

A Ghost 91

Chapter 91

Incidentally, after freeing all these dozens of souls from their fleshy prisons and purifying their souls using the help of Emeraldine, I got a lot of EXP.

Does this count as killing them? I guess so!

Ding!

[You've earned 37250 EXP]

[Your Level has increased from level 15 to level 16!]

Oh damn, it even gave me a level. Now I feel a bit bad for what I did...

Did I really do the right thing?!

Oh well, whatever.

After that, I began to put everything I could see into my Inventory. Even the most useless of garbage was now part of my property and I could see that my Pickpocket Title Skill was actually rising in level!

"Bwahaha! Mine! Mine! Mine!"

I was going absolutely mental as I gave in to my devilish greed.

"Huh?! Who's there?!"

The voice of an old man resonated behind the massive metallic door in front of me.

Huh? Did he find me out already?

Time to sneak around!

I quickly went back to meddling with the shadows as the metallic door that was sealed shut suddenly opened wide.

A dozen of strange chimeric beasts came out of it, roaring and then sniffing the entire place for any trails left behind.

Ohhh, these are quite the dedicated EXP Bags! And they do look juicy.

There were around 9 C+ Ranked Chimeric Beasts, while the other six or so were C- or even D+... Nothing that we cannot handle nor massacre.

However, much like we did with the goblins, I wanted to nourish these kids and let them leech off EXP from killing weakened creatures, so I decided to capture them all alive.

The older man's voice was far away and by expanding my senses, I could hear him commanding more beasts.

The beast with the best smelling sense found me already, but it was too late. I expanded my shadows around them and formed a myriad of tentacles, wrapping around the variedly-shaped creatures while absorbing all of their Mana continuously, which only fed into this ridiculous technique using [Shadow Manipulation].

"GROOARR?!"

"RAAAAARR!"

“GRRYYARRR!”

“Hehe, you’re all caught up between my deadly webs!”

[Shadow Manipulation] is overpowered! Even more, if we fuse it with [Supreme Magic] to boot, and there are no problems with Mana cost when I have Mana Siphon to absorb the Mana of my enemies.

I called out the gang as Lucifer, Partner, Emeraldine, and Kuro emerged from my shadows, immediately attacking the monsters with everything they had.

I had immobilized the creatures for them, so it was up to them to deal enough damage!

SLASH!

Partner used her spear to pierce through the stomach of a lion-like chimera with several heads of different creatures such as goats, lizards, and the like, and then filled it with venom through the spear’s effect.

Barely hanging onto its life, the beast was thrown inside my Shadow Storage, where a group of Undead I had stored inside, mostly Ravens and Bone Beasts, plus the pair of kids who ganged up on it until its last breath.

An army of Undead is not good without strong Undead! So the best thing I can do is begin leveling up my other troops aside from my main party.

I’ve already made some simple skeletons using monster bones we had hunted, which became Bone Beasts after fusing various skeleton piles together into an undead, and now they were all ravaging the living chimera until its last breath.

They all gained tons of shared EXP, and I could see that the kids also leveled up a couple of times straight away. Of course, this is a little incentive.

After a couple more levels, they'll be ready to fight more confidently by themselves, so they can gain battle experience that doesn't consist in just ganging up on powerful beasts to increase their stats through leveling up.

"ROAR!"

Lucifer roared fiercely as he used his draconic claws to slash through a large snake-like hydra with limbs of lizards stuck to it. It also had a poisonous stinger similar to that of a bug.

The creature was a D+ Ranked Chimera, and our beloved dragon's claws were then enough to slash through its scale armor.

He sliced its ribs and then sliced it in half. Surprisingly, the monster continued to live after that, ready to be butchered by the rookies down below.

Without further ado, I threw it down the shadow pit as the twins and the Undead I had stockpiled began to have an EXP feast.

Once more, another beast was thrown inside right after courtesy of Partner. This one resembled a giraffe with the head of a lizard and the claws of a lion. I don't know how this stupid scientist thought this was a good idea of a design. It looked horrendous.

The monster was left crippled by Partner and then quickly massacred by those inside the shadow storage.

I could feel within all the chimera beast a core of dark magic, probably a failed version of the one the kids had, which was much more perfected into their systems, while the cores these chimeras leaked too much magic energy and looked painfully inefficient.

Normal monsters have Magic Crystals, but Chimera are like monsters artificially made using parts of beasts and monsters that already died and were revived as one, therefore, they lack a magical organ that helps them at regulating mana and using magic... But with these shitty Dark God Fragment Cores, it

was possible for these monsters to be able to get their magic going, although not as efficient as real monsters.

I kept throwing them into my Shadow Storage as they massacred them down there. It was going to be pretty hard to get a challenge out of this as I had gotten way too overpowered with my new job, and we were honestly a big group of strong guys all around.

I helped out by making my Shadow Tentacles as sharp as Shadow Arrow Spears, and piercing the monsters' bodies, so it could be even easier to kill them for the rookies.

The massacre continued. It feels good to just sit here to relax and slaughter for once.

Chapter 92

"Flashing Beam!"

Emeraldine used her Holy Light Magic to release a flashing beam of light which impacted one of the beasts and threw it to the ground. She then summoned plants that started to set root inside of its wounds, making the beast agonize in pain.

"GROAR!"

Also, just as I was about to save her from a giant leopard-like chimera, she was protected by her own magic as a massive shield made of hardened wood bark.

The massive shield hit the leopard in the face, throwing it to the ground for Emeraldine's magic to finish it off.

And that's the last one, which was slain half a minute after inside of my Shadow Storage.

Right after that, I got tons of EXP accumulated from the kills.

I just captured them and damaged them, but the EXP was still generous enough to grace me.

Ding!

[Calculating EXP gained...]

[You gained 120000 EXP!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 16 to Level 17!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 17 to Level 18!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 18 to Level 19!]

[EXP: 21056/38000]

Wow, three levels straight away! Good! We are making progress now! Now only 21 levels before my next evolution... Hahh... looks distant enough.

“Maria, we have cleansed everything here. Should we continue?” Asked Lucifer.

He was in his dragon form, and through morphing abilities, he could change his size even to fit this cramped underground place.

