

A Glitched 1041

Chapter 1041 Exorcising The Aberration

"[Phantasmal Magic]: [Phantasmal Domain]! [Soul Weakening Aura]!"

Celica unleashed the power of her Magic, releasing a domain of phantasmal energy around the Sunstone Chimera. The Aura surged from within the Domain, slightly beginning to pierce through the barrier like a mist.

The mist slowly went through the barrier and weakened the many souls composing the Sunstone Chimera, even so slightly, the attacks of our parents were piercing through the barrier at least by a +10% more damage.

"SHYAAAGH!"

Slight cracks surged over the monster's enormous, surface, as it started to grow slightly annoyed, swinging its body, the creature grew several sharp spikes, attempting to pierce its foes.

However, my father and his friends swiftly blocked the attacks and pushed the monster back, giving time for Celeste to activate her magic as well.

"[Ancient Abyss Magic]: [Soul-Sealing Chains of Darkness]!"

She harnessed all her power into her magic, as her own shadows transformed, releasing countless chains made of them, piercing through all physical things and reaching the countless massed souls of the Sunstone Chimera.

The darkness slowly seeped into them, they were very strong after being infected with Divine Power, but the darkness slowly consumed their essence, weakening them even so slightly!

CLAAASH!

My father's sword managed to finally create a tiny crack on the barrier, noticing that our help was working.

"The barrier has become at least fifteen percent weaker... Well done! Keep hitting at it!"

He commanded his friends, as all of them continued attacking it...

However, that alone wouldn't do!

While Celica and Celeste were constantly focusing on their magic, Zephy unsheathed his swords and them released his Unique Aura.

Black and dark red essence surged from his body, resembling dark clouds that released powerful black and red lightning.

His eyes glowed bright red, his presence becoming stronger...

This was Zephyr's amazing power, which he had yet to fully grasp.

"Haaah!"

Unleashing a technique he had yet to name, he imbued his powerful and unique Aura into both swords, constantly releasing small slashes with it.

SLAASH! SLAASH! SLAASH! SLAASH!

Each slash managed to hit the barrier and not do much... Until they did. The slashes slowly infected the chimera's barrier with darkness, slowly turning it black.

This naturally weakened the barrier a bit more!

"That's my boy!" My father celebrated that Zephy was joining a big hunt, as he and his friends continued blocking and hacking at the beast.

Meanwhile, the rest of us started moving, all while Lara was channeling her powers around the creature...

"[Spirit Call]!"

FLAAASH!

The Spirits that were afraid of coming here heard her words, her own Mana and Spirit energy feeding them and giving them courage.

Through my new Senses, I could feel them, hundreds of these Spirits appearing all at once, forming a circle around the creature.

"[Divine Saintly Spirit Summoning Magic]: [Divine Spirit Circle Of Sealing]!"

FLUOOOSH!

The Spirits combined together into a magic circle, beginning to seal the movements of the Sunstone Chimera, and making it much easier for the hits of our parents to land on their barrier, while its own attacks became easier to avoid.

Beams of corrupted sunlight continued being fired as the chimera attempted to catch us, bombarding our surroundings.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

In that moment, I harnessed the power of Mana Disruption into Scarlet, and then swung my blade in the very moment the creature faced my parents, giving us an opening.

Boosting my strength by stacking on buffing spells over my body, and the power of my Yggdragon's Wrathful Aura, I pierced the barrier!

CRAAASH!

SPARK!

Gray and black lightning surged from my sword, imbuing itself into the barrier, and constantly weakening it further.

More and more cracks began to appear within it, as my friends swiftly leaped towards the barrier a swell.

Aquarina, Luck, Mist, Zack, Pyuku, and Nephilim, attacked the barrier's cracks I generated with their strongest blows, further boosted by their Weapons, Armor, and Accessories effects!

Ignatius infused his powers into my sword, combining with my Mana Disruption as well.

Crack, crack...!

"[Divine Dragon Blade Arts]: [Mana-Devouring Blazing Dragon Fangs]!"

SLAAAASSHH!!

I unleashed a mighty slash, piercing through the cracks with enough force to shatter the barrier completely, with the added help of my friends, of course.

The attack resembled a gigantic dragon made of crimson lightning biting through the barrier.

Crack, crack...

CRAAASH!

The barrier shattered immediately, as the Tier 9 Monster suddenly realized something wrong had just happened!

"SHAAAAHH!"

It opened its many jaws, about to unleash a deadly attack at point blank against us...

We had little time to evade, so I quickly put Sapphire in front of us, trying to defend ourselves with my trusty shield.

However, I really didn't need to.

FLAAASH!

My father reached there in a split of a second, resembling a man completely made of flames, his hair had turned into long, red flames, blazing with an almighty presence.

He swung his giant sword against the monster with all his strength, releasing a devastating shockwave of pure power.

"[Heavenly Flame Blade Arts]: [Thousand Suns]"

SLAAAAASSHH!!

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLAAASH!

A single slash turned into a thousand, my father had suddenly unleashed a technique I had never seen him use before.

Was this something new he had developed through this entire time?!

Amazing!

His attack alone seemed to unleash divine punishment against the beast, each slash tore its body apart into pieces with immense power and brutality.

"GRYYAAAEERRRGHH...!"

The monster attempted to erect the barrier again, even as torn apart as it was, it seemed to be some sort of Undead creature, hacking it into pieces wouldn't kill it completely.

But that's where my mother stepped in.

"Leave this to me. I'll free these souls."

With the confidence of the Saintess of Holy Light, my mother's golden staff unleashed its divine powers, a golden magic circle surging beneath the monster.

"[Heavenly Divine Exorcism]"

The Tier 10 version of [Great Exorcism]!

FLAAAASSHH!!!

A massive beam of pure light purified the Sunstone Chimera, all of the souls composing it were instantly exorcised, purified, and then sent to the afterlife...

Chapter 1042 Cultivate Divinity

After the final defeat of the Sunstone Chimera through the amazing powers of my parents, we felt a rush of EXP bathing our souls.

Tier 9 Monsters were bound to give plenty of EXP!

Ding!

[You and your party have defeated [Sunstone Aberrant Chimera (Tier 9)]]

[You gained +4.000.000 EXP!]

[Aquarina] gained 3 Levels, she has reached Level 29/80!]

[Zack] gained 4 Levels, she has reached Level 11/30!]

[Mist] gained 4 Levels, she has reached Level 10/30!]

[Celeste] gained 4 Levels, she has reached Level 11/30!]

[Celica] gained 4 Levels, she has reached Level 10/30!]

[Luck] gained 4 Levels, she has reached Level 11/50!]

[Lara] gained 4 Levels, she has reached Level 10/30!]

[Nephilim] [Naturia] and [Yggdra] have gained 3 Levels!]

[Undine] and [Leviathan] have gained 6 Levels!]

And everyone leveled up a lot at the end too!

