

A Glitched 171

Chapter 171 The Burning Hatred Of The Last Skin Changer

Skin-Changers, a race of people resembling humans, but that had larger frames, more muscular bodies, and were suited to survive in the harshness of nature. Their skin was often charcoal black, very distinct even from other humans, whose darker skin tones only went from dark brown at most.

Some said that Skin-Changers' skin color originated from their Dark Elven Ancestry, and that their powers originate from a clade of Dark Elves that were capable of using Dark Magic to shapeshift into monsters and beasts, but that ended disappearing.

Others said that they they're the children of some sort of Dark God and a Beast Goddess, whose children were the Skin-Changers, inheriting the dark skin of the Dark God and the power over converting into beasts of the Beast Goddess...

But all of these were but myths that people spread around, none knew the true origins of this mysterious race of people that resembled humans but had nothing in common with them other than basic appearances. Some even called them a tribe of Amazon, but they were never truly related, although there are written stories about the clash between these two tribes in the past.

The power of a Skin Changer was incredible, if an adult developed well enough to the level of strength that it could become not only wild and small beasts, but also monsters, it would be the time when they could grow into truly powerful beings, rulers of the jungle.

Ninhursag had developed into adulthood after becoming the last of her kin and had become someone truly admirably powerful. Of course, she had get to reach the pinnacle, and also lacked the mana pool sufficient to remain in her powerful forms for too long, despite this, she was doing everything she could so she could bring down these monsters from her jungle, her territory, as these monsters were doing nothing but trying to invade her precious home.

Her enormous three-headed chimera form was one of her strongest forms, but it came with an insane amount of mana requirements, her large mana pool were running low by just using this form, she calculated that at most, she can take this form for ten minutes before her mana is fully exhausted.

This form allowed her to do many things, and brought many natural abilities that this deadly Chimera once had, which she had to fight with everything she had to defeat back then...

While the Lion Head had a deadly Fire Breath, the Goat Head, seemingly inconspicuous, had the power of Dark Magic! A magic circle in the shape of a star emerged in the forehead of the goat head, as dark magic was conjured.

Darkness gathered around Ninhursag as it shaped itself as enormous spears of pure blackness, flying across the air and reaching the Goblin Champions, the ones putting the most fight out of the other mobs, who were being grilled by her Lion Head's Fire Breath!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

The four Goblin Champions defended themselves unleashing magic barriers of their own elements. Goblin Champions were incredibly proficient at magic and so they were good at physical combat as well, they were good at both spectrum, and lacked weaknesses as well as they were more intelligent than their smaller kin, more agile, had greater natural regeneration, and an even more cunning and vicious personality than them!

"GROOOARR!"

The third head, the head of an eagle, suddenly opened its beak as it gathered storming green winds from within, unleashing a powerful storm with a mere breath out of its beak!

FLAAAAAASSSHHHH!

The storm of winds reached the Goblin Champions, as they were blown away all at the same time, the dark spears followed them from behind like tracking missiles, clashing against them in midair, and the flames quickly began to burn over them.

Two of the Goblin Champions ended calcinated after these attacks, falling over the floor completely dead against Ninhursag's incredible power, while the other two Goblin Champions were left barely living, their bodies were covered in burn wounds, and their mana was exhausted.

The other goblins tried to retreat at long last, they couldn't win against such a monster with such incredible magic power, but Ninhursag wasn't going to let them run away, by merely stepping towards them, her mere paws crushed them and splattered them over the ground, leaving the entire forest floor tainted with blood.

Ninhursag had bad memories with Green Skins, she hated them more than any other monster for a big reason, she detested them because they had provoked the loss of her loved ones...

"Die! Die! Die!"

She roared angrily as she unleashed her wrathful fury over the goblins, all while she noticed that the children had already gone away now.

the surrounding trees were all on fire while she was crushing every single corpse of the goblins with her paws, and then extended her jaws over them and devouring them all.

When Allan and Shade reached the scene, they had prepared to fight this deadly Chimera, but quickly realized, by the nature of her soul, that it was actually Ninhursag...

"Ninhursag?!" asked Allan in surprise, as the Skin Changer continued to devour and destroy...

"GROOOARRR!"

She continued destroying anything in her path, all the nature she protected and loved so much was being destroyed and burned, at some point, her bloodlust was so strong that she ended being taken over by the nature and instincts of the monster she had transformed into...

Shade looked at the woman while squinting his eyes. He knew Ninhursag quite well with Nepheline, they had met her several times, and had engaged in long conversations, sometimes she was even invited to eat with them.

He knew something about her... she was a very lonely woman.

And this wasn't because of just her choices, but her past and the pain of a life without her beloved family, after having lost it all, made her someone that had a hard time socializing...

He knew that deep down, she had a burning hatred against her own self as well, perhaps she purposely let the furious wild behavior of her transformation take over her because it was what she wanted at the end, to become a wild beast, and to stop thinking about the pain of her past.

Chapter 172 The Heroes Intervene

"Shade, we have to stop her!" said Allan.

"No, she's already at her limit." Said Shade.

The two friends looked at Ninhursag as she suddenly was enveloped in a bright white light, her transformation was dispelled due to the lack of Mana, and she ended over the floor unconscious and very weakened.

There were many wounds over her body, some seemed almost lethal to her. All the wounds she received from the monsters she fought ended transferring over to her human body, now that she lacked the same stamina and body size as these monsters, these wounds became way bigger and prominent, and might endanger her life if she was left behind like this.

"She did this to save our children, let's go bring her back to the village." Said Shade.

"Yeah, let me close her wounds. I cannot treat them well because they seem to be quite bad, but I can use the flames I have mastered to cauterize them." Said Allan.

Shade looked as Allan waved his hands over Ninhursag's body, slowly closing her wounds by cauterizing them with his magic flames, his hands slowly caressed her beautiful and feminine body, making Allan blush a bit as he tried to not think anything weird, he had a wife now so he couldn't possibly eye another woman, even if this woman was nude in front of him as he touched her body!

"Gods, protect me from this woman's attributes..." he sighed internally, as he suppressed his lust to the extremes and managed to close her wounds successfully.

"Hmm, you enjoyed touching her, didn't you?" asked Shade with an expressionless face.

"Eh?! Ah...! I did it to save her! Don't tell Faylen about this..." Asked Allan.

