

A Ghost 641

Chapter 641 The Depths Of The Dungeon

Within the depths of Helheim, the Queen of Death itself glanced with a smile at the crystal ball in front of her, seeing Maria react to her things always brought her a smile and gave her a chuckle. Her father and her two siblings were now gone as their meeting had ended some time ago, and now Hel rested atop her bed while doing nothing much other than watching her little Divinely Protected Isekai'd Ghost.

"Hahaha! She's so hilarious. Come on, you don't like how I tweak them? I've even given them some bonuses to their effects! Don't be so ungrateful, Maria." She laughed a bit, as she glanced Maria sigh and then move on.

Hel smiled while drinking from a cup of wine. A special wine fermented in the depths of Helheim for eons, it was so rich in flavor that it was almost vinegar. Nonetheless, it was one of the few beverages her palate found acceptable... however, each time she glanced Maria eat the food she made with her friends, she began to drool.

"Seriously what does she adds to that food that makes it so tasty looking... Ahh, I want some of that food as well. But I guess it is a bit too late to ask for tributes." Sighed Hel.

She sipped another bit more of that wine before relaxing and watching Maria's adventures through the crystal ball, which connected to Root's eyes.

"That Dungeon is indeed quite dangerous, yes... I hope you're prepared for what's coming next, dear Maria." Hel sighed, she was no longer smiling, as if feeling sorry for Maria.

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Meanwhile, within the depths of the Miasmic Dungeon, the Dungeon Core began to move rapidly, reacting to Maria and her party completely cleaning the Second Floor. Fury seeped deep into the Dungeon Core's very being, as black and red veins spread across the Third Floor, the power of the Evil God's Fragment becoming stronger and stronger.

"They're approaching... Closer... What is their motive? Do they desire... to steal my strength? To devour me like I have done to others living beings... and their remains?"

The Dungeon Core began to experience, for the first time... fear. It was afraid against death, against losing everything. It desperately began thinking, and then, it merely decided to do what it knows best. To summon monsters and utilize its powers to order them to destroy anything that might threaten it.

Countless monsters began emerging, waking up from their slumber one after the other, the third floor was not the home of merely Abyssal Ants, as stronger beings that roamed, powerful and fueled with Miasmic Powers. And within its very end, the Dungeon Core's avatar's eyes glowed bright red, sensing the presence of something getting closer...

"GRRRRRHHH..."

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(Maria's POV)

Leaving aside Hel's audacity, I was now only 1 Level off reaching max Level! The next floor should be the last one as well, so it should be totally possible to get there and slay the Boss, level up, and evolve into an even stronger form. This time I'll try to pick up something that doesn't worsen my Curse, if possible. I remember Lucifer said there might be "Paths" opening to me in the future. I might have to take one of these "Paths" whenever I am offered an Evolution, at long last.

Whatever Path I choose might change my future and everything else, greatly. I'll have to be careful though. Although I often fall to temptation and end up choosing something overpowered anyways, it should be good if we at least try to not get as blinded... Hopefully.

"And we're done." Lucifer said.

"Shall we go directly to the third floor? I've barely used my strength so I feel like I could easily help you defeat the Boss... Though if the Boss ends up being the same Ant Queen and all, we'll need to be more careful." Brunhild pointed out.

"Yeah, I agree, we need to be more careful." I said. "Wait for a bit, let's recover our HP and MP first. Root, can you help us out?"

"GYUH!" Root began floating everywhere, producing delicious fruits and leaves, and feeding them to us.

Both of them recovered fatigue and exhaustion, alongside a bit of HP and MP. However, we still had to compensate as it wasn't enough, so we drank a few HP and MP Potions to refill completely. Unless we are in a desperate situation, it is way better to recover MP through Potions.

Why? Well, imbuing my Mana into other people might hurt them in the long run if I do it all the time, after all my Mana comes contaminated with my powers and even Miasma, too much of it could damage someone, even the most resilient ones such as Lucifer and Partner, so unless we're in the middle of a dangerous battle, it is better to recover MP using potions, which I've been perfecting through all this time to recover way more than the first time I made them, heh.

"Phew, that hits the spot, I feel renewed..." Helga sighed in relief. "Alright everyone! We're going to the last Floor, once we're done here, this will be finally over!"

"YEAAAH!"

"Finally!"

"Man I just want to go back to bed!"

"I want to sleep for a whole week, using this damn golem for so long's fucking my back."

"I want a cold beer once this is done!"

"The beer and food will be on me once we're done with this job, everyone, so you better work your asses off and not disappoint Maria and the rest!" Helga said, cheering up the dwarves, their mechs raised their arms in celebration.

"Everyone, don't lower your guards, Floor 3 is the most dangerous one. It is where the most Abyssal Ants were, and it is a gigantic Cave System. The Ant Queen I remember had the power to shape the Dungeon and the walls, so it is very easy to get lost. Stay at our side and don't sidetrack." I told everyone.

"ALRIGHT!"

Chapter 642 Reaching Floor 3

"Everyone, don't lower your guards, Floor 3 is the most dangerous one. It is where the most Abyssal Ants were, and it is a gigantic Cave System. The Ant Queen I remember had the power to shape the Dungeon and the walls, so it is very easy to get lost. Stay at our side and don't sidetrack." I told everyone.

"ALRIGHT!"

The Dwarves seemed to be ready for it, so there was no point in taking longer than we've already had taken, we stepped into the stairs leading to the Third and Last Floor of the Dungeon, slowly walking until the last stair.

And there it was, we were greeted by a beautiful yet black-colored and ominous-looking cave. The stone was purple and black instead of the natural gray and blue, and the entire atmosphere gave out a very terrifying presence and aura to it.... Well, not too much to me, I was pretty alright being a ghost and all.

The dwarves, however, I could clearly heard their uneasiness as we walked across these underground cave labyrinth. Lucifer and Brunhild covered our front and back respectively, their enormous and scaled bodies were our shields from any ambush.

"Its awfully silent here... Where are the Ants?" Wondered Partner.

"I can see them..." I said. "And I can also feel the Fragment of the Evil God, it is furious, it seems. And it is emanating a very strong aura, it is fueling this entire Floor with strong quantities of Miasma..."

I looked into my Automatic Map, as most of the Dungeon Floor started to get mapped as I spread small Phantom Familiars the size of flies, which were mostly invisible to the giant monsters crawling here. As I mapped the area, I quickly noticed armies of Abyssal Ants waiting in ambush in each corner of these places.

Woah these bastards are crafty- Wait, what is that?!

However, amongst the Abyssal Ants, there were also another group of new monsters. Gigantic golems made of stone and crystals rested there, waiting for a foe to approach, and with them... what are these? Graves?

T R U U U U M M M M M...!

The ground suddenly began shaking as I sensed the presence of many beings crawling underground! Moles? No, these things are not moles at all!