It is always a pity I can't level up at all, but it is also always nice when I see everyone else leveling up too.

I can always just spend my EXP into something else for my own ways to grow stronger anyways.

"Phew, well, that was a nice warmup, wasn't it?"

My father giggled carefreely as he rested his huge sword on his shoulders, his transformation deactivating as he went back to his original self.

"Dad! What was that technique?! I've never seen you use that before!" I said.

"Oh, that one?" He wondered. "Well, thanks to your mother always allowing me to cultivate using her Light Aura which she shares into my body, I've finally managed to refine my Flames into Heavenly Flames, and decided to use them a bit."

Wait, didn't I just learned a new Skill that can also conjure Heavenly Flames?

I better not tell dad that I got it so easily or all his efforts will feel like nothing...

"H-Heavenly Flames? That sounds awesome..." I said in surprise.

"And they are as awesome as they sound." He smiled. "Even after the war, we've not stopped growing stronger ourselves. After what we learned from some old monsters out there, we discovered Tier 10, which we always thought was the limit mortals could achieve, was only the beginning for some ancient heroes or warriors that surpassed us in the past."

"So Tier 10 is not the end?" Asked Aquarina in surprise.

"Yeah, we never told you?" Shade wondered. "Well, you were so young back then I doubt it would have mattered that much."

"Usually, there's a 'lock' when you reach Tier 10." My mother said. "Some say it is a 'Curse of the Gods' which stops mortals from reaching further than that... However, the trick to surpass it is harboring and cultivating 'Divinity' of some sort. This is why your father has finally begun by refining his Aura Flame into a Heavenly Flame."

"Aura Flame?" There were even more concepts I didn't understand.

"It is a special Cultivation Method that our Mercenary Family, the Bravo Mercenaries, developed to overcome our human limits." My father smiled. "I never taught it to you because I knew you would sooner or later develop a Spiritual Heart, which is a much better alternative."

"I don't care! I want to know what that is!" I said, amazed.

"Hahaha, well, it is quite literally what it is." My father said, suddenly conjuring a white and gold flame from his hands and placing it above his abdomen. "You know how there is a Magic Circle, a Physique, and all of that, right? Auras are born through the conversion of Mana and Physique and can develop and evolve in all sorts of ways, ultimately transforming into a Domain. But what I'm trying to say is that our family developed a way to compensate for our weakness by refining a small flame and fusing it into your Physiques and connecting it to the rest, that's the Aura Flame, which becomes the core of the growth of our Aura, Magic Circle, and Physique. Pretty much the same that the Spiritual Heart, but it feeds on battle, constant exercise, and fire-attribute materials to grow stronger."

"There are so many cultivation methods out there..." I was felt surprised, this world never ceases to amaze me. "Dad, have you broken through Tier 10 into Tier 11 then?"

"Not yet, I just developed the Heavenly Flame Aura." He said. "I'll have to continuously pour it into every inch of my own self while I fight strong monsters to absorb their Energy. Through the standard methods, it'll take a while to get there."

"Well, through standard methods, that is." My mother smiled. "We have quite a lot of money and resources, your father will be chugging elixirs I'll make for the next months so he can break through quickly. Humans aren't as long lived as us elves, so he can't just take his sweet time."

"Hahaha, come on, let's take it easy." My dad laughed.

"W-What about the rest? Mom, dad, have you done something too?" Aquarina asked excitedly.

"We're getting there!" Her mother said. "I need to refine my physique by absorbing Divine Metals, it'll take some time, but it should be possible. Orichalcum is what I'm absorbing, it is slow as hell."

"Those with the Darkage Bloodline have secret cultivation techniques they can use to break through. Throughout all the history of our family, only three people have broken through Tier 10, and they were all famous assassins in history." Shade said. "I'm using their techniques to channel Abyssal Embodiment into my Physique and Magic Circle, trying to refine it into something called "Divine Abyss Eye", which will manifest in my forehead... But it is not easy. You will get to do that, one day."

"Woow..." Aquarina was shocked, her parents were just as amazing.

"What about you, mom?" I asked my mother.

"Oh, me?" She giggled. "I've been Tier 11 for a few years now."

"EH?!"

Everyone that wasn't aware reacted in surprise.

"Why is it so surprising?" She sighed. "I can harness and summon the Divine Light of the Gods, of course I've already cultivated it into my body. My Spiritual Heart has already evolved into a Divine Spiritual Heart."

My mother was perhaps the strongest of the heroes right now, yet she was so relaxed and often didn't show off as much as my dad, so we couldn't quite tell!

Chapter 1043 A Small Break

After defeating the Chimera and talking a bit about how Tier 10 people could further improve themselves, we decided to take a small break while we analyzed our surroundings.

I decided to store the shattered body of the Sunstone Chimera after asking my mom if I could keep it, she nodded without any issue, probably knowing I could make good use of the materials.

Once this creature was killed, the entire ruins went back to their awful silence. We decided to have a small snack, as my mother brought out the sandwiches and drinks she had prepared in advance.

They were made using a variety of tasty ingredients, including the roasted and seasoned meat strips of the giant sunstone goats we had hunted.

The meat tasted even better after being roasted and seasoned and left resting for a while, these sandwiches were heavenly, and restored our stamina quite quickly thanks to having been enchanted with Cooking Magic.

"Hmm, these sandwiches are so good~!" Lara said happily. "Thanks for making them without meat for me, Auntie Faylen!"

"Well, I know that you dislike eating meat." My mother smiled. "I added some vegetal protein though, in the form of that bean croquet."

"Ooh, so that's the crunchy patty in it!" She said. "It tastes so nice! I love beans!" Lara was happy.

"Are the spirits feeling better now, Lara?" I asked her.

"Hmmm, they're laxer." She seemed to look around. "But I think they're still scared. Further into the ruins, there seems to be many more of those things."

"Huh, so it's a nest of them." My mother analyzed. "I'll send a spirit or two to scout the area then, it will not be an easy and carefree trip if we get ambushed by more than one of those things."

She summoned Oculus, the giant eye with many angelic wings, and then a little spark of light, resembling a fairy made of photon energy.

"You two, can you go check on what's going on in front?"

"Ooh!"

"Very well, master."

The two quickly zapped away after she commanded them, her Spirits were always the most obedient I've seen.

While everyone else's spirits or familiars complain sometimes, my mother has the most harmony with them.

None of them ever complains and they're always willing to do anything she asks them to do.

Maybe she's that good of a master...

"Anyways, how are you feeling?" I asked my friends.

"I'm alright I think, we can continue at any time." Aquarina nodded.

"Me too, I'm fine." Zack had already finished the second sandwich.

"With your amazing dress, I can do anything Sylphy!" Mist was very confident.

"We should continue moving on, I can sense more souls in anguish." Celica sighed. "It makes me feel a bit sad that they're suffering."

"Looks like she has discovered some sort of sixth sense pertaining souls." Celeste commented. "She has been a bit gloomy since we got here."

