

A Ghost 791

Chapter 791 A New Journey

For going out, we've prepared plentifully. I decided to create a three hundred more Undead to protect the village, this time, they're all A Rank, and I used over half of all the resources we earned from our battles against the Frost Army to create them all.

Older and weaker Undead were also upgraded to stronger forms too, and my most loyal Undead, who were all S Rank, will also stay here to protect the citizens, they're the ones I can trust the most after all, some of them even defeated Frost Generals by themselves, so their might is recognizable.

I left the handling of citizens, and other paperwork affairs such as trades and other things with the dwarven Kingdom to Hermes and his two assistants Gustaf and Cecilia, the three Majin were reliable and a good replacement for me and my family while we're out.

Even though I insisted, Arachne wanted to stick around, so we decided to bring her alongside Nyx and the twins. Brunhild would sadly stay behind, as she promised us to protect our village and the dwarven kingdom. Oh, and Lancelot's egg will be taken care by Hermes and his assistants, and some of my Phantom Clones there too, so everything's' alright.

This time I decided to not use Divided Egos, as that weakens my base form quite a lot... Nonetheless, we were more than ready. Helga and Hermes helped us with the route we needed to take, while I was able to map things with my Auto Mapping and sending ghosts everywhere, I was still confused as to where was everything, the map helped us.

"Anyways, you just need to fly to the northeast and then move directly to the north, that's where the area known as the Ancient Spirit Forest is. I think that's where Emeraldine's village is. Long ago, we used to do trades with the settlement of elves there, which moved from their original continent to those areas." Said Hermes.

"Yeah, I think they must be there. My uncle used to call that place the Ancient Spirit Forest as well!" Emeraldine nodded. "I'm so excited we're making a stop there! I hope my uncle is doing fine! And we'll also get to leave flowers on my mother's grave. And also meet everyone else..."

"I'm glad you're happy, dear. I'm also looking forward to it." I smiled. "Even if it's a brief visit, let's make sure to have fun."

"I'm ready too!" Partner said excitedly. "I wonder if they have tasty meals there... Elven Cuisine, I wonder how it tastes like..."

"Hahaha, I don't think you would like it, Partner." Emeraldine laughed. "It is mostly vegetables and fruits. Not much meat, aside from fish."

"Eh?! Just plants?!" Partner got disappointed.

"Anyways, I wish you good luck! Don't worry about the village, we'll make sure to take good care of it." Said Hermes. "I'm relieved I've already become slightly acquainted with Ruby and the Dwarves, negotiations should be smooth."

"Leave the work to our lord!" Gustaf said with a big thumbs up.

"He's a reliable young prince!" Cecilia smiled, giving him a head pat.

They were Hermes' number 1 fans, I can tell...

"Then, let's get going!" Lucifer roared. "Oi, human, come over already."

"A-Ah, right..." Jonathan was a bit nervous. "Is it okay? You don't mind it, sir Lucifer? I know you hate me but..."

"Tch! I don't hate your damn idiot! You're... a good lad. You've proved yourself. But that doesn't mean I completely approve of you either!" Lucifer said. "But for now, we're good, come."

"Thank you." Jonathan left relieved.

"Yeah I guess you're not half bad, blondie." Partner said. "You've got what it takes, and you're a brave guy! ...Okay, I said it."

"Well done." I patted Partner's head.

"Jonathan, thanks for joining us. With you along, the trip will become much safer as well." Emeraldine smiled. "You've helped us so much, so we'll make sure to help you back by finding your family once we're done with the first things."

"I don't deserve such kind words. I am merely an outsider here..." Jonathan said humbly. "Thank you so much. I can tell why Maria loves you all so much, you're wonderful and strong people. I've grown to admire you three."

"A-Admire us!?" Partner was shocked, as her ego was quickly feed with praises from an honest man. "Hah! O-Of course you admire my greatness! Though sorry but I don't like guys..."

"Me neither." Emeraldine smiled.

"A-Ah, I didn't meant it like that..." Jonathan sighed.

"Hahahaha! We're just messing with you!" Partner laughed, hitting his back very strongly.

PAT! PAT! PAT!

"O-Ouch! Hahaha..." Jonathan laughed nervously.

"We know you only have eyes for Maria." Emeraldine smiled. "Though we were still saying the truth about that... I just can't bring myself to find men attractive anymore..."

"I've never liked guys, but you're cool." Partner laughed.

"I understand." Jonathan nodded.

"Hmph, would you two stop your tomfoolery already? You're killing me with your cringe." Lucifer facepalmed. "Let's just get going! We have to visit that town and then rescue Maria's brother!"

"R-Right..." Partner sighed.

"A-Ahahaha, you're right, Lucifer. I just got distracted, teasing Jonathan is fun." Emeraldine giggled.

"Well I'm glad the ice between you guys is finally melting a little bit more." I said with a smile. "Anyways, Brunhild, we'll leave things to you too."

"Sure thing! Have a nice trip, everyone!" Brunhild smiled, waving her hand, as Lucifer slowly started flapping his wings.

"Mama! We're going to meet the elves?" Nyx wondered, sitting on my legs.

"That's right dear!" I smiled.

"Nice! So excited!" Takeshi said happily.

"I bet they're as pretty as aunt Emeraldine!" Said Laura.

"Z z z z z z..." Arachne was sleeping inside my shadows.

"Alright then! Onwards!" I said with a smile.

As Lucifer started flying, suddenly, we heard someone else.

"Please... Please wait for m e e e e e!"

It was Tear, running towards us with everything she had.

"I want to go too!"

Chapter 792 A Talk While Soaring Through The Skies

Suddenly, as we were departing, Tear showed up out of nowhere! She wanted to come, but I had decided to leave her here so she could train her abilities and protect the village while we were gone.

She had actually a really high level, and was already an S Rank Ice Giant herself, even if mostly everything was done by the crown, she still earned EXP from all the... lives she took, so even without the crown, she was really strong by herself.

"Tear?! But I told you that you should stay here!" I told her from afar.

"No... I want to go too! I promised you that I would help you!" Tear said. "Please, Maria... Give me a chance!"

"Sigh..." I ended facepalming a bit. "Fine, come here. [Shadow Threads]!"

I expanded threads made of shadows and wrapped them around her body, dragging her towards us in a second.

"Uwaaah! Oh!" Tear panicked a bit but landed over Lucifer's back fine enough.

She was huge compared to any of us... As an Ice Giant, even if she hasn't aged in appearance since she got the crown, she was over three meters of height.

"Well, if you really want to come, be our guest." I sighed. "But please don't do anything reckless, and stay lowkey if possible."

"Okay." Tear nodded. "I'll help as much as I can!"

"Well, it sure is weird to bring along a former enemy like this..." Partner said. "Ah, well, the crown's gone so I guess you're different than before... Still trying to process everything."

"Come on Partner, don't be rude." Emeraldine sighed, crossing her arms. "Let's get along, Tear!"