"A tremor?!" Asked Lucifer.

"Look!" Takeshi pointed at the distance, as gigantic graves emerged one after the other, hundreds of them blocked our path!

"G-Graves...?" Emeraldine asked.

"Is there a monster shaped as a grave?" Partner asked.

"Not that I remember..." I said. "But this is... not a monster, these graves are special Dungeon Devices, and they summon..."

FLAAAASH!

Suddenly, from within the underground, large monsters emerged one after the other. Their bodies were overflowing with Miasma and Death Essence, and they were decaying. Over a hundred zombies appeared, roaring furiously at us. Ghosts showed up as well, screaming and howling in agonizing fury. Skeletons of various shapes and forms as well, some resembled turtles, others larger or smaller reptile skeletons.

And of course, there were also hundreds of human-like zombies and skeletons. These guys were not humans though, they were smaller, burlier, and had big armors and long bears. They were all dwarves! Dwarf Zombies and Skeletons!

"Undead?!" Asked Brunhild.

"I can see a lot of Undead Turtles and Lizards as well!" Lucifer said. "They have crystals attached to them, I can assume they're the same ones we fought back then when you let us gain levels..."

"Yeah, I think they are... This bastard of a dungeon had such a massive army of Undead?!" I asked in surprise.

"Wait, those are dwarves! Our kin..." Helga said. "Could these hundred fallen warriors be the ones that came here before us? I knew they were many that died, but this many?!"

"This is horrible..."

"I had grown accustomed to Maria's undead, but seeing our own kin enslaved into an evil dungeon is not my thing!"

"Yeah, this is completely different now!"

"It's personal!"

"Use your light magic attacks to purify them! We must send their souls to Valhalla!" Helga roared.

"Yeah! I will help as well, we must definitely not let them be enslaved..." Emeraldine said. "Maria seems to be incapable of taking them to her side, they must have been completely corrupted by the Evil God Fragment's powers."

"Yeah, I cannot take them to our side, these Undead are different, like... they were raised differently than mine, they were converted into Undead purely through Infectious Miasma, not through Skills or Magic and correctly done. And the worst isn't just this, I can feel more and more Undead and Abyssal Ants crawling everywhere... We'll need to go all out to beat them all and get to the boss room!" I said, leading the charge. "Let's go! [Summon]!"

FLAAAASH!

I quickly summoned my army of Undead, which now had added over four hundred Abyssal Ants as I boosted their power through buffing spells and bone armor for extra protection! The Abyssal Ants rushed forward, attacking with their fearfully big jaws. Some were covered on flames and others on darkness and lighting, receiving the elements which they were killed with.

CRAASH! CRAASH! CRAASH! CRAAASH!

The clash between monsters echoed loudly across the caves, as I quickly ordered many of the Undead to explode to expand the range of attack and set chaos into the enemy ranks. The explosions came with chain explosion as well, which took over the ranks of Undead and Ants army.

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOOM!

The explosions continued, as Emeraldine and the Dwarves used their Light Magic to purify the Undead as well, unleashing beams of light, exploding light arrows, and Root even helped with his Sunlight Beams, devastating the Undead even more to not allow any to escape the afterlife.

I unleashed several of my Magic Spells and powerful Skills as well, opening up a path which we walked through, as we reached the next corridor... only to be ambushed by even more Monsters!

Chapter 643 Against An Undead Army

We had more or less gone through the first Wave of Undead and Abyssal Ants, just to be greeted by the Elite Abyssal Ants! There were the big Goliath Abyssal Ants, alongside around fifty Abyssal Ant Knights with their weapons ready to strike. The Goliaths moved furiously, unleashing tremors around the surroundings with their gigantic bodies and firing gigantic spheres of darkness from their mouths, while the knights swarmed us, slashing away at us rapidly, relying on their fast speed and the ability to fly.

The Undead from before were still chasing us down, around over half of them were vaporized by our combined magic attacks, but there was still a resilient bunch that was holding Magic Weapons and roaring furiously, these Dwarves must have been pretty high level when they died if they're this strong as Undead!

"Old Warriors, your tenacity is admirable, but you must rest already!" Helga roared, her large Battle Axe began glowing with several light-colored crystals imbuing the weapon with the Light Element, as she unleashed a barrage of attacks utilizing it, slashes of light which the Zombie and Skeleton Dwarves received.

CLAASH! CLAASH! CLAAASH!

"Graaaggrhh!"

"Raaaah!"

A few of them were sliced apart and their bodies started turning into ashes, but several of them tanked the hits using their Magic Shields and Shield Techniques. There was a dozen magicians in the back as well, conjuring powerful barriers to block magic. And even worse, there were dark mages too, firing dark magic attacks against the golem's light beams.

"Damn you guys are too resilient! You're supposed to be dead already!"

"We're not dying today, I still have a couple of years before I join my ancestors!"

"Everyone, go all out!" Helga roared, as she opened the chest of her golem and unleashed a massive beam of light. "Drink MP Potions whenever your MP is depleted!"

"ROGER!"

The Dwarves continued firing beams of light from a safe distance while clubbing away the zombies and skeletons that got closer. Their barrage of many light beams combined into an endless arc of light, the zombies and skeletons couldn't charge forward anymore and were slowly being pushed back.

"RAAAAHH! [Holy Axe Cross]!"

Helga roared furiously, charging forward with her golem and unleashing a devastating attack, her Axe unleashed a powerful cross-shaped light attack, slicing through a dozen zombies and tearing them apart, while her free golem arm began shooting light beams everywhere, all while several zombies and skeletons started climbing over her body.

"Get off the boss!"

"RAAAAH!"

"Take this you old pile of bones!"

"Go back to your grave old man!"

"I know you want to taste beer again but go do it in Valhalla!"

The Dwarves got bolder as they charged with Helga and began throwing away the Undead climbing her golem viciously, they were hanging just fine, but my Undead supported them and covered their backs, even when the Dwarf Zombies and Skeletons were so strong they were mostly devastating my own Undead. That was fine by me, each time they destroyed one, it would explode right before dying completely.

BOOOM!

BOOOM!

BOOOM!

The explosions echoed around the dwarves' golems, making their job easy as the Dwarven Undead were thrown into the ground and took a while to stand back up again. Helga had amazing leadership, so she was leading the Dwarves wonderfully.

Meanwhile, in the frontlines, Root was charging into the front, his small body had quickly turned back to his original size, as his massive wooden fists began punching the Goliath Abyssal Ants. Root's Light Beams complemented his physical blows, while his branches and roots pierced through the ant's bodies, draining away their energy.

CLAAASH! CLAAASH! CLAAAASH!

His enormous blows sent them flying, the rest of the army of Abyssal Ants was sent into complete Chaos as Lucifer and Brunhild joined in, burning them alive with their combination of Fire Dragon Breaths and slashing blows using their Claws and whipping blows with their tails.

