Suddenly, he heard footsteps from behind.



"Oh right, airships. They work like that yeah. I used to make cores myself. With my magic I can create them easily with a bit of alchemy." Uncle Arafunn showed up with a relaxed face as always.
"Uncle! Did you really lifted up the house the other day?!" I asked.
"Oh the orphanage? Yeah, it was more convenient that way." He said carefreely.
"Arafunn you shouldn't had done that though, what if someone saw you doing something so insane?! Not many magicians can even lift a boulder, even less a whole building." My mother said.
"Well, whatever. That's on the past already Faylen, you're always worrying so much about past things, they're gone now, they're in the past!" Arafunn said, trying to calm my mother.
"Still! It was reckless!" My mother said.
"I thought Uncle Arafunn was only good at Sound Magic or something?" Asked Aquarina.
"Sound Magic is an advanced branch of Wind Magic." My father said. "He was also referred as the Hero of the Winds in Atlanta, he's a master of wind."
"You are?! Then can you lift us all off the ground?" I wondered.
"What? Yeah I can" Arafunn said. "But it is tiring and I don't really want to bring you back to Atlanta, it would be too much of a hassle"
"And I also don't want him to bring us there either. He's so carefree he'll end up dropping us off into the sea or something." My mother said while seemingly even more angered than before.
"Eeeh? I am not that bad of a person!" Arafunn said.

"Then where were you when we could had needed your help back then? If you were there nothing that Sylphy went through would had happened!" My mother said.

"What? I wanted to go but you said I had to protect the Orphanage! The soldiers didn't budge even when you all went there and came back later. A noble told them to burn the orphanage when you were there..." Arafunn said.

"Ugh, they could had been stopped with a simple barrier or by leaving one of your spirits there. You're just lazy and lack the minimum motivation to even help people." Sighed my mother.

"Ah, so harsh..." Sighed Arafunn. "I was just doing what you told me to do... Seriously Faylen, treat me with more respect, I am over two hundred years older than you, AND your Uncle."

"Two hundred years is nothing, you're the youngest brother of my father..." Said my mother. "You're like a baby in front of him..."

"And are you not my brother's baby?" Arafunn asked.

"I-I am not a baby!" Said my mother while pouting.

"Okay, okay, let's calm down for now." My father said, calming down the tensions. "Arafunn, we don't want to discuss this so cut it out."

"Sure, sure, I wasn't even coming here willing to fight. I just wanted to eat breakfast with everyone..." Arafunn sighed. "I'm sorry, okay? I... I know I lack confidence sometimes. I know that... I know that I am lazy sometimes..." Arafunn suddenly walked away. "I won't bother you again."

"Eh? Uncle wait!" I cried, as he suddenly lifted off the ground and flew into the clouds...

"Mom!" I roared, looking at my mother. "Why were you so rude?!"

"I Well" My mother tried to muster some words. "He's It's just always makes me angered that he's older than me yet acts like a child"
"But he just did what you asked him to do auntie" Aquarina said.
"I guess he lacks imagination or something?" I asked.
"If he lacked imagination he wouldn't be making such great songs, right?" My mother said. "Nonetheless, yeah I owe him an apology"
"Buuuaaah! BUAAAAH!"
And Zephy began to cry due to the commotion.
"I'll take care of Zephy, go tell him you're sorry. If he goes away, just like back then, we might not even see him again in years. You know how emotionally unstable Arafunn is." My father said to my mother.
"What? Do I have to? It was his fault-"
"Faylen." My father said, interrupting her and looking at her into her eyes. "Who is acting like a child now?"
""
My mother quickly realized she was being the childish one now.
She gave a big sigh and then conjured two wings made of light, lifting her into the skies.
FLAAASH!

"And there she goes." My father said.
"Will she come back quickly?" I asked.
"Yeah don't worry." My father said. "Alright Zephy, why are you crying? Want some more milk? Oh, you want a change of diapers Alright. Sylphy, come here, you have to learn to do this too."
"Ugh"
Chapter 512 Arafunn's Sorrow

Arafunn flew across the skies, sighing. The old elf, despite being over eight hundred years old, resembled a young man at his early twenties, with long blonde hair and sharp green eyes. He flew more and more, until he finally stopped flying, stopping right over a fluffy white cloud, and pretending to rest over there by floating with his wind.

He often did this many times when he wanted to escape from the world and the people on it. He was never good at dealing with people, he was raised filled with many things that others lacked, but his parents, being very old elves, never gave him any attention, and were often devoid of emotions.

The only love he remembers to have experienced in his childhood were the servants he had, which took good care of him, but they were never near as much of a figure to be considered his parents, and never really helped him to improve his many personal problems.

When he was given the title of a Hero, he didn't really knew how to react. The Gods choose him for some strange and bizarre reason, when the only thing he liked to do was making songs and flying with his wind magic, without a care about anything else, or anybody else.

He worked hard and did many things that he never thought he would do. He stood at the side of heroes of different backgrounds, each one more different than the other. He always thought they were brilliant

people with valiant hearts. Compared to them, he felt like the joke of the group, a singer that somehow made them stronger with his songs it was straight out of a childish fairy tale.
Yet they always appreciated him and his help, and never really thought of him as someone useless. Despite always finding within himself so many flaws, so many things he lacked
"If it wasn't because I am a useless piece of shit, you guys wouldn't had died"
Arafunn sighed, sitting while crossing his legs in the middle of the sky.
Then, he covered his face and started crying out of the blue.
"What the hell am I doing? Where should I go now? What what do I even do?"
Even as he had been wandering the world at his own pace, making songs, and experiencing life, since that day when everything ended, that he didn't knew what to do.
He had no longer a path he wanted to take, and wherever he went to, he was always reminded of them, these people he only meet for just a few years, so little years compared to his long life, yet that made such a big difference to his life
And the ones he lost along the way, which hurt the most when he remembered their smiles, their laughter, and their voices.
"Julian What would you say to me in this situation?" He sighed. "What should I do? I've fucked up everything again I don't even know what to do without you at my side"
"You miss him right?"

"Ah?"



"N-Nothing... There's nothing wrong with that." Faylen sighed. "I also miss, we miss him... everyone miss him."

