

## A Glitched 321

### Chapter 321 The Potential Of These New Spells

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After I finally returned my stats to normal, I felt finally calm. My body was back to normal too, and this exhaustion I was feeling finally dissipated too. I felt like taking a nap right now, the burden and exhaustion that comes after using the [System Modification] Spell to its fullest is really big, just like Alice said... but the power it has is frightening, even changing stats for a bit creates a huge change despite being such little stats. This is most likely caused due to an effect Alice calls "Unlimited Limited Growth Effect".

"Theoretically speaking, you shouldn't be able to grow stronger at all from your initial strength after your Status was frozen, Sylphy, but there were several factors that allowed it. One of them was your parent's intervention, as they bathed you in dragon blood and feed you dragon meat through Cooking Magic, they forced a strengthening in your body, which opened the path for you to continue developing your strength further, despite your stats being low." Said Alice.

"Didn't you said at the beginning that I could still grow outside the System?" I wondered.

"Yes, but your parents increased the speed in which you can grow stronger several thousands of times over... Making your growth abnormal and greater than those without glitched systems." Said Alice.

"Aside from that, the status system was supposed to hold your growth back but it was ignored by the incredible power flowing through your body, which was further enhanced by the limitless amount of Mana you got. Of course, you're still developing so you can't simply become the strongest... yet."

"Huh... But what about this weird Effect you talked about?"

"Oh yeah, the "Unlimited Limited Growth Effect" has direct relevance with both your unchangeable stats and your body and soul's growth. As your body and soul gains power, your stats, which don't change, gain power as well! Each number becomes stronger by itself, even a single digit can make a difference in your strength." She said. "This way, it is as if you were still growing but not at the same time."

"I see... It is weird and I barely understood it, but I guess my numbers are just stronger than others? That's it? Is it because they carry more of my total power." I said while scratching my head.

"Precisely!"

"Aha, I get it then... Ugh, what I did with Aquarina was a bit... I think I overdid it though."

"C-Certainly, I didn't expected [Charm] to be such a strong Stat, especially when you also changed your Class to [Charmer]! Why did you even do that?!"

"Haha... I was just playing around! I didn't do it due to bad intentions, I am innocent! I only want the best for Aquarina... Nothing else!"

"Huh... Well, let's leave it at that. Charm has its powers as well, perhaps you could use it to throw off guard foes, or even convince them. It seems to have brainwashing powers..."

"Hmm... I have yet to try the other stats, I am quite curious about Luck though... What's with the minus 10? Is my luck that bad? What happens if I move that -10 elsewhere?"

"Then you'll receive -10 in that stat, and grow weaker."

"Hm... What if I put it on HP? Will I die instantly or something? I mean, -10 HP feel weird."

"I don't know... But I recommend you to never try it out, MP is quite obvious that you will lose it all if you do that, so don't try to make your HP and MP lower than 1 if possible. You've already experienced the burden and exhaustion both physically and mentally of dropping those stats, so I will trust you that you won't do anything reckless."

"Of course, leave it to me!" I said quite proudly.

After that, I went back to reality while Aquarina was acting awkward over what she had just done. It was honestly very surprising and it scared me a bit... but it was also quite cute, I never thought Aquarina thought of myself in such a way. Maybe Charm also made her get out some of her deepest feelings?

"S-Sylphy, please forget what I said! I-I wasn't right in my mind... S-Something must have happened to me... Ugh, maybe I am sick?" She wondered. I caressed her silky silvery white hair and smiled.

"Don't worry about it, those words were very sweet, they captivated my heart." I said with a smile.

"H-Huh?!" Aquarina reacted exaggeratedly. "I-It was not creepy?"

"I-It was surprising but don't sweat it." I said while trying to calm her down.

"Hahaha... O-Okay then..." She said while fidgeting her fingers nervously.

I couldn't help but pet her head, she was way too adorable.

However, at the distance I could sense the stares of Celeste, Mist, and Zack, and the three were talking with one another as well...

"Hm, those two girls..." Said Celeste. "Boy, are those two... by any chance?"

"I-I am not so sure." Said Zack. "But I can tell you that they're indeed... rather close."

"Wow, they must be really good friendsh!" Said Mist, as she quickly moved near Zack. "Zacku, are you carrying three boxes too?!" She asked.

"Yes... It is a bit tiring but not so much... Using enhancement magic, it is possible." Said Zack.

"Wooooo!" Mist began to admire Zack again. "You're strong! Strong!"

"Hahaha... I think you've exaggerating... Well, let me carry your boxes as well, you're too little." Said Zack, as he finished carrying the boxes and then carried the two that were assigned to Mist.

"Oh, y-you don't have to..." She said shyly.

"Don't worry, you're so small and cute that I can't let you carry them, it would hurt my heart." Laughed Zack.

"Uwah... Thank shu! You're weally nice with me..." Mist began following Zack around while blushing all the time. Did she... just developed a crush on him? I think it might had been love at first sight. I have no idea what Zack might have to say about it, but he seems completely oblivious.

Celeste was glaring at the two rather menacingly as well... I suppose she didn't liked how Mist got attached to him.

Chapter 322 Time To Go Back To The City

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As we were finishing on moving the wooden boxes into the inventory bag, which had like a small dimension inside that could store a large quantity of items inside, I saw Celeste carrying three of them leisurely. I had just noticed, but isn't she buff as well? And its not magic, she's just naturally that strong!

"What?" She asked as she put the boxes in the ground, and then I placed them inside the bag.

"Y-You're so built!" I said. "How is this possible? What's your Physique Tier?"

"I think I am 3, nearing 4." She said.

"Huh?! T-Three?!" I asked in shock. She was only like six years older than me but already had two and a half Physique Tiers above me... What sort of method is she using to enhance her Physique? Using the Mana Circulation Technique to enhance it seems to be the quickest way but it takes a lot of time...

"It happens due to my bloodline. Certain tribes of demons are able to raise their Physique Tier quicker than other tribes. Some do so naturally as they mature. You're a half-elf, so your Physique Tier advances slowly... I am Half-Demon... I am not afraid of saying it because I don't really shy away from my origins, I am prideful of it." Said Celeste rather... well, pridefully.