FLUOOOOOSH!

"[Yggdrasil's Garden]!"

Emeraldine, on the other side, loaded an arrow with powerful Spiritual Essence, firing it straight into the middle of the enemy army in the frontlines. One of the Abyssal Ant Knights managed to catch the arrow in midair, breaking it with its hands only to be consumed by a giant tree that grew out of its claws.

CLAAAASH!

The giant tree began stretching its branches and roots everywhere, shaping the terrain around and turning it more hazardous for the Abyssal Ants and Undead to pass through. The tree then would unleash a wave of light, purifying many of the weakened Undead, and the stronger ones were weakened severely!

"[Abyssal Thunder]!"

I gathered black lightning in my hands, unleashing devastating thunder strikes of black color all around me, the Undead and Abyssal Ants began to explode into pieces against my godly thunderous attacks, but their numbers kept rushing out the more we advanced through the corridors.

Although it seemed the dungeon wasn't shaping itself around, it was still a slightly long way before reaching the Boss Room. I guess I had to push myself a bit harder. Using Darkness alone was getting boring too, let's try out something more crazier.

"[Plague Body] + [Abyssal Demon Transformation]!"

FLAAAASH!

My body flashed with black light, as it stretched in size alone and became a gargantuan monster. My body covered on insect-like exoskeleton and possessing countless black claws and jaws, at the same time as a swarm of millions of flies surrounded me.

This was the [Beelzebub]'s race "True Form" which its description couldn't even tell, a gigantic, abhorrent humanoid fly with a swarm of giant flies. I guess I am slightly embracing what I've become for a tiny bit, I'll go back to the enchanting lady I am in a minute.

"RAAAAAAH!"

Combining the Weapon Techniques, Magic, and my Fist Techniques together, I unleashed a barrage of weapon attacks as dozens of bug-like arms with claws emerged from all around my torso, unleashing fist strikes and Battle Axe and Sword attacks everywhere, all while swarms of flies started to devour anything in front of me!

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CRAAAASH!

Chapter 644 Rushing To The Final Boss Room!

Abyssal Ants died by the dozens with my crazed barrage of attacks, the army we were fighting quickly was reduced to half in half a minute. My insectoid jaws feasted on Undead and Abyssal Ants alike as I continued devouring and destroying anything on my path. My roar was utterly otherworldly, when I was in this form I couldn't even recognize my voice. But it was cool to have hundreds of eyes in a single one, like fly eyes are actually structured.

BBBBZZZZZZ!

My swarm of flies continued its attack, it was merely part of my actual body anyways. It swarmed the strongest of monsters lifting them off the ground and then pushing them down into the floor, or sometimes exploding, each tiny fly exploded at the same time, causing devastating damage. However, the monsters continued flooding our path, ten Goliaths showed up and around fifty more Abyssal Ant Knights in a large squadron, alongside Chimera Bone Behemoths, enormous A+ Rank Undead Monsters!

"Here comes a big one! [Chaotic Dark Meteor]! [Chaotic Dark Meteor]! [Chaotic Dark Meteor]!"

The convergence of several Skills together, the powerful [Chaotic Dark Meteor]! Was conjured three times in unison. This powerful Skill was an "ultimate" one as I call them, as it summons an utterly massive meteor of crystalized chaos, it was made of all my offensive skills at the time I invented it.

Each conjuration originally costed 100k MP, but thanks to the power of my weapons and equipment, the MP cost of spells has reduced quite a lot. And through the cycle of absorbing MP and HP from foes through my Yog-Sothoth Skill, I was able to summon five of these big attacks at once if I wanted!

BOOOOM! BOOOOM! BOOOOOM!!!

The enormous meteors fell over the monster armies, crushing dozens of monsters at once, the Goliaths were utterly crushed before my steps as I laughed evilly at their suffering. Damn, this form really increased my malice.

The meteors let out powerful explosions everywhere, as I quickly invoked more and more phantasmal hands I the shape of insectoid bugs from my body, each one unleashing fist strikes while absorbing HP and MP from foes and even cursing them at the same time.

Threads of shadows wrapped around squadrons of foes, making them even easier to kill. Several weapons I've had saved inside my Inventory were retrieved at the same time, as I used them to impale and destroy the wrapped monsters using the Spear Skill I had, which had yet to reach Level 10.

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH! CRASH!

"RAAAAH!"

I charged forward, hitting the Chimera Bone Behemoth in front of me, made out of countless of monster bones. The creature shaped its body bones into sharp blades and spears and attempted to pierce me with them, but I easily defended using Abyssal Barriers and my own chitinous exoskeleton, which grew over my phantasmal body.

CLASH! CLASH! CLAAASH!

"[Chaotic Dark Meteor]!!"

However, I summoned Meteor right in front of the Behemoth's body. The massive meteor quickly emerged from a gigantic magic circle, devastating the entire pile of walking bones into the floor, as every bone fell down as if it were crumbling.

CRAAAASH!

"[Chaotic Dark Meteor]! [Chaotic Dark Meteor]!!"

I conjured two more for good measure in front of me, blowing away the rest of the Abyssal Ants coming towards me. The whole explosion left massive craters and most of the monsters were not even spared of leaving bodies, being obliterated.

"Hahh..." I sighed, looking around, quickly realizing that I had taken down most of the monster's backline, there were still a hundred or so behind me, but they were already being slain by everyone else.

I didn't had any time to rest, I quickly jumped back to battle, assisting everyone. The monsters were quickly dealt with as we ganged on them, even the resilient Dwarf Undead finally meet their rapid end by the hands of the newer dwarven golems and Emeraldine's magic. We didn't had time to sit and rest though, it was a single road towards the final boss.

"Let's keep going!"

I quickly helped everyone fly in midair, holding them using my swarm of flies for easy maneuver in midair. Emeraldine was still having a hard time getting used to it but she didn't had any options right now.

We rushed through the path in front of us, and then gave a turn while Undead and Abyssal Ants flew into the air, the enormous door leading to the final boss was revealed, pitch black in color.

"I can sense something eerie on front..." Lucifer said.

"Me too, something strange..." Brunhild sighed.

We could all notice an ominous presence emerging from beneath the Door, it overflowed with a phantasmal power, and seemed stronger than even our own auras. Whatever the boss was this time, it wasn't going to be a mere Ant Queen.

"Open the door!" Helga said. "Don't worry about us, we'll take care of the monsters swarming here!"

"Alright, thank you!" I quickly left several Phantasmal Familiars to offer the dwarves some aid alongside the many Undead I raised along the way.

Lucifer and Brunhild kicked the door open with their dragon kicks, breaking it into pieces at the same time as we rushed inside!

CRAAASH!

FLUOOOSH!

The first thing that greeted our sight was an enormous quantity of purple mist everywhere. It filled the entire room, making it rather difficult to see whatever was in front of us. Aside from the noise outside, the entire room was dead silent.

