demands. A voice of the system must serve the host.]
I guess that's true, you said that before Well, let her do whatever she wants to do, I bet it is nothing bad.
[Are you sure master?]
Ugh just stop it and let her!
[Very well]
FLAAASH!
Suddenly, from within my very soul, an enormous phantasmal projection emerged into the outside world. Everyone around me who had just finished eating was taken aback.
The projection became clearer, as it showed something resembling an endless cavern world, with darkness, crystals, skulls, bones, and undead walking around.
In the middle of this place, there was a big throne with a beautiful lady sitting over her throne. She seemed rather charming, with long silver hair and sharp yellow eyes. Her skin was as white as candle wax, I don't know if she looks the same as back then, but she's definitely Hel.
"Hello everyone, I overheard what you just talked about."



"No, I believe she made herself quite clear..." Tyr said. "Hel is a very cryptic woman; she talks in ways to not completely admit all her desires and true purposes behind her actions. However, it is clear as day to me that she indeed is relying on all of us. I have no idea if she has sincerity or even humility, but it is quite clear she want us to do her a favor back one day. She didn't only told that to me, it is to all of us here."

"Huh... Doesn't that make things even worse, in a way?" Partner asked. "I don't want to go obeying this woman..."

"Yeah, none of us want to do that to be honest." I sighed. "I will just try to ignore this for now. Though, I have to admit that I feel slightly more pressured to grow stronger now."

"There's nothing much we can do as we are." Brunhild admitted. "For now, let's just continue exploring the dungeon. We can talk things later when we get back home. Maria, have you gathered enough ingredients?"

"Nope, I've only picked edible stuff, but for now let's concentrate on that while we explore deeper into it!" I said with a nod.

"Alright then, let's continue. I'll hold into Nyx for you, I don't want her to get in the way." Lucifer quickly grabbed Nyx as he wrapped his tail around her.

The tiny Tail Biter immediately began biting on his tail as if instinctively, she really liked to bite her father's tail, didn't she? She even tot a [Tail Biter] Title, I have no idea what it even does, but I guess it is quite mighty and it is leveling up rather quickly.

"Alright, let's go for now." I quickly grabbed Root using my shadows and Tyr accompanied me while flying as he wanted to explore with me. I also kind of wanted to test his powers and abilities against monsters, as my first real Spirit ever, I wanted to finally use Spirit Magic like Emeraldine does.

The rest decided to follow me from behind. Oh right, I also brought Helga and the dwarves, obviously. They need to fight as many monsters as possible to get some good levels. The grind shall continue!



Ding!

[The [Soul Reinforcing Phial (A Grade)] x3, [Dark Scale Dragon Blood (A Grade)] x1, and [Lesser Yggdrasil's Sap (A Grade)] x1 Items have been stored inside the [Inventory] Function within the Unique Skill [System] powers.]

[To receive further detail about these acquired items, please visit the Inventory.]

As I was leisurely jumping around over Lily Pads with the Dwarves while the rest of my family was flying around and gathering materials for me out of goodwill, I saw that System message.

"Right, I almost forgot about that..."

I quickly concentrated my mind as I began to talk with the System, wondering what the heck was this. I knew items could be created through things such as Forging and Alchemy, but items materializing out of thin air was really crazy aside from the Dungeon Drops.

And this dungeon's monsters didn't dropped anything to begin with! We killed a few hundred already and they have yet to drop anything. I guess this Dungeon is not so generous... Well, we saw a few dozen low quality potions that Helga said would fetch a pretty high price anyways due to their rarity, and some low-quality pieces of equipment that are not really anything good for us, so we were just going to sell them.

But aside from them, I haven't really seen items materializing out of thin air before like that! How did Hel even sent an item, a material object, right into my very soul which then was stored inside my Inventory? It is crazy!

I guess that's... the power of a god?

System, can you tell me about the gist behind it?

[There's nothing much I can tell you myself. I was only able to see the items materialize and that was about it. But it was definitely the power of the Gods. They possess the almighty ability to Materialize items out of thin air. Even Alchemy cannot do such a thing. I guess it is part of being a God. Even the System itself can only exchange System points for Leveling Up Skills, Temporary Stat Boosters or Skills of various grades.]