"Sure! Thanks." Tear smiled, looking into the faraway mountains, while gently touching her necklace's jewel, Veredorr's Soul Core. "I'm sure Veredorr would have wanted to come along, and explore the beautiful world with us..."

"What about the two dragons that are always sticking with you?" Partner asked.

"Dwagons?" Nyx asked.

"I think she means Gjoll and Leiptr!" Said Takeshi.

"Yeah, those two are always at Tear's side." Lucia giggled.

"I told them to stay in the village and protect it. They're very strong, so I'm trusting on their strength." Tear smiled. "I've been practicing my magic a bit; I hope I can be of some help!"

"You'll sure be." I nodded. "Now, onwards, Lucifer! Go as fast as you can!"

"Alright!" Lucifer roared, flying across the skies as fast as possible.

The Order of the God of Light hasn't acted ever since the defeat of their combined troops with the Frost Queen's. They either have given up on us or think that we are not even worth their time anymore. After all, they've got an internal struggle against the Vampires that had infiltrated into their society.

So while they're working on something else, most likely to deal with them now that that suspicious Vampires escaped with some sort of treasure from the Tower of Skadi, we have to get done everything I wanted to do.

FLAAAAAASH!

And the first thing is to visit Emeraldine's village and see if everyone is okay! Emeraldine had left her village to become an Adventurer, but after being captured by bandits, she ended becoming a slave.

Since then, she hasn't known anything about them, and even after I rescued her, helped her recover, and helped her take revenge on those nasty bastards, she hadn't said a single word about wanting to go back there.

Now that over a year has passed since then, and she has changed so much, I think it was finally about time she went back, I am worried about her family.

"Mama, why didn't Root come along?" Nyx complained.

"Ah, well, he is better off protecting the village, his enormous body and branches are strong, in an emergency, he'll protect the whole city." I smiled. "I wish I could had brought him along, I believe he would had really liked seeing the Ancient Spirit Forest..."

"It is indeed a rather mysterious place. I had never heard about it before." Tear said in surprise.

"Hmm, I have only heard a bit." Jonathan said. "I remember the members of the Order saying it was a forest where dangerous... spiritualists lived, and that they were protected by the mountains, so it wasn't easy to go there... I'm thankful that is the case."

"Well they're quite wrong, we weren't dangerous spiritualist. And there were also humans there, not just elves." Emeraldine sighed. "There's a lot of misunderstandings of our small settlement. But that spirit forest was born from the first elf that set foot on this continent thousands of years ago. It was said he was the prince of an Elven Kingdom that escaped from his country. And that carried with himself a seed of Yggdrasil."

"A seed of Yggdrasil! Like Root?" Nyx wondered innocently. "Oh! Is there a Root there?!"

"S-Something like that." Emeraldine laughed. "There's a huge forest that everyone calls the Holy Spirit Tree, it is a smaller, lesser type of Yggdrasil Tree that couldn't grow completely because of the lack of spiritual energy in this continent compared to Alfheim, where we originate. Nonetheless, it grew very big, and filled the surrounding forests with spiritual energy, turning that place in what now everyone calls the Ancient Spirit Forest, although it is quite a small forest."

"That sounds pretty cool, not going to lie." Partner smiled while rubbing her chin. "I guess your village is in the woods?"

"Yeah, there are some houses in the ground, but most elven families build houses on top of trees! It is very fun! You'll be really shocked when you see it!" Emeraldine smiled.

"Wow... It sounds so dreamy." Tear smiled faintly.

"I hope the elves aren't scared of a big dragon coming down though." Lucifer spoke, rather concerned.

"Oh, please don't worry about it, Lucifer! Once you speak to them on words, they'll understand and won't panic. We are used to speaking with Spirit Beasts that inhabit the forest with us, they're our guardians." Emeraldine smiled.

"Hmm, I see." Lucifer sighed in relief. "I hope so- Oh? OH! Where almost there!"

Chapter 793 Arriving At The Elven Forest

"We're back!" Emeraldine smiled. "Uncle, everyone..." She glanced into the far away forest, and the big tree in there.

We all did at the same time, expecting a view that would blow us away.

Yet...

When we landed eyes on that place, we felt... completely devastated.

The forest was dark, and several trees were leafless.

The ground was pitch black, with swamps everywhere.

And the smell of miasma spread everywhere.

At the same time, the big tree in the middle of the forest was darkened, as a strange, powerful evil energy constantly surged from within...

"N-No..." Emeraldine muttered. "W-What's going on?! This is not the forest... Is this another place?!"

"No, this is it!" Said Lucifer. "This... something has happened here for sure."

"I can feel the presence of one of my Fragments." Tyr appeared at my side. "Maria, this place has become a complete wasteland... A Danger Zone filled with monsters!"

"N-No way... Why? There was no such thing as a fragment here!" Emeraldine cried. "AH! My uncle... everyone! Lucifer please go down!"

"O-Okay!" Lucifer nodded.

We descended into the forest's entrance, finding the same appearance we saw from within the skies. Barely a few living trees were in the further outside area, while everything else inside had grown black and corrupted.

The ground was pitch black too, and grass was nowhere to be seen. Black and poisonous mushrooms were growing everywhere, and there were even signs of small Demonite Crystals growing around.

"W-We need to go to the village quickly!" Emeraldine cried.

"Alright, let's go then." I nodded.

FLAAASH!

I quickly shapeshifted my shadows, grabbing everyone with myself and flying across the forest in just a few seconds, reaching where I could sense several very weak signs of life, and where I was able to detect what looked like buildings.

"We're here!" I said, quickly putting everyone in the floor.

We glanced around, the entire village looked in ruins. The houses were destroyed, the big trees where the elves were living were drying out, and the houses on top were also destroyed.

"W-Where is everyone?" Wondered Takeshi.

"It's all destroyed..." Nyx sighed.

"D-Did everyone...?" Emeraldine looked like she was slowly falling into despair. "Ah! Uncle's house!"

We followed Emeraldine as we ran towards a large house in the middle of the village, it was in ruins, covered on miasma. Everything was completely destroyed.

"N-No... It can't be..." Emeraldine fell to her knees. "W-Why did this had to happen to us...?! Uncle... Uncle?! Where are you?! UNCLE!"

Emeraldine started looking around, and I helped her, but we couldn't find a single thing. And the weird part was that... I couldn't find any soul or ghost either.

At least if someone died here, I would be able to sense that, but there was just nothing. It was as if they had all been sucked into something else.

And I could sense that that "something else" might be the huge tree, the Great Spirit Tree that Emeraldine talked so dearly about... It had grown strange, twisted. It was no longer the same as before.

There was a strong malice emerging from within its roots, absorbing all souls and ghosts into its core. Whatever it is... we have to stop it before it becomes even stronger.

"Don't worry, I can sense a lot of people still alive, they're around here..." I said, looking down.
"Nobody's on the buildings, but underground..."

I quickly grew a gigantic palm made of darkness and hit the floor with a huge punch.

BAAAAAAMMM!!!

CRAAASH!

The ground shattered open, as the path towards an underground cave was revealed. The first thing we saw down there were countless colorful mushrooms everywhere.

