

A Ghost 981

Chapter 981 Troublesome Skills

After that, I decided to try out another fruit to see the effects of it again. But there was none this time. I didn't gain any stats and anything, not even a new Skill. But I did feel slightly stronger. And my soul expanded a bit more. But that was it. I guess the other four A++ Rank Fruits won't be much more useful to me. I might as well see if they can still work for Nyx.

"Here dear, more fruit for you."

"Yaaay!"

She quickly ate them all before I could even gauge if she was growing stronger out of them or not. But it worked. Her limits were perhaps much wider than mine because she wasn't as strong as I was, or something. Well, whatever was the real reason, it worked.

"Woohaa! I am so powerful now!"

Her Phantasmal Aura had at least grown five times as big since she ate all the fruits. Her magic power almost doubled, and her mana definitely tripled. Above all, several of her Skills evolved and leveled up too. So she was immensely benefited by the fruits.

"It seems she got much stronger, that's nice." Lucifer nodded happily. "Though I would have minded some fruits for myself..."

"I know Nyx is important, so I won't complain myself~" Partner shrugged. "She's the youngest here, right?"

"Ahem! I mean, of course. She's my dearest daughter." Lucifer nodded. "If possible, prioritizing her growth above our own should be our goal. That is the goal of every parent, to help their children grow so they can become strong and take care of themselves, eventually leaving the nest and spreading their wings, to find a new nest for themselves, a mate, and make more children-"

"You talk as if we were animals." I sighed. "Nyx can stay as much as she wants with us. I am not going to just tell her to go away once she hits adulthood!"

"I-I know, I was just saying..." He sighed. "It's usually what I was taught, the customs of us dragons. I personally left my nest at a fairly younger age. But I suppose Nyx can wait much longer, whatever she wants anyways. My dear daughter will know when to do the right thing." He smiled sweetly, patting the girl who was eating large pieces of roasted meat.

"I-I guess I didn't get to have a fruit..." Suddenly, Eustace appeared by my side. I immediately felt slightly bad about it.

"Oh my, sorry! I just forgot about you. Well, do you even need one? You're plenty strong already." I laughed.

"A bit more of strength wouldn't have been bad, but I understand the thought process behind it, yes." He nodded. "So, do we fight this night?"

"Yeah, tonight it is." I nodded to everyone. "We need to quickly get ready for that. Meditate, train your abilities, cultivate, eat, or sleep. Anything so you'll feel at 100% once the time comes. I will be practicing one of my Skills, which is really damn annoying... The plan is already said and done, right? We all know our roles."

"Yeah, more or less. You spent several days telling us about what we would do." Catarina nodded. "We'll attack at midnight then?"

"Yes, but the hour can change. I will now expand my senses to see when we can do this safely." I said. "If you need anything, just call me!"

FLUOSH!

I quickly disappeared from the scene, moving inside of my own Shadow Realm, and sitting cross-legged. I floated in midair, closing my eyes and isolating myself from my surroundings. I began training my Senses Skill to their fullest potential.

I expanded my senses to the left, right, behind and in front. It was incredibly fantastical how it worked. If I focused enough, I could even put my own point of perspective just anywhere. As if my eyes were everywhere all at once.

And not only that, but I could also smell anywhere too, hear anywhere, touch and taste anywhere. Though the later is not really that useful. I don't really want to learn how the floor tastes like, so I'll be blocking that one for now.

...

However, as the hours went by and the night was already here, I had only advanced about thirty percent. It was still dizzy to even expand my senses. And I was now seriously considering just shutting most of the skill's enhancements for now.

But that would bring me such a great disadvantage! I can't do that. I have to keep trying and working hard. It was still around eight pm, so there's some more time...

["You've unlocked a rather incredible Skill- No, many new incredible Skills. That fruit has sure helped you grow stronger."]

"Shut it, I am concentrating!"

["I know, I was just saying that... Well, I can also help you get used to these senses faster."]

"You can?! Why didn't you said so before?!"

["It was amusing to see you try so hard, you're cute when you're working hard and your face distorts as you're frustrated."]

"Ugh you're the fucking worst! Just tell me how!"

["Guess."]

"System Points again?"

["Hahah. Well, shall we begin? It should be quick."]

"Sure, sure. Whatever. Spend as much as you need. But give me the full control of this complicated Skill."

["It's going to be painful, are you truly sure?"]

"I have never been so sure in my goddamn life! Now, do it."

["Alright then. Don't say I didn't warn you..."]

Ding!

[Automatic System Proficiency Acquisition System has been forcefully unlocked.]

[Authorization has been granted without issues due to the level of the Host's soul.]

[System Points will be spent to automatically rise the proficiency and robotically inject the knowledge and experience necessary to master the Skill's usage.]

[Warning, this might cause severe pain in the soul.]

[Are you sure you want to initiate this function?]

[Yes] [No]

"Seriously, with that again? Yes."

I pressed yes, and well, he wasn't wrong.

ZAAAP!

A world of pain buzzed through my entire soul, anything I had ever felt before was absolutely nothing.

And because it wasn't a dream where my feeling of pain was half-dulled, it was worse than the dream where The One shattered my soul.

I gritted my teeth, resisting the impulse to scream and swear. My senses consciously expanding.

Before I realized it, the process was done.

Chapter 982 Let's Begin

[You have exchanged 10.000.000 System Points.]

[Your proficiency with the selected skill has increased by 100%!]

[You now know how to properly utilize this skill without any issues.]

[Due to the increase in proficiency, the [Phantasmal Multi-Layered Mind Domain: Lv1] Skill has gained two Levels!]

The system windows popped up one after another, as I felt an immense flow of power encompass my entire body. With a smile, I could see everything much more clearly now. I could feel it all, touch it, see it, hear it, and even taste it, although I'll turn that off for now.

I finally realized why I acquired such an ability that made me feel so horrible. I have no physical body. Why should I restrict myself with what a physical body can do? I am my own soul, a phantasmal entity, I can expand everywhere, be everywhere.

"Phew... I think I can do this now." I smiled, feeling more confident on myself.

Before, I felt a slight doubt even now, I was afraid to an extent, of all the things that could go wrong. But I simply have to fight with all my might, and with everyone at my side. I have to employ my abilities and be cautious enough. I have a plan, and we'll execute it to the best of our abilities.

We have not been preparing this long for nothing after all. And it was finally time to step out and move forwards. Tonight, all these bastards are going down, and we're freeing his town from their tyranny. Yeah, that includes the bitch Saintess. I'm going to enjoy eating her soul.

"Is everyone ready?" I asked, appearing out of my shadows.

My family and allies were there, they all nodded in unison. They were ready for anything now. And it was finally time to do what we've all been anticipating for a long while.

"I've been ready for a while now, Maria." Lucifer said.

"Me too, mama! With your equipment, I have nothing to fear!" Nyx roared.

"I am more than ready." Said Partner, crossing her arms.

"Let's do this. And quickly, I don't want to spend the whole night on this if possible!" Emeraldine said.

