

A Glitched 261

Chapter 261 The Way Of Training Endurance Skills

Before going to breakfast, I remembered something important, the new Skill I had acquired. After the Level of the Agriculture Skill reached Level 10, I had acquired a new Skill which was given to me as a choice between another one. These two skills would diverge into different Skill Branches or something, so I ultimately picked up the Skill that enhanced my durability and strength, the Yggdrasil's Endurance Skill.

This Skill is an amazing ability that allows me to gain durability and endurance in my body, so I can become as strong and hard as the bark of the world tree itself, Yggdrasil. It also comes with a special effect that temporarily reinforces my skin to become extra dense and durable, which is pretty amazing.

The way to gain Skill Proficiency out of this Skill is by doing endurance trainings and stamina trainings, alongside constantly activating the active effect until I exhaust my entire body, as I cannot really exhaust my Mana. This active effect has a small cooldown, so I cannot use it all the time through the power of Infinite Mana, sadly. Nonetheless, I always wait the 10 minutes cooldown and conjure it again constantly, all the days, every day since I got the Skill, each time I activate the active effect, I gain around +5 Skill Proficiency, so that adds up every day every 10 minutes.

The other ways is by being hit. Yeah, I have to endure hits directly into my body, can be using my arms, chest, or even my head or anything, even my back, but I cannot defend using armor or shields, or I won't gain any skill proficiency that way. It is a bit tough, but I've managed to practice by asking help to Zack and Aquarina, alongside my Familiar Furoh, who didn't liked the idea of hitting me at all and supplicated me to change my opinion about this training method, but he ultimately gave up and began whipping me with his tentacles, he was very strong so I was able to gain some nice skill proficiency with each hit, around +1 to +2.

Of course, I couldn't really tell my parents about it directly, they think I am just trying to train my endurance in a new way, although my father dislikes how I allow myself to get hit all the time, and that a girl like me which is half-elf must learn how to evade hits instead of tanking them. Even if I had godly defense or some sort of "pseudo immortality" as my parents call my endless HP, he said that I should still try to evade because my body is small, my center of gravity is very light and I can easily be pushed around by anybody, and he said that it won't change when I grow up, I will probably be as slim as mother and as heavy as her, which she is very light, in fact, I think I can lift her easily if she allowed me to.

Because of the lack of weight to keep myself in the ground, even with good defense, I will just be thrown around like a rag doll by stronger opponents, which is really quite the pain... But it's not as if there are no spells that can enhance weight, but I have yet to learn those... Nonetheless, because I don't want to scare off my parents, I am keeping this training mostly a secret and something I cannot really do all the time because of their watchful eyes, or the watchful eyes of their spirits guarding me at all times.

But even without having as many opportunities to gain Skill Proficiency as Agriculture, I have still gained plenty of it, and the Skill itself had Leveled up quite nicely over the time I got it.

[Yggdrasil's Endurance: Lv4]

Skill Proficiency: 1732 / 5500

The World Tree Yggdrasil blesses your body with great endurance that can compare to a fraction of its bark's defense.

Passively enhances your Stamina, Defense, and Vitality with each Level, while your skin progressively grows harder and more resistant to blows. Can be used actively to enhance magic and physical defense of your body for a few seconds.

Active Effect (4): Enhances your Physical and Magical Defense and Total Endurance by +40% for 1 Minute. Cooldown: 10 Minutes.

Level Bonus (4): Enhances the Skill Effects by +40%

The level bonuses overlap with the active effect, which also increase over leveling, so I actually gain another +40% endurance on top of the already set number every time I use the active effect! Ah, I wish my status wasn't glitched so I could see my Endurance-related stats increasing...

Oh, I have noticed that unlike the Agriculture Skill, the Yggdrasil Endurance Skill increases by 1500 Skill Proficiency each level, making it that instead of 4000 Skill Proficiency required to level up at level 4 was increased to 5500... Wow, I wonder if other Skills will also require this much skill proficiency? Damn.

I wish I could have something like Swordsmanship as a Skill, I swing my blade so much every day that I could easily gain a lot of Skill Proficiency out of it! Well, sometimes I gain +1 Skill Proficiency for this skill when I am overexerting myself practicing my blade swings, so this skill is even related to my physical exercise. Maybe I should do more sit-ups and squats than I do every day just to see if I can get some little bonus Skill Proficiency out of it, so I can min-max in the best way possible.

...But aren't Skills making me a bit workaholic? Well, Alice has been regretting having unlocked this Leveling thing, saying that it only made me even more of a workaholic, saying that "Maybe I should had unlocked the Item Drop function or the Item Box..." Or something, I don't remember well. But she always talk about things I don't understand. Whatever the case, I really like this Leveling System, so I am going to abuse it as much as possible.

"Aquarina, wait! Wanna help me practice endurance?"

Chapter 262 Things Don't Always Go As You Want

Aquarina had been helping me practice endurance, just as we got out of the bathtub, I really wanted to gain a few extra points of proficiency before going to eat, and she nodded because she's just way too lovely to say "no".

"Okay but only a few minutes... I don't know why you want so much for me to hit you..." She sighed.

"But I've gotten slightly used to it!" Aquarina rushed towards me, raising her leg into the air, her speed was almost akin to her father sometimes, the harsh training that Shade put to her was incredible, ripples in the wind emerged by the movement of her body so fast that it felt as if shockwaves of invisible energy flew everywhere, her foot quickly falling strongly over my crossed arms.

CLAASH!

Ding!

[You gained [Yggdrasil's Endurance: Lv4] Skill Proficiency +2]

[You gained [Yggdrasil's Endurance: Lv4] Skill Proficiency +1]

[You gained [Yggdrasil's Endurance: Lv4] Skill Proficiency +1]

[You gained [Yggdrasil's Endurance: Lv4] Skill Proficiency +1]

A single kick gave me a whopping five skill proficiency! She's really strong! And ouch, it hurt me a bit! She's going hard on me today... I don't know if its healthy to ask your friend to hit you as hard as she can, but Aquarina also gets to practice her hand-to-hand combat and her kicking techniques, which she had been learning from her mother recently.