"This place... so ominous..." Lucifer sighed.

"Why do I feel this strange... sensation? What... what am I forgetting about? This reminds me..." Brunhild muttered.

The two dragons seemed strangely unfocused, as if the ominous presences here were something they knew about... But yet that they couldn't properly recognize nor remember for some reason.

"GRRRRHHHHH..."

Suddenly, two enormous red eyes emerged in the back of the room, flaring with an ominous bloodlust. A gigantic body was revealed as the eyes came closer.

Its shape...

It was that of a dragon, similar to Brunhild and Lucifer!

The two seemed to have immediately recognized the Zombie Dragon that showed up in front of us, their faces distorting in fury and disgust, and sorrow, an incredible amount of it...

"No... Why?!" Lucifer began to cry.

"It can't be... Crystal?" Brunhild cried.

"GROOOOOAAARRRRRRR!"

Chapter 645 Crystal

In front of us, the boss of the dungeon emerged... It was a gigantic Zombie Dragon, powerful enough to even rival the strength of Lucifer and Brunhild combined. The Zombie Dragon's body was covered on hard and colorful scales, resembling dark blue, black, red, and purple crystals growing all over the monster's body.

The Dragon's skull could be seen, and it lacked eyes, the crevices of its skull flashing with phantasmal blue flames, filled with feelings of resentment, hate, anger, and sorrow... I could feel the Dragon's pain.

But when Brunhild and Lucifer recognized the Dragon's appearance, everything changed. We fell into silence, as we glanced at the scene. I couldn't recognize her, but she was named Crystal.

...Or well, that was the name she had when she was alive.

"Crystal...?!" Lucifer cried. His entire body was suddenly paralyzed, he couldn't move an inch. His eyes seemed filled with despair, as he started crying.

Perhaps seeing himself as an Undead didn't bother him, but when he saw the decaying and groaning body of the woman he loved the most... It must be the most heartbreaking thing in the world.

"This... I knew something was up... This dungeon, this accursed dungeon!" Cried Brunhild, her flames flickering as she hit the ground in fury and frustration.

"Papa?!" Nyx wondered, flying towards her father, who was in tears.

Nyx looked back at the giant dragon, afraid of the beast's enormous strength, and its slow steps, as it made its way towards us... This beast was her mother.

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Maria felt taken aback by this revelation, as she didn't even know what she could do to help everyone now. The Dungeon's Last Boss was the reanimated corpse of Lucifer's wife. Maria couldn't control it either, no matter how hard she tried, and every time she attempted to glance at the undead soul, she would sense this feeling of dread like nothing she had felt before... Crystal's soul was either completely consumed by this darkness or wasn't even there to begin with.

Maria couldn't tell until she clashed against the Undead Dragon and were to find out by herself... But things were only getting worse, the Dragon's powers weren't merely intimidation, it spread a powerful Domain that enhanced its stats and lowered those of its foes, it slowly approached at the same time, as if it was enjoying the despair of its victims.

"Crystal..."

Lucifer seemed to be completely frozen. As he glanced at the decaying body of his loved one, he despaired. This wasn't how he wanted it to be... This wasn't how he thought it would happen either. He didn't want to meet her again like this.

He had imagined her body had been buried in the mountain, and that was the end of it. He never thought for a moment that something like this could have happened to her... This Dungeon had the capacity of devouring the mountain's resources and energy, it even meant absorbing the corpses of anything buried in there.

The amount of Undead they fought was so large because they weren't simply the bodies of old dwarves that visited this dungeon, but also of other people that had merely been buried in the mountain long ago... the same happened for Lucifer.

Seeing his former wife like this made him feel completely despaired. It wasn't just because of the horrifying appearance her beautiful wife's body had now, but also that her very being... it was filled with feelings of resentment, anger, despair, and suffering.

He could sense within her an incredible feeling of despair, like nothing else. The worst was that Maria couldn't do anything for her... Crystal couldn't be controlled by Maria's powers, and the only way to defeat her was by slaying her.

Killing the one he loved the most... He couldn't even imagine himself doing something so cruel. Despite the calling of Maria and Nyx, and everyone else with their Party, Lucifer seemed incapable of hearing anything but his own thoughts.

Images of his life flashed through his mind, as he felt an immense pain all around his soul and his head. The memories he thought he had lost slowly began to resurface one after the other after he saw his former wife's reanimated body.

The first time he meet her was when he was merely a young Dragon, back in the past, thousands of years ago, perhaps. He was youthful and energetic, he was always going into hunts into the wilderness, fighting monsters and slowly growing stronger.

Because of this, he always came back covered on wounds. Lucifer was an orphan dragon whose father and mother he never met. His egg was left inside a mountain and he hatched with the help of his big sister, a dragon a few years older than him that was always inside the cave with him.

She cared for him and helped him grow in his smallest of forms. However, as he grew older, he wanted independence as he became rowdier and wilder, so he ended going off to another cave, to live alone.

His big sister wanted to take care of him forever... but she knew he had to get to live his own life as well. Ultimately the two departed, although she often came to visit him once or twice a week, always bringing him company so he wouldn't feel so lonely.

But even then, he was most of the time alone. He enjoyed his loneliness though, although his family seems to have grown away from the larger tribes of dragons, so he was unable to socialize with them. His sister was slightly the same, more connected with nature, she merely hunted, ate, and slept.

Until one day, when Lucifer suddenly stumble upon a scene when he was looking for something to hunt in the Mountain's Forests. A smaller, crystal-covered dragon was fighting desperately against a fierce wyvern, and she seemed to be losing despite her hard defenses.

"ROOOAAR!"

"Uggh! Get off me you beast! Nnnghh...! Why is a wyvern this strong?! I won't be able to get back home with something for my siblings to eat like this!"

She fiercely fought against the Wyvern, a powerful B Rank monster twice as big as her, who was fiercely slashing and biting her body while bathing her on blazing breath.

Lucifer quickly arrived, emerging from the bushes and jumping over the wyvern, his powerful bite quickly tore through the monster's scales and then bit through the wyvern's neck bone, cracking it.

CRACK!

"GRYYAARRRGH!"

The Giant Wyvern fell into the ground, dead by the might of the young Lucifer. His wound-covered body surprised Crystal more than his sneaky attack.

"A-Ah! Another dragon..." She said, looking at him while still on the floor.

"Don't fight the things you can't beat." Lucifer said coldly, grabbing the wyvern by the neck and walking away.

That moment, Lucifer simply thought he would never meet her again.

Yet...

"W-Wait, please!"

She followed him.

Chapter 646 Lucifer And Crystal's Past 1

"What do you want?"

"Please give me a bit of that wyvern's meat!"

"Huh? But I hunted it, it's mine! Scram!"

"Hyeeeh! But I need the meat to feed my siblings!"

"Why should I care?"