“Yeah, there seems to be more activity going on ahead of our path, so... Let’s get straight to the core of the problem,” I said.

We had to hurry, or the old man might end up running away from our grasp, and I am not going to let a Vampire go that was involved in the whole conspiracy that took down my family. Even if indirectly, he's still at fault for the whole chimera experiments and using the souls of people that had died from other worlds in here through weird summoning rituals...

Caging kids is not a good thing, man. Even if you created them, that doesn't make you the owner of their lives. That's not how human rights work.

We left the room and reached the damp corridors of the facility, which were rather tight. There were many small rooms everywhere, where we found even more experimental things going on, or just storages filled with lots of magical items.

"Y-You filthy invaders! You've just entered my hideout somehow... But I won't let you go now... You're all going to die here and become my damn chimeras later! And give me back those damn kids!"

The voice of a typical cliché crazy scientist resonated across the entire underground. I couldn't see him anywhere, so I assumed he used some artifact to speak to us from a long distance.

And then, we felt the presence of over twenty chimeric beasts rushing here from all the other corridors connecting to this one. Another battle was about to begin quickly!

"GROAR!"

"GRAOOO!"

"RAARR!"

These creatures were... slightly stronger. Every creature was either C- or C+ Rank, although we had yet to see something at B Rank. Perhaps they were extremely rare due to their great difficulty and power, so even a scientist like him cannot create a B-Rank monster so easily.

The creatures roared fiercely as I decided to play around some more while absorbing their Mana.

I activated the Domain of Shadows and Death Skill, which generated a large dark shadow all around us, below and above, and greatly enhanced our power by using these elements! Even our defenses and other stats were increased a bit more too.

“Oh, this feels good!” Exclaimed Partner.

She kicked a chimera in its wolf-shaped face and then used her spear to pierce the head of another with ease.

“GRAOOO!” Kuro roared fiercely as he leaped over his victim, a wingless bird-shaped chimera that seemed quadrupedal in nature.

What a horror, a quadrupedal bird!

“Indeed, I feel way stronger....” Muttered Lucifer.

Using his massive claws and phantasmal fire breath, he slashed his enemies and burnt them, making for a terrible duo that finished most of the creatures.

Meanwhile, I expanded my Shadow Tentacles, but I had no time to properly set up my “Shadow Net,” so I only used my Shadow Tentacles to catch the beasts and then slay them using Darkness Bullet and Shadow Arrow Spear.

A barrage of these attacks coupled with the boost of my equipment, the Job boost, and the Domain was enough to pulverize any chimera that dared to attack me.

However, I also took out my blade and began to slash away some of the monstrous creatures with the Demonic Blade courtesy of our good friend, the Necromancer, and his Skull Lord.

I used it alongside the Blade Slash Skill to release massive black and red-colored slashing attacks that slashed any beasts in half that dared to come near me.

Some managed to catch up to me, but I evaded swiftly, and Lucifer, Partner, and Kuro were backing me up and taking the big hits for me while Emeraldine used her magic to support us. Anything that wasn't healing worked well on us, so she used buffs using her light magic to aid us in battle.

"Help... me...! HELP... MEEEEEE!"

A humanoid creature with the body of a middle-aged man who was filled with monster and beast body parts stitched on him, making him look like a grotesque mix of things, reached up to me.

It was a C+ Rank Chimera beast, and it seemed to be in pain.

It was asking for help desperately as his beast limbs slashed against me, his human hands were changed, and he had large, sewed blades stuck to them, which he used to slash or pierce through me, or, well, tried at least.

I evaded and healed back any minor damage I took until I managed to get a clear shot on its head and swung my blade dexterously, slicing off his head and then extracting his soul to purify and let it rest in peace.

This was the last one, and with that, we got even more EXP. I can already imagine the face of the old man right now.

Chapter 93

Within the depths of the underground lair, the old and crazy scientist Vampire halfling, Borudro Aruno, began to feel shocked by what he was seeing through his clairvoyance crystal orb...

On it, he found what seemed to be a massacre against a large group of Chimeras he had sent to the invaders but were all destroyed.

What seemed to be standing there were just five figures, three women, a dragon, and a strange black leopard...

“W-What? W-Who are they?!”

The scientist checked the artifact that showed him the location of the children he was seeking.

And it showed that they were... right here?!

“Huh? They’re here? Where?! I don’t see them anywhere... Agh! T-They’re coming closer! Just how strong are they?! I have to call the boss... No, even if I call him, he won’t be able to bring reinforcements in time... Am I... going to die? HERE... AND NOW?!”

The small man rushed around the office as he activated several magical artifacts, allowing many of the chimeras he had saved up in cages free, and ordering them through his authority over them to move and do as he said.

The chimeras rushed through the corridors of the underground, about to meet Maria and her party.

“I have to get out of here...! As long as I remain alive, this project can be restarted!”

The old man opened a dimensional pouch and began to save all sorts of documents inside while suddenly realizing a presence within a room behind his main office.

This presence was a being he had created some time ago, an abominable chimera which he had only created to see how far his abilities could go and how strong a chimera could be made from his hands...

This abomination rested within a room of its own, being fed slaves every week, as its hunger could not be satiated otherwise.

The man desperately rushed towards this room and opened it.

“You should be able to buy me enough time... Now obey me and go there! Kill them! Do anything you can! You’re free to do whatever the fuck you desire!” Roared the man, as several artifacts inserted inside the body of this monstrous being, forcing it to obey.

“Pa... pa... Ma... ma.... It hurtssss... GRRUOOHHH...”

The creature cried with a voice that seemed to be various mixed children converged together while its massive and deformed body rushing through the corridors...

“What a detestable monster... But it’s strong, my strongest creation... It should be able to do something against those monsters...!”

Meanwhile...

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Ding!

[Calculating EXP Gained...]

[You gained 245000 EXP]

[Your Level has increased from Level 19 to Level 20!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 20 to Level 21!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 21 to Level 22!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 22 to Level 23!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 23 to Level 24!]

The number of Chimeras we had slaughtered was ridiculous. With such a big amount of them gone, it was easy for us to absorb all the EXP we rightfully earned.

