

## **A Ghost 951**

### Chapter 951 Corrupted Chaotic Dungeon Core

Ding!

[You have Created [Phantom Enchantress Demonic Witch Hat Of Nightmares: Morpheus (S+++ Grade)] x1!]

[You gained +40.000 Skill Proficiency.]

[You gained +15.000.000 EXP.]

[You cannot Level Up after hitting Max Level. Earned EXP has been accumulated.]

And right at the moment we were talking about the true aim of the Warlocks, a subgroup of the Evil Vampire Family that has been pestering this continent for way too long, I received a rather peculiar message.

My hat was finally done! And it was so divinely beautiful! It was a true witch hat, with all its pointy charm, it was well rounded, black with a hint of dark blue hue, it even had a strong, phantasmal aura to it.

And it was a named Item too!

"The Dark Pest... We've only heard a bit about him, but there's too little information." Said Emeraldine.  
"Mostly based on the tales the people of the Oasis have told for generations..."

"Nia, do you know anything more?" Asked Partner. "I know you only know the little tales around town but... Anything more from the Dark pest?"

"Well... It was said he was a being of unfathomable evil, and very cunning..." Sighed Nia. "It was said he purposely fought the Oasis Divine Spirit in the middle of the city, making her unable to go all out as she would be risking killing the citizens... But he was ultimately defeated. It is baffling these Vampires, people that isn't even of our lands, have come here worshiping him like a god, when he's only an evil monster..."

"I apologize on behalf of the Majin..." Lucifer sighed. "The Vampires left behind after the Demon King War long ago were only the most ruthless and the ones with the greatest intentions of revenge, they grew corrupt, only aiming for power to destroy all humans. I am sure the Demon King wouldn't have wanted this to happen."

"Oh, you don't have to apologize... They're bad people, you shouldn't think of them as the same as the guys we unfroze back home." I explained. "I doubt any of the sick bastards we fought would ever be redeemed."

"That's... true." Lucifer sighed. "We've been meeting mostly evil vampires, and the ones that were good only showed that facet after being defeated by us and turned into Undead. I wish there could be someone out there that was trying to change things in this regard. It feels like their entire Family has now been catalogued as irremediable evils."

"It is... Well, yeah..." Catarina sighed. "Don't believe everything, although the Warlocks are surely crazy. Most of us... Were mostly formerly non-vampires, turned to serve them. We didn't know anything else in our lives either. So the only option we had to survive was to obey them and fight. Still, it's no excuse I suppose..."

"You were an evil Vampire, big sis?" Silva asked Catarina with a worried expression.

"I was... I tried to kill Maria and her friends." She sighed. "They defeated me, and I became an Undead. Over time, I learned about freedom, and that what I did was wrong. I've gone through a lot of things, and now I am even some sort of Phantasmal Ghost being, life's really full of weird things, but over time, these weird things have taught me valuable lessons."

"She's terrible at words, I'm so sorry Silva." I apologized in her behalf.

"W-What?! Oi, you damn...!" Catarina contained herself from swearing in front of his little disciple.

That little interaction lightened the mood, as most people laughed loudly.

We continued our feast while occasionally talking about the many things we've experienced, and after we were almost done with our meals, we decided to explore that chamber I saw.

There were no lifeforms inside, so we weren't really looking forward to any battle.

"Is this a huge door? Where does this even lead to?" Emeraldine wondered. "It looks like the entrance to some ruins."

"It looks quite ancient, yes." I nodded. "By merely sensing it with my senses, I can tell these are some old ruins."

I touched the door, as it absorbed my mana and quickly opened, revealing a huge, abandoned laboratory inside.

There was many broken alchemy equipment scattered all over the place, and many precious jewels and other things I had never seen before.

"Although the place looked like ancient ruins, this was used not so long ago." Jonathan analyzed it. "And- What's that?!"

He quickly panicked, pointing his sword at something floating in the middle of the dark room, it resembled a giant silver colored sphere, infected with darkness and possessing crimson eyes around its entire spherical body.

It constantly generated small waves of Miasma and Chaos energies, which filled with earth and slowly contaminated the entire caves.

"T-This must be the artifact they left to contaminate this place!" Emeraldine said, rather saddened. "By merely staring at it, I feel weakened... Just what is this thing?"

"Let's see..."

[The System has Analyzed the target.]

[Analysis successful.]

[Corrupted Chaotic Dungeon Core (SS Grade)]

A Dungeon Core that has been modified using Miasma and other corrupted energies, and transformed into a special A Dungeon Core that has been modified using Miasma and other corrupted energies, and transformed into a special artifact that can contaminate areas with miasma over time.

Contaminated areas will spawn monsters faster, and it will infect all living lifeforms into stronger and more aggressive forms. The more it slowly infects things, the more strong monsters will be created.

High chances for A+ Rank or even S Rank Monsters to appear after enough time.

"Well, well, well, isn't this the best thing I could have asked for?" I laughed, as I showed everyone the item description by making the system window visible to them.

"It was indeed this that made them so strong then!" Lucifer said. "Some sort of corrupted dungeon core, I had no idea a dungeon core could be repurposed this way... How hideous."

"They probably somehow took it from an already existing dungeon that was destroyed..." I sighed.

"Well, I'll be taking it for myself now."

I quickly grabbed the core, which spun aggressively and tried to infect me with its miasma, but that only made me feel stronger.

"I'll leave you inside my Soul for a bit..."

## Chapter 952 The Tormented Souls Of The Past

[Corrupted Chaotic Dungeon Core (SS Grade)]

A Dungeon Core that has been modified using Miasma and other corrupted energies, and transformed into a special artifact that can contaminate areas with miasma over time.

Contaminated areas will spawn monsters faster, and it will infect all living lifeforms into stronger and more aggressive forms. The more it slowly infects things, the more strong monsters will be created.

High chances for A+ Rank or even S Rank Monsters to appear after enough time.

"You're mine now!"

It seemed to react aggressively when things touched it or tried to drag it away. The thing was floating within its own center of gravity, so when I held it with my hands, it tried to tear them to shreds, failing miserably at that.

I considered that if it was constantly exuding this energy, then it was a perfect "Core" for my own soul, a Core of Miasma and Chaos that would constantly and passively cultivate my soul with its slow, yet seemingly endless source of energy.

And once I placed it inside my soul, it stopped aggressively spinning and remained floating in silence within the Shadow Realm inside of it.

FLUOOOSH!

Its shockwaves continued spreading, the Undead stored inside was beginning to slowly and passively bathe in the corruption, becoming slightly murky, but they absorbed it easily.

They were beginning to grow stronger... Hehehe! This is the ideal way to cultivate as a Necromancer, by both boosting my soul and also enhancing all my Undead at once.

Thank you for the gift, you dumbass Warlocks.

Ding!

[You have fully absorbed and assimilated the [Corrupted Chaotic Dungeon Core (SS Grade)] Artifact into your Soul!]

[The Artifact is constantly exuding rich Miasma and Chaotic Energies every ten minutes, feeding your Soul, your Soul Scape, your Divinity Ember, and your Undead stored inside your Shadow Realm with powerful compatible energies.]

[Your Soul growth has begun to hasten rapidly, the Cultivation of your Phantasmal Soul Psyche has taken a drastic change, beginning to strengthen rapidly.]