Lucifer was as rude as he could be when he was younger, walking away without even giving Crystal a glance. The crystal-covered dragoness continued following him all the way to his nest.

"Please, just a tiny bit..."

"Scram I said!"

Lucifer showed her his fangs, but Crystal, although very afraid, couldn't step away.

"I-I also dealt plenty of damage to that monster's Health! I-I deserve a piece!"

"What? The one that kills it gets it all!"

"Don't be unfair! Hasn't your mama or papa taught you anything about a Dragon's Pride? We must always be kind with other Dragons!"

Crystal insisted, only irritating Lucifer more.

"I already saved your life, what more kindness do you want?"

"A bit of meat..."

"Sigh..."

Lucifer seemed to be incapable of hurting her, she was small and shiny like a jewel, even if he was angered, he couldn't bring himself to send her away, even less when she seemed so harmless.

And also, she was perhaps the first dragon he ever spoke with for so long. He ended giving her a piece of the wyvern's meat, a large one at that as he butchered the beast with his fangs.

"Take this and go and stop bothering me."

"Thank you! I knew you would be kindhearted- Ah, what's your name?"

"Lu... Lucifer... That's the name that shows in my Soul Book."

"Lucifer..."

"What's yours?"

"Crystal!"

Crystal... a very simple name, which also represented her scales, which were shiny like crystals, growing all over her body. She resembled a living jewel at times, especially when the light of the sun reflected over her body.

Like that, weeks went by, and Lucifer never got to see her again. He already had forgotten about meeting her once more, living alone most of the time. Hunting, eating, and sleeping.

He often wished he could speak with more people, with more dragons aside from his sister. Yet he felt ostracized, as an orphan that grew slightly wilder without parents, he looked more like a monster than one of their kin.

Most dragons were terrified of him, it didn't helped that he was bigger than most dragons, his body was covered on scars, and his face was ugly and ferocious. He had hunted so many monsters that he had grown very strong through their Experience Points, his strength alone was a detriment for others to approach him.

Because of his strength and the strength of his sister, both of them dominated a large territory, no smart dragon stepped into these two wild siblings' territories, so they had very little interactions with anybody else...

"I wonder where she might be..." He sighed one day, carrying a large Sabre Cat he had caught. "I hope his siblings are not hungry."

FLAAASH!

However, he quickly heard the sound of wings flapping rapidly behind him. He turned to see who it was, and saw a shiny crystal-scaled dragoness. It was her, as if she was an angel, descending from the skies.

"Lucifer!"

"C-Crystal?!"

BAAM!

She arrived at the side of Lucifer, suddenly bringing something for him, it was a small six-legged lizard she caught.

"Here, I caught something for you, to repay the favor!"

"Crystal, you look all bruised, did this take you time?"

"Hahahah..."

"Maybe you need to learn how to properly fight... Anyways, why are you back? Aren't you afraid of me?"

"Afraid?"

Crystal tilted her head in confusion.

"Ah... I see, this girl just lacks common sense, doesn't she?" Thought Lucifer back then.

Every other dragon was afraid of him, they even called him the "Ruler of the Mountain" so nobody got closer, fearing for their lives. Yet Crystal boldly stepped into his domain and happily gave him an offering.

In the culture of dragons, this might even seem like a proposal. When dragons gifted each other with their prey, they were trying to court each other. This was something his sister had explained to him before.

"Remember Lucy, if a girl shows up bringing you food one day that isn't your big sis, she probably wants your baby!"

However, he had to quickly scratch that possibility, Crystal was too clueless to even want that. She simply wanted to repay back the favor.

"Well... thanks. Can you bring this to my cave?"

"Sure!"

The two flew back to Lucifer's cave, as they had a feast with what they hunted, roasting it and taking out the fur made the meat usually way more delicious, something that Crystal taught to Lucifer.

"And if we add this rock salt..." Crystal added bits of rock salt she took out of the mountain's depths, crushing it into dust.

"Why are you adding dust into the meat?!" Lucifer freaked out.

"Just try it~!" Crystal giggled.

"Hmmm..." Lucifer groaned in confusion, skeptically.

However, once he bite through the meat, his senses of flavor finally awakened, he had never tasted something like this before.

The taste of the meat completely changed, his tongue had never tasted something so good before, his senses awakened, everything he had known about the boring, old bloody meat was gone.

"You like it?" Crystal smiled as he glanced Lucifer remain in complete silence.

"T-This meat... Just what sort of magic have you put into this?! Is this really just rock dust?!" Lucifer was taken away.

"It's named seasoning, dummy." Crystal laughed mischievously. "It is something humans and other races of people use to flavor their food! I spied on them once and found out!"

"T-That's crazy..." Lucifer sighed. "C-Can you give me more of that?!"

"Alright, serve yourself as much as you want!" Giggled Crystal.

Since that day, Crystal continued visiting Lucifer every day. His sister had already realized he got himself a new friend and teased him every time she came to visit him.

"So her name's Crystal, huh? I saw her flying the other day, she's a real beauty! So when are you making babies? We could have a big family once you let her lay a few eggs!" Said Brunhild excitedly.

Chapter 647 Lucifer And Crystal's Past 2

Since that day, Crystal continued visiting Lucifer every day. His sister had already realized he got himself a new friend and teased him every time she came to visit him.

"So her name's Crystal, huh? I saw her flying the other day, she's a real beauty! So when are you making babies? We could have a big family once you let her lay a few eggs!" Said Brunhild excitedly.

"W-What nonsense are you talking about? My relationship with her is... merely just friends." Sighed Lucifer. "There's no way she would even... see me as anything else."

"Huh? Why?!"

"I am feared by every dragon... They even call me the Ruler of the Mountain. I am ugly, my entire body's covered on scars... The scales of my face are all black after losing their red color because I keep fighting wyverns that burn my face..." Sighed Lucifer. "Meanwhile Crystal is smart, and beautiful... She's like a treasure, a living treasure... Her shiny scales reflect on the sun, she resembles an angel, even... How could she possibly deserve someone like me?"

"Huh... You're talking a bunch of nonsense..." Brunhild said, slamming Lucifer with her thick tail. "Little brother! You've gotta man up and just try to get slightly closer to her! Tell her how you feel! I am sure she'll love you back, there's no way a girl would be so close with you through all this time without feeling a tiny bit attracted, right?"

"That's..." Lucifer seemed to lack self-esteem back then. The rumors other dragons spread about him didn't helped at all either. "I won't try anything, just cut it out..."

Lucifer didn't do as his sister said, even though the thought remained within his mind through the next couple of days, which then became weeks and months.

Through this time not only they began to hunt together, but Lucifer taught Crystal many new things, such as hunting methods, fighting with her claws, scales, and tail, and how to bite a monster's vitals to ensure rapid kills.

At the same time, Crystal taught him how to use magic, how to forage for medicinal herbs and tasty rocks and other ingredients to make his every day a bit more flavorful.