"Same, although the vampires are at advantage at night, so we are." Catarina nodded. "Silva, keep yourself close to me."

"Sure big sis!" Silva nodded.

"Woof!" Blackie wagged his tail.

"Maria, so we are dividing then?" Asked Jonathan. "I thought we would raid the dungeon together, but that would be too difficult when our parties are so large."

"Yeah, we'll be dividing." I nodded. "Half of us will go down and confront the Warlocks and stop or destroy the Dark Pest. The other half will ambush the Saintess and her Paladins once I give the signal. I need to first confirm if she's working or not with the Warlocks. If we happen to attack her first, then she can tell the Warlocks and our surprise attack will be completely ruined."

"Yeah, that makes some sense." Partner nodded. "So who is going down and who's staying up?"

"The party going down will be Lucifer, Nyx, Celes, Nia, and Jonathan." I decided. "More than that and it would be detrimental. I will bring my Undead to make up for numbers if we are ever surrounded. The rest stays up, Emeraldine will lead you."

"You're not dividing yourself, Maria?" Emeraldine asked.

"I considered it, but I won't this time. I'll leave you several phantom clones directly connected to my mind and thoughts though. They'll give you a boost in power if they fuse with you, so don't worry." I winked at her. "I think I need all my stats intact, so I'll go by myself, entirely."

"Why can't I go down though?!" Partner complained, I expected this already. "Jonathan is going but not me?! This is unfair, master! I am your partner!"

"I know, dear. But you'll be more useful up here, below the moonlight and the night than going down." I said. "Jonathan's element is perfect against the vampires down below too. Celes is coming because he's

the key to slay the Dark Pest by using his powers, Nia is coming because she's his mother. And Eustace is of course sticking with him too."

"But what about Nyx? She's a baby, she should stay in the security of the surface." Said Partner.

"Auntie I am not a baby!" Nyx pouted angrily. "Right mama?"

"Nyx has proved to be reliable. She also has phantasmal abilities perfect for stealth. And I can't let her be alone without her mother and father." I sighed. "Sorry Partner, but can you trust my judgment this time?"

"Fine..." She sighed. "Not like I can help it! So we're taking care of the kids, pretty much."

"Hey, I'm not a kid!" Laura said. "Mom knows I am reliable, right?"

"Of course Laura, I am counting on you to protect the weaker ones within your party. Fabian too, make sure to protect your friends." I said. "Catarina, Silva, the same thing... Blackie too!"

"Okay, gotcha." Catarina nodded.

"I-I'll do my best!" Silva said.

"Woof!" Blackie barked again.

"I'll take care of them." Tear said.

"We've grown much stronger since we first meet you, Auntie Maria!" Fabian said. "Maybe alone we're still not so much, but as long as we remain together as a team. We can even defeat powerful foes. Trust us!"

"I will! Alright." I nodded, looking into the distance. "It's time to move on. Party 1, follow me, party 2, move near the church and hide in the shadows, spying on the paladins and their movements. Emeraldine, I'll leave this to your wonderful eyes."

"Of course, you can count on me, Maria." Emeraldine was the calmest and smartest of the entire party 2, so I had to trust her judgment above the rest. "Now go, let's not waste more time. We have to end this."

"Alright. We're moving!" I encompassed everyone within my shadows and disappeared from the scene, teleporting from shadow to shadow, until I finally arrived where the Pharaoh had guided me beforehand.

An abandoned alley in the streets of the poorest areas of the city, there was a giant wall made of stone and imbued with runes and magic. It was the wall that was recently built to block the entrance to the underground pyramid. I didn't even smash it, I just phased through it and continued on my way down.

"Let's do this."

Chapter 983 Invading The Warlocks' Territory

"We're finally here." The Lich Pharaoh sighed, surging from my shadows. "Hmm, the Divinity Aura of the Artifact I told you about is lingering, somewhere deep underground."

"The Star Ship or whatever was it called?" I asked.

"Yes, the artifact we tried to create to visit the heavens and ask the Gods why they were bastards." Sighed the Pharaoh. "And the reason why we were all killed. Baldr's divine light was ruthless. And the bastard might descend again if we dare touching that divine artifact again."

"I say bring it." I smiled. "God or not... I'm going to fucking crush him. I got my trump cards. I won't lose so easily."

"Heh, such confidence. I suppose I couldn't expect anything less from the Saintess of Death." Said the Pharaoh.

"For now, stay still. Let's sneak in first." I said, as I swiftly moved across the shadows. The rest of my party waiting inside.

The corridor was long, but it led to a larger interior area of the pyramids. As I moved, I could feel a powerful dark presence growing stronger and stronger. And then, I felt several lifeforms nearby. I hid in a shadow, and completely erased my presence, as I saw a group of Warlocks walking across the corridor, carrying with them large flasks filled with groaning souls.

"Our Lord is soon to be reborn."

"Master Maleficus said that we only need a few more sacrifices."

"Do you think these souls will be enough?"

"Not at all, we need at least a few thousand more. Ot his resurrection will be half-assed."

"Hmph, this better works... I am uneasy about asking outside help."

"We must trust Master Maleficus judgment..."

Outside help? Are they asking for outside help? But from where? And why? Can't they just ask the Saintess to bring them souls or something? Or... are they plotting against one another? This is weird. It feels as if Maleficus isn't exactly the ally of that Saintess 100%. I guess you can never trust this vicious kind of vampires.

"Maria, I would recommend we kill those guys before they become a hindrance later." Lucifer said.

"I know." I nodded, winking at him. "[Shadow Domain]"

FLUOSH!

Before the two Vampire Warlocks could ever bring his master with the souls, they were engulfed in an endless sea of shadows. They were full of confusion and then, horror as they saw they were trapped inside my Shadow Realm.

Countless tentacles made of shadows appeared everywhere, constantly trying to constraint them. At the same time, the rest of my party confronted them amidst their screams, which nobody could hear.

"Dammit! An ambush?!"

"T-This woman! It's the one that killed Lord Belphegor and the others!"

"T-The Witch?! No!"

The duo quickly transformed, from old-looking vampires, they became two giant and monstrous chimeric aberrations. Made of many stitched pieces of monsters stuck together. Each one was at least twenty meters tall, quite the behemoths.

"We won't let you catch us!"

"Did you think we were frail little old men?!"

The two chimeric vampires rushed forwards, easily breaking out of the shadow tentacles from my Shadow Realm and attempting to break through its walls to free themselves. However, a gigantic figure loomed behind them, Lucifer appeared.

"Where do you think you're going?"

With a single swipe of his tail, one of them was immediately thrown down, the second was swiftly blown away by his breath attack, their entire body ablaze with Abyssal Death Flames that consumed their bodies.

"D-Dammit!"

The one that was burning quickly tried to escape while conjuring magic. His arms, imbued with artifacts, conjured a dozen magic circles of all colors, firing tornadoes, flames, ice, stone, and all other elemental magic spells, trying to break through my shadows.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

"It's almost cute how hard you're trying to run away."

