

A Glitched 401

Chapter 401 Meeting The Adorable Mist Again

Hugging Aquarina always calmed me down a bit. I stretched my arms around her warm back and rubbed my face over her shoulders.

"S-Sylphy, are you okay?" She wondered worriedly.

"Yeah, I am okay now." I said, smiling back at her.

Our faces ended quite close once more.

"T-That's good..." She said, quickly averting her gaze from my eyes. "Youb have pretty eyes when you're happy so... don't be sad."

"Pretty eyes?" I wondered.

"Yeah, they're as shiny as jewels..." Aquarina added while growing intensively red.

I couldn't help but grow embarrassed of being called beautiful like this too, and from Aquarina to boot. I ended quickly stepping away from her before the situation were to get weirder.

"S-Sorry for getting too close." I apologized.

"Oh, it is fine!" She said happily. "After we are done with the orphanage let's go hunting, I am still looking for good materials to commission something for you with them!"

"Do you really have to go to such lengths? Geez..." I sighed.

"Of course! I can't lose to Zack." Aquarina said.

"Then let's go for now." I said.

We quickly moved back to the city through the same route we use once more, walked through the same streets and then, arrived at the refurbished orphanage. I could already hear the many voices inside walking and many people running around, most likely the children who were enjoying their new and big home.

"We are back!"

Knock, knock!

Nepheline quickly knocked the door, seconds after, Mary greeted us with a gentle smile, although a bit forced, her hair was a mess right now and she had paint all over her nun dress. The children behind her were playing around with paintbrushes and making a big mess.

"W-Welcome back everybody..." She sighed. "W-We are currently quite busy, you see... the children loved the paintbrushes you brought and had been painting to their heart's content... Hahah..."

"Gods... We shouldn't had given them such dangerous tools." My mother said.

Apparently my parents wanted the children to paint whatever they wanted. I do remember they often gave me paintbrushes and paper to paint when I was younger to pass the time. I did some serious pieces of art they used to put in the walls.

At the end, we entered the room after getting through the big mess going on inside. The moment we stepped in, the little Mist greeted us, with the usually gloomy Celeste behind her. She seemed slightly more calmer than before.

"Sylphyyyy! Aquaaaa! Zaaack!"

It has only been three days since we didn't see her but she was all happy and spoke as if she had missed us for a long time.

"Hello Mist, how are you doing?" I asked. Mist beautiful four eyes seemed very happy, as her big jaws began to smile cutely.

"I'm good! But I missed you three! You're my best friends because I am a big girl now... I have to be with big kids." She said, talking something out of nowhere.

"Eh? You're smaller than the three of us though." Said Zack.

"T-That's... Well, yeah but still!" She said while being slightly angry. "I missed you too Zack, give me a kiss!" The little Mist tried to get closer to Zack but he quickly stepped back.

Instead, I gave her a kiss in her cheeks.

"Sorry but Zack is a bit shy with girls so pretty like you, Mist." I sighed.

"Uwaahh... You gave me a kish in the cheeks!" Said Mist while blushing.

She loved all sort of attention and affection; she was very adorable. Mist quickly jumped over me and kissed my cheeks as well.

"Big shis Sylphy!" She said.

"Big sis?!" I asked.

"Youwe big shish!" She said.

"Hehe, am I now? What happened with Celeste though?" I wondered.

"Oh, Celeste is also big sish!" Said Mist.

Celeste smiled as she walked towards us, quickly giving me a short glare in the eyes.

"Welcome back, I suppose. Are you going to keep coming everyday?" She asked rather rudely.

"Celeste! Don't be rude with them now." Mary reprimanded her.

"Sorry." Celeste said. "I wasn't trying to be rude."

"It's okay. I know we might be a bit annoying." I sighed.

"Well, at least you know." Said Celeste.

"Eh?! Don't be so rude with Sylphy out of nowhere!" Said Aquarina, quickly getting angry.

"Come on, Aquarina, Celeste is like that. She's actually a good person." I said.

"You talk like you know me for a while when you've stayed in this town for less than a month." Sighed Celeste.

"I just know people when I see them." I said.

"Hm, maybe your judgement might need a recheck." Sighed Celeste, shrugging a bit. "Anyways, you seem strong. I heard there was a Dungeon Break and your father was there."

"Oh yeah... I was there too, a lot happened. But before that we hunted monsters in the dungeon, it was pretty fun." I said.

"Fun? So you enjoy hunting, huh?" Sighed Celeste.

"Well of course!" I said.

"Hmph, well, I guess you've got what it takes for it..." She said with a mild smile.

"What do you mean?" I wondered.

"Your entire body emanates so much Mana I don't know what you're even sometimes..." She sighed.
"Anyways, I've got some interesting magic books at my room, do you guys want to come to my room?"

"Eh? Really?!" I asked happily.

Finally, Celeste was being friendly! I couldn't really waste this opportunity at all.

"Yeah, yeah. I'll show you some of the Dark Magic I know." Said Celeste. "I am kind of a magic teacher myself, I've been teaching Mist a bit of magic but she got this monstrous affinity with light which I am not that good with."

"I want to heal everybody!" Said Mist happily. "I am a healer! I'll be a priest!"

"A priest demon? That's crazy." Laughed Celeste. "But healers are well paid if they do their job right, so you might be able to help the house quite nicely."

"Eeeeh? I want to be a priest and help people without asking for money!" Mist said angrily.

"Money moves the world, Mist, you'll have to ask for a bit if you want to keep on living." Said Zack.

"Uuugggh... I am no greedy." Said Mist while pouting.

She was really an adorable cinnamon roll even when she gets angry.

Chapter 402 A Talk With Celeste

At the end, we were invited inside of Celeste's room. Apparently her room was a new one of course, and a big one only for her. It was filled with bookshelves, all new, which my parents had brought. She had a variety of books and herbs and even monster pelts, internal organs, and eyes inside of flasks with liquid to maintain them from rotting. Her entire room looked like something straight out of a fairytale witch's room.

"My previous room was something very small, so I am quite grateful for what your parents did, although I had to organize everything back up together, which was a pain." Sighed Celeste.

"Sorry about that, but you weren't there when it all happened. My parents really wanted to refurbish the entire building..." I said.

"No need to apologize. I am grateful. I never thought I would be living in such a beautiful place to be honest." Said Celeste. "It's as if I were living in a Noble's Mansion. The Kitchen is enormous and always filled with food... the bathrooms have warm water and the children can bathe every day without worrying... There are even new clothes and all. Even though we are still living in this hellhole, your parent's help made it bearable... I am still impressed by what they did, just by using magic they created a whole house... Now that's certainly new." Said Celeste.