"We're going down!" I dragged everyone down using my shadows until we reached the floor.

BAAM!

"T-This is really a cave..." Said Lucifer. "Did you elves made this?"

"N-No... This is new- Ah! I can sense it too!" Emeraldine said. "The life signs of everyone..." She was speaking with her Divine Spirits, that danced around her body. "It seems they know where they are, can you guide us there?"

"Of course!"

"We are just as worried as you are!"

The two Divine Spirits, now able to speak, nodded and quickly flew across the caves, which were covered on colorful, venomous mushrooms, ponds of miasma, and Demonite crystals growing everywhere.

We followed the Divine Spirits while giving a few turns, until we finally arrived at a large room filled with mushrooms. In there... there were over fifty people on the floor. Some were stuck on the walls and ceiling.

And they were all covered on mold and mushrooms, from head to toe, as if their living bodies were being used to feed on these parasitic things.

"W-What is this?! Everyone?! Why... Who did this?!" Emeraldine cried in shock.

And that's when they emerged. The gigantic mushrooms we saw along the way weren't just that. After Emeraldine screamed, and after they pretended to be just normal, they emerged.

Starting to move, the huge mushrooms sprouted arms, legs, and monstrous, vicious vertical jaws filled with sharp fangs, opening them widely, as a single red eye glared at us from within their caps.

"Gyoooooogghh!"

"Gruooooohhh!"

"Gryyyyyeeeggh!"

"W-What are these things?!" Emeraldine cried in anger and surprise.

"Walking Mushrooms?!" Jonathan wondered. "No... They're much stronger than normal Walking Mushrooms... T-They're all B Rank?! Insane! Such monsters are usually F Rank at most..."

"It seems these buddies have been powered up with Miasma." I said. "Alright team, looks like we found our culprits. Time to clean this place out of this mold infestation."

The monsters were named "Miasmic Giant Mushroom Aberration" and were all B++ Rank as Jonathan said. I guess that explains why people were completely hopeless against these beasts.

"GRYYYYEEH!" One of them opened their jaws, as countless tentacle-like tongue surged from within, attempting to catch us with them.

However, before we could react, a giant arrow made of light pierced the mushroom's open jaws, making its entire body explode into pieces!

"Gryyyyyyygghhh!"

BOOOOOMM!

"You bastards... I won't forgive what you've done..." Emeraldine had completely lost it.

Chapter 794 A Strange Fungal Disease

Emeraldine completely let out of her rage, as she shoot an arrow straight through one of the mushrooms, blowing them up into pieces before it could even attack.

Her face distorted in utter fury and desperation, her eyes glowing fiercely with her spiritual energy. The two Divine Spirits merged into her body, as her Aura spread further everywhere.

"[Divine Spirit Arrow]!"

Emeraldine moved at super high speed through her [Hyper Speed] and [Flash Step] Skills, and quickly fired Divine Spirit Arrows with the assistance of the [High-Speed Arrow Shooting] and [Multiple Arrow Shooting] Skills.

Naturally, with flashing speed and powerful explosive arrows that naturally dealt extra damage against Darkness and Chaos type monsters, the mushrooms were blown into pieces one after another, in a matter of seconds.

By controlling her Skills and her new powers, Emeraldine was able to easily summon more and more arrows, and even fire them all at the same time, which quickly flew into different directions at once.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!

However, the Mushrooms kept emerging one after another, and some even emerged from the ground, walls and the ceiling! We couldn't leave everything to Emeraldine after all.

"RAAAAH!" Emeraldine continued on her rampage, as we supported her with our magic and attacks, while keeping the captured people safe.

"[Abyssal Death Flames]! Burn to ashes, you damn trash!" Lucifer roared, his black flames spreading around on his handsome humanoid form, which was wearing a really cool suit, making him look even cooler.

FLUOOOOSH!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOOM!

The black flames spread around generating a domain of black flames, enhancing his damage even further, while purifying the soil and everything out of miasma.

"Let me help as well..." Tear said. "[Freeing Cage]! [Icicle Spears]!"

FLAAASH!

Meanwhile, Tear conjured a magic that froze the foot of a dozen mushroom monsters at once and then pierced them countless times with spears made of ice that surged from the very frozen ground!

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH! CRAAASH!

"[Sunlight Slash]!" Jonathan utilized his Divine Sword to give out fast, yet simple swings of his sword.

Bright beams of pure sunlight pierced the bodies of dozens of these monsters at once, making them explode into pieces.

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

"[Blood Swarm]!" Partner smiled devilishly, spreading her shadows as countless bat-shaped monsters emerged, made completely out of her own blood, which devastated surrounding foes, while she used her spears to carefreely slash them into pieces.

SLASH! SLASH! SLAAAASH!

Meanwhile, Nyx, Takeshi, and Laura combined their strength, as Nyx trapped the beasts with her Shadow Magic (which she inherited from me), and which Takeshi and Laura took down with powerful explosive attacks of water and fire magic.

And as of me? I created a barrier made out of my own soul around the victims, protecting them all, while at the same time summoning roots of the tree of death and piercing the bodies of the monsters, absorbing their souls and lives.

If I did this directly like this, it was possible to not let that big tree absorb their life essence and soul, which would make it only grow stronger... I couldn't do this with absolutely every monster we defeated, but still, it seemed to at least suffice.

"[Divine Black Lightning]!" And above that, I shoot down constant lightning strikes with my magic, which spread across many monsters at once, dealing devastating damage.

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOOM!!!

After just a few minutes, the monsters stopped emerging, even when we noticed some A- Rank variants in between the weaker ones, as if that would had made any difference anyways, we're so strong these guys are just flies.

Ding!

[You and your Party have defeated [Miasmic Giant Mushroom Aberration (B++ ~ A- Rank)] x185!]

[You earned 46.250.000 EXP!]

[LEVEL UP!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 90 to Level 91!]

[All of your Stats have increased.]

[You earned Bonus System Points.]

[Your Job Class/Subclass Level has increased from Level 64 to Level 66!]

"Seems like we're done...? Hopefully." Tear sighed. "Why were there so many of them? I think we fought over a hundred..."

"Yeah, to have so many at the same time, it is probably a bad sign..." Jonathan sighed.

"Uncle!" Emeraldine cried, as she found her uncle in between the many other people. "Uncle! Are you okay?! Maria, he's not responding..."

"Calm down, Emeraldine." I sighed.

I glanced at her uncle, an old elf man with a long ash colored beard and hair, and wearing broken glasses. Like everyone else, his body was covered on a strange, purple and blue colored mold infection, and there were mushrooms growing over his body.

It looked terrible. I had never dealt with something like this... I needed to analyze this carefully with my Analysis System Ability.

"System, please analyze this disease, or whatever it is!"

Ding!

[Analysis...]

[Analysis complete.]

[The subject has been detected to be infected with a large colony of Miasmic Mold and Venomous Mushrooms.]

[Their health state is dangerous. The Venomous Mushrooms are removable with enough care, as long as the roots are taken out. However, the Miasmic Mold is a different, much more dangerous infection.]