"Wait, Cultivation?!"

As I said that out loud, the power of the artifact started making me feel more alive than I imagined. My senses heightened, my appearance became even more life-like, and I could feel everything around me much better.

It was an exhilarating an almost addicting feeling, like I was constantly eating the tastiest and sweetest candy, this Artifact was just MADE for me!"

"So you just ate it..." Lucifer was slightly shocked. "Oh well, I should have expected this..."

"Was it tasty?!" Asked Partner, gulping her saliva.

"I didn't eat it!" I sighed, crossing my arms. "But it was an ideal artifact for my growth, so I've assimilated it into my soul... Ah, was that a bit too greedy?"

"Not really, well, we were planning on just smashing it to pieces." Emeraldine laughed. "But if it can help you, then I don't think there's a problem. Also, if you keep it within your soul, it's for the better, so it won't contaminate the world outside."

"Yeah! You're like the ideal container of all these powerful miasmic forces." Said Jonathan. "Maybe we could purify the rest of this place? I feel bad the Drakes were turned into mad monsters because of that thing."

"Sure, let me do it by absorbing all the bad miasma." I touched the ground, quickly assimilating everything.

FLUOOOSH!

In a split of a second, the entire place was cleansed... Wait, did I ever have such fast abilities at miasma absorption?

I remember being rather weak to it at first, but now I've totally assimilated it into my own being, maybe because I've already assimilated several Evil God Fragments into my soul.

"Hmph, that artifact is really good... To think these vampire bastards would make something like this." Uller commented at my side. "Oi, Maria. Are you going to do something about the guys over there though?"

"The guys?" I wondered. "Oh those guys."

Everyone hadn't paid attention, maybe they couldn't see them like I could, but there were ten ghosts sitting at the end of the room, trembling in fear after seeing us arrive.

Their bodies were glowing with black and blueish colors, they were corrupted by the Chaos yet they had continued keeping their sanity and minds.

These were most likely what I would call, Chaos Ghosts!

"Hey, you guys over there. Can you speak?"

The ghosts, who had the appearance of ancient people similar to the pharaoh, trembled, suddenly looking at me.

"T-The Chaos Embodiment, she's looking at us!"

"Eep!"

"Please don't eat our souls!"

"We are only humble Alchemists left behind here!"

"We died long ago after the Great Cataclysm..."

"Can you spare our souls?"

"Great... Cataclysm?" I asked. "Hey, Pharaoh, do you know what's that?"



"Hmmm..." The Lich appeared by my side, emerging from my shadows. "That is an even more ancient event than my own Kingdom. The Great Cataclysm has only been found within small legends. It is said to have been a time when the Gods punished humanity for their sins and killed most of them through the Calamities that ran rampant."

"Oh, so that's it... Yikes, these Gods are really monsters." I sighed. "But I somehow feel like that's not all of it, right?"

"W-What is this man talking about?"

"The Great Cataclysm... It wasn't just Calamities running rampant!"

"Those Gods you speak about..."

"They're merely the Awakened Ones that fought against the Ancient Ones..."

"When the Tower appeared in our world, there was nothing else but destruction..."

"W-We were unable to intervene, the Realms fell apart!"

"Uuwaah! The horror... Please, spare us! We don't want to see the outside world!"

"The decree of the Kings of the Void... No, NO!"

"Your world... your religion, is nothing but an illusion!"

They were going completely batshit insane. I retire what I said before, they were talking nonsense not even Uller could understand!

"Awakened Ones? Ancient Ones?" I wondered. "W-What's going on?"

"I am not sure..." The Pharaoh spoke. "But perhaps these people... I am in awe, these souls have been in here for perhaps... hundreds of thousands of years, if not millions."

"They know of things before the Ragnarök itself." Said Uller. "W-

What in the world?"

Chapter 953 Strange Words, Revelations Or Delusions?

Although they spoke weird names and words I had no idea what they meant contextually, such as "Tower", "Kings of the Void", "Ancient Ones and Awakened Ones", and even whatever they meant by an "Illusion".

I am fairly sure these damn Gods are all real, and Hel too, these conflicts are happening, they're not an Illusion... But maybe this Tower or whatever, and the Kings of the Void, might have something to do with these Gods.

And perhaps the true origin of the Gods lies within these words. I tried asking them for more information, but they were in an extreme state of euphoria and panic, and were unable to answer properly, continuously talking words I couldn't understand.

"T-The world will break apart!"

"You will see THEM...!"

"T-They...! NO!"

"Odin, that bastard... Traitor!"

"The Murim's Heavenly Demon..."

"Ymir's Death!"

"The Void Beyond the Skies..."

"Please... Ugh..."

"Okay, just rest for now." I waved my hand, using my power over the dead to force them to sleep, and then placed them inside my Shadow Realm.

"Were those ghosts?" Asked Lucifer. "What were they even talking about?"

"Something that has only made me begin to doubt... Everything about this world." I sighed. "But they were just words at the end, once they calm down and rest, maybe we can ask them what the hell they were talking about."

"Right..." Emeraldine seemed slightly creeped by the ghosts. "Ah, I remember you rescued a dragon from the Warlocks! How is she?"

"Violet?" I asked. "Yes, she's recovering fine. Her soul has finally calmed down, her body has gone back to almost normal too. But if I try to forcefully wake her up, I fear I might inhibit her or something... It would be better to let her rest as much as possible."

"You're not wrong..." Lucifer nodded. "I am just happy she has recovered. She can take as much as she wants to recover, haha. Ah, I miss Brunhild now. I wish that woman could have accompanied us in this journey. Did she really had to stay with the damn dwarves?"

"Well, now that know they're her descendants, there's little we can do about that." I shrugged. "She cares about them, and they might even try to make her their Queen after that big revelation. More importantly, let's head back to the city. I want to stay on a fancy inn again."

After cleaning the entire ruins of every little broken thing I found, and many precious ores I had never seen before, perhaps from ancient times, we moved back to another fancy Noble district Inn.

Today was sure a long day, we hunted a lot of monsters and secured tons of items too, but there's no rest for me. While I was sleeping over a comfy bed while being cuddled by Emeraldine and Partner, within my Shadow Realm, there was a huge forge I had placed there from my Inventory.

Constantly, I was using all my available tools to continue forging and enhancing the items. Emeraldine's bow and Partner's spears were getting enhanced right in this moment.

I decided to use the many materials I picked up for that, the scales of the drake bosses, and some dust from A+++ Rank monster cores. For Emeraldine, I decided to fuse a few precious jewels I found in those ruins.

They were named Crescent Soul Stones and Life Crystals, which were from an "otherworldly" origin, according to the description.

The first stone, according to the little description I could squeeze out, originated from a world called "Murim", for some weird reason! And the Life Crystals from a world called "Avalon"...

The other items were all the same, they originated from different realms, worlds, and what not. I tried squeezing as much lore as I could, but only found the most basic information and the origin.

But with all this info, there's at least... over ten other worlds I had no idea of their existence. Are they somehow connected to Yggdrasil?

Are they connected to Earth too, where I come from?

All these questions started popping up inside of my heads as I made my best to enchant the equipment.

What is this damn Tower?

What are the Kings of the Void?!