"Amazing..." Zephyrus was amazed by Celica's ability. "But don't worry, Celica! We'll get through and be done by today! I'll protect you!"

"Zephy..." Celica smiled a bit. "Heheh, thanks for protecting me!"

Those two were way too cute together.

But on more serious matters, Celica's new "sixth sense" is quite recent, perhaps due to her affinity with phantom and death magic, she seems to be capable of sensing souls and other phantasmal entities.

"I'm okay, feel better after the meal!" Lara was back up to her more cheerful atmosphere.

"Yeah, don't worry." Said Luck. "We should move quickly, I want to get done with this by today."

"Alright, looks like everyone's ready to go, mom." I reported to my mother.

My mother nodded as she finished packing things up after our small meal.

"Very well, let's continue then. We haven't found any written texts yet, which is a pity. I hope we can find something further in." She sighed.

"I'm sure we will." I nodded. "Though, this story feels so sad, that sometimes I feel like I would rather not..."

"It is inevitable, we must find out the truth and show it to the world. All of this is becoming accumulated evidence." My mother said. "I am not saying I want to overthrow the gods' religions or something, but this must be known by the masses, so people can have their own opinions and not blindly believe the gods are almighty beings of pure goodness. But that are capable of monstrosity and vile acts, just like any mortal."

"Right... I guess you're right." I nodded with a sigh. "Haha, for being a Saintess you're pretty against the Gods now."

"Well, that's what happens when a few of them have tried to kill us more than once." My mother said. "Evil Gods used to be members of the same pantheon as the other Gods too. They were exiled, but I am beginning to think that the title of "Evil God" might also apply to the others."

"It might have been all a conflict of ideals and power." I said. "I've meet them, the twelve chief Gods are unfathomably powerful. And seem to be obsessed with controlling others. Those that disobeyed them were exiled, the Evil Gods. Though, their forms and shapes are different than them."

"The Miasma of the world corrupted their bodies and powers after they were exiled from heaven, with little protection for themselves, they had to embrace this power and grew more corrupted..." My mother said. "Or well, that's what we've investigated from the ancient texts. Evil Gods started appearing after the Demon King's defeat, only a few thousand years after them. I believe after their larger foe was defeated; internal conflicts blossomed within their society."

"They're all obsessed with controlling others and growing stronger through faith and cults..." I sighed. "Maybe they're all fueled with the same desire for revenge against the ones that exiled them... Ah, I'm not saying they're relatable or something, most of them are still vile. But..."

"I get what you're trying to say." My mother nodded. "Perhaps there could be some, among them, that we could make our future allies against them. I'm happy that I have such a smart daughter I can talk these things without fearing you won't understand."

"Heheh, well, you raised me well, mom." I smiled.

"Well, that's an overstatement, you're very smart yourself! I would say- Oh?"

"What's wrong?" I asked her.

"Something is coming..."

RUMBLE!

Chapter 1044 Battling Chimeras

A sudden tremor greeted us as we advanced across the ruins, we quickly changed our stances to greet whatever was coming, my senses quickly noticing several beings approaching, not just a big one this time.

"Shyaaagghh!"

The creatures emerged from within the corridors, resembling giant spiders and other insects, made of black, yellow, and orange sunstone.

They had skeletons or bone pieces inside of their bodies, and their red crystal-like eyes shone with a phantasmal glow.

They were pretty intimidating creatures, each one at least three meters big, and they came in the dozens!

With my sight, I could already count around thirty of them, and several more were coming behind them.

Ding!

[A large swarm of [Sunstone Insectoid Chimeras (Tier 7)] have emerged!]

[Their King has ordered their agonizing souls to clench their thirst for blood with all of you...]

The King?

Is this the Boss of this Dungeon, perhaps?

"Here they come!" My mother said. "Hold on, I'll keep them busy."

She waved her staff, making a circular formation of many divine runes assembled in front of us. In a literal second, several barriers of light surged, stopping the swarm from... well, swarming us.

"[Divine Holy Light Barrier]"

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

The barriers swiftly unified together into an enormous one, the insectoids furiously started to hit the barrier with their gigantic claws, attempting to tear it apart.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

However, the barrier mom created was something else! It held off amazingly well, and it was not even budging against their attacks.

These little ones had no impenetrable barriers, but I could notice an aura covering their bodies, a weaker barrier that reduced some of the damage taken.

"Alright everyone, let's do this!"

I led my friends, as we started hacking through the monsters while using the barriers protecting us to our advantage.

Zack, Luck, and Aquarina were the first ones to attack at my side. Zack's speed and movements became swifter thanks to the armor I made for him.

"RAAAH!"

With a furious roar, he swung his axe against the monsters, slashing through their barrier and cutting through their bodies.

His two axes harmonized perfectly well with the armor's abilities, giving him the ability to conjure lightning and winds without even having to activate a technique or magic spell.

CLAASH! CLAASH! CLAASH!

Luck transformed slightly, imbuing into his body the power of the Golden Tiger, the only Divine Beast Spirit he could use for now.

His appearance swiftly changed, gaining golden tiger fur, larger claws, bigger muscles, and ears and tail like those of a tiger, despite being originally a wolf Anima.

His golden claws, the weapon he inherited from Elise named "All-Gaia" harnessed his spiritual energies and Ki, as he released deadly slash attacks with them.

SLAASH! SLAASH! SLAASH!

The monsters were devastated by his attacks, being quickly cut down to pieces as well!

"Some easy mobs for a change aren't too bad!"

Aquarina was especially cheerful, trying out some of her new abilities, as she grew a second pair of arms using her Abyssal Embodiment shapeshifting powers, and then materializing two giant tridents using her spirits abilities, made completely out of frost.

With her two daggers and the two giant tridents, she rampaged the creatures, releasing waves of frost that froze her path, all while her daggers cut down through their barriers with ease.

CRAASH! CRAASH! CRAASH!

These three could take on most of these beasts alone, but that wouldn't be too fun, wouldn't it? Everyone else was joining in!

"Well, don't take all the EXP for yourselves, you greedy twats!"

Celeste flew around using her Cursed Dark Spear, releasing beams from its pointy blade that blasted the creatures from above.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

At the same time, she smiled slightly sadistically, as she raised her hands, with her long black nails, as countless chains made of her own darkness aura surged.

They started wrapping around the monsters, restricting their movements and weakening them severely!

"Thank you for weakening them!"

Mist was already pointing her Magic Bow into the monsters, several magic arrows rotating around her body, produced by that powerful dress I made for her.

She took the arrows and fired them one after another, they resembled arrows fired by a god of flames, piercing through the mass of creatures with wide explosions.

BOOOMM!! BOOOMM!! BOOOMM!! BOOOMM!!

As if that wasn't enough, Celica and Zephyrus rushed together, Celica summoned her Golems to advance and attack, using their bulk to tank hits while smashing the monsters away with their great strength and volume.

