

## **A Glitched 641**

### Chapter 641 The Secret Power Of The Darkage Lineage

As Aquarina let the shadows take over her entire body, she battled against the bloodlust and negative thoughts of war, destruction, and assassination that came with this power. She recalled the teachings of her father, which had begun teaching her these Secret Assassination Arts and Shadow Magic three years ago.

"Aquarina, I am sure you've been wondering what is the power I possess, right? It is something that goes beyond mere magic conjured by magic circles, and which goes beyond mere dagger techniques that just anybody can learn with enough dedication." Shade said, one night when the moon was shining brightly on top of the star-filled sky.

"Yeah... I've always wondering if I could... ever use the power papa has." She said while sighing. "But seeing how you never taught me any of that for years I thought I didn't had aptitude?"

"I thought the same before." Shade sighed, giving his daughter a head pat. "However, you've surprised me with your growth. The challenges you've faced with Sylph and Zack, and how rapidly you've developed. I have sensed within you that you indeed had the talent."

"H-How?" Aquarina wondered.

"It is easy... Our bloodline is special. We are more than just humans." Shade said. "We descend from an ancient, almost prehistoric lineage, almost extinct. We descend from the former servants of the Gods, they used to name our family... The Vampyr, Humans especially created by the gods to have incredible assassination abilities, and merge with shadows themselves beyond what someone with darkness magic aptitude was able to do."

"Eh? Such power... Do I really have something like that?" Aquarina felt shocked.

"You've had it for a while now, don't you remember the time your eyes turned red when you were trying to protect Sylph from the True Demons? Or when shadows emerged from your fingertips, helping you move swifter and even see the weak spots of your foes?" Shade asked with a smile.

"I... I did..." She muttered. "This power... I remember it made my mind go numb, it made me have... bad thoughts."

"Yeah, alongside such power comes a risk, darkness itself consumes our judgement, we become pure darkness, therefore, our minds fall into the abyss." Shade said. "I will teach you not only how to control this power but resist the temptations of the Abyss that tries to engulf our minds as we transform. Aquarina, this is going to be an incredibly harsh training... My daughter, I will give you a chance. Do you truly want to walk through this path?"

"The legacy of my family..." Aquarina seemed surprised that her father would ever ask her if she truly wanted or not. "Of course I want to! Papa, please teach me! I'll do my best. I've even been trained by mama; I think I am hardy enough."

"Heh, certainly. But this training might be a thousand times more excruciating... However, I can guarantee you that once you go through the starting phase, your physical capabilities will skyrocket." Shade said. "The younger you do this, the better your growth will become."

"Alright... I am prepared!" Aquarina nodded. "(For Sylphy... And for my friends... And my family... I need more power. I cannot just keep using water or ice alone. I need as much strength as I can.)"

Like that, Aquarina started her training. Her father, the Hero of Shadows was a mysterious man. Many wanted to know his secrets techniques, his hidden arts, and the powers he held, which went beyond logic.

"Unnnnggh...! Aaagghh!"

Aquarina began crying, as she gritted her teeth, darkness was taking over her body as she utilized [Shadow Embodiment], the lowest tiered Transformation Ability of her lineage, yet it brought her intense agony in both body and mind.

She felt as if her body was dissolving, and her mind was being eaten by negative thoughts... by insanity itself.

"Many members of our family could never go through this training. I remember many of my siblings perish as they tried to maintain this form, only going insane and turning into Hollows, beings made of pure darkness whose souls were devoured by the abyss." Shade said, his voice was loud and domineering. "Aquarina! Fight the darkness! Think about those things you love, think about those you care! Think about what you want to do in the future... about what you have yet to achieve! Fight the darkness... but not only defend yourself, devour it back!"

"Unnggh...! AAAGGH...!" Aquarina's red eyes began bleeding as she continuously tried to fight the darkness, but then was taken completely by it.

F L A A A S H!

She became a Hollow.

"OOOOOOHHH!!!"

Her body suddenly began to distort, countless tentacles made of shadows emerged from within her body, as red eyes appeared across her formless, and ethereal body.

"I knew this would happen... Yet we took the risk. Don't worry, your father wouldn't had risked you to this point without having a plan himself." Shade smiled, as he quickly evaded Aquarina's attacks.

CLAASH! CLAASH! CLAASH! CLAAAASH!

Her amorphous body continued to shapeshift as it was consumed by the darkness and shadows, gigantic and aberrant limbs emerged from within, trying to catch Shade and crush him.

"GRAAAAAHH!"

A furious roar echoed from within her face, as Shade evaded an enormous beam of darkness emerging from within her distorted jaws.

BOOOOOOOOMMMMM!!!!

"Good thing we're practicing in the desolate outskirts of the city..." Sighed Shade, quickly emerging right behind Aquarina's body and grabbing her tiny head.

"[Dispel Curse], [Devour Shadows]!"

FLAAAAASH!

The curse of their bloodline was temporarily dispersed, and so did the shadows, which were devoured by Shade... and from within that, Aquarina emerged, gasping for air as she rested over the floor.

"Hahhh... Hahhh... Ngh... Damn it!" She muttered, resisting her tears. "I... what did I become?"

"That was a Hollow. I also became one in my youth..." Sighed Shade. "Every member of our family has to experience this pain before unlocking their truest potential. Aquarina... This is only the beginning."

## Chapter 642 Aquarina's Amazing Ability

Aquarina kept training, and training, and training.

She converted into Hollow dozens of times, and each time, her father stopped her and then utilized potions to heal her mental fatigue and her vitality.

Until finally, after 8 months...

"Unnggh... Ahhhh... Hahhhh..." Aquarina was gasping for air, resisting the darkness, and standing still... Somehow, this time, it was different.

After dozens of times of being consumed she started to slowly gain a resistance. Her mind was changing, it was becoming capable of resisting the Abyss that was brought by her lineage's powers. The shadows that consumed countless members in the past...

"Can you move in that state?" Shade asked.

"I... can!" Aquarina muttered, her eyes growing redder as she felt like they were burning.

Aquarina slowly began walking towards her father, step by step, trying not to let the shadows control her, but to control the shadows herself.

"Very well then. Grab your weapons, we'll fight."

"F-Fight?!"

"We must spare as much as possible while you're in that state. It is the only way to accustom your body to it. After you've mastered the first stage, I will teach you the Secret Arts and Hidden Techniques of our Lineage."

Aquarina felt terrified. Not only she had to keep this state for as long as she could, but she had to also spar with the monster of a father she had! She felt in shambles.

Yet... whenever she felt this way, and whenever the abyss tried to devour her, she recalled her memories. The happiness she felt with her family, with her friends...

And Sylphy's smile.

Her bright, and cute smile.

"HAAAH!"

Aquarina gritted her teeth, jumping towards her father as the shadows granted her supernatural speed and strength, her daggers clashed against her father's own, only for him to parry her blow easily and throw her back.