"Big sish ish like... shuper shtrong!" Said Mist with a big and slightly frightening smile with her large mouth that opened vertically all the way up to her forehead.

"Is that so?" I wondered. "Yeah, I can tell!"

"She beats all the badiesh!" Said Mist, as she began punching the air with her tiny fist. "Like BOM! And BAM! She got a tail too!"

"Come on, Mist, don't go telling them everything now..." Sighed Celeste, her eyes were sharp and rather untrustful of us. "But yes, here, wanna see it?" Celeste smiled rather maliciously, as she showed us her long and pointy tail, it had a sharp spiny end, and looked like that of a lizard.

"W-Wow... It's really a tail!" Said Zack. "Can you fight with it?"

"Naturally." Said Celeste. "It has a paralyzing poison, so I often keep it away from people, usually I entangle it around my chest."

"Ooohh..." Said Aquarina. "I wish I had a tail too..."

"W-Well, why would you? It is just an inconvenience though... But well, I am prideful of my lineage, even though... I never met my family." She sighed. "But I am happy of my body even if its inconvenient sometimes..."

"That's great! I bet you're pretty strong." I said. "I feel more relieved now knowing that there is someone strong like you to protect the children... Though, what happened to Mist is... We still need to find the culprits."

"Right..." Said Celeste. "Oh well, we'll find them and then I'll detach their fingers and limbs one by one." Celeste's red eyes shone with a brighter red color than before.

"U-Uhuh..." Said Aquarina. "A-Aren't you being a bit too rough?"

"Rough? I guess you children won't understand... This world is not welcoming of naïve people... You seem to have lived your entire childhoods below the protection of your parents. You don't really know the terrible things within the world... You lack understanding that sometimes... It is kill or be killed. Those bastards will get what they deserve. This is what I've done since always."

"Well, we have our fair share of experiences ourselves." I said. "We have killed hundreds of goblins. And other monsters."

"Yeah, don't underestimate us!" Said Aquarina, fire in her eyes.

"Indeed, I have chopped apart some Goblin Champions too." Said Zack proudly.

"Woow! Really?" Asked Mist while looking at us with her bright four eyes. She was simply admiring us, and her admiration grew incredibly easily.

"You? Slain monsters like goblin champions? Hahaha... Didn't your parents taught you to not lie?" Asked Celeste. "There's no way..."

"Eh? She really doesn't think we did that?" Asked Zack.

"Don't be rude!" Said Aquarina.

"Well, it is understandable, we really don't give away any sort of vibe that we could defeat so many monsters, haha." I laughed. "Don't worry, we'll go to the dungeon to complete some quests, if you want to, you can eventually come with us too."

"Huh... Well, maybe." Said Celeste. "I would like to see what you could do if you look so confident..."

"Big sish don't be rude with my new friendsh, or I'll get mad!" Said Mist angrily, as if she was trying to defend us from Celeste's intense stare.

"Haha, it is okay, don't worry." I said with a giggle.

Celeste seems to be a very distrustful girl, she simply doesn't trust us at all... Well, not like I really mind it. However, Aquarina and Zack who are more childish make a whole fuss about it. Maybe they should really calm down a bit, it is not really the end of the world to not be believed of whatever you say right away. In this world you have to show others what you're capable of, most cannot even sense your strength at all, especially by our looks, we are just kids after all.

"Sylphyyyyy! Are you done? Come here kids, we'll go in the carriage back to the city!" Said my mother, as she called us all. When we reached the carriage, Celeste seemed conflicted.

"Can't we meet inside the city, passing through the gates is always a pain, especially because we are demons, the guards discriminate us and sometimes even bully us, trying to extort money out of us... I simply grab Mist and jump out the walls to not deal with them... Unlike thugs, guards and soldiers work for nobles, messing with them will only bring more trouble that could threaten the orphanage." Said Celeste.

"Huh, so they do that?" Wondered my father.

"Don't worry, we'll protect you, we are not S-Rank Adventurers for nothing." Said Shade.

"Eh? ...Did you just said S-Rank Adventurers?!" Asked Celeste, she was visibly shocked.

Chapter 323 A Strong Father

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We made our way back to the town with my parents. It was a shocker for Celeste to learn the adults were all S-Rank Adventurers with the exception of Ninhursag (although she had more than likely enough power to be considered close to it), she had been rather silent ever since she learned that, and remained so until we reached the gates. In there, as usual, a group of soldiers checked the carriage and everyone getting inside.

"Ah, hello, there's a lot of variety here, huh- What is that?!" Asked one of the soldiers, looking at Mist.

"Hello!" Said Mist with a gentle smile, although her appearance was found rather hideous than cute.

"T-That's a girl?" Asked the second soldier.

"A demon girl... Y-You know that demons need to pay a special fee to enter, right? And you, red-eyed girl... I think I know you from somewhere!" Said the first soldier.

"Isn't she the witch Celeste? She's a half-demon with a bad reputation... I don't know if we should allow such a girl to enter the city without paying some extra fees as well." Said the second soldier.

Celeste was gritting her teeth in anger, showing her sharp teeth, which intimidated the soldiers, all while Mist was apologizing because she had no money to pay the fee.

"Sowwy I don't have money..." She said. "But when I grow up I'll go adventuring and earn tons of money! I'll pay you by then!"

"Don't mess around with us, you freak, without money all of you can't get in- Ugh!"

The two soldiers were quickly stopped by my father, who stepped out of the carriage and surprised them from behind, as he walked all the way there, he was naturally taller than the two, who looked like midgets in comparison to him.

"Don't dare treat these children in such a way." He said silently.

"Y-You dare get in our way? You're a human so just stop being nice and let them out of here, I bet you picked them up from the road out of pity, right?" Asked the first soldier.

"Hey, between the two of us, those two can sell for a nice amount as slaves, the big one can make a good sex slave for some perverted geezer, the little one too I guess, but she's so ugly I bet-" The second soldier couldn't finish speaking his stupidity before my father's fist reached his face and knocked him out of sight.

BAAM!



"Ugeh...!"

CLASH!

He fell into the ground, alive, but completely knocked out with a single punch...

"H-How dare you attack the- Ugh?!"

My father quickly shoved over the soldier's face his S-Rank Adventurer Card.