"Right?! Our parents are awesome!" Aquarina said.

"They are quite... yeah, they're amazing people..." Celeste said with a sigh, as Mist and Celica had followed us and were wandering around the big room looking at every little nook and cranny around. "I wish I could had such parents myself, I never had anything to begin with."

"Oh..." I sighed. "W-Well, don't you have a good family here? The children and the nuns... I am sure they all love you." I said.

"Yeah, you're overthinking it." Said Zack. "I am also an orphan like you. Our real family is the one that surround us and loves us as one."

"Hmph, such a childish response." Sighed Celeste.

"H-Hey! I was trying to be deep for once." Zack angrily said.

"No, it's fine, you're kind of right." Said Celeste. "My family is in here... And I work hard every day so I can protect them and ensure a future where they can live comfortably..."

"Yeah! That's the spirit." Aquarina said. "But do you remember anything about your parents though?"

"Aquarina! Don't ask that out of the blue..." I reprimanded her.

"Hey, she's talking about it and made me interested now... It's her responsibility to tell me!" Aquarina got a bit cocky.

"Huh, well, you've gotten a bit too ahead of yourself, but fine." Sighed Celeste. "It is not like I don't know who you are. Your parents seem to be rather famous S Rank Adventurers, huh?"

"W-Well, did they become famous?" I wondered.

"More or less..." Celeste's sharp red eyes looked at the ceiling and then she quickly began to talk once more. "Pretty much everybody here knows already about my past. I told them what had happened to me to the nuns back then, it is nothing special... But to sum it up, I used to be the daughter of a noble."

"Eh? A noble?!" I asked.

"Wait, what? You?!" Aquarina asked.

"Huh? How's that special?" Zack asked.

"Well, Nobles are filthy rich people that control this place. Seeing a half-demon being a child from a noble is crazy." I explained to Zack.

"Yeah..." Aquarina agreed.

"Huh..." Zack scratched his head a bit, he didn't seem to have much of a clue even now.

"What I was before doesn't really matter much right now." Said Celeste. "That girl that was the daughter of a noble is dead, my identity is a new one I created to survive, if not, I would simply be chased down by the nobles and would have gotten killed for being a half-demon. Those nasty people wouldn't be able to accept someone like me having noble bloodline."

"Oh... That's... well, that's harsh." I sighed.

"It is." Celeste said. "The world is harsher than you imagine, Sylphy. It always feels like you guys simply live inside a bubble I guess... With people as strong as your parents, it is not hard to guess that's how you think life is. Even though everything is much... worse and darker than you can fathom."

"Hey, we know about that part of life, we have experienced things that almost killed us already..." I said. "We are not as feeble as you think, Celeste."

"I never said you were feeble, Sylphy." Celeste said, smiling a bit with a carefree air. "I am merely saying that you have yet to see how everything is..."

"Well, what about your mother?" Wondered Zack, trying to make the topic go back to its original conversation.

"My mother..."

Celeste quickly fell silent for a little while; her eyes were filled with a strong sorrow.

"My mother used to be a Demon, pure-blooded demon, a survivor from the war." She said. "She was a slave of my father, one of the many the bastard has... She... she died in front of me."

Her eyes began to glow with both sorrow and anger, and I could even feel as if there was a fury, a demonic anger and resentment growing larger within her shining red eyes.

"W-What...?" Aquarina was left a bit shocked.

Celeste smiled back as she seemed to feel like she was happy for surprising us with that.

"You know who took her life in front of me?" She asked, suddenly pausing for a bit, as if she felt like all in life was simply irony.

"...My father."

Everything fell silent, Aquarina and Zack didn't know what to say. It was rather sad to comment on something so harsh, but it was on Celeste for wanting to share something like this.

But why? Why did her father just killed her mother in front of her?

What sort of sick world is this?

Ah... I guess she was right.

I suppose I have yet to see what this world can truly offer.

Chapter 403 Life's Harsh, Isn't It?

"Life's harsh, isn't it?" Asked Celeste. "Life's shit sometimes, honestly."

"Hm..." I couldn't help but remain in silence.

I really didn't know what to tell her. It felt like she had opened to us but I couldn't bring myself to tell her what I had gone through. Telling her that I was torn apart by a former Demon Lord would need way too many explanations to feel credible after all.

"What did you do after that?" Wondered Zack.

"What did I do? Well, due to my mother's sacrifice, I somehow managed to escape..." She said while the entire atmosphere remained in silence.

"After that, I survived like a street rat however I could. It was a horrid life, but I grew up like that... Eventually, I began visiting the dungeon, earning money killing monsters, and bought myself some decent looking clothes after I started living in an Inn, until I found this orphanage. Mary invited me to live here... Since then, I've been living with these children, and protecting them with my life, because I can't help but see myself within them every time I see their eyes."

"I see... You're a hard worker, Celeste. You're someone admirable, to be able to rise from the bottom like that... I think you're someone amazing, in fact." I said quite honestly.

"Hmph, flattering me out of nowhere... Sylphy, you're at least six years younger to try to conquer my heart." Said Celeste half-jokingly.

"E-Eh? W-What are you talking about?! I am just trying to cheer you up..." I sighed.

"And you did." She said, petting my head. "I guess I've done a lot, huh? Life's fleeting when I think back then, it all seems so distant. Whenever I recall my past, it feels like there's another person completely in there. And I feel sadness and pity for what they did to her. If I could had been there for my past self as I am now... I could had saved myself from all those horrors."

Celeste's voice seemed filled with melancholy as she spoke.

"Hmm... Likewise." I sighed. "Sometimes I also wish I could turn back the clock."

"You too, huh?" Sighed Celeste.

"Me too." Zack said.

"And me too..." Aquarina admitted.

"We all always dream of having such an ability. It is a stupid fantasy. I doubt even the highest tiered Time Magic can do a feat like that." Laughed Celeste. "We all condemned to continue living our shitty lives as we are, without being able to never change anything, this entire cycle simply will continue endlessly..."

"T-That's not right though..." I said, quickly refuting her.

"Oh?" Celeste smiled at my words.

"You still made a family here, right? And you still love them, right? Don't you feel fulfilled when you're with them? After all the crap we have gone through... don't you feel happy to still have people that love you at your side?" I asked. "Although those scars can't be easily healed... Although those scars may remain within our hearts forever... Don't you feel that those around us can make up for what was lost?"

"Hmph." Celeste looked at me with an expressionless face, but then, she smiled once more. "Yeah, I know... This is why I am working so hard for them... Because they're the pillar of my life."

