

A Glitched 781

Chapter 781 Tragedy

"Luck! Go look for your brother! I'll be fine! Please! I need to save the villagers first!" Lara implored Luck, asking him to let her go.

"W-What?! But I can't even damage those things, you'll die!" Luck said.

"Please trust me!" Lara nodded.

"..." Luck remained in silence as he moved back to his house to find his big brother, gritting his teeth. "F-Fine! But don't die on me!"

"Don't worry! My buddies are here, they're all coming!" Lara nodded, as Luck noticed thousands of tiny lights of red, orange, gold, green, and blue color rapidly moving into the village from the outside. "{Spirit Call}!"

FLAAAAASH!

Lara hit the floor with her staff, handcrafted by Luck using the big Magic Crystal from the Blazing Wild Boar, it possessed enough power to amplify her magic and mana recovery speed rather well.

At her call, thousands of tiny spirits surged. The Sunlight Spirits turned into fireballs and rays of sunlight, hitting the giant bugs eyes and stopping their movements temporarily. The River Spirits couldn't be as offensive, but they wet the ground below the bugs and made it muddy, making it hard for their heavy bodies to move rapidly.

Wind Spirits let out powerful slicing gusts of air everywhere, scratching the shells of the monsters and cutting their eyes. And lastly, the Land Spirits worked the hardest, creating pitfalls, golems, spreading destruction.

"Please, make sure they can evacuate in time!" Luck said, quickly and giant hands made of dirt and stone to stop the beasts from spreading destruction.

"Please, make sure they can evacuate in time!" Luck said, quickly beginning to rush back to his house.
"Please, please be safe! Please, big brother...!"

Chaos spread everywhere, the chimneys that were destroyed set off flames into several houses, which propagated easily on the drier grasslands, the entire village was covered on the screams of people and the flames of war... blood and suffering was all Luck could see.

And once he arrived back home, finally, he quickly saw the entire house being destroyed, and a large praying mantis-like demonic insect beast there, fighting against a single man, covered on wounds.

"Ungh...! Hahhh... M-Move aside!" Roared Luck's big brother. "As long as I live... I won't let you touch them!"

As Luck rushed as fast as possible there, he realized his brother was protecting a family that was living nearby, that were heavily wounded and could barely move.

"Big brother's alive...!" Luck's eyes were filled with hope.

"KRIEEEEEEHHH!!!"

However, the insectoid beast suddenly went berserk, roaring furiously as its eyes turned deep red, rushing towards Luck's big brother, and destroying his spear with a mere swing of its giant left scythe, while the right scythe...

SLAAAAASH!

"U-Ungh?!"

Slashed right through Luck's big brother's chest, piercing it.

His big brother's eyes were filled with shock as his life was being taken away from him. His lungs filled with blood.

For a moment, it felt like Luck's entire perception of his surroundings became slow, as if time itself slowed down.

The night sky that very moment started to rain, as it was filled with clouds made by Lara's spirits to turn off the flames.

"L-Luck...?" His big brother muttered, seconds before falling down into the floor, vomiting blood.

"AAHHH... AAAAAAAHHHHHHH...!" Luck screamed like a wild beast, all of his Mana flowed into his body at once, a ray of golden light surged from within the empty air, landing directly into the Praying Mantis Giant Insect Monster's head.

"DIEEEEEEEEE!!!" Luck screamed.

His claws grew to a gigantic size, encompassed by mana and materializing into utterly monstrous arms, slashing apart at the beast's eyes and then its mandibles.

CRAAASH! CRAAASH! CRAAASH! CRAAASH!

Countless blows reached the beast's weakest point, as the insect started to scream in agony, beginning to lose balance and falling down into the floor. Its deadly scythes constantly attempting to slash at Luck, but his legs and hands barely managing to catch them before they could slice through his flesh.

"DIE! DIE! DIE! DIE! DIEEEE!"

"KRIEEEEHHH... GGRREEEGGHH...!"

BAAAAM...!