"Every time I remember his face... Every time I remember his eyes, his smile, his laughter... I..." Arafunn began to cry. "Every time I see the stars every night, I remember his eyes... those bright eyes..."

"He wasn't the Hero of Stars for nothing, he indeed had... dazzling eyes." Said Faylen with a smile.

"What would he say now? I bet he... would be reprimanding me for being an idiot." Sighed Arafunn.

"Maybe..." Faylen sighed. "But I bet he would also be saying that... you shouldn't sweat it."

"That's... was always his favorite saying.." Sighed Arafunn.

"Y'know... You're not the only one that went through this, Arafunn. We all have the same feelings you do... regarding everything." Sighed Faylen. "We understand your pain, okay? You don't have to cage your own feelings."

"And what? Do you want me to cry a river every day?" Asked Arafunn.

"You really miss him don't you? It has been... so many years now..." Faylen said.

"Of course I miss him! He was..." Arafunn sighed. "He was my everything..."

Arafunn still remembered Julian, the Hero of Stars. A young brown-haired man with a bright yellow eyes, given the power of Stars themselves. While Allan seems to have been the leader of their group, Julian was in fact their leader, the hero that always led them. While some seemed always gloomy, the young Julian, raised in the countryside as the son of farmers, always smiled.

His eyes were always shining brightly, almost dazzling. And he always lifted the spirits of everyone with his simple yet charming words. He was also the most reckless, perhaps more than Allan himself. He was very important to all of his group, and for Arafunn, even more.

Hero Julian was the one that ended giving up his life to defeat the Demon King in their last battle, and was one of their best friends, who sacrificed his life for a "better future" despite this future not even being what his young and brave heart envisioned to ever be.

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Chapter 513 Reconciliation

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"Come here... I know how it feels." Faylen quickly hugged Arafunn from behind. He didn't wanted to be hugged, but ultimately he lost against Faylen's grip, and sighed.

"I've never really had any aim in my entire life until I meet him. Until I meet all of you guys..." Sighed Arafunn. "But since that day... that day we lost him, I've... I've been endlessly wandering aimlessly, nowhere. I lack the motivation to do the bare minimum now..."

"I know how that feels, I also once lacked motivation to do anything at all. I guess my kids and Allan were the ones that changed me." Faylen sighed. "To our race we are still young, but to me, these six hundred years... It has been so much time. So much time where I didn't even knew who I truly was."

"I guess we always have clicked because we are similar at the end." Arafunn sighed. "You dedicated yourself to learning magic and mastering alchemy all those years, immersing yourself on it because you couldn't face the world, me too, but with music and songs. Songs and music are beautiful, they bring life to the world I always saw to be colorless..."

"You're right. Your songs and your music have always been inspiring, Arafunn. Julian loved them, he always said you inspired him in battle, and that you always brought him to new heights." Faylen said.

"He always liked to exaggerate..." The beautiful elf sighed, smiling faintly.

"I'm pretty sure his love for you wasn't an exaggeration though..." Faylen smiled.

"Sigh... He was always so embarrassing sometimes..." Arafunn said. "Remember that time when... we were staying in a camp back in the demon continent and this... idiot just proclaimed to everyone that he loved me more than his mother? Gods, I felt so embarrassed back then..."

"Ahahaha! Yeah that was so hilarious, he always said funny things when he was drunk." Said Faylen.

"Yeah..." Arafunn said. "Well... I guess I shouldn't be just remembering the past all the time when I just told you to not care about it, huh?"

"I think it is fine. As long as you remember all the things you lived with him, he's still alive. Right here with you, he's always accompanying you, Arafunn, always." Said Faylen. "You didn't simply became alone the moment he... passed away, much like how Allan affected my life so much I will never be able to go back to being the same I was, it is the same for you. These changes you've gone through, your life, your memories, your emotions... everything is thanks to him in a way, right?"

"Well, if you put it in such a corny way I guess." Arafunn said. "Never thought you would talk this way at all, Faylen, you've surprised me..."

"Alright don't tease me now..." Faylen said angrily.

"Hahah... Well, I guess we should go back, I don't want to worry that kid of yours. She's always so bright and filled with energy. You know? She reminds me of Julian. She has... like the same exact personality, doesn't she?" Arafunn asked.

"Yeah, you've noticed too? Sylphy is just like him, reckless, filled with energy, always lifting everyone's else spirits, proposing completely insane ideas and strategies... That girl is always evolving too, growing stronger and all... I am barely trying to catch up with her, but I feel like in any moment now, she's just going to surpass all of us." Laughed Faylen.

"I agree... And her little friend, Aquarina, that girl is also pretty amazing..." Said Arafunn. "Though for some reason she reminds me of you sometimes, she got some temperament compared to your daughter."

"Yeah, Aquarina has grown to become Sylphy's protector in a way. She's always worrying and all, but I guess someone like my daughter needs her at her side." Said Faylen.
"Hmm" Arafunn sighed, remembering what Sylphy told him some time ago.
"Are you You're okay with her getting with Sylphy, right?" He asked.
"Oh"
Faylen quickly fell silent for a bit, but then she nodded.
"Y-Yeah. I mean If it really happens I will just be happy about it." Said Faylen. "I've already kind of realized, Allan too. We both kind of already know there's something going on between the two. Since the moment they met that they clicked and, I don't know. It feels as if destiny itself for those two to end together in a way"
"Is it?" Arafunn wondered. "Well, they're so young still, I bet they have no idea about these things we are talking about anyways"
"Yeah, I guess." Faylen laughed. "I'm purposedly ignoring these things for now, I don't want her to feel awkward with her mother ogling over her relationships or something."
"That's the sign of a good parent." Said Arafunn. "You might be grumpy, and all but you're a good mother Faylen. Better than your own mother and better than my own mother too."
"Yeah, I've been just trying to be the opposite of my mother, it has been working well. Although I sometimes have little patience with that little bratty girl." Sighed Faylen.
"She's really bratty for her age." Laughed Arafunn. "Don't force her to do things she doesn't want to do though, okay?"
"I Fine, but she's still going to the academy." Said Faylen.