Until one day...

"Lucifeeeer!"

"Crystal?"

She arrived from the skies once more, reaching his cave. She quickly ran towards him, as she looked into his scars.

"Look! [Brilliant Light of Recovery]! [Blessing of the Earthen Spirits]!"

FLAAASH!

Suddenly, sparks of light emerged everywhere around Lucifer and Crystal... Lucifer was left completely flabbergasted by the sight. Her magic had once more evolved, she even had contracted with several Earth Spirits, which helped her conjure a powerful healing spell!

The light covered Lucifer's scars, slowly beginning to heal his wounds, the scars disappeared, and new scales grew over them. Even his darkened face grew fresh, red-colored scales, as he regained the look he had on his younger years.

"A-Ahh... t-this magic...!"

Lucifer was left taken aback, even the left horn he had broken recovered and grew back!

"This is my gift for you, Lucifer! I've been practicing magic all this time... Because everyone always fears you due to how you look, they cannot see how nice and amicable you truly are... They can't see the good heart you have... So I thought healing your wounds and giving you back the younger appearance you always cherished might make you happier? Perhaps other dragons can lower their guards a bit more in front of you too!" Said Crystal with an innocent smile.

"Crystal..." Lucifer cried. "Thank you..."

Lucifer felt moved by Crystal's words, and how considerate she was with him. Aside from his sister, there hasn't been anybody that ever acted this way with him before, someone that saw through his heart like this...

"Huh? You're crying?!" Crystal panicked.

"I... Sorry." Sighed Lucifer, trying to not show his face.

"Oh no, it's fine..." Said Crystal. "I am glad you're feeling better, Lucifer!"

"Crystal..." Lucifer moved closer to her, as he decided he couldn't wait any longer. "Crystal I... I love you."

"Huh?! " Crystal was taken aback.

Lucifer, realizing he was too close, stepped back, afraid of scaring her. However, the crystal-scaled dragoness slowly walked to his side, licking his face.

"Don't be shy... Sorry about my reaction, I was a bit surprised it was so sudden..." Crystal said. "But I also love you Lucifer! I am so happy you also share these feelings!"

"R-Really?! The ugly me?" He asked. "You're not scared of me?"

"Why would I?!" Crystal sighed. "You're the nicest dragon I've ever meet! The other dragons should just try to know you better!"

"Crystal..." Lucifer seemed moved by her words.

She approached him and rubbed her snout in front of his, licking his face gently, Lucifer licked her back. This was the way a pair of dragons showed their love with one another, similar to kissing.

Her beautiful blue eyes shone brightly, like two big crystals, they shone so brightly and beautifully they sometimes resembled stars. Even Crystal's own pupils were like jewels.

"You're... my precious treasure." Lucifer said, cuddling with her.

"Heheh... You're so corny~ I didn't knew this facet of yours..." Giggled Crystal.

"Ah... W-Well..." Lucifer felt embarrassed.

"No, it's fine..." Crystal said, licking his face again. "After everything we've gone through, you're also precious to me..."

Those words reverberated across Lucifer's mind through his entire life. Like that, through his life, he grew stronger and bigger, and also more sociable. With the help of Crystal, he slowly started to talk more with other Dragons.

He slowly changed the image they had of him, and while helping them deal with monsters, or sometimes with hunger, the dragons saw him as a natural leader, following him. Without even realizing, he had been given the title of the Dragon King, and all other Dragons followed him, making the biggest unified tribe of Dragons in the Mountains.

And of course, with time, Crystal laid her eggs, and beautiful children hatched from them, their scales a combination of fiery red and crystal colors, they shared the beauty of their mother and the strength of their father.

Chapter 648 The Dragon King's Resolve

Those years, despite the tragedies that would follow later, were the happiest days of his life, the ones filled with color and happiness, with life and a bright future, with hope and dreams...

And seeing her face now, after recalling all these years, truly filled Lucifer with a dreadful feeling of despair. Her beautiful eyes were no more, her body, as beautiful as a treasure, decayed. And even he could see her bones and rotten flesh beneath her scales and skin.

"Why?"

"Why must I face such a terrible trial?"

"Is the world mocking me?"

"After everything I've done to grow stronger and help those I've grown to love now?"

"My second chance... Was it merely given to me by fate so I could meet this gruesome sight?"

"Oh... Crystal... My beloved Crystal... Your soul screams with so much agony... Your precious soul, your innocent heart... How could they? How could they do this to you?"

Lucifer fell through an endless sea of darkness, he felt like he could not move at all. His sadness, sorrow, and regret engulfed him completely. The grief he felt was so horrendous it felt like his very flesh was being torn apart slowly by thousands of nails.

Lucifer couldn't take it any longer, he drowned himself into this despair, which turned into a sea of eternal darkness where nobody could pull him from. And each time the painful jolt that caused a new memory to emerge coursed through his head and soul, he felt more despair, more hopelessness.

"I'll always be with you."

"Don't worry, we can do this together."

"Aren't they cute? They're our little treasures."

"Dear? Can you bring more rock salt from the nearby mountain? Let's have a feast tonight with the kids!"

"Let's have a third child..."

"The sky tonight is so beautiful, filled with stars..."

"Your scales are so beautiful, as red as fire."

"Don't leave all the meat for the kids, dear! Do you want them to grow fatter? Eat something yourself as well, geez..."

"Come on, stop overthinking things, we'll figure it out together."

Lucifer's face distorted in suffering, as he saw the enormous Zombie Dragon grow closer, its rotten breath and its monstrous appearance drew closer, raising its bony claws, enchanting them with Miasma and Phantasmal Flames, and about to slash through him...

"I'll always love you."

Her voice echoed across his mind, as for a moment, he saw her through the reanimated corpse in front of him.

"Crystal..."

"This is fine..."

"It is my fault you and the kids died..."

"I was foolish and weak..."

"It is my fault that you're like this now..."

"Kill me... Take me with you..."

"ROOOOAARRR!"

The furious Zombie Dragon roared, its Miasma and Phantom-covered claws drawing closer, imbued with large quantities of power!

C R A A A A S S S H H H!!!

RUMBLE!

The enormous claws hit the ground, shaking the surroundings. However, Lucifer found himself unharmed, as he found Brunhild, Emeraldine, Maria, and even Partner in front of him, conjuring a powerful barrier of Holy Flames, Light and Nature, Blood, and Shadows.

"GGRRRRHHHHH!"

The furious Zombie Dragon roared angrily, as it suddenly generated several projectiles made of black crystals imbued with deadly amounts of Miasma, firing them at the barrier consecutively!

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!

As the sound of the barrier slowly shattering echoed in the background, Maria rushed towards Lucifer's surprised face, as one of her hands suddenly grew in an enormous size, slapping him!

BAAAM!

"AGGH!"