[It has spread through his entire body, and is slowly draining away all of their lives, while fermenting their insides... Once a few more days pass, these people will become filled with mold and die dried out like mummies. Most likely.]

[A complete purification of the bodies through Divine-level Holy Light Magic could heal the symptoms and kill most things to an extent.]

[However, a special elixir is required to completely heal all subjects.]

[Necessary ingredients: The Origin of this Mold.]

This is worse than I imagined, so even with magic, it can't be completely healed?! We need some sort of freaking mold elixir. Does that tree have something to do with this?

The origin of the mold... It is most likely whatever that being is, which created all these monsters and this infection.

"For now, we have to quickly purify their bodies with Holy Light Magic! Jonathan! Do you think you could help us?"

"Of course!" Jonathan nodded. "Tell me what I need to do."

"I-I'll help too!" Emeraldine nodded in between tears.

"Very well, let's do this..."

With the aid of Emeraldine and Jonathan, plus my ability to purify things through the special Title that I got from purifying chaos in the dungeon once, we combined this strength together, and created a brand-new spell.

"[Divine Holy Light Magic]: [Grand Purification]!"

FLAAAAAAAASSSSHHH!!!

A massive flash of pure divine light emerged, covering everywhere. The light spread further into the rest of the caves, purifying absolutely everything. The mushrooms were all disintegrated, the Demonite disappeared without trace as well, and whatever other monsters left behind... Well, they died without hope.

Once everything finished, we were left slightly blind... But the ugly mold and mushrooms growing over the people disappeared instantly. I guess we didn't even need to take out the roots.

Ding!

[You have partially healed everyone out of the Miasmic Mold Disease!]

[The Miasmic Mold, however, is much stronger, and fueled by the magic power of whatever has created it...]

[Once enough time passes again, it will begin spreading once more.]

[Find whatever is the origin of this Mold, and make an elixir out of that thing... Of course, once you kill it.]

I see, I guess this won't be over so easily... But at the very least, everyone seem much healthier and better now.

"Hm? W-What is... happening?"

"Ah! I-I'm alive?!"

"Where is this place?"

"W-What's going on? Ouch, my back..."

"Huh? Who are these people?!"

"The mushroom monsters... They're nowhere to be seen."

"Huh?! E-Emeraldine?!"

The people quickly woke up, many of them instantly recognized Emeraldine among all of us. She started crying out of happiness, greeting everyone.

"Everyone! We came to your rescue!" She cried.

"Emeraldine!"

"You're back!"

"And you're so strong... that aura!"

"Divine power?! Are these your adventurer party friends?!"

"So you had a big party of strong adventurers... you did as you dreamed of!"

"Hello." I said with a smile. Everyone else also greeted the people politely. "I'm Maria and these are Lucifer, Jonathan, Partner, Nyx, Takeshi, Laura, and Tear."

"S-Such a huge part of so many people..."

"Ugh, my head..."

"Thankfully Emeraldine rescued us..."

"Uncle! Uncle!" Emeraldine tried to wake up her uncle.

"Ah! Huh?! Eh?! OH! E-Emeraldine?! EMERALDINE!!!"

Her uncle suddenly stood up like a zombie out of his grave, and instantly screamed in happiness the second he saw Emeraldine.

"UNCLEEEE!" Emeraldine started crying again.

The two hugged tightly, it was clear that they loved each other a lot like family. I remember that Emeraldine always talked me about her uncle when she taught us Alchemy. He is a Master Alchemist of the highest order after all!

And because he's like her father, this means he's my father-in-law! I have to act politely in front of him to gain his respect, naturally.

"Nice to meet you! I've heard a lot from you." I said with a smile. "But Emeraldine never gave me your name though."

"Oh! My name is August!" Laughed the charismatic old elf. "It is nice to know that my dear Emeraldine is in the hands of such reliable party of warriors! So many people too! Of all kinds of races no less! You must be very open-minded; I'm relieved you accepted her in your party!"

"W-Well... Yeah." I nodded, just playing along for now. I mean, we have registered as adventures and as a party, so it makes sense... to an extent. "We are totally adventurers."

"S Rank no less." Lucifer nodded.

"Yeah!" Partner nodded. "I'm a Majin by the way, not a Vampire!"

"O-Oh, I see." August nodded nervously. "A-Anyways... there's a lot to talk. But it seems that you've saved us from sure death miraculously... I really thought we were done for... You have our eternal gratitude, as the chief of this village, I thank you from the deepest of our hearts."

"No problem, we did this because Emeraldine is really precious to us." I smiled. "Anyways, everyone must be tired, let's go to the surface for now."

Once we went back to the surface, the people that was happy to be saved quickly remembered everything got destroyed and fell into depression once more.

"Our houses are all destroyed... And the forest is so pitch black..."

"E-Everything is dying..."

"Is this the judgment of the Lady Freyja for having escaped her continent?"

"Our ancestors' sins are now falling upon us..."

"Lord Freyr has abandoned us..."

It seemed the elves were quite religious, believing in their "Vanir Gods" Freyr and Freyja. And there were a few others, such as Njord, their parent. However, they thought that abandoning their continent was a sin their ancestors committed, hence, they believe this is their judgment for having betrayed them.

"I think staying here is dangerous..." Emeraldine sighed. "How about we make a temporary camp outside? Maria, can you put in your inventory everything in the houses?"

"Sure." I nodded, doing it in less than a minute.

"W-What... everything disappeared!"

"Was that space magic?!"

"Incredible! To be expected of S Rank Adventurers!"

"Now, let's go." I smiled, quickly grabbing literally everyone, and pulling them into my shadows. "Ah, sorry about this, it'll be in a flash. It is like a shadow world thingy. Just don't mind it."

"Uwaah!"

"Ooh?!"

"Incredible..."

"T-This is amazing! I never thought dark magic could go this far!" August was fascinated. "Huh?"

"Huh? Hi." Arachne suddenly greeted them while she slept in her bed inside my Shadows. "So many people... I've missed a lot. Yawn... But I'm too sleepy..." She continued sleeping anyways.

Once we arrived outside the forest, we were greeted by the grasslands and normal forests. Emeraldine quickly put to work her Nature Magic, growing several houses using her Spirit Tree Magic, and reinforcing them with spirit magic to resist miasma, and even have healing effects on people that was inside of them.

"I've only made a couple of buildings, but I hope they can suffice for now." Emeraldine sighed.

"Her magic has advanced to incredible lengths!"

"Emeraldine, you're our pride!"

"This is an almost god-like power..."

"Y-You made this yourself?!" August was shocked.

"Yeah, now please get in, we'll distribute the things from everyone else and also make something to eat... You're not completely healed, so you need to rest and stay inside these healing houses I made." Emeraldine said.

Chapter 796 Just What Happened In The Forest?

We distributed the belongings of everyone, or well, what we could find out of them, which took around an hour. While doing that, Lucifer and Partner prepared a meal, stew made out of polar bear meat and snow wolf meat (we had tons of that thanks to the Frost Army). That accompanied with some freshly baked bread, and herbal tea to soothe the soul.