Meanwhile, she conjured her own Phantasmal Aura, summoning Wrathful Specters that went through the monsters and weakened their agonizing souls, making them easier targets for Zephy!

"Take this!"

My little brother was only around five years old but was already mightily slaying monsters, swinging his two swords, and fighting against the already weakened Tier 7 monsters.

SLASH! SLASH! SLAASH! SLAASH! SLAAASSHH!!

With a barrage of slashes with both of his swords, his Aura erupted, boosting his fighting power beyond his own Tier limit.

CRAAASSHH!!

The sound of a handful of Sunstone Insectoid Chimeras shattering into pieces by his sword echoed, as they became a small pile he was decided to make larger.

"You can do it Zephy!" Celica was cheering for him as if she was his cheerleader, only making my little brother blush more.

He really loved showing off in front of her... He was quite the charmer!

"Heheh, look how I slay them, Celica!" He giggled, getting a bit too overly confident. "I'll protect you from any danger- Uwaah!"

However, he quickly lost the balance of his attacks, tripping over the floor.

And then, several of the creatures rushed towards him while he was exposing himself, opening their giant jaws.

"Ahhh!"

He panicked, barely able to swing his sword before they were to reach him!

However, that's where his big sister, me, arrived.

"[Divine Dragon Blade Arts]: [Holy Dragon Ascent]!"

My Aura transformed alongside my appearance, as I gained white scales over my body, golden horns, blonde hair, and silver-colored eyes.

And accompanied with this transformation, a massive attack of my sword swinging upwards was released, the aura shaping into a mighty Holy Dragon roaring against the creatures.

BOOOOMMM!!

A mere slash released a huge explosion of holy flames, consuming them all.

"Big sis!"

"Don't be too reckless, Zephy."

Chapter 1045 Finding Clues

Our parents did join the battle, as the emerging swarm of creatures never stopped. We kept fighting, with Lara's and my mother's buffs, we were able to endure the assault of over three hundred Tier 7 monsters, until they were finally fully slain.

Ding!

[You and your party have defeated [Sunstone Insectoid Chimeras (Tier 7)] x309]

[You gained +15.450.000 EXP!]

[Aquarina] gained 6 Levels, she has reached Level 35/80!]

[Zack] gained 5 Levels, she has reached Level 16/30!]

[Mist] gained 5 Levels, she has reached Level 15/30!]

[Celeste] gained 5 Levels, she has reached Level 16/30!]

[Celica] gained 5 Levels, she has reached Level 15/30!]

[Luck] gained 5 Levels, she has reached Level 16/50!]

[Lara] gained 5 Levels, she has reached Level 15/30!]

[Nephilim] [Naturia] and [Yggdra] have gained 5 Levels!]

[Undine] and [Leviathan] have gained 8 Levels!]

The amount of EXP we earned was rather amazing, even if it was only Tier 7 Monsters, they were hundreds!

I can't earn the full EXP of a monster when someone else slays it, but I usually earn between 15% to 50% of the EXP, depending how much I helped.

This made it so even when I only defeated around sixty by myself, I still earned even more EXP than I imagined...

Everyone leveled up plentifully, with most of my Level 30 capped friends already midway through to their next Rank Up.

Maybe we can get them to Rank Up in these vacations if we slay more strong monsters...

Oh, and Aquarina's Spirits are also midway through by now, if not slightly more advanced, already at Level 21.

If we keep going like this, they might hit max level and evolve into C Rank or above Spirits!

Well, aside from the amazing amount of EXP, it took us roughly an hour to get them all done, and the whole battlefield was chaotic. But with the help of our parents, we were sure we would get through this without any problems.

Maybe in another adventure when we are without them, things might be more thrilling, but this is supposed to be a vacation, so I don't mind this sense of protection that they give.

Even then, they still barely intervened, knowing we were tough enough to take a few hits back if necessary, so things were still fairly challenging, not even my little brother was particularly protected by our mother and father, so I had to cover his back now and then.

Once the battle ended, my mother made sure to purify the souls, and I helped as well. The souls, as they faded away, released sparkles of golden light, and the atmosphere seemed to grow less dense.

It felt as if their souls were making things scarier than they actually were. It made me slightly amused with the intensity and power of a soul. The emotions we exude, and how they can even affect the environment.

But this wasn't really the only thing we noticed, but the amount of monsters we defeated. We ended fighting roughly 309 of them, all of them had at least a single soul.

This meant that the Gods didn't just experiment with a handful or a dozen, but hundreds of people. It was at an even worse scale than what we saw in the Fishman King's Dungeon.

"There were too many of them, and they all ran towards us for some reason... Hahhh, I'm a bit exhausted." Zack sighed, resting over the floor.

"It wasn't easy. And it felt strange too..." Luck wondered. "Did anybody else noticed how they felt somewhat "controlled"?"

"I did..." Celica nodded. "Something bigger and meaner was controlling their souls and forcing them to attack us... They were aiming for our lives more than anything!"

"There must be a big boss down there..." Zephy sighed. "Ugh, I wonder if its going to be like that big fishman king and the dragon from the other dungeon, big sis..."

"It might quite possibly be in the level of that three-headed dragon, if not stronger." I said. "The Sea Dragon we fought was an incomplete form, and ended getting very weakened, so it wasn't as big of a threat as it could have been... We were lucky back then, honestly."

"Well! The good thing is that we won, and we got a lot of levels." Aquarina smiled, kissing my cheek. "Cheer up! We're soon to end this ordeal."

"Haha, I know, you don't need to cheer me up." I smiled. "Though I don't mind more of those kisses for a bit~"

"Then you can have as many as you want." Aquarina adorably kissed my nose and then my lips several times. "Mooch, mooch, mooch!"

I felt like in heaven whenever her soft lips kissed me... Any stress or exhausting I felt quickly left my body.

"Better now?" She winked at me.

"Yes, I'm full of energy for anything!" I hugged her tightly.

To be honest, she was like my endless source of energy.

"Phew... Well, that was more intense than I imagined." My mother sighed, stretching her arms, she felt slightly sore. "And there's a lot of things we can find from their corpses. Look."

My mother suddenly grabbed a piece of a silver tablet lying over the ground, it contained a few letters.

"Oh, there are more of these silver plate fragments over here!"

I also noticed a few more pieces here and there, which I quickly gathered. And quickly after everyone else found a few more.

"I found one in here too!" Aquarina pointed at it.

"Me too! Around this place..." Zack said.

"I found one incrustated inside a crystal!" Lara said.

"There's another one here, anybody can read it?" Luck asked.

We continued analyzing the many corpses of the monsters as we stored them, ultimately finding around 13 silver tablets fragments.

"So 13 pieces in total... Alright." My mother smiled, filled with curiosity and fueled with the passion of a researcher.

She started attempting to put them together as if they were all fragments of a single piece.