The beast, unable to fight anymore and having its entire head blown up into pieces, fell completely to its fate, dying quickly after.

"Hahhh... HAAAHHH..." Luck groaned, gasping for air, as he saw the scared eyes of the children composing the family his big brother was trying to protect.

"L-Luck?" Cried one of the boys.

"GRAAAHHH!!!" Luck roared like a wild beast, pointing his claws at them.

"UUWAAAH!"

As they screamed in fear, Luck quickly realized... this wasn't him.

"N-No... HAAAAHHH... UGH... UNGH...! B-Big brother... BIG BROTHER!!!"

Luck ignored them, rushing back to his big brother's body, on the floor. His blood covered the green grass below his body, turning it deep crimson.

"B-Big Brother... BIG BROTHER!" Luck's transformation slowly faded away, revealing the young and frail boy beneath the skin of a wild beast. Tears flowing from his eyes, as he held his brother on his arms.

He was not moving. And he was not breathing. His eyes... were still open, glancing at him back. Luck's heart was beating faster and faster, as he couldn't help but breath heavily.

"B-Big... bro?"

His hands started to tremble, as the head of his big brother was hanging down, motionlessly... lifelessly.

As Luck's tears slowly mixed with the rainwater, he felt weak, and lifeless too.

It felt as if his entire body had no longer any strength.

He couldn't even say goodbye to him.

His last moments... were in shock before a painful, undeserved death.

"N-No... No... Please..." Luck screamed. "Don't leave me..."

The memories of his big brother began passing through his mind. Luck started to remember all of it so vividly. Since he was a little child, being taken care of by him, to when he began growing up.

When he started walking, or when he first hunted a rabbit, or when he cooked a meal for the first time... His big brother, Hansen, was always there.

He was the only one who told him he had a brave father and a wonderful mother, and he was... his family, everything.

"You promised you would always... stay at my side..." Luck continued crying. "Brother..."

Chapter 782 A Heavy Loss

"Haha, come on, why are you crying now? Don't be like that! Just because you stumbled into the floor it doesn't mean it's the end of the world, Luck. Come on, I'll help you stand back up."

"Big brother..."

"In life you'll stumble down all the time, it's part of... well, of living and growing up as a person. But don't worry, stumbling down and standing back up is something we all do."

"Don't..."

"Eventually, you'll fall so many times you'll grow used to it! And then, you'll learn to better walk down the path you've chosen."

"Please..."

"You'll become much stronger... I know it. Much stronger than anybody in our village, stronger than even dad."

"Don't leave me..."

"Ah, that's one nasty bug bite, but don't worry, I've got myself the perfect mixture of herbs for those nasty bites! Come here! Ahahaha, it hurts a bit, but you've gotta grit your teeth and the pain will go away eventually."

"This is not fair..."

"I know... I haven't been the best brother out there but... I want you to know that I'm really proud of you, Luck. I love you a lot, lil' bro. I'm sure you're making mom and dad proud too, wherever they are."

Hansen's words kept coming one after the other within Luck's mind. Someone that was always there, alive and moving, was now in his hands, lifeless and unmoving.

Cold... and not warm.

Dead... and not alive.

Perhaps it was redundant, but for someone that had seen their family member alive and happy for so many years like nothing, to suddenly have their dead body in their hands.

Luck felt completely destroyed. He didn't know... what to do now. He didn't know what to think. He was... he couldn't... do a single thing.

What do I do now?

Where should I go?

What... should I do?

His big brother, that was always there to tell him what he should do, or how he should approach certain problems, was now dead on his arms...

He had given his existence for granted, to lose him so suddenly, and out of nowhere made Luck realize how much he loved him, and how much he needed him.

"L-Luck! Luck!" Lara's voice started echoing from behind him, but Luck was in too much of a shock to hear her.

"LUCK!" Lara cried, rushing to his side and... seeing what was on his arms. She gasped, covering her mouth, her eyes were filled with horror. "N-No... Hansen..." Tears started flowing from her eyes.

Luck suddenly noticed her, glancing back at her, his eyes were filled with desperation, with horror, and with... a slight, hope.