Everyone gathered around a table Emeraldine made using her magic, and they sat down to eat while wearing new and warmer clothes made out of these frost monsters pelt, which worked at calming down fatigue and drowsiness.

"Thank you so much..."

"Ah, such a warm meal..."

"I feel my heart healed..."

Most of the people were old humans, or elves. There was barely a few children. I felt worried that they were taken away somewhere else, but they explained this village's population was slowly declining.

"There's only a few children because we elves barely have them due to being long lived." Explained August. "The humans here are mostly all married with us elves too. Our children, much like Emeraldine, desired to explore the outside world, so very few had stayed with us... I guess half-elves much have a strong desire for exploration and adventure, a unique trait."

"I see..." I nodded. "Well... Let's get to the point, what happened here? Emeraldine told me this place was much more mystical, and beautiful..."

"I-I am just as surprised..." Emeraldine cried. "W-What's going on, uncle?"

"..." Her uncle remained in silence for a few seconds. "It is all my fault..."

"Your fault?!" Emeraldine cried. "T-That's not true... I refuse to believe that!"

"Well, I believe it is my fault... I'll explain." He sighed. "It happened... about two... three months ago? I cannot properly recall... A little boy showed up, all tattered in front of our village. He had long ears, and red eyes, with pale white hair."

August continued explaining that when they found this boy, they were slightly afraid. His aura was dark like the night, but he looked so weak and frail, that they couldn't help but help him. At the end, he took him to his house, and healed him slowly, bit by bit.

"That's when I saw what he was... I don't know when or where did he came from but that boy... He held something on his chest. A pitch-black crystal." Said August. "It seemed to not hurt him, but it allowed him to gain strength and also... somehow made miasma flow through his body, helping him live. I was amazed, and deep down, aside from helping him, I wanted to examine how it worked. I was so foolish.... I thought that maybe if I figured out how he survived in such a way, we could find a definite component that could destroy the dangerous Miasma."

That description reminded me of Takeshi and Laura. They also have Demonite Heart Cores, which transformed their bodies, giving them the ability to survive by absorbing miasmic energy and generating their own "demonic energy" or something like that.

Could that boy had been another test subject from somewhere else?

I noticed how Takeshi and Laura glanced at one another, and everyone in my party realized the similarities, yet they remained in silence, thankfully.

"We named him Ash due to the color of his hair. We wanted to protect him and help him out... But the boy wasn't able to talk, he was always mute. Yet... he was a good boy, he helped us as he could with our crops, and was always there to cooperate." Sighed August. "Yet his hands... He was unable to control his miasmic powers, he ended corrupting the ground, and the crops... When everyone grew restless, I tried to protect him, to keep him in our village, but that only led to this..."

"Why? What did he do?!" Emeraldine cried.

"The boy was apparently amnesiac..." Sighed August. "However, one day, when he hit himself on the head by walking downstairs... the true entity dwelling within him woke up. His memories came back. He tricked me into bringing him to the tree and... And... Someone else appeared."

He explained that a mysterious, tall man resembling a vampire wearing a mask appeared, guiding the boy to the tree...

"I couldn't do anything, I was unable to fight that man's powers, he paralyzed me with just his gaze..." August cried. "I led him to the tree... Foolishly, believe he was just a good kid... That he wanted to be understood and loved... Yet when he touched the tree, and the great Spirit Tree quivered in pain, he smiled back at me... and said "Foolish old man"..."

August explained that the vampire also said something.

"Your pitiful village might soon be destroyed, but fear not, your existence has been of great use for us. We will now take this forest as our own and produce powerful monsters. We'll use their might to destroy the humans that have oppressed us. Your sacrifice is necessary... for a better future."

"What?! What sort of bullshit is that?!" Partner asked angrily.

"Those damn Vampires appeared here too..." Lucifer gritted his teeth.

"I-It can't be... So Ash... Where is he?!" Emeraldine asked.

"When I came back to my senses, I only ran away from the tree, scared of what it had become... And when I arrived back in the village, I found gigantic mushrooms everywhere, attacking us, destroying our houses, and dragging us down into the underground..." Sighed August. "T-That's all I remember..."

"This is awful..." Emeraldine sighed. "W-We need to do something...!"

"I know." I nodded. "We'll do what we can. Whatever this is, those vampires must have orchestrated it."

"Ash... Was he really a bad person?" Wondered Takeshi. "M-Maybe... he was being forced to do this."

"If you found him tattered and almost dead before, it means he escaped." Said Laura. "Maybe something happened... with those vampires."

"I don't know..." August sighed. "I'm worried but- Cough... cough..."

"Uncle! Y-You should go rest for now." Emeraldine cried.

Chapter 797 Departing

Within the central area of the fallen Ancient Spirit Forest, a large, mutated tree kept growing larger and vaster, spreading its dark roots across the entire forest, draining away the life and souls of the living beings that died nearby, while constantly generating new monsters from its roots.

Giant Mushrooms sprouted almost endlessly from its roots, while the dead trees began mutating and transforming into Dark Treants, roaring furiously, and hunting down any living being they could find...

The once peaceful forest had been transformed into an area of bloodshed and destruction. When it used to be such a beautiful place filled with greenery... It all changed. Now, it had become something similar to what that Vampire had said to August.

This forest has become a factory to create an "army" of monsters, and the one behind it all was the very child the villagers thought was just a victim...

Within the hollow interior of the Accursed Demonic Tree, his body rested. Wrapped around black, miasmic tentacles, and roots and branches piercing his skin and flesh.

His chest shone brightly with a red crystal that kept growing bigger and bigger, his face looked sleepy and exhausted, his eyes barely open.

"Uncle..."

However, no matter how hard he tried to pretend, it was clear that on his face, the boy showed deep sorrow.

The sorrow and desperation of being forced by his abusers to become a monster himself.

"You should not speak, you're merely a vessel, a connection between my power and this forest."

A terrific voice spoke into the voice's mind.

"Your will and mind will soon disappear. Stop fighting!"

The miasmic tentacles and black colored branches continued spreading across his body, draining him of his free will, and energy...

"This world... Shall be drowned in darkness. Those that cut me down will pay with their lives."

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(Maria's POV)

Once we talked and discussed about the origin of this forest's destruction with August, we moved everybody else back into the houses we built up, and made sure to leave several Undead and a few of my own Phantom Clones to take care of them.

We swiftly improvised potions that could slow down the expansion of the Miasmic Mold across their bodies using the very mushrooms we killed. It resulted that they were actually a really good analgesic against them.

However, they weren't a cure, but something to prolong their inevitable deaths... That is, if we don't find the origin of this Mold, kill it, and make a proper cure with its materials.

"We'll get going now, uncle." Emeraldine said, holding her uncle's hand. "Make sure to drink these potions whenever you feel a bit too sick, okay?"

"Okay." August sighed. "I wish... I could be of more help, but I feel like I can barely walk..." He cried.