"HIIYA!"

Aquarina roared, giving a flip upwards and falling into the ground by supporting her own body with her hands, then, her hips began to move around through a special technique that amazon women knew by using their more flexible bodies than males, her entire body suddenly gained momentum as it started to spin around, her legs began deadly once more, spinning rapidly and attacking me with constant kicks!

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLAAASH!

[You gained [Yggdrasil's Endurance: Lv4] Skill Proficiency +2]

[You gained [Yggdrasil's Endurance: Lv4] Skill Proficiency +1]

[You gained [Yggdrasil's Endurance: Lv4] Skill Proficiency +1]

[You gained [Yggdrasil's Endurance: Lv4] Skill Proficiency +3]

[You gained [Yggdrasil's Endurance: Lv4] Skill Proficiency +1]

...

I resisted them all as I kept trying to keep my ground and not be thrown away by her strength, I put into my own strength as well and pushed forward, as Aquarina was quickly thrown off her momentum and had to forcefully stand up with her feet by jumping once more and giving a majestic flip in the middle of the air.

"YAAAAH!" Aquarina roared, pointing the palm of her hand towards me as she had infused a large quantity of Mana into it, a powerful palm strike hit my chest directly, making my entire body feel as if it was hit from the inside out, I felt a bit lethargic after that, and even my head was hit. That was a strong Palm Strike, as simple as that, it infuses mana inside a person forcefully, striking their insides.

[You gained [Yggdrasil's Endurance: Lv4] Skill Proficiency +2]

[You gained [Yggdrasil's Endurance: Lv4] Skill Proficiency +3]

[You gained [Yggdrasil's Endurance: Lv4] Skill Proficiency +3]

[You gained [Yggdrasil's Endurance: Lv4] Skill Proficiency +2]

...

"Ugh...! You're strong!" I said with a smile. "Aquarina, you really make me proud...!"

I quickly decided to fight back as well, as Aquarina wanted to test out her strength and she always liked to test it with me, if she did it with Zack, she always won and beat him into a pulp, he was the weakest of the three so she wanted me, someone stronger than her, to fight her, as she was able to see more clearly what she lacked.

I resisted the palm strike as I infused my hands with Mana and a fiery flame emerged from within them, they shaped as sharp fiery red spears, and then I unleashed a barrage of punches against her that moved rapidly, with the tip of them resembling spears made of flames.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! BOOOM!!!

A sudden explosion of blazing fire-attribute mana was unleashed with my last strike, as Aquarina was shielding herself using her bare arms crossed in front of her face, she was blown away a few meters, but she didn't fall this time, rolling around and then quickly jumping, kneeling, and standing up, her hands covered themselves in water, as two tridents appeared within them, she used the water to propel herself by pushing it away from her back, looking as if she were a majestic fish swimming across a river.

CLAAAAASH!

Her two hands which had water-attribute mana covering them in the shape of tridents cashed against my own resembling two spears made of flames, as she looked at me defiantly, her beautiful aquamarine eyes blazed with great strength and conviction, I felt inspired by her battle spirit as I welcomed her with various blows, our hands constantly intercepted one another, as kicks were not spared either, even headbutts, for a bit, until we finally finished our spar, exhausted, the two of us fell into the grasslands while gasping for air... That was intense.

"Hahh... Hahh... Ugh... That was... harsh!" Said Aquarina.

"You were very strong there, Aquarina, I am proud of you!" I said.

"Hehehe, is that so...?" Giggled Aquarina embarrassedly, she liked being praised by her strength. "But... I-I don't want to fight you anymore like this though!"

"Eh?!" I asked in surprise.

"I-It feels a bit weird to hit you, Sylphy... I-I am still trying to get over it but I don't wanna..." She said out of nowhere.

"Why so suddenly?" I asked.

"Ahh... I've been doing it for you but it feels kind of wrong..." She sighed. "I want to protect you, not to hurt you... I... Y-You're very precious to me..."

"Huh? O-Okay..." I sighed. I didn't know why she got so emotional, perhaps the adrenaline of the fight put her like this?

"Sure... alright, we don't have to spar all the time, sorry for... asking you this so much, and thank you for doing it for me." I said, as I held her little hand. Aquarina cuddled with me while we were over the grass, as I suddenly heard the voice of my mother.

"SYLPHYYYYYY! Stop lazing around!"

Chapter 263 Planning To Visit A Town

Without context, my mother found the two of us resting over the grass and reprimanded us for being lazy girls. I wanted to explain to her that we were sparring, but that would mean I would have to hear her telling me that I shouldn't be such a masochist about gaining endurance in my body or something... So we kept it a secret with Aquarina, and we just accepted her reprimands. After that, we were finally able to eat some breakfast with everybody else. I had gained a nice amount of Skill Proficiency over the sparring, but it seemed that Aquarina disliked going around hitting me so much.

Honestly this girl is way softer than she makes herself up to be. Well, she had always been a soft, shy, and adorable little treasure, so I can understand that despite her trying to be strong, it still makes her feel weird and bad to fight so much, so I decided to just not ask her about sparring for some time, I still got Zack for it, and although he says that he dislikes hitting girls, he always ends up coming for more from me, he's a resentful fighter and constantly says that one day he'll get me... I guess I can always ask him for help.

"So today we are going to the town, Sylphy you better stay with us and not wander around, okay? You may get lost, this is also going to be like your first time seeing so many people, so you must take care of yourself." Said my father.

"Eh? But I've gone off into the jungle on my own before..." I said. "I don't know why a town would be of any concern..."

"Well, that's true but... Well, you do what I say, or your mother is going to get angry with me." Said my father, he seemed unwavering.

"Okay..." I sighed.

I felt like I wanted to protest, but my father was also the victim here, he really didn't wanted to enrage my mother, so I kind of understood his point of view and how he just wanted to have a nice day with everybody else... I will have to just hold into his hand and go around with them... Doesn't seem too hard to do.