"Celeste..." Aquarina said.

"I guess she's a softie at the end." Said Zack.

"Now, now, don't go calling me a softie now, future Mist's husband." Said Celeste with a chuckle.

"What?! What are you even talking about?!" Zack asked angrily.

"Hahaha!" Aquarina began to laugh.

"I guess that nickname fits." I giggled.

"S-Shut up!" Zack angrily said.

At the end, we spent most of the day talking with Celeste, the conversation quickly calmed down and we talked about other things than personal feelings or our pasts. She showed us her books, which were very old stuff, there were even some grimoires she had acquired inside the dungeon through its drops or treasure chests. They all taught certain spells of magic.

Mist and Celica ultimately joined the conversation, as Mist began to show us her Magic Spells, she began conjuring bright spheres of light around, which she made float around while commanding them with a small wand she was gifted by Celeste in her last birthday.

"I'll become a priesht and make everybody happy!" She said childishly. She had very innocent dreams.

"An honorable dream." Said Celeste.

"I'm sure that you'll make it possible." I said. "As long as you keep your attitude, I doubt anything is impossible for you."

"Hehehe! Really?" Mist giggled, conjuring more bright lights that resembled beautiful fireflies.

"Yeah, really!"

After showing off her simple magic, Mist decided to showcase her healing magic. Her spells were currently [Flash], [Healing Light], and [Recovery Light] all of them being Tier 1 Light Attribute Magic

Spells. She was learning them fast, apparently she didn't even knew about these spells a week ago. She had amazing talent.

"You're already better at controlling Light element than Sylphy and her spirit." Laughed Zack.

"Yeah, she did a big beam yesterday and spooked everybody..." Said Aquarina.

"Ahahah... I guess some have better talent than others." I said.

Alice is getting better at controlling her energies, slowly, bit by bit. So I will eventually show some amazing magic that will leave you guys amazed! ...But for now, it is better to act humbly.

"Hehehe, really? I am glad you think it is good! I will keep training and training..." She said.

"It would be better to make you a Magic Circle first, it is already amazing you can use spells without one." I said. "My mother can help you have one."

Knock, knock.

And as if predicting my words, my mother quickly knocked the door and then gently opened it.

"Mist, are you there? I came to make you a magic circle as promised."

"Auntie Faylen!"

Mist ran towards my mother and hugged her legs because she was too small to reach her chest. My mother smiled sweetly and petted her head.

Chapter 404 The Wolf Steppes And This World's Concept Of "Leveling Up"

Mist ran towards my mother and hugged her legs because she was too small to reach her chest. My mother smiled sweetly and petted her head.

"Hello sweetie." She said, petting her head. "Remember that yesterday I told you I was going to give you a Magic Circle?"

"Yes, yesh! I heard it was shomething shuper cool!" Said Mist.

"Kind of!" Said my mother. "Let's go downstairs, you need to sit down in a clean space without anything around you so you can concentrate better."

Like this, we walked downstairs and reached the first floor, where Mist sat down over a small chair. The entire process was swift as well, my mother simply placed her hand in Mist's chest and then did the same process she did with me several years ago. Mist was slightly scared, but got through it like a champ, albeit slightly tired after.

"Uueggh... I'm tired..." She sighed while feeling sleepy.

"Let's go take a nap for now, Mist." Mary said, gently holding Mist with her arms and bringing her to her bed to take a nap for the rest of the evening.

After we had lunch in here, we quickly decided to move on, saying our goodbyes to Celeste, Mary, and everybody else. It was a nice day to be honest, although it had yet to actually end, I wouldn't mind getting used to live like this every day, this city in retrospective was rather beautiful, but the dark secrets it had held it back from being ideal.

It was roughly 3 PM when we reached back to the camp, and in there, we decided to take a twenty-minute break, mostly I wanted to take a bath before going out to the forest. After the bath, I quickly gathered with Aquarina, Zack, Shade, and my father.

"Oh, we are going with Uncle Shade?" I wondered.

"Yes, Arafunn should have also come with us but he's already napping below a tree, I can't wake up that old elf." Sighed my father. "So are you ready?" He wondered.

"We have explored the Amazon Forest already; we are more than ready." I said.

"Yeah!" Said Aquarina, feeling slightly excited.

"Let's go!"

My father laughed a bit as Shade nodded calmly.

"You guys are always so energetic! With kids like these, will we even get bored in our entire lives?" Laughed my father, as he and Shade guided us into the forest.

"You're exaggerating a bit, they won't stay as kids always, children will eventually grow up." Sighed Shade, looking at Aquarina. "I just hope Aquarina grows up to be a good woman, that's all I want."

"You don't have to worry, with you as her father there's no problem." Said my father.

"You're energetic today, aren't you?" Shade pointed out.

"I was going to say the same, papa's pumped up today." I said. "So what are we investigating?"

We suddenly reached deep into the forest, getting in front of a vast lake.

"From what the local huntsmen had told us, they had seen a lot of people wearing black robes gathering around this forest, between the wolf steppes and the black lagoon." Said my father.

"What are those places?" Aquarina wondered.

"The Wolf Steppes is a wide area within the forest where a lot of wolf monsters' dwell, it is infested with thousands I would say, it is a gigantic area that stretches almost until the end of the forest itself, surrounded by trees everywhere." My father said. "It is only about half an hour walk from here. And the Black Lagoon is a big swamp covered in black miasma... it is far away that it is not that dangerous, but they say that dangerous monster's dwell there. Because nobody dares to get into these places, those guys might had gone there to make a hideout, or something. We are just investigating and looking around though, so I don't think we'll find much."

"Still, this sounds quite dangerous, I am surprised mom allowed you to bring us with you." I admitted.

"Hahah, it does sounds dangerous, but I won't be alone in here, Shade is coming with us as well." My father reassured me. "Now let's go."

I would had honestly been worried that we were getting into such a dangerous place without my mother's authorization, but even she agreed to this. Apparently the adults had a big talk about this and decided that "inhibiting" our growth wouldn't be a good thing. I guess people in this world can grow stronger not by just letting time pass, but also by hunting monsters.

It is not the same Leveling power the System has, but it is something similar, fighting monsters naturally enhance physique, and overusing mana and constantly using spells to kill monsters also enhance the strength of spells and can also make a mage conjure their spells even faster as well.

It was already quite obvious since the beginning as my parents were abnormally powerful. Fighting even stronger monsters might give them even more strength, though I have no much idea how this entire thing works.

