

A Ghost 901

Chapter 901 Catarina's Evolution

Lucifer pierced the void through Maria's Divine Thunder Ego fusing with his body, temporarily giving him incredible speed and the power of the Divine Thunder that Thor's Divine Spirit wielded to almost kill them all back then.

FLAAASH!

"W-We're out!" Lucifer celebrated, noticing they were all above the skies, right over the city of Sapphire Temple!

"The Dimension was all the way up here?!" Nia, Celes' mother panicked. "I-I can't believe they dragged us so far away in an instant...!"

"It certainly is an ominous power." Maria said. "But I won't let that ever happen to us again... I'll make sure of it!"

TRUMMM...!

As they talked, the skies shattered wide open right behind Maria, her eyes opening wide to realize Belphegor was not done yet!

His monstrous form emerging out of the Dimension and letting it all out, spreading darkness and void across the skies of Sapphire Temple.

The people right below panicked, screaming as they saw a gigantic and grotesque abomination emerge, covering their skies with pure darkness.

The sunlight could not even reach them anymore, as his miasmic and void-made body kept spreading around, in the form of a mantle of endless eyes, tentacles, and jaws...

"GRUUUAAAAGGHH...! I'LL DEVOUR YOU ALL! FOR THE SAKE OF REVIVING OUR GREAT LORD!"

He wasn't even paying attention to Maria and her group anymore, as his countless eyes glanced at the thousands of people down below, greedily desiring their souls as sacrifices...

"That bastard's slowly moving down... If this continues, he'll destroy the entire city!" Partner panicked. "Shit! W-What do we do?! ARRGH!"

"Stop panicking!" Emeraldine told her, smacking her face. "Calm down, Partner! It's alright, we can do this somehow...!"

"We have to." Lucifer said. "There is no other way out of this..."

"I'll help as much as I can, my Swordsmanship and my Magic could be of some use against this being of darkness..." Jonathan commented. "I cannot let this monster ruin this beautiful city and its people! I've already seen enough of how this church treats its people... And those Paladins that cannot even be called Paladins to begin with! This entire city is rotten to the core, yet it holds so many innocent and goodhearted people... I cannot let these bastards destroy it. I'm tired of seeing them do as they please... I'm tired of always standing in the sidelines... I'll act!"

"Wow, what a speech..." Partner was taken aback. "Y-Yeah, I guess you're right... If the blondie's braver than me then what the heck am I even doing? Alright! Let's do this."

Unexpectedly to Maria, Jonathan's inspiring words ended cheering up Partner more than she could have ever imagined...

"Yeah, we have to." Maria nodded. "Everyone else here, you need to rest. We'll take care of this ourselves. You've fought more than enough, Fabian, everyone."

"W-We'll leave it to you then!" Fabian nodded, as he and everyone else with him were sent inside of Maria's shadows, including the sleeping Nyx and Celes.

However, at her side, Blackie kept whining and groaning at her, as if he was trying to tell her something. Although everyone inside his shadows was unconscious, Maria felt like there was someone inside there asking her to them out.

"What is it, Blackie? What are you trying to tell me?" Maria wondered. "Inside your shadows? But- Ah...!"

Maria's eyes opened wide, quickly realizing what had happened... Something she had completely missed, the corpse of Catarina torn to shreds, dead.

"C-Catarina...?!" She cried, quickly recalling how Lancelot had died despite being an Undead.

Sometimes, even Undead cannot be repaired completely. If their Souls are too exhausted, or too damaged, they'll break apart and dissipate, killing them.

And this was what Maria thought in that very instant, her entire heart wavering at the thought of yet another companion dying...

"I-I'm not dead yet! Well, I am! But... my soul has yet to give up! Hey!"

However, the annoying and tomboyish voice of Catarina within Blackie's shadow told her otherwise!

"Catarina, you're not dead dead?!"

Maria ran inside of Blackie's shadows, merging its contents into her shadow realm while putting Blackie inside, and hugging Catarina's red-colored soul, which had many cracks and missing pieces.

"Argh! Why are you hugging me- Ugh! Stop it! It hurts!"

"I'm so happy... I don't want to lose more people..."

"M-Maria... What happened? Did someone... die?"

"Someone you didn't get to see... A brave little ant I recruited and... Well, a sorrowful Frost Ghost, Veredorr..." Maria sighed.

"T-That's..." Catarina muttered. "I didn't know... But- ugh, I'm alright, my soul's strong and I'm fine! Now let me out! I want to fight too!"

"You can't fight in that state..." Maria sighed. "Stay here for now and rest-"

However, Maria's arm was grabbed tightly by Catarina, she suddenly noticed her crimson blood flare powers emerging from her very soul, slightly burning her.

"Let me go, Maria." She said, her soul eyes glaring with conviction. "That bastard... he killed me, and almost killed your daughter, and almost killed everyone I've grown to love now... Let me go, I want to beat the shit out of them!"

"..." Maria stayed glancing at her in silence, and then touched the depths of her soul. "[Death Restoration]"

FLASH!

A wave of death energy and phantasmal power healed Catarina's soul in an instant, her cracks were quickly healed back, and although her missing pieces were not back, most of her mass was regained.

"Creating a new body would take too long and... As you can see, we're in a bit of a hurry. Your Soul alone will have to do... Make a contract with me." Maria proposed.

"A contract?" Asked Catarina.

"Like the other Ghosts, your brothers, who I left back home to protect the village." Maria explained. "Once you ascend into a ghost, you will become a Spirit if we create a contract, our connection will make you much stronger... But you'll have to bear with the transformation."

"I can bear with anything." Catarina said. "So please...!"

"Alright..." Maria nodded. "[Creation of Death]!"

FLUOSH!

Maria channeled her powers, as her Soul Grimoire emerged in front of her, in a few splits of a second, she swiftly decided Catarina's transformation, automatically adding compatible and spare materials inside of her inventory.

"This Form... I had never seen something like this before..."

FLAAASH!

Chapter 902 Against Corrupted Void Master, Belphegor

"I'LL DEVOUR... I'LL DEVOUR IT ALL...!"

The enormous cloud of miasma and void energies continued descending slowly from the skies. The people of Sapphire Temple screamed in horror, running to the underground areas of their houses, preparing for the worst.

The Paladins of the church gathered outside the church, their weapons on hand, preparing for the worst as well, all while Saintess Emilia glanced at the skies with a furious glare.

"Where is Maleficus?!" She asked angrily. "How dare he do this to me?! Is he betraying me?! After all the things we've worked on together? If the Church learns of your betrayal, you won't get out of this easily...!"

As Emilia raged, without knowing what to do herself, as she was naturally a coward despite the blessed abilities she possessed, an old man covered in black robes glanced atop a tall building, smiling.

"Hahahaha... Belphegor... I cannot believe what you've done..." He smiled devilishly, showing his sharp vampire fangs. "Despite having failed me, you have, nonetheless, brought quite an interesting and amusing result..."

"That... Is it Master Belphegor?!"

"I can't believe it..."

"Has his body ascended into something greater?!"

The other Warlocks seemed shocked and rejoiced by seeing Belphegor's new form, but Maleficus, the old man leading everything, only laughed.

"Hohoho, his vessel... His form, it is shaping well... This might be what we just needed for our Great Lord's Resurrection!" Maleficus smiled. "However... I wonder if those others will let him do as he pleases. Hmm, I wonder what will happen. That young lass of Emilia is probably very annoyed right now..."