"W-Wha... S-Rank Adventurer?!"

Quickly after, my mother and Aquarina's parents alongside my uncle all showed S-Rank credentials as well, and the Soldier even desperately used the item to check if they were legal... and they were. He quickly swallowed saliva, carrying away his knocked out companion while smiling nervously.

"P-Please forgive our rudeness! Y-You can pass, free of charge!!!" He cried while trembling and trying to fake a very nervous and desperate smile.

"That's more like it." Said my father menacingly, as he got over the carriage and we quickly entered the city after that. It appears that... S-Rank Adventurers can even ignore laws due to how strong they are. The Title itself is granted by a Ruler such as a King, so soldiers cannot really argue with them or even report to authorities if one bullies them like my father did. Well, not like they didn't had it deserved to them after saying such horrendous things.

"T-That wash amazing... Sho S-Rank Adventurers can truly do anything!" Said Mist while raising her tiny hands. "Did you see that, Big sish?!"

"I-I did..." Sighed Celeste. "Thanks... for protecting us."

Celeste, who was always so closed with herself, seemingly opened for a bit, happy to have been protected from the words of those men that didn't even know the concept of morality.

"Don't worry dear, as long as we are here nobody is going to put a finger on you two." Said my mother with a gentle smile. For a moment, I saw Celeste's eyes open wide for a bit, as she looked down into the floor with embarrassment.

"T-Thanks..."

"But well, leaving that aside, according to what those soldiers said, the state of the world seems quite bad... It has only been a few years, a bit over ten since the war and slavery is back? Weren't they abolished in the entire continent?" Asked my father.

"Certainly..." Sighed my mother. "I don't know what's going on, but he openly spoke about it."

"Huh? You don't know? There's a slave market near the district where the nobles are, it opens once every three months, and they sell slaves, both criminal and... debt slaves." Sighed Celeste. "The bastards, of course, capture people without families to enslave, they cannot run away, lack the strength, the money, and the family to help them. Our orphanage has always been their target, so they have always wanted to kidnap our children to enslave... I've been protecting them from these underground organizations that work with the nobles."

"T-That's... So all we fought for... It was for nothing, just... as I thought." Sighed my mother.

"...This continent is truly rotten, it has always been." Sighed my father.

"You... did you fight in the war against the demons invading the continent over ten years ago?" Asked Celeste.

"Well, we participated... a bit." Said my father, deciding to keep the hero title a secret.

"I see..." Said Celeste. "Don't worry, I am not going to judge you or get angry at you because you fought invading demons, it was war after all. I wasn't even alive back then."

"Ah, that's a rather mature take on it, I am grateful you don't hold grudges over such things..." My father sighed in relief.

"Nonetheless, the slavery thing... Maybe we should deal with it?" Wondered Shade.

"Yeah, we can't let it slide." Said Nepheline.

"Hm... Maybe the Malice could be related to this as well..." Said my uncle.

It seems that my parents and the rest are not going to just do a few things in here as they said previously.

Chapter 324 Reaching The Demon Orphanage

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We moved across the city streets and quickly left out the carriage in a special area where people can leave them, although most of those with enough money to own them are either merchants or nobles. There are sometimes wandering caravans, but those are very rare and a strange occurrence in these faraway lands. I wanted to go to the orphanage and see what was in there, but I couldn't help but also want to go to the dungeon and beat some monsters to see if Ignatius can grow stronger by leveling up and everything... But prioritizing the orphanage seems like the right thing to do at the end, I suppose.

We went through a similar route that I took when I heard Mist's cries, and we reached the dark alleys as Celeste calls them, where most people of the city, the commoners, don't step on. Guards are nowhere to be seen, and people seems to be able to do whatever they want pretty much. Come to think of it, yesterday was really weird, I had developed such an ability without even realizing it... and it seemed to be connected with the Blue Demon Soul Fragment that is dormant inside of my Soul Scape. He's still doing nothing but sleeping right now, but he was most likely involved into this.

Since he showed up that I gained this power... to "sense" the people that is considered of the demon tribe. I don't know why and how, but it seems to be really a thing... I am still intrigued about it, of course, and I am really curious about how much such powers can develop or go to... I also want to practice more of my System Modification Spell and see how free is my ability to change Classes depending in what I input, as Alice said, there was probably some sort of limit.

Anyways, enough talking about that, Celeste and Mist guided us through the streets as we saw many terrible places going through, and even found the dead body of a kitten while going through the streets... My mother took pity of it and used "Ascendance" a high tier holy light and life element magic spell that let entire corpses turn into ashes through holy light, while also letting the soul that belonged to the body ascend and pass away peacefully...

"And here we are! This ish the orphanage! It is not much, but itsh pretty comfy when you get inside, Sylphy!" Said Mist with a cute smile. "Aqua, Zack, come, let's go! Ah, I don't have enough hands for all of you..." Mist was trying to hold our hands to guide us inside, but Celeste quickly stopped her.

"Stop there." Said Celeste. "Before getting them all inside, we need to tell Mary and Lucia about them, they're in charge of the orphanage as nuns." Sighed the half-demon, taking Mist away from us and opening the rustic door of the orphanage, a building made mostly out of very big stones and bricks assembled very poorly, it was a big building nonetheless, with two floors. I could easily sense through my Mana Sense Spell the various lives living inside.

"Hah... This place really looks bad." Sighed my father. "I wish we could build a better house for the kids."

"Well, it shouldn't be so hard if we use some Earth Magic, right?" Wondered my mother. "And some Nature magic to reinforce it with wood... Yeah, doesn't seem hard."

"We could add a few artificial spirits to the house so it becomes a house golem, we can give the house the task of protecting the residents." Said Shade.

"Oooh! Yeah, leave the reconstruction to me, I might look like a warrior, but my earth magic allows me to make some amazing homes and buildings!" Laughed Nepheline.

"I-I think you guys are jumping the shark a bit too fast, let's wait a bit to see what we can do or not... You're all adults, you should know that doing something that brings too much attention to us would be bad, right?" I asked, as I quickly brought everyone back to reality. They are so strong that sometimes their common sense just flies away. Well, not like I can blame them when it happens to me as well.