My voice reverberated across the Shadow Realm, the vampire looking into the darkness as he saw my countless crimson eyes opening. I harnessed the power of my Divine Spectral Asura's Endless Limbs Skill, as thousands of hands and fists appeared out of the shadows, made of phantasmal energy.

"W-What the...?! Just what are you?!"

As the man screamed and conjured his multi-elemental magic, my gigantic claws slashed him apart, my fists crushed his bones, and my fingers pierced his soul like a spear. He was unable to fight back, and unable to regenerate. He was swiftly torn to shreds.

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH!

I swiftly devoured his soul whole without missing a single bit, quickly absorbing part of his memories as information. But it would take a little while to process everything. At least I felt a bit stronger, it was a decently big soul.

"P-Please spare me! I will fight for you! I will become your slave, even! Just don't kill me! I don't want to die!"

The other Vampire was clamoring for mercy, but we didn't give him any. The screaming souls they were carrying were of people they had kidnaped and killed in gruesome ways, so their souls would have a lot of negative energy, necessary for their ritual.

"There's no mercy for the wicked."

SLASH!

After saying that, Jonathan's divine sword descended vertically into the weakened Vampire's monstrous body, slashing him into two halves before he could even fight back. An explosion of light quickly engulfing the rest of his body, turning him into ashes.

BOOOM!

"Alright, let's keep on moving." Lucifer said, crossing his arms.

"Not fair! I also wanted to fight, daddy!" Nyx said.

"Okay, the next one is yours then." I said. "Be prepared, Nyx."

I kept creeping through the pyramid, noticing more footsteps approaching. There was another pair of Vampires. Both were also S- Rank, around the same strength as the ones we just killed. I quickly abducted them with my shadows without waiting another second.

Both appeared in my shadows, panicking. One screamed and turned into a giant praying mantis-like bug, the other became a three-headed snake, both roaring and trying to ask us who we were.

However, the last thing they saw was my daughter's dragon form, burning them to ashes and ripping them apart.

As we moved deeper into the pyramid, we managed to catch another six more warlocks. All of them were on the duty of retrieving materials for whatever damn ritual they were doing. But the rest of the dungeon was incredibly empty. There were laboratories here and there, but we couldn't find a single survivor. We only found corpses and no lingering souls. They took them away, all for the Dark Pest. That bastard.

"I can feel him, his presence!" Said Eustace, he seemed uneasy. "Yin Shang... That monster. He's somewhere around here!"

"So you can feel that horrid stench as well." I sighed. "Well, that Yin Shang is the Dark Pest, right?"

"Yes... He's a bastard from Murim, a Demonic Sect Young Master with incredible power, and a heart blacker than the night. He's merciless, ruthless, and a sadistic monster." Eustace said. "I can't believe these vampires are worshiping him as some kind of god... He's just a monster!"

"He grew stronger by acquiring a fragment of the Evil God, I am impressed he was able to manipulate the power of that fragment despite being a human..." Tyr said.

"People that originate from Murim are not normal humans. They cultivate their bodies, minds, and souls to completely superhuman levels." Eustace said. "They utilize millenary cultivation techniques to imbue the essence of heaven into themselves. The reason why he was able to dominate the fragment must be that... He's a Demonic Cultivator, someone that cultivates Yin Energy the most, Darkness, Evilness, Bloodshed, all of that nourishes him and makes him stronger."

"Yikes, what a guy." I sighed. "We better slay him before he even wakes up then."

"I agree, it would be better if we get him out of our way right away." Lucifer nodded. "Look, we're getting closer to some sort of larger hall... There are many warlocks there!"

"At least a dozen." Jonathan said. "They're circling around... Some sort of black statue?"

"No, that's not a statue!" Nyx said. "I can sense some strong aura from it, something terrifying! I-I think that's the Shing Shong guy Eustace talked about!"

I concentrated my senses towards that direction utilizing my powerful Multi-Layered Mind Domain. And then I had a really good view of everything, which I projected into my Shadow Realm through an Illusion Magic Spell.

What looked like a statue made of black crystal and with some strange red and black liquid inside was in fact, a sealed entity. Several parts of its body were missing, as if they had been cracked down and fell apart.

And from the cracks, I could see pulsating black and red flesh, with veins and blood pouring out of them. Something was alive below that rocky, crystalline skin, and it was slowly beginning to awaken.

The humanoid statue rested in the middle of an incredibly intricate ritual magic circle engraved into the floor.

"Yin Shang..." Eustace muttered. "Or as you know him, the Dark Pest. The bastard that killed me and... killed my beloved Naiad. He's there, and he's slowly being unsealed!"

"I can feel some of Naiad's leftover energy there..." Celes said. "S-So she really used her own body to seal him there, for all these years..."

"Goodness, our Divine Spirit sacrificed so much for us..." Nia was almost on tears.

"Enough, there's no time to cry, Nia." I said, looking into the warlocks. "We need to strike while the iron is hot. That old guy at the end of the hall, above the pedestal, it must be Maleficus. My Analysis quickly told me so."

"Maleficus, their leader?" Nia asked.

"Yes, as long as we can kill him, the ritual should end, and everything will dissipate. Then we can finish off Yin Shang by destroying him without him even being able to fight back. I have a way to deal with

those that take upon fragments of the Evil God, so don't worry about that." I said. "The thing is, all those twelve other warlocks, are all S Rank."

"We'll have to get through all of them to get to Maleficus..." Lucifer said. "They do look rather focused. Can't you sneak behind him?"

"I'll try that. But everyone, be prepared. These guys were the ones that trapped us inside a pocket dimension and all, there's nothing saying they don't have another trick." I said. "I'll do what I can to defend you, but once you are out, you need to fight for your lives as well."

Everyone nodded, nobody doubted themselves anymore. It was finally time to end this damned conflict once and for all.

"Then let's go."

With as much speed as I could, I moved towards the hall. I was unable to teleport because of how bright the entire area was due to large spheres of light below the ceiling. There were no shadows in range.

FLASH!

However, I was able to easily slip pass the warlocks focusing on the ritual, and swiftly made my way behind Maleficus, who was constantly reinforcing the ritual circle with his magic.

"Oh, lord of darkness, lord of pests, please bless us with-"

Before he could speak any other word, I appeared right behind him, and my entire party leaped out of my shadows, at the same time as I summoned both of my weapons. The giant halberd and the magic sword and attempted to quickly cut him into pieces.

"YOU?!"

"Hey~"

His face twisted in shock before my two weapons slashed through his body, cutting him into three pieces. Blood and guts splattering everywhere, as an explosion of darkness and phantasmal energy erupted, the entire ritual was interrupted!

BOOOOMM!!

Shadows and phantasmal flames engulfed everything in the hall, the warlocks panicked as they saw the destruction. Their smaller bodies swiftly transforming into all matter of chimeric abominations, overflowing with dark and blood auras.

"Who is it?!"

"They attacked Master Maleficus!"

"Bastards!"

"Kill them!"