CLASH!

"Not bad, but you need to gather more of your darkness within the weapons, a way to enhance their power is that way. It is called [Shadow Weapon Resonance]...!" Her father quickly did as he was teaching her, imbuing his weapon with his own shadows, not from magic circles, but that emerged out of his own body.

"Eh? Papa's... shadows?" Aquarina felt surprised.

"Surprised? I've been in my Shadow Embodiment all this time. It is like something natural to me, as normal as breathing. When you finally reach this stage, your mind will be stronger than anything." Said Shade. "Not even the strongest illusions, nor the most powerful brainwashing drugs will be able to affect your mind. This is the state where I have devoured the Abyss itself, [Abyssal Mind]."

"A-Amazing..." Aquarina felt amazed by the incredible powers of her father, her mentor.

"It even helps at reflecting curses and even any attack directed to your mind. You'll be even able to infiltrate other people's minds and devour their memories, even." Shade said. "But well, that's not something you can do yet, nor in many years to come. For now, let's spar. Keep attacking me as much as you can!"

CLASH!

CLASH!

CLAAASH!

Shade and Aquarina kept sparring, as he taught her many insights.

"Utilize your eyes! Vampyr's eyes can see through enemy weak points! You see the red spots around my body? Aim at them!"

CLASH!

"Imbue your shadows into the ligaments of your muscles, enhance your flexibility and strength! Even if your muscles are torn apart, I can heal them later."

CLAASH!

"Never forget what's important to you, do not let the Abyss devour your mind. Stay focused!"

CLAAASH!

"GRUAAAAAAAAAH!"

"Hollow again... It has been a while since your last transformation, you're getting better."

CLAAAAASH!

Like that, years went by...

Aquarina stood over a cliff, her body melding with darkness, as she managed to gather the shadows into her heart, turning it completely into this element. Her eyes glowed red amidst her shadow body...

"In only three years, you've managed it. You've truly mastered the First Stage, Aquarina."

"...But its not enough, isn't it?"

"Indeed... From now on, we'll have even harsher trainings. There'll be a time when I won't be able to help you anymore, you'll need special materials to enhance this power. Shadow and Darkness Element Materials."

"Materials...?"

"Your powers can only grow as you absorb darkness and shadows from high quality sources... In the past, our family used to devour the weaker ones to grow stronger, but such a method is no longer possible, nor I think you'll want it either. You'll have to develop it like I did."

"Develop..."

"Sylphy is becoming a great Alchemist. I am sure she'll be able to help you find and process these materials. Once you can gather enough, you'll be able to grow even stronger."

"I guess Sylphy became even more vital for me..."

Shade smiled back at his daughter as she spoke about her friend.

"Ahem, yeah, well, I approve her by the way."

"EH?! W-What are you talking about?!"

...

Aquarina recalled these memories, her shadows flowing across her body. Negative emotions, madness, and the abyss itself were engulfing her mind... yet she seemed calm and composed while fighting. She



manipulated the Abyssal powers, slicing the second eel's head, and then jumping into another that aimed at Zephy and Nephi.

"SHAAAAH!"

The angered Giant Eel roared furiously, opening its jaws, and suddenly gathering Magic! This one seemed similar than the others, but it was in fact a different variant, which was feed upon the blood of the Sea Snake, acquiring the power of unleashing Breath Attacks!

BOOOOOOOOMMMMM!!!

An enormous beam of pure magical power was unleashed from within the eel's jaws, impacting Aquarina while she was in midair!

"[Soul Reaper]"

However, Aquarina emerged behind the Eel, like a phantasmal being made of shadows, her scythe sliced through the Eel's spiritual body, its soul, and harvested it!

SLAAAAASH!

"SHYAAAAAHH...!"

The eel agonized, having its soul taken out of the body, the entire body began to lose its life, falling into the ground and perishing on the spot.

Sylphy glanced at Aquarina's beautiful and graceful body shrouded by shadows... her eyes shining in admiration and surprise.

"A-Amazing..."

## Chapter 643 Against The Floor 2 Guardian, The High Sea Snake!

(Sylphy's POV)

Aquarina's amazing performance saved the day! The Sea Snake's buffs were going through the roof. What we thought would be some small fries ended becoming too strong. The Sea Snake ended being quite the cunning monster. It even had feed its blood to some of the Eels, turning them into "Draconic Eels" that camouflaged with the others, looking almost the same as the normal ones.

Ignatius even pointed out the Water Magic it was using was Dragon Magic, which is an innate magic all dragons know how to use, and which is, well, obviously, stronger than the normal element of magic. Water Dragon Magic even coming from the weakest Water Dragon out there completely shut our strategies down.

However, as the last Draconic Eel fell by Aquarina's furious rampage, the Sea Snake roared furiously back at us, his powerful Area of Effect Spell finally stopping, as I had time to breathe.

"ROOOOOOAAAAARRRRR...!"

"It's pissed...!" Zack said.

"Is it coming here now?!" Mist asked while panicking.

"We can take it down if we gang on it. We've fought Tier 5 monsters already." Celeste said confidently.

"Mister Teddy, you can tank his hits, right?" Celica asked.

"GAAO!" Celica's golem seemed willing to fight.

"Nephi, protect Zephy!" I told Nephilim.

"Very well master." Nephilim nodded, as she grabbed Zephy and jumped behind us.

TRUUUUUUUUMMMMMM...!

The Sea Snake began sliding like a snake would do, reaching us in mere instants! Its entire body began glowing with bright light, as its jaws suddenly caught several of the eels that served him, eating them whole!

"CRUNCH... CRUNCH... CRUNCH...!"

"What is he doing...?!" Aquarina asked.

"You damn...! Don't eat in front of us like nothing!" I roared angrily, quickly imbuing Mana into Scarlet and unleashing a combination of Heavenly Sun and Dragon Power with Ember and Sword Arts! "[Dragon Slaying Blade]!"

SLAAAAAAAASSSHHHHH!!!

The enormous slash of flames shaped as a furious dragon resembling Ignatius, reaching the Sea Snake in an instant and impacting its blue scales!

BOOOOOOMMMMMMM!!!

"GROOOOAAAARRR!"

The Sea Snake roared in fury as it caught the whole explosion. However, its body was over twenty meters long, twice as big as the eels, and those blue scales were protecting it from most damage to boot! The explosion was powerful, but the blue scales shone brightly, it barely took any damage.

"No damage?!" Asked Zack. "But Sylphy's ridiculously strong!"

"It must be because of the Dragon Scales, they're Water Dragon Scales, they can Absorb Water Magic and are incredibly resistant to Fire Magic. Even with Sylphy's incredible fire magic, it won't do..." Ignatius explained. Everyone seemed already used to my fire spirit talking.

FLAAASH!