Not only had I leveled five times, but everyone else got a massive amount of levels. It is not normal to see so many strong monsters gathered in a single place. Not even dungeons spawn this many strong creatures!

But we had a massive feast of C-Rank monsters, and everyone slaughtered them with high spirits as we got a bunch of EXP out of them. We had mostly left them half-dead so the twins and my other Undead could finish them off, though.

You can already imagine how many levels those low-level guys got, right? They had gone from zero to hero really quick, although not as comparable as us.

Most of my Undead evolved, including my Undead Raven.

Maybe with their current levels it should be more than enough to get them out! After all, these strong Bone Beasts were all C- Rank at most, and Raven is at least at C+ Rank now.

Indeed, it is finally time to act like a Necromancer and- Oh right, there are all these Chimera corpses, might as well raise them into Undead too by using Fake Life.

And, they seemed pretty strong!

FLASH!

Inside of my own Shadow Storage, all the corpses of Chimera are stuck together and stitched through my Undead Healing Skill, and then my utilization of Fake Life to raise the strongest ones, there were some that ended too destroyed or looked too pathetically weak.

The result? An army of around 20 D+ Undead! Not bad. They lost a lot of power because their original souls were gone, but these can work as nice distractions.

The kids also wanted to fight as both of them had leveled up to level 23, so they could realistically fight or help in the fight now... But I was too worried about their safety, so I declined their enthusiasm, sadly.

“Sorry, but you two are still too weak. If you end up dying, I don’t think I can forgive myself,” I sighed.

“But Emeraldine can heal us if we wound ourselves....” Said Takeshi.

“Our Unique Skills can work well too!” Said Laura.

“No is no, kids! We are about to slaughter the baddie, so you sit there and kill the creatures we send at you. Raven and the other Undead are taking good care of you, right?” I asked.

“Erm... yeah,”

“Okay, fine...”

“Good kids,”

They’re indeed good kids! Now, back to the issue at hand.

I glanced in front of my path. We were moving at a fast speed across the corridors, as we saw many areas that were filled with alchemy items or caged wild monsters and beasts. We also saw a few rooms filled with slaves and people that were still alive.

I ignored them for now as we had to first clean the entire place from Chimeras and the guy that made this entire mess, and then we’ll see what we can do with these people.

Calling the authorities would be the best bet so they can take care of it, but the authorities themselves are corrupted!

And there it is, another wave of chimera monsters coming right up.

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Chapter 94

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The power of the Gods of this world is unknown to me yet, but I do know that they allow for such things to happen in this world without any problems.

It is said they created and shaped the world, but they clearly didn't take care of it after that. They let the beings they created do whatever they want in the end.

Kill each other, enslave each other, experiment with one another, and do all sorts of atrocities.

And even when things involve the fragments of their former enemy which they defeated and whose fragments fell onto the surface of the world they created, nothing changed, and they didn't interfere, even when the mortals they made played around with this power which clearly shouldn't be used by them.

A wave of chimera monsters quickly greeted us. All of their massive and grotesque bodies were overflowing with Demon Energy coming from the black crystals on their bodies.

These things were produced by the Fragment of Evil which my parents and my family once protected. This fragment is, of course, not here but hidden probably in the capital of this Kingdom.

I quickly analyzed the number of beasts before us, around 30 in total, and I could feel a big one coming slowly behind all of them. Did this old man unleash his final trump card or something?

Good, let's get to it.

“[Mana Siphon],”

I once again activated the power of Mana Siphon, absorbing large quantities of Mana from all the army of Chimera in front of us.

And then...

“[Summon]!”

FLASH!

While my Domain of Dark Shadows and Death were still present, I summoned the power of the Undead I’ve made, or well, a part of it, bringing forth most of the Chimera Undead I just raised as meat shields.

An army of 20 Chimera Undead appeared in an instant, accompanied by a few Bone Beasts of C+ Rank as backup allies. All of them rushed forward before us, taking the initial hit of the entire battle as many began to be slashed by the strong chimera, but many others managed to defeat other Chimeras.

A massacre of wild beasts against wilder beasts had just begun.

And as we left this to happen, we rushed forward and began using our abilities to finish them off or catch them as this time we were not so relaxed as before as the group was clearly big and strong.

Every Chimera here was already C+ Rank without any being less than that in power. There was no chance for us if we didn’t go all out from the beginning.

“RRROOOARR!”

Lucifer rushed forward as he fiercely released his breath attack, phantasmal flames burning through the many chimeras at once and targeting their deformed and amorphous flesh, which made them howl in pain.

Partner controlled her blood and made whips out of it, which wrapped around two Chimeras, and then she used them to hit the other Chimeras, throwing them away while picking them up using her spear with swift movements.

Emeraldine used her bow and gathered spiritual mana on it, before firing incredibly fast Light Arrows that exploded into flashing light and burnt through a group of Chimeras in an instant. She was deadly and fast.

Kuro used his natural body strength to fight, alongside his magic, as he had the ability to unleash fireballs, thunderbolts, and gale winds of dark energy, alongside darkness bullets, all of which were being spammed by him and bombarded any enemy which his claws and bite could not reach.

Meanwhile, I swung my blade to the left and right, as massive slashes made of dark and death elements were released continuously. These slashes came packed with the power of the Blade Slash Skill, deadly enough to slash through most things with ease.

I used it to slice the Chimeras into pieces with utmost ease and then gained tons of EXP through my senseless slaughter.

It was a good opportunity to practice my sword fighting until I realized I could also just gather shadows on the blade and then swing it by merely thinking, making it an effective flying weapon.

This way, I just equipped my Staff and let the blade fly around and slash, pierce, and kill the chimeras by splitting a part of my mind to control it through Shadow Manipulation.

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

Also, I utilized my most basic magic, Dark Gale, to slice through the Chimera, coupled with the amazing Dark Sphere at high levels. As the level of the skills increased, they became deadlier and more efficient too as they still cost less Mana than the bigger attacks using Shadow Manipulation, for example. Also, thanks to the Domain boosting my elemental Dark Damage, these little spells became devastating ones.

My Dark Gales sliced through the chimeras like massive storms of slicing dark winds, while my Dark Spheres were now as big as two meters, enough to blast an entire Chimera into the ground, and multiple ones could easily splatter them into pieces onto the ground. It was truly a beautiful sight.