"Don't let them stop the ritual!!!"

The dozen S Ranked Warlocks leaped towards us, my party swiftly leaping into action, clashing against all of them at once. At the same time as I felt a presence lurk behind me. A giant claw made of darkness and blood reached my head, crushing it.

CRAAASH!

"You're still alive, huh?"

However, I swiftly reformed several new ones, glaring at the figure surging from within the smoke.

Of course, it was Maleficus.

"What an amusing being you are..."

Chapter 985 Maria Against Maleficus

After taking two direct hits from my reinforced weapons, Maleficus looked as good as new. This old man was bad news. His regeneration abilities were on par with mine. Above all else, he looked strangely younger. His old face disappeared, and although half his black robes were torn apart, his torso was revealed to look incredibly youthful and muscular. Black and red tattoos covering him entirely. I hated to admit it, but his face looked handsome, his long black hair waving by the wind. His sharp crimson eyes glaring at me with utter hatred.

Unlike the other Warlocks, he looked much more refined on his appearance, but even then, I could notice how his entire being was made of countless monsters and people stitched together. Somehow, he had refined his formerly aberrant form into a "perfected" one... And I suspect the Dark Pest must be the culprit, teaching him some sort of cultivation technique to refine his body into a perfect demonic physique.

"Are you amused by my appearance?" He laughed cockily. "Unlike the rest, I am different. Thanks to the blessings of my lord, I've refined my former body into a youthful one. My old appearance is nothing but a façade to trick all of you into thinking I am weak and frail. It never gets old; you always fall for it and get closer..."

His arms slowly turned pitch black, as I noticed red veins pulsating from within them, constantly imbuing them with miasma and blood energy. He had miasma all over his body. It was as if he had assimilated an evil god fragment himself, but I couldn't sense any! Did he refine a physique using miasma?! Is this what the Dark Pest learned in this time being sealed?

"I can't say I am not surprised." I smiled. "Hell, you're even a bit handsome, old man. But knowing you're just another of those monsters. I just want to crush you to death and be done with this." I said, my dress swiftly absorbing my powers as I was covered by a full-body armor of black and golden steel, lightning, moonlight, and void essences resonating across it all.

"Ambushes never work against me..." Maleficus smiled. "And the people up above will die... It has all been decided already. We even expected you would come here... I will gladly accept you with open arms. The preparations for their arrival are already done long ago."

"Arrival?" I asked. "You mean the outside help your other little warlocks I ate were talking about?"

"Oh, so you know... Well, not like it changes anything." Laughed Maleficus.

FLASH!

In a split second, he disappeared, only to reappear right above me. If it wasn't for my expanded Senses Domain, I wouldn't have been able to sense his presence moving behind me at all. I swiftly twisted my entire body, parrying his claw attacks with both of my weapons, explosions of darkness and phantom flames erupting as we clashed.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

"So you predicted that!" He laughed. His incredibly tough arms and claws were barely showing a few scratches. Somehow his body density was incredibly high. It felt like I was hitting a wall of metal instead of a man made of flesh. "Can you predict this?"

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

Maleficus moved at lightning speed once more, appearing and disappearing around me, evading my attacks while constantly trying to attack me. His claws growing larger and sharper, overflowing with an Aura of Blood and Miasma.

"Why are you evading my blows when you're so tough? Are you afraid of me?" I provoked him with a giggle. "I am only gauging you for now, you know? I haven't even started fighting yet."

"Your bluffing is endearing."

FLASH!

He appeared right above me, his Aura transforming into a gigantic black sword, which he swung downwards with enough power and speed to split half a city apart.

Now!

I quickly imbued Mana into both of my weapons, activating their effects.

"[Umbral Moonlight Rampage]"

The Halber's effect activated, as purple flames covered my weapons. A barrage of dozens of powerful blows rained down on Maleficus in that very second. His skin slowly gaining small wounds that worsened as the Moonlight Flames burned through them.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CRAAASH!

"Ugh! My skin is being tainted by your measly attacks?!" Maleficus roared, quickly trying to move at his lightning speed. "YOU!"

However, the moment he tried, my body also turned into lightning, catching up to him as he moved. His eyes widened in shock before a giant axe strike pummeled him down into the floor. An explosion of debris spread out; the entire pyramid trembled.

BAAAMMM!!!

"You WITCH!"

With a furious roar, his Aura erupted from his body, resembling a ferocious roaring dragon. It rushed towards me, engulfing my entire body. I felt my soul being slowly burned, as I noticed that the dragon was made of Abyssal Flames capable of burning through a soul.

"Burn to ashes!"

His fists reached me in a split second, countless strikes descended towards me, slowly chipping away my self-regenerating armor. More and more wounds covered my soul, but I held my ground. A hundred limbs made of phantom rushed towards him, countering his fists with my own techniques.

Each blow of my phantasmal fists slightly hurt his soul, and also began to weaken him. His stats beginning to decrease, completely unaware that by merely standing close to me, he was having his energy drained. My life draining curse already leaving a few runes over his body.

"Uugh...! Why do I feel weakened out of nowhere?!" He thought, noticing the runes spread over his arms. "What?! What is this?"

"The more this fight goes on, the weaker you will grow, Maleficus." I smiled. "Your flames are barely itching my soul. Do you even understand how big it is? You could never fathom it."

FLUOSH!

My Soul Aura expanded, like an endless sea of pure darkness. Maleficus gave a step back, the tattoos across his body activating as the power of all the entities he had assimilated into his body activated one after another.

"That means absolutely nothing!"

His fists absorbed his Aura, unleashing two powerful fists that resembled roaring black dragons.

BOOOMM...!!

Chapter 986 A Monstrous Fight!

The twin dragons engulfed my entire body. Their titanic jaws biting both of my arms and trying to tear them apart as Maleficus laughed. His powerful Aura constantly changing as it revealed the shaped of countless beasts he had assimilated. And also thousands of people of all shapes and sizes, even children. They all rushed towards me, like a legion of ghosts made of darkness and these abyssal flames, trying to drag me down.

"This is the power of my Physique!" Laughed Maleficus. "The [One Thousand Abyssal Ghosts Physique]! The gift my Lord gave to me, so I could one day revive him! With this, not even a monstrous necromancer ghost like you can even fight against me! Drown on all the souls and ghosts I've assimilated into my body!"

As Maleficus laughed, the monstrous abyssal ghosts continued dragging me down, trying to tear my soul apart. All while his claws attempted to slash me into pieces. I had to admit it, he was incredibly strong.

However.

"Good, I couldn't have expected anything less. You better tell me more of that physique later. Once I eat your soul and inspect your memories."

With a single step forward, a gigantic shockwave of my powerful Aura surged from my body. My Aether Stat and Mana combining together to release a gigantic amount of power, surging like an Aura of all my combined elements. My equipment further reinforcing my stats through the roof.

TRUUUMMM..!!

With a single shockwave, half of the abyssal ghosts instantly disappeared. And with another, the rest dissipated into thin air. Maleficus, who was charging another technique, was left speechless as my axe reached down towards him, slashing down his left arm.