"Should we stop him?"

"But if we do... Belphegor's new form..."

"We would be forced to go back several steps from our Great Lord's resurrection! And we have yet to secure the Divine Spirit's Reincarnation."

"Hmmm... Let us watch for now." Maleficus laughed. "This is too amusing to not see. Let Belphegor do as he pleases. No matter the result of this confrontation, we will benefit, I can assure you of that..."

"Maria went to her Shadow Realm to revive Catarina's soul." Lucifer said as he glanced the gigantic being slowly descend. "We have to stop this bastard while we are at it!"

"She's gone?!" Partner asked. "Ugh... Okay! We'll simply have to wait for her."

"We can't always rely on her for everything." Emeraldine said, her eyes shining brightly. "Let us work together to defend this city! Jonathan, we're counting on you too!"

"Of course!" Jonathan roared, his sword shining brightly. "First of all, we must stop it from descending any further!"

"Then we have to push it from below, isn't it?" Lucifer smiled, his body quickly growing into a gigantic black scaled dragon, the people of Sapphire Temple panicking as they saw that gigantic being appear once more.

His hands summoned a gigantic scythe made of Abyssal Death Flames, as his Aura kept surging from his body, resembling a gigantic and intimidating dragon made of shadows and death energy...

"Yeah, there's no choice." Emeraldine nodded. "Lucifer, Jonathan, can you two hold it off? I'll prepare something strong to blow it into the skies! Partner, assist them!"

"I was going to do that anyways. I'll leave the rest to you, Emeraldine." Lucifer nodded immediately. "Hey, let's go."

"Alright." Jonathan nodded as well.

"Me? Assisting these two?" Partner asked, complaining like a brat. "I'm stronger than Jonathan!"lights

"PARTNER!" Emeraldine roared angrily. "Stop messing around! You're always treating all situations like THIS! Can't you work efficiently and help us survive?! Your attack power might be high, and your speed too, but your defenses are really low! You almost got killed before too! Assist them and let them tank the hits!"

"T-That's...!" Partner was shocked Emeraldine had grown so angry, she realized she might have been being an asshole without realizing. It was ingrained within her, a part of her personality of every day. Maybe Maria had spoiled her too much too... But she quickly realized she wasn't acting responsible. "Okay! Fine, FINE! I'll help and assist them then! Just don't get so angry..."

"Sorry, but this... Sorry." Emeraldine sighed, smiling back at her. "Let's work together, okay?" Her gentle smile soothed Partner's worries.

"Okay..." Partner nodded. "Let's wait for Master to come back! I'll do my best, you two better not slow me down as... Well, as I assist you I guess."

"No more chit-chat, he's coming!" Lucifer roared, rushing towards the skies, and clashing against the gigantic aberration, of over five hundred meters spread across the skies!

"YOU'RE NOTHING BUT ANTS BEFORE MEEEE!"

Belphegor laughed manically as his gigantic tentacles, each one as big as fifty meters each, clashing against Lucifer's almost two-hundred-meter big body.

CLAAASH! CLAAASH! CLAAASH! CLAAASH!

Lucifer channeled the powers of his Skills and the Draconic Records he had been neglecting quite a lot so far, conjuring the power of his family of Fire Dragon's Primordial Mother, Muspel! And combining these powers with his Skills.

"[Abyssal Infernal Muspel's Shield]!"

FLUOOOSH!

A gigantic shield made of black and red flames emerged in front of him, taking the attacks one after another. Each strike into the shield generated several cracks over it, and accumulated energy into it.

Lucifer tanked the several blows as he kept flying upwards, swinging his giant scythe all while attacking with his long tail, using it as a deadly spear!

SLAASH! SLAASH! SLAASH! SLAASH! CLAASH! CLAASH! CLAASH! CLAASH!

"GRAAAAGGHH...!"

Belphegor groaned in agony as his tentacles were being covered on countless wounds, Deadly Poison and Abyssal Death Flames spreading through them.

As originally an Undead Dragon, Lucifer had already mastered the power of conjuring and manipulating poisons from his claws and scales, utilizing it to its maximum effect to weaken his foe!

"Here, take a load of all the fucking venom I've got!" Lucifer roared. "[Abyssal Dragon's Venomous Muspel Flare]!"

Loading his scythe with all this poison and mixing it with his flames, Lucifer unleashed a devastating slashing blow, a huge wave of purple and black flames impacting the entire body of Belphegor!

BOOOOOMMMM!!

"GRAAAARRRRGGH! BASTARD!"

Belphegor, however, quickly grew a giant fist from its body, punching Lucifer with titanic strength!

BAAAAMMM!!!

"URGH?!"

Chapter 903 Going All-Out

The gigantic fist of over a hundred meters came imbued with a large mantle of Void and Chaos, the very impact Lucifer tanked ended being several hundreds of times stronger as it was loaded with these destructive elements, a huge explosion devoured a part of his scale armor and even half his left arm!

BAAAAAMMM!!!

"UURRGH?!"

Lucifer groaned in agony, quickly stepping back, only for two tentacles, with sharp spear-like ends to reach him, about to impale him from both sides!

"DIE! DIE! DIE!"

"Fuck! Are you kidding me?!"

As Lucifer prepared himself for the worst, a mighty ray of light reached one of the tentacles, blasting it into ashes!

"[Holy Beam]!"

BOOOOOMMM!!!

And then, another slash of pure celestial light slashed the other tentacle, covering it on countless slashing attacks until it fell apart into pieces.

"[Divine Starlight Blade Arts]: [Shining Star Blades]!"

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLAAASH!

"GRAAAAAHHH!!!"

Belphegor screamed in agony; the light hurt much more than any of Lucifer's attacks! His entire body squirmed in pain, as he was lifted higher and higher into the skies by Jonathan's mighty blows.

"Lucifer, now!"

"OOOH!"

Lucifer and Jonathan rushed into the skies, attacking Belphegor incessantly, their powerful blows and their high defenses making it possible for them to actively fight as powerful vanguards!

CLAASH! CLAASH! CLAASH! CLAAASH! CLAAASH!

"BASTARDS!"

With a mighty roar, several of Belphegor's crimson eyes opened wide, charging red energy and firing it against the two!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

The two tanked or blocked them with their weapon attacks, but it was getting overwhelming as the beams never ceased!

But then...

"[Scarlet Moons]! [Chaos Beams]!"

Partner appeared from behind them, her bright red eyes shining brightly as her seductive and beautiful appearance resonated with an aura of utter vampiric malice.

Several magic circles surrounded Belphegor, gigantic spheres of pure blood energy bombarding him one after another, while beams of chaos pierced through his body.

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!

"GRAAAHHH...!"

Belphegor agonized, as Lucifer and Jonathan took the opportunity Partner gave to them to fight! The two rushed forwards once more, sword and scythe constantly slashing through Belphegor's tentacles while destroying his many eyes.

"[Infernal Scythe Slashing Storm]!"

"[Heaven's Ascent]!"

An enormous storm of countless slashing attacks imbued with black and red flames and an ascending slash of pure light, resembling a tower of divine brilliance impacted Belphegor, pushing further and further into the skies!