We continued slaughtering while occasionally throwing weakened chimera beasts inside of my shadow storage, where the kids and the Undead there finished them off for their own Experience Points.

Soon, we were about to finish off this wave of Chimera in less than 10 minutes. It was rather long, but the difficulties we faced were near none, especially as I was abusing the power of a Necromancer and simply abusing the Undead, I had raised as meat shields.

This ended with all the Chimera dying after a few minutes, and once more, I was getting a shit-ton of EXP! Hahaha!

Ding!

[Calculating EXP earned...]

[You gained 265000 EXP]

[Your Level has increased from Level 24 to Level 25!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 25 to Level 26!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 26 to Level 27!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 27 to Level 28!]

[EXP: 65056/75000]

Four levels in one shot! Good! That's the good stuff.

This amazing grind had not come to an end yet as... the Final Boss has emerged!

A massive gorilla-like Chimera was emanating the deadliest presence...

And this thing was...

Eh?! B+ Rank?!

Chapter 95

A massive creature came running towards us after we defeated the last Chimera as if triggered by some kind of Boss Battle event. But perhaps when it noticed us now that the army of monstrous creatures was cleansed, it was able to properly discern us and ran here as fast as it could.

The monster was nothing less than a terrifying thought as the number of body parts it had stitched all over its body and the three heads it had... looked creepy.

The creature resembled a massive muscular hulk. The body looked like a combination of several animals, mostly the torso of a gorilla with the four legs of a massive lizard, perhaps even a dragon? It had three long tails, each one was different, while one of them, the one at the middle, was a massive scorpion tail, and the other two resembled rocky spear-tipped tails that you would see in some kind of earth-type lizard monster.

The three heads it had was the creepy part, as the first head in the middle was the head of a human, but it lacked any skin over its face, and it was just raw red flesh. It looked creepy as it lacked eyelids and its sharp teeth looked ready to chomp us down.

The head at the left was that of some giant and grotesque bird with a massive sharp hook-shaped beak, but it had no feathers, while the other head to the right was that of a massive crocodile, and it had a large jaw enough to snap your head off.

It had six muscular arms, and each arm was either covered by fur, scales, or metallic plates of armor. Some of these arms even had weapons and magical artifacts stuck to them, and the creature had many demonic crystals all across its body.

I could sense one in every limb and probably all around its torso, alongside three big ones in each head. I don't even know if destroying all the heads could even bring that thing down, but it was certainly a terrifying beast.

On its back, it had several long tentacles of various colors, and they all leaked some deadly venom.

We should keep Emeraldine behind us.

"Grrrrrraaaaahhh... mama... papa... It hurts... Help... HELP!"

However, that wasn't the most disturbing thing yet, as this creature began to speak in the voice of dozens of children. As if they were all going through constant pain, they were calling for the help of their parents.

A horrendous pain suddenly hit the core of my soul, as I felt a powerful curse trying to consume me the moment I heard its accursed voice, the eyes of the center-head shone brightly with red light.

Fuck, I thought I was immune to curses! Well, being a ghost makes you immune to status effects that affect physical bodies, so I guess curses don't apply here?!

"Unggh...!"

"Maria! Are you okay?!" Asked Lucifer.

"Master!" Cried Partner.

"Maria-sama!" Shouted Emeraldine.

“Stop! Don’t worry about me. I am fine! Don’t... look at that thing’s eyes, no matter what! It can inflict a strong Soul Curse... Fuck!”

I felt as if the curse was slowly beginning to eat away at my soul from its very core. What kind of accursed Curse was this?! It was way too overpowered!

I checked this creature’s horrendous stats, and I saw they were pretty fucking high. The creature’s name was [Grand Chimera Behemoth Tyrant], a B+ Ranked monster with enough stats to pulverize me.

We’ll have to go all out on this one!

But first... The Curse used on me was part of its Evil Eye of Soul Eating.

I see, so my soul was about to get fucking eaten, right.

I quickly shapeshifted my hand into a sharp materialized dark claw, and I used it to grasp the area with the curse slowly spreading... And pulled it straight out through my own Soul Eating.

CRASH!

“Uagh!”

It hurt like hell! But I managed to take out the curse, and then, I quickly devoured my own soul fragment. Thankfully, the curse quickly dissipated after being eaten.

I guess you have to fight fire with fire.

A few consecutive uses of Undead Healing quickly healed back the wound in my soul as I glared at the Chimera slowly approaching us, and it seemed a bit timid.

“Prepare yourselves!”

I once more prepared the Domain of Dark Shadows and Death while keeping my Demonic Blade close to me. I coated it in Shadows and manipulated it in midair through Shadow Manipulation. I even went as far as “inserting” a part of my own mind, something I had just begun to learn to do right about now.

This massive demon blade was going to be our new party member, I guess. While I use the staff to enhance my magic, this blade’s own power will attack the creature.

Lucifer’s big body will be our primary tank alongside all the Undead I am raising right now through Fake Life, as all the chimera we have slain recently came back to “life” as my servants.

Partner and Kuro would also fight in the frontlines but will try to fight off the beast through quick attacks whenever it lowers its guard.

Meanwhile, Emeraldine and I will support the frontliners with our Magic. My Domain is already doing wonders for their damage and defenses, but my magic will also come in clutch.

Also, I will constantly use Life Drain and Mana Siphon to slowly drain the life and mana out of this giant gorilla.

While doing so, I will employ the barriers of shadows I have and spam my attack spells as much as I possibly can while making sure to heal my allies, which Emeraldine cannot heal herself.

Her barriers and long-ranged attacks will be more than enough, however.

“GRRRAAAAAA!”

Suddenly, the chimera didn’t wait for us to coordinate as it jumped straight towards me with all its might!

Fuck!

“[Shadow Barrier]!”

I overcharged my shadow barrier spell with mana and conjured it in an instant.

The massive beast hit it directly, getting flattened over the barrier of shadows!

CRASH!

Only for it to break right after!

“GRRAA!”

Its massive claws reached me, ready to break down my soul into pieces.