Shade sighed as he looked to the opposite direction and began to walk through the forest. He seemed to pretend he had not seen anything at all, and had already turned off the fire around the place, so the flames wouldn't spread.

Allan noticed that Shade then stopped and looked back at him with his aquamarine eyes, his expressionless face seemed as expressionless as ever though.

"I didn't saw anything." He said.

Allan was suddenly filled with a feeling of gratefulness. He had truly done this only to save Ninhursag from bleeding but knew that Faylen would make a fuss out of it, she was a very jealous woman.

"Shade... you're really a good friend..." Sighed Allan.

He felt relieved he had such a good friend with him, from the many that had fallen in the war, Shade remained alive all the way to the end, at his side, like a good bro.

"Don't think about it and let's move." Said Shade uninterested in Allan's strange antics, he simply wanted to move back to the village.

"Oh, right! Wait, what about the goblin hideout?" asked Allan.

The goblin hideout was where the goblins would had originated from, Allan and Shade had originally come here to defeat the goblins and find their hideout, but it seemed that Ninhursag had destroyed their entire army already.

"Right..." said Shade. He had bad memory actually, and Nepheline always had to remind him of his own birthday and that of her. Of course, he was such a dedicated father that he never forgets the day his daughter was born though.

"I guess we should leave it to our summons, we need to go back to attend her wounds and protect the village, we don't know what else might happen." Said Allan.

"I agree. Let's do some summons then... Sending spirits here would be a waste though, so summons alone should do...." Said Shade.

Summoning Magic was a powerful advanced form of Magic that was made through the ancient Creation Magic combined with any element, or many. The Heroes had all learned Creation Magic of Tier 3 at most and were able to perform the creation of entities made entirely out of elements, Summons.

These Summons were different from Familiars as they were expendable, although they cost a lot of Mana, they're capable of dying after a few strong hits, and would dissipate into elemental magic smoke after dying, without leaving true physical bodies behind.

To make strong Summons, it was necessary to use materials and catalysts, but the two were in a hurry, so they decided to make a couple of powerful ones merging their magic and powers together.

The two heroes unleashed rivers of darkness and flames from their bodies, as the two rivers of magic entangled with one another.

"Summon Guardian!" the two said at the same time, as a magic circle emerged around them, and a handful of beings made entirely out of magic surged.

They resembled random animals, wolves, birds, snakes, bears, and lions made of black flames. Despite their simplistic appearances, they looked powerful, exuding at least the strength of Tier 6 monsters.

"Now go, chase any clues that lead to the goblin camp." Said Allan.

The Summons quickly moved across the jungle, chasing down the scent of the goblins towards their hideout.

Meanwhile, Allan and Shade decided to quickly move back to the village of the Amazon Tribe, finding everyone being okay there.

Allan brought the wounded Ninhursag with his arms, his daughter and the other children seemed discouraged after seeing her unconscious and covered in freshly cauterized wounds.

"She's really bad, can you do something?" asked Allan to Faylen.

"Yeah, I think I can, bring her to the tent!" said Faylen.

Sylphy looked at Ninhursag unconscious state as she wondered how much did she battle to end like this... she was a powerful woman, but how powerful? Even the strongest of people in this world was fragile at the end when their energy ran out...

"Nin..." she sighed.

The woman was placed over a bed, and Faylen began healing her intensively, the children looked at the woman nervously as they seemed very worried about her.

Allan petted his daughter's head as he smiled back at her.

"Don't worry, she's going to be alright." He said.

"I hope so..." sighed Sylphy.

Chapter 173 The Past Of The Skin Changer

Ninhursag found herself within her own dreams, fragments of the past that surged inside of her mind, and the many things she saw within them.

There was a lot of tragedy to remember, and very little things that made her truly happy from such memories...

However, it's not as if she could control her own dreams. She slept without being able to control her own dreams and ended reaching an old, a very old memory.

A verdant and beautiful forest covered whenever the eye could see. The verdant nature, the smell of the damp dirt below her bare feet, and the fresh air, all of it made a wondrous atmosphere that always soothed her heart.

Ninhursag was a little girl back then, no older than three years of age, she woke up every day looking at the beautiful nature around her, and was always soothed by its beauty.

Sometimes she would admire the beauty of the world surrounding her, of the art of life, and everything around her.

Deep within her heart, she couldn't help but love it all.

It was something inherent in the race that had lived in nature for thousands of years.

The love to nature and all on it, the appreciation of life... the mystique of all things within nature.

The verdant life... the wild beasts... all of it...

"Ninhursag, come eat with us, or you'll miss on the food, dear."

A beautiful woman with charcoal black skin covered in artistic white tattoos, having long silvery-white hair, and shiny golden eyes greeted Ninhursag in her dream.

"Mama... Is that... really you?"

The woman was Ninhursag mother.

"Huh? Yeah? Come here with me..."

The woman smiled warmly, holding her dear daughter in her arms, and carrying her with the rest of her family.

A large and burly man greeted her sight, covered in scars, and having a long white beard, a missing left eye covered by an eyepatch, and a strong-looking aura, this man was her father.

"Papa..."

"Oh, there she is, our sleeping beauty..." laughed the man, caressing his little girl.

"Papa! Is it really... you?" asked Ninhursag.

"Hm? Who else would I be?" asked the man.

Ninhursag admired her father's appearance, his big figure, his strong demeanor, the aura of strength he exuded.

She remembered hi very well, despite all the time that has passed since the last time she saw him.

Was this truly a dream? Or was she having nightmares before?

She often thought about this every time she dreamed of the past.

Sometimes, a person yearns so much for their past that they have dreams of the past.

And wish, deep down, that these were not actual dreams, but reality.

They convince themselves that the future they saw was a bad nightmare, and simply tried to live this dream with their loved ones.

"What's wrong, little Nin?" asked a young boy on his mid-teens, he had long white hair made into a ponytail and a slim and muscular figure, with shiny yellow-gold eyes.

"Big brother..." muttered Ninhursag, her eyes seemed filled with sorrow as she saw all she had lost...

The entire family looked at the little girl with confusion.

"Why are you crying dear?" asked her mother.

"Is everything okay?" asked her father.

"Nin?" asked her big brother.

"Sniff... No... It's not okay... You're not real... Sniff... You all died..." she cried.

"Eh? Died? But we are here with you..." said her father.