CLAAASSSSHHH!!!lights

"UURGGHH...! Y-YOU'RE GETTING ME FURTHER AND FURTHER AWAY FROM MY SACRIFICES! YOU MONSTERSSSSS!!!" Belphegor was losing it, suddenly summoning dozens of magic circles, where hundreds of projectiles resembling swords made of void and demonic energy emerged. "[Demonic Void Swords of Pestilence]! DIE!"

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

Hundreds of black swords rained upon the vanguards, each sword as long as twenty meters, Lucifer and Jonathan were having a hard time clashing against them and blocking them, and they couldn't let these swords get too close, as they exploded, releasing black voids that would absorb anything and disintegrate it!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

"Dammit!" Lucifer roared. "The bastard's descending again!"

"His swords are endless!" Jonathan said, swinging his divine sword, constantly clashing against the swords of darkness.

"As long as I'm here, these won't get past you two!" Roared Partner, quickly conjuring several spells and Skills at once. "[Moon Vampire Queen Battle Arts]: [Blood World]! [Demon Gates]: [Infernal Dominion]!"

By channeling the power of these two mighty skills, a sea of endless blood was summoned, clashing against hundreds of projectiles, and stopping them from reaching further down, all while several gates of flames emerged around her, firing giant weapon projectiles, as if they were being thrown by the demons from hell themselves.

SPLAAAASSSHH...!

The sea of eternal blood seemed to have a will of its own, wrapping around Belphegor's lower side and stopping him from conjuring more projectiles of magic, all while the infernal weapons pierced his skin and burned it with demonic fire.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

"UUURGGH...! W-What are these flames...?!"

Belphegor couldn't believe he was being overwhelmed and constantly pushed back; his gigantic body was now beginning to feel like a burden. He had soon realized he had become just a huge target for everyone to just hit as much as possible.

As a mighty sorcerer and warlock such a thing seemed ridiculous, even when he experimented on his body to gain greater strength, he was never someone that enjoyed close-

ranged fights like the rest of the freaks from his organization.

"I have to end this quickly! T-These bastards are only going to get more annoying!" He thought angrily, his mind still feeling fuzzy and strange as he lacked many of his soul fragments. "I'LL KILL YOU ALL, NOW!"

His entire body shapeshifted once more, growing a massive maw, and then gathering enormous quantities of energy within, all the power he could muster!

"Now that I don't see that damned ghost with them to mirror my attack, I'll just fucking blast them to smithereens!" He laughed internally. "DIEEE!"

TRUUMM...!

A gigantic black beam of Void and Chaos was fired down. The people in the city watched in horror as it slowly approached their home. A single blast from it and everything they've ever built, their homes, their lives, their families.

It would all end...

Yet...!

"Emeraldine, is it done already?!" Partner screamed.

"Yes, stand aside."

Emeraldine, who didn't participate at all in the entire fight, was overflowing with tremendous powers, her butterfly wings glowing brightly like pure gold, her arrow having fused with her Yggdrasil Wood, taking the shape of a titanic crossbow made of light and nature.

A huge arrow composed of her two Divine Spirits combined forms and her own soul was sitting over the gigantic crossbow, she channeled many of her skills at once, combining their effects into one.

This was a technique she had used before, against an almighty foe where she had to bet her life to defeat...

"[Divine Holy Spirit Bow Arts]: [Yggdrasil's Nine Divine Realms]!"

Nine arrows containing the elements of Yggdrasil's nine realms emerged, being fired against Belphegor's mighty beam all at once, this time, as they flew, they combined together into one!

"[Divine Spirit Fusion]!"

The nine arrows combined together into a gigantic, rainbow arrow, intercepting Belphegor's beam.

BOOOOMMM!!!

Chapter 904 CLASH!

Back then, in the first time she came out with such an ability and conjured it, Emeraldine had to sacrifice one hundred years of her long lifespan of over a thousand years. However, this time, she used her pure Divinity she had acquired after her Evolution to conjure this Technique...

And improve upon it! Fusing all nine arrows made of different and powerful elements, a tremendously strong multi-elemental arrow was conjured, an almighty spell and technique that took her almost ten

minutes to conjure, and something she could only create in very dire situations, its cooldown being of several days.

FLAAAAAASSSHHH!!

The divine arrow of countless colors pierced through Belphegor's beam of Void and Chaos, easily destroying it, and disintegrating it as it made its way up into the skies, ultimately exploding right in front of his face.

BOOOOOOMMMMM!!!

The explosion alone wasn't everything though, as the smoke dissipated to reveal Belphegor's whole body had now a gigantic hole in the middle of it, the divine rainbow spirit light in the wound inhibiting his ability to regenerate, to make things worse!

"G-GAAGGH...! Y-YOU...!" Belphegor started squirming his body, incapable of believing he had been pushed so far. "Y-YOU... YOUU... YOUUUU!!! YOU INSECTS! YOU DAMN COCKROACHES!"

With a furious roar, five more jaws emerged across the rest of his remaining body, gathering their Void and Chaos Power, and unleashing five beams, although much smaller than before, they were just as strong!

TRUUUM! TRUUUM! TRUUUM! TRUUUM! TRUUUM!

"Shit, even more?!" Lucifer muttered.

"W-We have to somehow stop them, no matter what!" Jonathan muttered.

"Y-Yeah... If they reach down there, it'll be over for Sapphire Temple's and its people!" Partner cried.

"That wasn't enough...?" Emeraldine muttered in disbelief.

Although they flew directly to confront the beams and block them with everything they had, everyone was already quite exhausted.

They had already been fighting for a while now, overusing their abilities, and spending the majority of their Mana too.

Deep down, they didn't know if they could make it out of this situation...

"HAHAHAHA! DIEEEE!"

All four of them conjured an enormous barrier of combined elements, resisting the beams as they clashed one after another, slowly pushing down further, and further, and further!

"D-Dammit!"

"Is this it?!"

"N-No...! NO!"

"Urgh...! M-Maria...! Where are you?!"

Their barrier started to gain countless cracks, quickly beginning to collapse, the beams clashing against them one after another, huge explosions shaking the skies.

BOOOOMMM!!! BOOOOMMM!!! BOOOOMMM!!! BOOOOMMM!!! BOOOOMMM!!!

"GAHAHAHAHA!"

Belphegor's laughter could be heard from the skies as whatever was left of him glanced the demise of his foes at long last! He couldn't help but feel incredible joy that they died at long last!

"Now, I shall- Huh?"

However, something seemed off... The beams were still hitting something amidst the smoke, they had yet to reach down into the city!

The smoke dissipated, to reveal they were all unscathed, behind someone... A single ghost lady, whose powers overflowed with many different elements.

It was nobody else than her!

"Maria!" Emeraldine cried, happy to see her appear once more.

"You're so late!" Lucifer complained.

"Why are you so late?! What took so long?!" Partner complained too.

"Y-You're okay? What... happened- Huh?!" Jonathan was shocked to see Maria's amazing display of power.

She was floating in midair as if nothing, five rotating mirrors constantly taking on the beams around her, each one resembling a different phase of the moon, shining with bright purple and pink Moonlight Energy.

"Sorry for being so late... I'm really, truly sorry. Now leave the rest to me... Or well, us." Maria said, her eyes glowing with mystical light. "[Mystical Moon Phase Cycle]"

FLAAAAASSSHH!!!

Her moons shone brightly like beautiful mirrors, the beams were completely absorbed out of Belphegor, the ancient sorcerer left utterly speechless as then, the mirrors rotated even faster around Maria...