Before we could prepare to fight it, the Sea Snake began to glow. Its blue scales emanating a shiny blue light, and its body size suddenly... grew bigger. My Heavenly Sight quickly told me what was happening.

It was already this strong at Tier 4 but...

[High Sea Snake (Lesser Dragon) (Tier 5: Rank 1)] [Status: Evolved, Strengthened]

"It evolved...?!" I asked in surprise. "This thing, that's why it ate the eels!"

Ding!

[A Special [Chain Quest] has been generated: [Defeat the Guardian of the Dungeon's Floor 2, the High Sea Snake!]

[You have made it till the end of the second floor and after having slain countless Giant Eels, you stand before the guardian of the Second Floor, a young Lesser Dragon Sea Snake, who had sacrificed his loyal underlings to gain enough power to Rank Up to Tier 5! Now boasting even greater powers as a Lesser Dragon, it is your and your party's mission to defeat it and keep moving forwards!]

[Completion Rewards: [200000 EXP] [100000 Shared EXP] [Muscle Strengthening Herb (D Grade)] x4  
[Random Skill Proficiency Potion (D Grade)] x2 [???] x1!]

[Time Limit: 1 Hour]

[Complete this Quest under half of the Time Limit to obtain a Mysterious Bonus Reward!]

Eh?! A quest? Wait, so this guy is really the Boss of this Floor!

"I see, was that his plan all along?" Celeste said. "Well, no point thinking about it now that it happened. Let's hunt that thing down."

"It's coming!" I alerted everyone, as the enormous High Sea Snake made its move.

In mere seconds, the entire surroundings were engulfed by an Oceanic Wave!

SPLAAAAAASH!

The Lesser Dragon didn't even care about making this fair, it quickly summoned a wave of oceanic water using its dragon magic, trying to throw us off guard and pick us one by one!

"ROOOAR!"

FLUOSH!

It swam around the water, as we quickly flew away from the Oceanic Wave. Furoh transformed into a large Black Wyvern, not as strong as the real ones who were Tier 7 monsters and lifting us up into the skies.

"SHAAAAH!"

The head of the High Sea Snake popped out of the oceans, gathering Mana within to blast us with a breath attack while we were flying!

"Oh no, you won't!"

Zack roared angrily, charging electricity into his fingertips, and then overcharging his weapons with them. The new axe he bought began to gain several cracks, it couldn't take on the boy's overpowered lightning magic anymore and might shatter soon.

Nonetheless, he wasn't well known for taking good care of his weapons...

"[Zeus Lightning]!"

FLAAAAAASH!

The lightning gathered in the tip of his two axes, as he unleashed a catastrophic, thunderous attack that fell from the ceiling of the Dungeon's second floor as if it were the very judgement of a Thunder God!

CRAAAAAAASSSHHHH!!!

And it impacted the Lesser Dragon's breath attack just in time, generating a devastating shockwave of lightning and water that spread everywhere.

BOOOOOOOM!

As the lightning shock was about to reach us, I quickly imbued Mana into Scarlet.

"Scarlet! Can you absorb this lightning?!"

The sword reacted by glowing brightly, as the lightning suddenly began to gather atop her blade, the power of the Lightning Blade Skill working wonderfully as well...!

"ROOOOOOOAAAAARRR!"

The High Sea Snake roared, seemingly not having taken enough damage to be knocked out, it quickly manipulated the ocean it had summoned, unleashing an enormous spiraling oceanic tornado against us!

BOOOOOOMMMM!!!

Chapter 644 Defeating A Lesser Dragon

"[Lightning Dragon Judgement]!"

Scales grew across my arms and hands, as I imbued the Dragon Power flowing across my Draconic Heart into Scarlet, my loyal sword. In mere seconds, the lightning I ended absorbing from my powerful friend became the fuel for this new technique, which my lightning alone wouldn't had been able to conjure to such a ridiculous extent!

"ROOOOOOOAAAAARRR!"

An enormous serpentine dragon made of lightning emerged, clashing against the High Sea Snake's powerful Oceanic Tornado, and completely devastating, continuing its course towards the Lesser Dragon and then engulfing it into the lightning catastrophe!

CRAAAAAAASSSSHHHHHHH!!!

The power of the lightning was so strong that it made the entire ocean it summoned evaporate. Giving us a chance to confront it as we immediately descended once the explosion's smoke dissipated.

"SHAAAAAH!"

The furious High Sea Snake glared knives at us. Its draconic eyes emanating powerful quantities of Mana. However, that attack had clearly weakened it after Zack hit it first. Although very resilient, it was clear that one of this dragon's weaknesses was the Lightning element.

"Attack from all sides! Stay away from its close ranged attacks!" I quickly commanded everyone, as we began to launch long-ranged attacks to weaken it. "Curse!"

"Alright!"

Curse was summoned in front of me, as he fused his powers and skills with me, one of the many benefits of giving a System to my Familiars is that their Skills could be shared with me, boosting my magic even further.

"[Ancient Curse]! [Black Chains]!"

I combined these Skills with my Darkness Magic, boosted tremendously by my contract with him and also with Beelzebub, coupled with the Curse I had eaten from Furoh himself, all of it emerged out of the tip of my blade, unleashing dozens of chains made of darkness which wrapped around the High Sea Snake!

It didn't outright stopped its movements, but it surely made the creature slower and weaker. Countless black chains wrapping around its body and draining away its Mana and Vitality was a really good move, but it drained a lot of Curse's strength, so we couldn't spam it as much as I would want.

"RAAAAAAHHHHH!!!"



The High Sea Snake grew desperate, slamming the floor with its thick scaled tail, unleashing countless spikes of frozen oceanic water, attempting to impale us. However, I dealt with them quickly, a few swings of my lightning and fire-imbued sword shattered all the ice that it summoned, while my friends kept attacking it from the surroundings.

"I have to go all out! [Beast Aura]!!!!"

CLAAAASH!

Zack unleashed several storming attacks, winds and lightning combining together into massive bear-like claws which he summoned out of his Beast Aura. His attacks were wild and disorganized, but he packed a punch, especially now that he was our only proficient lightning magic wielder, he was dealing the most direct damage.

"[Abyssal Scythe]! [Soul Reaping]!"

SLAAAASH!

Aquarina gathered her shadows and darkness into her weapons, fusing them into her scythe once more. She flew around the skies majestically, as she gracefully swung her scythe, each time she did, she cut down a piece of the dragon's soul, weakening it while filling its scales with wounds at the same time.

"[Lethargic Curse]! [Draining Curse]! [Spiderweb of Shadows]!"

"[Holy Enhancement]! [Light Field]! [Holy Light Arrows]!"

BOOOM! FLAAASH!

Celeste kept close to Mist, she utilized her Cursed Spear to inflict weakening debuff curses on the Lesser Dragon, while her darkness turned into spiderwebs which wrapped around the dragon, stacking with my own black chains, strengthening the curse effects. Meanwhile, Mist healed our injuries and our vitality while shooting light arrows into the dragon's eyes, temporarily blinding it.