Ugh, so many questions!

The worst part was that the Pharaoh and Uller had no idea either. Uller lacked all his memories, and the Pharaoh wasn't as ancient as the ghosts.

"Can't you just read their damn minds?" Asked Uller.

"Can't..." I sighed. "They're Ancient Chaos Ghosts, they're surprisingly strong too, their minds can't be read no matter how hard I try. If I do it too hard, they might end up having their souls broken, so I stopped after a while. They're actually S- Rank! Surprising... They are already technically "tamed" somewhat, so they won't be aggressive but... I wonder if I could ever help them out."

"They will prove to be a valuable asset; Phantasmal and Spiritual beings are good for the powerful Spirit Magic!" Said Uller. "You already gain a lot of power when I merge with you, imagine all these guys... Hehehe."

"Hm, well, I am still missing more Spirits too. Where can I even find Death, Poison, or Darkness Spirits? I only have the lame Uller with me." I sighed.

"True Spirits that aren't Ghosts?" Wondered the Pharaoh. "They are truly rare, even more if you want some strong enough Spirits. But I did feel some Spiritual Energy from afar, to the east. There must be some buried or ancient sanctuary. Perhaps you should take a look later, master."

"Oh, you have spiritual senses of that caliber?" I wondered. "Not bad! Alright, I guess I'll check that out later then. For now, let's concentrate in this..."

CLANK! CLANK! CLANK!

I kept using the materials and enchanting the weapons. At one point I smelted the whole spears of Partner because they were having problems and remade them again.

When the sun finally rose and it pierced through the window, the amazing new weapons for my wifeys were finally done.

## Chapter 954 Partner's New Spears

Ding!

[You have Created [Chaotic Vampiric Draconic Medusa Tail Spear (S+++ Grade)] x1!]

[You have Created [Abyssal Explosive Darkness Devourer Spear (S+++ Grade)] x1!]

[You have Created [Divine Sacred Holy Yggdrasil Spirit Magic Bow (S+++ Grade)] x1!]

[You gained +120.000 Skill Proficiency.]

[The [Smithing: Lv8] [Apprentice Blacksmith Recipe Book: Lv6] [Rune Smithing: Lv5] [Soul Binding Alchemy: Lv4] [Spiritual Energy Manipulation: Lv3] [Shadow Sculpting Arts: Lv3] Skills have Levelled Up!]

[You gained +60.000.000 EXP.]

[You cannot Level Up after hitting Max Level. Earned EXP has been accumulated.]

Even if they were already pre-existing, because I dismantled and remade them again, it seems it counted as if I made them myself.

This made it possible for many skills to level up after the immense accumulation of Skill Proficiency! Damn, I can still remember when those dwarves were teaching me stuff.

And now? Look at me! I am already an amazing blacksmith, making S+++ Grade stuff and all!

Well, I am still mostly in debt to the skills I got from my Subclasses, without them, I wouldn't have been able to reach this far in my crafting abilities.

Now that these are done, the only thing left to do is reinforce my own two weapons, the axe and the sword, and then move on to Nyx's new items.

Her little princess dress and her powerful axe, I'll make sure to make them with my top ingredients.

Once the morning came, I decided to begin enhancing my equipment while I also started cooking breakfast for everyone.

Naturally, they all woke up and started chatting and flocking around, the people sleeping in separate rooms walked inside after getting ready for another day.

"Good morning, Lady Maria, everyone." Nia said politely.

"Good morning Nyx!" Celes said adorably.

"Hi Celes!" Nyx waved her little hand. "Look, mama made even more amazing items today!"

"Ooh?" Celes and Fabian and his friends quickly flocked around the items I had just finished making for Partner and Emeraldine.

"Wow, these are AMAZING!" Partner was celebrating, showing off her two new spears.

Well, they were the same as before, but were much more beautiful, exuding a divine aura, and had many new runes engraved on them, making them exceptionally stronger than before.

They jumped from B Rank to S+++ Rank, so they were naturally on another level now. The red spear now had draconic decorations of crimson scales, with many snake heads near the blade. The black spear now had many black eyes within it, and flame-shaped decorations at the handle.

They were the easiest to upgrade because they were compatible with Shadow Sculpting the best, even though I had to dismantle them and smelt them and then make them again...

[Chaotic Vampiric Draconic Medusa Tail Spear]

[Item Type]: [Divine Weapon] [Demonic Spear] [Cursed Spear] [Vampiric Artifact]

[Item Grade]: [S+++]

[Item Level]: [1/100]

[Item Requirement]: [Can Only Be Equipped by Partner]

[Item Durability]: [2.000.000/2.000.000]

[Item Effects]: [Weapon Attack]: [+1.500.000] [HP]: [+700.000] [MP]: [+700.000] [Attack]: [+800.000]  
[Defense]: [+400.000] [Magic]: [+600.000] [Agility]: [+800.000] [Poison Attribute Power]: [+800.000]  
[Blood Attribute Power]: [+800.000] [Void Attribute Power]: [+800.000]

[Runic Engravings]: [Defense Penetration +30% (S)] [Weapon Attack +30% (S)] [Attack Speed +30% (S)]  
[Attack +35% (S)] [Health Drain +150% (S)] [Agility +35% (S)]

[Abilities]



[Draconic Medusa's Fangs]: The tip of the spear is covered by a deadly and venomous toxin that poison the wounds of a foe, inflicting [Strong Venom], [Paralysis], [Madness], [Weakness], [Soul Curse], and [Physique Break], and even a chance for [Petrification]. Damage Dealt against foes inflicted with Status Effects increase by +300% and can ignore 20% of their Defenses.

[Chaotic Blood Empress]: Enhances Blood Attribute Magic Damage by +300% and reduces MP Cost by -60%. Adds the Chaotic Attribute to Blood Attribute Magic, which allows them to negate 30% of a foe's Elemental Resistances, Magic Barriers, or to destroy their Magic Composition.

[Vicious Huntress of the Night]: Deals up to a bonus of +500% more damage in Surprise Attacks, has a high chance to [Paralyze] a foe on contact. Always active if below the Night's Sky or within Shadows. Can unleash [Ambushing Huntress] on a foe by spending Mana and Blood Energy, dealing consecutive damage that increases by +100% with each attack until the fifth, draining 25% of damage dealt as HP and Blood Energy. Cooldown: 1 Minute.

[Chaotic Vampire Queen's Burst]: After absorbing enough blood or energy from a foe, a powerful Burst Attack can be unleashed, that can deal up to +2000% More Damage, ignoring 90% of their Defenses and Draining 50% of the Damage Dealt as HP and Blood Energy. However, the weapon loses 25000 Durability as damage. Cooldown: 1 Hour.