And interestingly enough, they all fit together into a larger one, although with a few missing pieces, a text of some sort could easily be discerned.

"T-This is..."

And when my mother read it, she made a rather... shocked expression.

Chapter 1046 Project Number 07

My mom gently touched the silver tablet as she started reading the words one by one.

"Project Number 07. Code Name: Apollo. Date: Year 286942 After The Departure. Status: Failure. Description: After attempting the recreation of a Divine Weapon using the souls of the mortals imbued with the Divinity of Sunlight, the project has become an utter failure. Our creations are too weak to take on the power we've refined for thousands of years... However, it has become an unexpected unlimited resource of Sunstone Crystals. Note: It appears the Sunstones have been cursed by the Souls inside, further experimentation is needed to confirm if it is safe for consumption."

"And then there's... this other part." My mother was trying to calm herself down, trying to make sense of these cold words attached to a silver tablet. "The Failure... Destroyed... Souls have been taken. Sunstone... Pain. Respite... Death? Overcome... Berserk... Malice. Escape."

While the first part seemed to have mostly the entire text, the other was too damaged, and that's all she could read about it.

It seemed that while the first text was more like a technical and cold analysis of their experiment, the second was some sort of report.

Or something even worse...

"So they were really trying to make a Divine Weapon..." My father sighed. "To think they would go as far as sacrificing hundreds of people for just a mere experiment..."

"We are not people to them." Said Shade. "We are a resource, something they make and use to create something else... That we are living in the surface of this planet, and have managed to create so much, it is all thanks to their own mistakes. It seems... we were nothing but slaves to them."

"They have sure changed a bit since then, I feel like they've grown desperate because of the creation of the Heroes." Said Nepheline. "It makes me wonder... What are they aiming for now that things have come this far into the future? Are they simply planning to keep things as they are?"

"It feels like they wouldn't, seeing how active they were. They love to do things, to move places, to conquer..." My mother said. "Although all of this is ancient by now, it makes me feel like they're planning something, even now."

"Well... It is all just hypothesis at the end." Sighed my dad.

"To think these are the Gods my ancestors loved and respected so much..." Pyuku sighed, clenching his fists tightly. "They're monsters! I hate this... I have all of this!"

He was really furious, releasing a powerful Aura.

"I know it is painful to know, but this is very old... We have to give these souls a favor and help them find peace." I said. "Will you help?"

"...I will." Pyuku nodded. "It's the least I could do... As a fellow former experiment of the Gods."

"..." Nephi remained in silence as she heard everything, she didn't look too well either.

"I know the memories you regained brought a lot of pain, and that they might have a connection with what we've discovered..." I said, holding her hand.

Nephi looked into my eyes in surprise.

"But let me tell you that whatever these Gods did, it doesn't affect you. You don't have any fault on any of this. And even if they left you behind, we're here with you." I patted her shoulders.

"Master..." Her mechanical eyes seemed sorrowful, but she couldn't cry. "Thanks... for being with me." She hugged me tightly, resting her face on my shoulder.

She was a rather silent girl and must have a lot of things inside of her head. She's probably the oldest person in our entire group based on her memories.

And even these memories are blurry, like the fragments of a life she doesn't remember having.

"I wish things could be different..."

She sighed for a bit, as I patted her back.

"Me too. But... Well, this is what we go. We have to tough it up and keep moving forward." I smiled back at her. "Hey, we're not alone at least, right? We share the pain together, so it doesn't feel as terrible, hahah."

"Your attempts at cheering me up this entire time are commendable, master..." Nephi smiled. "Thank you for trying your best... I'm fine now. Knowing that I am not alone, somehow makes me feel stronger."

"It does, isn't it?" I smiled brightly at her. "Now, how about we keep on moving- Oh, want a snack? I've got some cookies."

"Cookies... Like the ones from breakfast?" She asked.

"Yep, like the ones you always ate from MY breakfast!" I laughed, giving her a handful.

She took them happily and started snacking on them while we moved forwards.

Aquarina swiftly appeared behind me, asking for cookies as well.

"Okay, okay, I'll give you some too. I made them, so they have an extra ingredient I added." I gave her to them.

"Hmm, they're still warm!" She happily ate them. "What's the extra ingredient?"

"Elixir." I smiled. "They're Healing Cookies, I've got more of them. They can restore Stamina, Health, and Mana quite considerably. And are easy to eat even after having eaten a big meal an hour ago. Everyone can have some!"

I shared them with everyone to raise their morale. The grim text quickly faded away from our minds as we enjoyed the sweetness of these snacks.

And we felt more decided to end the suffering of the souls trapped inside of these ruins.

"It sure is lonely around here..." Zack said. "No monsters at all!"

"Oh, but there are more of these silver pieces!" Lara said.

As we moved forwards, we found no more enemies, but silver-colored tablet fragments.

"There's another over here..." Luck said.

"I found one stuck on the crystals of the ceiling." Aquarina said, bringing another.

Everyone kept finding a fragment, I found two myself.

After roughly half an hour, we faced a huge metallic gate, sealed with circuit-like inscriptions inside.

It was still sealed with divine power, but there was a small crevice on it, where all the fragments we found fit perfectly.

And they formed some sort of key-shaped silver item.

FLAAASH!

The circuits lighted up, and then released beams of bright light, generating some sort of holographic screen.

Chapter 1047 A Fragment Of The Past

The projection that appeared in front of us resembled the system windows, but was red and orange colored, and it showed what seemed to be some sort of... recording?

"What's this?!" Luck panicked.

"A recording of some sort..." Zack said. "I remember seeing something similar back in the Fishman King's Dungeon. Just don't worry, whatever you'll see here is not real."

"Not... real?" Luck was still confused.

The projection kept expanding, this wasn't just a window, it expanded and became the entire surroundings, Alice called these "advanced holographic technology".

FLAAASH!

The entire ruins lighted up, as the projection showed how they looked thousands of years ago, when they were new and clean.

There were no sunstone crystals creeping around, and then entire interior of the ruins were clean and bright.

Two really tall people walked through the corridor, as we moved away to see them more in detail.

Both of them seemed slightly human in appearance but had clearly non-human features.

One of them was their blazing hair, the other was their bright red skin, as red as blood.

Sharp ears, and larger eyes...

And above all, they exuded bright auras with their very steps.

These gods... I recognize them.

"How is the experiment going, Fiere?"

The tallest of the two asked, resembling a muscular man wearing clothes made of golden metal, shining with brightness.

"Aeolus, I've told you plenty of times that they are not doing well. We've already lost a hundred of them, it seems that our project is not going anywhere..." Sighed the woman at his side.

She was beautiful and with a long hair made of flames, her blazing crimson eyes seemed to pierce one's soul.

She possessed amazing blazing beauty, hiding behind her cold demeanor.

"Fiere... Aeolus?" My father reacted with almost the same surprised face I did. "I feared it would be them but... Hah, I guess as nice as they were, they're Gods at the end."