"You can do it Mister Teddy!"

Lastly, Celica was imbuing her Mana into her golem, as it was tanking most of the dragon's physical attacks while she used her puppeteer strings to control the golem wonderfully. At the same time, Nephi offered her support by firing countless light beams.

My familiars all gathered their power into my sword, as I unleashed a devastating lightning attack which was merged with the holy light element of Alice and the nature element of Naturia!

CRAAAAAASSSSHHHHH!!!

The powerful attack not only spread lightning, but it quickly erupted around the Sea Snake's body as countless branches and roots began growing across its flesh and scales, dealing heavy internal damage, at the same time as explosions of light devastated the scales and flesh even further! Now that was teamwork!

Beelzebub utilized his deadly venom and poisons to drain away the life of the Dragon, as he naturally imbued his powers into my attacks. Each blow I dealt against the dragon filled its wounds with more poison. Even if dragons were very resistant to poisons and venoms, this one was a lesser dragon, and terribly weakened as it was. It was working.

"SHAAAAAH! RAAAAARRRRRGGH...!"

The Dragon kept clinging to life, but its eyes slowly began losing their light, it gasped for air as it suddenly gathered its last amounts of Mana into its jaws, trying to unleash a dragon breath to take us with him!

"Not going to happen! [Decapitation]!"

However, Aquarina stopped it from doing any further damage, swinging her scythe, which suddenly grew ten times its original size as she imbued all her remaining shadows into it, and then she swung her weapon mercilessly against the High Sea Snake's neck, beheading the monster in the process!

SLAAAAAASH!

"GRYYYYAAAAARRRGH...!"

Giving an agonizing screech, the Lesser Dragon's head was finally sliced off, its massive head falling into the floor and causing an incredible tremor, followed by an even larger one as its body fell into the floor and stayed motionless, forever this time.

BAAAM! BAAAAMMM!

We glanced with surprise. This battle wasn't at all easy. We rested in the floor right after the Lesser Dragon's defeat, gasping for air.

"Agh, we did it..." Zack sighed.

"Finally..." Mist gasped.

"Oof... I really can't keep this up for so long..." Aquarina's shadows dissipated, revealing her normal body, she fell into the floor, with a strong fever.

"Ah... A-Aquarina!" I quickly gathered my strength, rushing towards her after confirming everyone was okay.

Chapter 645 Strange Coral Tree Fruits

I ignored the System messages popping up after the Dragon's defeat, as I ran towards Aquarina. Her transformation was amazing, but it tired too much. I quickly retrieved an Elixir, of the many I had made back then, and quickly made her drink it.

"Drink it! Quickly!"

"Ugh...!"

Aquarina quickly began drinking the Elixir, the lifeforce that had been sucked out of her through that transformation slowly began to recover, as she looked more healthy, and not as pale as before.

"Are you feeling better? Need another one?" I asked her. "Also eat these leaves, and this fruit."

I gave her leaves and fruits from Naturia to recover her Mana and Vitality even more, but Aquarina smiled back and gave me a kiss in my forehead.

"I am fine! Don't worry." She said, quickly getting up and beginning to stretch. "I am already used to this exhaustion. I usually just rest it off."

"Oh? It wasn't lethal?!" Asked Mist, who was readying a healing spell. "Phew! I was so worried too..." Her magic circle quickly dissipated.

"You're feeling good then? Are you sure? I've never seen you transform like that before..." Zack said.

"Yeah, are you really alright?" Celeste wondered.

"I am okay, don't worry, ugh, don't be so corny now..." Aquarina was getting slightly flustered by everyone's concern.

"Hehehe, you're getting all flustered, look how red you are now." I teased her.

"I-I wasn't trying to make everyone worried like this... S-Sorry." Aquarina sighed. "Father told me to keep this form a secret and only reveal it when it was truly, truly necessary. I got a bit worried when I saw everyone struggling, and Sylphy... So I just went and did it, ugh."

"Well you owe us a few explanations now." I said while crossing my arms. "But before that, how about we first pick up the monster corpses? Also that big Sea Snake dragon is quite valuable! We'll surely use his materials to make something nice."

GRUMBLE!

However, before I could do anything else, I heard Aquarina's stomach grumbling furiously.

"Ah, using this transformation drains me of all my energy, my stomach's empty." She sighed. "My father always says I have to eat a ton when I transform..."

"Alright, let's prepare something to eat before going to the last floor then." I nodded.

"Yaay, more seafood!" Mist celebrated, she was quite the glutton as well, eating more than everyone together. Her race was quite known for that, known as "Jaw Demons" or something, they boast large jaws that can expand into a massive size, kind of like snakes, and their stomachs are usually larger too. They use this to accumulate energy for winter, like bears.

"Then let's gather everything. Should we try out the Sea Snake meat then?" I wondered.

"Yes!" Celica said. "I am hungry too... Utilizing Mister Teddy's secret power drains my energy... Not only mana."

It seemed that Celica's special "Puppetry Magic" uses her own Life Force, which transforms into Vitality, so to refill it, she just has to eat a lot much like with Aquarina's case. Food made using rich, high-quality ingredients and cooked using Cooking Magic bring the best Vitality-restoring effects, and could even heal wounds, so we'll be making a lot for everyone.

I used my special Dimensional Bag, an SSS Rank Item which is probably one of the most precious things out there in this world, capable of being able to hold an almost endless amount of items inside, to store all the Giant Eels and the Sea Snake, while we decided to forage around the Floor 2 to make sure there weren't any more treats left behind.

Like father taught us, usually it is safer to take a rest near the stairs leading to the next dungeon floor. Dungeons are quite safe in the stairs, as there are special magical barriers that stop monsters from moving between floors, which perhaps not as intended, turn into a safe place for adventurers to rest or even sleep.

That's not to say a wild monster from the outside of the dungeon could get in easily and just ignore the barrier, which happens a lot of times, but it is still way safer.

"This place's beautiful, it is not called the Coral Forest for nothing." Celica said in surprise. "So many colorful corals growing everywhere! How can they survive without water though?"

"They're special corals that grow in wet areas, they don't need water covering them all the time, and grow and develop a lot like trees do. Some even have fruits which are actually the eggs of their larvae stages." I said, reading the information given to me thanks to my Appraisal Ability within the Heavenly Eyes Divine Protection Ability. Using this, I've been discerning which ones are useful for alchemy, and I've extracted quite a lot of colorful corals.

Also, the Alchemy Subclass helps spotting them easily, and even enhance their quality once I pick them up and save them inside of my Dimensional Bag as an extra effect.

"Like that one over there?" Aquarina wondered.

She glanced at a very tall Coral Tree which had several fruits hanging on its branches, some were purple, others blue, some were red and others green. They seemed like normal fruits, but this was merely mimicry, a rather cruel mimicry at that.