Yeah, I can tell... Well, that's it.

I do wonder though... could Alchemy lead to such power?

[Alchemy and Forging in this world are already God-like powers. Taking materials to convert into new ones through utterly magical methods that are completely different yet slightly similar to those from back on Earth... indeed, they are god-like in many ways, yet this world merely treats them as something normal.]

That's a game-like world for you, can't do anything about it I suppose.

But yeah, I was rather freaked out when I first found out about how Alchemy and Forging worked in this world, it is truly a magical experience.

Nonetheless... let's check the new Items and what they're all about.

[Soul Reinforcing Phial (A Grade)] x3

A Phial made through Divine Power with a small amount of Liquified Aether within. This liquid was taken from the Endless River of Souls within the Underworld. A common item that is sold widely in the Underworld to reinforce the Soul of Undead. By drinking it, the Soul can grow stronger and Aether can be gained by a random amount between 1 to 10.

Wait what?! And I got 3 of these?!
Thank you so much Hel-sama!
I should had never doubted you!
This item is fantastic! I can tell that Hel has been spying on me if she gifted me this. She probably knows I've been struggling at increasing the power of my Soul by increasing Aether.
Through I think she went overboard with this. It is way too nice to be honest. But well, I am nobody to judge her good intentions. I might as well just take them happily and maybe ask for seconds later.
I drank all three Phials right away.
The liquid inside was golden and sweet like candy syrup.
However, it didn't felt dry like syrup, but drinking it refreshed my throat and made me feel happy and relaxed.
"Hahhh So good"
Ding!
[You gained +7 Aether!]
[You gained +3 Aether!]
[You gained +5 Aether!]

Oh! I gained a total of 15 Aether?! Nice, I'll take it!
Now let's see what these other Items are
[Dark Scale Dragon Blood (A Grade)] x1
The fresh Blood of a Dark Scale Dragon, a monstrous beast that roams around the darkest continents of the World. It is a ferocious S+ Rank Monster capable of devouring everything it desires and engulfing the land in utter destruction. However, it loves to take naps for centuries.
If drank by a Dragon with compatibility, their Bloodline can awaken and their Stats and Skills might increase in both quantity and levels.
[Lesser Yggdrasil's Sap (A Grade)] x1
The fresh Sap of a Lesser Yggdrasil Tree, a child of the Yggdrasil Tree that supports the entire world of Yggdrasil. A rich and sweet sap that contains a large quantity of Nature Attribute Spiritual Energy and even a slight hint of Divine Power mixed in. Works as an Elixir that could heal most wounds and diseases.
If consumed by a Plant, the Plant, if compatible enough, might be able to attain new Spiritual Powers and possibly evolve into a Magic Plant or a Spirit Plant.
These two are I see.

I think I understand why I got these despite not being compatible with me at all.
The first one's for Nyx, and the second one is for Root!
I guess she didn't forgot about her precious Calamities if she wants me to give them this present she left for them.
Alright, I'll start with Root.
"Hey Root, drink this."
"Gyuh? What's this, master?"
"Just drink it."
I didn't really had time to explain things to him.
"G-Gyuh? Very well"
He didn't really hesitated anymore, as I gave him the bottle and he drank its contents.
"Gyuhh!"
His face resembled to be in utter bliss as he drank it all. He quickly began shining brightly, a golden aura of spiritual essence surged from within his body.
"This is very good master! Gyuhhh!"

Chapter 588 The Little Calamities Grow Stronger

Root was currently sitting over my head. Thanks to his Spirit Embodiment Skill, he was able to take into the form of a Nature Spirit of some sort. His appearance change honestly surprised us all.

Whenever he used his Spirit Embodiment Sill, he resembled more like an adorable egg-shaped bush covered on fluffy bright green leaves, while his face was reduced into a small mask-like wooden face with a long nose and two little holes as eyes, tiny branch-like legs, and small chick-like wings made of leaves.