"We'll solve this problem as fast as possible." I answered with a smile. "Once we deal with that... boy, and then the monster tree over there, I think Emeraldine could be capable of healing everything back to normal. She had become a Demigoddess after all."

"Hahaha... I-I never thought my dear Emeraldine would grow so powerful... You're... you're our last hope, my dear..." August cried. "Please... that boy... Ash... I don't know if he was truly being forced, even now, I feel doubt in my heart. I don't want to blame him for everything... That Vampire that appeared there... Maybe he.. Cough... Maybe he forced him..."

"...We'll see how things go." Emeraldine sighed. "If he truly... did not intend to do the things he did. Then maybe there can be a way to save him... But I don't really know, and I won't know until we face him."

"That's true..." Sighed August. "Do as you may, I trust your judgement, Emeraldine. Your mother... would be proud of what you've become now. Someone so strong and confident, and with many friends..."

"..." Emeraldine sighed, hiding the fact that before meeting us, she had failed her uncle and her mother. After all, she felt ashamed of the fact she was enslaved by bandits, and... abused so much.

In those times, she felt helpless and despaired. Until we arrived and helped her. Until... Well, I showed up in her life.

She doesn't really have to tell this to everyone, but it might be the right thing to tell it to her uncle, that she's not... all that he thinks she is.

I gently touched her shoulder.

"Uncle... I need to tell you something..." Emeraldine sighed. "Before we go there... Can I have some private time with him?" She asked us.

"Sure." I nodded. "Let's go outside, everyone."

I walked outside with everyone else, as I explained to them what Emeraldine wanted to explain to his uncle as... censored as possible to the children, who didn't know exactly.

"Is auntie Emeraldine okay, mama?" Nyx wondered.

"She's fine! She just needed some time alone with her uncle to tell her everything that has happened to her since she left here..." I said. "They have a really strong bond, as if she were his own daughter. So I guess she needed to tell him the truth, mostly because she felt someone guilty for making him think everything in her life always went perfectly..."

"Even if it is painful, sometimes the truth is necessary." Sighed Lucifer.

"Muh..." Nyx sighed, feeling rather sad herself, she was being carried by her father, as she rubbed her head over his chest.

"Mom, I was thinking about something..." Takeshi said.

"Yes?" I asked.

"Is it about Ash?" Laura asked Takeshi. "I think I was thinking the same as you..."

"Ah, about that boy?" I wondered.

"Yeah... W-What if he's like us?" Takeshi wondered. "Maybe he was also forced to become something like a Homunculus, using those materials extracted from the Evil God's Fragments..."

"The Vampires were behind our creations, right?" Asked Laura. "So maybe... Maybe he was in a similar situation, and was forced to do this because he fears the Vampires?"

"...I had already considered such a thing." I sighed. "But if that boy... is fully intending to destroy this entire place, we'll still have to fight him, and maybe even..."

"B-But it can be different, right?" Tear asked. "Like... with me?"

"..."

Chapter 798 Baiting The Enemy

"Tear's case was Unique..." I sighed. "I still can't say for sure but..." I noticed how Tear, Takeshi, and Laura were giving me puppy eyes.

"Ugh! Fine, I'll do my best to save him but no promises, okay? I can't guarantee that things will always go well!" I sighed. "We've... already lost so many good people. I just... Don't know sometimes."

"Maria..." Lucifer held my hand. "You're not alone on this, you've got all of us as well."

"That's right!" Partner held my other hand and then hugged me and gave me kisses in my cheek. "You've got us all the way!"

"I think my magic could work on purifying the forest alongside Emeraldine's magic... Maybe it could help on freeing the boy from whatever it could be controlling him. Let's not lose hope, even if there's a bit of it, we have to be cheerful and look into the future with decisiveness." Jonathan spoke like a true hero.

Everyone's words inspired me a bit, filling my already wounded and saddened heart. I guess they were right... As long as we are together, it might work... there might be hope.

"Okay." I nodded. "I get it. Let's work together... And do our best. And let's hope doing our best is enough..."

I glanced at the distance, the huge tree that Emeraldine told me was once a beautiful Lesser Yggdrasil Tree, now all dried out, darkened, and resembling a huge monster.

I wonder if the boy is still there. It could be that he holds the Evil God Fragment, as I can sense that fragment's presence through Tyr's senses inside of the tree.

"I'm back." Emeraldine walked downstairs, looking like she had just cried a lot and was cleaning her tears.

"Emeraldine." I quickly hugged her tightly. "How was it?"

"I told him everything..." She sighed. "Uncle was really sad; he cried a lot with me... We hugged, and then he told me that... No matter what, he still loved me. And that... it was thanks to my own strength that I've come this far. That I was able to overcome such traumas and trials... And that even after everything, I would still make mother proud."

"He's a good man." I smiled. "And did you told him about... our relationship?"

"Yep." She nodded. "He was really happy! He kind of always knew I was into girls..." She blushed a bit. "He said he was happy that you were my girlfriend because... He found within you a really kind and beautiful heart."

"Geez, that man really knows how to say the most corniest of things!" I felt embarrassed. "A-Anyways, I'm glad for that! Now, let's go! We've got a whole forest to save!"

"Yeah!" Emeraldine nodded. "Everyone... I'll be counting on your help..."

"Of course, you've been helping us since we meet you, with your magic and kindness, many people in our village were made happier thanks to you, Emeraldine." Said Lucifer. "It is time for us to repay back for all the things you've done for us."

"Lucifer..." Emeraldine was about to cry.

"Yeah, I think the same!" Partner nodded. "You're my bestie, so I would do anything for you, Emeraldine! Count on me for anything!"

"Partner!" Emeraldine hugged her.

"Count on us as well auntie!" Nyx said. "I can turn into big dragon sometimes, so I will help with my powa!"

"Me too, we've grown this way thanks to your kindness." Laura smiled. "You were the one that tended to our weakened and tired bodies, and even healed us many times."

"We love you auntie Emeraldine!" Said Takeshi.

"Hehehe, you are all so adorable, thank you." Emeraldine hugged all three of them.

"I might had arrived just recently but... You're an amazing woman, Emeraldine. Your kindness and heart is befitting of a Saint." Said Jonathan. "And as Maria's beloved one, I would do anything for you."

"Jonathan, thank you." Emeraldine smiled gently.

"M-Me too! I'll help!" Said Tear. "I-I have to repay you all for all the things I made you go through..."

"Tear, I'll be counting on your amazing magic." Emeraldine said.

"Y-Yeah!" Tear nodded confidently. "When it comes to freezing stuff, leave it to me!"

Emeraldine cheered up a lot from our conversations, as she nodded, with decisiveness, as we glanced into the big tree.

We walked into the forest once more, as we had already made up a plan. First of all, we needed to kill as many monsters within the forest as possible.

This way, we take down all the threats that could possibly threaten the life of the villagers out there.

And if the monsters continue multiplying so fast, the forest will only continue to get infested. Also, if we take them down quickly, not many will get in our way once we go to the big tree.