"Father, how exactly does fighting monsters help us grow stronger aside from just gathering experience in fighting?" I wondered.

"Well, that's kind of a thing that has always been in this world. If a person just does normal exercise, their Physique is never going to get past a certain point, if a person just uses magic and fires spells anywhere, their magic will only develop up until a certain point." Said my father.

"Some ancient mages called this "Progression Walls" and can only be broken by going through "Challenges, Trials, and Tribulations". Hence, fighting a strong opponent. Usually monsters, which infect the world, are a good target for those that want to grow stronger. Not only they provide money in the form of meat and their materials, but also fighting many strong monsters over time slowly increases the speed of development of someone's physique and magic power."

"Wow..." I said.

I guess this world perhaps has its own concept of "leveling up"?

Chapter 405 The Demon King Fragments And Haunts

"You kids are exceptionally strong because you have been defeating strong monsters since being very young, the Goblin Army, remember it? you killed hundreds, that also adds up into the progress of your Physiques and Magic Circles." Said Shade.

Huh, so it is not only my System, but certainly, my System is still a big factor of my growth and power, which is also even more ridiculous than the ridiculous growth of Aquarina and Zack.

"Is that so?" Wondered Zack. "So every monster we killed in the dungeon, did they also boosted our growth speed and strength?"

"A bit, yeah. Monsters inside Dungeons are exceptionally strong." Said my father. "Ah, that reminds me of the Dungeon Break, there was a Demon King Fragment there. But Faylen quickly managed to seal it, thankfully. However, we have yet to find the Chaos Cocoon, which might dwell on its depths, after they stop guarding the dungeon so much, we might get there to destroy that thing before it keeps enhancing monsters' strength or provoking Dungeon Breaks." My father said.

"Sounds good! I am in too!" I said. "I know I might not be that strong but I will help. I held on my own against that woman that was super strong, probably the leader of the group, so I think I can do it. Especially because my spirits had been growing stronger over time. Naturia and the Fire Spirit are bigger, did you notice, papa?"

"Yes I did, the egg finally hatched, it wasn't a salamander though, it looks like some fat lizard..." Said my father, inspecting Ignatius floating at my side.

"Who are you calling fat lizard?!" Ignatius roared, but father couldn't listen to his voice, only I could.

"And Naturia's getting bigger, I wonder if she'll become a Tree Spirit, maybe a Dryad?" Wondered my father. "But for that, a lot more of time will be needed."

"Maybe, I don't think so, she's growing fast." I said. "Also technically Yggdra is also my Familiar too, right? I wonder how she's doing." I sighed.

"I am sure she's oaky, Eden Apple Trees can live for thousands of years by merely bathing in the sunlight and absorbing nutrients from the floor. Cloudia is a continent rich in nutrients in their soil, so I'm sure she'll be alright." Father said.

"Well, I hope so." I sighed. "One day I'll be back to see her..."

"You'll surely be. When things calm down a bit, we'll come back to travel here. Hell, I can take you around the world." Said my father.

"Around the world..." I sighed, thinking about such a big journey. I guess my parents are capable of doing something like that if they really wanted.

For now, we continued walking across the forest, the day was rather beautiful, but as we moved forward, the environment began to get foggy, as if there was some sort of aura, or a strange essence floating around. However, this essence wasn't something abnormal, or rare to me. This was... Mana, big quantities of it.

As we followed a long river that was connected to the lake we came into just some minutes ago, this essence or fog of mana continued to get thicker, making it slightly harder to breathe.

"This amount of mana... We are getting to the Wolf Steppes." Said my father.

"It is not a Monster-infested Nest for nothing." Said Shade.

"Hm..." My father looked deep into the forest. "Haunts are really bad, if this Haunt continues to get bigger and bigger, the monsters might get out of control, these wolves, how come they had yet to attack the village all this time?"

"Must be a collective effort of the security of the city, the adventurers working hard, and the guards as well. I've heard they had made priests infuse holy light magic into the ground surrounding the forest, so monsters apparently don't approach the end of the forest too commonly." Said Shade.

"Huh, they're smart I guess." My father. "That'll only last them as much, we'll need to wipe out these wolves if we don't want these people to be wiped out in the next twenty years... This is getting a bit out of control."

"Papa, what's wrong?" I wondered. "What are Haunts?"

"Yeah, what are they?" Asked Aquarina.

"Haunts are special areas around the world that emerge by the infection of Miasma into the Landscape, they're another phenomenon similar to Dungeons, but worse. In dungeons at least the monsters are inside, but Haunts are big landscapes infected with monsters that reproduce at an abnormal pace due to being boosted by the miasma of the environment, they also often evolve into stronger subspecies and devour anything weaker than them, advancing almost relentlessly. Most monsters are just programmed to attack people, so whenever a monster see a person, they fight, this is why Haunts are so dangerous, if people live near them, their villages often get eventually wiped out." My father sighed.

"That's terrible..."

"Not only that, remember when we told you about the First Demon King?" Wondered Shade.

"What about it?" I wondered.

"Well, the Demon King Fragments are parts of his enormous body, when he was defeated, the majority of his body hit the ocean and turned into the Demon Continent, according to legends. However, several other pieces of his body crystalized and fell as meteors across the world, which infected the world with Miasma, bringing the birth of monsters..." Shade answered.

"Wait... You're telling me that the Demon Fragments that the Demon Lords had, and the one you found... they weren't from the previous Demon King you slain?" I asked.

"Eh? No, the previous Demon King in fact used these fragments himself. These fragments come from the first ever Demon King, the abomination some called the "First Evil God" or some just straight up call it "The Demon God"... We call it the "First Demon King" because calling that thing a God feels odd to us." Sighed my father.

"He's alive even now, these fragments, although lacking an Ego, infect the land and create monsters to seek our destruction." Sighed Shade. "It could be said our battle against the First Demon King never truly ended."

"Whaaat?!"

This was a massive reveal! How come they treat it as if it were nothing? They should had told me this beforehand...

Chapter 406 Reaching The Wolf Steppes

"So the fragments just spread out into the world?!" I asked.

"More or less." My father said. "It has been so many years since then, many fragments had been sealed since then and most of the land is safe, but a lot of them had been stolen from their sacred grounds and used for nefarious purposes. It is said that fragments are more common in the Demon Continent. They're not looking like pieces of flesh though, and usually are purple-colored crystals." Said my father as he looked around cautiously.

"At this point we shouldn't be worrying about them anymore, but if we are here, we'll obviously try to do something to help." Sighed Shade. "Even when these people are beyond awful, it doesn't mean we'll merely abandon them to their deaths. As heroes... it is our duty to defeat monsters."