Yeah, it felt as if this Skill made him cuter.

But that wasn't all, it didn't merely just made him cute and small compared to his big form as a Magic Treant, it also made him better at magic by shuffling his stats around, it was honestly pretty interesting.

"Just drink it."

I didn't really had time to explain things to him.

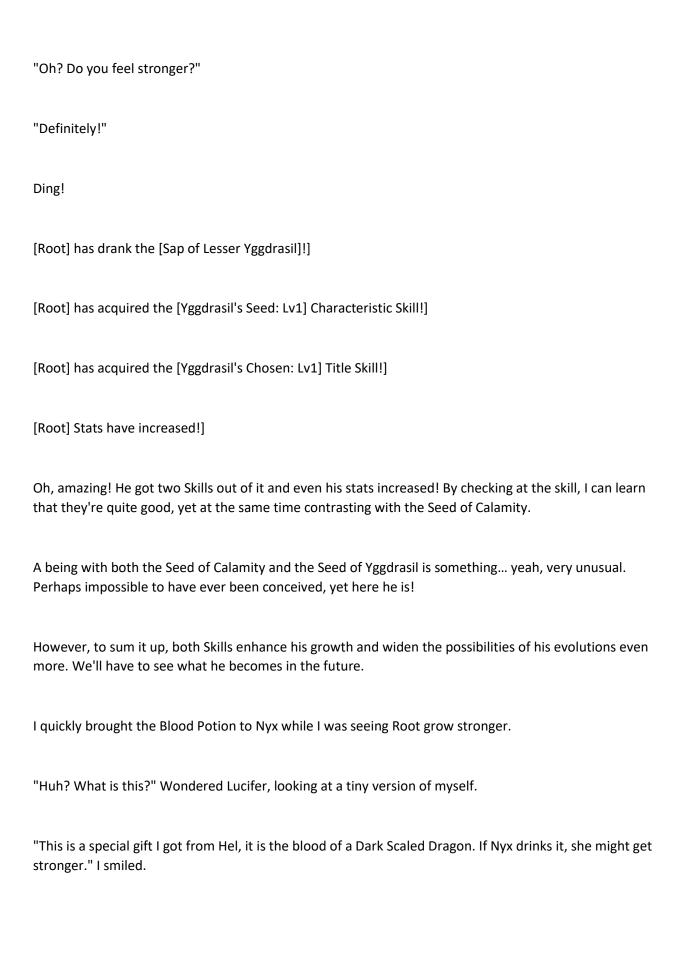
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"This is very good master! Gyuhhh!"



"Eh? Isn't that dangerous? It might come poisoned for all we know!" Lucifer panicked a bit.
"I can't detect any poison from it." Brunhild said.
"I also checked it and it doesn't have any" I said.
"B-But it might have a poison we cannot easily detect! Come on, think outside the box." He said while sighing.
"Waah Poshion?" Nyx wondered.
"Well, I guess you're right. Maybe we should be more careful But I already gave one to Root and he grew stronger, so it wasn't poisoned back then." I said.
"Yeah but what about now? It might be different." Said Lucifer.
Gosh, he was being way too overly protective.
But I guess it makes sense, its her daughter's life that might be on stake now.
"I guess you're right. I'll save it for now and see if I can detect poison later-"
"Roar!"
However, out of the blue, Nyx interrupted my words as her long tail stole the bottle away from the tiny and weak Phantasmal Familiar and then ate the whole bottle, swallowing it.
"Gulp! Pwaah Burp"

We looked at one another with Lucifer, as we quickly looked back at Nyx. She immediately began glowing with a powerful aura overflowing from her body. It was pure black.
"Roooar! RAAARRR!"
The moment that aura surged, she began roaring furiously!
Her eyes glowed bright red, as her wings grew a bit longer, she quickly freed herself from her father's tail, flying into the skies and unleashing an enormous shockwave of power!
TRUUUUMMMMM!
"W-What the heck is happening!?" Asked Partner.
"Nyx?!" Emeraldine panicked.
"Rooar! RAAAAR!"
Nyx continued roaring as she suddenly opened her little jaws and unleashed a powerful Dark Dragon Beam against the swamp's water!
BOOOOOOMMMM!!!
SPLAAASH!
The explosion was so loud it sent waves everywhere, water quickly splashed out into the skies and started raining all over everybody else.
"W-What is happening?! This is insane!"