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Indeed, this Monster has a lot more speed than its damn size implies! And this is because it has over 6k Agility! That’s a B+ Rank monster for you!

In terms of agility and raw stats, this monster beat us by far. And just by pushing lightly, he broke down my barrier, which I had spent thousands of Mana into, and decided to just kill me right away because it thought I was the leader here, or maybe because I was the most annoying with my Domain and Magic.

However!

SLAAAASSH!

“GRAAH?!”

My trusty Demonic Blade came forward and slashed through the beast’s heads, trying to slice off the human head! The beast immediately noticed this and twisted its body, trying to catch my floating blade but not managing to do so, as my blade flew around leisurely as if insulting it.

“This is the guy you’ll fight today!”

Lucifer rushed forward as he enhanced his body with the power of his powerful Draconic Soul. His entire body emanated a deathly phantasmal aura that encompassed his entire body and enhanced his strength greatly.

CLASH!

He used his claws and tail to attack the monster, pushing it back from where it came from. His deadly breath attack burned through its flesh as the monster roared in anger and suddenly caught his arms... and then tore them apart!

CRAAASSSH!

“Unggh?!”

This thing is definitely strong!

“Go, Undead Army!”

I called all my Undead on standby and merged their groups with the ones I had just formed. The entire massive army of over 60 Undead rushed forward, suddenly swarming the entire monster as I bought some time for Lucifer.

I grabbed his arms and stuck them to his body, healing them back with Undead Healing.

“Thanks...” He sighed.

“Keep fighting!” I shouted.

Lucifer nodded as he rushed forward, jumping over the creature who was absolutely massacring all my Undead as if they were ants reveling against a lion.

BOOM!!!

“ORRRAAA!”

He roared furiously as the beast was taken by surprise. His claws pierced through the monster’s chest and began to slash through it and take large chunks of flesh and scales.

Meanwhile, Partner and Kuro quickly joined in, attacking the beast’s arms. Kuro used his claws, jaws, and magic to burn, slash, and bite two arms by himself, slowly making them weakened enough for Partner to use all her might in a powerful consecutive thrusting technique.

Her spear pierced through the monster’s arms and ended up slicing three of them after her combination attack with Kuro!

BOOM!

The three massive limbs fell onto the ground as the beast began to leak blood from its body. Feeling pain and anger, the creature suddenly released an enormous shockwave of darkness, throwing everyone away from it.

Most of my Undead died there, but thankfully, our main party barely managed to make it through as I spammed Undead Healing on them.

“GRRAAAR!”

The monster roared angrily as it leaped towards us at a frightening speed. My blade slashed through its body but was then punched away with immense might.

The monster once more targeted me, trying to crush me with its four lizard legs, but I decided to greet it with a power I had been preparing, Pandora's Box!

BOOOOMMM!!!

A mass of darkness and chaos came out of my entire soul and reached the chimera while it was in midair—a large chunk of my Mana was consumed into this one powerful attack.

The beam of darkness began to damage both the monster's flesh and soul as I pushed it into the ceiling!

CLAAAASSSSHH!

"GGRAAAAGGH...!"

The monster seemed to be in a pinch, but then...!

"RAAA...!"

Its entire body gathered its demon energy, and the bastard copied my move, releasing a beam of black demonic energy towards me, overpowering my Pandora's Box!

BOOOM!

The massive beam reached me in an instant, but Emeraldine generated a large force field of holy light which shielded us from this demonic power.

CLAAAASH!

“Unnngh...! Come on!”

She cried out as she gritted her teeth, so I quickly touched her shoulder and infused my Mana into her, helping her maintain the barrier.

CRASH!

The barrier began to crack, but when it was about to break, the monster couldn't muster more demonic energy and stopped firing such a powerful beam. However, its body was still in midair when this happened. Without the force of the beam keeping it in midair, it fell directly towards us, breaking the barrier and shaking the entire floor.

BOOOMMM!!!

The shockwave generated with its massive near ten-meter-tall body sent us all flying through the corridors as we all glanced at the monster scornfully.

This damn bastard wasn't even that wounded aside from lacking three arms from the six it had.

“GRRRAAAHHHH...!”

Without even letting us stand up to fight once more, the creature reached up to me, but my Undead shielded me with their bodies, buying time and swarming it once more.

I spammed Fake Life on the corpses of the Undead and simply raised them back to fight. They were more destroyed than ever, but nothing some Undead Healing couldn't patch.

The power of a Necromancer is within its undying troops! Even if you defeat my whole army, I can just raise them again and patch them up!

“GROARR!”

As the beast was pulverizing my Undead, I healed back Lucifer, Partner, and Kuro, while Emeraldine healed her own wounds and stood up.

This wasn't over yet...

"Maria!"

Suddenly, the voice of Laura resonated through my mind.

"Huh?! How can you speak to me through my mind?" I asked.

"This is the power of my Unique Skill, Twin Connection! I've made you into my Twin... Like this, you can share my Abilities! Please, use Detonation. I believe it can help you somehow... it cannot make living beings detonate but- Undead... can work on them!" Shouted Laura.

"Wait... Undead... Detonation?"

A devilish smile emerged on my lips as I saw the Chimera destroying my Undead...

Perhaps I can use my own Undead as Unliving Time Bombs...!

However, to activate them, it is required to touch the Undead!

Chapter 97

"GGRUUUOOHH!"

The massive beast continued to pulverize my Undead at an incredible speed, and the corpses of my Undead were sent flying everywhere, even more torn apart than before. But that was good enough for me.

However, I needed someone to distract this beast before it was to come after me again. It continuously targeted me for some reason, perhaps because it knew I was draining its Mana? Nonetheless, I need time to convert my newly created Undead into time bombs.

“Lucifer, Emeraldine, Partner, Kuro... I am counting on you! Distract the beast! I got an idea of what we can do!” I shouted before taking action.

“It’s not like there’s any other option than fighting...!” Said Lucifer, enhancing his body with magic and rushing forward with his draconic body.

“Leave it to us, Maria-sama, please, do what you must do!” Said Emeraldine.

Her two spirits danced around her as she conjured several roots of trees growing around the beast’s legs, keeping it in place temporarily with all her might. Also, using her other spirit, the spirit of light, to fire beams of light over the beast’s eyes.