"I recognized them too..." I nodded. "They're the Gods that gave me some additional blessings. They gave some to you too, dad?"

"Yes..." He nodded. "This is... To think they would talk so coldly. They spoke with so much warmth and understanding back then. I thought they had empathy for us, but..."

"They're just the same as those mermaid bitches..." Aquarina gritted her teeth. "Acting all nice, only to be wretched monsters that tried to take over my body..."

"Enough, we can talk about this later. The projection continues." My mother stopped our words, as we followed the two Gods walking forwards.

The two gods continued walking with their mercilessly eyes, glaring at several rooms, where several versions of the same experiment were stored.

There was one with multiple people asking for help, their bodies were stuck together with Sunstones, and there were several of them already dead and rotting.

"Please, spare me from this agony, oh Gods!"

"Kill us... please kill us..."

"No... I don't want this... I don't want this!"

The second experiment showed a large mass of Sunstone with several people already dead inside of them, they looked fresh, with agonizing faces.

"..."

The third had some of them alive, they were groaning like zombies, vomiting blood and asking for help in between their groans.

"M-Mother... where are... you?"

"Uuurrghh..."

"GAAAAGGH!"

The Gods coldly glanced at each experiment with really bothered eyes.

"Will you ever dispose of the failed experiments?" Sighed Fiera. "You seem to enjoy seeing them, but I find it a bit disgusting. Just incinerate them."

"I can't, the higher ups said we need to keep them around so we can then show them as evidence of each attempt." Aeolus answered. "The Sunstone is a precious material; we can't waste it."

"Well, it does indeed serve as good provisional food now and then." The God smiled. "Now, into the big ones. We've found out that aside from the Sunstone growth, they can unify into lifeforms of some sort."

"What? Lifeforms?" Asked the woman.

Aeolus showed her one of the experiments, resembling the Sunstone Tree we meet yesterday, its branches going all the way up into the ceiling.

"This is a Sunstone Tree, it produces special fruit sometimes, it can strengthen the soul a bit." Aeolus smiled, as if he were showing his creations with pride.

"A Soul Fruit?" Wondered Fiera. "Interesting..."

Then they moved to another place, where there was a giant mass of Sunstones with many arms and legs, opening insect-

like jaws and eating people they left there to feed it...

"GRYYARRGH!"

Crunch, crunch, crunch...

"This is an Insectoid Chimera, I would call them that, but I have no idea what they are. Some sort of thing between an Undead and a Divine Beast." Said Aeolus. "Imperfect and much weaker than them, but it might have its own uses, if we perfect their creation. We could create as many as we wanted without the energy and resources that Divine Beasts require for their creation."

"Interesting..." Fiere nodded, without even glancing at a little boy screaming at the window, hitting it with his hands while bleeding, as the creature snatched him away and ate him in front of her.

"Hahh... It's really boring around here." She sighed.

Lastly, they walked to the last project they were creation, it had the shape of a gigantic sphere, and there were many metallic tubes connected to it, constantly imbuing Divine Power into its interior.

"What's this thing?" The goddess asked while raising an eyebrow.

"I call it Apollo." Said Aeolus. "It is a failed experiment too, but I gave myself the luxury of mixing a bunch of them until an enormous, stable sphere was formed... It can harness the Divine Power and then fire it at great distances. It can connect to a Divinity and also become refined by our Will."

"Strange, you made a weapon out of them?" She asked.

"I mean, wasn't that the point of this entire project?" Laughed Aeolus. "The more of these failures I feed to it, the bigger and stronger it becomes... Maybe if I could refine such a thing, I could become as strong as the Chief Gods..."

"Not even in your dreams." His companion only laughed at his dreams.

Chapter 1048 Become Gods

The projection changed in that moment, suddenly showing a different scene. The lustrous interior of the building was now set ablaze.

Sunstones constantly grew all across the interior, as the groans of humans could be heard everywhere, and mechanical beings resembling robots trying to recover as many silver-colored tablets from other rooms as they could.

The humans that served them were burning and slowly turning into Sunstone, these flames were like a contagious disease of some sort...

Right there, it could be seen something slowly looming, approaching, as the echoing voices of hundreds of people unified together into an aberrant groan made the entire building tremble.

"Become... Gods... We shall... become Gods... And... kill... KILL! KILL THE GODS! KILL THEM! BECOME GODS AND KILL THE GODS!"

The entity kept roaring; a corrupted Divine Aura kept shaking the entire building. Several Gods could be seen running towards all directions, panicking.

"How did this even happened, Aeolus, what have you done?!"

Fiere rushed near Eolus while flying with her flames, reprimanding the god.

"I don't know! Apollo somehow started acting strange, even though it was such an obedient specimen...!"

Aeolus seemed genuinely afraid at this point.

"He corrupted the data of the computers using divinity and then set himself free from his shackles, and quickly started spreading these flames-"

"ARRRGGH... HELP!"

A lesser God without a name suddenly started agonizing as the flames caught up to him. His divine body slowly started crystalizing!

"HELP ME! LORD AEOLUS! LADY FIERE!"

As the God screamed in agony, the two gods paid no mind to him.

"It doesn't matter if a few die, right? We can clone more later anyways..." Aeolus sighed.

"Lesser Gods are disposable, don't pay any mind to them." Fiere nodded.

The Lesser Gods were caught one after another by the flames, as "Apollo" loomed closer and closer...

Giant crystal tentacles pierced their bodies, absorbing them and gaining even more power.

"GRAAAHAHAHAHAHA! HAHAHAHAHAHAHAH! DIE! GODS! DIE! DIE! DIE!"

The Monster, fueled by the hatred of its souls, continued tearing apart the Lesser Gods into shreds and devoured their bodies one after another, growing tremendously large.

RUMBLE!

CRAAASH!

The ceiling of the building quickly opened and broke apart, as the monstrous giant made of crystals roared, releasing Sunstones and flames everywhere...

"Aeolus, you better take responsibility for the MESS you've made!" Fiere roared.

"Okay, okay! I'll do it, goddamn it!" Aeolus groaned.

Both sounded like idiots, even in such a situation, they were still taking things not as seriously as they should...

"KILL THE GODS! BECOME THE GODS! KILL THE GODS! BECOME THE GODS!"

The monster kept growing larger and larger, opening gigantic maws and gathering Divine Energy, about to fire a massive beam against the two!

"DIE!!!"

RUMBLE!

Aeolus and Fiere quickly seemed to have had enough, their bodies overflowing with Divine Power and clashing against the beam.

Their power quickly took the shape of an enormous blazing sword, slashing through the beam and then piercing "Apollo", cutting through it.

SLAAASH!

"GRYYYYAAEERRRGHHH...!"

The monster gave an agonizing scream, before exploding into pieces, a large chunk of it left behind inside the ruins, while the rest flew away towards all directions.

BOOOMMM!!!

The two gods glanced down at what they had done, sighing...