"Y-You can do something, right?! You can heal him, right?! I-I think... He could still be alive..." He muttered, forcing a strange smile. "Lara! Please... PLEASE HEAL HIM!"

"Luck..." Lara sighed, a Spirit of the Land reached her hand, as it touched Luck's big brother's body... The Spirit sighed, glancing back at Lara.

"Kyuuh..."

"I-I..." Lara muttered. "I-I... can't."

"W-What do you mean you can't?!" Luck cried. "You've healed people even worse, right?!"

"But your brother... Hansen..." Lara cried. "He's..."

"S-Shut up... No... He's not! HE'S NOT!!!" Luck cried, denying the truth.

"Luck..." Lara started crying even more, seeing Luck completely devastated. "I'm sorry... But we need to go. I can... barely restrain the monsters. I-I created pitfalls, but they'll crawl out of them quickly!" "I think you should take a look at

Luck was gasping for air, thinking what to do, yet not knowing what to do...

"He's dead, boy." The voice of the Golden Tiger echoed at his side. "You must accept the death of your brother and move on. There's no point in wasting any time. Go with Lara!"

"S-Shut up... SHUT UP! SHUT UP!!!" Luck screamed, his tears falling over his brother's body. "I-I... I don't have anything... I..."

Luck took the hunting knife from his pocket, pointing it at his own neck.

"I might as well just die..."

"LUCK!"

Lara screamed furiously, as a grass vine emerged from the floor and wrapped around his arm. She took away that knife and threw it away.

And then...

SLAP!

She slapped his face.

"Uugh..."

"What are you even saying, you dumb idiot?!"

Lara's screams made Luck snap out of his own daze, as he glanced back at her desperate, crying face, covered in blood, water, and tears.

"L-Lara..."

"Do you think your brother would ever allow you to say such a stupid thing?!"

"B-But..."

"No buts! Stop being a dumbass! Okay?! I know it hurts, I know it because... he was like my own brother too but... We need to go! And please... Don't say those things, don't say you're alone."

Luck glanced at Lara's face crying desperately.

"Because you have me... I am here for you too..." She cried. "I love you, okay? I love you... So please... Don't take your life..."

Luck finally realized his foolishness, as he sighed.

"I-I'm sorry..." He sighed. "I'm sorry, Lara..."

He gently placed his brother's body on the grass, and hugged Lara back tightly.

For a few seconds, the two gave themselves the privilege of crying, of letting go of all their pain, so they could keep moving forward.

"Let's go..." Luck sighed. "As he grabbed his brother once more. "I'll bring big brother along... So we can bury him, somewhere where he can rest in peace."

Lara nodded, as she called the power of the Land Spirits, a hole where the family Luck's brother was protecting ran into opened, the two jumped down right before an army of bugs were about to catch them.

TRUUUM...!

The hole closed right there, as the two and the rest of the survivors ran away, into the depths of the earth, somewhere else...

Almost half of the village ended being killed by the attack of monsters, and the other half that barely survived did so with many wounded, some almost lethally wounded.

Once Lara managed to get deep enough for no monsters to dig there, she used the last bits of her Mana to secure everyone's safety, healing most lethal wounds, before passing out on the spot.

With Lara sleeping at his side, and his brother's corpse covered on leather, Luck couldn't sleep, remaining awake that entire night...

Their peaceful days had come to an abrupt end, and this... was only the beginning.

Chapter 783 Moving To Lara's Village

"What will we do now?"

"What's... the point anymore?"

"My children... they're all dead..."

"Why... Why did this had to happen to us..."

As Lara woke up the next morning, she saw Luck in the exact same position he was when she went to sleep. The voices of the survivors echoing around the caves were unnerving, there were very few of them with any hope left at all.

"L-Luck... Did you sleep at all?" Lara wondered.

"Ah!" Luck quickly felt surprised of her voice. "N-No... I couldn't sleep..."

"You need to rest a bit." Lara sighed, caressing his shoulder.