"Hah, it feels like you didn't even changed your mind." Arafunn sighed.
Both quickly decided to fly down back to everyone's camp, as they suddenly found Zack and Ninhursag there.
(Sylphy's POV)
Suddenly my mother and Arafunn finally got back to us, just in time because Zack and Ninhursag ran towards our side just when I wondered where they were.
"Well, by the way, where's Zack?" I wondered.
"Zack is- Ah, look, he's coming with Ninhursag." Aquarina pointed at the distance.
Zack was panting as he ran here with Ninhursag, the two seemed to be coming from Celeste's tent from all places!
"Guys! Celeste woke up!" He said, at the same time as mom and uncle Arafunn got here.
"She did?!"
We were all caught off guard, so we all asked the same question in unison

I guess its finally time to give that girl a piece of our mind.
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Chapter 514 Celeste Wakes Up
"Celeste! You're awake!" We heard the voice of Mary at the distance, as we ran towards the tent where she was sleeping at.
There, we found the blue haired girl bandaged with leaves in the bed, she was completely paralyzed, resembling some sort of statue, but her eyes were wide open, looking around.
"Ah! W-Where am I?" She asked in surprise, looking around. "Didn't I die?"
"You didn't!" Mary cried, hugging her.
Lucia was there too, using her snake tail to caress Celeste's head.
"M-Mary Lucia" Celeste sighed.
"Big sis!"
"Celeste's awake!"
"She's really awake!"
"We missed you!"

An army of children led by Mist ran towards Celeste and then jumped all over her body, making her wither in pain. It seems she was healed now but her body was completely filled with pain, probably overly sensitive because she might still be healing some internal injuries.

"Ouch! Aghh! P-Please stop jumping over me, children!" Celeste cried, but she was tortured by their love. Hugs, kisses, everything fell over her until she gave up. She was completely unable to fight against the love of her little siblings.

"They were all missing you so much..." Mary said, as Lucia nodded.

"Sigh... I've really done so many awful things, the last thing I wanted is looking at you in the face after... everything I did." Celeste sighed.

"Well, well, well. Young girl, you're finally awake, aren't you?"

My mother emerged before Celeste, crossing her arms and acting bossy like always, she looked down at Celeste as the blue haired lad began to tremble in... yes, fear.

"Guh..."

"We have been EAGERLY waiting for you to wake up, Celeste." She said. "After all, you really owes us more than you could possibly imagine."

"A-Abababahh..." Celeste began to feel so pressured by my mother's aura that she began to tremble and make a funny noise.

"Hm? Are you scared? I am just the mother of your friend, relax!" Said my mother with intimidating eyes. "We just want the best for you, right?"

My mother looked back at Mary and Lucia, who couldn't notice my mother's dark undertone and nodded happily.

"Yeah! Celeste, Faylen, and everyone else forgave your life and even healed you! They wanted to give you a second chance at life. We are eternally grateful for everything they have done for us and for you... So please act nicely okay? And also say you're sorry, and that you will do your best ton change and become a better person, alright?" Mary was too forgiving, acting like a mother that spoiled her daughter too much. No matter how many things she had done, she couldn't get mad at Celeste.

"Shiii..." Lucia gave out a snake-like noise, trying to make Celeste agree.

"Yeah! You promise to not be evil again?" Mist asked, the other children behind her all looked at Celeste with puppy-like eyes.

"Look, one simply doesn't "promise to not be evil again"..." I sighed, interrupting the whole thing. "That's just... a bit... childish- Ah."

I realized I was only making the children be at the verge of crying, even Mary included.

I guess I'll shut my mouth for now.

People simply doesn't change because they promise they will become different people.

The change is gradual and exhausting, and it requires a lot of willpower... I am still mad with Celeste though, and I am not planning to be all goody-goody with her or anything.

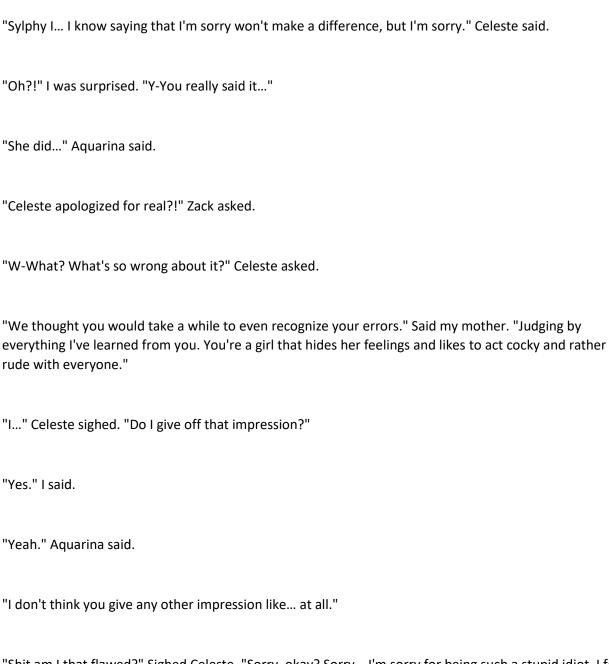
In fact I'm gonna boss her around and force her to do all the chores as a small fragment of the payment she must give to all of us due to everything she owes to us! Yeah, that'll only be a little part of it.

"I.... Sylphy is right though but I guess... Ah, okay, I promise..." Celeste rolled her eyes, saying that just to appease the children's simplistic minds that only thought in black and white.

"Yaaayy!"

The children celebrated.

After a bit of this and that, the kids were finally driven away by Mary and Lucia, and we were left with
Celeste at long last. My father, mother, Aquarina, Zack, Ninhursag, and I. Arafunn was looking from
outside the tent.



"Shit am I that flawed?" Sighed Celeste. "Sorry, okay? Sorry... I'm sorry for being such a stupid idiot. I feel like I got shit for brains for a while now. I've been only driven by my stupid traumas and done so many stupid things, so many idiotic things because I always thought I was too deep now to even go back to where I was... I always thought I was too far, and that it wasn't worth to go back and repent."