"We are not evil after all, we won't laugh if something bad happens to these people, even if there's a bunch of assholes mixed in there, there's also a lot of innocent people. Generalizing an entire group of people is something... we learned that was a wrong thing to do." My father sighed.

"It's true..." I said. "Well, I am sure that my father would help people when they need it. If you didn't, I wouldn't recognize you as my father anymore!"

"Eh?! So harsh!" My father cried.

So at the end, the Fragments of the First Demon King, in the shape of crystals, spread through the world by falling like meteorites when it was defeated. Its body must have been gigantic if its fragments fell like meteorites from the sky and spread into the world... but this might also be the origin of Monsters and Demons. After all, both began to exist after the First Demon King was defeated by the combined effort of the First Hero and the First Priestess, both were powerful demigods created directly by the gods' powers, not normal people that was chosen.

After that, the Gods just escaped from the surface and went to live in Heaven, atop the clouds and the sky itself. Maybe you could call it "the stars" or even "outer space", whatever name that place has. I imagine that from there, they watch over the world silently, afraid from the world itself, apparently.

Nonetheless, the world itself might had created both monsters and demons to fend off humans and the other races created by the Gods, but also the demons and monsters began fighting one another, so that ended defeating the world's original purpose, maybe. Well, this is mostly my own speculation at this point, but it does sounds plausible to me in the perspective of what I am seeing and from the information I've heard from my parents.

"For now, it wouldn't be good to get your minds filled with this information, Allan, you went a bit overboard telling them everything." Sighed Shade. "This wasn't supposed to be known until a few more years."

"Is that so? But it's such common knowledge..." Sighed my father.

"As the future heroes, don't you think that would scare them a bit?" Sighed Shade.

"Hey, do they look scared?" My father pointed at us, we were just calm as usual.

"...Well, I guess. Aquarina, are you okay after learning that?" Wondered her father.

"Eh? Yeah." She said. "It means that whenever we find one of those, we tell you to seal it."

"Yes but... don't touch them, they're very dangerous, get it?" Asked Shade.

"Okay!" Said Aquarina.

"We are not stupid, uncle..." I sighed. "We know danger when we see it."

"Yeah, relax." Said Zack.

"W-Well, I see..." Shade sighed.

We continued advancing through the forest while I continued conjuring Ember in the palm of my hand, which I kept mildly closed. With that, I was earning a bit of Skill Proficiency every few seconds.

As we continued to move forward, the thick mana around our surroundings intensified once more. and then, we suddenly felt the presences of various entities chasing us down from afar. My father and Shade had been using a special Spell that allowed them to search through vast areas while they looked for clues, but ultimately, we ended being found by something else.

"Wolves." My father said, the moment he said that several red eyes began to emerge around our surroundings, camouflaging in the mild mana fog.

"GROAR!"

Suddenly, a beast three meters of height leaped forward, a giant, black-furred wolf with sharp red eyes and a single big horn on its forehead. This was... a Black Horned Wolf, a monster of Tier 3!

As it was closer to me, I decided to fight first. My father and Shade didn't intervene, they seemed to want to leave this threat to us and intervene only if we were in lethal danger.

I pointed my hand at the wolf leaping towards me with its giant jaws, as I called Ignatius powers.

"Blazing Breath!"

Combining the power of my Ember with Ignatius Baby Dragon Breath Skill, an enormous storm of flames erupted from the palm of my hand as the figure of a dragon's jaws opening made completely out of flames emerged from my hand.

FLUOOOSH!

"AWOO...!"

The wolf was quickly consumed by the fire, which began to burn through its entire body. It was strong enough to tank the flames just fine, but its fur was beginning to burn and so its entire body. It struggled and roared ferociously, but before it could escape these flames, I swiftly fired another Fire attack into its head.

"Grand Fireball!"

BOOOM!

An enormous, one-meter big fireball I conjured in mere seconds emerged, combining the enchanted power of the Level 3 Ember Skill, the Wolf's head was roasted alive in seconds.

"AWROOO...!"

BAAM!

The beast fell into the floor and then remained motionless. Afterwards, I felt that I earned some EXP out of it.

Ding!

[You earned 600 EXP]

[Ignatius] earned 1140 EXP]

[Naturia] earned 1140 EXP]

[Naturia] has reached Level 2!]

Wow, the bonus of EXP they got was insane, these monsters gave a nice amount of EXP per head!

Chapter 407 Chased By Wolves!

The Bonuses to EXP they were getting were insane, not only they were getting like 60% bonus EXP thanks to Spiritual Blessing, but also another 30% from the Level Bonus enhancing the effects of the Skill itself. Skills were really the most broken power there was, not only these two Spirits were earning better EXP, but were also growing stronger as Spiritual Blessing increased their stats by a certain %! Damn it, I wish I could use this Skill on myself as well. I have tried before, but it simply doesn't let me conjure it on myself.

"ROAR!"

Suddenly, several more wolves leaped into action.

"Alright! Time for a bit of action, do your best." Said my father carefreely.

"Aquarina, remember the training we have had together!" Shade said.

"Got it, papa!" Aquarina said, taking out her two daggers, which quickly began to flow with both Water and Darkness.

"Alright, time to hunt some wolves." Said Zack, enchanting his axe with his Mana.

"AWOOOOO!"

And from within the distance, a beast larger than the other wolves watched from afar. Its menacing silhouette had three heads, each one having two red eyes glaring down at us from afar menacingly. This was... I had read monster journals before, it was a Three-Headed Black Horned Wolf Emperor, it was comparable to a Tier 4 Monster, and it had some nasty Curse Magic to boot. Was that the leader of this pack of hunters?

"ROOAR!"

I didn't had much time to think, however, as I quickly ordered Ignatius to intercept the wolf rushing towards me. He immediately used [Roll] to enhance his speed and rolled across the air, hitting the wolf's head, and setting its fur ablaze.

FLUOOOSH!

"GRAAARRR...!"

The wolf groaned in agony as I smiled, moving forward, and taking out my sword, I slashed away its head, but quickly found my blade being stopped by the wolf's strong muscles and bones on its neck.

CLASH!

"You're strong, aren't you?"

I quickly concentrated my Mana into my arms all while I conjured the generalist [Physical Body Enhancement] Spell to enhance my Muscles, but even that wasn't completely enough, so I added the [Pump Up] Blood Attribute Spell I had learned by my own, which made my blood flow incredibly quickly, making my muscles swollen for a few seconds.

SLASH!