Their eyes were filled with disappointment, but they seemed just as cold and calculative as before.

The recording ended there, as the whole projection came undone.

Then, a few messages appeared.

[Last Recorded Footage has been displayed.]

[Rt534 555%%2 Thas##"#4///]

[Please...]

[End...]

[This.]

The messages faded away, as the gate slightly opened, as if waiting for us to open it and enter the last room of the dungeon.

I do remember that Aeolus mentioned "Apollo" having hacked into the computer? Could those words have come from them?

"That was... crazy. It felt like I was living what was happening..." Luck gasped for air, kneeling on the floor. "I am exhausted..."

"To think the technology of the Gods can do such things..." My father wondered.

"But we mostly know what happened." Shade sighed. "Apparently, they had to deal with the monster they created. Their approach to life was so cold and feeble, these Gods..."

"It's infuriating to see what happened..." Nepheline nodded. "Even more after we learned they were all humans innocent people that suffered horrendously... I wish they would have died by Apollo's hand."

"Yeah, I was rooting for him." Uncle Arafunn nodded. "Ugh, this has given me a rather bitter aftertaste... But now that Apollo was defeated, then what is this presence beyond the door?"

"They didn't manage to kill it..." My mother said. "What awaits us is most likely what remains of "Apollo"... Not as strong as before, but probably still powerful, and in constant agony."

"What do we do now?" Lara wondered. "Do we go inside or..."

"We have to..." My mother clenched her fists. "If we don't do this now, then it will continue suffering, and it might eventually grow strong enough that it will be able to escape the ruins and... It could cause a lot of destruction on this beautiful land."

"We have to put those souls to rest..." Shade said.

"Yeah!" Aquarina nodded. "Right, Sylphy?"

"I was already going to enter anyways." I nodded. "Lara, if you don't feel like fighting it..."

"No, I'll go." Lara stepped forwards. "I was a bit afraid... Those voices, they keep ringing from time to time. You could hear them too, right Sylphy?"

"Sometimes..." I nodded. "You too?"

"Yeah... But now I understand that it's a cry for help." Lara sighed. "I want to help them; the Spirits want too."

"Then there's little else to do than to go inside and end this." My mother touched the silver-colored door with my father.

The two pushed the gates open, revealing an enormous hall covered on Sunstones of all colors...

At the end of the hall, covered on shadows, as the destroyed ceiling was covered on Sunstone too, there was something.

A mass of crystals, with countless legs and claws, it had human-like heads, with their eyes open, shining bright crimson.

It looked as if many dismembered bodies were stitched together...

It was in silence, hiding in the darkness, until we stepped in.

Chapter 1049 Failed Divine Weapon: Apollo

An experiment originally made to become a Divine Weapon.

Hundreds of humans were sacrificed, but they all failed. They could not transform, and they could not become a Divine Weapon.

However, the wicked mind of the God Aeolus had another idea, to combine as many failures as he could, into a single entity.

This entity, he called "Apollo", the Artificial Sun.

It was obvious the God was attempting to become as strong as the Chief Gods by refining the power of Apollo.

But the hundreds of human souls contained within Apollo would simply not obey him forever...

As they grew stronger, they managed to hack through the building's internal computer, freeing themselves from the restraints.

They attacked and destroyed as much as possible, the souls unified as a single entity that desired to become a god, and with this power, slay the gods.

But they failed, the Gods were much stronger, it only took them a single technique to slay him, despite having eaten several Lesser Gods...

And Aeolus and Fiere are still considered just servants of the Chief Gods.

Just how strong are these monsters?

Apollo was defeated, torn to pieces and left to rot for thousands of years.

Until we arrived at Sunstone Plateau.

And we were now facing what was left of them...

Over eons of being abandoned, Apollo took the form of all the bodies its souls once had, resembling a near-endless mass of dismembered bodies.

It would have been more horrifying if it wasn't for the fact it was made mostly of Sunstone Crystals...

However, at its core, there were hundreds of skeletons, unified into some sort of black crystal, the source of its power.

It is that place where most likely all the agonizing souls of these people gather their hatred and fear, turning it into power.

Apollo might have looked even worse in the past, but now it has most likely recovered a lot of its former strength, and naturally, it wasn't going to be a weak foe to face.

"GRRRHHH..."

It groaned, the sound of countless human screams echoing within its jaws.

With a ferocious roar, it stood up, its entire body overflowing with corrupted divinity, forming a black and golden barrier around its body...

Ding!

[The [Failed Divine Weapon: Apollo (Tier 10)] has awakened from its endless slumber.]

[The anguish of hundreds of souls echoes within its very being. Their Hatred and Fear becoming the fuel for its power.]

[All of Apollo's Stats have increased by +100%. A barrier of Corrupted Divinity encompasses their entire body. Damage below a certain threshold is negated, and its Corrupted Divinity might explode into Flames of Corruption, burning any foe's soul and crystalizing them.]

"It hurts...! IT HURTS...!" Apollo started groaning in agony, slowly beginning to walk towards us. "It's your fault, it's the fault of you, GODS! DIE! DIE! DIEEEEE!!!"

TRUUUMMM...!

An almighty shockwave of corrupted divinity surged from its entire body, making the entire ruins tremble terribly. We were all forced to step back... Except our parents, who stepped forwards to face a danger that went beyond our power.

They were like pillars, unfaced by the enormous pressure, mightily facing the challenge fearlessly, their Divine Relics were summoned, as they all released their Auras and then their Domains.

Several Elements converged together, their Domains becoming a single Multi-Elemental Domain...

This was the power of the Heroes, descendants of the slave of the Gods, given a fragment of the Gods' powers.

Which they mastered and cultivated to reach this point...

Even after knowing how ridiculous strong the Gods were, I can't help but think that as long as they're here...

Anything is possible.

Ding!

[A [Special Quest] has been generated: [Defeat Apollo And Free The Souls]

[You've learned the complete truth now, of what had just happened to these ruins, and the origins of the Sunstone Plateau.]

[Now it is on your hands and those of your family and friends to end this once and for all. Hundreds of human souls are agonizing within Apollo, a being born from hatred and fear.]

[Apollo was unable to avenge the souls of the fallen, and since its defeat, it has been rotting away, growing more and more hatred as its source of power.]

[Defeat Apollo, and free the souls trapped within its crystalline body.]

[Bring an end to their suffering.]

[Completion Rewards: [EXP] [???] [???]

[Time Limit: 3 Hours.]

A Quest popped up in that moment, it required only three hours, and the rewards weren't even shown either... But I was sure they would be plentiful if we had to defeat a Tier 10 monster.

And just like before, I'll help them break through that barrier!

"Sylphy, everyone, stay behind us. Can you help us out like you did before?" My mother asked me, relying on our strength.

Since Eastgrain that they have relied on us, and then against Arachne, and now in this moment, against a Divine Weapon imbued with the Divinity of the Gods.