She combined this with Lucifer’s power, as she blinded the monster while keeping it in place, while Lucifer slashed, bit, and burnt the creature as much as he could, but even with all his efforts, the damn monster was barely budging. Throwing fist attacks and demonic energy beams was all it could do, but Emeraldine protected him by setting up a protection spell over him.

“For Master, I’ll give my life!” Partner roared as she jumped from the ground and spun as if she were Beyblade.

Her spear blade slashed through the chimera’s other three arms, and repeating the attack, she slashed through another arm while Kuro roared loudly. He supported her with his long-ranged attacks, and strong claws and bite.

As I saw everyone working hard and doing their best for me, I couldn’t help but smile proudly at the companions I’ve made on this journey. It hasn’t been that much time, but I’ve already made good

friends that are willing to put their lives on the line for me. And I really appreciate that! Leaving all the irony I cover myself in aside, I am almost moved to tears.

I quickly filled myself with all the resolve I could muster as I felt as if my body suddenly began to overflow with power. This was merely the shared power with Laura, and her unique skill allowed me to share it. Although she was obviously way weaker than me, thanks to her Unique Skills, I could utilize a power I could never have been able to use before.

Laura's Unique Skill, named Detonation, allows her to make objects into explosives which she can then edit the intensity of their explosion. However, this intensity is also dependent on her Magic Stat and costs a lot of Mana to make into powerful bombs. Due to that, even now, after leveling a lot, she's not strong enough to fight this beast.

But I am. I have tons of Mana and Magic, and I honestly never considered she could just do this to help me, but it seems that she can just choose anyone as a "Twin" through her Twin Connection Unique Skill as long as they're cataloged as allies, she trusts, and I seem to have finally filled that quota.

The corpses began to gather around me as I moved at a fast speed. My thoughts flashed with countless considerations as I waved my hands, and my Staff did the rest. Dark and phantasmal energies gathered around the corpses, and I combined Fake Life with Undead Healing to combine several torn apart corpses into larger, grotesque, and more robust Undead.

I raised over a dozen in the span of just three minutes as my allies did everything they could to distract the chimera.

Quickly, I touched all of them at once through the expansion of my shapeless phantasmal body that I made into a mass of black shadow tentacles.

I suddenly felt something strange by touching them and activating the Unique Skill: Detonation. I saw the illusory imagery of each Undead becoming a bomb as if there was a timing I could set.

I could make them explode right away or leave a timing for them to explode.

It was an interesting power, and the more Mana I decided to pour into the Undead, the more power and intensity their explosions would be... alright, let's do it!

I infused large quantities of mana into all of these grotesque chimeric Undead before ordering them to run straight into the chimera beast!

"Now, go!"

"ROAR!"

"GROAR!"

"GROAN!"

"GRAA!"

Their monstrous groans resonated across the corridors as I smiled rather confidently while thanking these friends for the sacrifice they would make for a chance at victory.

Lucifer was being beaten down into the ground, but I quickly expanded my shadows and wrapped them around the remaining two arms of the Chimera, as I used [Summon] to summon all my allies near me and bring them outside of danger in just a split second.

"Unngh...! About time..." Muttered Lucifer.

I drank the four Mana Potions I had stored and recovered some Mana, using it to heal my allies. While Emeraldine healed herself by drinking a mana potion, the chimera beast managed to finally break through the roots around its legs and quickly began to charge towards us, but the twelve Undead I had created rushed forward and reached it in an instant!

"GROOOARRRR!"

The creature roared monstrosly as it used its giant arms to throw away my Chimeras.

But that was the time I moved my fingers and pretended I was an infamous serial killer.

“Killer Queen has already touched those Undead,”

“GRAH?!”

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

The moment the chimera moved the Undead away, they all began to glow with bright red and dark energy, and the second after, a beautiful spectacle of fireworks greeted our sight, as I created a barrier of shadows to shield ourselves from the explosions.

BOOOOOMMMM!!!

—

Chapter 98

—

The dozens of Undead exploded continuously, one after another. The chimera was overwhelmed by the explosive destruction that they caused, so its entire body couldn't take the massive damage, and I saw its HP finally drop down!

BOOOOOMMMM!!!

I used Shadow Barriers materialized into powerful and hard walls to protect us from the shockwaves and the fiery explosions made into several layers. Still, the power of these explosions was obviously stronger than them. If the chimera was able to punch my barriers and break them, an explosion that can damage it can obviously destroy my barriers too.

But, it bought us enough time. I used this time to store everyone inside my Shadow Storage and flew into the underground, abusing my phantasmal nature to get below the dirt and completely evade the explosion.

I waited until things ended to resurge from the floor, noticing that the chimera had yet to die. It was barely hanging onto its life, and it probably had around 5% of its total HP, and its entire body was torn apart horrendously.

I saw dozens of souls merged together inside of this abomination, all groaning painfully. They were clearly suffering a lot.

"I'll end it for you quickly," I said as I generated a spike of darkness and impacted the monster's Main Core, breaking it apart.

The demonic energy that fueled its body quickly dissipated, and the monster fell silent. Its HP went down to zero. It was over.

"Emeraldine, can you do something?" I asked.

"Yes, leave it to me."

Emeraldine purified the souls left haunting the corpse as they slowly calmed themselves down from the pain and suffering they were going through... before slowly flying into the afterlife.

[Calculating EXP...]

[You gained 360000 EXP]

[Your Level has increased from Level 28 to Level 29!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 29 to Level 30!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 30 to Level 31!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 31 to Level 32!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 32 to Level 33!]

[EXP: 56/100000]

[The Levels of several Skills have increased]

[You learned the [Undead Detonation: Lv1] and [Supernatural Senses: Lv1] Skills!]

Five levels in a row, not bad. Now I am just seven levels from reaching Level 40 and evolving once more. I thought my progression was slow, but it's going pretty fast, to be honest.

But oh well, now that we are done here, we have to keep moving.

After Emeraldine cleansed the souls, the rest jumped out of my shadows and ran with me through the corridors, reaching the last room, where we found nobody...

"Did this bastard escape?!" Asked Lucifer.

"Damn it!" Shouted Partner.