"Yeah, you better stay with us, Sylphy, I don't want any problems while we explore the town, the least thing I would want is my daughter getting lost in that big town..." She sighed. "I know we could find you if that happens but we'll make a big fuss, and the least thing I want is to bring attention to us, we'll already be using magic to try to mask our identities, but as heroes our faces were widespread all around the continent, even in this mildly isolated area of the continent I am sure that some will recognize us." My mother seemed to have good reasons to be worried about making a fuss, not bringing attention.

As heroes, they had done many things their faces were somehow widespread by the large empire of this continent as some sort of propaganda of human supremacy, apparently, and every human here loves the heroes, but at the same time, because they suddenly disappeared one day and the Empire had been trying to locate them as much as they could to force them to work for them again, anyone that were to see them would be dangerous as they would easily report it to the Empire one way or the other... Even in this small town.

That's why they'll be using illusion magic to mask their face features a bit and make them different than the depictions of them that we might find, which often tend to be strangely accurate. I don't know how much this illusion magic works but it seems that it doesn't affect me but everybody not related to them. I guess only magicians like them could create such overly specific effects.

"Can we buy tasty food there?" Asked Aquarina. "I want something sweet!" Aquarina said happily, as she seemed excited of the trip there despite the restrictions.

"Yeah that's the plan, we'll grab a lot of food, we need to refill our provisions enough to get through the last kilometers before reaching the coast." Said Shade. "I'll buy anything you want, Aquarina."

"Really papa? Thank you!" Said Aquarina, jumping over her father and hugging him while sitting over his legs. Nepheline looked at the two a bit tired, while raising an eyebrow, it seems she disliked how she was so spoiled sometimes.

"You're spoiling her a bit too much." Sighed Nepheline, as Shade caressed his daughter's hair while kissing her cheeks and forehead.

"That's because papa is very nice!" Said Aquarina.

"Yeah, I am the nicest dad." Said Shade, he had changed a bit and had become overly affectionate with Aquarina nowadays, I think something that my father told him made him realize he had to not bottle up his emotions so much. "And my Aquarina is the cutest girl..." Shade continued kissing Aquarina's face, as the little girl giggled adorably, that was so cute...

"W-Wha...? I-I will also buy you anything you want, Sylphy!" Said my father, as if he was competing with Shade.

"Daddy you don't have to be competitive over this kind of stuff..." I sighed.

"I-It is really nothing!" He said. "And I am not competing, I can easily buy anything anyways, not like they'll sell anything overly expensive that'll you want from there, right?" He said while winking at me and extending his arms... I guess he wanted me to hug him.

"Yaaaay!" I said rather boringly, I just wanted to explore on my own. I guess getting whatever I want is nice but its not like we'll be visiting some sort of luxury shop where they sell legendary equipment or something.

I hugged my father so he could feel better with himself, and I ended sitting on his lap over the entire breakfast until it was finally time to go out.

Chapter 264 Aquarina Doesn't Care About Dresses

The town was just around half a kilometer away from where we were, so it took us over 30 minutes by carriage, we could have reached that place way faster but my mother has a big belly now and she cannot really walk fast and flying would bring too much unwanted attention. We had six-limbed giant lizards as our carriage animals and that was weird already, usually people just use big goats or horses, not giant lizards often seen as predatory animals, especially as strong as the ones we had here.

"We are there!" Said Aquarina, pointing at the town far away, as she seemed excited, jumping around the interior of the carriage.

"Calm down Aquarina, remember to stay at my side." Said Shade.

"But papa, it is pretty cool!" Said Aquarina. "I can't wait to get there..."

Aquarina seemed very excited about going into the town, and to be honest, I was also quite excited. The day was also quite perfect. There was a bright sun shining atop the sky, the sky was as clear as water without any cloud, and the beautiful grasslands surrounded the town, as it had a large forest nearby as well, where the people of the town probably gathered resources and hunted animals or monsters to sustain themselves better.

Certain areas of the town looked to be paved from afar, and there were certainly bigger houses in the center of the town, while smaller wooden houses surrounded the rest. I could see that probably some sort of nobles had taken refuge in here, or probably they were the Lords of this land.

"This small town is called Bright Dawn, and it is a large town with around five to six thousand inhabitants." Said my father. "From what I know, it was made by immigrants of the wars in the past, a knight named Bright Dawn or something made it and people gathered around it for his protection against the monsters. The Bright Dawn family could be considered something like the lords of this town, and there are also other noble families in here too... Because the lords all descend from knights, they value strength and are often trained rigorously to protect the town. They're isolated from the outside and often called a countryside town, but still got some trading routes they use to bring items from the Empire or some nearby Kingdoms."

My father knew a lot, it felt as if I was reading an encyclopedia, I looked at my father with surprise clear on my eyes, as he seemed to feel a bit offended.

"W-What? I can't know anything or something? I am also quite a resourceful man, you know, Sylphy?" He said proudly.

"I get it..." I said. "But I am still impressed, so they value swordsmanship as knights? I wonder if they sell swords."

"Swords? I suppose, but you won't find anything better than your own sword, Sylphy." Said my father.

"Hm, well, we can go around the shops and other things to see if we can buy anything of interest, some new dresses would be appreciated for Sylphy and Aquarina." Said my mother.

"I agree, I want my daughter to look like a little noble girl." Said Nepheline. She had changed her clothes too and wasn't wearing tribal ones. She wore some tight black leather pants, brown boots, and white blouse over her body, alongside a silver-colored chest plate, she was very masculine in her style of clothing but it fit her very well.

"I-I don't really like big dresses... I want to dress like mama." Said Aquarina.

"Oh, with pants? But a dress fit you so much better, Aquarina!" Said Nepheline. "You're a pretty and feminine girl so you better wear pretty dresses, it is an order!"

"Eeeeh? Sigh... Okay..." Sighed Aquarina.

"You don't really have to force her like this." Said Shade.

"Okay... Maybe she can try out pants and blouses in the future," Said Nepheline. "But I love to see her like a little princess!"