"R-Right, you're right..." Said Nepheline.

"Hahaha... I-I was just joking." Said my father.

"Yeah... we were not... thinking about making a house golem." Said Shade.

"I was merely talking my mind, dear. I-I wasn't going to do that out of nowhere!" Said my mother averting her gaze from me.

"Yeah right..." I sighed.

"What's wrong with doing that? it sounded awesome!" Said Aquarina.

"Yeah, why not?" Wondered Zack.

"Ugh, I just said why!" I said while crossing my arms. "I am nobody to talk about it because I also seem to lack some common sense, but please let's not stand out more than everyone already has... Yeah, it is very hypocrite coming from me, I know."

Just as I said that, the doors opened, as two nuns came out of the orphanage building accompanying Celeste and Mist. One of them was clearly someone from a tribe that is referred as demons, a woman with colorful red skin, as red as tomato. She had fiery orange, red, and slightly green eyes, and her hair seemed silver with a slight shade of green as well, but it was mostly hid beneath her nun hat thingy.

She had a large scar across her face, going from one of her eyes all the way down to her cheek, one of her eyes was completely gray as well, probably lacking sight... And she also had two horns- well, she had, because they looked like little pieces of black charcoal, they were... horrendous cut. And to make things worse, her hands had terrifying burning scars, deforming the skin. God... what did she even went through?

"H-Hello... I am Mother Mary... I-I am glad you're the ones that brought Mist back... Y-You have my eternal gratitude." She said while putting her hands closer and fidgeting her fingers nervously.

Chapter 325 Mary

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"A red demon, isn't it?" Said my mother. "It is nice to meet you."

"I-I would prefer if you called me by my name rather than my... disgraceful race." Sighed Mary while nervously averting her gaze from us, she seemed to have a hard time keeping eye contact.

"S-Sure, sorry about that." Said my mother.

And then, Mary pointed out at the other Nun, who was silently staring at us. She was covering her face with a black, semi-transparent veil, and only her eyes could be seen. But from the looks of it, she had brown skin and beautiful golden eyes, she also had pointy ears that emerged from her nun hat, and there was also blonde hair that could be clearly seen.

However, the most surprising part of her was her lower half, she lacked legs, and instead, had a very long and large snake tail. I've read about these people before from the books my parents had back home, she was a Lamia.

"She's Mother Lucia... S-She can't talk because... Her tongue was cut long ago." Said Mary rather saddened to having to clear out her fellow nun's disability.

"C-Cut her tongue?" Asked my father rather frightened.

"I-It was... after war... Well, anyways, she's very nice and attentive, so don't worry." Said Mary while trying to make up for it, Lucia nodded rather rapidly, seemingly trying to calm everyone so they wouldn't make a fuss over it.

"I see... That's a pity." Said Shade.

"Could it be possible to heal her, Faylen?" Wondered my father.

"I don't know... Wounds that have lasted for years are very hard to heal, especially if they already cicatrized for a long time." Said my mother. It seems that healing magic loses its effects with old wounds that cicatrized, even though she is probably the best healer in the world for all I know...

"Hm..." Sighed my father.

"P-Please don't worry about us, we are alright! A-Anyways, I am very happy that you wanted to donate to the orphanage... We have not received donations in over three years now, with only Celeste and the two of us working to maintain everything..." Sighed Mary while Lucia nodded.

"N-Nobody has donated a single penny for three years?" Asked Nepheline. "Shouldn't the government that manages this fiefdom pay the orphanage? Isn't this building maintained by it?"

"Y-Yes... And no. I-It is complicated... S-Shall we talk more inside? It is getting chilly..." Said Mary while her hands were trembling, it was a rather fine day with just a chilly wind, but it seems she was having a hard time anyways... It was mysterious and I wondered why she was so delicate towards temperature, but it was better to not ask too much.

"Alright, let's get inside." Said my father, leading us inside the orphanage.

Just as I had imagined, the inside looked rather ruinous, only illuminated by small candles placed in each corner, the nuns probably worked hard to keep the place clean, and Celeste's magic probably worked, but the entire place still looked very terrible, although there was no moss or dust to notice at first sight. There were many cracks in the walls and the ceiling, even, and there were a few holes in the wooden floor that were repaired with cracked pieces of wood.

"Thish ish my home! It ish comfy and we have fun inshide!" Said Mist happily walking around, she must had been born in here because she clearly didn't know any better... Well, not like I am complaining.

"I see, it is rather... welcoming." I said with a mild smile.

"I-I'm sorry if the place is... rather nasty or dark... It is all we have..." Sighed Mary.

"Don't worry about it." Said my mother. "Shine."

FLASH!

My mother suddenly generated a tiny ball of light and let it over the ceiling, illuminating everything rather amazingly. Everything could be seen even more clearly now... all the cracks, the holes in the floor... that one spiderweb in the corner of the room... yeah, all of it.

"T-That's some fantastic magic..." Said Mary. "You must be a talented priestess... Sadly I lack much talent with magic..." She sighed while she sat down around a table with everybody else. While we reached this room, we saw several children peeking around the walls, some even behind the stairs. There were of all shapes and sizes, of various appearances as well, it seems that there were many tribes of people I had never seen before, but there will be time to interact with the children later.

When we sat down, Mother Lucia didn't sit down due to being a Lamia, she felt more comfortably by coiling her lower half around her hips and then resting her back in there. It was a very unique way of "sitting" but I've seen snakes do it as well. Her lower half was brown and black colored, and her scales made up a beautiful pattern, although I also saw many deep scars across all her tail, and the tip of it was... completely chopped off, leaving an ugly scar that must have taken a long time to recover, leaving gray skin over it.

It seems that both of the nuns were filled with scars... They're also not the youngest, perhaps only a bit younger than my father, they're most likely survivors from the war, their scars could had been made in there... or perhaps elsewhere. But if that's the case, it would be even worse.

"Well, we wanted to donate twenty wooden boxes worth of food, there is fresh meat, vegetables, fruits, and many other utensils. We also got several kilograms of leather and clothes that can be made into fitting clothes for all the children, and also all of this gold." Said my mother, starting the conversation by opening the spatial bag and letting out everything... the immense pile of valuable things made both Mary and Lucia drop their jaws, completely flabbergasted.