"I'll never die until I see my little girl grow into a strong warrior!" said her mother.

"And I'll protect your back, as always," said her big brother.

Ninhursag felt a strong pain in her heart, as she saw those she remembered every day... those she loved so much... those she fought for...

"You don't know... how much I miss you all so much..." she cried.

"..."

"..."

"..."

"There's not a single day I don't think about you..." she muttered.

Ninhursag felt as if she was going through an agonizing torture more painful than any physical wound she had ever gotten, the pain of the heart and the soul, all of it...

It was very excruciating.

A warriorress like her was able to bear the harshest of wounds and wear their scars like a proud Skin Changer, like her father and brother once did.

But the scars of the mind? The scars of her emotions... such scars had never healed.

"Why...? Why do you keep showing up in my dreams? Just to remind me that I am alone? Without you?" she cried.

"..."

"..."

"..."

Ninhursag covered her face as she began to cry even more desperately.

"I miss you so much... I hate this... I hate everything..." she cried.

"..."

"..."

"..."

"Say something! Even if you're all dreams... S-Say something!" she cried.

Suddenly, she was hugged by her mother, and then her father, and then her brother from behind.

Their warmth, their love, their care...

It only made her cry even bigger rivers of tears...

"No matter what happens... We'll never leave your side." Said her mother.

"No matter where you go or what you do, always remember that you got a family." Said her father.

"And no matter what happens to you, we'll always be there, in your heart. As long as you live, we'll live too, Ninhursag..." said her older brother.

This was the first moment that Ninhursag felt something different.

Did her own dreams... gained some sort of sentience?

After dreaming with them for so long...

Could they truly be her family?

"Don't leave me behind..." she cried.

"We'll never leave you behind..." said her mother.

"We'll always be with you, in everything you do..." said her father.

"Yeah... So don't ever think about giving up your life for naught..." said her big brother.

Ninhursag hugged her family as she rubbed her face over her mother's chest.

"Okay... I get it... You don't have to remind me of this..." she cried.

As she cried, she suddenly heard the faint voice of someone calling to her.

"Ninhursag!"

"Eh?"

"Ninhursag!"

"Huh? Who is it...?"

"Ninhursag, please wake up!"

And then, Ninhursag realized who it was...

Chapter 174 You're No Longer Alone

Ninhursag's family smiled back at her, as her mother kissed her forehead and her father hugged her tightly and caressed her silvery-white hair and her brother kissed her cheek.

"It seems that there are already people out there waiting for you." Said her father.

"So stop being so stuck in the past, and go meet them, I think they're worried about you..." Said her mother.

"Yeah, stop being such a crybaby..." laughed her big brother.

"..."

Ninhursag looked at her family as she heard the whispers of the people outside calling her.

They needed her now... she couldn't simply falter.

She had to move and wake up.

"Wake up..." said her mother.

"We'll keep watching you as you make your own legend, my daughter," said her father.

"Make sure to make lots of friends!" said her big brother.

"Okay... I will go... One day, when I die... I will meet you again, and I will hug and kiss all of you..." she sighed.

"Don't think those things!" said her father.

"Nobody wants to die," said her mother.

"Come on, stop delaying it already, go on and move on!" said her big brother.

Ninhursag suddenly was embraced by a bright light, it was warm and familiar.

She looked one last time at her family, as they smiled warmly at her.

As long as she's alive, they'll always live inside of her heart.

That's a given.

So... she decided to not be so reckless...

She almost died back then.

So now that she found that she was still alive, she wants to make sure she won't go wasting her life away going insane like a monster anymore...

She walked towards the light, as it encompassed her entirely.

"You'll always be in my heart..." she said one last time, waving her hand to her family to say her goodbyes.

FLASH!

...

When Ninhursag opened her eyes weakly, there was an adorably trio of children crying at her side.

A cute red-haired half-elf with emerald eyes, a beautiful girl with brown skin, long silvery-white hair and aquamarine eyes, and a cute boy with brown skin and short almond hair, with green eyes...

"Ninhursag!" cried the half-elf girl.

"You're okay?" asked the other girl.

"We were so scared! You were not breathing for a while!" cried the boy.

"Eh? Ah... You kids..." muttered Ninhursag, as she smiled at them mildly.

She remembered why she had gone all out back then; it was to protect the kids.

The trio hugged her tightly, as they seemed to have been very worried of her, they even began to cry all over her, getting her leather clothes all wet...

Faylen greeted Ninhursag with a faint smile.

"You worried the children a lot, Ninhursag..." she sighed.

"Ah... Faylen... Sorry..." sighed Ninhursag.

She noticed that not only Faylen was there, but Nepheline, Allan, and Shade.

All of these people that considered her a friend were worried about her. Perhaps she wasn't an official Hero, but she always helped them a great deal back then when they explored the area with her.

And Shade and Nepheline already appreciated her a lot as well, thinking that she was someone special and a precious friend, alongside the guardian of the forest.

"You dumb idiot! Ninhursag, what did I told you about using that transformation?! Allan and Shade told me you used the chimera again!" sighed Nepheline, the muscular amazon began to reprimand the skin changer.

"S-Sorry! I... I had to do it, it was the only way to defeat those monsters..." sighed Ninhursag.

"But still, you should had bought time instead of trying to take them all with you, or have ran away, there's no point in staying there if you already saw the kids moving away..." sighed Shade.

"Shade... I... Well, I wanted to take them down on my own because... I can't stand seeing those monsters..." sighed Ninhursag.

"We understand why you did it but still, it doesn't mean that it justifies you sacrificing your life over it, Ninhursag, you have to get over it sometime and realize your mistakes, don't go overboard on us, please." Sighed Allan.

"Okay, I understand, Allan... I get it, I won't go crazy." Sighed Ninhursag.

"That's good to hear. But will you even do it? Sigh... Look, I tried to take most of the scars, but your body ended even more scared than before..." sighed Faylen.

Ninhursag noticed her body filled with even more scars over her body, but these scars were also part of her battles, each one is a different battle to her, something that her family always appreciated and saw as precious.

"It's fine, I like them. I like my scars." She said with a smile.

"Scars are a nice way to show the battles you've had...!" said Nepheline.

"Yeah, yeah, okay, fine, but still! The kids were worried too! I know you were doing it for them but you exceeded yourself!" said Faylen.

"..."