"I'm fine... I just... was wondering..." Luck cried. "Is there something you're hiding?"

"Eh? Me?" Lara felt surprised. "I..." She looked down, without denying it.

"..." Luck remained in silence. "You know it, right? You know the reason those demonic things attacked us..."

"I..." Lara began crying. "I'm sorry for not telling you, I never thought they would... show up here as well."

"You've seen them before?" Luck wondered, feeling shocked.

"The village I came from was attacked by those insects once..." Lara sighed. "I... I lied to you before. I didn't escaped my village because of selfishness... My family... and my uncle... everyone..."

Luck opened his eyes in surprise... Lara had long ago lost everyone in such a tragic way, yet... Somehow, through this entire time, she had maintained such a cheerful nature?

Despite everything that happened... She was always looking forward and smiling all the time.

"I-I'm sorry..." Luck sighed. "I shouldn't had... asked that."

"No... It's fine." Lara smiled faintly. "It's fine as long as it is you who asked it, Luck..." A few tears flowed down her golden eyes. "I'll tell you everything..."

Lara slowly explained to Luck what had happened to her village. Those giant bug monsters had appeared one day as well, after several years of having been discovered to be the Saint of Spirits, and massacred her village, led by a talking bug that was looking for her.

Her family and the villages protected her, however, and never said where she was, which ended on the entire village being destroyed. Her uncle and the survivors ran away with her into another, far away place, even when her mother, father, and even her big sister died, Lara continued smiling.

Mostly because she knew that if she were to stop smiling, her entire world would simply crumble apart around her...

"Somehow, we managed to set up another village, it took a while, and I helped as much as I could but..." Lara sighed. "I simply couldn't stay. I didn't wanted to stay with them anymore. Those monsters would continue to hunt me down... Because their master, a Demon Lord named Arachne, wanted me dead... So I ran away. I guess that last part... was the truth."

"Lara..." Luck sighed, hugging her tightly. "I'm so sorry... I shouldn't had misjudged you before..."

"No, it's fine... This is all my fault." Cried Lara. "I should had told you about this before... I shouldn't had stayed... But when you showed me such warmth, and when everyone made me felt needed and useful I... I ended staying longer, and longer..."

"But it's also my fault, isn't it?" Luck asked. "I am also... a Hero, they were seeking me as well. Don't blame yourself for everything, you've done so much for everyone..."

Lara continued crying, apologizing anyways.

"I'm so sorry for your brother... for everyone..." She continued crying. "I-I honestly... I don't even know what to do... I've been trying to act strong but... I'm so scared..." "I think you should take a look at

"Lara..." Luck sighed, caressing her face, and cleaning her tears. "Don't worry... We'll find a way. I... I promise you. I wasn't able to protect anything but I'll grow stronger... I'll protect you. As long as I have you... and as long as you have me, I think we can keep moving on."

"L-Luck..." Lara blushed a bit. "Thank you... for being so nice with me..."

Like that, weeks went by. Lara led the survivors across several tunnels underground, safe from the monsters of the outside. Using the Land Spirits, she brought fruits and grains from the outside, and Luck frequently jumped into the surface to hunt for animals for meat.

After a week and a half of surviving and walking endlessly, the people finally walked into the surface once more, arriving at a grassy hill, where a faraway village could be seen from there.

At the distance, there was a large pack of sheep and goats, and even some horses. It was a beautiful, fertile land unlike the one they were living before.

"What is this place?" Wondered the chief. "Lara..."

"This is... my village." Lara sighed. "Let's go. I will introduce everyone to my uncle. He'll understand and welcome you all. It might be hard to get used to this change, but it is the only... solution I could think about."

"T-This is more than enough, dear..." The chief sighed. "We'll be forever grateful for everything you've done for us... Luck too."

Lara and Luck had yet to reveal the villages the truth of the invasion, and they decided to not reveal it at all, knowing that the villagers might end up hating them. They wanted to leave in good terms.

"Lara? It is you, LARA?!" The chief of the village greeted everyone, Lara's uncle. An old, sheep anima with a long white beard, big horns, and golden eyes like hers.