"A lot of people thinks like you. It is one of the reasons why some of us commits things we never forgive ourselves for" My mother sighed.
"Yeah" My father agreed.
"Look, Celeste. We are angered at you, we we think you can do better though. We are not really absent of our own flaws either." My mother sighed. "I can't really I don't feel like I really am anybody to judge you."
"Me neither" My father said. "I think in the long run we have done worse things."
"Y-You have?" Celeste asked, raising his eyebrows.
"We were fooled, and played like we were toys- no, puppets." Sighed my father.
"When we realized it was too late." My mother said.
"But you're still young, lad." Ninhursag said. "You still got time to change and realize what you've done and try to improve."
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Chapter 515 The Apostles Of The Evil Gods
Celeste seemed to have never heard such words in her life before. Or maybe, not in such a meaning. Experienced people, parents, telling her what she did wrong, and that she still had a way to improve, somewhere to go after all of this.

She looked into her own hands filled with scars, as tears began flowing out of her eyes rapidly, she

began to sniffly as she nodded.

"I understand" She cried. "I'm sorry I-I'll do everything I can"
"You don't have to cry over it." Sighed my mother. "Ugh, now you make me feel bad, it feels like I made a child cry."
"Well we kind of did" My father said.
"You are not making things any better honey." My mother looked back at my father.
"Celeste Before we continue this conversation. I want to learn more about you. We we want to learn more. Tell us, why did you do this? What brought you to do this? Each time I saw you before, I always thought you were a good girl deep down, maybe a bit wounded, maybe a bit scarred emotionally, but you gave off the feeling of someone good. It felt as if you forced yourself to do these things." Said Ninhursag.
"Well I can tell you everything But I first I want to ask you something" Celeste said.
"Go ahead." My father said.
"The other cultists did you kill them all?" Celeste sighed.
"Not all." Said my father.
"We only ended killing those that we killed out of self-defense, but we mostly aimed to incapacitate them. We couldn't simply incapacitate them all easily either." My mother said.
"I I killed two myself" I said. "I was desperate and my mother's life was being threatened"
"It's fine. I am not going to get mad at you or something Sylphy. You did what you had to do in your situation anyways" Celeste said. "I am nobody to teach other about morals, not at all Are the survivors here? Are they okay?"

"Yeah, we have interrogated a few, but most have severe memory loss. Have you lost any of your memories?" Asked my mother.

"I don't know, I will have to think about what I lost first, it would be better if you interrogated me first in that case." Celeste said.

"Very well..." My father said. "After the interrogation is done, you'll go on about your backstory."

"Alright... I am willing to do what I can." Said Celeste.

After that, Celeste was interrogated about several things. From the whereabouts about the organization, to the ones that granted them power, and everything else. She seemed to, unlike the rest, remember it all. It seems that the memory loss was tied to some sort of magic or effect within the divine protection of the gods, but because I destroyed these divine protections using the Curse, she didn't suffered the side effects.

In resume, she said a group of shady people showed out of nowhere. They said they were "apostles of the evil gods" and came from the Demon Continent, they held special magic items and were amazingly strong. They had a strong connection with the evil god of dungeons and abyss, which they used their divine protections to enhance the strength of the demons of Eastgrain who formed the organization.

They had the power to control space using special items named [Artificial Dungeon Cores], using such strange items, they were able to control the Dungeon Breaks and bring monsters out in different places or areas, provoking all the incidents.

"Abyssal Eyes..." My father said.

"This organization never existed before the Demon King died." My mother said.

"They said they also wanted you... They helped us and all just because you were in that city. The major target was you." Said Celeste.

"Us..." My father thought. "So that time Sylphy and Aquarina were attacked... So the Evil Gods are targeting us, those damned monsters..."

"To think the Evil Gods would be so fixated on us. They're unlike any enemy we have fought before. Stronger than any mortal, and we cannot even defeat them. The only thing we can do is ask the gods, but they're... I don't know, I believe they would not even care if we died at this point, they can always find replacements. We are mostly by ourselves on this." Sighed my mother.

"But we managed to fend them off at the end. Gods still cannot simply attack us directly. If we manage to destroy the Abyssal Eyes, then their way to get to us should be destroyed." Said my father.

"Only for them to make a new cult later?" Sighed my mother.

Celeste looked at my parent's concerned conversation, looking down into her own hands.

"I'm sorry... despite everything you did to the orphanage and even for me, I ended trying to betray you, and to even kill you... I wanted to kill my father, not you though, but... I guess my own stupidity let me be manipulated into doing their bidding anyways." Said Celeste.

"Well there's no way a kid like you could had ever defeated us anyways, the monsters and the true demons were the real threat." Said my father. "Yeah, you were simply used. You were perhaps only seen as mere little toys they liked to play with. If they have the power of the Evil God of Dungeons and Abyss, they can even summon true demons to cause completely destruction and chaos... if they hold such power, what is even stopping them from filling the world in darkness?"

"I... remember something." Celeste said. "One of the three members of the Abyssal Eyes that visited us and gave us everything... It was, I am sure of it, a human of sorts. He seemed to be a leader or something. I overheard him one day as he spoke with his colleagues."

"What was he talking about?" My mother asked.

"He talked about you... the heroes... As if he knew all of you." Celeste replied.

Chapter 516 The Mysterious Person

"What was he talking about?" My mother asked.

"He talked about you... the heroes. He spoke as if he knew you all from before." Celeste said. "I think I remember something... He said that the Evil Gods were not really their bosses or something, and that they were simply cooperating, and that he had "other plans" which included the "preservation of his own people" or something..."

"Hmm... mysterious indeed. Don't you remember anything else he spoke about? Maybe he was just a Demon Lord in disguise?" Wondered my father.

"Perhaps." My mother said. "I felt it was weird we didn't encountered any of those guys."

A demon lord huh, I remember Beelzebub was one- wait a second, can't I ask him about this myself? Maybe he knows something?

I quickly directed a part of my mind to my soul scape, without emerging there through an Astral Projection. Calling for my Darkness Spirit Beelzebub- well, dark and poison.

"Hey Beelze, do you know anything about an organization known as the Abyssal Eyes?" I asked him.

"Abyssal... Eyes?" He wondered. "No, I don't remember anybody going with that name. Though I remember there was this one group of rebels in the demon continent I was trying to protect. I don't even remember how they all fared at the end. However, I remember there was a human that showed up in the continent some time ago, he was a weirdo that tried to help the demons and did everything he could to keep them protected. He even began fighting against his own race. I don't really remember much about him but he was strong, powerful even. As strong as the heroes."