"Here, I think you lost something."

"N-NO...! NOT YOU AGAIN!"

Belphegor could only scream in horror as five enormous beams of Void, Chaos, Death, Divine Thunder, Flames, Phantom, and Moonlight, all mixed together, blasted through his body, leaving five huge holes.

BOOOOMMM!!! BOOOOMMM!!! BOOOOMMM!!! BOOOOMMM!!! BOOOOMMM!!!

"UUUAAAARRGGHHHH...!"

The aberration screamed in agony, the people of the city all glanced in awe at what was happening, the mysterious guardians protecting their city were still not giving up yet.

And the screams of agony of the aberration that was trying to kill them all made them regain hope within their hearts!

FLAAASH!

Maria rushed towards him before he could attempt to descend into the city any longer, her body overflowing with many colorful energies as she channeled and combined the power of all her Body-type Skills into one, transforming into a giantess.

FLUOSH!

Her appearance had quickly changed, her body was now made up of dark purple and pink colored moonlight energy which shone with countless bright stars. Her long, purple, and black hair reached her ankles, and it was made of ferocious snakes, poison, and death.

Covering her beautiful moonlight body, a black and demonic armor with the decorations of many bug-like monstrosities emerged, made of demonic power, chaos, and darkness. And behind her, there was a divine mantle made of golden and black lightning.

[You have combined the effects of the [Gorgon's Transformation], [Abyssal Demon Transformation], [Divine Moonlight Titan Body], [Divine Moonlight Titan Soul], and all Body-type Skills to transform into your [Ultimate Form]!]

[All of your Stats have temporarily increased by +1000%, your Death, Darkness, Chaos, Poison, Lightning, and Moonlight Elemental Damage has increased by +10000%, and Skill Damage has increased by +500%!]

[However, your Mana is constantly being drained, and so is your Moonlight Essence!]

"[Accursed Abyssal Nightmare Blade Arts]: [Abyssal Ascension]! [Barbaric Dark Axe Arts]: [Demonic Slash]!"

Without further ado, Maria jumped into action before anybody else, summoning her Blade and her huge Axe, and swinging both weapons at once against Belphegor's titanic body!

"RAAAHHH!!!"

CLAAASH! CLAAASH! CLAAASH! CLAAASH! CLAAASH!

"RUUUAAAGGGHH...!"

Belphegor desperately attempted to fight back, his body growing hundreds of giant fists clashing against her blows, but they were all being sliced apart with ease!

"Don't ever think you're EVEN have a chance!"

And the voice of Catarina echoed from within Maria, her new demonic and spectral body emerging!

"W-Wha...?! YOU?!"

Belphegor somehow had slight memories of Catarina from the one he had fused from...

"Hey."

BAAAAAMMMM!!!

Chapter 905 Final Round

?

Catarina's ghost form appeared, shining with crimson radiance. Her appearance resembling that of a beautiful and muscular almighty demon vampire giantess!

Her ghostly form was very similar to her body, actually, but it seemed much larger, bigger, and stronger. Her arms were enormous, and her whole skin was covered on several crimson tattoos, while she had a pair of red and black horns on her forehead, and her long hair ended on fiery red flames.

It could be said that Catarina's true potential, and her abilities to transform, surged from her very soul, and now that she was only left with that, her Evolution turned her into something completely different than a mere Elemental Ghost!

Maria could clearly see it within her notifications of the System after all...

Ding!

[You have raised [Demonic Crimson Asura Vampire Warrior Queen Specter: Catarina (S Rank)]]

[Catarina] has received several Bonus Skills, Titles, and Higher Stats!]

[The Innate Talent of Catarina's Soul has been Awakened!]

[Catarina] has made a contract with your Soul! She has become one of your Spirit Familiars!]

"Good, all done." Maria smiled, looking at Belphegor fly into the deserts at the side of the city after Catarina punched him to oblivion.

CLAAAAASSSHH!!!

His titanic body collapsed on the golden sands, making the sea of endless sands shake furiously. His body slowly started dragging itself across it, slowly beginning to take the form of some sort of chimeric humanoid beast with the head in the shape of a tentacle with many eyes.

"Aaaarggh...! I-I have to run! There's no way I can stay here anymore with those two monsters!" Belphegor thought. "My body has ascended and become much stronger, if I hide and gather more power-"

As he pathetically started digging into the sand and trying to hide from Maria and Catarina, the blazing blood flames ghost appeared right above him, her muscular arms multiplying into dozens of them as she innately knew how to manipulate her formless body into any shape she desired.

Demonic and Blood Energies erupting from her very soul, fusing together as her demonic appearance became even more extreme, another pair of eyes growing on her face... She truly resembled a Demonic Asura!

"This is for Silva, and for everyone you've tried to fuck over!" She roared furiously, her ghostly form growing as big as a hundred meters! "[Blood Demon Battle Arts]: [Meteoric Crimson Blood Flare Fists]! [Crimson Asura's Wrath]!!!"

Her form became even more demonic as her titanic fists reached down upon Belphegor, piercing through his body, and leaving countless holes, while covering him on blood flames that constantly drained away his HP and MP!

BAAAM! BAAAM! BAAAM! BAAAM! BAAAM!

"AARRRGHHH...!" Belphegor screamed in agony. "D-Don't you DARE think I'll simply GO DOWN EASILY!"

Belphegor, as he was being punched to death, surged from the sands, and absorbed them, his body suddenly becoming like a hard golem as he synthesized the sand with his miasma, turning it into crystals of Demonite!

Growing dozens of arms and fists himself, he attacked back at Catarina with everything he had, while spears of Demonite endlessly surged from his surroundings as his Miasma absorbed the Sand and synthesized it.

CLAASH! CLAASH! CLAASH! CLAASH! CLAASH!

"Bastard, you dare fight back?!" Catarina roared furiously. "[Blood Demon Battle Arts]: [Blood Demon's Infernal Charge]!"

Her entire phantasmal body temporarily materialized into a giantess of flames, rushing towards Belphegor, and slamming him into the ground, her flames were so hot that the sand became glass, shattering apart.

BAAAAAMMM!!!

"GRAAAGGHH...! Y-YOU DAMN...!"

Belphegor struggled, punching her back and piercing her soul with his spears of Demonite and Void, but Catarina kept slamming him and punching his multiple eyes!

It was a stalemate!

However, that was soon going to end as Maria descended towards the two, reaching Belphegor's back and unleashing a barrage of deadly attacks with her huge sword and her axe!

"[Accursed Abyssal Nightmare Blade Arts]: [Nightmare Lightning Slashing Storm]! [Barbaric Dark Axe Arts]: [Mountain-

Splitting Death Strike]!"

CRAAASH! CRAAASH! CRAAASH! CRAAASH!

Four mighty strikes loaded with Lightning, Darkness, and Death Element overwhelmed Belphegor, all while Catarina kept punching and burning him from the front!

"UUUAARRGGHHH...! T-THIS CAN'T...! THIS CAN'T BE!"

Filled with frustration, he continued struggling as he was being slowly chopped down to pieces and turned into ashes by their blows!

"RAAAAH!"

He furiously attempted to pierce Maria's chest with a gigantic spear coming from his own stomach, only for her to evade the blow and cut the spear into pieces with her axe and her sword.