"No, wait, he's escaped through there. The spirits are guiding me," Said Emeraldine, as she pointed out at what seemed to be a tunnel in the ceiling, which was closed by a door engraved with runes.

But it was very small! Of course, only a halfling would be able to realistically get himself inside of that place and get through it...

“Alright, jump in. We are following him!”

Everyone jumped into my shadows, and I flew into the ceiling, trespassing the runes like nothing and flying through the surface. Traveling through physical objects costs Mana, but I just leveled up, and my HP and MP refilled rather generously, so I had no problems regarding this for the moment!

FLAAAASSSSH!

Let’s see... let’s expand my senses using some Magic. Ghosts have supernatural senses, after all!

Through fusing my senses with my own body and then expanding my body several meters, I managed to spot a figure running desperately. I rushed forward and enhanced to full speed, diving into the darkness of the night using Shadow Sneak.

“Hahh...! I managed to escape in time! Heheh... hehehe! As long as I got these samples... I can make a newer Homunculus than those two brats. An even better- Eheeehh?!”

“Surprise!”

I caught the bastard who was celebrating his escape as I wrapped his legs with my Shadow Tentacles and pulled him upside down.

“GRRYYAAGGGH...! G-GHOST!” He cried in horror as I showed myself as a massive and horrendous specter.

I decided to utilize several Skills for this. One of them included things such as Aura of Famine, which exuded a strong life-eating aura of intimidation and poison, making him scream in horror.

I checked his stats, and he was an amazing user of Alchemy and Necromancy, but his stats were super low aside from this specialization. He was not a good fighter, nor did he have a lot of levels. He was barely a C- Rank. Weaker than the damn Necromancer we killed earlier.

"L-Let me goo!"

He cried desperately, trying to attack me with his feeble magic. I easily tanked it with my high magic defense and carelessly cut off his limbs before throwing him to the ground.

I sliced his limbs using the demonic blade, and each wound was left cursed and rotting right away. He screamed in pain, and his limbs were taking an awfully long time to regrow despite being a Vampire.

"Kids come out. You got someone to talk with," I said.

"K-Kids? W-Wait... you're...!"

The man muttered these words as I summoned the two kids that were his creations.

"So here he is...." Muttered Laura.

"Wow, I never thought I would see him in such a pathetic state," Said Takeshi.

"You damn kids! It's all your fault! Agh...! Y-You don't know who you're messing with! T-The Vampires will come after you!" Cried the man, whose name was Borudro... What the heck kind of name is that, honestly?

"So? What do you want to do with him? We can torture him some more, butcher him alive, or let him be eaten by Undead," I said.

"No... I just wanted to kick him in the face," Said Laura, as she kicked the man in the face with her all of the strength she could muster, twisting his nose upside down.

CLASH!

"Ugrrryaaggh...! Y-You little... bitch...! Aggh... Ahhha..."

Chapter 99

So we caught this idiot named Borudro, the one behind the slaughter. He was the one that created all these chimeras and also the kids themselves by bringing their souls into the world and placing them inside new bodies. I don't know how he did it, but he used some kind of method to bring otherworldly souls here.

Laura kicked him in the face and even twisted his nose horrendously. It looked painful, to be honest! This girl packed a punch despite being rather young and small. Or, well, packed a kick.

"You're a strong girl, aren't you?" I asked.

"I just wanted to crush his face. I still remember all the things he made us go through... He even made us bathe in all sorts of elemental magic attacks to build up resistance to elements and pain...." Sighed Laura.

"Oh..."

However, unlike the ruthless Laura, Takeshi was just standing there doing nothing. He seemed disturbed by the scene and wasn't attacking the man.

"Just end him already... I don't want to see him anymore. I just want to know that it's done," Sighed the boy.

"Alright then, you guys don't have to see this. Let me handle it for ya," I said.

"Thank you..." Muttered Takeshi.

"I want to kill him myself...." Complained Laura.

“Eh? You’re sure?” I asked.

“Yeah, I am... Let me do it,” said Laura.

“Alright then, go ahead,”

I couldn’t fight against her will.

“But how will you kill- Oh.”

Laura infused mana into all the clothes the man was wearing. They were not alive after all.

“Die...” She muttered, her eyes flashing with crimson-red light.

The man hopelessly had all his mana drained by me and couldn’t attack her.

“Wait...! Y-You’re... using your Unique Skill?!” He asked.

“...”

FLASH!

Suddenly, his clothes flashed with bright red and dark light, and I quickly generated a shadow barrier just as... all his clothes blew up as if they were deadly explosives alongside the guy’s entire body.

“Gryyyyyyaaaaaaagggghhh...!”

BOOOOOMMM!!!

He was completely torn apart into pieces.

I never realized her power had such a deadly technique. Technically, if the person is wearing any kind of clothes, accessories, or any “item” over their bodies, she can touch it, turning it into a bomb, and detonate it dealing direct damage.

She made all his clothes explode, so they ended up being many bombs at once. Despite her Magic being around 800, it was still deadly enough to kill him.

This girl is deadly! Now that she finally has her Magic stat at a decent level, she could pretty much be a national threat with such a powerful ability and her ways of abusing it.

Even more, thanks to Twin Connection, she can share the power with any person she wants...

Actually, thanks to her ability, I ended up awakening a new Spell named Undead Detonation, which lets me explode Undead without the necessity of touching them, but well, it only extends to Undead I’ve risen.

Now... Borudro is gone, but his soul is still here, so I grabbed it.

“GRYAGH...! L-Let me go!” He cried.

“Now, now, we can’t just do that, my good friend. I have to get as much info out of you as I possibly can! So go on, tell me everything you know! Or else... do you want your soul eaten? Without a soul, you won’t even get a chance in the afterlife,” I said.

“G-Gyyyggh...! F-Fine!”

Oh man, that was easy.

In the end, the guy spit out all he knew.

He was resigned to this place 30 years ago by the Vampires with the purpose of creating the perfect vessel of the Fragment of Evil. For some reason which not even he knew about, the Vampires wanted to create the ideal body and vessel for this power, and he was one of the few other scientists given this opportunity.