"Okay! Leave it to us." I nodded. "Everyone, can we do it like before?" I asked them.

"Alright!"

Everyone agreed immediately, their Auras surging from their bodies swiftly after.

"[Yggdragon's Combined Aura]!"

FLASH!

I conjured my own Yggdragon Aura, coating all my friends with it to give them some bonus stats.

Additionally, Red and Green colored Dragon Spirits surged from my Aura. The Green Ones quickly went to support us, floating around our bodies to either heal or buff us.

Meanwhile, the red ones rushed towards Apollo, attacking and distracting it.

The Combined Aura only lasts around fifty minutes after the Skill has leveled up a lot, but even then, it was still a limited amount of time.

We had to do this quickly!

"Celica, Celeste, Zephy, Lara, Mist, I'm counting on your long-

ranged attacks! Try to weaken the soul of Apollo as much as possible!" I commanded them, the Yggdragon Combined Auras harmonizing perfectly with their own.

As they nodded, the rest quickly followed me from behind, as I leaped into action with them and my parents.

"The rest, follow me!"

I unsheathed Scarlet, harnessing Mana Disruption and then Void Energy into her sword, suddenly turning her deep black in color.

SLAAASH!

Chapter 1050 Apollo, The God Of The Sun

I didn't attack Apollo head on, but sneaked through the battle my parents were having against it and landed a hit on one of its many arms, striking it with as much force as I could.

I combined the power of Mana Disruption with Void Wielding Arts, and Scarlet's own Skills with my Techniques...

"[Divine Dragon Blade Arts]: [Mana-Eating Void Dragon's Jaws]!"

CRAASH! CRAASH! CRAASH! CRAASH!

I released four relentless blows, each one releasing a shockwave of void and mana disrupting energy, fusing with my own Yggdragon Aura into the form of a monstrous dragon jaw.

Crack... CRACK!

The barrier temporarily gained a few tiny cracks!

FLAASH!

However, unlike the previous foe we fought before that had a similar thing, the barrier healed instantly!

"I see, just straight away won't work."

I quickly stepped back, evading a gigantic pointy tail almost hitting me from above.

CLAAASH!

"SHYAAAAGH!"

Apollo glared at me with all its eyes, it quickly noticed my attacks had worked slightly against its impenetrable barrier.

It leaped towards me and attempted to corner me! Its enormous legs, trying to move around me so I couldn't find a way to escape.

I released shockwaves of Mana Disrupting Void from my body, fusing them with Ignatius Flames to release black fire from my hands.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

The explosions slightly distorted the barrier, scaring the monster enough to suddenly step back from me and deciding to approach things differently!

"SHAAAH!"

It opened its jaws and released a massive beam of corrupted divinity right into my face!

BOOOOMMM!!

I was about to block it with all my magic and risk on breaking Sapphire, but the explosion never reached me.

Instead, a barrier made of Holy Light protected me, floating in midair like a divine holy shield... It was my mom!

"Dear, be careful and don't let that thing corner you!"

"Thank you mom!"

Mom was already at Tier 11, at least in her Magic Circle... With her reliable magic, I knew that we could make it out of this situation.

"RAAAH!"

"HAAAH!"

Zack and Luck coordinated their attacks, hitting the barrier with all their strength after I left a few cracks, attempting to expand on them.

CRAASH! CRAASH! CRAASH! CRAASH!

Zack's thunderstorm and windstorm auras fused with his blows, releasing enormous explosions, all while his Beast Aura of the Horned Windstorm Bear roared ferociously, further boosting his power.

Meanwhile, Luck's claw attacks became faster and faster as he channeled more of the Element of Light within his Divine Beast Spirit.

"Come on kid, you can do it!"

His Beast Spirit even cheered for him, constantly pushing Luck to go above his limits.

"If you keep going like this, you might be able to awaken a second Divine Beast Spirit's help!"

"Really?!"

"Yes, watch out!"

Suddenly, a gigantic Sunstone Claw loaded with divinity rushed down towards Luck. The young Anima barely parrying it with his enormous claws, but the force alone sent him flying.

CLAAAASSHH!!

"Shit...!"

The claw relentlessly followed him... Only to be suddenly chained by black chains surging from the shadows below.

FLAAASH!

Celica was conjuring her Abyssal Accursed Chains, restraining parts of the monster while releasing her shadows below its enormous, over 50-meter-tall body.

"[Abyssal Accursed Shadow Chains Domain]!"

She created her Domain as she expanded her Aura into the floor, a demonic circle of darkness engulfed half of Apollo, chains wrapping around its body.

"RAAAARRRGHH!"

The chimera easily broke through the, however, but the more he broke through them, the more they kept emerging.

And they were not just with Celeste's own powers, as Beelzebub and Curse were cooperating with her magic, making it even stronger by boosting it with their unique Skills.

"This damned monster keeps breaking the chains!" Curse roared angrily. "RAAR! Stop it!"

"You sure have little patience..." Beelzebub sighed, his powers constantly surging from the domain of darkness resembling a swarm of bugs.

Both of their abilities were able to weaken Apollo to an extent, lowering their stats. This was boosted and strengthened even further with Celeste's Magic holding it all together.

"You two are so noisy! Just shut up and cooperate for a bit!" She complained.

At the same time, Aquarina and Pyuku were fighting Apollo, trying to breakthrough the barrier while moving around my left and right side.

They were both working as if they were my bodyguards!

"Ugh, break already!"

Aquarina's Abyssal Embodiment continued to combine with her other abilities, as she summoned giant tridents made of black ice, trying to pierce through the barrier constantly.

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH! CRASH!

At the same time, Pyuku was growing as big as he could, bombarding the monster with all the spells and skills he had absorbed from the monsters he has eaten so far.

He could make his body grow like ten times as big as he was, helping us restrain Apollo temporarily!

At the same time, the rest of my friends and our parents and family kept bombarding them with attacks, making Apollo grow increasingly more desperate.

"RAAAAGGH!"

With a ferocious roar, the monster's entire body started shapeshifting out of nowhere, its original shape, which seemed to have no real form, slowly took a "true form".

"To kill the Gods... I will become a GOD!"

With a furious roar, an enormous shockwave of Corrupted Flames was released from the monster's body, pushing us all away from it again.

TRUUUUMMM...!

Whatever the flames touched was quickly covered on Sunstone Crystals! My mother conjured her barriers protecting us from the flames deadly embrace.

"They... the ones that brought upon my... creation...! They called me... APOLLO! The God of the Sun!"

The monstrous entity spoke with the combination of countless voices of the many souls it was made of its appearance having completely changed.

It no longer looked in disarrange, now resembling a muscular titan made of crimson red Sunstone, with four giant and muscular arms, human-like face covered on a helmet and even a long dragon-like tail and spikes over its shoulders.

All of that accompanied with three rings of Corrupted Flames circling its back, truly making it resemble an Evil God.