Before the wolf could retaliate, its head finally flew into the air and fell, rolling over the floor while its eyes were still open.

"RAARR!"

Another wolf leaped forward without even letting me rest, as Naturia appeared behind me and fired a dozen of seed bullets against it, hitting its body and leaving several holes spread through.

BAAM! BAAM! BAAM!

"GRAHH...!"

The wolf, although not dead, ended falling into the floor while struggling to stand up again. The powerful attack of Naturia ended being more than effective as the beast rolled over the floor and struggled to stand up back again. I smiled, looking at it as I pointed my sword and crushed its head, piercing through its skull as I enchanted the sword with my Mana and covered it in flames.

CLASH!

Its head splattered over the floor, as more EXP flowed into my body and my spirits, Naturia glowed bright gold for a few seconds, even my father and Shade noticed something odd as she suddenly leveled up but continued looking in silence.

"RAARR!"

"GROAR!"

The wounded wolf roared, quickly getting up and suddenly unleashing a mass of shadows against me, which shaped themselves as countless tentacles that tried to grab me. I swung my sword enchanted with my flames, as I destroyed the shadows.

CLASH!

Quickly evading the enormous jaws coming from above, I quickly slid below the enormous wolf's body and then jumped from behind, slashing its rear legs and successfully crippling it.

SLASH!

"GRYYAARR...!"

The wolf gave out a pitiful groan of agony as a smile surged in my lips. I jumped once more over the wolf, slashing through its belly towards its neck, making it quickly bleed out while covered on flames. Two more wolves came afterwards, without even letting me rest, Ignatius and Naturia assisted me in this battle, all while Zack and Aquarina were on their own.

"HYAA!" Aquarina roared, her two daggers spinning in midair as she slashed through the face of a wolf, water and darkness combined together into a spinning storm, hitting the wolf strongly.

FLUOOSH!

"Darkness Whip!"

Suddenly, she conjured a spell within her second dagger, a black dagger her father might had enchanted with his magic, as a whip of shadows emerged, quickly wrapping around the wolf in front of her and making it trip over the floor.

"Leviathan, lend me a hand!"

"ROAR!"

The little Leviathan unleashed a freezing breath, quickly freezing the entire body of the wolf in the floor, as Aquarina swung her daggers and shattered the wolf into pieces mercilessly.

CRASH!

"GRAAAH!"

Another wolf attacked, who had been running from behind her and had attempted to stop her, but Aquarina was way too fast, the wolf ended having to bear with the death of yet another companion as it furiously attempted to bite the head of Aquarina, its jaws big enough to easily chomp it entirely.

"Leviathan: Icicle Spear!"

"ROAR!"

However, Aquarian connected her magic with Leviathan, conjuring the Tier 2 Ice Magic Spell [Icicle Spear] without needing much incantation thanks to the support of the spirit itself. A large spear made of ice emerged, piercing through the open jaws of the wolf all the way into its brain, quickly freezing its interior as well and making the beast fall from the air into the floor like a block of ice.

CRASH!

It quickly shattered into pieces.

"ORRAAA!"

Meanwhile, Zack had a more rough and brutal way of fighting as he jumped constantly over the wolves bodies using his abnormal physical strength and agility, enchanting his Axe with lightning, he increased his speed several times and unleashed a thunderous slash attack against the wolf he had jumped over. Before the beast could react, a slashing axe attack sliced through its head in an instant.

SLAAASH!

SPARK!

"GRUOOHH...!"

The wolf was both electrocuted and beheaded at the same time, its roasted body falling over the floor. That was indeed quite brutal!

Chapter 408 A Test!

After reaching the Wolf Steppes, we were quickly greeted by a thick mist of Mana everywhere. This was because this area of the world was named "Haunt" a danger zone where monsters were able to breed and grow incredibly quickly by the remaining Miasma that had seeped and contaminated the area.

This was a wolf-breeding area with many powerful wolf-type monsters, but it was in these faraway lands that people with robes had been seen wandering around. Because of this, my parents and the rest of the adults decided to kill three birds with one stone by coming here with us.

They'll let us fight monsters to train and grow stronger, hunt down the massive wolf population before they get out of control and attack the fiefdom nearby, and also look for clues and perhaps the hideout of these guys.

And right now, we were fighting tons of Wolves. They were black-furred wolves with bright red eyes, and had amazing reflexes, strength, and size. A single bite from one of them would be more than enough to chomp down our heads.

This was a new trial as the monsters of the dungeon were not near as lethal as these wolves. Although we could count on our parents if things got very, very bad, they were not going to intervene as much either and were going to simply observe.

This felt like a test, in some way, as they were testing how strong we have grown to be able to fight this level of threat, a massive pack of wolves!

"Foo! Foo! FOO!"

Naturia was on fire, as we continued fighting the enormous Black Horned Wolves and killing them. Each wolf gave me between 600 to 800 EXP each, and thanks to the boost of Spiritual Blessing and other Skills, Naturia was leveling up constantly.

Her body quickly shone brightly with a golden aura once more, as she suddenly gained even more power, her seeds became incredibly strong, as these bullets began piercing through the bodies of several wolves at once.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Seeing the wolves weakened by Naturia's powerful Bullet Seeds, I quickly brought Ignatius to my side.

"Ignatius, let's finish them!"

"Alright!"

The small dragon roared, flying across the skies and unleashing a storm of flames that exploded into countless fireballs, consuming half the wolves in front of us, which were eight, while I enchanted by sword with the element of Light by channeling it with Alice's powers, and slashing through the other four wolves' necks one by one.

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

Thanks to Naturia's attacks, the wolves were weakened enough for my fast, Flashing Blade Arts to work on their hard fur and muscles, which I had a rather hard time slicing through at the beginning because I was surprised due to their toughness.

"GROOOHH...!"

With the last groan of pain, the fourth wolf I slain died out, as its enormous head rolled over the bloodied grassy floor. More wolves were coming as we fought, but Aquarina and Zack were fighting as well, channeling the power of their Familiars and Spirits to aid them in battle. We had to use every single trick we had to fight against these ferocious and intelligent beasts, who were able to abuse weak points and even see through our guard, if we lowered it for an instant, they would immediately attack from behind.

It was nice that the monsters had a very low perception of spirits, so even when they were fighting with me, they were not being as targeted, they were also able to naturally float in midair so they could evade attacks easily. Although sometimes a wolf would catch Ignatius and bite through him, but his defensive skills would save him from lethal damage and then he would be healed by Naturia's Skills.

[Calculating EXP Total Earned...]