Nepheline seemed obsessed with Aquarina resembling a cute and innocent princess, I was all with her, I really love to see Aquarina with these types of clothes, she really looks lovely.

"Ugh, this shirt is way too tight." Sighed Zack. He was also not wearing his typical tribal clothes that included a piece of fur wrapped around his hip, barefoot, and with just some sort of coat made of leather over his chest. He was actually wearing beautiful-looking brown pants, brown boots that seemed finely crafted, a white shirt, and a black coat. He looked so refined and nice, he looked like an actual boy now and not a wild kid. Even his hair was properly washed and well stylized by Ninhursag.

"I also dislike clothes, Zack, but we have to get used to them now that we are visiting towns and we'll soon go to the elven country, they won't accept people like us if we don't walk presentably." Said Ninhursag. Shew as even worse than Zack, often walking almost completely nude with just a loincloth covering her private parts and some sort of bra made out of leather to cover her nipples, with the rest of her charcoal-skinned body completely exposed... Which always made her such an eye candy... But now, she was wearing similar stylized clothes than Nepheline, as the two had very similar bodies, tall and muscular women. I guess both of them dislike dresses despite going around half-naked most of the time.

Tribal women aesthetics are hard to understand... but Ninhursag looked gorgeous in any type of clothes anyways, her pants were black leather and tight, and she was wearing a brown blouse that exposed a bit of the upper part of her chest, showing sexily. She looked quite uncomfortable, feeling like the shirt was pressing too much into her big breasts, I guess she's accustomed of going around with her naked breasts, but she was forced to wear a bra now aside from the tight shirt.

"Ugh..." Sighed Zack.

"W-Well, at least we are there! Look, the entrance and... A massive line." I sighed.

Chapter 265 What Do You Want To Be In The Future?

It wasn't going to be easy to enter, it seems. There was a massive line with various carriages lined up, alongside all sorts of other traveler people gathering around the entrance, there were guards forcing the people to make a line and not try to enter without order. It seems that this town was always populated with many people, and there were even merchants coming inside and outside all the time, there was a big market in the center of the town as well where they all seemed to gather.

The entire main town was surrounded by big brick walls as well, but there were small groups of houses surrounding the brick walls as well, some of them were taking care of their own plants and making up farms. I don't know if they sold the vegetables or consumed them themselves though.

"What a pain, we have to wait a while..." Sighed my mother. "I wish we could just fly and enter."

"Well we technically can but we shouldn't do that." Said my father.

"Yeah..." Sighed my mother.

We had no other alternative than to wait. And as we waited I looked into the people in the line. There were all sorts of humans I had not seen before in this world, but they all looked oddly enough the same as the ones I saw and meet from my previous life, young adult hunters carrying big prey they just caught in the nearby forest, greedy and fat-looking merchants looking at everything as if it could be a potential profit maker, entire families coming through carriages by themselves, perhaps travelers or merchants.

And even adventurers, groups of four to six members that were all armed with different weapons, armors, and clothes, they all looked like they fit different roles inside their groups by merely looking at their weapons and clothes. So these are humans... Well, they look just the same as my previous life, but I had never seen adventurers before, they certainly stand out a lot from the more normal crowd, as they wear more expensive clothes and wield weapons in variety. Seeing a young priest girl with a big and burly armored man was a strange sight to behold.

"Well, well, there's a lot of people around here, isn't it?" Said my father. "I guess you kids can get a good view of how varied humans are out there." My father seemed proud of something normal. Aquarina and Zack quickly ran to my side and looked through the window as well, their eyes shone brightly with light filled with amusement. I guess my reaction to this people and the town faraway was rather boring as I wasn't as excited as these children.

"Ooohh! So many people!" Said Aquarina, suddenly pointing her finger to a group of adventurers. "Who are those people? They look strong!"

"Those are an adventurer party, they often go out to hunt monsters, or explore dungeons to gain their keep." Said my father. "It is a free-living profession where people simply go out and hunt monsters to live, they often gather other materials, and can also help in other things around the town, they're like

freelancers to be honest. But the adventurer guild gives them benefits, the higher their rank in that thing, the more benefits they get, they can also accept works from people that leave certain requests in exchange for money or other prizes... I did live as an adventurer for a small time, I can't say it was anything good, most adventurers are dirt poor and barely not homeless."

"Of course, you kids can be whatever you want when you grow older, but I would prefer if Sylphy worked in something that paid well so she can become an independent person. We won't be able to provide you with money all your life after all." Said my mother. "So I was thinking in letting you work as a teacher eventually, you'll have to learn a lot though."

"Eehh? A teacher? I want to explore the world, not get stuck in a classroom..." I sighed.

"Well you can always explore the world while teaching! You don't know how needed magic teachers all around the world are, anywhere you'll go that has people will have a generous offer for your teachings. Also, learning alchemy through it will also be profitable so you can create your own products to sell one day... Crafting and Blacksmithing could be learned, you're very talented." Said my mother, she seemed enthusiastic about me becoming an all-rounder and master of all that both traveled and taught people... I cannot say I dislike the idea, she's right in various things, and I might end up doing as she said at the end... But not without enjoying myself beforehand!

I also actually want to be an adventurer, smacking some monsters for money seem like the easy way to go than teaching kids or something... But it is not like I dislike kids, so I would still enjoy teaching them at the end I suppose, it is all a matter of circumstances, we'll see what happens in the future when the future comes.

"Huh, I'll see what I do, mom... You don't have to plan my entire life..." I sighed.

"R-Right... Sorry, that wasn't really my intention. I just had said I would let you be anything you wanted..." Said my mother while she caressed my head gently.

"I'll become whatever Sylphy becomes in the future, so I'll stick with her... If she becomes a teacher, I'll be her secretary or something!" Said Aquarina.

"Ehhh?" I asked in surprise. "Aquarina, you don't really have to... You can be anything you want to be, don't feel forced to stay at my side..."

"But that's what I want to be..." She said while pouting and blushing a bit. "I'll stay with you forever..."