CRAAASH!

As blood and miasma splattered into the floor. He furiously unleashed a barrage of kicks. His legs swiftly being covered on an armor of black and purple scales, as he grew a long tail, using it to maneuvers back into a standing position.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

"Your kicks are too feeble!"

However, I brute forced my way forwards, my Aura shapeshifting into two gigantic palms made of moonlight, darkness, and void. They looked as if they were made of the night itself.

"[Selene Palm's of Judgement]: [Hands of Hades]"

BAAAM! BAAAM! BAAAM!

Maleficus was slammed, pieces of his skin and flesh splattering as he was unable to evade anymore. His eyes widening in both anger and frustration, his Aura swiftly imbuing itself into his body, generating a dragon armor.

"RAAAH!"

With a furious roar, a tremendous breath of black flames was unleashed from his jaws, blasting apart both of my Hands of Hades and swiftly piercing my chest, leaving a gigantic hole before the explosion of black flames were to engulf me.

BOOOMM!!

At the same time, he appeared above me, fully knowing that wouldn't have killed me, he materialized two gigantic swords out of his powers. I could sense the screams of the ghosts he used to create them.

"I swore to my Lord that I would kill you, Hel's Witch! And that is what I will do!"

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

A barrage of slashing attacks covered my entire body, suddenly dividing it into dozens of pieces at once. A large quantity of pain attacked my soul as I saw each piece of myself blow into pieces after being cut down.

"That power you possess is a double-edged sword."

However, I was fine even then, I teleported to the shadows behind him and then activated another rampage of weapon attacks. While Maleficus tried to defend with his long draconic tail, only to fail miserably before another of my new skills.

"[Abyssal Netherworld's Star]"

My hands conjured a pair of spheres of condensed darkness, void, and death. Which swiftly flew towards his tail and body, engulfing him into a terrific explosion. Half of his body was burned to almost a crisp, his tail completely disintegrating.

BOOOOMM!!

"Hahhh... Y-Youuuu!"

Maleficus roared, rushing towards me as I noticed his "perfect form" constantly growing more demonic and draconic in appearance. His charred body simply dropped the burnt skin and regrew redder skin on top. A pair of black horns slowly growing over his forehead.

"DIE!!!"

With a furious scream, his Blood Magic activated as all the blood he had lost was employed on this spell. I found myself completely caged on endlessly spiraling blood, which constantly attempted to shred my soul apart.

However, my Abyssal Netherworld's Star were summoned in quick succession, I manipulated them all at once, generating my own spiraling ring of miniature black stars. The cage of blood he tried to entrap me in was swiftly destroyed.

BOOOM!

"Enough with your games, Maleficus!"

My arms divided into thousands; a barrage of lightning- imbued fists crushed every fiber of his body into the floor. I constantly kept attacking him. The power of my equipment triggering and enhancing my attack power even further.

"[Divine Spectral Asura's Endless Limbs]: [Death Lightning Fist Rain]"

BAAM! BAAM! BAAM! BAAM! BAAM!

It was like a rain of lightning; he was unable to block all blows with his armor or his aura. And each time he attempted to punch my soul, another lightning fist would block his attempt, while his muscles tensed, and I even heard his bones cracking.

"Looks like that tough body of yours is not being able to resist much longer!" I laughed. "Time for the butchering!"

Summoning my sword and my axe again, I swiftly attempted to hack him into him into pieces. Only for him to swiftly kick my chest and leap away a second before my attacks were to reach him. And then the next moment, his missing arm, now replaced by a giant mass of miasma and abyssal flames, swiftly grew ten times larger, imitating my Selene's Palm and attempting to crush me.

"[Abyssal Dragon's Palm]!"

CRAAASH!!!

The pressure and power were enormous, and by merely touching this hand, I felt that my soul was slowly burning and dying. I gritted my phantasmal teeth and swiftly transformed my body into a mass of poisonous slime.

"[Poisonous Calamity Swarm Body]: [Calamity Poison Form]"

FLUOSH!

A sea of poison swiftly drowned Maleficus, the acidic substances swiftly beginning to burn through his wounds, worsening them by the second.

"Aaarrgghh!"

Chapter 987 The Dark Pest Awakens

Lucifer and Jonathan led Maria's party, their attacks and magic swiftly clashing against the Chimeric Vampires, whose shapes transformed into aberrant creatures. Their claws, magic, and abilities were all incredibly strong, they were all S Rank after all. They held enough power to hold their ground even against such a big group as Maria's party.

Their clash was intense, Lucifer was the one to transform into his dragon form and quickly draw their attention. While he was being ganged on by five of the chimeras, Jonathan swiftly descended from above, using his divine sword arts to swiftly cut through them, attempting to slash them into pieces with his purifying light.

He managed to kill two of the chimeras, before the other ten quickly changed their tactics. The five toughest moved towards the heavy hitters, while the other five started conjuring devastating magic from afar, explosions reverberated everywhere. And amidst this chaos, Celes and Nia ran towards the sealed statue of the Dark Pest.

"Where do you think you're going?!" A monstrous vampire chimera with the body of a giant monkey, possessing six muscular arms and the head of a blazing salamander crashed into the ground right in front of them. His six arms assimilating elemental magic conjured by relicts imbued into his flesh and bones, as a meteoric rain of fists descended upon them. "DIE!"

"Nooo!"

Celes cried, his Divine Spiritual Aura of Water surged, summoning a powerful wall of divine and crystalline, azure-colored water. Further boosted by his spirits, it held off against the vampire's fists with ease, before swiftly pouring down onto the chimera, the water draining away his life force and mana.

SPLAAASH!

"W-What the...?! What is this damn- ARRGH!"

And that wasn't all, the Vampire was swiftly greeted by a spiraling spear, imbued with powerful lightning. Celes' mother, Nia, leaped into midair and then rushed down with her spear pointed down.

"[Tempestuous Thunderstorm Spear]!"

CRAAASH!

The spear pierced the vampire's chest, as an outburst of cutting winds and lightning swiftly engulfed his body into utter agony. The explosion was so strong it blew away Nia and Celes, before Eustace were to appear in front of them to protect them from the shockwave.

BOOOMM!!

"AARRGGH!"

The Vampire swiftly stood back up, barely alive. The blood he lost was employed offensively. As he kept insulting them, a rain made of blood spears rained down. Celes held his ground with the barriers he

created, while giant tridents made of spiritual water pierced the chimera constantly. At the same time, Nia and Eustace confronted the vampire head-on, their weapons clashing against his tough hide and metallic claws.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

Over time, he grew weaker, his roars and rage only echoing faintly as the Water Ghost and wind-wielding mother pointed their weapons against his neck. The divine ghostly sword of azure color slashed him swiftly, while the lightning and wind-imbued spear pierced him deep. His head rolled over the ground, the vampire's body collapsing!

BAAAM!

"Now, before anybody gets closer!" Eustace roared.

"Celes!" Nia cried.