"T-This is... A-Are you sure? Ah... T-This is not a joke, right, Celeste? This is not an illusion? A-Am I dreaming? I am dreaming, right?" Asked Mary, completely in disbelief, as she began pinching her face while trying to wake up... Poor girl.

"You're not dreaming, Mary..." Sighed Celeste with a mild smile. "They're... for real."

"B-By the gods...!" Cried Mary, suddenly falling into the ground... she fainted.



## Chapter 326 An Act Of Kindness

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Mary was left shocked, so much that she fainted on the spot. We were left rather surprised by the event, but she had genuinely fainted out of disbelief about what was happening. Everyone in this orphanage and been hanging on a thin thread all this time, with years of nobody donating single coin nor food, the two nuns in here had been working hard to feed the children alongside Celeste.

"Mother Mary! Are you alright?" I asked, as I flew to her side, she was smiling a bit while fainted.

"She's alright, she just fainted." Said Celeste.

"Let me help her." My mother stepped in, waving her hand, a tiny speck of light reached Mary. "Awake."

Mary's eyes suddenly began to slowly open, as she was healed of her fainting... Wow, so there's a spell that can wake up people from being fainted? Now that's something I didn't know. I should learn that in case of emergencies.

"Ah! Eh? I am... What happened?" Wondered Mary, looking around her with a confused expression.

"You just fainted..." Said Celeste. "Are you okay now?"

Lucia also seemed concerned about Mary, petting her head with the tip of her tail worriedly. She touched Mary's shoulders and patted them as well, quickly waking her up a bit more.

"I-I apologize...! I-It wasn't my intention to faint..." Mary said. "I am just... so surprised... someone would give us this much... I couldn't believe it." Mary contained her tears as she seemed to have been taken over by her emotions.

"Don't worry, if we have the ways to help you, then there's nothing wrong with trying to do so." Said my mother with a gentle smile, as Mary's eyes shone brightly. She seemed rather gloomy this entire time, but she quickly changed, getting exceedingly happy.

"T-Thank you! Thank you for your generosity! You're so nice! I am so happy..." She cried, quickly kneeling in the floor out of nowhere. Celeste and Lucia quickly tried to stop her but Mary was too ridden by emotions, crying desperately.

Everyone looked at one another as Mary poured her heart into her words. I felt the need to make her stand up, she didn't had to kneel before us or anything, we were doing something normal to be honest. If I had the money and the resources I would always try to help others in need, it is mere common sense.

"You don't really need to cry, calm down..." I said, as I petted her shoulder.

"I-It is just... We have been barely surviving with what we got... Both Lucia and I work selling products we make, barely making any money out of it, all while Celeste goes to the dungeon each day to hunt monsters, risking her life so the children can eat..." Sighed Mary. "It has been such a long time that we received the help of another person... I've begun to lose hope... To think that there wasn't anybody that would ever help us... Even now, I feel like this is a dream, that all of you can't possibly be real..."

"We are real, calm down." Said my father.

"We came here due to Mist, it might had been fate that Sylph found her." Said my mother.

"Mary, don't cry!" Mist said rather concerned, as Mary sighed as she slowly stood up and hugged the little goober.

"Dummy... Don't you go around alone again, okay, Mist? It was a miracle that you even found such good people... Don't be reckless, after what those people did to you... Learn to be more cautious, okay?" Sighed Mary, as she kissed Mist in the forehead.

The little Mist who was always showing to be cheerful and happy, with seemingly no sequels after such a terrible experience, nodded slowly, as tears began to flow out of her eyes at the end, being embraced by Mary, who was like her mother perhaps, she felt more comfortable about opening up.

"I-I was shcared... It hurt... I thought I wash going to die... Sniff... I'm sowy..."

The little Mist began to cry a lot, it really broke my heart. Perhaps because she didn't know us nor could she lower her guard with us, she had simply shown to be alright, but deep down, that horrendous experience left a big emotional scar in her.

"I am sorry for being weak and pathetic as well... I wish I could be stronger to protect you all anywhere you went..." Cried Mary. "I love you, Mist, please don't do stupid things again, okay?"

"Sorry mama..." Cried Mist, hugging Mary. She just called her mama...

"D-Don't call me mama while in public..." Sighed Mary, growing a bit embarrassed.

"But you're my mama!" Said Mist.

"Sigh..." Mary was perhaps Mist and the other children's adoptive mother, maybe very few of them got to see their actual parents, and Mary looked to be very close to Mist and probably all the other kids, so bonds equal to mother and daughter/son forming between her and the children seemed natural.

"Don't worry, we'll make sure to find the culprits behind what they did to her. I won't rest." Said Celeste, her eyes seemed filled with motivation. Lucia quickly stopped her from talking anymore, putting her hands over Celeste's mouth, as she waved her head and then petted Celeste with her tail.

"But Lucia..." Sighed Celeste.

"I think Lucia wants us to rest first before even thinking about revenge, Celeste..." Sighed Mary. "I also hate how reckless you are sometimes... D-Do you really have to risk your life? I don't... w-want to lose you."

"Mary..." Celeste sighed. She understood them but seemed unwavering. She quickly looked back at us, who were all in silence, we simply didn't want to interrupt their emotional moment, but she probably felt like they were giving us a show. "W-Well, anyways! We got visits so let's quickly sort out all the things they brought and let's cook something with the new ingredients, I am hungry. I also brought some money from my last hunt."

"R-Right, now that we got many ingredients, I can finally cook something tasty! Lucia, you too?" Asked Mary, as Lucia nodded happily.

The nuns seemed excited about finally cooking with a proper variety of ingredients.

Chapter 327 Helping The Orphanage

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After everyone got together and things were said, we quickly began to move things into the storage room of the orphanage. My mother began to explain to the nuns that the wooden boxes were imbued with special magic that made the ingredients inside grow stale at an incredibly low speed, she said they could stay fresh for a whole year or more, and that if possible, to not put the ingredients outside.