"Yeah, but we cannot eat them just as they are, if we grab them and munch them, the larvae enter our stomachs like parasites. This is a method the corals use to spread around by letting predators eat their eggs and then poop them later, elsewhere. Like this, they spread their offspring far away. But its worse

than just with normal seeds of fruits because these do damage to our stomach and can make us really, really, sick." I sighed.

"Ugh, never mind, I am not eating that..." Aquarina quickly felt disgusted.

"Well, they're still very good alchemy materials, rich in life force and mana!" I quickly grabbed dozens of these fruits, storing them inside the bag.

Like that, we reached the end of the Floor.

## Chapter 646 Gathering Many Materials

Ding!

[You've gathered several Materials!]

[The power of the [Alchemist] Subclass has enhanced their Rank!]

[You've gathered [Red Coral Tree Branch (C Grade)] x26]

[You've gathered [Green Coral Tree Branch (C Grade)] x18]

[You've gathered [Blue Coral Tree Branch (C Grade)] x21]

[You've gathered [Yellow Coral Tree Branch (C Grade)] x23]

[You've gathered [Red Coral Tree Fruit (D Grade)] x11]

[You've gathered [Green Coral Tree Fruit (D Grade)] x12]

[You've gathered [Blue Coral Tree Fruit (D Grade)] x10]

[You've gathered [Yellow Coral Tree Fruit (D Grade)] x12]

"Look Sylphy! I found these weird mushies." Mist said. "Can we eat these?"

Mist suddenly brought some mushrooms I had not seen before. They were slimy, transparent, and covered in goo. They had small tentacle-like tendrils growing around their cap.

"What are these?!" Aquarina seemed surprised.

"Dunno but I found a ton of mushies around that place!" Mist said.

"Yeah there's a ton!" Zack said, calling us over.

We quickly moved there, finding tons of mushrooms. They were so big, glowy, and transparent, it left me slightly shocked. They were a brand new material I had never seen before, but much like the fruits from the corals, it was more than the eye could see.

"Nobody of you guys ate it right?" I asked.

"Not yet, but maybe we can roast them?" Mist wondered.

"Hmm, perhaps, but don't try to eat them raw, these things might look like mushrooms, but they're actually a type of jellyfish!" I said, everyone was shocked.



Yep, the description was right there.

[Mushroom Jellyfish Polyp (D Grade)]

The small Polyp of a Mushroom Jellyfish, which is a widespread race of Jellyfish monsters that have grown to develop a sessile form, absorbing nutrients from their surroundings, parasitizing the roots of corals more often, or draining mana naturally flowing inside water-based dungeons. They're not aggressive but most of their species are highly poisonous, and when they reach maturity they turn into giant terrestrial Jellyfish monsters.

This Polyp is a small and nonpoisonous kind that feeds on Coral Tree's roots nutrients and mana flowing in the air. They're still normally not good to eat raw, but if boiled, they can be surprisingly delicious. It has high healing properties if processed into potions.

I showed everyone this description, which I quickly wrote into letters using Word Magic, which is a simple magic that helps at drawing letters using Magic Runes. Everyone was left surprised and terrified at the same time, Zack quickly dropped all the ones he was carrying with himself.

"What? They're jellyfish?! Ew!" He quickly dropped it all.

"I feel betrayed..." Celeste sighed. "Everything here really is not what it seems to be, huh?"

"Well, it did said its tasty if boiled, no?" Mist wondered, drooling a bit while wondering about the taste of a new food.

"You're suggesting eating that?!" Zack was horrified.

"I mean, we do eat squid... isn't it similar?" Mist asked.

"I have never eaten jellyfish before..." Sighed Zack. "But they say they have a weird tasteless flavor."

"Come on, we can try out new stuff today, we've got more ingredients than I thought. Heheh, even the poisonous ones are useful materials! Poison-type materials are always useful in alchemy!" I happily harvested more materials.

Ding!

[You've gathered several Materials!]

[The power of the [Alchemist] Subclass has enhanced their Rank!]

[You've gathered [Mushroom Jellyfish Polyp (C Grade)] x31]

[You've gathered [Poisonous Purple Mushroom Jellyfish Polyp (C Grade)] x21]

[You've gathered [Earthy Spiky Mushroom Jellyfish Polyp (C Grade)] x22]

[You've gathered [Electrifying Mushroom Jellyfish Polyp (C Grade)] x23]

Once we were done foraging, we ended encountering some more monsters in the way, not as ferocious as the previous eels though, they were smaller and seemed to live together with the ecosystem here. We found several species of walking fishes the size of rats, some even adapted to resemble monkeys, with big arms and legs. We also found several wandering crustaceans, crabs, lobsters, and the like, which we grabbed greedily.

I saved the poisonous ones for alchemy while leaving the edible ones to prepare something tasty now that we had everything. I quickly started a large bonfire and began cooking something. I wanted to make a seafood stew, so I added a few Blue and Red Crabs, some Walking Lobsters, shellfishes we found stuck to the coral trees, and some polyp mushrooms that were not poisonous.

Lastly, I added large chunks of eel meat and sea snake meat, tons of spices, and left it all boiling it silently. The smell of all the seafood merging together was quite appetizing. As for the rest of the meat? Merely roasting it would do, but I wanted something more... elaborated, so I brought out a pan and started warming some oil while cutting thirty centimeter big chunks of sea snake meat and eel meat.

Then, I used some eggs and breadcrumbs and dipped them on it, frying them after dipping them on eggs and breadcrumbs with some salt, the smell of fried fish was enchanting, and I also decided to fry some large fillets of sea snake on butter too, made back home by our farms of cows.

FRSSSSH!

The sound of the meat frying really made us lose our patience, we were growing hungrier! I also decided to boil some rice to accompany everything, and brought out several accompanying sauces, including mayonnaise and tartar sauce, some inventions I created using Alice's knowledge from Earth. We found Knight Shrimps, tiny Tier 1 Monsters that fight together in armies like ants, which Zephy hunted, so we even made tempura shrimps.

...

"Crunch! Yummy! They're so crunchy...!"

Zephy was filling his tiny cheeks stuffing himself with his hunt of the day, he hunted tons as well, and ended growing stronger as a result, his Magic Circle and Physique all raised to Tier 1 Rank 5 due to his efforts.

Defeating monsters grants magic power which enchants physique and a bit of the magic circle. Elves have both growths quite synchronized, so we can even get magically stronger by defeating monsters, although it gets slower after Tier 2.

Chapter 647 Quest Complete

"Oh man I can't stop eating..." Celeste was eating the fried eel without stopping.

"So good!" Aquarina had a whole bowl of rice with fried treats, and some seafood soup at the side.

"Never mind what I said before, these mushroom things are really good!" Zack said. "They're a bit rubbery but somehow they taste like crab and squid together."