SLAAAASH!

All while Catarina smiled, combining all her arms and fists into one gigantic attack, and piercing his chest with an almighty blazing punch filled with wrath!

"[Demon-Tearing Fist Of Wrath]!"

BAAAAAAMMMMM!!!!

"GRUUUAAAAGGGHHHHH...!!!"

Belphegor's Void Crystal Core was shattered into countless pieces, all while the depths of his soul was burned alive, his consciousness immediately beginning to fade away as Maria's attacks finished him off, cutting him to pieces.

CLAASH! CLAASH! CLAASH!

"Make sure to never come back, you motherfucker!" Maria roared angrily. "And this isn't going to end here, I'll come after your master, I'll fucking kill him too! I'm going to kill every single bastard and bitch in this damn city! I FUCKING SWEAR IT!"

Her two weapons suddenly became one as a surge of frost emerged from her hands. The two weapons and the frost taking the form of a titanic axe once wielded by an almighty titan that perished in the ancient war!

The Gods above the skies shook in surprise, sensing the presence of the one that fought the hardest against Odin after Ymir's defeat...

Loki's true father!

"[Fárbauti Cruel Strike]!!!"

Maria activated the powerful Privilege he had gifted to her when she visited the Titan Records, ending Belphegor's life once and for all by shattering his dimensional void vessel, consumed by frost and darkness!

CRAAAAAASSSSHHHH!!!

Belphegor felt there was no afterlife, as everything he once was slowly dissipated into ashes, disappearing from existence.

"To be defeated... like this... Impo... ssible..."

BOOOOOOOOMMMMMMM!!!

A huge explosion shook the entire desert, as frost spread out through a large area, the people of Sapphire Temple suddenly felt a very cold wave of winds, their eyes opening wide in shock.

The monster that had threatened their city was dead!

Chapter 906 The Warlock's Dark Lord

The entire ordeal was finally over, Belphegor was dead, and the city was saved from being utterly destroyed... All while they took care of 90% of the Warlocks forces in this entire incident.

Indeed, they used that many to entrap them, trying to ensure their deaths at all costs, but at the end, they were the ones that ended lowering their numbers drastically, with both of Maleficus strongest right hand and left hand now dead.

The people across the city of Sapphire Temple felt a sense of relief in their hearts as they saw the monster be defeated and taken away. Their eyes shining brightly as they realized there were heroes watching over them, that fought for them, and protected them from their demise.

"W-We're saved? We are not dead yet?"

"What just happened there? Did... nothing happened?"

"A big dragon appeared and brought it away..."

"I also saw other people with the dragon, it wasn't alone!"

"Yeah... But what was that thing?"

The people started talking with one another about what had occurred, they felt relieved the beast was gone, but questions were beginning to emerge in their hearts.

Why such a monster appeared?

Where did it even come from?

And why didn't any of the church paladins, or even the Saintess did a single thing to repel it?

It felt as if they had been paying for taxes and the water for nothing, none of them ever came to their aid, none of them even came to tell them some relieving words.

Not even a small lie to calm their hearts! Nothing!

The people that had been tortured and abused all these years, were given water out of nowhere inside of all their houses, and now, they were saved by outsiders.

They were beginning to realize the injustices of this place, and that not everything was hopeless either. There were people working in the shadows to help them...

Things were not hopeless.

"Tch... What with those eyes?" Saintess Emilia glanced through the window of the church, noticing thousands of people glaring at the church with incredible rage. "Hey, where is Maleficus at?! I called him a while ago and he's not here! The monster is gone but what the heck was that?!"

The Paladins had little answers for her, suffering her tyrannical anger and her insults as they kept trying to find the Warlock, who only glanced into the skies, with a rather sinister smile.

"Hehehe... Belphegor... your sacrifice will not be wasted, old friend." He glanced into the distance as his hands held a black crystal, containing the will of something darker and sinister.

It slowly absorbed dozens of souls and void energy that was left behind after Belphegor died, all the souls of the former members of the Warlocks, and several Fragments of the Void of Belphegor's own soul.

FLUOSH!

The black crystal gathered enough energy, glowing with a bright red aura, the smile of Maleficus grew more sinister and twisted as he saw this occur.

"Excellent, we got what we wanted." He nodded. "We might have failed on killing them, but this is certainly not that bad, isn't it? Now, let's go back to our headquarters."

"But master, Saintess Emilia wants a word with you...!"

"Tch, why should I care what that spoiled girl wants?" Scuffed Maleficus. "Tell her that I'm busy trying to find a way to kill those bastards, so she better not bother me until then..."

"Very well..." One of the warlocks went to communicate this to a Paladin nearby.

FLASH!

A black gate opened in front of Maleficus as he stepped towards it with the rest of his warlocks, entering the depths of the Pyramid Dungeon deep underground.

In the depths of this dungeon which they had now taken over, Maleficus walked into a large room, where a large, crystalized human-like figure rested in the middle of a gigantic magic circle.

It seemed to have been blue, but it was completely contaminated with black and purple colors, several of its crystal parts have been cut down.

And one of such fragments was the crystal the old vampire warlock held on his hands, a malefic slime, befitting of his name, surged on his old and dry lips.

"Hehehe! My lord, you're closer than ever for your resurrection now!"

The crystal flew away from his hands, fusing back into the crystal's figure chest, perfectly fitting on a cracked spherical-

shaped core.

FLAAASH!

The entire figure began to glow with malicious and dark energies the moment the fragment unified back to it, sharing the harvest it had gathered, of many powerful souls, Void Fragments created by Belphegor's aberrant form, and more...

RUMBLE!

For that split of a second, the crystal figure moved, its aura erupting with so much force it made the entire dungeon tremble.

"Ahahaha! Yes...! Yes! My great lord! Your resurrection is very close now!" The warlock celebrated as he laughed evilly.

"..."

However, it suddenly stopped moving, and remained on a lethargic state... However, Maleficus heard a voice whispering into his mind.

"The soul... Bring me the soul of that child... I need it... Its powers... With that... my ascension... Will become a reality..."

Ascension...

Whatever this entity's true identity was, it desired the soul of Celes, the reincarnation of the Divine Spirit of the Oasis to achieve this next form, a new evolution of its own self.

To ascend into something anew, and stronger, to become its own entity, and no longer simply be known as a Fragment of somebody else.

"Yes, my great lord." Maleficus nodded. "We shall prepare ourselves to take that child's soul as soon as we can. But for now, I hope our sacrifices can be of any use..."

"Hurry."

After those words, the voice stopped speaking, yet Maleficus felt his connection with this entity growing even stronger.

He was a Warlock after all, a powerful magician that gained magic powers beyond what a human could ever achieve by creating pacts with powerful entities.

Be it magical beings, spiritual beings, divine beings, or demonic beings...

And his pact with this entity had become even stronger, his power rising.

"I shall, my lord."

Chapter 907 Maria's Evolution Requirements

(Maria's POV)

Everything finally ended, even though we had yet to even resolve the primary problem of that city. To think we would be trapped and cornered to this extent... The Warlocks of the Underworld were truly a force to be reckoned with.

However, we perseverated and won at the end, even despite all the battles and the desperation. My dear daughter did her best too, fighting to protect everyone, and even Celes seemed to have grown much stronger from this challenge, and so did his mother.