"As strong as the heroes... human, and helping demons?" I wondered.

This means that if Beelzebub doesn't know, the Abyssal Eyes were formed only a few years ago, less than my own age as Beelzebub died almost eight years ago when I was just one year old I think.

"It must be a new organization maybe?" I asked. "Mom, dad, don't you remember anybody that was a human that held grudges against his own race? Maybe as strong as you guys and that wanted to protect the demon people from the invaders?"

"..."

"..."

My parents remained in silence, Ninhursag didn't really had any idea.

"No, no, it can't be him, right?" Asked my mother.

"He's... but if what Celeste said is right, if he wasn't really interested in killing us but just cooperating with the Evil Gods that DID wanted to kill us to gain something else to protect those he cared for then..." My father muttered.

"He would... he would never betray us like this!" My mother said. "He was... a member of our party. We had our differences yeah but... he grew with us and..."

"It is just a thought, maybe it isn't him, calm down." My father said, patting my mother's shoulders.

"What's going on? Who are you talking about?" I asked.

"Nothing, Sylphy. Don't worry." My father said.

Ugh, you're saying not to worry but I am worrying even more now!

Judging by your tone of voice, you probably referred to an old friend, a hero, right?!

Damn it... if there's really a hero doing this behind the scenes, betraying them and trying to kill them, even more, working with Evil Gods, it'll surely be a big hit into their mental stability.

My mother almost broke down to tears thinking a friend she shared so many hardships with would betray her and even want to kill her... I guess not directly though, as he ran away the moment everything went downhill anyways.

But if that bastard really has a beef against us, then I am not going to just forgive him because he was a hero. If he's already old and all, then he's goddamn corrupted by evil gods. I would not hesitate to cut his throat...

Ugh, I'm getting a bit murderous again.

"Well, now that we've got that out of the way, how about you start with your backstory?" Asked Ninhursag.

"Ah... Sure, I'll tell you everything. I owe you all my life after all..." Sighed Celeste.

Like, that Celeste went into details about her life. She told us that she was born as the slave of a demon woman that belonged to the Lord of that small country. Her mother was used for torture and to appease her father's sexual urges.

She ended giving birth to Celeste and protected her. But Celeste remained inside the same jail her mother spent her entire life. She said her mother was a former soldier from the Demon King's army that got caught and sold into slavery.

"My mother taught me many things... She was the only light in my life in a world of hunger, darkness, and moss everywhere. The only warmth in the cold world I was surrounded. She held an incredible resentment against that man, and the entire human race. She... I guess she manipulated me." Sighed Celeste. "But even now, I cannot bring myself to hate her... She was my mother after all, the only one I had and... the only one that ever gave me any love in my life."

After years of being raised by her mother, Celeste generated a deadly resentment against her father. Every time he came to visit them, she would angrily look at him and even insulted him. Meanwhile, her mother's mind continued to deteriorate, as if she was growing older due to her hunger, always giving all her food to her daughter.

Celeste's mother tribe was a tribe of hardy hunters that could survive in temperatures below zero and using magic, could survive without eating for long periods of time. But they deteriorate over time as well, growing older as a backlash if they don't eat for months if not years.

"My mother tried to ask him for forgiveness, she tried to ask him to recognize me as his daughter and to bring me to a better life... but he ignored her." Celeste sighed. "And because of my own stupidity, I ended condemning my mother to a horrible death."

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Chapter 517 Laughter And Tears

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Celeste provoked her father too much, making him go mad at her. He didn't wanted to hurt her too much though, as he had said she was "Valuable" as a slave. However, he vented all his anger and frustration at her mother as he sued a strange item to burn her alive in front of her...

I guess this is where that thing she told me happened. Where her father killed her mother in front of her eyes when she was just a kid... Something like that... Something like that can't be easily forgotten not at all.

I would had gone mad as well if something like that happened to me. I guess... well, in a way, it did. In my previous life, my father was killed in front of my eyes by bandits. The same bandits I slaughtered later when I grew up. I became so mad I even blew myself up into bits just to kill them all.

Maybe in a lot of ways, I am not so different than her. She wanted to avenge her mother, but couldn't with her current strength, even less with her current resources, connections, and more back then. The Abyssal Eyes showed up and gave her a new opportunity, new strength, knowledge, and everything else necessary.

"I see." My mother said, reading Celeste's heart using magic. "Yeah, she has not lied at all, through this entire time... Your backstory, girl... I... I don't know what to say." "It... must have been rough." My father sighed. "I... I cannot simply think of this as a justification for the things you did, that you suffered doesn't make it fine that you make others suffer, but I am not someone to judge you either way." "I guess we are a bit similar. I also lost everything and held a deadly and bitter feeling of resentment against someone. Or well, his kin. I killed that person later, or well, his descendant. But... I really couldn't feel any satisfaction at all when I did it." Sighed Ninhursag. "Maybe some might be different but I couldn't really feel anything other than... this empty feeling." "..." Celeste looked at Ninhursag as she sighed. "What happened to my father? Is he okay? Did he survive at the end?" "He... he was eaten by monsters." Said my mother. "What?" Celeste asked at my mother in disbelief. "Yeah, his body was found... torn to shreds." Said my father. "He died very gruesomely." "..." Celeste sighed, smiling for a bit. Her face twisted in a smile, laughing. "Ahahah... He... he still got what he deserved at the end... That... that damn bastard... I hated him so much and he still died like he deserved it... Ahahaha... Hahh... If only... If only... he wouldn't had been

such a monster..." Celeste began to cry. "If only he could had been a decent parent like you two... If

only... maybe in some kind of... parallel future, I might had have a family, maybe I might... I might had have a different future, or something... Maybe my mother wouldn't be dead, maybe... I wouldn't be crying right now after laughing at my father's death."

For some reason, despite hating her father, Celeste continued crying and crying, without stopping. Somehow, she felt sad. Not because she couldn't kill him herself, but because of a possibility, a world where she could had been happy with her family, a world... where the things she always imagined as a child could had been real.

"Ahah... Sorry, I shouldn't had cried. Pretty pathetic right? After all the shit I've done... I am really just a hypocrite piece of shit... I am just garbage..." Celeste sighed. "I don't even deserve this second chance you've given me... I should had just died there, Sylphy should had just killed me where I was..."