For that reason, Lucifer offered himself as the one to bring all the attention, as we stood up near the center of the forest, where I could detect the most monsters underground.

"I can detect roughly three powerful forces protecting the big tree, they might be like Boss-type monsters. Meanwhile, each boss-type monster is being protected by over a thousand small fries that keep slowly multiplying." I explained what I sensed using my powerful Phantasmal Senses. "And where we are right now... one of the bosses is near. If we can bring the attention of all the mobs, the boss, and also the mobs of the other two bosses. Those bosses will be left unguarded, so we can take them down easily once we deal with the wave of small fries. And for that reason... Lucifer!"

"On it! RAAAAAAAAAAHHHHH!!!!"

Lucifer roared with all his might, so loudly and mighty that enormous shockwaves emerged out of his voice alone. The ground around us trembled, as we quickly sensed the presences of hundreds of beings coming from the ground... Alongside a huge, stronger presence as well.

TRUUUUUUMMMM...!

"GRUOOOOHHHHHHH...!"

A huge, gigantic mass of countless mushrooms stuck together emerged, as big as Lucifer himself! And with it came over a thousand Walking Mushrooms from the ground!

"Look!" Suddenly, Takeshi pointed to the west, as we noticed a huge army of walking dark trees, Dark Treants, rushing in. They were led by a huge one too!

"Over there!" Laura pointed to the east, over a thousand golems made of black stones, and Demonite, led by a huge behemoth of a golem also showed up.

Looks like the bait worked even better than we thought originally!

Ding!

[The mighty roar of the Death Dragon King has brought upon the attention of the [Great Three Dark Spirit Forest Rulers] and their mighty armies of over a thousand each!]

[The [Giant Miasmic Mushroom Chimera King: Lv100 (A+++ Rank)] has emerged from his underground domain!]

[The [Abyssal Dark Treant King: Lv100 (A+++ Rank)] has come from his domain of dead trees!]

[The [Titanic Demonite Golem: Lv100 (A+++ Rank)] has arrived from his underground domain of Demonite caves!]

[All powerful [Great Three Dark Spirit Forest Rulers] seem furious over your insolent provocation and have decided to crush your entire army for good!]

"Nice! The bait worked wonderfully!" I laughed. "Alright everyone! Let's get rid of them all at once! Come out, my army of Undead!"

I spread out my Shadows, as I summoned over two thousand Undead Frost Monsters for battle, which I've been saving and leveling up ever since I got them... Naturally, there were also all the Miasmic Giant Mushroom Aberrations we killed.

Chapter 799 Sweeping The Floor With The Bosses

Ding!

[The mighty roar of the Death Dragon King has brought upon the attention of the [Great Three Dark Spirit Forest Rulers] and their mighty armies of over a thousand each!]

[The [Giant Miasmic Mushroom Chimera King: Lv100 (A+++ Rank)] has emerged from his underground domain!]

[The [Abyssal Dark Treant King: Lv100 (A+++ Rank)] has come from his domain of dead trees!]

[The [Titanic Demonite Golem: Lv100 (A+++ Rank)] has arrived from his underground domain of Demonite caves!]

[All powerful [Great Three Dark Spirit Forest Rulers] seem furious over your insolent provocation and have decided to crush your entire army for good!]

Lucifer's roar was even more effective than I had expected. In just a couple of minutes, all three hue bosses came rushing! And I thought they would stay where their hideout was... They surely got a bad temperament coming all the way here.

Well, that makes it much easier for us anyways, we'll crush them easily, even more because they're just A+++ Rank monsters anyways, not even S Rank!

Meanwhile, all their mobs were between B to B++ Rank at most, so they were easy EXP, even if very little when they're so low ranked... EXP is EXP at the end of the day.

I quickly decided to bring out my own Army too! After all, I am a one-woman army. If I could, I would summon my total of over ten thousand Undead, but the majority were left protecting our village, so I am only left with almost three thousand.

And within their barracks, over a hundred Miasmic Giant Mushroom Aberrations joined the party, all the nasty mushrooms we killed became Undead now, and looked rather strong, much stronger than when they were alive.

Thanks to my Necromancy Skills hitting such high levels now, Undead I created were no longer weaker than when they were alive, aside from some exceptions such as the Divine Frost Dragons, they would usually become much stronger!

From mere B++ Rank monsters, these Miasmic Giant Mushroom Aberration became A Rank! They got bigger, stronger, and even more monstrous than before.

"March, my Undead Army!" I commanded them.

"OOOOOOHHHHHH!!"

The Undead army rushed forwards, instantly clashing against the three different monster armies at once. The Mushrooms were the fastest, as they adorably attempted to fight against my overpowered Undead, powered up by all my Skills.

Really cute, not going to lie. However, my Undead ripped their mushroom caps apart and their former brethren ate them alive one after another, so I guess they weren't as strong as they thought they were.

"GRUOOOHHHH!"

The huge mushroom chimera, which was made of just like a hundred different mushroom colors, stepped forward, its body pulsating constantly and letting out a foul-smelling breath. Poison? Maybe poisonous spores? Well, none of them affect me so...

FLUOOOOOSH!

I spread out my body into a gigantic mantle of shadows, and then wrapped my entire body around the A+++ Rank Boss, the beast attacked me with its sharp fangs, and tried to punch me, but my soul was so powerful that it simply couldn't care less about any damage inflicted upon it.

It was all useless!

"GRYYYYEEEEHHH...!"

The giant mushroom quickly learned it was hopeless, as it started screaming in fear. My body constantly shapeshifted into more horrendous forms, swarms of huge insects, snakes, countless red eyes, tentacles made of shadows, and huge jaws spreading across my entire soul.

By using my own body as a weapon and also transforming it into countless of fists, I used my Ghostly Fist Techniques and completely demolished the beast as it was trapped within my own body.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOOMMM!!!

"Gryaaeeegghh...!" The monster screamed in agony before dying on the spot.

Its huge body fell into the floor, as its total HP decreased to zero faster than I imagined! Phew, I didn't even had to use any fancy magic, just brute force is sometimes the way!

BAAAAMM...!

"Now, quickly rise back up, and kill your little brethren." I touched it with my hand, gathering back into a smaller form.

TRUUUUUMMM...!

The giant mushroom's wounds quickly recovered, as its horrendous, chimeric body stood back up again, overflowing with a phantasmal aura.

"GRUOOOHHH!"

"Your name's going to be... Toad!"

Ding!

[You have risen the [Giant Miasmic Mushroom Chimera King: Lv100 (A+++ Rank)] as an Undead and it has become a Named Undead with the name of [Toad]!]

[Its total Rank has increased from A+++ Rank to S- Rank! All of its Stats have increased as a result, and it has learned new Skills!]

[The monster pledges his loyalty to you as his Undead Queen, and swiftly charges against former comrades!]

Wow, it became S- Rank! Nice. This means the other two won't be any different. I didn't bring any S Rank Undead with my army, but I guess these guys will do.