Although I would have preferred to let them level up in a safer environment, there's little safety in a place like this, there was no helping it, I suppose.

Everyone else quickly gathered at our side as Belphegor finally kicked the bucket. His gigantic body was beginning to slowly dissolve into miasma, so I quickly decided to store him inside of my Inventory so he wouldn't contaminate the desert.

However, as I did that, part of his body turned into darkness, which was automatically devoured by my Soul, which felt slightly weird... but at the same time, granted me a lot of power.

I suppose I was hungry deep down, although I wasn't thinking about eating at all, that's what I usually do. Eating strong souls of materials can give me bonus stats or even new Skills after all..

But this...

FLAAASH! FLAAASH! FLAAASH!

My body continued glowing brightly with each little fragment of darkness or whatever it was being absorbed, making my entire soul feel stronger.

And as if... I was comprehending something deeper.

Ding!

[Due to the hunger of your Soul after such a huge battle, you've automatically absorbed all compatible fragments, items, or artifacts.]

[You have absorbed [Void Fragment] x32]

[You have absorbed [Corrupted Spirit Crystal Fragment] x8]

[You have absorbed [Shattered Dimensional Void Core] x1]

[MP] has increased by +250.000]

[Magic] has increased by +150.000]

[Aether] has increased by +100]

[You learned the [Void Devourer: Lv1] Title Skill.]

[You learned the [Spirit Energy Manipulation: Lv1] Support Skill.]

[Several Skills have Leveled Up.]

[Your Soul rumbles in satisfaction, burping a bit...]

[You're slowly beginning to comprehend one of the Divine Concepts that might bring you closer to [Ascension].]

[Your [Divine Ember] has grown much larger within your Soul.]

"Burp..." I muttered. "W-Wait? Huh? It feels like my own Soul has a personality of its own or something! What in the world am I even becoming?"

Anyways, I got stronger so that's what matters at the end! Let's check the new Skills while everyone comes back...

[Void Devourer: Lv1]

A Unique Title Skill given to those that have done the impossible and devoured the Void itself, a feat only capable by entities that live outside of the World's restraints and laws.

The [Void Of All Things] is watching you.

Grants the ability to easily trespass through Dimensional and Spatial Boundaries with little effort, and also grants the ability to negate forceful transfer into other Dimensions or Spaces.

It is possible to enchant as many allies as you can with a similar effect, protecting them from being dragged away into a different dimension or space.

Additionally, with each Skill Level, increases Affinity with Space and Void Element by +25%.

Okay I guess this is perfect after what we went through, but what with that creepy message? Who is the [Void of All Things]?! Sounds eerie...

[Spirit Energy Manipulation: Lv1]

A Special Ability given to those who have harnessed and controlled Spiritual Energy for a long time and can naturally generate it within their bodies.

Grants the ability to manipulate Spirit Energy and conjure special Spirit Magic with it, without the requirement of possessing a Spirit related to it.

It is also possible to enhance weapons, armor, spells, or skills with Spiritual Energy for greater effects.

By harnessing and absorbing more Spirit Energy, it is possible to increase the [Aether] Stat further.

Increases Spirit Magic and Spirit Energy Power and Effects by +100%, with an additional +25% with each Skill Level.

When contracting a Spirit, the contracted Spirit might receive a Special Evolution and greater benefits, which increase based on Skill Level.

Oh wow, this one's good too! So this sparkly and white energy in my hands is Spirit Energy, huh? Pretty amusing, this is what Emeraldine often uses!

However, all of this wasn't everything there was to it, as new clues about how to Evolve appeared...

Ding!

[Because of having meet some of these requirements, the requirements for a Special Evolution have been revealed.]

[Absorb the Essence of the Void: 10/10]

[Absorb the Essence of the Spirits: 5/5]

[Devour S Rank Monster Cores: 0/10]

[Devour a Dimensional Artifact: 1/1]

[Devour a Divinity: 0/1]

[Comprehend a Divine Concept: 0/1] [Progress: 53%]

"Evolution... Requirements?!" I asked in surprise. "Hey System..."

[Indeed, this is something that has been just revealed. There is a special evolution awaiting for you if you can get all these requirements. If not... Well, you'll get stuck where you are.]

"Wait, I am?! I didn't know S Rank was the end of the road!"

[Calm down, it is not... But you need to work a bit harder to evolve now. Because after S Rank, you'll be stepping into the Realm of the Gods.]

"The Realm... of the Gods?"

[A very weak God though, but it will be your first step before going further. Don't you want to kill that bastard of Odin? Then this is perfect, right?]

I guess he's right, this is ideal... Also has he become nicer and more empathetic.

[I have simply become smarter and can talk more, I am the same asshole as always.]

Wow... okay, no need to read my mind, bastard...

[I'll do whatever I want.]

"Ugh, I prefer the illusion you were acting nicer..." I sighed. "Anyways, what is this Divine Concept thing? I'm 53% done already? But what is it even all about?"

[A Divine Concept is the consolidation of your Elemental Affinities into a Unique Element of your own creation, a Concept that you've made, which will further change the world forever.]

[The reason why it is so hard for anything to surpass S Rank... is because they usually need to get this done.]

[And it's not easy.]

"Not easy? Well if I'm already over 50% I bet it's not THAT hard!"

[Don't get cocky!]

Chapter 908 A Developing Divine Concept?

"Can't you at least tell me what's my Divine Concept?" I wondered.

[I can't, it still being comprehended. But it has to do with you, with what you are, with what you've become... It is a personal power born within you.]

"I wonder... Can other beings possess these? What about my friends and family?" I wondered.

[They might all be developing one without realizing as well...]

"However, there are special cases when living beings are born with Divine Concepts which they can use already, although they aren't fully comprehended, so they're weaker."

Suddenly, Tyr appeared in front of me.

"Tyr..." I said. "Aren't you tired? I used a lot of your powers in that battle..."

"I'm fine." He said. "More importantly, your [Divine Ember] is growing stronger, your Divine Concept is being formed inside of it. The more you comprehend this power, the more you'll get closer to Ascension."

"I see... I thought I only needed Divinities for that." I said while wondering.

"Divinities are Awakened Powers that gain Divine Power, they're different and even without Ascending, you can possess a few if your Affinity to certain elements is high enough, and you have enough Magic Power." Tyr explained. "I know I make it sound easy, but it is extremely hard to get. Most people are born with Level Caps anyways, so it's usually impossible for them to reach S Rank levels of strength to begin with."

"Yeah, I guess you're right..." I sighed. "Though, I can break other people's level cap, no?"

[It's the part of the effects of some of your Titles, those you influence and make your followers through Hel's Divine Authority as your backer, can have their Level Cap broken over time, and grow stronger beyond their limits.]

The System and Tyr seemed rather in synch over how they explained things. I guess they must have become good pals whenever I'm not paying attention!

Anyways, thanks to those Titles I received from Hel, I can influence how people evolve and gain skills, just as it has happened to Lucifer, Emeraldine, Partner, and many others.

They don't even need to be Undead either, just grow close to me, or that I consider as my allies, family, or friends.

I guess this must be the power of a Saintess, right? Because I do have a similar Title... Yep, [Saint of Death: Lv8] is a Title Skill I possess.

So technically I was a Saintess this whole time!

[I am surprised you've just realized that it is one of the reasons why you can do the things you can do. Hel chose you as her Saintess long ago.]