"I-Is that so?" I wondered. She was a little girl yet, so whenever she develops she'll probably change eventually... Well, she had been saying similar things since she was like two years of age, but I am sure that she'll change eventually and realize she got dreams of her own...

...I hope.

Chapter 266 My Father Is Apparently A VIP Merchant

"It is certainly a problem she wants to be so much with you..." Sighed Nepheline. "But I guess that's how my daughter is! She'll understand eventually." Nepheline seemed to think the same as me, it was better to leave her be because Aquarina was overly stubborn about the subject and she would never change her thoughts about it, so the only thing left was to leave her to slowly mature and realize the embarrassing things she's saying.

"I-It is not a problem, its friendship!" Said Aquarina. She was so stubborn that it was useless to argue with the little girl. She was practically my family anyways so I didn't mind her getting like that.

"Okay calm down, look, we are getting closer now. Should we walk down the carriage?" I wondered.

"There's no need, I'll handle the guard." Said my father.

There was a brown-haired guard wearing steel armor, he was standing still there while holding a spear with another soldier at the other side of the large wooden gate. The guard quickly walked towards our carriage as he noticed us.

"Hello, what do you plan on doing in the town? Do you any identifications? Adventurer ID, or Merchant ID?" Asked the guard.

"Yeah I have this." Said my father, showing a golden card to the guard.

"T-This is... a VIP Merchant ID! Lord Allen Forestgrain, welcome to the Town! Please, go on." Said the man, as I was left speechless.

My father goes by Allen Forestgrain and he's a VIP Merchant?! What the heck? From where did this even come from? Absolutely nowhere!

"Forestgrain?!" I asked.

"Ahahaha, it is a false name I made with the help of a friend, this ID is actually legit, so when they touched it with that one small staff, and glowed, it meant it was authentic." Said my father. "You see, Merchants are usually welcomed anywhere, unlike adventurers where only high ranked ones are admired, but if you're a high ranked adventurer you're bound to bring a lot of attention, meanwhile, even VIP Merchants won't make such a fuss when they arrive, but they're welcomed with open arms by everybody." My father explained.

"But what's a VIP Merchant?" I wondered.

"It is a concept that started in the Lilyann Kingdom, a Kingdom of Merchants where the Merchant Guild, which is now widespread across the entire continent and even the Atlanta Continent was originated. This Merchant Guild allows for the easy access of merchants to all places in... almost both continents with ease. It is a massive organization for all these greedy men to help each other, apparently." Said my mother. "Your father got a VIP card with a false name from a friend of ours from the Lilyann Kingdom years ago, it is a useful pass to get anywhere."

"I am actually a terrible merchant, I don't know anything of this stuff, your mother is the smart one that does all the economy stuff," Said my father rather proudly of his ignorance and lack of knowledge.

"Hahaha! Imagining Allan as a merchant is always hilarious." Said Shade, laughing cheerfully for the first time in a while.

"O-Oi! Don't make fun of me in front of my daughter, Shade!" Said my father.

"Well, now that we are inside the town where should we leave the carriage? We got a massive lizard here..." Said Nepheline.

"Let's go to the plaza into that one direction, that's where most of the carriages are left, there are guards in there where the merchants can have their things well guarded." Said my father. "Another great benefit of being a merchant."

I feel like my father is cheating... Oh well, as we traveled across the streets of the beautiful Bright Dawn Town, I saw a lot of beautiful places. I was feeling the urge of just going out to sightsee everything I wanted. The houses around the walls were small and rustic, but inside it was a whole different thing, it was like a modern city in my previous life, with paved streets, colorful houses made of stone and cement, there were illuminate streets with magic lamps, and many other carriages were moving around the streets as well as thousands of people doing their own daily lives. Children playing in the streets, adults going to their jobs, and we even saw the sight of an empty territory where a lot of people was building a house there. It was a very active town.

We reached the big plaza that father spoke about, as we found many other carriages there being taken care by dozens of guards, seeing how much they invested in protecting the goods of merchants, this city really valued them, I guess.

Our carriage barely had anything anyways, as my parents were going to store anything we buy using the Spatial Storage Spell. After leaving the carriage there, we quickly moved forward into our next plans, sightseeing, and buying anything we want!

...Well, more like whatever is needed, we won't buy the entire town or something.

"Alright Sylphy, don't let go of my hand." Said my mother, as she was the one to hold my hand at the end, while my father was guarding us from behind. Aquarina was in the safe fashion too, while Zack as well. We were not even ten years of age I suppose so still holding the hand of our parents is a thing... Ugh, though in front of so many strangers, it really makes me embarrassed.

My mother quickly took out a list from her pocket and began to read it.

"Let's see... well, we are the closest to the food market, so let's go there right away, we need to buy a lot of veggies, eggs, milk, sugar and salt, that's what we need the most. Meat can be gotten anytime by

hunting so its not really a priority, but if we found something tasty I guess we could buy it." Said my mother.

As my mother explained to me, I suddenly felt the delicious scent of grilled meat. It had been only two hours since we had breakfast but I was already feeling a bit hungry... There was a small cart with a man selling skewered meat, and he was covering it with a strange and sweet-smelling black sauce... Uwah, I am getting hungrier.

Chapter 267 Exploring The Town And Having A Good Time With Family And Friends

We slowly walked through the streets of the Bright Dawn Town, and the first thing we saw as we walked towards the Food Market where we were going to make most of our purchases was a man in a cart selling delicious-looking meat in skewer. It wasn't just meat in little chunks, but he was using some sort of special black sauce which he covered the meat with, alongside some oregano-like dried herbs, which made the skewered meat smell so delicious.

There was a lot of people gathering around the cart, and I really wanted one myself. I have eaten a lot of preparations in my life, but the last weeks we have been eating rather simple food such as stew and grilled meat, I miss the more elaborated and tasty food my mother used to make back home, and there it is, this delicious, skewered meat using some sort of special sauce is conquering my stomach before even getting inside.

Acting like a spoiled little child, I asked my mother for it.

"Mama, I want some skewered meat! C-Can I have some?"

"Eh? But you just ate two hours ago, dear." Said my mother rather stubbornly.