"Uncle, I'm back..." Lara sighed. "These people..."

Lara and Luck introduced the villagers, and so they had a conversation together. The chief of both villages came to an agreement after the two heroes' insistence, and Lara's uncle decided to welcome these people.

"It will take a while to build new houses for everyone, so tents will have to do." Sighed Lara's uncle. "And we'll also need more food..."

"Don't worry, my mana's back to full now, I'll bless the lands and multiply the growth of crops and their expansion area." Lara said. "Double the crops should do it?"

"Lara..." Her uncle sighed. "Will you leave afterwards?"

Lara remained in silence, as she looked into the horizon.

"You know I can't stay with you, uncle... I would be risking everyone's lives." She sighed, as her uncle's fists clenched tightly.

"I promised your parents I would protect you..." He sighed.

"I'm sorry..." Lara said. "But... don't worry, I've already found someone that will accompany me." Lara smiled, glancing at Luck in the distance.

"Another Hero like you... You finally found another." Her uncle sighed.

"Her brother... died because of me." Sighed Lara. "I can't leave him alone either... I want to stay at his side, wherever we go, and wherever... fate takes us."

"Lara, it doesn't have to be this way... And you know it." Her uncle insisted. "Please, stay with us, everyone misses you dearly..."

"I can't..." Lara furrowed her eyebrows. "I've already made up my mind. We'll find the other heroes and... find whoever this Arachne is and beat her! Until then... I simply can't come back, uncle."

Her uncle felt frustrated, fully knowing he was unable to stop such a powerful, decided girl... However, at the very least, he could give her something to help her.

"Take this." He said, giving Lara a small necklace with a red jewel on it, in the shape of a heart. "This necklace once belonged to my sister, your mother."

Chapter 784 A Journey Together

"Mom's necklace?" Asked Lara in surprise. "It is so pretty..." She said, smiling adorably.

"The heart shaped crystal is made of a powerful Tier 4 Monster's Mana Crystal, imbued with the blood of a Wyvern." Said Lara's uncle. "It will protect you from danger, it was your mothers' good luck charm. She left it to you before... what happened in your village. It was supposed to be your birthday gift, but you ran away before I could give it to you."

"Thanks..." Lara sighed, grabbing the necklace, and wearing it. She gently touched it, feeling the necklace's Magic Power, imbued into her own body. There was certainly a small magical protection into it. "I'll treasure it with my life."

"Good." Her uncle nodded. "Now... How about you at the very least rest for today? Let's go eat something delicious for dinner, you also look so tired! You need to take a warm bath and get yourself some new clothes. Your aunt will make you something beautiful that can also protect you well."

"With Luck we've hunted some monsters, we brought tons of materials, maybe we could use those." Lara smiled.

"Alright then..." Her uncle nodded. "I won't let you go this time without properly preparing yourselves!"

Like that, days passed, and after five days of preparation, of talking with people, of helping the village expand the crops and more, Lara and Luck decided to depart. They couldn't even risk staying more than a week here, or their position would eventually be known by the enemy.

"Please, take care, Lara..." Her aunt began crying. "Don't die on us, girl..."

"Don't worry aunt, the spirits are there for us at all times." Lara smiled.

"Make sure to one day come back..." Her uncle sighed, clenching his fists. "I wish... I could be stronger to protect you, girl. I feel so ashamed I cannot even fulfill the promise I gave to your mother..."

"It is not your fault, uncle." Lara smiled. "And you've done so much for me and these people that such a thing is enough payment!"

"Sigh... We'll take good care of all of them, they will become our family as well." Lara's uncle said. "For you... And the boy too."

Luck was walking back to everyone else, after he paid a last visit to his brother's grave. At the end, they buried him in this peaceful village, away from his home. Using magic, Lara preserved his body so it wouldn't decompose quickly, and Luck was able to give his brother a proper, peaceful burial.

"Boy, you're back." Lara's uncle said. "Are you in peace now with your brother?"