"Unlike Heroes, Saints are even more influential, usually they're strong and can help Heroes grow and develop. Your friends, family, hell, even your kid could all be considered "Heroes" of Hel you're helping to grow." Tyr explained. "That Emilia bitch too, is most likely doing something similar so her Paladins became as strong as they are. But she seems too selfish, so she only helps grow those that have already become her dogs."

"Uwah, I'm a Saintess! Maybe I should wear some saintly clothes and all!" I wondered, talking silly things trying to make myself feel a bit better after everything. "Hahh... Who am I tricking? I'm really sad and tired. Is Nyx okay?"

I checked my shadows, finding everyone being just fine, most were unconscious and asleep. I caressed my little Nyx's face as she slept soundly, she was fine and healthy, but I was so worried nonetheless...

"My little treasure... I'm so sorry for not being there for you." I sighed, looking at her. "I'll bring you to a nice and comfy bed. Let's take it easy for a little while."

As I embraced her in my endless shadows so she could sleep comfortable, Arachne popped out from them, yawning. She had been sleeping for a while now.

"Yawn... Mama?" She wondered, tilting her head. "Hi!"

"H-Hello Arachne." I said. "Ugh, I wish you could had been there to help! You sleep too much, don't you?"

"Huh?" She tilted her head, confused. "I did... I was sleepy after fighting a lot. My body uses a lot of Mana I think..."

"And well, I guess she and your daughter are what I said before, born with talent and power, with divinities and even Divine Concepts within them." Tyr suddenly explained. "However it usually comes with drawbacks. Arachne's drawback is her drowsiness and exhaustion after fighting for a while, your daughter drawback is that it is hard for her to develop her abilities unless she risks her life constantly. And well, she kind of awakened something."

"She did?!" I wondered. "Ah, right, Arachne, wanna hang out? Or do you want to go sleep again?"

"I'm hungry, so I'll hang out!" She said with a smile.

She was so cute too! I guess she's like my daughter before I even had Nyx... And she's probably the strongest Calamity in Midgard.

"Okay dear." I giggled, patting her head. "Will you help us in the next fights? We'll have to fight a lot of baddies..."

"Sure!" Arachne nodded immediately. "I'll do what I can. My Spiders can fight too! I can summon them, right?"

"S-Sure, but later." I smiled.

"Heeey! Maria!" Emeraldine's voice echoed from behind me.

"You're fine! And what about Catarina?!" Partner rushed down towards me.

"Maria!" Lucifer hugged me alongside Emeraldine and Partner. "I'm glad you're okay..."

"Hahaha, you guys, I'm fine! Ain't no way that bastard would have ever defeated me, I'm pretty overpowered." I smiled pridefully. "However... There's someone here that hasn't talked at all." I looked at Catarina, who was now a red-colored ghost.

Her physique had changed a lot, looking muscular and red-

skinned, with horns, and wearing barely any shorts and a black cloth covering her abundant breasts.

"I've just been thinking... But yeah, I'm fine. Don't worry." She smiled calmly.

"She really became a ghost!" Emeraldine said in surprise. "Is she at the level of a ghost that you are?"

"Like turning into physical and all?" I wondered. "Yeah, or her physical attacks wouldn't be as powerful... So? Want a body or is that form fine by you?"

"I've never felt more freer than in this shape... It feels like I've finally left behind my burdens, I'll stay like this." Catarina decided.

Chapter 909 Taking A Break

Once we arrived back in Sapphire Temple, we sneaked inside through my Shadow Powers and decided to rest inside another Inn within the noble district, which seemed a bit safer.

I also used my Void Devourer Title Skill to enchant everyone, giving them the ability to reject being dragged to any dimension or space forcefully, with this, that annoying incident will hopefully never happen ever again.

And if these bastards try it again, they're going to meet with a swift death... However, to keep ourselves hidden, with the help of Emeraldine, we conjured several Stealth Spells that lower our presences and auras to completely low levels.

Like this, we can make sure they won't easily know where we are... Also, changing our appearances through Shapeshifting helped in making it harder too. This time we decided to just pretend to be nobles for a change.

Everyone was fast asleep even as we arrived here, and it was already night, a day passed where we talked about what happened, we ate, and rested. I wanted to sleep for a while, honestly.

And while sleeping at the side of my cute Nyx while hugging her with Lucifer, and having Emeraldine and Partner hugging me behind, I slept soundly.

Once the next morning arrived, I heard a lot of noise in the room, and felt a bit of panic.

"Were we attacked again?!"

However, once I sat down, I found the children playing around in the room leisurely... As if nothing had ever happened yesterday.

"Ah..."

I felt relieved, but at the same time, I think I'm beginning to grow a bit paranoid! Is this even alright to think about? I'm getting a bit crazier.

"Mama's awake!" Nyx said happily, her big eyes shining brightly as she ran to my bed and jumped over me. Emeraldine, Partner, and Lucifer were still fast asleep, too tired to wake up early this morning.

"Nyx!"

I hugged her tightly, as she embraced me with her little arms. Ahh, I felt so blessed to have her. And seeing her awake made me feel relieved deep down.

"Are you alright dear? Are you sure you're okay?" I asked her, carefully inspecting her body even though I had already done it several times before.

"I'm fine!" Nyx giggled. "I heard from Fabian that mama and papa and aunties defeated the big bad, so it's alright now, right?"

"Y-Yes..." I sighed, noticing that her belly had a big scar that hasn't healed. "Ah, your belly..."

"Huh? Ah, this is where Celes healed me! I got hit very strongly..." Nyx recalled what happened. "But I'm fine now, he's a very good healer!"

"I-Is that so..." I sighed, hugging her tightly. "I won't let anybody hurt you like this anymore... I promise I'll never let you deal with these problems on your own, okay?"

"Huh?" Nyx felt confused as she rubbed her nose on my chest. "Mama you smell nice, like flowers..."

"Hehe... I guess it must be the perfume, do you like it?" I giggled, trying to just change the topic. It seemed she didn't really understand what I meant to an extent.

"I do, I love mama's smell." She sniffed me and cuddled with me in bed. "It makes me feel safe..."

"I-Is it?" I wondered, almost resisting my tears. "I'll... Mama will always be there for you, and I'll protect you no matter what, okay? And... I'll crush anybody that hurts you, until nothing remains."

"Hehehe, you sounded a bit scary there." She giggled innocently.

"A-Ahahaha... Yeeaaah... Oh, Lucifer, wake up already." I moved him until he slowly opened his eyes.

"Hmm? Ah...?! What happened?! The enemy?" He wondered, waking up in the same way I did. "Ah... Oh, Nyx... Dear."

"Papa!" Nyx hugged him quickly after he woke up.

Lucifer calmed down, letting her hug him. Her little and warm hands was all her grumpy daddy needed to calm down, as he gently kissed her forehead.

"Good morning, you look all well now, don't you?"

"I do, I do! I'm super well! And hungry..."

Her stomach suddenly growled like a beast of its own!

"Hahaha, I guess we can have a nice meal! This Inn is quite fancy, so we'll get a really nice breakfast." I smiled. "Let's call for it then."

Suddenly, the door opened, as Jonathan walked in carrying a lot of things, barely balancing them.

"Oh, you're awake, Lucifer, Maria." He smiled. "I brought breakfast. I woke up quite early and went to do a patrol around to make sure there wasn't anybody spying on us. I brought food after Nyx's request."