Lucifer's eyes opened wide, suddenly snapping out of his dazzle.

"M-Maria...?!"

Lucifer saw Maria crying, as she was furious, gritting her teeth angrily! Her eyes were glowing red.

"What are you doing, IDIOT?!"

"Eh?"

"You want to die?! I'm not going to let you die!"

"Maria...?"

"I get how you feel... I understand that pain! But... you cannot just let those feelings consume you! Your life no longer is just yours... Your life is also part of our own lives! Of mine..."

Lucifer's face changed, his jaws opened as he realized how foolish he had been.

"Am I not precious to you?" Maria asked, tears flowing through her eyes. "I don't want to lose you..."

"Papaaa!" Nyx flew at his side, crying as well. "Buaaaah!"

"Nyx..." Lucifer covered his face in shame, quickly cleaning his own tears. "I'm sorry... I... I lost focus."

His Aura suddenly began growing larger and stronger as he said those words, as he glanced directly at Crystal in the distance...

"I have you all with me... I am not alone... I'm sorry."

Lucifer's eyes began blazing with phantasmal flames, his body quickly began growing larger and larger at the same time, his scales became incredibly hard, metallic. He grew a second pair of wings, and another red eye on top of his other three... his black horns crowned his head, as his claws grew sharper.

There was now a large red and blue jewel in his chest, glowing with a phantasmal and dark aura... Without realizing it, he had already reached max level and evolved in front of everyone. Surpassing his previous Rank!

"R O O O O A A A R R R R!"

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLAAASH!

Crack... crack...!

"The barrier won't last much longer, she's crazy strong! Crystal give us a break please!" Brunhild cried.

"Ugh, what's up with the lizard, is he okay now- Eh?!" Partner was surprised when she saw the newly evolved Lucifer. "He's HUGE!"

"Is that... Lucifer?!" Emeraldine was just as surprised.

"Y-You... evolved..." Maria was left speechless.

"Don't worry, leave the tanking to me. Let us take her down... Please, everyone, help me bring Crystal to the afterlife." Lucifer said, his eyes blazing with conviction. Although he held great pain over his heart, he had to shoulder it and keep moving forward.

He had too many precious things he didn't wanted to lose now, he couldn't possibly act childish and lost them all now.

The Dragon King wasn't going to lose his precious treasures a second time.

Chapter 649 You're Not Alone On This!

"RROOOAAARRR!"

The monstrous Zombie Dragon roared, its blows quickly shattering the barrier that had been erected to protect Lucifer from her blows.

CRAAASH!

"GRYYAH!"

The monster roared once more, rushing forward as its bony wings enhanced its speed by flaring with phantasmal flames.

FLUOOOSH!

The phantasmal flames quickly erupted, spreading to all of the Zombie Dragon's surroundings, covering the entire place with flames that could even burn souls directly!

However, as it was about to reach Brunhild and everyone else with her that were just seconds ago erecting a multi-elemental barrier, an enormous shadow emerged before its path.

CLAAASSSHH!!!

Attempting to charge over the shadow and slam it into the ground, the monstrous Zombie Dragon clashed against it, only to feel like it hit a whole mountain instead.

CRACK!

Its skull began to crack as several of its old bones gained cracks as well, the Zombie Dragon's hollow eyes, blazing with phantasmal flames, glanced at the figure in front of her, a gargantuan black scaled dragon!

"I don't know if your soul is truly right there, Crystal, or if this is just your body, but I'll free you from your pain." Lucifer said, his eyes seemed sorrowful, but his body moved to the contrary of his feelings.

His gigantic fists clashed against the Zombie Dragon, two enormous dragons, each one almost a hundred meters tall clashed against one another. The Zombie Dragon's attacks were sluggish, although they carried large quantities of deadly miasmic essence, meanwhile, Lucifer's blows were explosive and incredibly swift, hitting the beast in front of him several times consecutively!

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

"GRUOOOOHHH! GRAAARRGH!"

The Zombie Dragon roared; its roar slightly similar to the one that Crystal had when she was alive. Lucifer faltered for a few seconds, gritting his teeth. The Zombie Dragon took this opportunity to strike, its body suddenly grew hundreds of crystal spears all over, piercing through Lucifer's scales!

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLAAASH!

Her attacks easily sliced through his newly evolved scales. She was very powerful even with Lucifer having attained the Rank of S-! However, his wounds quickly regenerated over and over, even when he was attacked many times. His magic also emerged, several spears made of darkness and phantasmal essence emerged one after the other, piercing through the Zombie Dragon's body directly.

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!

CLAAAASH!

The enormous Zombie Dragon fell into the floor, rolling over the ground as its body started falling apart. Lucifer gritted his jaws once more, feeling a gruesome feeling each time he saw Crystal's body being treated like this.

"Crystal... I'm sorry...!"

Lucifer seemed to be lamenting what he was doing, yet the Zombie Dragon was far from being weak, its scales and crystals regrew anew as it reinforced the broken bones, large quantities of Miasma continued to corrupt the Undead's titan, several tentacles of darkness and miasma appeared consecutively...

"You don't have to bear this alone, brother."

Brunhild, however, appeared at the side of Lucifer, to bear the pain at his side. She had met and known Crystal for a long time, and she knew how important she was for her little brother, all what Crystal meant for him... She was also her family too, it pained her as well.

"Brunhild..."

"GRUOOOHHHHH!"

However, the Zombie Dragon wasn't going to let them talk leisurely. The beast made of bones and rotten flesh charged forward furiously, miasmic tentacles trying to reach them to capture their bodies and absorb their life energy.

"[Infernal Breath]!"

Brunhild roared furiously, as her red scales erupted with flames, the fiery essence flowed into her throat as she unleashed a devastating Infernal Breath attack, combining her Red Flames with her Golden Flames, the power of these flames quickly turning into dust the Miasmic Tentacles, and reaching the Zombie Dragon.

BOOOOOMMM!!!

"GRAAAAH!"

However, the abomination jumped from the ground just in time, avoiding a powerful blow as it quickly ran forwards, generating hundred of spears made of crystals imbued with miasma, and firing them at Lucifer and Brunhild from afar!

However, Lucifer summoned his Death Scythe which had miraculously evolved through his own evolution. It has become even larger and solid now, made of black and dark blue materials and bones that seemed to be those of dragons as well. He furiously intercepted the blows from the crystal spears as they exploded in midair!

CLASH!! CLAASH!! CLAAAASH!!!

As Brunhild and Lucifer gathered all of the Zombie Dragon's attention, Partner, Emeraldine, Maria, Nyx, Takeshi, and Laura were doing different things!

"[Vampiric Bat Transformation]!"

FLAAASH!

Partner was gathering her Blood Essence into her chest, quickly infusing it into her body and suddenly generating a change in her body, red bat-like wings surged from her back, helping her fly easily, as her claws grew larger and redder, and her fangs sharper, even her ears became long and fluffy, like those of an actual bat! She grew patches of red fur around her legs and arms, and even around her neck, looking elegant.