"I'm coming!" Celes said, as he saw the fairies of water suddenly fuse into his body. A pair of big, butterfly wings made of azure water grew from his back, guiding him towards the Dark Pest's sealed body.

FLASH!

The boy gathered all his powers together, doing as Maria had told him before. The Dark Pest was incredibly strong, but the powers that Celes had inherited from Naiad were the key to hold him back! After all, it was Naiad who sealed him for all these hundreds of years.

"Mama! Eustace!"

Celes channeled his powers into his mother and Eustace, imbuing into them an Aura of Divine Spiritual Water. His powers combined with them, as Eustace swiftly transformed, fusing into Nia's spear.

FLUOSH!

A giant spear of azure and crystalline divine spirit water materialized, growing larger, and overflowing with divine power. Celes' power didn't hesitate to point at the black statue. Her wind and lightning combining into the water to form a mighty windstorm and thunderstorm effect.

CRAAASH!

With all their might, they aimed to destroy the Dark Pest before he could revive! However, as the explosion of water, winds, and lightning erupted as it impacted the sealed monster, a wave of corrupted spiritual essence exploded.

BOOOM!

"Uwaahh!"

Celes, his mother, and Eustace were all blown away by the powerful explosive shockwave. The entire dungeon trembled once more. The black statue gained a few more cracks as it was hit, but nothing else happened. They slowly stood up to find the statue beginning to float in midair.

A barrier of miasma, chaos, and corrupted spirit energy was summoned, protecting the sealed demon from Murim like a bubble of black color. The roar of anger of something within this black crystal echoed, reverberating across the entire dungeon.

"T-That's... Naiad's powers?!" Eustace cried. "Bastard...!"

"Did you thought it would be easy for a mere child and her mother to ever harm someone as mighty as me?! Even if sealed, I am someone that will transcend the heavens." The voice spoke. "I have cultivated this spiritual power that your foolish Oasis Spirit has left behind, and I've made it mine! Her powers no longer will damage me! And you, my pathetic slaves, what are you doing?! Protect me!"

With a furious scream, the Vampires swiftly rushed towards the Dark Pest, protecting him from the attackers. Magic circles expanded around their surroundings. The Dark Pest's powers fusing into them, as Miasmic Beasts started to be summoned by the dozens!

"Yan Shang, you bastard!" Eustace roared, appearing on his ghostly form once more.

The Dark Pest could recognize that voice amidst the sea of monsters. His sharp red eyes shone beneath his crystal cage. A laughter echoed across the dungeon.

"Eustace, my good friend." He laughed. "It looks like even after death, you've come to pester me! But do not worry, this time, I will make sure not even your soul is spared!"

As the Dark Pest laughed, the Vampires and his army of Miasmic Beasts attacked the group. Celes, Nia, and Eustace were forced back as they were constantly attacked by a rampage of magic and blows from the Vampires.

"So he wasn't totally sealed, huh..." Maria noticed the Dark Pest.

Chapter 988 Rematch! Eustace Against Yan Shang

"You're the reincarnation of that divine spirit, are you not?!" Laughed a giant four-armed lion-headed chimera vampire. "Good! You came right towards us! We will use your divine spirit soul to fully resurrect our lord!"

The giant rushed forwards, appearing in front of Celes and his mother in a split of a second. His four gigantic arms, covered on black and red scales, pummeled down a dozen meteoric punches, the ground shook as it broke apart before his might.

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH!

"Celes!"

However, Eustace appeared in front of mother and son, his sword clashing against the gigantic fists. His azure eyes overflowed with a slight about of divinity himself. Whatever remnant power from his now destroyed Divine Ember remained, was now surging from the depths of his very Origin.

"RAAAH!"

Swinging his spiritual sword, Eustace unleashed a barrage of azure-colored slashes, which the vampire felt clearly cut through him, the fingers of his hands flying away as his lion-shaped head widened its sharp eyes in shock.

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

"Uuurrgh?! YOU!"

His wounds couldn't regenerate as fast either. Warlocks were vampires that tried to abandon their bodies themselves, therefore, their regenerative abilities weakened tremendously compared to other Vampires in exchange for much larger bodies and mitigating their weakness to sunlight and other elements.

"GROOAAR!"

The lion's jaws opened, inhaling and then exhaling an enormous blast of burning flames against Eustace. His barriers of divine water evaporated on a split second, as he was swiftly overwhelmed. The explosion consuming him completely.

BOOOOM!!

"N-No... Eustace!" Celes cried; the boy constantly attacked the nearby monsters with his magic. A domain of oceanic water was conjured, spreading around his body. It shaped into countless of vicious sea snakes, biting the Miasmic Beasts. "EUSTACE!"

"He's not dead..." Nia said. "Calm down, Celes" His mother swiftly rushed around her son, using her powerful Wind Aura to move swiftly, evading attacks and hitting her foes with powerful, explosive and piercing blows using her spear and her wind magic combined.

As the smoke dissipated, the lion-headed chimeric vampire glared with disbelief at the scene. Eustace's phantasmal body was still there. Half of him had evaporated, but it swiftly regenerated back to normal as one of Maria's Phantom Clones fused into his body, recovering his phantasmal energy reserves.

"Eustace, don't give up." Her voice reverberated inside of his head.

"Maria..." He sighed. "Thank you! I won't!"

Eustace swiftly clashed against the Vampire once more, constantly chipping away at his life, cutting his body piece by piece. The warlock was unable to resist the barrage of attacks, even less when they were imbued with powerful divinity.

The divine ember that Eustace believed was destroyed when he died, was still there, slowly blossoming back to its former self. As he regained more of his divine powers, his sword flashed with blue flames. They were phantasmal flames, but the embodiment of his Divine Ember.

"[Azure Dragon Swordsmanship]: [Tempestuous Waves]!"

Eustace focused to his 100%, his sword dancing in the air, as endless waves of water surged endlessly, shaping into a ferocious, roaring azure dragon! He employed the swordsmanship techniques he learned from Murim, which had cursed his soul, and transformed them using his new knowledge and the remnants of his Divine Ember.

And what he acquired was something completely new! Even the Yin Shang noticed that he had bastardized the techniques of his precious sect, turning them into something completely different!

"ROOOAR!"

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

The mighty roar of the Azure Dragon reverberated. The lion-

headed vampire was completely engulfed by the waters, which shredded his body like a hundred slashes. His screams of agony made the rest of the vampires' alert, some leaped out of the range of the attack just in time before a tsunami of purifying water were to consume it all.

SPLAAASH!

As the vampires drowned, the Dark Pest swiftly materialized a pair of giant claws and attacked Eustace. Noticing that the lion-headed vampire, an S Rank bastard, was already dead, torn to shreds.

"Useless bastards! Can't you just handle a single ghost?!" Roared the Dark Pest, his black tendrils pierced the corpses of his vampires and absorbed their bodies and souls completely, nourishing himself. "And YOU! Eustace, I've had enough of your foolishness. You should have stayed as the cursed undead you were! Why, just why did you come to me again?! To die?! Did you wanted to die again so badly, you accursed fool?!"