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[Abyssal Explosive Darkness Devourer Spear]

[Item Type]: [Divine Weapon] [Magic Spear] [Cursed Spear] [Shadow Artifact]

[Item Grade]: [S+++]

[Item Level]: [1/100]

[Item Requirement]: [Can Only Be Equipped by Partner]

[Item Durability]: [2.000.000/2.000.000]

[Item Effects]: [Weapon Attack]: [+1.500.000] [HP]: [+700.000] [MP]: [+700.000] [Attack]: [+600.000]  
[Defense]: [+400.000] [Magic]: [+800.000] [Agility]: [+800.000] [Darkness Attribute Power]: [+800.000]  
[Blood Attribute Power]: [+800.000] [Void Attribute Power]: [+800.000]

[Runic Engravings]: [Magic Defense Penetration +30% (S)] [Magic Weapon Attack +30% (S)] [Magic  
Attack Speed +30% (S)] [Magic +35% (S)] [Mana Drain +150% (S)] [MP +35% (S)]

[Abilities]

[Abyssal Darkness Resonance]: This weapon can switch between dealing Physical Damage or Magical Damage. Enhances Darkness Magic Damage by +300% and reduces MP Cost by -60%. The weapon can easily channel and absorb Darkness Magic to unleash stronger blows, increasing the power of Attacks when on Magic Damage Mode by absorbing Shadows by +30% with each blow up to the tenth blow. If an attack misses the combo breaks and the bonuses reset.

[Umbral Shadow Clones]: While attacking and spending Mana and absorbing Shadows, the weapon can summon up to 10 Clones made of shadows to attack a foe consecutively, dealing an additional +200% damage with each mirage's successful attack. Mirages will use skills on their own and add on to the damage, but will die after receiving one hit, and only last for 1 Minute.

[Explosive Shadow Flames]: By imbuing your Mana and Blood Energy into Shadows you control, you can make them combust into Explosive Shadow Flames, dealing +300% Damage with each Explosion, and covering the foe with deadly burns that can decrease all their stats by up to -30% for 5 Minutes.

The Abilities they originally had were completely upgraded to a new level, and the darkness spear even acquired a new ability, to combust shadows! Kind of like Laura.

Maybe because I used Laura's crystal dust she leaves behind from her heart, or her Combustion Ashes from her Explosion Magic.

I never thought the spear would be able to successfully absorb a small part of her "trait" into a new ability.

I can't help but surprise my own talent, heh, I bet those dwarves would die of jealousy if they knew what I can do now!

The crimson spear is to deal great damage and drain health and blood energy, the second is to deal magic damage and surprise the foe as much as possible.

Both complement each other tremendously!

"This bow... It is so beautiful and divine! Like something only a goddess would possess!" Emeraldine was utterly fascinated with her new bow.

It had gained golden and green colored decorations, tree-like engravings and now had a beautiful string made out of the strongest silk I could produce, combined with Arachne's own spider threads.

Naturally, the Stats were no laughing matter either...

## Chapter 955 Emeraldine's New Magic Bow

I suppose it cannot be helped, my genius in the way of item crafting is unparalleled! After remaking the whole bow and adding so many weird materials I found, scales, threads of Arachne, Yggdrasil tree shards, and even the Yggdrasil Soul Core Dust, this little bow was born.

[Divine Sacred Holy Yggdrasil Spirit Magic Bow]

[Item Grade]: [S+++]

[Item Level]: [1/100]

[Item Requirement]: [Can Only Be Equipped by Emeraldine]

[Item Durability]: [1.500.000/1.500.000]

[Item Effects]: [Weapon Attack]: [+2.500.000] [HP]: [+500.000] [MP]: [+1.500.000] [Attack]: [+1.500.000]  
[Defense]: [+500.000] [Magic]: [+1.500.000] [Agility]: [+1.500.000] [Holy Light Attribute Power]:  
[+1.500.000] [Life Attribute Power]: [+1.500.000] [Nature Attribute Power]: [+1.500.000] [Spirit  
Attribute Power]: [+1.500.000]

[Runic Engravings]: [Defense Penetration +30% (S)] [Arrow Accuracy, Power, and Speed +35% (S)] [Spirit  
Magic Power +35% (S)] [Magic & MP +30% (S)] [Attack & Agility +30% (S)] [HP & Defense +30% (S)]

[Item Abilities]

[Divine Sacred Magic Bow]: Enhances Holy Light/Life/Nature Magic Damage by +500% and reduces MP  
Cost by -60%. The weapon can easily channel and absorb Holy Light/Life/Nature Magic to unleash  
[Divine Sacred Magic Bow Blast] from the bow, that can deal +600% Magic Damage and spread on a  
wide area for accumulated damage. Cooldown: 1 Minute.

[Spirit Magic Arrows]: By directly infusing elemental Mana into the bow, it is possible to create, shape,  
and fire powerful Magic Arrows that can explode into different effects depending in the spell imbued  
into them, enhancing damage dealt by +300%. When combining this with real arrows, damage dealt is  
enhanced by +600% instead. Each Arrow gains a Special Status Effect it can inflict on a foe depending on  
the Element. Example: Fire: Spiritual Burn, Light: Soul Blindness, Nature: Plant Infection, Life: Health  
Deterioration, etc.

[Yggdrasil's Spirit Protection]: As long as this bow is equipped by the wielder, it can automatically absorb Mana from the wielder to erect a powerful Spiritual Barrier around the user or any nearby allies within ten meters from the wielder, which can negate up to 100% of Damage dealt as long as there's enough Mana, possessing 500.000 Durability each. These Barriers can also be conjured on allies or shaped into different forms and could be even used offensively.

[Divine Spiritual Connection]: This weapon is imbued with special magic and jewels capable of channeling the power of spirits, if the wielder has any contract with spirits, this bow can easily meld with their power or even their spiritual bodies, enhancing the damage dealt and effects of Magic Arrows and other techniques by up to +600%. Additional effects are applied depending in the spirit's elements. Example: Fire: Blazing Spirit's Explosion, Light: Holy Spirit's Purification, Nature: Yggdrasil's Forest, Life: Life Absorption, etc. Additionally, by combining seven elements together, it is possible to unleash [Divine Yggdrasil's Nine Worlds: Ragnarök], dealing up to +2000% Damage and ignoring 90% of a foe's defenses, dealing damage on a wide area. However, the weapon loses 20000 Durability as damage. Cooldown: 1 Hour.

Well, the word "little" would be an understatement, the bow has completely become a nuke at this point. Look at the stats, look at the abilities, and that ultimate ability at the end! Insane!

With this, Emeraldine has a wide arrange of abilities for literally anything, our archer has suddenly become even more of a deadly threat.

As long as we keep her in the back while we fight in the front, she's going to nuke any bastard that gets in our way...

Well, maybe I am exaggerating a bit.

"This bow is utterly incredible, thank you so much, Maria!" Emeraldine cried, hugging me tightly and kissing my lips. "I am so happy you made it so powerful! I can feel the harmony with the spirits by merely holding this...! I will use it to protect everyone."

"It's fine, it's fine~ Hahaha!" I felt very flattered, Partner was just as happy, hugging me tightly.

Both girls were constantly dragging me from one place to another as they thanked me with kisses and hugs.

As we enjoyed breakfast, I discussed what we would be doing next. With the Pharaoh Lich's information, I decided to go to whatever this Spirit Sanctuary might be, and get myself some rare spirit contracts.

Or die trying!

Well, I'm already dead.

"Spirits... I see. You've had spirit magic for a while now, but you've never been able to make full use of it." Lucifer nodded. "Sounds like a good idea."

"If it's an abandoned spiritual sanctuary, I could try looking for it!" Emeraldine said, closing her eyes.

She expanded her senses without interfering with anything, or even being noticed by anybody but me, who was right next to her.