"I had sorted the boxes with special paintings represent what they have, the one with the apple has fruits, the one with the cabbage has vegetables, the meat with bone has all sorts of meat, from monsters, cow, sheep, and fish, and there's the grain boxes with the wheat painting, those have flour and many other important grains I recommend you eat daily. Aside from this, there's also exclusive boxes filled with potatoes. They're delicious and filling, so you can use them for all meals to fill the children's belly." Said my mother, as the nuns quickly took note of everything she was telling them, both knew how to read and write, so they quickly brought papers and wrote everything down.

After that, the nuns insisted on cooking for us and all the children, but my mother also insisted on helping them at the very least, so she joined Mary and Lucia while they started to cook all sorts of delicious-looking food. The two nuns were surprising proficient at cooking and said that they were going to make some special preparations from their tribes. I noticed Mary making something rather spicy, while Lucia was frying rice with eggs and meat chunks. My mother helped the two complement their cooking with her Cooking Magic. Her plan was to probably help the children grow stronger and healthier through food made with this magic.

While we were helping them sort out the boxes with items, we also began to distribute several other things. My parents had packed plates, cooking utensils, accessories, and special magic devices. Some of them were able to generate tiny flames and so on. It was nothing too fancy but they were made to improve the daily life of people. There was also a device used to clean things and another to dry out washed clothes. Alongside that, one that could produce fresh water and another that could warm things, with that, the children can take daily warm baths.

"S-So many items..." Said Celeste. "Some of these things cost a fortune in the market, are you sure this is okay?"

"Yeah, those were made by us a few days ago, it is not too hard to create them once you got the items." Said my father. He was a crafter after all, but I've only seen him making armor pieces, I never thought he was a magic item crafter. My father got more talents than I thought.

"Our magic item creation is not the best though, but it is not as if its too hard for us to ask for money for them. Spirit Stones are not so rare if you go to a mountain and mine for a little while." Said Shade.

"Yeah, I can also use magic to create magic stones of low quality, I use this sometimes to make magic items." Said Nepheline.

"Y-You can just create magic stones?!" Asked Celeste.

"Ah, yeah, what's wrong with that?" Wondered Nepheline.

I wonder if she could food the market with her item creation... Or maybe Nepheline could even make gold if she wanted. Now that's rather dangerous, destroying the market by flooding it with gold... I guess it's a good thing she's not interested in socializing with the big kingdoms or nations anyways.

"N-Nothing, never mind... You're all freaks. I guess that's what S-Ranks are." Sighed Celeste.

As the food was getting ready, we all sat down and the children immediately lost their shyness, a few of them began to swarm us with questions, as we were able to see them all more clearly, but over half of them were still being rather shy, glancing at us from behind furniture or within the nearby stairs. My uncle was one of the popular ones.

"Wow, I've never seen an elf before!"

"You've got sharp ears!"

"Mister, you're so handsome!"

The little children, mostly half-demons, demons, and beast-kin were all swarming my uncle, who was quite handsome and had a high Charm Stat, if there was no other way to put it. He had a very special aura that made people get close to him, I guess that's the power of Bards.

A little lamia girl similar to Lucia, but with purple scales and pale blue skin began to coil around his arm, and approached her tiny arms at him.

"C-Can I touch your ears, mister?" She asked shyly. She was so precious and cute that my uncle couldn't help but let her do it.

"Sure... Have your way." He sighed, as the tiny girl began to touch his ears.

"Woow!"

"I want to! I want to!"

"Me too!"

"You seem to be popular with girls more than anything." Said Celeste. Most of the little children were little girls, they found him as handsome as a prince charming I suppose.

However, my father and Shade were also being swarmed by a few boys, they were interested on their build, as both of them looked rude and cool, the children were naturally drawn to them.

"Wow, you've got big arms!"

"Is that a real sword?"

"C-Can I see those daggers?"

"You look so cool! Do you wear black clothes always?"

"Hahaha! You kids want to see how strong I am? Come on, hop into my arms, I can carry all of you at once!" My father immediately began to play with the kids, as the children sat down over his arms and he lifted them all up the ground with ease.

"I can do the same!" Said Shade, competing with my father as he also lifted various children.

...Are they kids or something?

Chapter 328 Elites

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"You're big and muscular! Wooow!"

"Can we call you big sister?"

"Big sister!"

Nepheline was being swarmed by a handful of children as well, some were admiring her muscles. She wore clothes that left very little to the imagination, and Ninhursag as well, so the two muscular beauties were being admired by the younglings.

"Ahahaha! Well, if you want to!" Laughed Nepheline. As she petted the children happily.

A little boy slowly walked towards Ninhursag, he seemed to be a beast-kin with a fluffy cat-like tail and tiny cat ears instead of human ears. He had fur over his hands as well, making adorable paws.

"Missy..." He asked timidly.

"Hm? Yes?" Wondered Ninhursag, as she looked at the boy curiously. Noticing how adorable he was, she couldn't help but slowly drop her serious face as she smiled.

"Have you met my mama?" He asked timidly.

"Y-Your mama?" Wondered Ninhursag.

"S-She looks a bit like me... with long hair..." Said the boy.

"I-I haven't..." Said Ninhursag.

"Hm..." The boy walked away without saying another word, he had been asking the same question to everyone from our group.

Celeste at my side explained to me who he was.

"That's Casim, he's a Cat-kin we picked up when he had grown a bit more. We found him two and a half years ago in the alleys, starving to death." Said Celeste. "He always asks for his mother, whom he misses a lot. We found him without her, and he was very stubborn to find her for a long time, until he kind of gave up and stayed with us... He's obsessed with finding his mother."

"I see..." I sighed.

"Have you sometimes thought you were unlucky to have a parent that annoyed you, or sometimes cursed because they try to teach you things?" Wondered Celeste.

"A-A few times... I've discussed with my parents, but... I don't feel like you said." I said.

"Hm... Appreciate your family, Sylph. Not everyone has the privilege of growing with their parents like you're doing, especially with such strong parents capable of taking care of themselves and protect you... You're a very lucky person, I envy you." Celeste said with a calm voice, as her red eyes looked deep into my own soul.



"I'm sorry for your lose... Do you remember your parents?" I wondered, trying to change the conversation. Celeste seemed like a girl who held a deep darkness within her, I didn't wanted to provoke her by getting angered over her weird words, so I simply decided to ask her something more personal.