"But she choose not to." My mother said.

"It's mostly because we raised our daughter with a lot of affection." Sighed my father.

"It is because of all the traits within me that you hate that I didn't killed you... I didn't wanted to. I wanted you to have a second chance." I said.

"Hah... Yeah, I guess." Celeste said. "I've gotta... unwind with all of this... Maybe sleep some more..."

"No, you're eating now young girl." Said my mother. "I'll bring you lunch in a bit."

"Lunch?" Celeste asked.

"Yeah, you're resting for two days at most. After that, you're going to do a lot of chores." My father said. "We don't want any lazy bones here."

"Chores..." Celeste sighed. "Well, fine, it is the least I could do.

"Yeah, that's the least you can do as part of our big family." Ninhursag said.

"F-Family?" Celeste wondered. "The children of the orphanage and the nuns also need your help. You're good with magic, right? Are you willing to do some magic classes for them? Also Mist has yet to learn everything you have to teach her." I said. "I... I guess... Mist... Ah, I miss her already and she was here just a few minutes ago." Celeste sighed. "That bratty little goober..." "You've got a big family already anyways." Said Aquarina. "So stop crying around like a crybaby. You've got a LOT to live for. I don't want you to be crying around, you only make Sylphy feel more terrible... So lift up!" Aquarina bossed around Celeste. "Yeah, yeah, don't cry so much. Come on." Zack said. "You two..." Celeste sighed, giggling a bit. "Sorry for everything... I wonder if you guys could... actually take me as your actual friend?" She quickly waved her head. "Nah, that's a bit..." "Maybe." I said. "But you gotta earn our friendship, do a lot of merits!" "Maybe one day you'll earn our friendship." Said Aquarina. "But for now you better work hard, okay?" Zack asked with a smile. "You heard them." Ninhursag said with a warm smile.

"I guess... I guess I am already being bossed around! Sure, fine... I'll do my best, young masters." Celeste lowered her head as if pretending to be a maidservant.

Celeste sighed once more, her last sigh of the day.

"Always cynical" Sighed Aquarina while crossing her arms. "Well anyways, let's go Sylphy, we've gotta make lunch for this shit for brains as she says."
"Hey! No slurs little girl." My father reprimanded Aquarina.
"But uncle she said it!" Said Aquarina.
"I-I guess" My father laughed.
Celeste began to laugh a bit, as she seemed to be slowly accepting her new life.
Chapter 518 The Blue Witch
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Snow fell from the cloudy skies, covering a beautiful mountain range. The mountains shone brightly, as if they were made of glass. However, they were all covered by blue colored spirit stones, highly valuable

if they were made of glass. However, they were all covered by blue colored spirit stones, highly valuable materials imbued with the element of water and ice, that had grown over eons of absorbing the ice that constantly fell over these magic-imbued mountains of old.

A small house with a stone exterior and wooden interior rested near the top of the tallest mountain, completely isolated from any other living being in kilometers. And there was a small chimney, letting out a lot of smoke, expensive coal stones and magic imbued ores were being burned there.

Inside of the house, a small, young-looking woman with long light blue hair and fiery orange eyes looked into the furnace in front of her, as she dexterously handled a piece of ingot she began to slowly melt with the fire and shape using a hammer. Her small size and cute appearance would fool many into thinking she was younger than she truly was, and also physically weaker.

However, her sleek yet muscular arms were no joke, and the muscles in her torso sweating constantly as she shaped the metal before the flames of the furnace were no joke either. She wasn't the daughter of a dwarf forger for nothing.

CLANK!
CLANK!
CLANK!
She sighed, as she looked at the piece of metal, it was slowly shaping itself into the pointy end of a spear, she quickly imbued magic into her hammer once more, putting some more incantations and mixing runes and magic into the metal.
CLANK!
CLANK!
CLANK!
"Phew"
She quickly grabbed the piece of burning metal with her bare hands, as they were covered by a protective layer of mana, and then she conjured ice, covering the metal in an instant and absorbing all of it eat. It quickly hardened into a sharp and pointy end of a spear.
"Done With this that princess from that one Dwarven Kingdom will be satisfied I imbued it with Piercing Magic that can ignore a small percentage of defense" She sighed. "But it is odd for Dwarves to be into spears, she's a strange lad, that's for sure."
A small Spirit appeared behind her, resembling a little lizard covered with scales made of crystal ice.
"Felicia, they sent you something new."

"Huh? What this time? And who?"
"Old friends, apparently.
"Oh?!"
The little witch quickly stood up, cleaning the sweat from her forehead, and walking straight to her living room. There, a large magic device resembling a box was letting out some white smoke, the sign of something having been teleported in there.
She quickly grabbed the thing sent to her; it was a Small Dimensional Box. In the box, a paper was attached to it, saying some words that made her remember old friends.
"Hello Felicia, it has been truly a while since we talked. I've recently gotten a second kid, his name is Zephyr. My daughter ended breaking her sword in a fight we had against True Demons. I was thinking if you could enchant it after I fix it. I've sent you the materials ahead of time. Be careful whenever you open the box. Kind regards, Faylen."
Felicia finished reading the paper as she raised an eyebrow.
"Can't believe this woman already got herself a second kid and I haven't even found a man myself Maybe I should try to get a kid too, huh?" She wondered, looking at her small spirit.
"I mean, you're a hero, you could just walk to that nearby town and get yourself a husband if you wanted." Said the spirit.
"Yeah but that's boring, I want an interesting one. Preferably not a dwarf." Sighed the blue haired beauty, quickly looking at the box in front of her. "So True Demon Materials, huh? In what sort of trouble has Faylen and her family gotten into this time? If there are really True Demons showing up like nothing, and her daughter fought one of them, then this must be serious"

Felicia suddenly got slightly concerned. However, if the mail said they were fine, then perhaps they were

fine. Pointlessly worrying wasn't something she often did.

"Well, let's check them out."

She quickly waved her hand as a door made of ice opened behind her in a mere instant, grabbing the box and walking through the door, finding herself within a completely different space, a palace made of ice.