Ninhursag blushed a bit as she was being showered in attention and the worry of her friends, she felt her heart warm up to their concern, they really cared about her.

She often wandered the forest alone by herself thinking there was nobody for her in any place she went to, but she would have never expected that there would be people here willing to help her and do everything they could for her... It was quite mesmerizing, but it was certainly the truth, they were more than willing to fight at her side, and to save her.

"You were in the verge of death back then... I had to cauterize your wounds or you would have died out of bleeding before reaching here." Sighed Allan.

"We'll try to be at your side and help you as much as we can but... Take care of yourself, Ninhursag... We don't want to lose another friend..." sighed Shade.

"Everyone..." muttered Ninhursag.

Suddenly, little tears began to come out of her eyes, this only concerned her friends even more.

"Eh? Why are you crying?!" asked Allan.

"Are you okay?" asked Shade.

"D-Does something hurt?" asked Faylen.

"Ninhursag?" asked Nepheline.

"Nin, don't cry..." sighed Sylphy.

"Yeah, you should be happy that you survived instead..." sighed Aquarina.

"Don't cry or I'll end up crying even more..." cried Zack.

"No... I am not crying out of pain or sadness... It's just... It makes me happy to be alive... and be with you... I guess... I was never as alone as I thought." Said Ninhursag.

Chapter 175 Of Course We Remember You!

(Back to Sylphy's POV)

Ninhursag had finally woken up. After my mother had put all the effort that she could into healing her wounded body and stopping her internal hemorrhage. I had grown very worried to the point that I didn't realized when tears began to come out of my eyes... I felt a bit embarrassed when she woke up and everything was okay. I think the other kids infected me with their sorrow...

But deep down I also felt pretty bad, was she like this because of us? Should we had gone out if this would had happened? I was concerned that perhaps because she wanted to protect us from the giant army of Goblins that we never saw approaching, that she ended this wounded.

Later on, I learned that it was kind of like that, but not as much, it was more like she ended pushing herself to her limits because she was really immersing herself in her hunt, or something like that... it seems that Ninhursag doesn't take care of herself as much as someone would want her to do so, which ends up in her pushing her own body to her limits.

My parents and Aquarina's parents began to reprimand her a lot, calling her a reckless and beastly girl. Although she might be apparently older than some of them except my mother, she was sitting there while feeling a bit sad, I think she understood that she had gone all out.

And well, she had gone too hard, because she was on the verge of death. Father had told me that she almost died when she was attacked by this entire army of goblins with four Goblin Champions on them...

Her wounds can be easily taken when she is in her monster or beast forms, but after she goes back to her human form, all these wounds remain and become even worse within the body of a human, making her almost die out of many lethal wounds accumulating over her body.

She ended with a few bones broken, her lungs were perforated, she had a major contusion in her head, one of her eyes was torn apart and leaking large quantities of blood, her nose was broken, and more... Father said that she was covered in blood, and he had to hurriedly cauterize her wounds with his flames and bring her here for mother to save her life.

Now, thanks to my mother's amazing healing magic, she was back up together and in one piece, even her eye had healed, my mother ability to heal wounds was incredible, the mystical power of high-tiered Light and Life Magic was simply sublime... Was there anything it couldn't heal? Well, she was the Saint for a reason.

Nonetheless, as Ninhursag opened her eyes, I couldn't help but feel very happy, Zack and Aquarina at our side also felt rather happy she was doing okay.

Although we had only seen her once, she had created an impact in us and gave us the impression of a big sister figure, I was really looking forward to see her one day, so seeing her in the verge of dying was really sad, it felt as if destiny didn't wanted me to met her anymore and know her better.

She was a very interesting woman, I just wanted to know more about her... After we realized what she had been doing for Zack, acting as if she were his mother, it also hit us hard, it would had been quite horrible if she were to die in front of him...

After everyone reprimanded her, including us, she sighed and smiled gently.

"I am sorry... I-I didn't meant to worry all of you... I didn't realized you worried so much for me..." sighed Ninhursag.

"Of course we worry! Why wouldn't we worry?!" asked Aquarina.

"Yeah! Don't go killing yourself in the process of helping us..." sighed Zack.

"Was it all provoked by us? I am sorry if you had to put yourself in such a situation..." I sighed.

"N-No, children... Don't worry about... At some point you were able to escape, and I should had escaped as well, not fight so many monsters at once... The Goblin Champion and the possible Goblin King were also boosting these goblins strength a lot, making it more difficult than it should had been originally..." sighed Ninhursag.

"Hm, for now, you stay here and rest, okay?" asked Faylen.

"Yeah, we'll bring you something to eat." Said Nepheline.

"Hm." Said Shade while nodding.

"E-Everyone..." Ninhursag said, her eye seemed to shine a bit as she was containing her tears, it seems that she was very moved by how everyone worried about her.

As my parents and Aquarina's parents walked outside the tent, we ended sitting around Ninhursag over her bed, while she hugged us with her big and strong arms. She was even more covered by scars than before, but she seemed healthy and wasn't with a fever anymore.

"A-Are you really okay, Ninhursag?" asked Zack.

"Yeah... I am tired and I think the broken bones might take a bit more to regenerate... But I am doing fine now." Said Ninhursag, petting Zack's head.

"Really?" asked Aquarina.

"Yes, Aquarina... I am surprised you kids remember me, we only met once some weeks ago..." said Ninhursag.

"Of course we remember, who wouldn't remember you? You're pretty unique... Where would we find someone capable of changing appearance into beasts like you?" I asked.

"Ah... Hahaha! I guess I am not as dull as I thought... My powers are always taken for granted to me, so I never think of them as anything special." Said Ninhursag.

"Ninhursag, sorry for making you do this though..." said Zack.

Ninhursag smiled back at us as she petted our heads and suddenly kissed each one of our foreheads lovingly.

"Don't worry... Being with you children really soothes my heart... That I was able to protect you is the important thing here, it makes me happy to see you all well." She said.

Chapter 176 Ninhursag's Past

Ninhursag was surprisingly very motherly as well, she surprised me. However, as someone that likes to ask a lot of questions, I couldn't help but wonder why she did something that was so reckless at the end.

After all she was defending us from a larger army coming to our direction, but after we were rescued by our parents' spirits, she should had escaped, but instead, she continued killing and killing more goblins, as if she really just hated them to the core.