"Hmm." Luck nodded, slightly saddened. "I did everything I could..."

Lara's uncle looked at Luck's eyes, feeling deeply saddened himself. Much like Lara, he was a young boy whose fate was cursed by the divinities above the sky. Granted extraordinary powers, but that also came with the curse of being chased down by their enemies to the ends of the world.

"I'll be trusting Lara into you, Luck." He said. "Please, be strong."

"I... I will." Luck nodded. "Thank you for everything, sir..."

"You can just call me uncle." Laughed Lara's uncle. "Please, I don't mind it. You both better survive so you can one day give me some grandkids."

"E-Eeeh? Uncle!" Lara said, blushing a bit.

"W-Wha...?!" Luck felt just as perplexed.

"Hahahaha! Come on, it was just a joke!" The uncle laughed. "Safe travels, you two." He hugged both of them tightly, as tears flowed from his eyes. "Please... please, survive! Find the other heroes, and ask for their help, don't do anything reckless by yourselves, okay?"

"We promise you we'll survive, Uncle!" Lara nodded.

"Leave it to us." Luck smiled.

Like that, after a delicious feast with everyone in the village, the two Anima Heroes walked away from the village, the farther away they walked, the more distant and small the village became.

Leaving behind everything, Luck realized how painful it was. Was this the same pain Lara went through? He wondered still, how could she smile now? Even after everything?

"How can you smile?" Wondered Luck. "Even after everything, your face is always smiling... Your eyes are always filled with hope..."

"E-Eh?" Lara felt a bit embarrassed, Luck didn't realize such words were like praising her to the heavens. "W-Well... I just... think positively. It is something my mom taught me." She gently caressed her necklace.

"Your mom?" Luck asked.

"Yep!" Lara nodded, as the two wandered across the beautiful grasslands. "She always said that we need to smile and look into the future positively, because if we don't do it, nobody will. She told me that the best way to help those that were sad was... to smile! To make them laugh, anything, just so they can smile, even if you don't feel like. As long as you see their genuine smiles, you'll begin smiling for real too."

"That's... sounds similar to what my brother used to say too." Luck sighed. "Hahaha, I guess you two aren't so different."

"See? You're laughing and smiling now." Lara giggled, touching his nose playfully.

"A-Ah, right... I guess you're right." Luck smiled.

As the two faced the horizon together, they traveled together. Through mountains and rivers, through forests and swamps. Led by the spirits of the Land, of Rivers, of Forests, of the Sunlight and even the Moon, they continued walking.

They explored many places together, slowly traveling across the great wastelands of the Continent of Atlanta. They came into contact with ancient ruins, now turned into dungeons, hunted monsters, ran away from powerful beasts, and were constantly chased down by giant demonic insects.

Slowly, and together, they made it really far, only a thousand and some hundred more kilometers before reaching the closest town that belonged to the Kingdom of Elves, Agartha.

"We're almost making it, Lara..." Luck sighed.

"Yeah... After so long..." Lara said, resting over a large tree root protruding out of the forest floor.

The two were so tired and exhausted from having used all their energy that they simply sat down and relaxed for once.

Their eyes... filled with hope.

Yet that hope was shattered once the ground below them trembled and opened.

RUMBLE!

And a being stronger than anything they had faced before appeared in front of them...

"This is as far as you go, heroes~"

Chapter 785 Sacrifice

"Maybe in a few more days we can get there... Hahhh... We'll sure do, Luck." Lara sighed with a hopeful smile. "We'll finally meet new people and make new friends! It's going to be so exciting!"

"Hahah, you're more pumped up than usual." Luck sighed. "I guess... I guess you might be right. I hope everything... goes alright."

"Yeah! Think positively! Now, let's eat some grilled fish-"

RUMBLE!

The forest floor below them crumbled apart and opened into countless cracks. Once more, Lara's spirits were unable to predict this out of the blue. Countless insectoid demonic beasts surged from within, Lara and Luck panicking.

TRUUUUUMMM...!