And then...

"I found it, the Lich was right." She nodded. "It is truly to the east, within a few dunes and some ruins... They look strangely similar to the ruins in the cave from yesterday too. It has such ancient writings I can't even discern."

"Interesting, I've known that the desert has always had buried ruins from ancient times, when the desert used to be part of the sea and there were islands with cities." Said the Lich, appearing from my shadows. "Perhaps we could find more clues of whatever nonsense they talked about, master."

"I agree, let's go then."

After eating breakfast, bathing, and getting ready, we set off into another small adventure before the confrontation, because I felt like I needed to be as strong as possible to fight whatever challenges awaited us.

FLUOOOSH!

The dunes waved calmly by the wind, sand flying everywhere, we could barely see the beautiful sky, sand was the only thing we could see, actually.

Wait, it was actually not calm at all!

"Are we in the middle of a sandstorm by any chance?" Emeraldine wondered, her barrier protecting us from the sands.

"I think so..." I sighed. "Emeraldine, can you see if we're going to the right place?"

"Yes, we're almost there!" She said. "Ah! Over there!"

She pointed with her hand into the distance, right below the dunes we were walking through, there was a long descending place, a "hole" in between many dunes.

It was full of ruins we had never seen or noticed before, glowing with a mysterious aura.

## Chapter 956 Visiting The Spirit Ruins

The mysterious ruins greeted us with their mysterious appearance, auras of spiritual essence surging from within them. This entire desert must be full of lost treasure from past times, these ruins already look much different than the pyramids we've found before.

"Let's take a look then. They're pretty wide around this area..." I said, as the rest of my huge party walked by my side.

We had to walk down the dunes in front of us, which led to some sort of crater-like formation in the end, where all the runes were scattered.

By expanding my phantasmal senses, I was able to see a few things of interest, small spots with larger quantities of spiritual energy, and then, at the very end where we were, a large spot of corrupted spiritual energy, overflowing with a dark essence.

And...

"Leave..."

A voice echoing from within that place, overflowing with the presence and will of a Soul, no less.

"Leave... this place..."

It kept telling me to leave. Nobody else could hear it other than myself, I suppose this is because I'm a ghost and have a sixth sense sort of?

"This place... my resting... place... leave..."

It seemed to be a resentful soul. I'll get to it eventually. For now, I want to check the spots of Spiritual Energy and see if I can find any compatible Spirit to tame- I mean, to make a contract with.

"Mama, I can feel something odd!" Nyx had noticed it too. "Over there!"

"I know, we'll check it later, dear." I smiled at her. "More importantly, look over here."



While Fabian's group was exploring the ruins with a few others, Nyx, Lucifer, and Partner walked by my side and followed me where I was going.

The spot of spiritual essence was a glowing, rainbow-colored crystal buried beneath the sand, surrounded by four walls of ruins.

The ruins were covered on strange runes and a language I couldn't understand. None here understood it, not even the Pharaoh.

"I don't understand this language, but I do recognize it. I've seen ruins like these before..." The Lich spoke with a slow and dry voice. "This is the Language of the Gods... These ruins must have something to do with them, or perhaps, with people that lived in the Ancient Times when the Gods were active in the surface of Yggdrasil."

"When they clashed against the Titans?!" Partner asked in shock.

"Perhaps..." The Lich sighed. "I am not sure, unfortunately. I apologize. However, I do know something, those crystals hiding here, they are not so old. Perhaps around the time that Oasis Divine Spirit fought the Dark Pest."

"You mean these spiritual crystals formed out of that fight?" Wondered Emeraldine. "I can feel a lot of power from them, yeah... There are many spirits flocking around them, countless of tiny ones."

"These crystals seem to have great amounts of purity..." Lucifer said. "Perhaps they were formed either from pieces of the Spirit's body or the residual spiritual energy from its magic attacks."

"Alright! Is any of you willing to make a contract with me, you guys~?" I walked in front of the flock of spirits, hundreds of small and colorful creatures floated everywhere.

I couldn't properly discern their shapes, but they were all Spirits or at least Lesser Spirits. There were of many elements, so hopefully there might be a compatible one?

"Kyyuhh!"

However, they all saw me and swiftly ran away in fear, disappearing from the place...

"E-Eh?"

I was left completely alone... At the end, Spirits do fear me a lot!

"Ugh, dammit, not again..." I sighed, feeling defeated, I fell to my knees.

"Looks like the Spirits do not like Master too much." Sighed the Pharaoh. "It makes sense, you've grown to the extent you have become an existence that embodies Death and Darkness, both elements are often feared by most conventional elemental spirits."

"C-Come on, Maria! Don't make that face, we can find another spirit! I am sure of it!" Emeraldine tried to cheer me up.

"Do you even need them? You're plenty strong yourself..." Partner raised an eyebrow.

"Of course I need some! I have been unable to use my Spirit Magic this entire time, I need proper spirits to make my magic growth advance leaps and bounds." I crossed my arms in disbelief. "I can't just spam big spells, I want some more intricacy to it, spirits will allow my magic to evolve. Also, most of our foes already resist all my basic elements, if I can add spirit power to them, it might be possible for my magic to pierce through their higher defenses more easily."

"I suppose you're not wrong..." Lucifer agreed. "The Warlocks, the Evil God Fragments, most Calamities, are all very resistance to the Dark Alignment of Elements, some even capable of simply absorbing its elemental essence. If you're locked with only those elements, obtaining spirits to enchant them with spirit power makes sense."

"O-Oh..." Partner muttered, finding the entire situation slightly amusing herself. "Oh well! A-Anyways, should we get moving?"

"Not before I extract a bit of these, they're still a precious material, hehe." I took out my pickaxe and, when I was about to mine, someone called for me.

"W-Wait! Please wait, Auntie Maria!"

It was Celes, who came running to my side and grabbing my arms, gently putting them down.

"D-Don't do that please!"

"Celes? What's wrong?"

Nia quickly walked to his side and bowed, apologizing.

"I'm really sorry! He didn't mean anything bad! He just... He said that these crystals hold important power?" Nia wondered.

"They do?" Nyx asked. "What power?"

"I can feel it..." Celes slowly walked to the rainbow spirit crystal growth. "Some of the Essence of the Divine Oasis Spirit is here!"

His Soul resonated with the crystal, as his little hand touched it, a large quantity of power that was contained within it flowed into his Soul and Body!

FLUOSH!

It was swiftly absorbed, the crystal remained slightly the same, but it looked hollow, the power it held drained completely.

Ding!

[Celes]'s [Divine Oasis Spirit Soul] has absorbed the [Divine Oasis Spirit's Fragment]!]

[A part of the Soul's original powers has slowly awakened, All Stats have increased, All Skills have Leveled Up.]

So this was an inheritance of some sort this whole time?

## Chapter 957 Recruiting Many Little Spirits

"Phew, I feel much better now..." Celes sighed in relief. "Since I can remember that I've always felt weaker and a bit sickly, remember mom? But after absorbing this, it feels like something that should have always been in there is finally back..."

"I-I see..." Nia nodded. "C-Could it really be a fragment of the Oasis Spirit? So your soul is truly... My son."

"I don't know either..." Celes sighed. "But maybe I might be... related to her, or be her reincarnation, it's confusing..."