However, it seemed that Nyx's attack into the lake really shook things out, because several creatures surged from the swamp's waters after all that commotion.
This time they were not frogs nor fishes, but something different!
"Wait, those are Acid Slimes and Salamanders!" Helga immediately detected the threats.
Chapter 589 Against Powerful Swamp Monsters
Although Helga and the dwarves knows the monsters here quite well, I can also just check their Status to know them as well:
[Acid Swamp Slime: Lv43] [Rank: C] [Status: Furious, Hungry]
[Description]: A powerful Slime-type monster whose body is almost entirely composed of Acidic substances that can easily dissolve anything. These monstrous Slimes can reach up to heights of over ten meters, and they travel across the swamp like giant nets, catching whatever gets trapped inside their bodies and dissolving them, absorbing them completely.
They're vicious and lethal, their acid can even dissolve the hardiest of armors. Even magic armors struggle to not dissolve before their acid. An extremely dangerous monster which only makes people run away from its presence.

[Skills]: [Acid Slime Body] [Self Division] [Giant Body] [Endless Self Regeneration] [Dissolving Acidic

Enzymes] [Acid Poison Bullets] [Acid Splash] [High Speed Swimming]

[Giant Greater Swamp Salamander: Lv52] [Rank: C++] [Status: Furious, Hungry]

[Description]: A Giant Greater Swamp Salamander, a mighty beast of over eight meters of height with enormous jaws with sharp teeth to devour and shred anything they find in the depths of the swamps... or even above them. They have long and slippery tails that can easily catch foes by wrapping around them and they have amazing swimming speed.

They can control both Water and Poison Magic, but they seem to favor he mighty strength of their jaws, which they use to crush and swallow whole prey. Despite their enormous size, they live in colonies of over fifty, fighting threats together and fiercely protecting their territories.

[Skills]: [Poisonous Goo Coating] [Giant Body] [High Speed Self Regeneration] [Poisonous Giant Tongue] [Enormous Crushing Jaws] [Poison Bullets] [Poison Breath] [High Speed Swimming] [Call for Help]

Both were terrifyingly strong monsters at C Rank and above! However, it was quite obvious that the giant Salamanders were stronger both in numbers and levels and Ranks, C++ compared to C Rank is a whole world of difference.

Yet... I knew something was odd about the slime!

"GUUUUUH!"

The Slime gave out a weird sound, as its body began drinking the water of the swamp and growing bigger and bigger and bigger and bigger!

POOOF!

And then, it suddenly started self-diving, creating an army of its own body, hundred of smaller slimes of around a meter and a half began coming out of the Acid's Slime body constantly!

punch to be considered a threat in such ridiculous numbers.
"They're getting closer!" Cried Root. "Gyuuuh!"
"Wait, did Nyx provoked this?!" I asked.
"Sowy" Nyx apologized while being held by Lucifer.
"Can you handle it?" He wondered.
"Yeah, don't worry about it." I sighed, quickly flying forwards with Root above my head. "Alright Root, let's fight to our heart's contents! Dwarves stay behind, use the Bone Magic Bows I made for you guys to fight from the safety of distance!"
"Roger!" The Dwarves said in unison, as they pointed their Bone Bows at the approaching horde of Slimes and Giant Salamanders.
SPLASH! SPLASH!
It was an enormous wave of monsters, but it was quite clear the slimes were more. The mother kept making them almost endlessly, so they were about to surpass the hundreds in numbers. I guess we cannot waste this opportunity to rack up as much EXP as we can!
"Now Root, show me how much you've grown!"
"Very well, master! Gyuuuh!"
Root flew towards the Slimes as he was quickly greeted with acid bullets fired accurately towards him! However, Root quickly conjured an aura of Spiritual Power, part of his Spirit Embodiment Skill, and then

generated several Spears made of Wood out of thin air, not from his body, firing them at the slimes to

test the waters.