"But papa said that you would buy me anything I wanted..." I sighed, looking back at my father as he smiled nervously at my mother.

"Fine, let's go." My mother said, she ended giving up to it quite quickly.

There was a small line of people waiting for the meat though, it seems that the man was selling them very quickly, he was about to exhaust his reserves of meat already. However, and thankfully, we reached him before it were to run out.

The man was a burly bald man with hair arms, he seemed to be a hardworking village man selling off meat to make a living.

"Oh, an elf, isn't this a strange sight?" He said. "And there is a little elf in here as well!" The man smiled gently at me. "What do you need, missy?"

"I want a stick with meat!" I said.

"Hahaha! Alright, want some sauce with it?" Asked the man.

"Yeah! It looks delicious!" I said.

"You got sharp eyes, this sauce is made using fermented beans, it has a slightly spicy taste, but it is also sweet and savory all at the same time, it goes well with any food as well, grilled meat, stew, baked food, all of it!" Said the man.

"Hmmm... I have never seen this type of sauce before. I also want one skewered meat... And... Aquarina, do you want one?" Wondered my mother, as the little Aquarina nodded. "Oh, right, you too, Zak, right?"

"Yeah!" Said Zack.

"Alright, four then." Said my mother.

"Coming right up!" The man covered the skewered meat with a bit more of sauce and then gave us the skewered meat. It was pipping hot, so it covered my face with the steam and the tasty flavor and scent.

My mother paid for it rather quickly, each skewered meat was 75 Belts, which is the currency of this world, Belts are often paid with Copper, Silver, or Gold Coins. 1 Copper Coin is 50 Belts, 1 Silver Coin is

1000 Belts, and one Gold Coin is 10000 Belts. There are also "in-between" coins, such as Blue Iron Coins being 250 Belts, Black Silver Coins which are usually 2500 Belts, and then there is a larger coin than gold coin, White Gold Coins, which are 25000 Belts.

A kilogram of bread usually costs 250 Belts, meat is obviously not so cheap, so the skewered meat was rather expensive, costing one and a half copper coins per skewered meat. But my parents were rich anyways so this wasn't a problem... I just realized that I am technically a noble by how rich they are.

"Keep the charge." Said my mother.

"Oh, really? Thanks a lot!" Said the man while laughing.

"In exchange, can you tell me where you bought this sauce?" Wondered my mother, tasting the meat a bit, she immediately found it tasty. I remember that she once told me Elves did not eat meat, but that was like thousands of years ago, probably too ancient, and now most younger elves eat meat, which is widespread and accepted in their society.

"Oh, to the other side of this street, to the left, there is a small shop that makes it, a bottle costs 1500 Belts, but it can last a long time." Said the man.

"I see, it is quite expensive but I'll buy some, I hope there are some left." Said my mother.

"There surely will be, most of the time only nobles can afford a bottle," Said the man.

While my mother learned where to buy the sauce, I quickly decided to try out the meat with Aquarina and Zack, the three of us gathered together and decided to bite the meat at the same time.

Chomp.

Ahh, the meat was really soft and it slowly tore apart in my mouth, I barely needed to chew it. Also, the flavor was very exquisite, so strong, the juices and everything else... and the sauce was so... sweet, and savory, and also slightly spicy all together, with a strong flavor that lingers in your mouth for a long time.

This was really, really amazing!

"Uwaah, it is a bit spicy but sweet too! I love it!" Said Aquarina.

"Hmm... Ah, I like this sauce a lot... It brings so much flavor..." Said Zack.

"Hm, that looks pretty good..." Said my father behind me.

"Here." Said my mother, sharing her skewered meat with my father, as my father smiled happily and took a piece of it.

"UOOH?! Oi, this is awesome!" He said like an immature child, even Aquarina and Zack's reactions were not as exaggerated... To be expected of my beloved father.

Aquarina and Zack let Nepheline, Shade, and Ninhursag try out the meat as well, and everyone ended liking it, lamenting that the man wasn't selling anymore until tomorrow.

Chapter 268 Kokuri Sauce

"This meat is good... But I want some more! A bit is not enough!" Cried Nepheline, complaining like a little girl.

"Come on, we can make our own skewered meat later." Said Shade.

"Nin, did you liked it?" Asked Zack.

"Yeah, it was very good... I had never tasted something so flavorful before." Said Ninhursag. "This fermented bean must be very rare or something..."

"Well if the bottle of sauce costs over a silver coin I am dead sure it is something expensive." Said my father.

In the time we spent eating the skewered meat, we have already bought a few basic things in the way to the shop where they sold sauce. My mother was incredibly quick at buying stuff, and nothing escaped her discerning eyes either, many people tried to scam her by selling her fruits that were rotten inside and vegetables that were quite old, but she rejected them and even exposed them in public whenever they were too insistent, she was very scary.

In these twenty minutes, we got a lot of fresh tomatoes, around twenty kilograms of it, which was two whole sacks of it, alongside thirty kilograms of potatoes that were three sacks, my mother also got carrots, twenty kilograms, and a lot of cabbage, lettuce, onions, garlic, and other fruits and vegetables I had never seen before, which my mother found interesting.

"Look, this is a Purple Basin, this is a special tuber that is purple colored, they're incredibly sweet when boiled, and can be made into tasty jam." Said my mother, showing me what looked like an onion outside, and inside was similar to an orange, it had a strong and fragrant smell, and was completely purple inside and outside.

"Oooh, sounds nice, maybe you can make pie out of it?" I wondered.

"Yeah, I had thought about it. In the Atlanta Continent you'll see even more different vegetables and fruits there, there is a tremendous variety in that place... How about you start a small little orchard? I am sure that your innate magic ability to enhance plants growth and quality could come super handy. We could grow our own veggies like we did back home." Said my mother.

"Sounds like a good idea! I'll help growing the veggies!" I said. With the power of Agriculture at Level 10, I have begun to wonder how I could enhance plants without accidentally turning them into monsters. Its all about intent at the end, and how much mana I administrate.