"YAN SHAAAANNNGGG!" Eustace roared, possessed by his own powers, as his sword danced in the air. Both rivals of ancient times clashed against one another, explosions of azure color and miasmic darkness echoed everywhere.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

"Even on my sealed state, I can easily overpower you! Pathetic worm! Do you never know when you lay down in the dirt?!"

Yang Shang's powers shapeshifted; a thousand spears pierced Eustace's entire phantasmal body at once. Countless holes appearing through his soul. Each strike felt like a piece of himself was lost.

"Eustace!"

Celes cried, running across the battlefield with his mother. Lucifer and Nyx appeared by their side and protected them from the incoming vampires and miasmic beasts. Abyssal Death Flames and an army of Phantom Dragons constantly tearing down on their foes.

"Uuuggh...! Yan Shang..." Eustace vomited golden liquid from his mouth, his very soul essence. "I will not go down... Until I avenge her...! I won't forgive you! And I will... keep coming back! No matter how much you crush me! No matter how hard you TRY! I will TORMENT you for ETERNITY!"

As he laughed, the knight clashed against his malevolent rival. The demonic cultivator furiously gnawed his teeth, his darkness constantly blocking Eustace's relentless barrage of attacks. Despite all the soul damage he took, he was constantly improving, becoming swifter, stronger, faster!

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

"How is he so fast?!" He thought. "Damn Eustace! Why won't you go down, you bastard!"

With all his strength, the sealed Dark Pest harnessed his dark powers in the form of a gigantic palm, and crushed Eustace with all his strength.

CRAAASH!

However.

"[Azure Dragon Swordsmanship]: [Sea Dragon Queen's Rising]"

A gigantic dragon made of water pierced through the palm made of darkness, an explosion of azure light engulfed Yan Shang.

BOOOM!

Chapter 989 Maria Doesn't Hold Back!

As I kept an eye in the battles around me, I continued fighting Maleficus, who showed to be quite amazingly resilient. The old bastard was very proficient at getting a beating, because he simply could keep on taking more and more.

"[Abyssal Dragon's Palm]!"

Creating a foul imitation of my own Palm Attacks, he swiftly stretched his Miasmic Arm, replacing the one I had cut off from his shoulders and swiftly slamming it against me.

CRAAASH!!!

The pressure and power were enormous, and by merely touching this hand, I felt that my soul was slowly burning and dying. This is most likely the power of his Abyssal Flames and the powers he has cultivated thanks to his One Thousand Abyssal Ghosts Physique.

But it's not like I had ran out of tricks myself. In fact, I was just starting myself. Between my powerful weapon attacks to my life draining and weakening curses, I had still a few aces I hadn't used yet!

"[Poisonous Calamity Swarm Body]: [Calamity Poison Form]"

I gritted my phantasmal teeth and swiftly transformed my body into a mass of poisonous slime. It grew several times larger than normal, while still combining my phantasmal, miasma, and spiritual properties. Giant crimson eyes popped out, tentacles, jaws everything I could think of that could scare and overwhelm him even so slightly.

FLUOSH!

A sea of poison swiftly drowned Maleficus, the acidic substances quickly beginning to burn through his wounds, worsening them by the second. He screamed, as he tried to free himself from my grasp, but it was too late!

"Aaarrgghh!"

"You're mine, bastard!"

I extended my tentacles around him and kept piercing his flesh, digging deeper into his wounds. His body was incredibly resilient because of all the poor souls he had absorbed, and the miasma constantly flowing inside. It was also refined by using perhaps dozens of monster body parts, like true cultivators I guess.

"G-Get off me, you aberrant monstrosity!"

With a furious roar, his body grew more black dragon scales, most likely from absorbed wyverns, or even worse, dragons he found and devoured. His body grew in size, as he swiftly started tearing my poisonous mass apart with powerful slashing attacks using his long nails. He still had a missing arm, and it the wound left by it was still making him feel exhausted.

"Aberrant monstrosity? You should take a look at yourself in the mirror, Maleficus!"

With both claws and tail attacks, he managed to almost free himself, only to be greeted by a dozen spheres of darkness, nether, and phantasmal flames. I conjured my [Abyssal Netherworld's Star] right in front of his face.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Each explosion flew away a smaller piece of his own body, his scales were sent flying, as his body quickly pummeled down. While bleeding and being poisoned, he gritted his teeth, quickly opening his jaws and unleashing another breath attack.

"DIEEE!"

BOOOOMMM!!!

The beam pierced through my body, leaving a giant, deep hole. It clashed behind me and made the ceiling crumble down into pieces. But I swiftly recovered back to normal, wielding both of my weapons, and unleashing a barrage of attacks imbued with Moonlight Flames against him.

"Is that it?!"

"Wha...?! You're fine after taking that hit head-on?!"

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

I slashed through his body countless times, while constantly conjuring more curse runes that drained away his life and energy. His stats continued decreasing, making him weaker and more susceptible to my magic. A dozen spheres of nether flames swiftly collided from behind, pushing him right towards my own weapons again.

BOOOM!

"How can you have such seamless control over your abilities?!" He groaned, vomiting blood as I greeted his neck with my giant axe.

"[Umbral Moonlight Rampage]!" I roared, swiftly activating my axe's technique once more. A rampage of attacks constantly pushed him further and further towards his limits. Maleficus quickly counterattacked with his single arm and his tail, while unleashing kicks and beams of abyssal darkness. However, my blows easily overwhelmed his own, I was slowly pushing him to a corner.

"Dammit!" He raised his only arm, suddenly feeding it with his ghostly physique powers and transforming it into a titanic draconic arm, which he attempted to use to crush me. The pressure was immense, and with merely touching it, I felt my soul beginning to be consumed, burning away and reducing in size.

But the chaotic core on the depths of my soul kept pumping miasma, regenerating my soul faster. My Divine Ember flared as I created a giant black hole in the area right below the claws.

"You fucked up."

"Huh?!"

TRUUUMMM...!!!

In a split of a second, I activated my [Ultimate Skill: Yog-

Sothoth], which opens a black hole, a gate to an endless, all-

consuming void. The reason why I don't use this as often is because its exhausting, but this was the ideal moment. The sound of his bones crushing and being triturated reverberated across the temple, the screams of Maleficus quickly alerted the rest of the vampires as they saw his entire arm being devoured, blood splattering everywhere.

"Gryyyaaaggh!"

"Now, it's time for you pay for all the shit you've done you disgusting motherfucker!"

I kicked him in the chin and then crushed him down into the floor with my heel's abilities, combined with my kicking techniques. The sound of his soul cracking and tearing apart echoed, he vomited a mouthful of blood as he tried to resist relentlessly.

"NOOO!"

With a furious and defiant roar, his aura clashed against me, but I simply expanded the black hole, quickly absorbing his own Aura and cutting it off, it felt like he lost a good chunk of his own powers with that, making him gasp in disbelief.