"Uncle!" Nyx said, running towards Jonathan. "Give me sandwich!"

"Hahaha, you're quite cocky asking your uncle something like that. At least say "please" or something." Jonathan laughed heartily.

"No, this is a robbery, rawr!" Nyx started biting his leg.

"Oh no! I give up, please take everything!" Jonathan played around, letting her take the sandwich.

"I've won!" She quickly took the food and started munching.

I didn't expect that the two would get along so well. Then again, Jonathan was always such a good man, and kids have always been his weakness.

Remembering the memories of when I was alive, I can recall he used to visit various orphanages near the Capital of the Empire of Light, where he actively donated money and helped everyone.

He was loved by the kids, and they always called him uncle or even father, I wonder if those kids are alright...

"Celes! Everyone, come eat!" Nyx screamed, quickly waking up everyone else sleeping.

"Oh, food...!" Celes who was playing with wooden toys quickly ran to grab a snack. "A-Ah, hello Auntie Maria!"

"Hello Celes." I smiled. "Is your mom still asleep?"

"Not anymore..." Nia yawned. "Hello Lady Maria, you slept a lot too, it seems."

"I did... A lot happened."

"It sure did..." Takeshi sighed.

"Ugh, my head hurts... need sugar." Laura complained.

"Ah, you kids are alright too?" I asked them.

"Yeah, no worries." Takeshi nodded. "But... more importantly..."

I guess they wanted to address what happened to Catarina...

Chapter 910 Catarina's Family

"About Catarina..." Laura said. "Is Silva awake?"

"I am..." Silva woke up, she was right next to them. "Big sis... Auntie Maria, big sis... she..."

"She what? I'm right here." Suddenly, a red-colored ghost moved through the walls and spooked everyone.

"Huh...?!"

Takeshi, Laura, Silva, and Tear who was just opening her eyes all glanced in shock at the scene. Oh, and Blackie that just came out of Silva's shadows to check what was happening.

"CATARINA!"

It seems they had fallen unconscious while thinking she was a goner. And well, she almost was one, but she held off just fine until I was able to heal her soul and let her evolve through my new and powerful [Creation of Death] Skill.

Silva rushed towards her to hug her tightly, and even Takeshi and Laura couldn't contain themselves. Tear didn't though, she wasn't so close to her, yet she smiled and felt relieved nonetheless.

"Ugh, do you have to hug me all at once like this?!" Catarina complained, turning herself physical for everyone to hug her tightly.

She was much taller than before and resembled an amazon with that figure and her muscles. Yet also had the appearance of an Oni with her red markings skin and horns.

A ghost can take most forms they desire, but she decided to stay in this form and appearance because she most likely liked it... Though she doesn't look that different aside from the very big detail of her size change, even larger physique, horns and- Yeah she looks different, but in a cooler way.

"Big sis! You're alive somehow?! How?! We were so sad when you died!" Silva cried, rubbing her face on her hard abs. "Uwaah..."

"C-Calm down now..." For as tough as she liked to pretend to be, she was weak against Silva, and she quickly kneeled to her size and hugged her. "I wasn't dead, well, I was already dead beforehand! But my soul resisted being torn to shreds until Maria found me. Thanks to Blackie too, he brought me to her."

"Woof! Warf!" Blackie was licking her happily.

"You've changed a lot though." Takeshi noticed. "Is this because of your evolution or something?"

"Y-Yes, it must be, isn't it?" Laura wondered. "I think I do remember your brothers were Fire Ghosts as well, right?"

"Francisco and Silvio? Yeah, I became a Zombie though." Sighed Catarina. "But after that body got torn to shreds, I preferred to just be myself, my own soul! And I ended becoming a rare Ghost that fights physically with punches, as if my transformation became my real body now... Pretty amazing, right?"

"Sniff... Don't die again..." Silva cried, rubbing her face on Catarina's huge breasts. "Big shish... I was so scared and sad... I didn't know what to do anymore..."

"I-I'm sorry..." Catarina sighed, caressing Silva's head. "Don't worry, I will never leave you alone, Silva. I found you and I'll raise you! Okay? I already said I'll take responsibility for you. You're my lil' sis after all." She smiled happily and genuinely.

"Big sis!" Silva continued crying, but she nodded at her words. "And I'll stick with you forever and ever... We will always be sisters!"

"Hehehe, okay, okay, don't be such a crybaby, Silva..." Catarina giggled happily.

I suppose she had also found herself a family to take care of and love. I'm glad... And I suppose we'll be departing our separate ways once our business in Goldsand is done and I can find my brother, or what happened to him...

"W-What are you looking at me like that?" Catarina asked us.

Partner, Emeraldine, and I were smiling from ear to ear, seeing her being so happy with her little sister she adopted.

"Nothing~" Emeraldine giggled.

"You're so happy, aren't you? Heh." Partner laughed a bit.

"I'm glad you've found yourself a family." I smiled.

"W-What...? Shut up...!" Catarina got all embarrassed, growing even redder than she already was.

"Big sis, why are you getting all red?" Silva wondered, tilting her head innocently.

"N-Nothing...!" Catarina quickly tried to calm herself down or she would scare Silva.

"I know what can make you feel better!" Silva suddenly climbed over her and gave her a big kiss in her cheek. "Mooch! I love you, big sis!"

"E-Eh? Silva..." Catarina felt even more embarrassed now. "Sigh, you're such a corny and clingy little brat! I'm fine, seriously!" She giggled, scratching her head.

"I'm glad you're fine." Tear smiled. "We fought together and everything... So I suffered your death, it reminded me of Veredorr, even Undead can die for real if... their souls are too damaged... I'm glad you're alright. Little Silva... deserves someone like you at her side." Tear spoke while caressing her necklace, smiling faintly.

"Well, thanks." Catarina smiled back. "You weren't half bad either, ice giant girl. What was your name again? Tore? Tearing?"

"It's Tear!" Tear complained, pouting a bit.

"Hahaha, I know, I was just teasing you." Laughed Catarina.

I see, she still loves trolling.

"Urgh..." Tear crossed her arms; she was easily irritable today.

Meanwhile, the kids gathered around the food and were eating everything... They were really hungry.

"Celes! Please don't eat everything like that, don't be greedy. This food is for everyone." His mother was reprimanding the boy of the blue eyes.

"But I'm so hungry mom... I can't describe it, very hungry!" Celes said innocently.

"Perhaps overusing his abilities caused this hunger." Lucifer explained. "Its natural on talented children with a lot of magical power, let him eat. We can prepare something on our own, right?"

"Yep, let's cook something tasty." I nodded. "I've got a lot of ingredients stored in my Inventory, so let's make a feast! Let's celebrate we survived, and we grew strong from that challenge... Our next one will most likely be the last in this city. So let's prepare well until then."

"I suppose we have a lot to talk too..." Nia sighed. "About what happened and everything else..."

"Indeed, but let's enjoy a delicious meal first, shall we?" I smiled. "Don't you want to too, Nia?"

"I-I..." Nia tried to be humble, but her belly was also grumbling like Nyx's did.

"She's hungry! Your mama's hungry, Celes!" Arachne said, she was playing with the kids too.

"Mama, let's eat!" Celes held his mother's hand.

"O-Okay... Alright." Nia sighed, smiling gently at her son's innocence.