"Your Palace of Ice is as big as ever, Crystal." She said, looking at the enormous Ancient Ice Dragoness sitting right in front of her.

"Huh? What with this visit out of the blue, Felicia?" She wondered.

"I've got you a big surprise. I know you're a junkie for weird stuff... hehehe. Look!"

Felicia opened the box, as an enormous and demonic aura surged from within, the Ice Dragoness was shocked, stepping back in surprise.

"What the...?! True Demon Energy?" She asked in surprise.

"I've got materials that cost a fortune, for free! My friends are the best!" Laughed Felicia. "The only thing I need to do is enchant a weapon with these items..."

"But this amount of energy... those are not normal True Demons, Felicia!" The Dragon said.

"Yep she's right." The small lizard at Felicia's side said.

"Hey, hey, I know. There's some shady stuff going on back in the continent where they are... But it is not like I am going to get there just to investigate. I am no longer a Hero after all. I've retired." Said the witch, quickly beginning to smoke from a pipe. "Time to refine these babies..."

The ice dragoness and the small ice lizard at her side sighed, facepalming.

"Her adoration for rare materials and crafting has no end"
"Yeah, she hasn't changed one bit"
As her two Familiars lamented having made a contract with such a woman obsessed over materials, crafting, and alchemy over saving the world, Faylen sighed in relief, looking at the teleportation device.
"Looks like things were teleported without problems I wonder how's Felicia doing."
Chapter 519 Learning Alchemy From Mother

It has been two weeks since Celeste woke up and Aquarina's parents already came back over a week ago. After they inspected the Port City, they said it was rather small for being one that connected to many other continents, but it seems that the reason was because it was a rather new one that has yet to build enough connections between the ruler and the rulers of other port cities within the continents.

Nonetheless, the town was peaceful, and although there were some criminal organizations, they were nothing important other than just a group of bandits that contrabanded stuff. They were taken down by Shade in a single night, alone. After that, we had been living a pretty calm and peaceful life. The two weeks went flying by as if nothing, as I stared into the skies while practicing Heavenly Sight and Mana Usage.

The airship was taking a while to get here because of many things that my mother's sister had to do first before getting it to get in here, but it should be getting any time now. Two weeks seem like a lot of time for some, but strangely enough they felt like no time for me.

I was doing so many things here and there that it all ended getting done so quickly... I spent most of the first week helping everyone do the chores, Celeste was quickly forced to adapt to our pace as well, helping at cooking, bleeding the carcasses, butchering, then cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, everything we all do here. We are a big community so we need to work hard every day to maintain order.

Uncle Arafunn and mother had made peace now and treat each other rather nice, better than before I would say. Whatever they talked about back then must have made them think about stuff or something... Sometimes I heard them talking about someone named "Julian" which mother explained to me was the Hero of Stars, someone that sacrificed himself at the end of their journey to defeat the powerful Demon King.

...I think she implied he was in a romantic relationship with Arafunn. Perhaps this is the person uncle Arafunn talked me about when we had our little chat some time ago. It made me feel a bit bad that someone he loved so much was gone, well, everyone loved him. I ended hugging my uncle the rest of the day when I heard that, and he felt slightly embarrassed I was giving him so much attention.

Aside from that one day, I've been training slowly yet diligently, and Mana Usage was now Level 8 from Level 5, so in two weeks I've got three levels down, not bad at all. And from Heavenly Sight, from Level 1 to 3, not bad either. It seems these two can level up quickly. If I put more time into leveling them, I might finish quicker, but I really didn't wanted to put all my time into this when I've got so many responsibilities and people I want to give my attention to, such as Aquarina, Zack, Celeste, Mist, and more.

I haven't even been allowed to hunt at all, so I haven't even gathered any EXP either, though I've got a big stash of it from that big battle. My Familiars had been doing the same I do and use their skills constantly to level them up over time. Everyone had leveled up their skills at least once by now, and I even realized some of their stats increased solely because they did some sort of exercise or conjured a lot of Magic. It seems that much like how skills can level up and stuff, stats can increase when you don't have a glitched system even when you don't level up.

I've also been accumulating Fruits of Knowledge and also the fruits and leaves from Naturia, and I'll keep accumulating more and more until I've got an insane stash to use in desperate situations. However, for a change in pace, we had been just enjoying a slow slice of life without many problems.

Mama began to teach me alchemy half a week ago. She promised me this over two weeks ago but finally began just now, Zephyr has been taking all her attention, my little brother is the most adorable thing, but my mother barely lets me handle him because she says I am not delicate with him or something... But I come to play with him every day, and he has begun to walk in all fours around the grass now, he's like a little mouse wandering around, and he has grown attached to me a lot, he should be smart enough to identify me as his big sister.

Like right now, as I've just finished having breakfast, I walked to his cradle, finding him playing with wooden toys shaped as little animals.
"Babaah!" Little Zephyr suddenly looked at me the moment I walked to his side.
"Hello Zephy, what are you doing?" I wondered.
"Bubah Abah" He said cutely, showing me his toys.
"This is a horse! Right?" I asked.
"Bubuh! Bwahh" Zephy quickly showed me some more toys, some were covered on his saliva and others bitten, he had already grown some teeth and was using them to bite through anything he could find, wooden toys were not spared.
"Mooch, mooch! You're so cute" I hugged him and gave him several kisses, as he suddenly licked my nose playfully. "Hahaha, that tickles!"
"Bwahh Babuh!" Zephy extended his little hands at me and began grabbing my face around as if I were some bread dough.
"Hahaha, that's enough!" I quickly walked a few centimeters away as Zephy wanted to touch my face some more, extending his tiny baby hands.
"Babuuh! Bubah!"
"Mom, are we doing alchemy?" I asked.
"Yeah baby, wait a bit." My mother quickly made Zephy some fruit puree and feed it to him calmly, he got it all over his face. But still liked the sweet flavor.