He was fed with all sorts of magical materials and resources and asked to make the perfect Homunculus. He's also a sicko obsessed with experimenting with living and unliving and was made into a Vampire when the Vampires captured him after he was imprisoned by the Kingdom.

He actually used to be an alchemist that was caught using slaves for experiments, and even that seems to be illegal, so he was imprisoned.

The Vampires saw potential in him and then converted him into a Subordinate Vampire, making him another of their personal alchemist/necromancers for their wicked experiments. The sad part is that he barely interacted with other vampires as he is a fairly new one and only has 30 years of vampiric experience.

So he didn't know anything else aside from that, damn it.

I decided that he only deserved to be punished for what he did, so I didn't comply with my promise and ate his soul slowly, expanding my jaws into massive razor-sharp teeth, tearing him apart as he screamed desperately.

"No! Wait, wait, wait! You said you wouldn't kill me! Y-you said you would let me rest in peaceeeeeee....!"

"You don't even deserve Valhalla nor Hel. You only deserve to stop existing. Be embraced by the void, smartass," I said as I consumed him completely.

CRASH!

"GRRYYAAGGGGH...!"

And he was gone with a last pitiful scream.

I swallowed him, and he... tasted bitter.

Uegh, will I not get indigestion with this?

Ding!

[Calculating EXP earned...]

[You gained 270000 EXP]

[Your Level has increased from Level 33 to Level 34!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 34 to Level 35!]

[EXP: 60000/120000]

Damn, his body and soul gave out some nice EXP. Also, it's nice that everyone else also got some shared EXP out of that and leveled up some more.

"Phew, now that we are done here, what should we do?"

"I want to sleep for now...." Sighed Laura.

"Me too... I am tired...." Also sighed Takeshi.

The two kids seemed quite tired, and I didn't blame them. I made them work hard by killing our half-dead prey, and it's already late at night.

"Alright then! Let's go back to the Inn, and we'll leave you to sleep there with some friends watching over you. Then I'll come back," I said.

Chapter 100

I moved back to the Inn after the whole incident and left Lucifer, Partner, Kuro, and around ten Undead watching over the kids. I was concerned that some stealthy vampire assassin could emerge at any moment, so I left them there to hold down the fort for a moment.

Alone? Of course, I am not alone. I have my own Undead army, which I had rebuilt out of the corpses I just recently acquired. They're all resting on standby in my Shadow Storage, so I can use Summon and bring them with me at any time.

I am still thinking about what the heck I should do with the slaves there. Throwing them back to the authorities will still only make them slaves.

So what should I do?

I flew towards that place and found everything in order.

I began to steal everything and literally emptied the entire place, and then... I freed the slaves.

I gathered them all in a room, many of them were brought to tears, but I honestly didn't know what to do with them.

Maybe freeing them and letting them go back home? But some slaves used to live here. If they're brought back here, they'll be caught.

“Thank you so much for what you’ve done....”

“Thank you!”

“You defeated those horrendous monsters....”

“Our savior!”

And as I stood there thinking about something, the people kept praising me as if my aura were affecting their minds a bit.

I didn’t know what was going on with their minds, but I looked pretty spooky, even in my materialized “human” appearance. And despite that, they were praising me and kneeling before me.

Huhh.... I guess these people are not normal.

Could it be that they see me as their savior, even as strange as I look, because they went through horrible stuff? Oh well, whatever.

I thought about simply bringing them with my shadow storage, but I have limited space there, and it’s mostly for my Undead. It’s also dark, and I doubt people will like it.

So I am out of options.

Huh, damn it, I wish I could be a selfish person, but I would really feel bad if I left them here. I can’t really do that.

I started to ask the people around. Some of them belonged to tribes in the outskirts of the place but had been away for so long that they didn’t know their way back home.

Hmm... there's an aristocrat merchant puppet I got here. Maybe I could use him and his money to buy a few more caravans and send all the slaves to the goblin village? It's the only place I have any thought they could be accepted.

I guess we can just do that and wish for them to have good travels. I will probably give them a lot of Undead guards... with all these new materials I got from here, I think I can create super-strong Undead for them as well. They should easily slaughter any run-of-the-mill bandit group. Even high-level monsters should also not be a problem on their trip there.

Hmm, I also got the issue here with the aristocratic pigs. There are three I have to slay. I might as well take away as much money and resources I can from them to give to these people, so they can go there with tons of resources. We would also resupply the goblin village with new food, armor, weapons, magical tools, and so on.

Oh yeah, sounds like a plan, to be honest.

I wonder if I should go back there... It has been around two months since I departed, but I wanted to clean every duchy, but even then, it looks like it will take time.

It would take less time to just accompany the people there and travel back to see how things are going. We might as well relocate from there and begin doing some stuff.

But the situation is quite dire too. I can't just go there and relax.

Ugh... So much to do. I need to discuss this with my friends.

"Alright, guys, I think I can bring you back to a place where you can be safe and recover, but I will need you all to stay here for a bit more. Here, there's everything you need,"

I quickly began to drop tons of food that I'd stolen recently when I went into town through the night. Alongside blankets and new clothes, there were also water barrels and so on.

"Thank you!"

“W-We can stay here for a bit longer.”

“There are no creepy monsters now, so it’s more comfortable than going outside....”

I need someone commanding them and taking care of them so they don’t fight each other...

I picked up most of the bones from the graveyard, which took me around 30 minutes, and then raised a couple of skeletons, which were humanoid and easy to handle humans.

“Alright, you guys, you’ll be here to take care of the people, distribute food and take care of them. Hug them if they feel lonely too, everything that is necessary,” I ordered.

The skeletons nodded as they began distributing things, and one of them hugged an old man who was crying. See? Skeletons are always the best answer.

They might be cold and bony on the outside... but they’re also cold and bony on the inside... and quite phantasmal.

Anyways, leaving the people there, I then flew back to town and decided to not do anything to the aristocrats yet. It will take some time for them to realize something happened down here, so I’ll use that time to go back to the Inn and sleep through this night for the moment. I will discuss what to do with everyone else tomorrow with a tasty breakfast.

As I reached the Inn, I found everyone there. And nothing has happened, thankfully.

I saw the kids sleeping peacefully and decided to jump into bed and calm the exhaustion of my mind with a nap.