When I force a plant to grow insanely big, I also force their entire metabolism to develop quickly, meaning that they tend to dry out and die in a couple of hours, even if turned into monsters. This is why the instant growth of plants is only useful in mostly fights or daily life things, but for long-term plantations, it will only ruin the plants lives, so I need to do it slowly and carefully, just like how I grew Yggdra.

"I guess we'll have to start from zero in there, but I have bought the seeds for most of the plants we had there so we can regrow them." Said my father. "Well, it still some time until then, so let's take our time leisurely for now. Oh, look, this is the shop."

When we reached the shop, we were greeted by an old man selling the sauce, he seemed to be on his late 80's, and was rather energetic despite his old appearance, the interior of the shop had large barrels filled with fermenting bean paste which was emanating a very strong odor, there was black liquid coming out of it, which I would assume was the actual sauce.

Wow, we can see the whole process here.

"Ah, welcome, welcome. We don't get customers so commonly... Oh my, elves! The last time I saw an elf was dozens of years ago... Ah, so pretty as I remember them!" Said the old man, as he slowly walked towards us.

"Good evening, we were told that you sell a special black sauce for meat, is this it?" Wondered my mother, pointing at the barrels.

"Ooh! Yes, yes, but this is still fermenting, you see, they take a lot of days, even years to get it right, but a single barrel can make a lot of bottles." Said the old man, as he took out a bottle filled with the black sauce from a small container.

"This sauce is made by fermenting beans called Kokuri, they're a specialty of a tribe of beast-kin that sold it off to us humans long ago, we were taught how to make it as well, and my family has descended from those that were taught how to make it. My father taught me, and the father of my father taught him, like this." Said the old man.

It seems that the family of this man was the one that has been making this sauce for all this time, it must be an interesting legacy. My mother quickly bought around ten bottles of it without any shame, and the man was drowning in Belts. He was surprised that he sold so much and seemed very thankful as we walked outside.

"Well, let's wrap things up by buying some other things I want and then let's go back outside." Said my mother. She was like the leader of the group, and nobody ever objected against her decisions, I suppose it was pretty much the same when they were all heroes. Mom has always been a strong woman with a

personality that has a lot of authority over others. Her sharp eyes are intimidating to see sometimes, they're both filled with wisdom and a lot of experience.

Well, I know that deep down she likes to be a lovely mother that spoils her daughter, but I also know she's someone incredibly reliable. I know that as long as I am with my mother, I'll always be alright... I guess it is a nice feeling, to feel protected.

Chapter 269 A Mysterious Bard

Thanks to my insistencies and those of Aquarina, my parents and Aquarina's parents ended buying all sorts of pastries and other sweets we found around the shops, alongside that, they also bought several types of bread we had never seen before, some of them were filled with meat and other things, which were named "Meat Buns", and there were also some baked with onions and garlic, which were very strong flavored and had a nice scent.

There were all sorts of delicious pastries and breads I wanted to taste, so I ended convincing my parents to buy a little bit of everything to have tasty food through our entire journey until reaching the coast.

After we went to eat another snack near the plaza where my parents left their carriage, we suddenly found a small show going on, there was a man that they often call bards, with long blonde hair and sharp emerald eyes. He had long ears, and I immediately realized he was an elf.

He was holding into a guitar and was using it to sing a melody with the sound of the guitar, it was a melody similar to a story, an epic about heroes that traveled far and wide and defeated the demon king... wait, isn't this a tale of my parents?!

"This is the tale of the heroes, filled with sorrow, pain, and suffering. This is the tale of those that we called heroes, common people that was forced to become companions to save the world..."

"But did they truly save it? Did they feel happy with what they had done?"

"The tale of the heroes is unknown until now. What they told us might as well be just fantasies."

"A young boy named Allan, belonging to the Mountain People, an immature and quick-tempered boy that was good at using a sword."

"A young girl from the amazon tribe, strong and self-confident, but that lacked a lot of brains."

"A boy marked with his dark past, someone who had stopped trusting others, and had embraced the darkness of his heart..."

"A cheerful young man that loved to sing, and continues doing so until now~"

"A silent witch that lived in a mountain made of blue jewels, intelligent and talented, but that lacked any ability to make friends..."

"A man whose soul was empty, his eyes were dark, and his past unknown."

"A handsome man that looked into the stars every night, as he smiled happily to be alive..."

"A beautiful young girl that was close to nature, a girl that considered the spirits of the world as her friends..."

"A young man that could call lightning and wind, whose past was filled with sadness..."

"An old man connected to the beasts; a man known as the beast tamer."

"And lastly, the most beautiful and strongest, the elf that lived hundreds of years, the wielder of life and light... Despite her large wisdom, she lacked experience and was bad at dealing with people..."

"All these heroes gathered once, for the single purpose of saving humanity from the demon king."

"Tell me, young girl, do you think the heroes succeed?"

The man looked at me as the crowd suddenly directed their eyes at me. My mother's eyes opened wide as she realized this man... This bard wasn't a mere elf. However, she didn't said a word about it.

"They did!" I said. The elven man smiled warmly, petting my head gently and winking at me, as he continued his tale.

"Of course they did. Despite how badly matched they were with one another... Despite how much they ended fighting with each other, and despite how much they hated once between one another... They continued striving forward, guided by the wise elf and the witch, the young heroes grew up strong, and through their sacrifices, they managed to do the impossible..."

"The beast tamer gave up his life so they could defeat the evil of poison."

"The stargazing boy took down the evil of darkness alongside himself."

"The beautiful girl that loved all of nature, and whose spirits considered her their child sacrificed herself to protect everybody from the evil of the void..."

"And the man whose present summoned lightning and winds defeated the evil of the oceans, in exchange for his own life..."

"These heroes whose names we don't know sacrificed their lives to save humanity, they were the ones that made it possible for those that survived to reach the point they reached... they were the ones that made the impossible... possible."

"There is no real story without sacrifices, war is not something glorious, it is something that only brings sadness, sorrow, and emptiness..."

"As the corpse of the demon king laid in the floor, the heroes questioned what they had done."