"They taste like squid to me!" Said Mist. "I told you they were going to be good!"

"Hahhh~ The butter fried Sea Snake fillets are the best ones though!" Celica couldn't stop eating them, she loved butter a lot, this combination killed her.

Meanwhile I was also eating happily, although slightly distracted as I sorted out the system windows.

Ding!

[Calculating EXP Earned...]

[You and Your Party defeated [Giant Eel (Tier 3: Rank 5)] x46!]

[You and Your Party defeated [High Giant Sea Snake (Tier 5: Rank 1)] x1!]

[You and Your Party defeated [Various Sea Critters (Tier 1 ~ Tier 2)] x63!]

[You earned 1260000 EXP!]

Ding!

[You have completed the Special [Chain Quest]: [Defeat the Guardian of the Dungeon's Floor 2, the High Sea Snake!]

[Congratulations! Not only were you able to defeat the powerful Sea Snake but you did it in time record! Now that you've completed Floor 2, the only last challenge awaiting you and your pals is Floor 3, where the King of the Fishmen resides, the powerful Boss of this Dangerous Dungeon!]

[You have received bonus rewards for having completed the Quest in less than half an hour!]

[Completion Rewards: [400000 EXP] [200000 Shared EXP] [Muscle Strengthening Herb (D Grade)] x8 [Random Skill Proficiency Potion (D Grade)] x4 [Sea Snake's Bracelet (C+ Grade)] x1!]

[Your Familiars have earned a large quantity of EXP!]

[Naturia] Level has increased from Level 24 to Level 25!]

[Naturia] Can now Evolve!]

[Ignatius] Level has increased from Level 24 to Level 25!]

[Ignatius] Can now Evolve!]

[Furoh] Level has increased from Level 24 to Level 25!]

[Furoh] Can now Evolve!]

[Beelzebub] Level has increased from Level 24 to Level 25!]

[Beelzebub] Can now Evolve!

[Curse] Level has increased from Level 24 to Level 25!

[Curse] Can now Evolve!

[Scarlet] Level has increased from Level 16 to Level 18!

[Scarlet] Stats have increased!

Damn, I got way more than I had originally expected! Tons of EXP, and even more items! And everyone reached max level except Scarlet?! Isn't this a bit excessive already...?

Should I evolve them now? ...No, everyone will notice the changes too fast and will ask me how the heck can they get so strong out of the blue. Better leave them like this until I get back home, sadly.

Nonetheless, Scarlet is also on her way to max level at Level 18 out of 25! It makes me think I should give yet another System Seed to another piece of equipment. Aside from the newly remade sword, I've also gotten some improved boots using dragon scales and demon skin.

Though maybe having a shield wouldn't be so bad? I did get the Coral Shield from the Quest of defeating the Coral Golem, but it wouldn't be weird if I bring it out of the blue? Hmm...

Another thing I've been considering is just getting myself another sword. At this point my strength is very high, so I can more or less just wield two big swords without many issues, I would say.

Perhaps making a new sword for myself using my alchemy and smithing spells and some materials I've gathered wouldn't be so bad... Huh, though for now I should leave it like this.

Though, why are my Familiars leveling so fast? Well, we've gone through a monster rush so they have leveled up a ton just now... And well, this one maxed out Skill...

[Spiritual Blessing: Lv10]

Skill Proficiency: -- / --

You are greatly connected with Spirits, you can feel their emotions, their thoughts, and even their hearts, and connect with them through strong bonds that can last for eternity.

Passively enhances the All Stats of all Spirits and Familiars that you've contracted with, while also enhancing their growth speed. Can be used actively to enhance the power of selected Spirit and Familiars by a certain percentage for a few minutes. Additionally, connecting with Spirits now becomes easier.

Additionally, it grants a large quantity of Spiritual Runes distributed both in the Soul and the Body, enhancing Magic Circle and Physique.

Passive Effect (10): Permanently Enhances Spirits and Familiars All Stats, HP and MP Regeneration Speed and earned EXP by +100%. Spirits can connect more with their Master, increasing the synchronization of Master and Spirit by +70%.

Active Effect (10): Temporarily grants [Blessing] to a target Spirit or Familiar, increasing All their Stats, HP and MP Regeneration Speed and earned EXP by +100% for 30 Minutes. Cooldown: 1 Hour.

Level Bonus (10): Enhances the Skill Effects by +100%.

Really, REALLY increases their EXP earned. I should really get myself some more new Familiars now that I think about it. My soul had grown big enough that there should be space for some more. There's the still dormant True Demon Familiar, which is forming out of the Soul Fragments of the True Demons we've defeated combined with the Blue Demon (the king of the goblins), it is becoming something really strange... but I don't know what to do with it because it still sleeping soundly.

And then there's Nephilim, the girl we've been having with us for a while now. She's kind of like a golem, and has been learning slowly more and more. Though I've designated her the task of protecting my little brother, which she does wonderfully... I suppose that making her a familiar would really be a good idea.

But it feels a bit weird to just jump into her asking her to become my Familiar, after all she's more like a person than a spirit, or a monster. Though when I see how Furoh and Ignatius are there, I guess I can't really get all that hypocritical about it.

## Chapter 648 A Gift For My Cute Girlfriend

Ignatius and Furoh didn't had much of a choice, even less Beelzebub. Both Ignatius and Beelzebub were long dead anyways, and their only option to "resurrect" was by becoming my Spirits. Furoh agreed to this so he could hide from people as a familiar, but ultimately ended benefitting a lot from this by gaining mana constantly and then ultimately a system that helped him evolve further.

So I guess our relationships are more like dependent in one another. I get their support and amazing powers, which have boosted my total strength through the clouds and their support which have helped us through countless battles, and they get my endless Mana and many other benefits, such as the System, or keeping them alive to begin with.

And Scarlet is... a first. She's an evolving weapon which is my Familiar too. I think I might have room for a few more, equipment-based Familiars use a very small amount of Soul Requirement, so I might even be able to get a whole set of equipment with a System and as my familiars.

Though for now... I should probably ask Nephi to be my Familiar later today.

And just by checking this Sea Snake Bracelet through the system window that showcases the items inside the Dimensional Bag, I can tell it is a pretty good item.



It is C+ Grade and it shows, it grants a nice bonus to Magic Power and Mana, and has a Skill named [Sea Snake's Fangs] which summons these fangs as a magical attack, or that can also be merged with a physical weapon attack.

Though I feel like it might go better with Aquarina, the more she gets a boost to her primary water element, the better, right? Hmm... I'll make her a better and prettier ring later for her birthday, so gifting this to her would be nice.

Though can I even gift items made by the System to others? I wonder...

When everyone was almost getting done eating our delicious lunch, I quickly brought out the bracelet, giving it to Aquarina.

"Here. This is a little item I saw, it seems the Sea Snake dropped it after we defeated it..." I said while pretending that such a thing wasn't a big and fat lie.