I would had also killed more if I could, but in a dire situation, she should had escaped, its not as if she was omnipotent after all... I knew she was pretty strong, very strong at that, but against so many overpowered goblins boosted by the power of FOUR Goblin Champions and a Goblin King, apparently, things would go awry either way.

But I wondered what was inside of her mind, and why did she do this... I wonder if there could be a way for me to help me her...

Hm, am I stepping too outside of my own boundaries? Perhaps I shouldn't get involved with another's person's problems, especially because we have not met enough, right?

But deep down, I feel like as a kid, maybe she'll forgive me if I try to intrude into her personal life a little bit... I am not doing this out of malice or because I like gossip, I am simply genuinely worried about her.

I also want to learn about her and also about her magic... Ah, maybe I am an interested person only in her magic? Is this why I am worried about her safety, because I won't be able to learn her magic?

...No, I don't think that's a major part of it, although it is indeed part of my drive, I am just... interested in her.

When we met interesting people we always want to know more about them, but because of how they might think about you if you try to intrude into their personal lives, we never try to get too friendly with them unless we have been friends for years.

But as a kid, perhaps I can get away with it.

It is worth a try! I can always simply stop if she asks me that it is something I shouldn't ask her.

"Ninhursag, why did you do this? Do you have some sort of hate against the goblins? ...You have to remember that your life is precious, don't waste it away just for revenge," I said.

Ninhursag heard my words as her eyes opened wide for a bit, she seemed surprised, even a bit of bright light came out of her eyes, which made her look even prettier, despite her muscular and scarred body, she was a very beautiful woman...

"Sylphy... I... Well..." muttered Ninhursag, she seemed rather worried and uncomfortable over talking about it, so I decided to cut it out for now.

"D-Don't worry, you don't have to tell me if you don't want to... Sorry for intruding into your personal life and that stuff..." I said.

Ninhursag sighed as she caressed my red hair, her big arms were warm and welcoming, as if she was embracing me with a lot of motherly love. It was something that only a woman who had been protecting the forest, nature, and the beasts that inhabit it could exude even to a child she had seen very little.

Was she a natural mother, I wonder?

"It's fine... Your parents already know about my resentment against Green Skins in general... That accursed race was the one that took away everything from me..." sighed Ninhursag.

"I-it did?!" asked Aquarina.

"Wait! I don't think we should talk about something so hurtful for you..." said Zack.

The two kids were worried about how she felt, and honestly speaking, I was also very worried, but it seems that such concerns were not necessary, Ninhursag's smile seemed to contain an air of tranquility and maturity to her, as if she had gone past that lost now...

"Don't worry, I know how you may think, but there's nothing to worry about me. I have already gone past that point... I can speak about it." She said.

"Y-You're sure?" I asked.

"Yes... Well, what happened was... roughly over forty years ago... Our kin, the Skin Changers, were already only a single family, my family... Due to a disease, my kin had died in large quantities in the past... It was said that our family was one of the few ones capable of creating an immunity to the disease, and therefore, we were the last family." Said Ninhursag.

"T-The last?" asked Aquarina.

"That's harsh..." said Zack.

"Well yeah, but I never got to meet the other people of my kin, only my mother, father, and my older brother... They taught me a lot of what our kin was about, my father in specific was a powerful and strong warrior, he taught me how to fight. Meanwhile, my mother was a graceful maiden, unlike me... She taught me how to communicate with animals, spirits, and grow closer with nature. And my older brother was someone very intelligent and resourceful, he taught me how to survive in the wild, and how to do many other things." Said Ninhursag.

"Oooh..." said Aquarina in wonder.

"They must had been amazing parents..." said Zack.

"Do you miss them?" I wondered.

"That's a dumb question... I do, I miss them a lot, Sylphy... There's not a single day I don't miss them... Since their loss that I've always felt alone, even when I made many friends along the way." Sighed Ninhursag.

"Nin..." I said.

"Oh, that nickname... My brother used to call me Nin." Giggled Ninhursag.

"Sorry, I shouldn't use that..." I said.

"No, it's fine. It is shorter and easier to say, right?" asked Ninhursag.

"Yeah, I guess... So what... happened afterwards?" I wondered.

It pained me to ask her about going into details about what happened to her family, but this was the main topic of the conversation after all... I wanted to know more about her, so even if it pained me to ask these things, I had to.

Chapter 177 The Old War

"What happened back then was when your parents had yet to become heroes, in the previous war against the demons, the prelude before the Demon King were to be born. The ancient Demon Lords that served the Demon King sent armies to this continent, and the many Kingdoms had to defend their capitals against the endless armies of demons, even the wilderness of our jungles were not untouched by the malice and darkness of these beings..." said Ninhursag.

The Demon King didn't exist forty years ago? Well, my father is not that old, I think he's not even thirty years old yet, so it makes sense, their journey began when he was around twelve, so the Demon King was only born almost twenty years ago... a bit less than that.

Meanwhile, Ninhursag is over forty years probably.

So the Demon king was not here yet, but the Demon Continent already had the Demon Lords. So does that mean that the Demon Lords will always act, even without a Demon King? But what drives them to use so many resources for that?

Are they stupid to waste so many men worthlessly while trying to conquer another continent by crossing a turbulent ocean and all? If the continent is not filled with demons that means they failed, so it was a complete waste of men and resources...

What drives them so much? I did hear that Demons are the enemy of Gods, but is that it?

This continent has a big church that prays to the Gods, did they want to aim at the holy capital?

So many questions... but I don't want to ask Ninhursag about them, she might not even know the answer to most of them as she had been living in the jungle most of her life, she probably doesn't know about any weird political stuff.

"The Demon Lords... We fought one of them, Hell, the Demon Lord of Death..." I said.

"You did?" asked Ninhursag.

"Yeah... Sylphy ended as a pile of minced meat..." said Aquarina.

"W-What?!" asked Ninhursag.

"Aquarina don't talk about that like this... Ninhursag, we can tell you later about this... Go on with your own stuff." I said.

"O-Okay then... Well, as I said... Due to the invasion of Demons all around the continent, armies of demons began to march against the Kingdoms and many small villages ended being attacked by them, many ended being ruined, burned, and destroyed, the people in there were slaughtered, slaved, or even worse, used as provisions and food..." sighed Ninhursag.