As smart as the boy was, he was still just a child, so it was natural he couldn't figure out things on his own easily and found them confusing to even interpret.

"It's fine." I said. "It's nice that there is something we can benefit from coming here, aside from my epic failure at getting a spirit... I'll mine a piece of this and then leave the rest in here, the spirits do like this area after all."

As I touched the crystal with my pickaxe after Celes and Nia nodded, a sudden flash of blue light surged from the crystal, slightly blinding my vision.

FLAAASH!

"What the... Another unexpected event again?!"

I was getting a bit bored of these!

The blue light slowly took the shape of a floating, blue-colored spirit, with the appearance of a little mermaid, it greeted Celes with an innocent smile.

"The vessel of my master... At long last, she has come back." She sighed. "But you're... A human? How could this be?"

"E-Eh? Hi?" Celes was a bit confused.

"A-Ah, sorry..." The small spirit, only the size of a cat, sighed. "I am one of my lady's spirit servants, I have no name other than Nymph. I was left here, sealed within the crystal by my master to secure my safety..."

"Wait, you know about the past then?!" I asked in surprise. "What happened back then?"

"I... my memories are a bit fuzzy, but I was left here to serve my lady, whenever she came back, no matter how long it would take. And she's finally here... Or well, him." She sighed. "Do you truly not possess her memories, vessel of my master's soul?"

"No, sorry..." Celes sighed. "I am... someone else. I just carry it but..."

"I understand." The spirit seemed sorrowful but accepted the truth faster than we imagined. "Then, there's no point in hesitating. I will serve you from now on, my master's reincarnation."

FLASH!

A thread of blue light touched Celes, a contract between him and the spirit was made immediately...

"W-Woah... D-Do I really get a spirit contracted with me?" Celes adorably wondered.

"Congrats Celes!" Nyx smiled, patting his head.

"Ugh..." I sighed, feeling slightly jealous. "I want a spirit too! This is unfair. But well done, nonetheless. We need you as strong as possible anyways."

Celes nodded happily after my words, feeling rather grateful of everything that has happened, the boy's smile was all I needed for the frustration of not having gotten a spirit to disappear.

"I believe I could tell you a few things that I do remember well... It seems I've been sleeping for thousands of years." Yawned the Water Spirit. "Each spot of spiritual energy is a fragment of my lady's power she hid in here in her battle against that Corrupted Awakened... They're meant to give you great power, and also has my sisters sealed within."

"I-I see..." Celes was listening while nodding. "Um, what is a Corrupted Awakened?"

"You mean the Dark Pest?" I wondered. The spirit quickly gave me a nod.

"I don't really know who all of you are, but you seem very strong. I am grateful you've been protecting the reincarnation, she- I mean he is a very important being for this desert." She thanked us first and foremost. "And yes, I do remember he was called Dark Pest too."

"Do you remember anything more?" Emeraldine asked, as we started making our way to the second Spiritual Energy Spot, out of the three there were. "And why did you call him Awakened?"

"I... I don't remember why they were called like this exactly." Sighed the Spirit. "My Master was an Awakened that hailed from "A World of Oceans" as she called it... She belonged to a group of other Water Spirits and Magicians serving Oceania, the Goddess of Water, right? Oceania's the daughter of the Awakened Odin."

"Awakened again... I had no idea they had this other name; it feels like it makes little sense seeing how they're Gods." I wondered, crossing my arms.

"I-I have little clue about what it means either." The Spirit sighed. "I'm sorry for lacking information, I was created by Master only a few hundred years before she died and I never left her side, so I have little knowledge other than these things."

"It's fine, dear, don't worry." Emeraldine smiled sweetly at her. "But... "A World of Oceans", what could this mean?"

"Maybe they meant the Great Endless Sea?" Lucifer asked. "The Great Endless Sea that connects all Continents, formed after the Realms fell and slowly formed into Continents, what was once many Realms became a single world, supported by Yggdrasil's roots."

"Once Realms fell... You mean in the Age of Ragnarök? That happened before I was created, but I did hear from Master that this was the Cataclysmic event that triggered the "Assimilation" or whatever it means... Which opened the way for her to reach this world through the seas." The Fairy said. "T-

That's all I really know."

"Assimilation..." The Pharaoh rubbed his chin. "Hmmm... All of this knowledge is triggering my researcher self! I wish I could write down notes and such."

"Here." I gave him a notebook and a pencil. "Write anything you want for me; I'll need that information."

"Oooh! V-Very well!" Nodded the Lich, happy to have some tools at his disposal.

As he started scribing what he had heard and everything else, we arrived at the second rainbow crystal, this one was being observed by Silva and Catarina, who were curiously sensing its aura.

"The second one is here, please, reincarnation, absorb its powers." Said the Spirit. "From what I can tell... The Power of the Dark Pest is growing larger at the same time, you need to become stronger to finish what master couldn't."

"Okay!" Celes might be little, but his courage was very big.

## Chapter 958 The Resentful Knight

FLUOSH!

Ding!

[Celes]'s [Divine Oasis Spirit Soul] has absorbed the [Divine Oasis Spirit's Second Fragment]!]

[A part of the Soul's original powers has slowly awakened, All Stats have increased, All Skills have Leveled Up.]

Celes absorbed the second Rainbow Spirit Crystal, as a similar-looking water spirit appeared in front of him, calling herself Undine.

"Oh? What's this? Are you my master's reincarnation? You're so cuteeee!" The little spirit hugged his head. "My name is Undine! Let's be friends from now on!"

"S-Sure..." Celes was a bit overwhelmed, but accepted the spirit, nonetheless.

A second pact was made, and now Celes had absorbed two fragments and has two water spirits, my jealousy keeps growing!

Oh well, I did absorb that super overpowered chaos core myself, so I can't complain...



"S-So these crystals were for Celes to absorb?" Silva asked. "Wow, it's like everything is connected..."

"In a sense, it might be. The damage we see, the ruins, the crystals, they're all part of the history of this place." Catarina analyzed the surroundings. "Celes has an important task, and those Warlocks are most likely behind the Dark Pest's presence growing, as the spirit said. I'm not saying I'm doubting Maria and the rest's strength, but there's nothing wrong with more power."

"Yeah! Celes is specially powerful, he healed me from all the big damage I got easily!" Nyx said happily, nodding. "We'll be counting on you!"

My daughter really was growing closer to Celes faster than I imagined! Does she have a crush on him, or is it the other way around?

"T-Thanks... I-I'll do my best, Nyx, Silva..." Celes blushed while acting all adorably.

The two girls giggled, finding him quite cute.

"We'll be looking forward to it!" Silva smiled, acting much more lively compared to the time we meet her.

"Yeah, yeah!" Nyx nodded while wagging her tail around.

Looks like Celes got himself a pair of cute cheerleaders, he can't possibly disappoint them now. I could see his decisiveness and courage was growing within his eyes.

"Hehe, you sure are popular, dear." His mother giggled. "I hope that one day, once all of this is over, you all can meet again when you're older..."

"We'll definitely come to see you regularly, Nia, don't worry." I smiled at her. "Now, onwards to the last one!"

We all moved to the third and last Rainbow Spirit Crystal, while wandering around the silent ruins. The reason no monsters were here was due to two factors, according to what I've analyzed.