"Defeating the evil of the world, would certainly save it, isn't it?"

"Nay! The truest evil remains within all of humanity. The evil was defeated, but it continued to remain within all of us... Deep within our hearts... It is our duty to work every day and be nice with one another, or else... we are simply no different than the demons we despise."

The man's story was filled with melody, the people was enchanted by it, and the last message was rather simplistic, but it made some people realize that despite having defeated an enemy of humanity as the demon king, atrocities still continued, the evil in people's hearts never faded away, and humanity had become no different than demons themselves.

If we wanted a change, we cannot rely on heroes, we must do it ourselves, if not, there will be countless heroes always sacrificing for us, but we'll never learn to be a bit like them.

"Remember to be a nice person, everyone. If you haven't told your parents you love them, this is a good opportunity. If you fought with your friend, this is a good opportunity to reconcile with them. If you see a person in the streets starving, while you're filling your stomachs every day, spare a piece of bread, a bit of water, and a warm piece of cloths. We can only change the world by our own actions... Let's stop leaving everything to a group of people, heroes are not needed, the change must start here."

Chapter 270 Arafunn, The Bard Hero

The people began to clap at the elf's story, it wasn't even a song but accompanying it with melody and the sound of the guitar really gave it a new ambience to the entire story. The children seemed to have learned to be nicer, but I don't know how long that will last. No matter how much we try to teach one another to be nice with people, there are always those that due to the circumstances of their surroundings, they grow selfish nonetheless, and sometimes, they seek the suffering of others for their own pleasure. Sometimes people feel better when others are more miserable than them, it has always been like this to be honest.

Well, but the world is not like this, right? This world... or the previous world where I was, there is always good and bad people, there are never too much of the other, and if that were to ever happen, the other side will grow exponentially to overpower the other side that was growing too much. I guess humanity never change even in other worlds, a balance between good and evil is almost intrinsic, even in my own self, I can tell that there is a dark side to my own personality. It is certainly not normal to be willing to kill someone if they were to threaten me, but because of what I did in my previous life, I've shaped myself to see murder as an option.

Some might agree that it is the correct thing to think in this harsh world, others might think that it is a flawed way of thinking that only the wicked think about, but I don't really care, I just want to live my own life, and be my own self... But I guess the "not caring" is also quite the flaw, isn't it? At least I don't really want to make other's people's lives miserable, and that's already being a nice person, so let's just continue being like that.

Nonetheless, this man had a different way to see life, this mysterious elf...

The people quickly offered him some tips, he had put his hat over the floor and it was filled with coins of the people, they were all rather generous.

"Thank you, thank you for your generosity, I am really grateful. Please, have a good day. I will pray for all of you." He said with a gentle smile.

When the crowd slowly dissipated, my parents who were staring at him with faces filled with emotions slowly walked towards him. I had not seen my parents like this in a while, only when they talk about the past most of the time. These expressions with many mixed feelings... Do they know him? Ninhursag seemed to recognize him as well, but she wasn't filled with many emotions, but was very surprised, nonetheless. Meanwhile, Aquarina, Zack, and I were completely clueless.

I held a silver coin in my right hand and gave it to the man. The gentle and handsome blonde elf smiled warmly at me.

"Thank you, dear." He said. "I'll pray for you every night."

"You don't really need to pray for me, but the story was very interesting... Were all those heroes that died... real?" I wondered.

"Why yes... Have you not asked your parents?" He asked.

"E-Eh?" I asked in surprise.

"Long time no see, Arafunn. You look the same as I remember you." Said my mother with a smile.

"Arafunn?" I wondered.

"Hahaha, no matter what sort of magic you use, you can't escape these eyes." Said the elf man, as he laughed cheerfully. "It has indeed been a long time since we saw each other, Faylen, Allan, Shade, Ninhursag... Looks like you even got kids now, that's good."

"Yeah, we got a little girl named Sylphy, she's the cutest, isn't she?" Said my father pridefully. "And Faylen is waiting for another one to come soon as well!"

"Oooh! Allan, I guess you're putting a lot of work. I suppose there is nothing to worry about within your marital relationship! Hahaha!" Laughed the elf, as my father hugged him and the two laughed together like good old friends.

"This is Aquarina." Said Shade. "Been a while since we saw you, I suppose you're doing good."

"My daughter is also the cutest." Said Nepheline. "Also you've not put up any muscle at all, Arafunn, are you even eating properly? Why do you like to live like a homeless man?" Nepheline sighed while crossing her arms.

"Hahaha, it is nice to meet you two, Shade, Nepheline. I always knew you two had some chemistry." Said Arafunn. "But I never actually thought I would ever see you two having a kid from all things. I guess I really underestimated your commitment to a relationship."

"Don't joke around with stuff like that, elf." Said Shade rather angrily.

"You're as annoying as always." Said Nepheline with a smile.

"I-I... Erm... Y-You're a hero?" Asked Aquarina nervously.

"Why yes... But let's not talk about that here, there's a lot of people around... Come with me, I got a place where we can talk stuff out." Said Arafunn. "Also, Ninhursag, is that your kid?"

"N-No, this is Zack, a child I... Well, he's my kid, yeah." Said Ninhursag.

"H-Hi..." Said Zack rather shyly.

"Hello boy, you're going to take care of the two little girls when they grow up? You gotta be their big brother figure, got it?" Said Arafunn out of nowhere.

"B-Big brother?! With someone like Sylphy I doubt I can really take that role..." Said Zack.

"Mom, can you explain this to me?!" I asked, wondering what was going on. But my mother told me to calm myself until we reached a closed area.

The elf guided us into a small house he had rented, where we entered, he quickly unleashed a strange magic with his very voice.

"Deafening Barrier, Raise."

FLAAASH!

And then, a barrier made out of invisible sound vibrations suddenly emerged all inside of the house, deafening any sound from coming out of it.

"Now that we got some cozy place, come sit here, I'll prepare something to eat really quick. It's not common to find old friends like this." Said Arafunn. He had a really charming smile.