"Oh?! Monsters in the dungeon have barely dropped items, it's really rare!" Aquarina said in surprise. "A-Are you sure you want to gift it to me Sylphy?"

She felt a bit surprised. Equipment found inside dungeons was extremely rare and often highly valuable because it came with special enchantments never seen before in any other place, usually referred as "Ancient Relics" that the gods left out.

We had already acquired another relic, that strange item that the Sea Goddesses had left behind, it seems to only react to Aquarina, but it holds a great deal of Divine Power, though we have no idea how to use it.

This bracelet is not really a relic, it just a special equipment materialized through the System's powers.

...Wait, wouldn't that make it a god relic then? After all the system was made by a God and all.

Nah, I shouldn't really worry.

"Nah, it's fine, you can keep it." I said with a nod, giving it to her anyways. I decided to equip the Coral Shield as well. "I also got this shield from the coral golem, but I'll be keeping it, nobody here uses shields, right? I've got a free arm so I'll keep it for now."

"Sure..." Zack said. "Though don't go around hoarding stuff the monsters drop!"

"Hahah, it's fine, she deals the most damage most of the time so I think she deserves them." Celeste seemed fine with anything to be honest.

"Well Sylphy helped us buy new equipment earlier today, so its all fine by me!" Mist agreed.

"W-Well, alright!" Aquarina ended happily taking the bracelet off my hands, quickly equipping it.

FLUOSH!

An aura of Oceans and Water immediately emerged from the bracelet, coating Aquarina's body and merging with her magical power. I saw as her strength slowly began to increase. It seemed to have worked wonders.

"ROOAAR!"

Even the shape of a sea snake emerged made out of her magical aura, wrapping around her body as if trying to protect her. This was the bracelet's skill, and it helped her parry magical attacks and enhanced her water and ice attribute magic power and conjuration speed.

"This is amazing! It is imbued with so much magical power... It is really a relic of the gods..." Aquarina felt moved. "Y-You're giving me something so valuable, Sylphy..." She felt slightly guilty. "I'll make sure to treasure it!"

She hugged me tightly, as she gave me a kiss in my nose.

"Ahahah... I-It's nothing." I said while feeling slightly embarrassed.

"Look at those two, so shameless." Celeste began gossiping.

"They're very lovey dovey." Giggled Mist.

"They just don't even care about hiding it anymore, huh?" Zack sighed.

"Master, what is this expression you're using constantly with Aquarina?" Wondered Nephilim.

"H-Huh? T-That's just kissing... It is done when... we appreciate and love someone a lot." I explained to Nephilim.

"Appreciation and love..." Nephilim began wondering, her multi-colored eyes shining brightly. "I see... I've understood. Then master, can I kiss you?"

"EH?!" I felt a bit shocked.

"W-Wait, hold on! O-Only I can...!" Aquarina quickly protested. "And maybe her family..."

"Heheh..." Nephilim suddenly began laughing. "That was a joke, my first successful joke, master!"

"Oh..." Aquarina and I were left a bit speechless, while our friends glanced at us with teasing smiles.

"...I did teach her about jokes, right..." I said while remembering that time, some days ago when I told her about making jokes and stuff.

"Sigh, that really got me... concerned." Aquarina sighed.

"Afraid someone's going to steal her from you now?" Laughed Celeste.

"Ugh... Shut up, Celeste..." Aquarina grumpily said, as I calmed her grumpiness with head pats, as we made our way downstairs.

My Aquarina's really way too cute, even more when she gets all jealous~

## Chapter 649 An Hidden Key

"Oh man, I am max level already! Can't I evolve straight away, Sylphy?" Complained Ignatius, floating around me on his Kid Dragon form. I wanted to smack him on the head for being so annoying. "We can evolve inside the Soul Scape, right?"

"No you can't! The Soul Scape would grow unstable if you do that, scatterbrained lizard." Beelzebub reprimanded him. "Be patient! I, for once, will patiently wait my eventual evolution."

"It is as he says. Beelzebub seems to have an amazing insight in the true properties of a Soul Scape." Alice explained. "Evolutions inside the soul scape will bring a disaster as each time you evolve, you let out a lot of magical power. Sylphy's soul could even explode... Well, maybe."

"Hm, I do wonder if this could change when Sylphy's soul becomes stronger though..." Furoh wondered. He was on his Fenrir form, as we rode him with Aquarina behind me.

"Certainly, she's still growing as we talk. Her developing speed is amazing, but she has a lot more room to grow." Said Alice. "Eventually, she could become the strongest in the entire world!"

"I-I think you're exaggerating a bit now." I sighed.

"Foo! Foo, foo!" Naturia seemed to agree to that, happily flying around.

"Hmph, as long as Sylphy can absorb more curses and the like, I am fine." Curse said, keeping himself a bit away from everyone else.

"Well aren't you mister gloomy?" Sighed Ignatius. "How about you go-"

"Hm?! I can sense something..." Beelzebub said.

While we were walking downstairs, Beelzebub suddenly began flying towards the walls to the left, finding something strange, a strange painting in the shape of a mermaid stretching her arms upwards, embracing a monolith shaped... thing? Huh? It has a hole shaped like that.

Wait...

I quickly remembered something, the relic we acquired at Floor 1's hidden room. A quick glance at its description gave me the answer I was looking for.

[Monolith of the Sea Nymphs (??? Grade)]

A Special Monolith made by the Gods long ago, in the Age of the Gods. It contains an unseen Divine Power, and it is the Key to the Ruins of the Nymphs, opening the Path towards its Depths.

It was made using a mixture of Orichalcum and the Soul Fragments of Nymphs. As one of the Divine Monoliths, it can activate the true power of Divine Artifacts, imbuing into them the Element of Water.

Don't tell me this is actually a key to these ruin's hidden rooms?

"Guys, wait a bit..." I called everyone, as we stood in front of the strange painting.

"That's a mermaid painting?" Zack wondered.

"Is there something there?" Mist curiously wondered.

"Yeah, there's surely something here!" Beelzebub called me.

"One of my Spirits found there's something here... Probably a secret room." I explained to my friends.

"A Secret Room?! Are you serious?" Zack asked in surprise, touching the painting, but nothing happened. "Maybe we need to blow it up?"

"I can help if that's the case!" Mist said.

"I don't think that's the idea here..." Celeste sighed. "Though that hole's shaped into something... reminds me of an item we got earlier, no?"

"The Divine Power of my creators... I can sense it within this wall. Something is lying within the other way, a new path leading to a different room." Said Nephilim.

"I can feel something myself as well... Like my Divine Protection is reacting to this, similarly to what happened with the secret room from before." Aquarina said. "We need to use something else... that thing we got earlier, maybe. Sylphy do you still have it- Oh."

"Yep, its in my hands right here." I smiled, showing the relic. "I've been inspecting it for a while now, and look what we've got. It fits right in!"