So demons can get to such barbaric lengths... but the same could be said for us humans to an extent, what we had done now to their people all the way to the demon continent after the death of the Demon King could be said to be like a "retaliation" from those times.

This also justifies why they were doing this... but by no means it seems good to me, but I suppose there is a justification and a drive other than simply being greedy and malicious, probably after all these events, the people of the continent grew an even deeper hate against the demons to the point that they gladly slaughtered countless innocents the same way the demons did to the continent...

Is this what's called revenged? Death only creates more death, war only makes more war, there is an endless cycle, no side ever rests, the two just wants to kill each other...

If there isn't a turning point to this conflict, it will continue as many innocents die, hundreds, thousands, millions, perhaps... until one of the other side finally goes completely extinct...

War is really horrible.

"Amongst these small territories, there was our large jungle, inhabited by a couple of human tribes. The Demons saw this place as a good place to hide their armies from the other Kingdoms, and ended coming here, taking down many tribes of people that once lived in here... You know? There used to be a lot of beast-kin in this jungle... their ruins and temples still remain, but most of these rich cultures are gone..."

Apparently, their last remnants were taken down by the demons, and whatever is left is no different than me, only a single or a couple of people." Sighed Ninhursag.

So there was a lot of people living in this jungle, it wasn't just monsters and beasts, it appears that they even had enough civilization to build temples and other things, but that ended being all taken down as their last remnants were slaughtered by the demons... Hahh... this is getting more and more depressing.

I think the world really wants me to hate demons...

"What happened afterwards should be easy to guess, right? Sigh... My family was powerful, my father and my mother... they ended fighting against these armies of demons alongside many more. I was a little toddler back then, my older brother caught me with his arms and ran away as fast as possible... After days of running away, my brother and I lived for two years before he... well, he also died... protecting me... It was all the fault of the Green Skins and their Demon Lord, the Blue-Skinned Oni Emperor, Barthus, the Demon Lord of Ogres," said Ninhursag while gritting her teeth in frustration.

I could notice Ninhursag's pain while saying these words, she was having a very hard time mustering what had happened to her family. I could see the sorrow in her eyes, despite that, she was trying to put out a brave expression as she smiled mildly.

This man... he was the one that decided to take over these jungles as his outpost, and to use the people and the animals here as food for his army while they were hiding from the armies from the Kingdoms.

Barthus, the Demon Lord of Ogres.

Demon Generals and Demon Lords seem to be similar, but I guess there's some difference, Demon Lords appear to be more concentrated into representing a race, while the Demon Generals lead the whole demons with the Demon King...

Chapter 178 The Mysterious Demon

After Ninhursag said these things and explained herself, we all fell into silence.

I could notice that Aquarina and Zack were growing their hate for demons a bit more... And I couldn't blame them, this entire story was demon-hating-inducing, even I was getting angry.

But... even then... I cannot bring myself to hate an entire race for what a part of their kin did to the people of this continent.

"So the Goblins... all the Green Skins are led by this man?" I asked.

"...Apparently, that's how it used to be. It is said that Barthus was defeated later on by your parents, they had also confirmed it to me. He died beheaded by Shade." Said Ninhursag.

"Oh..." I said.

"Papa avenged your family, Nin?" asked Aquarina, her eyes shone brightly, the admiration for her father grew larger.

"Indeed... I was grateful for what he did... but deep down, even killing that despicable man... Didn't brought any joy to me deep down... My parents will never come back, even if all the green skins die... I know they're vicious and monstrous, so we should still just kill them if we see them... But even then... I guess I went a bit too hard on my own hate, I should had at least escaped and waited for reinforcements." Said Ninhursag.

"True..." said Zack.

"Well... I guess that's that... Nin, I want to tell you that... Ah, I guess it doesn't matter much, seeing we have not met enough... But... I want to tell you that I here for you! Whenever you need someone at your side..." I said.

I was rather bold there, but I just wanted to calm her sorrowful expression, it really broke my heart.

"Sylphy... You're such a cute little girl... Thank you, I will take your words for granted then..." said Ninhursag.

"Me too! I-I want you to count on me too... You're not alone..." said Aquarian.

"Yeah... Ninhursag, you've been protecting me all this time, right? I am very grateful for all the things you've done for me, so... I want you to count on me as well." Said Zack.

"You're just children yet you act like adults telling me to count on you... You're not even half as strong as I am yet... you boldly say such things? Sigh... You're really a trio of bold children, aren't you? But okay, I'll take these words to heart. I am counting on you three," said Ninhursag.

Ninhursag seemed to miss the warmth of a family quite a lot, and we all agreed that it was something we could give to her, it was perhaps the only thing we could offer as of now.

I wish I could do more. I want to do more. But... I am weak, young, and unexperienced in many things. I wish time could pass faster, but that's not how things work, you live day by day, I cannot simply skip it all until the desired time.

"It's the only thing we can really do... Despite our parents being powerful, growing stronger really takes a long time... I wish I could do more, I wish I could have the power to change the world... But I have yet to even become someone capable of doing anything..." I said.

Ninhursag, Aquarina, and Zack looked at me with surprise.

"W-What are you talking about, Sylphy?! You're the strongest of all three of us and you killed that Goblin Champion all by yourself! You're pretty amazing... Seriously, how can you not realize?" sighed Zack while facepalming.

"Sylphy don't ever say that! We'll do it one day, we'll change the world together... but for now, you don't have to get sad because you can't make a change..." said Aquarina.

"Oh... I-I guess I went a bit overboard there... I was just expressing my own thoughts, but I guess I shouldn't had to worry." I laughed.

Ninhursag looked at us with a warm smile.

"Come on now, I didn't said all those things for all of you to get sad or to feel motivated to go fight demons or something, I was just sharing a bit of my past because you asked for it. For now, we should really concentrate in what we can do, right? We have yet to find the goblin king and who brought them here to begin with... Ah, but I guess I will be healing first before doing anything." Said Ninhursag.

"Yeah, you better rest well, we'll take care of you, our parents can do the rest, they're powerful heroes after all." I said.

"You trust your parents a lot, they're indeed strong people that saved humanity from the Demon King, I am sure they'll be able to handle what's happening here..." said Ninhursag.

Suddenly, mother and Nepheline came back bringing a plate with warm stew, bread, and other things, a full meal for Ninhursag.

"Ah... This is all for me?" she asked shyly.