[You have defeated [Black Horned Wolf] x14]

[You earned 10200 EXP]

[Ignatius] earned 18500 EXP]

[Ignatius] has reached Level 2!]

[Ignatius] has reached Level 3!]

[Naturia] earned 18500 EXP]

[Naturia] has reached Level 3!]

[Naturia] has reached Level 4!]

[Naturia] has reached Level 5!]

[Naturia] has reached Level 6!]

Wow, Ignatius is taking a while to level up now, he needs around 10k more EXP with each Level, I guess that's what an evolved Spirit will need. I am beginning to not envy the bonus EXP they get when they'll need so much. Naturia is at her first stage so she's flashing through levels. Four more Levels and she'll be able to reach Level 10 and Evolve, just like Ignatius did.

"GRARR!"

However, there was no time to think about these things, as a ferocious trio of Black Horned Wolves leaped towards us viciously, attempting to take advantage of the few seconds I took to look at the System notifications. I asked Alice to turn them off for now as I realized it might distract me too much, as I unleashed a slash of black fire from my sword.

FLAAASH!

"AGROOOHH...!"

The wolves groaned in agony, the golden flames were not enough to kill them as they were very tough, but these flames burned through their fur and cursed them, slowing them down in the process.

"ROAR!"

Ignatius roared valiantly, as his tiny claws shone bright red, flames surging from within them.

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

Using his [Dragon Claw] Skill, Ignatius slashed through the wolves bodies, burning through their fur and skin at the same time, as Naturia supported us from behind by shooting Bullet Seeds.

BAAM! BAAM! BAAM!

"HYAAA!"

And as I saw the opportunity, I unleashed consecutive piercing attacks using my sword by imbuing it once more with Light, this was the element the Black Horned Wolves were the weakest against after all!

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

"GRAARR...!"

One wolf quickly died on the spot, while the others desperately tried to pierce my body with their sharp, black-colored horns. I evaded them and then slashed through the neck of both of them with a single, reinforced swing of my sword.

SLAAASH!

As their heads rolled, the presence of something stronger began to emerge from behind our group, the big wolf overseeing the fight suddenly decided to fight us.

"AWOOOOO!"

Chapter 409 Against A Tier 5 Monster!

The Pack Leader of the Black Horned Wolves has been watching over us as we fought, occasionally, it would howl loudly, enhancing the power of his wolves through some sort of Enhancement Magic. This was also another reason why the wolves were so tough and fast.

The Pack Leader had been simply watching over us with its third, red-colored eye. Unlike the other smaller wolves, this one had two horns growing in spirals at each side of its head, and was at least twice as big as them, reaching almost five meters of height. This monster was tremendously big and strong, it was probably something closer to Tier 5!

And not only that, but it emanated a strong magical aura, this wolf was not only tough, fast, and physically powerful, but it was good at magic as well.

"Oh, this one is strong." Said my father from the distance. "Be careful, these are called Devil Shadow Wolves, they're good at Shadow Magic."

"Hm, I have one of them as a familiar..." Said Shade.

"You do?!" I asked.

"Sylphy, don't get distracted~!" My father teased me, as I suddenly felt an enormous presence behind me.

"GROOARRR!"

The enormous wolf had suddenly teleported behind me! What the heck?! Was this magic?!

CLASH!

I quickly evaded its enormous jaws before they could eat me in a single bite, looking at the beast's third eye shining bright red. It menacingly locked itself on me. The beast might have seen me as the biggest threat, so it probably tried to dispatch me as soon as possible.

However, instead of charging towards me directly, the wolf suddenly disappeared, melding within the shadows and quickly reappearing behind me once more.

"This bastard...!"

"GROAR!"

The wolf seemed to slowly grin menacingly.

Is this guy just playing with me?

He's smart, I can tell he's not even trying to go easy on me, but at the same time it feels like...

I am being played with.

CLASH!

Its front claws hit the ground and made me step back, only for five shadow tentacles to emerge from my own shadows, trying to capture me.

"Sylphy!"

Zack roared, quickly coming to assist me as he defeated another black horned wolf on his way, his axe unleashed an explosion of lightning magic, hitting the shadows and making them dissipate.

SPARK!

However, the moment I was distracted by Zack's help, I felt a gigantic jaw emerge below my feet. The wolf's jaws appeared right below me, within my own shadows!

"GROOAR!"

"Alice!"

I called upon Alice's powers as a flash of bright light was unleashed, quickly firing a Ray of Light at full potency against the menacing jaws of the wolf which were about to eat me entirely.

FLAAAASH!

The light consumed the shadows as the wolf quickly retreated from the attack, it was strong enough to make it step back!

"S-Sylphy! Are you okay? You Summoned me out of nowhere." Alice said in desperation, suddenly sensing the presence of the strong wolf. "T-That monster...!"

"Yeah, it's a strong one, I'll need your light to help me out!" I said.

"Very well!" Alice seemed decided, although it hasn't even been enough time since she began practicing light magic, her powerful magic was good enough against an enemy such as him. We were also in the wilderness so there wouldn't be any town nearby to get affected by her attacks.

"GRRR...!"

The Devil Wolf looked at us with a bit of anger as his plans of eating me whole were trampled by Alice's light magic. However, we used this time to assemble with my friends, as Aquarina and Zack came to my left and right, readying their weapons and boosting their bodies with their Auras, their Familiars and Spirits were with them as well, ready for battle.

"AWWOOOOO!"

The Devil Wolf suddenly howled once more, his pack was almost slain, but he wasn't aiming for the survivors that were lurking around and waiting for an opening, but to the corpses of those we killed.

FLUOOOSH!

Suddenly, his shadows spread through the floor, resembling snakes made of darkness that suddenly took over all the wolf corpses, those that were beheaded had their heads reattached by this darkness, as the wolves dead eyes began to glow bright red menacingly... they were still dead, but had been rise.

"Undead...?! " I asked in shock.

I quickly heard my father and Shade speak.

"That's no ordinary Devil Wolf." Shade said. "It is a Death Variant... It can raise its dead pack members temporarily for battle."

"Hm, if that's the case, isn't it a Tier 5 Rank 5 for sure?" Wondered my father.

"Certainly... And not only that, the wolves that are risen as Undead are twice as strong as they were when they are alive." Shade added.

"Eh?!"

I couldn't help but feel shocked by those news, but I quickly got myself together, as a pack of deadly Undead Wolves leaped towards us, aiming to tear us apart.

"GROAR!"

Suddenly, a shadow bullet was fired from an Undead wolf. Not only they gained new strength but even Shadow and Darkness Magic...?!

CLASH!