"Allan, take care of the baby please." My mother said, as my father was currently carrying some big boxes filled with stuff from the storage.
"Ah, sure, leave it to me. Phoenix, keep a watch while I finish this." My father summoned his phoenix on small petit form, resembling a little fowl.
"Now I am a babysitter?" Complained the legendary beast.
"Well you didn't complained with Sylphy!" My father said.
"Sigh fine." The phoenix quickly landed atop of Zephy's cradle, looking down at him. "Hello little child, how are you faring today?"
"Buaaaaah! BUAAAAAH!"
Zephy was indeed scared of a large blazing bird, what a surprise
"ALLAN! I told you not to use nonhumanoid spirits to take care of the kid! It's obvious he's going to get scared!" My mother quickly reprimanded my father.
Well, this was daily life for me at this point.
"B-But Sylphy never got scared" My father sighed.
"Sylphy's different than Zephy, they're different kids" Sighed my mother.
"Fine, fine, I'm done here anyways. Alright young lad, want to explore the village with your dad?" My father quickly held Zephy with his arms as he slowly calmed him down while walking aimlessly.
"Alright, looks like he stopped crying Let's go now dear. Aquarina's coming?" Asked my mother.

"Yeah! She's with her parents but I'll go pick her up." I said, suddenly noticing she was rushing here. "Ah, she's here!"

"Phew... I almost didn't made it." She sighed, panting.

"Alright now that I've got you two, time for more alchemy lessons. Today you'll learn how to fix weapons like I did when I fixed Sylphy's sword. We'll try out with these broken knives from your father."

My mother said to Aquarina.

"Yaaay!"

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Chapter 520 Advanced Alchemy
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Mom guided us to a special tent "workshop" which she had set up for the last two months. There was a big Magic Cauldron in there, and several other materials she had borrowed, gathered, and bought from everywhere we have visited. Magic Cauldrons were quite indispensable for high level alchemy, as they were special Magic Artifacts that allowed for high level synthesis.

They worked rather interestingly, the alchemist would pour their mana into the Cauldron, making the Cauldron absorb their Mana and turn it into Liquified Magic Essence, which has the color of the rainbow and is a magical liquid. This liquid is used to mix materials and extracts and through Alchemy Magic, turn them into new items altogether, or also useful to fix magic items.

Smiths seem to do something similar but with Magic Forging Hammers and special Magic Furnaces and Anvils. Or so my mother explained to us. Apparently the Witch of the Blue Mountain is perhaps the most talented crafter out there, she's both talented at Alchemy Magic and Smithing Magic, and merges both together to create truly works of art and power.

My sword is a living proof of that!

Mom had a lot of time trying to make the sword be fully repaired, she had to use almost all the ores we had purchased in Eastgrain, and barely managed to do it. Nonetheless, with that out of the way, we

were up for a new class, to practice Alchemy Magic ourselves.

Of course, I've got my cheat Alchemy Skill and my Alchemist Subclass, but as I've always said, it is always nice to learn about everything first... And by the way, I've been practicing the Alchemy Skill whenever I am alone, most of the time back in my own tent using materials I've got available, the skill experience earned is slow but I've managed to level it up a bit. And also, the Alchemist Subclass has interesting

effects as well.

[Alchemy: Lv2]

Skill Proficiency: 1235/2000

A Signature Skill of the Alchemist Subclass.

Grants the ability to inspect items traits and effects and merge materials together through [Synthesis], extract components from materials with [Extraction] and morph them, shape them, and transform them through [Metamorphosis]. Special tools can be used to facilitate this process and make higher quality

items.

[Synthesis (2)]: Allows the combination of materials to create new items following certain recipes. Quality of created products is enhanced by 1 Grade, and their effects by +20%.

[Extraction (2)]: Allows for the extraction of components from Materials. Extraction Speed and Quality of Extracted Materials increases by +20%.

[Metamorphosis (2)]: Allows for the transformation of Extracted Materials into different shapes. Quality of created products is enhanced by 1 Grade, and their effects by +10%.

Level Bonus (2): Enhances All Skill Effects by +20%.

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It is only Level 2, I know, but it still pretty good. Alchemy comes with three Abilities within itself, so I've bene shaping and playing around with mostly wood, stones, and other little things I find. Bones, sometimes I find some pieces of pelt around, but my crafting skills are utterly garbage, so I often make things that don't even look good, sadly.

And well, here's the Alchemist Subclass Effects:

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[Subclass]: [Alchemist]

A Subclass that can be learned by those with talent at shaping materials and combine them together into different items, extracting the purest of essences out of materials to create completely brand-new items, weapons, equipment, potions, and more.

Grants the [Alchemy] Skill and enhances the effects of all Alchemy-related Skills and Magic by +100%. Alchemy Magic learning speed is also enhanced by x2. Additionally, it is possible to spot materials for alchemy and see their descriptions in detail, with a 50% chance to increase the quality of picked up materials by one Grade.

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Yeah it is pretty insane. I had not realized before but by merely desiring to "activate" its effects, I was able to see around my vicinity any usable material. Small bright spots emerged all across the grasslands, whenever I got into one of such spots, it was a special herb that could be used for medicine or poison... it was all useful for an alchemist after all.

And there's this weird magical effect that grants a 50% chance for materials I pick up to gain one extra grade of quality. It has happened a few times when I picked up medicinal herbs, which suddenly were enhanced in quality and shone brightly for a bit before settling down.

...It is an insane power, and I am keeping it from using it front of anybody, as it would cause a ruckus. My father has already noticed the weird "golden aura" of leveling up that my familiars get and all, but they haven't really asked much after figuring out I had the power to enhance my familiars somehow. Their evolutions came as a surprise though, but I told them it was just related to me getting into Tier 3 of Physique and Magic Circle...

My mother quickly led us to the Magic Cauldron as she imbued her Mana into it leisurely. The empty cauldron slowly began to generate a bubbling rainbow liquid emanating a sweet and slightly sulfuric aroma. This was the aroma of Liquified Magic Essence.

In the desks in front of us, there were several materials. We had been doing mostly just teaching classes. Where mother introduced us to alchemy and everything. She explained that Alchemy Magic was a compound Magic as well, which combined elemental magic together.

It was the least complex of the many Compound Magic Branches, however, as it combined mostly the element of fire, wind, water, and earth together. We had yet to master them all, but the two of us were at least good at three of them, which was enough. Aquarina was actually rather good, but thanks to my Alchemist Subclass, I was able to level the field there too and learn quickly despite not having really mastered much of fire, wind, water, and earth.

Those Spiritual Runes I got were very useful at the end.

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