"Of course its all for you! Why would I bring it here for?" asked my mother rather angrily.

"Thanks... It's just that... It has been a while since I ever ate something like this..." she said.

"Well, friend, this is what we do every day, if you had the decency of coming to stay with us we'll give you this food every day..." sighed Nepheline.

"Nepheline..." said Ninhursag.

"Yeah! Good idea, mama! Why don't you stay to live here, Ninhursag?" asked Aquarina.

"T-To live here?! But that's..." said Ninhursag.

"Aquarina, don't force her to compromise in something she doesn't want to, leave her be, she'll decide what to do or not in the future. For the moment, we should concentrate in our own things." Said Nepheline.

"Right... Sorry..." said Aquarina.

"Well, you can think of it though... We have always had our arms open for you, Ninhursag. The Amazon tribe would happily welcome you in as well." Said Nepheline.

"Thanks... I will think about it... But maybe I should really just settle down..." said Ninhursag.

She took a spoon of the stew and as she tasted it, her eyes shone brightly a little bit.

"How is it?" asked my mother pridefully.

"It's good..." said Ninhursag while smiling.

Within the Goblin Camp, a large group of Goblins was running away from large beasts made of black flames. They had all sorts of animal-like shapes, and seemed ferocious and strong, the goblins were incapable of handling them, and easily died against their attacks.

However, a sudden crack in space happened, as a dark portal leading somewhere else opened.

From within, a figure covered in black and purple clothes emerged, below his hood, there were two crimson-red eyes.

With a wave of his black staff, a wave of red energy came out, killing several of these black flame summons in an instant...

"Hmph, so they're here... What a pain... If she's related with them... Taking her down will get harder..." he said.

The man suddenly looked behind him as he saw an enormous mammoth-like beast slowly approaching, the presence of a being of incredible power mounting over such a beast could be clearly felt meters away.

"Ah, so you're here..." he said with a smile. "I suppose you've come to finish what your father started."

Chapter 179 The Next Morning

I woke up quite early today in the morning... Yesterday, we had quite a day with Ninhursag and everything else happening, so today I have decided to take a break and just spend it with my family and Aquarina.

Oh, and talking about Aquarina, the girl was sleeping right at my side, soundly at that!

"Baabbbhh..."

She made a little and cute sound while sleeping, as I touched her little nose until she slowly opened her big eyes.

"Huh? Sylphy? Good morning..." she said cutely.

"Good morning! I wonder if Ninhursag is doing okay..." I said.

"She should be okay... I want to sleep some more..." sighed Aquarina.

"Geez, come on, let's wake up, Aquarina..." I said.

"Muhh..." she said while waving her head and covering herself in blankets.

She's as lazy as I remember her.

I quickly jumped out of bed and stretched a bit. Naturia, Ignatius, and Furoh emerged around me. Furoh was able to take into a small form similar to that of a spirit, and even float around like one, but in such a form he wasn't able to attack, and it was more to be at my side without bothering me with his enormous worm-like body.

"You're awake early today..." said Ignatius.

"Of course, I want to spend this day leisurely, but if I sleep too much, the day ends up turning short." I said.

"Hm, certainly..." said Ignatius.

"Foo! Foo!" Naturia said, as she flew around my head while covering me with the glow of her bright spirit energy.

"You look energetic today as well, Naturia!" I said.

"Foo! Foofoo!" said Naturia cutely.

She was the cutest.

And Furoh... he seemed a bit silent.

"What's wrong?" I wondered.

Furoh looked back at me as he seemed to be glancing around elsewhere.

"Ah... Sylphy. I don't know if this is a bad feeling or just my imagination but... I feel a strong demonic presence." Said Furoh.

"Huh?! You do?" I wondered.

"It must be something else... Perhaps the Goblin King that you guys talked about yesterday... Well, don't mind me..." said Furoh.

"Yeah, it is probably that... I wonder if I could defeat a Goblin King... Ah, too young for that, huh?" I wondered.

"Yeah, no way in hell you're doing that, little shrimp." Said Ignatius.

"You're literally a floating egg! Who are you calling little shrimp?" I asked.

"Foo! Foo!!!" roared Natoria angrily at Ignatius.

"You two could make some fried rice, actually, if Natoria counts as the rice... Yeah, Ignatius is the eggs, you're the shrimp, and Natoria the rice! Hahahaha!" laughed Furoh.

The worm-like demon laughed at us as he noticed we were not laughing.

"...Okay, I'll take it back, don't look at me like that..." he cried.

"How do you know about that thing named fried rice? And what is it?" asked Ignatius.

"Ah, that's a good I used to eat in the demon continent, after I got money from joining the military, I ended buying a lot of it... It was my favorite food. It is made using seeds named rice that come from the Demon Continent... Then you add shrimps, eggs, and other things, and then it becomes something really quite enjoyable..." said Furoh.

I never expected this demon to even know about this cuisine, I guess I really didn't look at all the memories when we made a master-familiar pact at the end.

"Anyways, what should we do today?" wondered Ignatius.

"You're ignoring me after you asked me!" said Furoh.

"It is pretty interesting, if I ever get to go to the demon continent, I would like to taste it, Furoh." I said.

"Oh, I would gladly bring you to a place that sells it for a good price, and don't discriminate my appearance..." said Furoh.

"I guess for a good price, even a worm like you gets welcomed in a restaurant." Said Ignatius.

"Who are you calling worm, egg?! I am not a worm!" said Furoh.

"And I am not an egg, wiener!" said Ignatius.

"Okay you two stop talking so much! You're going to wake up Aquarina..." I sighed.

"I am already awake..." sighed Aquarina.

"Oh... I am so sorry for waking you up, dear..." I said.

"Ah, it doesn't matter... They're very crazy summons..." sighed Aquarina.

Suddenly, her spirit, Undine, showed up and greeted Naturia and the rest.

"Oh, it's that cute Spirit." Said Ignatius.

"Cute? Wait, you like her?" I asked.

"L-Like? Why would I even like a spirit?" he asked.

"You're one now." Said Furoh.

"That doesn't mean anything!" said Ignatius.

"Sylphy your spirits are really annoying sometimes... Especially the egg, and Furoh is... Well, he's ok."
Said Aquarina.

"E-Egg?! Even this girl calls me egg..." sighed Ignatius.

"Anyways, now that you're awake, let's go grab some breakfast then." I said.