I swung my sword and quickly destroyed the bullet, only for two wolves to emerge from within my shadows, trying to grasp on my small arms.

Shit!

SLASH! SLASH!

I swung my sword as fast as I could, swinging it for thousands of times a day wasn't for nothing. A storm of flames came out at the same time as I continuously conjured Ember with my Sword Techniques, this was the easier way out after all!

FLUOOOSH!

My flames consumed the two wolves that attempted to attack me, as their bodies were suddenly consumed almost entirely by the flames, being left even more charred than before and dying on the spot, for a second time.

"Wait, fire is their weakness now as they're Undead...!" I realized.

"GROAR!"

However, the pack leader didn't allowed me to celebrate, quickly teleporting through the shadows near me, as his enormous claws attempted to slash me into pieces.

CLASH!

Chapter 410 Changing Classes To Gain An Advantage!

CLASH!

The wolf pack's claws attempt to slash me into pieces, as I used my sword to block the claws barely, being quickly thrown away by the enormous force of the wolf. Seeing how strong it was, there was no point in holding back myself, especially with a pack of Undead wolves with shadow magic powers at his side to boot.

Let's see, I have to quickly modify my status and get something that can be good against this giant beast. Warrior Class alone won't do.

[System Modification] has been activated]

[Your Status has been modified]

<#23a System>

[System Owner]: [Sylph Natoria Bravo]

[Magic Circle]: [Tier 2: Rank 8: Elemental Magic Circle]

[Physique]: [Tier 2: Rank 3: Yggdrasil's Eden Physique]

[Level]: [1/#523a]

[Class]: [Farmer] -> [Light Magic Swordsman]

[HP]: [10/10]

[MP]: [20/20]

[Strength]: [4] -> [65]

[Defense]: [3] -> [1]

[Magic]: [50] -> [60]

[Resistance]: [10] -> [1]

[Agility]: [6] -> [36]

[Luck]: [-10]

[Charm]: [20] -> [-50]

[Skills]: [Royal Elven Lineage] [Agriculture] [Lesser Fire Magic: Ember] [Mana Usage] [Hero Seed] [Divine Protection] [Heavenly Sight]

[Special Skills]: [Agriculture: Lv10] [Yggdrasil's Endurance: Lv10] [Spiritual Blessing: Lv3] [Lesser Fire Magic: Ember: Lv3]

[Class]: [Light Magic Swordswoman]

A Special Class only unlocked upon Maxing the Level of Light Magician and Swordswoman Classes. It grants an enhancement to Light Magic Damage and Healing Power by +50%, alongside an enhancement to movement speed, agility, evasion, and strength while wielding a one-handed sword by +60%.

Although I cannot take into special Classes that are too strong, Light Magic Swordswoman is fitting for me, as I want to abuse the wolf's weakness to my advantage!

SLASH!

The moment I retaliated back against another of the wolf pack leader's claws using my sword, a flash of light emerged from within. Alice's light magic was quickly infused into my sword, and with the combination of the [Light Magic Swordswoman] Class effects, the power of my light magic and my movements became enhanced by +50% and +60% percent respectively!

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

I combined this power with my [Blade Dance] technique, and specialty of me that combined several small techniques I've gathered through my young life thanks to my father's teachings. And began parrying its enormous claws with the brightness of light and the strength of my sword, while Aquarina and Zack took care of the Undead Wolves pouncing towards us constantly.

CLAAASH!

I jumped over the wolf in the moment I parried one of his blows, as the beast suddenly felt a slash of light piercing through his head.

BOOM!

"GRAARRR...!"

The wolf roared, agonizingly falling into the floor, its third eye exploded into blood as I managed to slice through one of its big horns fueling it with magic. These horns were no mere decoration, they were able to enchant his magic power, and that third eye was also able to let him track and follow movements that were very fast, but that was now gone from his arsenal!

"GROOOOARRRRR!"

The wolf, however, didn't cower in fear, fighting viciously as shadows suddenly engulfed my entire body. I slashed through using [Blade Dance] and combining my [Ember] with Alice's Light, but I was barely managing! Naturia and Ignatius were helping me to push through this sea of darkness, as I saw several mirages of dozens of wolf jaws... Is this some sort of Magical Domain that I am trapped in? I think I experienced something similar when I fought the Demon Woman back in the Dungeon Break! Is this how high tiered battles are?!

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH!

I evaded and intercepted countless vicious bites, but I was already getting tired, my body was already exceeding itself as I changed my Class and readjusted my stats, this power up wasn't something I could keep up for more than ten minutes before collapsing, however, Naturia's healing magic was helping me keep up by constantly refilling my stamina, but that only delayed the inevitable, piling up more and more exhaustion and stress into my body.

"HYAAAA...! Excalibur Light!"

I concentrated all the light I could into the tip of my sword and unleashed the brightest slash of light I could possibly unleash, it was so bright it generated an enormous sword of light that exploded outside of my own blade, slashing through the spherical bubble-like shadow domain and freeing me!

SLAAASH!

"GRAARR!?"

The Wolf Pack Leader was left shocked as Aquarina and Zack quickly attacked him while he lowered his guard.

"I think you're forgetting about someone, beast!" Zack roared, his Beast Aura suddenly exploded out of his body, fusing Wind and Lightning together as a vicious bear roared behind him, the strength of his muscles was multiplied for a few seconds as his axe slash pierced through the wolf's second horn, weakening its magic once more.

CLAAASH!

"GRAARRR...!"

The pack wolf leader quickly tried to eat Zack with its enormous jaws, but several icicle spears hit the interior of its mouth instead, freezing its jaws by a bit.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

"GRAAAUUHH...!"

The wolf quickly stepped back in agony, as Aquarina unleashed a barrage of slashing attacks using her knife infused with Water and Ice, while Leviathan, Undine, and Pyuku assisted with their magic and attacks. In fact, Pyuku extended its body towards the wolf and wrapped it around its neck, letting Aquarina hang over it to attack it further, and then it shapeshifted into dozens of arrows that fired against the wolf. Pyuku had grown stronger and has been developing his powers it seems, he can not

only copy magic from magic stones it eats, but even weapon techniques and even the weapons themselves to an extent!

"AWOOOOO!"

The wolf howled in agony as its enormous body was being covered in wounds, however, this seemed far from over as its shadows were still strong enough to fight against all three of us.

FLAAASH!

Suddenly, an enormous shockwave of darkness was unleashed from its body, throwing us all away several meters. The many corpses of the reanimated wolves suddenly were dragged by the wolf, merging with his darkness!

"What the heck is he doing now?!"