"I do." Said Celeste. "I do remember my mother... I remember how she was killed too."

"H-Huh? She was...?" I asked.

"Right in front of my eyes..." Celeste looked down into the floor, her eyes devoid of any light. "By my own father..."

"..."

For a moment, we fell into silence. I really didn't know how to even respond to that. I shouldn't had even asked to begin with, I only ended making things worse. Celeste remained in silence. It seems that she might had been living with such thoughts for a long while, maybe bearing with the trauma with her, without never recovering. I guess... I can relate to it as well. I have yet to recover from the death of my father in my previous life. I had simply... filled my heart with so many new experiences and loved ones that I've simply moved forward.

Even after I avenged him and killed many of those bandits, I have no idea what is happening in my world anymore, I also have no idea where my mother and my little sister could be... I am always thinking about it even when I really don't want to. It is very hard to simply forget a previous life. Or maybe, I just don't want to forget about it.

"I am sorry for asking, if that brought you bad memories..." I sighed.

"Don't worry. I got over it long ago." Said Celeste.

Despite her pretending to be alright, I can tell this is still affecting her, and deep down, I can't help but wonder how this even happened. Why would his father kill her mother, and why would she had been there to see everything happen without being able to do anything against it? Just what sort of background does Celeste has?

Aquarina and Zack quickly came back from the kitchen to greet me, finding me talking with Celeste, they quickly greeted by Mist, and with her, all three of them came to our side.

"Sylphy, there's a lot of kids here..." Said Aquarina. "I can't help but feel a bit nervous, especially when they stare at me..."

"Well in here we are the weirdos, there's a lot of demon and beast kids." Said Zack.

"There are some humans too." Said Celeste. "It just that demons and beast-kin are discriminated by other orphanages, they throw them out when they cause trouble. The people in the orphanages often accept mostly humans, the rare elves, and dwarves. The last two are very rare to find homeless."

"Why is that?" I wondered.

"Hm? Isn't it obvious? Most if not all elves and dwarves belong to big families or Kingdoms, they don't like to meddle too much with humans. If you ever find a lost elf kid, he most likely belongs to a rich family. Elves own a whole continent and are Elites." Said Celeste with a slight tone of resentment. "But it makes sense seeing how strong your mother is... Elves live long and have insane magic, it is obvious they would become one of the top elites in the entire world."

"E-Elites?" I wondered. "I-I thought we only had a kingdom in the Atlanta Continent, is it that big?"

"Well, that's how it is, everyone knows this. Ask your mother a bit more if you want to, she should be the one that knows the most, isn't it?" Wondered Celeste while glaring at me expressionlessly.

"Hm... You're right, I'll ask when there's time, thanks." I said to Celeste, as she nodded.

Chapter 329 Showing Furoh To The Little Demons

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I ended chatting way more than I could had wanted while Mist entertained Zack and Aquarina with her shenanigans, quickly bringing more children with her and breaking the ice so Aquarina and Zack, who

were the most shy of the three of us, slowly began to get a better grasp of the situation and lowered their guards a bit.

Nonetheless, I easily noticed how Aquarina was looking at the two of us talk for a while, she was growing red and even pouting a bit, getting bored of Mist, she slowly walked behind me and reached up to me. Aquarina suddenly held my hand while I was chatting with Celeste for some reason, and Celeste noticed it.

"Aquarina? What is it?" I wondered.

"W-What are you two talking about?" She wondered while looking at Celeste slightly zealously.

"We are talking about normal stuff. Getting to know each other is important sometimes." I said to Aquarina. "Want to join us? Celeste is a nice person."

"So who are you exactly, Aquarina?" Wondered Celeste. "You're always silently staring at us, it is a bit unnerving."

"T-That's because you... you never stop talking with Sylphy..." Said Aquarina while growing embarrassed.

"Huh? And how's that bad?" Wondered Celeste while raising an eyebrow.

"I-It is not bad... Sorry." Said Aquarina, quickly calming herself down.

"Don't worry, she's very clingy but she's nice once she opens up. Since she was a year old that she had always been shy with others." I said while giggling and petting Aquarina's head. "But she's a lovely and gentle-hearted girl deep down."

Aquarina looked back at me while raising her eyebrows and quickly growing even redder.

"I-I am?" She asked shyly.

"Yeah!" I said, petting her once more.

"You two are very close, like sisters..." Said Celeste. "So you just do what your parents say or do you have any plans?"

"We want to go to the dungeon to complete some quests, our parents helped us register as adventurers." I said. "We are going with Zack as well."

"Y-Yeah, me." Said Zack from the distance, as he was being distracted by Mist.

"You kids are going to the dungeon?!" Asked Celeste. "You'll get killed..."

"We are not as weak as you imagine." I said proudly. "Nonetheless, we'll probably go with our parents, or their familiars."

"Familiars..." Said Celeste. "Your parents have them?"

"Yeah, we got a few ourselves." I said rather carefreely.

"Is it rare?" Wondered Aquarina.

"Well, yeah? Not everyone out there has tamed a monster or had contracted a spirit, that's in fact incredibly rare. And hard too... But I guess you kids are not really normal at all. Well, if you got the help of strong familiars, maybe you can do alright inside a dungeon's first floors."

"Dungeons... I want to explore a dungeon myself." Said Aquarina. "I want to test my strength a bit... Fighting wild beasts doesn't really count! I've heard that dungeons are true challenges sometimes!"

"Hm, same. We once found a dungeon but it was too small and only had a demon, a survivor from the war that was hiding there." I said. "He became my familiar."

"Y-You have a demon as a familiar?! You know that's a person, right?" Asked Celeste.

"I know! Don't get mad, familiar contracts are not slavery, they mean we share a bond together, I can give him power. He's not a conventional demon either... Furoh, wanna come out? There's a lot of demons like you in here..." I said, as Furoh quickly decided to arm himself with valor and move outside.

FLASH!

I quickly summoned him, as he appeared in all his wormy splendor, the children and Celeste, who were all humanoid in shape, thought he was a monster and quickly began to scream, some ran away.

"C-Calm down! He's a demon like you guys!" I sighed. I hated to call people as demons, but there was no helping it. "He's a Shapeshifting Demon, often called the Mimic Tribe, I think."