This was one of Partner's newest Skills, the ability to transform into a half-vampire and half-bat beast hybrid, granting her brand new beastly capabilities, enhanced hearing, amazing magic vision, the power to fly at insanely fast speeds, and sharp claws that could drain blood from her foes with ease!

FLAAAAASH!

She flew directly towards the Zombie Dragon when it was completely concentrated into pummeling Brunhild and Lucifer, who were struggling to keep up with all her insanely strong magic, her legs moved rapidly as she unleashed a barrage of powerful consecutive kicks and slashes with her claws and legs!

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLAAASH!

"[Blood Berserker]!"

Her eyes glowed bright red, as her claws became covered on blood which quickly crystalized, slashing apart at the bones and scales of the Zombie Dragon, the powerful blows tore apart the body of the beast, while spreading explosive blood through it!

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!

"Partner!" Lucifer said in surprise. "Incredible! Since when were you this powerful?!"

"Heh, did you think you're the only one with powerups around here, big lizard?" Partner smiled proudly. "We'll share the burden together! Stop self-loathing so much like a dummy and get to it!"

Chapter 650 Fighting Against An Undead Dragon

"GROOOOAARRRRGH!"

The Zombie Dragon looked back at Partner, angrily targeting her with a barrage of whip attacks using its tail, which was now covered on scales and pointy, sharp bones.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLAAASH!

"Nnngghh...!" Partner groaned, she tried to avoid the hits but they were too fast, faster than she expected a giant bone monster to hit her!

"CRYSTAL!"

Lucifer roared, the Zombie Dragon's eyes flickered for a few seconds as it heard her former name, it glanced back at Lucifer, roaring furiously back at him, only for his dragon fists to reach the monster's face and body, like blazing black meteors!

"[Abyssal Dragon Meteor Fist]!"

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

His fists moved rapidly and with extreme precision, breaking through the Zombie Dragon's defensive scales and crystals and shattering them all the same!

BAAAAAMMM!!!

The enormous beast once more rolled over the floor, just for Partner and Brunhild to attack her with everyone they had!

"[Blood Catastrophe]!!!"

Partner gathered enormous quantities of Blood around her surroundings and shaped them into thousands of blades, falling over the Zombie Dragon and piercing through its body!

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH! CRASH!

"[Infernal Dragon Meteor]!!!"

Meanwhile, Brunhild gathered the power of her blazing flames within her scales and gathered it into her back, her scales began detaching themselves from her body and then falling over the Zombie Dragon like meteors, exploding into blazing explosions!

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!

The burning explosions of Brunhild and the piercing attacks of Partner combined together, overwhelming the incredibly resilient Zombie Dragon!

"RAAAAAAAH!"

Meanwhile, Lucifer rushed forward, using his newly evolved scythe to unleash devastating slicing attacks against the Zombie Dragon, slicing through her defenses rapidly while she tried to angrily block them, resulting in her legs to be sliced off!

SLAAASH! SLAAASH!

"GRAAAAH!"

BAAAM!

The beast fell over the floor, but new legs regrew anew, converging the shattered bones with crystals and miasma, this monster seemed to be regenerating almost endlessly!

And Maria knew why.

She glanced at the scene from afar, using her magic to enhance the power of her allies. The battle had only started just half a minute ago but it was already becoming more and more intense.

She knew why this monster was so resilient, aside from being as powerful as an S Rank Monster, something everyone cannot even handle properly and need to go completely all out, there was another factor!

The Dungeon Core and the Evil God's Fragment, of course! Much like the previous dungeon where they fought the Ant Queen, the Dungeon Boss they were facing was the Dungeon Core's Avatar, an existence that was virtually immortal by being fueled by the Dungeon Core's Mana.

Of course, normally, the Dungeon Core would eventually run out of Mana, but that wasn't the case when they were parasitized by Evil God Fragments, who could generate energy endlessly, although a corrupted, miasma energy.

Lucifer had told Maria to just step back and find a way to deal with this, while he would take care of the Zombie Dragon for now. The battle was becoming more and more intense, each second that passed was precious time Maria couldn't waste.

She wasn't merely glancing at the battle anyways, her mind was divided into dozens of small phantoms who flew all around the Floor, seeking an area where she could infiltrate. Unlike the previous dungeon, there was an enormous thick divine miasmic barrier covering the entire floor, her phantasmal powers that allowed her the ability to trespass physical objects were unusable in this setting, unless she could blast everything, but she was trying to save her powers and energies for the moment of truth.

"Quickly, where is it?!"

She was seeking an opening within this impenetrable barrier, and using her phantoms spread everywhere, it was one of the few ways she could do this...

Meanwhile, Emeraldine, Takeshi, and Laura were preparing a powerful combined attack, combining their skills and power together like they had once done before, as a magic circle was slowly inscribed in the floor while their power converged together.

Slowly yet steadily, Emeraldine concentrated her Spiritual and Mana essence into the surrounding magic circle, runes began dancing rapidly as her two Spirits danced happily and imbued everything with their spiritual power. Her Magic Arrow began growing branches everywhere, becoming a beautiful tree in the shape of a giant cannon.

Meanwhile, the power of the two children also merged with them, their energies, blue and red from Takeshi and Laura respectively, danced with Emeraldine's conjuration. The power of the Oceans feed nature, enchanting its defensive power and growth, meanwhile the power of Flames and Explosions enhanced the nature with their offensive power.

Emeraldine kept concentrating, merging everything together with her light and nature, while looking back at Maria who was using her powers to find the entrance to the Dungeon Core's chambers...

"Maria, hurry!" She said.

The battle between the Zombie Dragon, Lucifer, Brunhild, and Partner continued and became even more fiercer as time went by, the Zombie Dragon kept regenerating more and more, generating enormous crystal claws which it used to unleash consecutive blows, all while somehow imitating her attackers magic!

"GRUOOOHH!"

Suddenly, the scales and crystals of the Zombie Dragon were engulfed on black and purple miasmic flames, which flew into the skies and started falling from within them into Lucifer and company, exploding into fiery detonations.

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOOMMM!!!

"GROOOARRRR!"

And then, as if that wasn't enough, it quickly gathered its own Miasmic Blood and shaped it into thousands of spears and swords made of them, crystalizing them and then firing them back at everyone else, like storms of endlessly slicing attacks, one after the other!

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLAAASH!

The trio had to fly and jump around, evading the devastatingly immense magic that was being unleashed against them. Partner and Brunhild were left speechless as she was copying their spells easily and making them even stronger.

"Crystal has always been amazingly talented at magic. One of her talents was the ability to easily copy spells she saw... To think even her reanimated body has inherited such a talent...!" Muttered Lucifer while gritting his teeth.