"You're not practicing your daily sword swings?" asked Aquarina.

"Ah, I can do it after breakfast." I said.

"Okay then..." said Aquarina.

We went to the bathroom that had a lot of fresh water, and washed our faces there, after that, we moved to the kitchen and found my mother with Nepheline cooking something together.

"Well, well, well, look who wake up early today! Little Lady Aquarina." Said Nepheline.

The beautiful Amazon woman held her daughter with her strong arms and kissed her forehead.

"Good morning mama... I'm hungry..." said Aquarina.

"You're always hungry, dear." Said Nepheline, putting her daughter down.

Aquarina must be already used to being lifted so high by her mother, so she treats it rather casually... I would be freaking out if my father lifted me so high out of nowhere.

"Good morning, Sylphy. Dear, the breakfast is almost ready, go find your friend Zack too." Said my mother, as she kissed my cheeks.

"Oh, Zack! I almost forgot..." I said.

"How can you forget about the boy? Come on, go look for him, his tent is there." Said Nepheline.

Aquarina and I quickly went to meet Zack inside of his tent, after walking around a bit, we found his small tent, which had a lot of stuff inside, mostly pelts, fangs, bones, and other small things.

Chapter 180 Pyuku Is Missing!

Today in the morning the sky was clouded, and there was white and cold fog everywhere, covering most of the jungle mysteriously. There was also less amazon wandering around, most of them were confined in their tents passing the day in there.

We quickly reached Zack's tent, as we found him there.

Zack was sleeping right over a pile of monster pelts he called his "bed", it felt a bit weird to sleep in such a place to me, to be honest, but well, whoever likes whatever they like, I am not here to judge him for that... I guess.

"ZACK! Wake up!" roared Aquarina.

"Uwah! Agh! Let me sleep for a few seconds, would yo?!" roared Zack angrily.

Aquarina began to jump over him. She really was like the annoying little sister archetype for him.

"Aaagh! You're so annoying! Okay, fine! You win!" roared Zack angrily, waking up and crossing his arms.

Zack woke up energetically after Aquarina annoyed the living shit out of him.

"Good morning, Zack, ready to train hard today as well?" I asked.

"No, I want to take a break... Nepheline and Shade said I was only a kid, and that I need to rest sometimes, so I am taking this day leisurely!" said Zack.

"Me too, I hate training! I want to nap all day for once..." sighed Aquarina.

"Eehh? You two are really hopeless... Sigh, okay then, let's just slack off today..." I said, as we began to walk back to Aquarina's tent.

"Slack off? You will probably swing your sword around and call that lazing around!" said Zack.

"Well yeah, that's how Aquarina is! She's a hard worker! I am trying to work hard too but I've done it too much..." sighed Aquarina.

"It's okay, I am swinging my blade and that's it anyways, so don't worry. Back home I often spar with my father daily." I said.

"D-Daily?!" asked Aquarina and Zack at the same time.

"Yeah, don't you?" I wondered.

"I-I don't spar with mama or papa daily..." said Aquarina.

"How can you bear sparring with a hero?!" asked Zack.

"Well, papa goes pretty easy on me all the time..." I said.

"Even going easy might be hard for someone so strong..." said Zack.

"Hmm... Maybe I should ask papa to spar with me daily as well! I cannot just slack off..." said Aquarina.

We reached the tent and sat down around a small table, as my mother and Aquarina's mother served us a warm stew for breakfast, the stew had a lot of different meats, potatoes, carrots, and even small noodles, it was flavorful and very filling~

We began eating it slowly with some bread, the relaxing and chilly morning went well with such a nice stew for breakfast, it made us feel rather relieved.

"So where's Pyuku at?" wondered Zack while we were eating.

"Pyuku is... Pyuku is..." muttered Aquarina.

"Eh? Pyuku? He actually slept with us and... Wait, I haven't seen him all this morning... W-where the heck is he?!" I asked.

"I don't know either! He should had woken up with us..." said Aquarina.

"What! So Pyuku just ran off?!" asked Zack.

"We don't know..." I said.

Really, we had slept with Pyuku. I remember that he rested over the bed with us when I slept at the side of Aquarina, so the slime should have been with us!

But it suddenly ran away from here and is somewhere else... what a pain.

Where did it even go?

Actually, where's my father and Aquarina's father too?"

"Where is father?" I wondered.

"Oh, this morning they felt like something was attacking their summons, so they went to investigate, and probably to slay the goblin king in the meantime." Said my mother.

"What?! And they take that as something simple?" asked Zack.

"Yeah? A Goblin King is not really much." Said Nepheline.

"It's not?!" asked Zack.

"Yeah, we can easily defeat those with our eyes closed..." said my mother.

"Oh..." Sighed Zack.

I guess they're the ones that defeated the Demon king, you can't really expect anything less amazing about them. But I am still worried, can they really handle everything fine? Ninhursag didn't lose against the goblins but had to use a lot of power to defeat them.

It seems that the goblin king and the champions can enhance their kin power through the roof, which seems pretty unfair to me...

Anyways, I am worried about Pyuku though... but maybe he's just a wild slime and now went back to the wild... I can't do much over it.

We spent only a bit over a day with him though, so I can't really say I grew closer to him as a pet...

But I wish he hadn't ran away like that, it just makes me a bit sad.

Maybe he'll be happier in the wild? If he escaped it seems to be the case.

I can't really bring myself to just say "oh well, whatever" and turn over the page, I still feel a bit sad, maybe betrayed...

Zack didn't seem to mind Pyuku's absence, but he was the first one to notice it, and Aquarina seemed dispirited over it despite not having spent that long with the slime.

I suppose we all have different thoughts about him.

"Don't worry about your father, Sylphy, he'll come back later but he'll be fine either way, don't worry over him that much." Said my mother.

"Y-You're sure?" I asked.

"Well, I am also taking care of him, there are two spirits of my own side watching over his back." Said my mother.

"Oh, I see..." I said.

"Me too, I am always with my Shade using my spirits." Said Nepheline.

The Heroes spirits are obviously at Legendary level of power. That giant Phoenix, or the large floating eye that shots lasers, all of them are exceptionally strong beings, so having the backup of two of them for each of our fathers is pretty good, I suppose.

After having breakfast, I decided to bring stew to Ninhursag, who was still sleeping soundly in the tent without having woken up at all.