"W-What...?! You're... this is...!"

He could barely speak as I kept hacking through his tough scales, tearing them down piece by piece, his flesh and bones were exposed, I quickly carved them out with my axe and my sword.

And then, I reached ten consecutive combo blows, my axe turned deep red, I could finally use that technique.

"Let me go, you fiend!"

Maleficus tried to escape my range, but my slimy venomous tentacles dragged him closer to me. I couldn't help but smile like the vile monster he called me, as I swung my axe down his throat.

"[Ultimate Titan Blow]"

CRAAASSHH!!

Chapter 990 Ultimate Titan Blow

The description of this ability was quite simple...

After ten consecutive attacks, an [Ultimate Titan Blow] can be unleashed that deals up to +2.500% Damage based in accumulated damage from previous attacks. The user is surrounded by Moonlight Flames while using this technique, enhancing Moonlight Attribute Magic Damage from nearby allies by +100%, and lowering MP Cost of related Spells and Skills by -20%

Ten consecutive blows using the Rampage Ability were all I needed for a whopping 2500% boost to damage for a single, decisive blow. And I didn't waste it, quickly aiming at his neck as he was before my mercy.

"I hope this is a good lesson for you and every bastard you serve, Maleficus." I said, swinging my axe down. "I won't forgive anybody. Everyone that dares to get in my way will die an even more miserable death than you!"

"STOP! STOP YOU MADWOMAN!!!"

CRAAAAASSHHH!!!

"GRYYYYAAEEGGHH...!!"

The axe slashed right through his neck like a warm knife through butter. His screams echoed, combined with his blood coming out of his throat and mouth, his head quickly rolled over the ground. The rest of the vampires fighting all stopped moving, glaring at their master's head roll over the ground, which I quickly grabbed by the hair.

"As long as I can- Ugh?!"

However, as he tried to escape using his soul, I had already grasped it, slowly moving it into my jaws. He screamed even louder as I devoured his soul, crushing it bite after bite.

"Stop! Uuuggh...! No...! I cannot... end like this! MASTER...! MASTERRRR...!"

The horrific scene ended as even the fucking Dark Pest stopped fighting Eustace. Suddenly everyone noticed I was much more dangerous than they had ever possibly imagined. My aura only grew stronger after devouring such a tasty soul.

"So, who's fucking next?" I asked, throwing Maleficus head into the floor and then crushing it with my heels until it exploded into pieces. I stepped over his brains, making sure to leave them into a meat paste and throwing it at my foes.

Their silence quickly became a hilarious mix between fear, horror, anger, frustration, shock, and more. Not even the Dark Pest was left unmoved by my actions and words.

"Damn Maleficus, you were not even capable of stopping her for enough time!" Roared Yin Shang, his giant shadow claws clashed against Eustace, pushing the weakened ghost away.

CRAAASH!

"KILL HER!"

As he ordered that, the rest of the Vampires and all the monsters in the vicinity rushed towards me as fast as they could. But were swiftly stopped by my friends, clashing against them. I decided to catch my breath and rush back to Maleficus corpse, quickly storing it inside of my inventory before a giant dark red and shadow claw were to steal it away from me.

"Hey, don't you think it's rude to steal a meal in front of me?" I asked the floating, black statue, whose cracks only continued spreading further.

"Give him back! I cultivated his body so it would become the ideal Immortal Treasure for me to consume!" He roared furiously. "I spent YEARS doing so! Give it BACK!"

Yan Shang rushed towards me as just a stupid floating statue. I couldn't believe how utterly clueless this man was, but I quickly greeted his charge with a barrage of attacks with my axe and my sword. A slicing blow from above, a piercing attack from below, and then several kicks later, he was quickly thrown down.

CRASH! CRASH! CLAAASH!

"Uuuggh...?! Hahah... Hahah!"

However, he simply laughed it off. He was most likely trying to buy time by getting beaten, isn't it? His control over the Evil God Fragment is not bad at all, but while he has one, I have like four.

"It is here... Foolish woman, I've bought enough time now!"

Ah, bastard must have some sort of hidden plan, I imagine. I ate Maleficus memories, so I know exactly what they are planning. And I'll let that happen just because I want to learn more about them myself.

"Oh no!" I said while gasping. "W-What could you ever mean by buying enough time?! D-Don't tell me you have a special trap for me?!"

"That's right! Now- How did you know?!" He muttered. "Well, no matter! They're coming! The ones that'll accelerate my growth!" Laughed Yan Shang. "You stupid brainless rats, you should have never dared to stop my resurrection! My warlocks had many connections, one of such connections with a feared world, one much stronger than Yggdrasil itself!"

RUMBLE!

The moment Yan Shang spoke, the sky ceiling trembled, as I expanded my senses above the dungeon. The night sky slowly became red. The silver moon on top of the sky was painted crimson red, and a huge crack appeared on it, slowly opening to reveal a downpour of blood energy.

A slice in the air, a scar in the very fabric of space. It sliced open to reveal a portal, a ruby-colored gate to another world of the Tower. A black medallion in my hands reacted, several runes glowing brightly and making all of this possible.

This was a catalyst, a special magic item gifted by the Tower to powerful Players. Maleficus got one of these not gifted to him, he wasn't even considered an official Player to begin with, but it was given to him by these people.

Interaction between the worlds of the Tower should be easy, but the Rulers of this World, the Gods have closed most of the gates leading inside and outside of Yggdrasil, meaning that to get inside these invaders have to use other roundabouts ways.

Therefore, this catalyst is used to create a connection, and through it, open a portal that skips tens of floors and helps them leap all the way down here, creating a temporary portal where a few of the invaders can freely enter and invade.

This is the so called... World Raid, or Upper Floor Raid Event.

As the gate opened and revealed countless crimson eyes gazing down into the city full of life and people, a message from the Tower itself appeared.

[Warning! A Special Upper Floor Raid Event is in effect!]

[Your Floor is now undergoing invasion from outside forces of a floor above yours within the Tower.
Invasion Origin: [Floor 60: Umbralheim]]

[Fend off the invaders to gain Contribution Points you can utilize to purchase items in the Raid Shop! Or succumb to your invader's thirst for blood.]

The reality of this world was slowly being unveiled in front of these people, and also to the rest of the world. This wasn't a message we could only see. Everyone in Yggdrasil could see it. This was, after all, the invasion from another world entirely.

"W-What is this message?!"

"What's happening...?"

"T-The sky is red; I've never seen this before..."

"The Crimson moon..."

The portal kept growing larger until it reached its limits, and from within, a dozen figures leaped out, large and powerful, floating in midair. They judged the "livestock" with cold crimson eyes, licking their lips.

It seemed this number was the limit of Raiders from another world that they could send using this pitiful catalyst. I could have destroyed it and prevent this entirely but...

I think it was about time to wake up the people of this world. And well, I couldn't miss on some premium materials from these otherworldly invaders either, right?

"Why do you look so confident?!" Yan Shang roared. "You...!"

"Hoh, I wonder why?" I giggled.