First, the Rainbow Spirit Crystals formed a repelling barrier that kept monsters away, and second, that corrupted spiritual energy at the end, with the creepy voice.

"Leave this place..."

Yep, that one, is pretty intimidating! Whatever that guy is, he's surely keeping monsters on place too. Based on the Aura and Soul Voice alone, it is most likely a strong Undead.

"Oh, you're here." Jonathan greeted us once he saw us walking to the third crystal. "We've been looking at this shiny crystal for a while. Maybe you could mine it, Maria?"

"I've mined some from the others we found, don't worry honey." I said. "Fabian, can you move aside a bit?"

"O-Oh, right!" Fabian and the children were in some sort of trance while watching that crystal.

Perhaps something with their own powers had to do with it, the spiritual energy was rather intoxicating, but only Celes could properly amass it and absorb it.

"Do it, master!"

"Do it! Do it!"

"O-Okay, don't be so pushy..."

Celes touched the last crystal while the two spirits were cheering for him, its power surged like a bright blue light, fusing with him once more.

FLUOSH!

Ding!

[Celes]'s [Divine Oasis Spirit Soul] has absorbed the [Divine Oasis Spirit's Third Fragment]!!

[A part of the Soul's original powers has slowly awakened, All Stats have increased, All Skills have Leveled Up.]

POOF!

And as he gained the third fragment, a new Spirit materialized, one looking like the other three. I guess they were a trio of spirit sisters.

They were all almost at the level of a Divine Spirit as well, of the lowest rank, like Emeraldine's Spirits, so they had potential.

"Hello... You must be the master's... reincarnation?"

The Spirit girl had glasses this time, readjusting them as she analyzed Celes Soul and appearance.

"Y-Yeah..."

The spirit nodded and smiled.

"Nice to meet you... My name is Haliae, I'm the youngest of t-

the third sisters..."

She was very shy compared to the other two. Nymph was the leader by far, while Undine was the energetic one, Haliae was shy and rather smart-looking.

"Now we're all finally together! After thousands of years. I am so happy, sisters."

"Yaaaay! Let's celebrate with a big party!"

"I'm happy to meet you two but you should tone it down, we're not alone in here..."

Their little sister then looked into the distance, where the mysterious and creepy voice had originally come from.

"That place... Isn't the resting place of Knight Eustace? The man that our master once loved..." Haliae said with a shy voice.

"That's right. But that place, he should have rested in peace after the battle, yet... it reeks with so much malice and evil energy." Sighed Nymph.

"Why's that?" Undine asked. "Knight Eustace... he died fighting the Dark Pest and was able to weaken that monster. He was a strong Awakened, but the Dark Pest had absorbed a Fragment of the Evil God, so he was naturally stronger... Master left him here after mourning his death. I don't remember ever seeing her so sad before."

The spirits all seemed sad as they looked into the distance. The word Awakened was once more used, and this Knight Eustace, was... perhaps the Divine Oasis Spirit's lover.

And did they say the Dark pest had absorbed a Fragment?! So does that mean that the thing itself was another being before it got that fragment?

"Leave this place!"

Suddenly, as we drew closer, the voice grew much stronger.

"I say to LEAVE!"

TRUUUM!

The dark aura continued surging from within it, shaking uncontrollably.

"It is really angry..." Celes said.

"It is full of resentment..." I sighed. "It must have had a gruesome death. However, we're not leaving, Eustace."

I stood in front of everyone, shielding them from the shockwaves.

One step at a time, we finally made it.

"You shouldn't be here... Leave... this sacred place...!"

## Chapter 959 Against The Cursed Knight

No matter how much he tried to rest in peace, the memories of that time constantly echoed within his mind, the memories of his fight, the memories of his sacrifice.

The laughter of his foe, the corrupted bastard that was paid to hunt him and his wife, after they tried to run away from the tyranny of Oceania and Odin.

"I dont want to leave her behind..."

The searing pain of the Dark Pest's black blade piercing his stomach and breaking his armor, his guts being slowly burned and melted by its black blaze...

"Dark Pest... you bastard! It wasn't enough with taking away my friends, my whole party, the friends I brought from my world, where we all survived together until reaching this high!"

"Hahahah! I have to admit it, you tried your best. But this is as far as you go, Eustace! With your death, your Guild, the Crimson Foxes, is no more! HAHHAHAHA!"

The frustration, the anger, the fury! The wrath of such a humiliating loss, while trying to protect his beloved wife! It was such a horrendously painful memory.

That even after dying, he simply couldn't forget it!

"Why? Just why?!"

His soul was corrupted by his foe's darkness, slowly becoming spectral even after having been left for hundreds of years resting in these ruins.

"WHY?! DARK PEST!"

Desperation quickly grew into utter anger, fury, endless wrath! A frustration that could never be satiated.

Only the small glimpses of his wife memories kept whatever sanity he had in check, that he wouldn't wake from his grave, and go in a rampage against innocent people, inhabitants of this accursed world.

"Dear, you have to make sure to not harm the people of this world, okay? Despite being from another world, they're much like the people of ours. Struggling, trying their best every day. I want to protect this beautiful world that has given me so much."

Her beautiful smile echoed within his fragmenting memories and corrupting mind, tears constantly falling from his own soul, turning his surroundings dark.

"My dear Naiad... I'm sorry..."

The Rainbow Spirit Crystal pieces scattered around his tomb, meant to protect him from becoming an Undead, slowly began to grow darker, corrupted by his own soul.

"For being too weak..."

Crack, crack...!

CRAAASH!

His tomb broke apart as he shattered them with his black armored fists, his Undead body slowly crawling out of his tomb.

But stopping from moving any further.

"No... STOP! You can't... UGH...!"

He grabbed his sword and pierced his own leg into the ground with it, stopping his Undead body from moving any further.

"I can't... I can't betray her like this! The people... the people she cared for is right in that village..."

He kept fighting against the impulses of bloodshed his corrupted soul and undead body desired, for hundreds of years since his awakening as an Undead.

"Naiad... Naiad... Naiad...!"

He kept recalling her name, her memories, to keep himself sealed from doing something he would never be able to forgive himself for.

As the years passed, it became progressively harder to hold himself back.

Whenever he felt a living being closer, he roared, telling them to leave... They would usually do so, as he kept... trying his best not to succumb to the darkness.

Not only recalling Naiad, but his party members, who all formed part of the Crimson Foxes.

"After going through so many trials together... All seeking the same goal, to reach the top of that damn Tower..."

The faces and laughter of his beloved friends echoed within his mind. Their smiles, their jokes, the days and nights they spent together traveling across many landscapes they could only imagine in their wildest dreams.

"All for that wish... That single wish... Naiad, why... Why did you choose to stay?"

If she didn't choose to stay in Yggdrasil, perhaps they could have continued moving together, perhaps this wouldn't have happened.

But he couldn't blame her for this, she was someone so bright and goodhearted, she simply tried to do good, because of all the terrible things she has seen through her life.

"I started climbing because I wanted the wish too... I wanted the wish so I could revive my sister, who died of a disease long ago." Naiad's voice echoed within his memories. "But once I grew this strong and found out I could change and help so many people live through similar things my sister did, I thought that this was my real calling. I want to help others and use these powers so the tragedy of my sister, doesn't happen ever again."