I quickly put the relic inside the hole. It fit perfectly, in mere seconds, a cracking sound was heard, as some sort of inner mechanism beneath the walls started its operations once more. Several runes and circuits started spreading around the walls, expanding all the way around the painting and up into the ceiling.

FLAAASH!

A flash of blue light came out, making us close our eyes for a few seconds before we could see that the walls were no more, having changed to an enormous open gate, leading to a long corridor completely made of silver metal, just like the interior of the god's ruins, they seemed highly technological.

"Woah, it opened..." Zack said.

"Shall we go in then?" I said.

"Are you sure, Sylphy? There might be guardians inside like before..." Sighed Mist.

"Are you worried now? We've gotten this far, there's no point in not getting inside and see what's there." I sighed.

"Yeah, you're right!" Aquarina said, easily supporting my decision. Her hand was suddenly shining bright blue though. "Huh? Why is my hand shining?"

"It is leading you..." Nephilim said. "I see! It makes sense nobody has ever discovered this place before until we got here. These ruins are protected by the god's divine powers, and will only open to the gods themselves... or those that hold their divine protections."

"Wait, does that means this entire temple... It was made for the divine protected of the nymph goddesses?" I wondered. "So without Aquarina, we would had never been able to even get here."

"That's positively the correct answer..." Nephi nodded. "Of course, the dungeon still has a normal path, but these hidden rooms containing special data gathered from the ancient gods... It is something only them or... someone with their divine protection, which allows them to contain the same type of divine power than them could get."

"Then what are we waiting for? Let's get in!" I said, quickly rushing inside with Aquarina, holding her hand as we entered the new and mysterious room.

Within the depths of the Dungeon, eight menacing red-colored eyes glanced down at Sylphy and her friends exploring yet another Hidden Room. The creature's eyes glanced at the scene with utter fascination and joy.

## Chapter 650 Entering The Hidden Room

Within the depths of the Dungeon, eight menacing red-colored eyes glanced down at Sylphy and her friends exploring yet another Hidden Room. The creature's eyes glanced at the scene with utter fascination and joy.

"Incredible... to think they would find the second room already!" Spoke a malefic voice, coming the very being that has been watching them since they entered the dungeon, from the hidden depths within. "It is just as our Evil Goddess has predicted, her webs of fate are never wrong, she, the one given the divine protection by the three nymphs has come!"

The entity glanced as the children entered deeper into the dungeon's second hidden room, about to find new treasures which this entity, and many of its multi-eyed allies have been trying to get for their Master for a while.

"YES! Keep finding more, MORE! And come down... bring me the relics to me, foolish children! Oooh, our Great Lady shall be so happy upon learning that I'll bring her not only the Relics she desires, but the heads of the future heroes!"

With great joy and a malefic nature befitting of monsters, the creature glanced the children explore the secret depths of this dungeon, patiently awaiting their prompt descent into their lair.



(Sylphy's POV)

The cold and silver-colored corridors shone with bright blue runes. They appeared as we walked through the corridor. They were not exactly guiding us, but Aquarina. They reacted to her whenever she touched the walls, as if greeting her.

Sometimes, spheres of blue mana would emerge, finding her and embracing her. For a moment, it felt as if the entire ruins were alive, and were greeting her back, as if they had been missing her, even when she had never visited this place.

I don't know if the three nymphs ever intended this to begin with, but it seems to be a new way to "hack" these ruins by utilizing the powers of the divine protections of the gods we got. Perhaps it wouldn't be within the realm of impossibility for me to find an abandoned temple of the goddess of light and sight, or perhaps of the gods of fire.

But for now, it seemed that the spotlight was all on Aquarina, and I was rather happy of that. Perhaps if we complete this whole place, she'll get even stronger by receiving some sort of ancient relic.

We only got this monolith, some sort of key, but we might finally get something different in here.

Or well, I hope.

"Look, another door?"

We stopped in front of yet another door, this one was smaller, but seemed completely made of Divine Metal, the same material those golems I fought back then were made of. This one had no indicative of a where to place the key though.

However, Aquarina "felt" something. She walked in silence in front of the gate and touched it, and then she held the relic in her hands. Seconds later, the gate reacted. Countless runes emerged all around, as the gates opened magically.

CREAAAK...!

As the doors opened, we entered the room, an incredibly vast cave. There were shiny crystals on top of the ceiling, growing there after so many years absorbing the mana. Even new ores grew, derived by the higher quality metal which degraded over eons.

And within this immense cave, in the middle of it all, an enormous nest rested. It was made of blue crystals, and not just water spirit stones. They were... Aquarium Crystals! It is the crystal I've been looking for, a B Grade Water Attribute crystal.

However, that wasn't the really important part of this... This was definitely a nest, like the ones you see egg-laying monsters or animals make, and this one was fully composed of colorful crystals. In the middle of everything, there was an egg.

The egg was as big as one meter, and was completely covered on blue scales so shiny and glossy they resembled jewels.

"An egg?" Wondered Aquarina.

"That's certainly an egg, alright." Celeste said. "Wait, doesn't this reminds you of how we found Nephi?"

"Hmm... No, this is different. This egg is not merely to contain a relic." Said Nephi. "There is a living being there- or well, there was."

"Indeed, I can't sense any life energy from it, that egg's fossilized." I sighed.

"That is indeed a Dragon Egg! I think it is a Water Dragon Egg, though its quality and power... It is nothing like that Sea Snake! This is probably the egg of a True Dragon, not a Lesser Dragon. Sadly, its already dead. It is quite a pity that it was never able to hatch." Ignatius said.

"Huh..." Zack scratched his chin. "Well, can't it be used as a material at least?"

"Hey don't just say that out of the blue!" Aquarina sighed. "Though..."

Her blue eyes began shining a bit, as her hand showed a mark, resembling three Nymphs holding hands and making a circle.

"This egg... it feels like it is calling me."

Aquarina slowly walked towards the egg, as her spirits and familiar emerged out of her Soul Scape. Undine seemed slightly curious, while her second Familiar, Leviathan junior, was the most attracted to the egg.

Meanwhile, Pyuku seemed afraid, stepping back without wanting to mess with that for some reason...

"Aquarina, wait!" I said, quickly trying to stop her.

She looked almost hypnotized by the presence of this egg, and it made me feel as afraid as Pyuku was!

However, before I could stop her, she touched it.

FLAAAASH!

Before anything else could be seen, we were brought... somewhere else.

Our surroundings changed, turning completely black, and then, showing moving images depicting the ancient past.

It was much like it happened with the first hidden room. These images showed things we had not seen before, but that were things that happened in the past.

Related to the three Nymph goddesses, and their servants, the Aquatic Anima.

"W-What is this?! Another projection?" Zack wondered.

"T-This is...!" Celeste muttered.

"Look!" Mist pointed out.