Using its huge mushroom-shaped arms, it started pummeling the other mushrooms apart. The other two bosses already reached us with their own armies.

But things didn't really changed all that much. I quickly started turning into Undead all the dead Mushroom, refilling the lost undead through the battle, all while I glanced my friends destroying the enemy armies.

"Hahahaha!" Partner laughed while piercing hundreds of Treants at once using her two spears, opening the way until a huge tree stopped her, resembling a dark version of Root.

"Oh? An inferior Root has appeared." Partner smiled.

"GRUOOOHHHHH!!!"

The huge Treant swiftly attacked, spreading its roots into countless sharp spears. But Partner easily evaded the attacks, while channeling her many skills and magic into her spears, letting out two powerful piercing attacks made of shadows and blood at once.

"[Abyssal Vampiric Blood Spear Arts]: [Lethal Shadow Strike]! [Crimson Blood Strike]!"

CRAAAAASH! CRAAAAAASH!

Both blows pierced across the huge monster tree's roots, destroying them on the spot and shattering them apart!

"GRAAAAAH...!"

The huge tree monster fearfully stepped back as it saw its roots being easily destroyed, only to find Partner leaping right in front of his face and then...

"[Moon Vampire Queen Battle Arts]: [Blood Judgement]!"

Over a hundred blood projectiles emerged out of thin air, piercing through the huge Treant's body countless times, leaving hundreds of holes across its body.

"G-GRAAAHHH..."

BAAAAMMM...!

It died before it could realize what happened.

Chapter 800 Undead Army Against Corrupted Forest Monsters

"OOOOOHHHHHH!!!"

The last boss remaining, the Titanic Demonite Golem was swiftly cornered. Lucifer was beating it into pieces, and Emeraldine was using her magic to stop its movements by wrapping its legs with her spirit tree roots.

Meanwhile, the other army of golems, the hardiest of them all, was becoming rubble before Jonathan's holy light sword, while Takeshi, Laura, Tear, and Nyx attacked all armies at once in a variety of ways.

"There's a lot of rubble for me to use as materials!" Laura smiled, grabbing a stone, and throwing it into a group of mushrooms. "[Detonation]!"

BOOOOOMMM!!!

A huge, blazing explosion erupted once she wished it. Her amazing yet dangerous ability had grown a lot since we first meet her, the explosions become deadlier the higher her Magic Stat becomes.

However, she was also capable of mixing her unique skill with magic similarly to Takeshi, and unleashed several towers of flames that exploded consecutively, taking down dozens of monsters each time.

"[Explosive Infernal Tower]!"

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOOM!

As she spread her deadly explosions across the enormous army of over three thousand monsters. Takeshi spread his powers as a domain. His surroundings constantly being flooded with water.

"[Fisherman's Rod]!" He raised a long, silver staff imbued with many spirit stones. It was custom made by me. Not only just plain sticks worked, but any sort of stick.

So naturally, I made him a staff-like stick with the best materials I could find, which essentially makes it so when he transforms it into a fishing rod...

FLAAASH!

It becomes like a divine relic, shining brightly with golden aura, and imbued with many beautiful jewels! And above all else, the metallic thread has become several times stronger.

FLUOOOSH!

The thread moved across the water domain, catching dozens after dozens of monsters and piercing their bodies, and then tightly wrapping around them until they exploded into pieces...

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH!

And that wasn't all...

"[Divine Ocean Dragon]!"

FLUOOOSH!

His Fishing Rod's thread merged with his water domain and magic, gathering into a huge snake-like dragon made of pure water, roaring furiously.

"ROOOOAARRRR!"

It quickly charged forwards, splashing over almost a hundred monsters at once and consuming them into a huge tsunami!

SPLAAAAASSSSHHH!!!

The twins had surely become even stronger... They weren't any longer little kids we had to take care of anymore, but powerful allies we could rely on.

They weren't S Rank yet, but they were both A+ Rank, and their magic was so powerful it could easily beat anything within A Rank and below with utmost ease.

"Rooooaarr!"

Meanwhile, little Nyx was fighting near her two big siblings. I was keeping an eye on her, but against these weak foes, she was completely sweeping the floor.

Her level was soon to reach max level by now, and she was showing off how much her stats had increased already! Adorably yet fiercely, she grew big black scaled claws from her tiny hands and slashed apart monsters with ease.

She grew a long tail and cut them down as well, and using her wings, she flew around evading attacks, while unleashing a devastating Abyssal Phantom Dragon Breath.

BOOOOOOOMMMM!!!

"[Phantom Dragon Summon]! Come friends!"

And she was also kind of a necromancer, using the souls of the monsters she defeated as sacrifices, she summoned dozens of huge dragon phantoms as strong as B+ Rank monsters, which started fighting at her side.

Unlike my Undead, they were temporary, but they were a unique power of hers, mostly. With them to bring her support, she was sweeping the floor with the monsters that came close to her with ease.

"Mama, papa! Look, I'm strong!" Nyx said, calling for our attention.

"I can tell, dear!" I smiled, floating above her in the skies. "Well done!"

"You're doing an amazing job!" Lucifer smiled as well, as his fists reached the huge golem, and finally crushed its core into pieces.

CRAAAAASSH!!!

"OOOOOHHHHHH...!"

Giving a loud groan, the golem quickly crumbled apart into pieces, falling over the floor motionlessly. I smiled, quickly using my necromancy once more.

"Alright, all of you better wake up! No sleeping until we get this done with! Rise and shine!"

My Phantasmal Energy and Mana was spread across the large piles of corpses, and even reached the huge bosses that just died.

"I'll name you two... Bark and Rocky!"

Ding!

[You have risen the [Abyssal Dark Treant King: Lv100 (A+++ Rank)] as an Undead and it has become a Named Undead with the name of [Bark]!]

[Its total Rank has increased from A+++ Rank to S- Rank! All of its Stats have increased as a result, and it has learned new Skills!]

[The monster pledges his loyalty to you as his Undead Queen, and swiftly charges against former comrades!]

Ding!

[You have risen the [Titanic Demonite Golem: Lv100 (A+++ Rank)] as an Undead and it has become a Named Undead with the name of [Rocky]!]

[Its total Rank has increased from A+++ Rank to S- Rank! All of its Stats have increased as a result, and it has learned new Skills!]

[The monster pledges his loyalty to you as his Undead Queen, and swiftly charges against former comrades!]

"Toad, Bark, Rocky, crush them all!" I ordered them with a smile. All three of these powerful bosses, now even stronger at S- Rank marched forwards, crushing the enemy army with their huge sizes.

I never thought I could turn a golem into an Undead, but it seemed to work, as it had a soul of its own within its core, which I simply put back in as I repaired its body through the Necromancy Skills that heals Undead.

The battle continued, there were more and more monsters coming from their respective territories, but united as a single army, we perseverated and once it was finally over, the last standing were, of course, all of us.

"I can't sense any major life presence at all now... other than that big tree over there." I pointed at the distance. "We did it..."

"Now that the forest is clean... Let's end this..." Emeraldine glanced into the tree.