"We were... from worlds apart, so different from one another... Yet you accepted me, despite all my flaws... My dear Naiad..." He groaned. "You were such a good person... I... I wish... I wish I could... see you... one last time... One... last... UGH... AAARRRGHHH!"

RUMBLE!

The entire surroundings trembled, as he kept sensing the presence of several powerful foes approaching, they were not running away despite his threatening words.

"Who... Why?! Why are you coming at me despite everything?!"

He kept roaring, as he finally glanced back at them, his tall and powerful figure, clad in full body black armor, and holding a black, corrupted sword analyzed the large group of people.

"Why are you here?! What do you WANT?!"

He confronted them, roaring furiously, his Aura constantly fluctuating.

"We've come here to free you, Knight Eustace." Maria spoke, her eyes shining with crimson light and purple light, Moonlight Essence surging from her.

Her divinity wasn't just Death and Darkness though, her latest Element, Moonlight, was her trump card against those that resisted her primary elements.

"YOUUU... Do you know what you're doing?! I can't... If I fight- UGH...! LEAVE! RUN AWAY BEFORE I- AARRGH!"

TRUUUUMMM...!!!

Eustace's power kept making him go berserk, until he no longer spoke, beneath his black helmet, crimson light surged from within!

His black aura resembled black flames, constantly spreading around his surroundings, turning the sand into black crystals...

"RAAAARRRGHH!"

With a ferocious, berserk-like roar, the mighty Undead Knight rushed towards Maria, his sword in hand.

CRAAAAASSHH!!

## Chapter 960 An Accursed Power

"I can feel your pain, Eustace..." Maria sighed, her power surging from within her, Lightning melded with Moonlight, sharp pink and purple-colored shocks of electricity surging from within her Divine Aura. "You died gruesomely, did you not?"

"RAAAARRRGH!"

Eustace was completely berserk, his sword clashing against Maria in a second, an explosion of darkness and black flames engulfed everything around them!

CRAAAAASSHH!!

The black smoke slowly dissipated, to reveal Eustace's blade being locked by Maria's bare hands, tightly stopping the blade from slicing through her soul.

"GRRRHHH... GRAAAH!"

Eustace had completely lost his sanity at this point, going utterly insane as he continued groaning and roaring like a rabid dog.

Maria tried to scout his soul but could only find an endless darkness and a sea of black flames, his memories deep within it.

She had seen souls in similar state, but never such a powerful curse.

"Is this the Curse of the Dark Pest?!" Wondered Maria. "Just what is that thing to inflict such a horrendous curse into someone souls? Wait... This goes deeper than the Soul!"

Maria quickly recalled her encounter with another Necromancer that seemed to have been stronger than her in the Necromancy Department.

That Vampire wearing the mask at Tear's Tower, capable of controlling and reviving Souls through their Origin, the very depth of a Soul that no mortal can access to.

"This is not only a Soul Curse, but also a Curse to the very Origin of his Soul!"

Origins, from what she has figured out, where the deepest part of a soul, the Core of it all, once it shattered, a person's existence would be completely destroyed.

By manipulating it, it was possible to bring back people that had their souls destroyed even, as long as a contract into an Origin was previously made!

It was such an intrinsic power that surpassed most logic of what Maria ever thought as possible through Necromancy.

It was something that perhaps surpassed even this world's own laws...

"Whoever this Dark Pest bastard was... He was someone incredibly powerful!"

As these thoughts flashed through her mind, Eustace quickly attacked her, kicking her away with a powerful strike using his armored boots.

BAAAAAMM!!

"Ugh...!"

Maria took mostly no damage but felt the flames of his curse spreading over her body, which she found rather dangerous.

However, not for her!

"Unlike your Soul and Origin, mine is all mixed and weird, and corrupted to the core." Maria smiled, the flames slowly were assimilated and completely absorbed, surprising the mad knight. "I've been looking at my soul for a while now, it's really weird."

Unlike most conventional Souls, whose Origin resembled a marble of white or golden color, Maria's Origin was dark purple, with a pitch-black center.

To make things weirder, it wasn't in the form of a marble, but a mass of slime, spreading countless tentacles as roots across the rest of her soul.

This might be because her Origin had evolved alongside her, twisting the very pillar of her existence into something of eldritch levels.

However, although it was disturbing, it was also beneficial!

"RAAAAGGH!"

Eustace quickly chased after her, his sword swinging several times against Maria, releasing countless waves of slicing darkness and cursed flames.

SLAASH! SLAASH! SLAASH! SLAASH!

Maria was about to evade the powerful attacks and then retaliate with her mirror, but a flash of bright light appeared before her, Jonathan!

"I won't let you touch Maria with your accursed flames! [Divine Sunshine Blade Arts]: [Heavenly Sun's Judgement]!" Jonathan roared with fury, swinging his gigantic Divine Sword and unleashing a massive slash of pure divine power against the knight!

BOOOOMMM!!

The beam clashed against the waves of darkness, both techniques cancelling one another as an explosion of light and darkness sent a strong enough shockwave to force us to step back!

"Jonathan! Thanks, but I can handle well on my own too." Maria said. "My weapons are still in the process of being upgraded, but I am pretty overgeared now!"

"I know, but that knight... I don't think you should take it on your own." Said Jonathan. "It is too strong, and it is constantly growing stronger!"

"GRAAAHHH!"

As Jonathan said those words, that just happened. The corrupted black knight's entire aura erupted like an endless sea of darkness, spreading everywhere and filling his surroundings with dark purple glass born from the sand burning from his black flames.

TRUUUUMMM...!!!

"The crystals!" Emeraldine pointed at them. "They're transforming?!"

"Shit, this bastard's bringing a whole army with him now?!" Partner said.

As they said, the crystals quickly started to transform, Maria's eyes widened as she saw Eustace wield the Curse inflicted upon him as if it were a weapon.

The crystals transformed into giant, insect-like monsters, each one exuding the power of powerful A+++ Rank Monsters!

"SHAAAAH!"

Worst of all, they were almost a hundred, each one at least being four meters big, with the largest at seven!

"RAAAH!"

With a mighty and commanding roar, Eustace pointed his sword at our entire group, his army of Accursed Crystal Beasts quickly started rushing towards us.

"And to think I wanted a solo fight for once..." Maria sighed. "Alright, everyone! Let's wreck them like we always do! We can't let Eustace go berserk and get his army of critters close to the village."

With a few words of leadership, Maria's entire party was pumped up for battle, everyone rushing in and clashing against the powerful crystal beasts.

Lucifer and Partner were the first to step forwards after Maria and Jonathan, utilizing their abilities and magic to bombard the monsters and shatter them into pieces.

The Dragon King used his sharp claws and Abyssal Death Flames to set ablaze his foes, weakening them before cutting them into pieces.

Partner used the power of her two newly reinforced spears to pierce through the monster army, explosions of crimson blood energy and darkness erupting one after another.

"KILL... DARK PEST... RAAAGGGH!"

With a furious scream, the knight didn't remain in one place while summoning his endless waves of monsters, leaping into the air and then descending like a blazing black meteor.

And he pointed his sword at nobody else than Celes!

"CELES!"

CRAAAAASSHH!!