"Uugh... S-Sylphy, I don't know if this will work, they all think I am a monster... M-My appearance is too hideous. Not even demons think I am a person..." Sighed Furoh, hiding behind me.

When they heard Furoh speak with a soft voice, the children quickly calmed down, and Mary came running here to see what was happening, finding Furoh, unlike the kids, she wasn't afraid, but surprised.

"Oh, a Mimic Demon...! W-Where did he came from?!" She wondered.

"He is a familiar, I can summon him from within my Soul Scape. He's a good person, I hope everyone can treat him well..." I said, presenting Furoh to everybody.

"S-Sylphy..." Furoh sighed, he was quite afraid of being treated badly.

"Come on, didn't you said you were a person, then show them that you can talk and act like them as well." I said, as I tried to motivate him even if a little bit.

The children looked at Furoh with different expressions, some were afraid, others disgusted, and some weirdly curious.

"Erm... Ugh. No, this is too much, they're all kids as well!" He cried.

"Hm, so you're a Mimic Demon?" Asked Celeste. "Children, this is an adult demon that has been traveling with Sylph. His name is Furoh, he happens to be a war veteran as well and has gone through many adventures. Despite his appearance, he's a demon and a person. Treat him well."

Celeste immediately changed the expressions of the children in an instant, as they all slowly approached Furoh and began to talk to him. Children also had the incredible trait of being more curious than anything in the world, sometimes surpassing their own fear.

In an instant, Furoh found himself speaking with many children at once, as the food was already done and my mother, Mary, and Lucia started to serve the food. The dozen of children quickly decided to join us in the feast, their eyes shining with wonder as they saw many colorful dishes, perhaps it has been a long time since the children ever ate this much!

Chapter 330 Having A Delightful Dinner

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"We have made some of the food from our homeland to celebrate this day. We had many ingredients so it was possible... This is my homeland's stew, it is spicy red, but very tasty and comforting, it really fills you with stamina. I added a bit of chili, but it also has tons of potatoes, carrots, garlic, onions, and a lot of beef meat cut into tiny chunks. I am very happy to have finally been able to make it once more, so try it out!" Said Mary, as she served a delicious-looking red stew to everybody, it had a spicy scent and seemed to be attractive to the nostrils.

I immediately tasted it without wasting much time, the taste was nice and slightly sweet, even, the broth of the meat could be clearly felt, but the thing that surprised me (even though I expected it) was the spicy flavor that quickly kicked off in the last minute, my entire mouth was burning and I ended drinking a lot of water to calm myself down a bit. I had eaten spicy food before but not this spicy. I looked around me and saw the children enjoying it, some drank water but everyone was eating it rapidly. I quickly gave the stew a second opportunity and began eating it constantly, the spiciness made it addict, making me want to eat everything on it.

The soft potatoes and carrots combined well with the spicy broth, and the delicious meat chunks were generous as well, the onions and garlic had almost completely melded with the soup so I barely found any piece on it. Overall, the food was so good I could barely keep myself from gulping it all down. When

I finally finished, I sighed in relief while drinking a bit more of cold water, my mouth was burning but it felt so nice in the moment that I couldn't wait!

"I-I want more!" Zack said at my side, already having finished his plate.

"Me too!" Aquarina was fast to ask for more as well.

"Well, I would like to try out more of the food though..." I sighed, I felt like my stomach was getting bubbly and hot, I had to eat something else if I didn't want a stomachache. At the end of the day my body is still that of a child, I shouldn't have eaten this much! If I use fast metabolism and other spells, I could probably digest things quickly, but then I would need to go to the bathroom quickly! ...So I will bear with this hot sensation in my stomach for now, all while I eat more.

"Do you guys like it? I am happy..." Mary giggled. "The food of my tribe is made so we can be always filled with energy and stamina..."

"It is tasty, but very spicy..." I sighed.

"Hmmm! I think I am resistant to spiciness!" Said Mist. "It's very tasty, mama!"

"Fufu..." Mary seemed happy as she saw everyone enjoying her food. Lucia, however, also wanted everyone to try out her food. She quickly began to serve us small plates with what seemed to be rice with meat and vegetables, and that one sauce made from fermented beans we found in another town.

"This is Lucia's tribe specialty. In the continent where they originated, there are large swamps where Lamias live, in there they harvest this grain as well, and make all sorts of dishes with it. This is named fried rice, and uses oil, meat, and vegetables accompanied with a spicy yet sweet sauce, and rice of course." Said Mary. "I-It is very tasty, well done, Lucia."

Lucia couldn't speak, but she smiled adorably, everyone quickly began to dig in, as I also ate it. This dish was way more refreshing and wasn't spicy like the stew, the rice with the meat and vegetables made an amazing combination, and that sauce made out of fermented beans made things even better. It was like a party in my mouth and everyone was invited, the freshness of cabbage, carrots, bean sprouts, corn, all

combined with tasty chunks of bird monster meat and rice, it was all so nice it made me smile. I wolfed everything down quicker than I thought.

The children sitting around the table all looked happy, some of them were very thin, so I was happy to see them eating to their heart's content. I am happy my parents choose to help. I suppose... part of the reason might be the guilt of what they had done in the war, perhaps to feel better with themselves ultimately. I can understand them though, a lot of people often felt this way when they're guilty about something they did, trying to make up for it by doing good deeds. Especially because these children are all demons or beast-kin, who are being discriminated by this town.

And well, the discrimination part and the slavery is a whole different topic, I suppose they're planning to resolve that as well... It is getting rather late today, but I wonder if they're going to do it tonight or in the next days. Depends on how brash my parents and the other adults can be. I would recommend them to first investigate, but I doubt they would listen to me. I am hoping they are considerate about everything else going on.

Hahh~ If I think about it too much, many other things begin to emerge inside of my head. There's a lot to do to be honest, from going to the dungeon and completing some quests, to helping the orphanage and getting to know the children here, befriending Celeste a bit more alongside Mist, and then also seeking the one that abused of Mist and beat the shit out of them. I suppose that could be ultimately connected with my parent's quest as well, and there's nothing saying they wont investigate that as well. They're so strong that it makes me feel like they can do anything, but can they really do anything? I often wonder that a lot...