And these guys, although weaker than their parent, were very strong anyways and packed enough of a

SPLASH! SPLASH! SPLASH!

The enormous spears reached the slimes, quickly splattering them over the water. Some suddenly managed to reform, others died and couldn't regenerate.

"Odd... some do and others don't?" I wondered.

"Hm, I get it! Cores! They have tiny spots inside of them, gyugyuh! We must aim at those!" Root said smartly.

Wait he's actually way smarter than I thought!

"R-Right! I had just figured that out!" I pretended I had figured it out, but in fact Root surprised me there.

"You're stupid or something?" Tyr asked me.

"Agh shut it! Anyways, let's use your powers." I said with a smile. "Root, cover the left side!"

"Got it!" Root flew around in his Spirit Form as he quickly began firing more and more Wooden Spear Projectiles, blasting through the dozens of slime monsters. He didn't had any energy-based attack so he had to do with what he had.

But thanks to this Spirit Embodiment Skill, he gained the ability to float like spirits and shift his stats to boost his Speed, MP, and Magic Attack. Like this, he was already able to spam magic attacks and easily cover us up until he wanted to go more physical. In which case, he would need to switch to his normal form and lose the ability to fly.

But that was alright! I am here as well, I'll give him a hand, of course.

"Tyr! [Spirit Connection]!"

"I already heard ya the first time!"
Tyr angrily answered my call, as I connected my soul with him.
FLUOSH!
Right after that, I felt an overflowing power coursing through all of my being. The Darkness of my Soul intensified, as I felt Chaos and Miasma pouring at near endless quantities.
My appearance changed lightly, my hair turned completely black and purple, as my clothes became as black as they could. An Aura of Chaos and Miasma started to emerge from within my very being
"Oh yeah, this is the good shit!"
I never thought it would feel so nice to do Spirit Connection with this grumpy spirit, but it was actually pretty amazing! I felt empowered with new Spiritual Energy of the Miasma and Chaos Element, my magic was boosted, and I was now able to do way more than before
I don't really want to steal all the kills, but if Root can get shared EXP, that's good enough for me. Don't worry Root, I'll only do a little test!
Chapter 590 Root's Might
"I can feel the power coursing through my veins This is it! My ultimate awakening is near!"
I laughed evilly, playing like the chunni I was.

"Ugh, can't you be less cringy?"
Tyr asked just to break my immersion!
"Ugh, can't you see I am enjoying myself a lil' bit here?! Geez! Alright, alright! Let's see"
I quickly began gathering power and thought about what sort of spell I could make.
"GRUOOOHHH!"
And right after that, three enormous Giant Great Poison Salamanders emerged from below the swamp, looking at me as if I were a tasty snack Hehe, you're the perfect test subjects.
"Alright let's begin with something simple! [Chaos Sphere]!"
FLASH!
Suddenly, a sphere of concentrated chaos emerged over the tip of my finger. It emanated a powerful presence and aura, and it was slightly similar to darkness, but at the same time completely different.
It concentrated large quantities of power within itself, and the element of chaos was the same as miasma. Miasma was merely the materialization of it. To make things simple to imagine, it resembled a twisting balloon of black, red, and hints of purple color spiraling constantly.
"There."
I let go of the Chaos Sphere right before one of the Salamanders was about to swallow me, swallowing the Chaos Sphere instead.
"CHOMP!"

Once the Salamander closed its enormous jaws, it dove back into the water as if it got a big catch
Only for about five seconds.
BOOOOOOMMMMM!!!
SPLAAASSHH!
An enormous explosion of darkness and chaos erupted from the swamp, splashing water everywhere The other two Salamanders were launched into the sky spectacularly!
"And now [Miasmic Whip]!"
TRUUUMM!
I forged the Miasma and Chaos into a long and beautiful whip, catching the two Salamanders and wrapping the whip around their bodies.
"GROOOOOHH!"
However, after their first groan, I mistakenly tightened my grip a bit more than usual, and they ended being torn to shreds.
SLAAASH!
Their body pieces rained from the sky.
Oops?

I didn't thought it would be this lethal!
The other Salamanders looked at me with horror, they were not dumb enough to get any closer, quickly swimming towards the Dwarves instead.
"Now! Fire!" Helga commanded, the Dwarves and her quickly pointed their bows at the Salamanders coming closer.
"I guess I can help them too, let's test Support Magic now! [Chaotic Enhancement]!"
FLAAASH!
Suddenly, all the Bone Weapons (because using this no living beings might hurt them) began to glow brightly with black and miasmic auras, but that didn't harmed their wielders as the weapons themselves took on all the burned.
FLASH! FLASH!
"W-What is happening!?"
"The Magic Arrows became enormous and strong!"
"A-Amazing!"
"Now, fire!"
Helga said once more those words, as the Dwarves fired the magic arrows enchanted with Miasma!
FLAAAAASSSHHH!

A dozen of them quickly fell towards the Salamanders. The arrows looked like they were covered on black and purple miasmic fire, hitting the salamanders, and then exploding on the spot one after the other!

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!

SPLAAASH!

The entire swamp trembled, the waters began splashing everywhere, the attack power was more than I thought! If I enchant the Bone Weapons with Chaos and Miasma Magic, I could increase their power a tenfold, if not more!

"Hm, for this being an element I got from that damned Loki's corrupting my soul, you can wield it pretty well." Tyr considered.

"I guess it was made for me more than yours! Hehe..." I giggled rather provocatively. "But what element did you even used?"

"My element was War and Light, of course!" He said angrily.

"...War?" I asked. "That's an Element?!"

"An old Element that probably no mortals know about. It encompasses battle spirit, physical prowess, strength, commanding troops, and bloodshed." Said Tyr. "No matter how much I try to channel it, I can't now. I believe that Divinity was either destroyed or... stolen by my father, alongside my Light Divinity."

"Huh, maybe we could get it back if I get you your other fragments?" I wondered.

"Maybe, but let's not hope for it too much, or we might end up too disappointed." Tyr sighed. "Now, look at that flying tree, it is quite mighty."

"Yeah, though it is struggling?!"

I quickly realized that Root was having a few problems! While I supported the Dwarves, I found Root engaging against over a hundred Little Acid Slimes while the Giant Acid Slime suddenly caught him off guard, hitting him with several bullets and slowly beginning to dissolve part of his body, all while its tentacles wrapped around his roots, pushing him down slowly from the sky!
"ROOT!"
I quickly decided to help him, but I knew he was quite prideful, so I simply swung my hand, generating a giant black blade made of chaos and slicing through the Giant Acid Slime's tentacles, all while healing Root using Death Restoration and then using Chaotic Enhancement to increase his stats!
He was of course immune to miasma and chaos, so he could take it head-on without any problems!
SLAAASH!
"GRUOOOHHH!"
The Giant Acid Slime directed its enormous red core, which worked as an eye of sorts, towards me in fury, all while Root's body grew back to his enormous, over five meters big Magical Treant Body, all while his stats were boosted through my buff!
FLUOOSH!
"Gyugyuuuuhhh!"
He immediately jumped into battle, splashing into the water.
Root was suddenly surrounded by hundreds of tiny Acid Slimes, but he seemed to not falter, the buff I gave to him was enough to give him some confidence!

"I won't lose, even against acid that melts my body, gyuuuuh!"

Root's wooden body shapeshifted as he generated countless of Wooden Spears, piercing through the
Acid Slime's cores, and killing many on the spot, constantly and incessantly!

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

Some of the cores were missed and the slimes merely melted his wooden spears instead, inflicting direct damage to his HP, but he seemed to not mind it, constantly regrowing more and more Wooden Spears!

"GRUOOHHH...!"

The Giant Acid Slime didn't liked that though, immediately swimming towards him, attempting to swallow him whole by spreading its body into a gigantic net of doom!

SPLAAASH!