"W-Wait, again?! So soon?!" Asked Luck in horror. "D-Dammit! We need to get out of here, Lara! We aren't strong enough to defeat these things yet!"

"Ungh... Hahhh... I-I'm so tired..." Lara muttered. "L-Luck...!"

"Eh?!" Luck quickly realized Lara wasn't the only one tired.

His own body was also very exhausted. However, was this just provoked by walking several kilometers without taking a break? No... It was not just that, something else was draining away their Mana and Energy constantly, since they entered this forest.

However, his keen senses barely realized about this now, when the origin of this draining power emerged before them. A gigantic, humanoid insect in the shape of a large black beetle with a feminine, curvilinear body appeared.

Only her face seemed slightly humanoid, while the rest of her body, aside from its shape, was covered on a hard black exoskeleton that resembled an incredibly hard metallic armor, wings behind her allowed her to easily fly in midair.

Her sharp red eyes glanced down at the two kids, delighted to see them. From within her chest, a mysterious red jewel imbued her body with tremendous power, and allowed her to absorb energy from her foes... accompanied with an army of giant insects, she looked menacing, and all-powerful, like nothing the two had faced before.

This was the first time they faced a Demonic Insect Beast that could actually speak and act with intelligence.

"This is as far as you go, heroes~" She laughed. "I've been chasing you around for a long while now. Since you entered this region in specific... And finally, I can capture you two. Lady Arachne will reward me so handsomely! Uwahh~ I can't wait!"

"W-What? Who are you?!" Luck roared, his transformation quickly triggering as he exuded a golden aura of divine, beastly power.

"Oh, my bad! Sorry for not introducing myself beforehand, fufufu." Laughed the insectoid woman. "My name is Asarashk, and I serve my Lady, the Demon Lord of Gluttony, Arachne, as her loyal maid servant and guard! But now, she has finally given me the chance to prove myself as someone competent, you two better not run away, okay, beautiful children~?" Her smile grew more wicked as her power exuded a demonic aura, constantly sucking away the two's mana and vitality.

This seemed to be working specifically well against Lara, who fell to her knees while gasping for air. The worse part was that she was able to sense how all the Spirits around her were instantly dying due to the Miasma, each of their deaths was like a painful bullet piercing her chest.

"Ugh... Hahhh... L-Luck... I can't move..." Lara cried, tears flowing from her eyes like rivers.

"Lara!" Luck cried, quickly attempting to grab her and run away, having no time to listen to the Demon in front of them.

However, the very moment Luck attempted to grab her, the Demoness acted, a gigantic slash of darkness reached the two of them, exploding.

SLAAASH! BOOOOM!!!

Darkness spread everywhere, as Luck and Lara were thrown away savagely. Luck coughed blood, his entire body was covered on wounds. Lara wasn't any better.

"I told you that you should not move." The Demoness said with an angered expression. "Lady Arachne only want you alive, it doesn't mean she doesn't want you with limbs or something, you know~?" She slowly walked towards the two, extending her long bug like arm and grabbing Lara by her horns.

"Uugh... L-Let me go!" Lara cried.

"Hehehe, so cute... You're such an adorable little tiny girl." The Demoness giggled, over three meters of height, she was really tall.

"LET GO OF HER!!!" Luck screamed, rushing towards the Demoness with all his strength. His golden aura transforming into a gigantic, roaring golden tiger which helped him attack her.

"ROOOOAAARRRR!!!"

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLAAASH!

Several claw attacks reached her, but she carelessly swung her arms against Luck's attacks, easily intercept each one of them and blocking them perfectly.

"So weak! You're too weak, boy. Your attempts are cute, though." She smiled, kicking Luck in the stomach with all her strength.

CLAAAAASSSHH!!!

"Ugh...?!" Luck screamed in pain, vomiting a mouthful of blood and being thrown away, clashing over a tree and shattering it into two pieces.

BAAAAAMM...!

"Fufu, such a cute attempt." She laughed. "Oh well, dear, you two are coming anyways..." She smiled.

However, she suddenly noticed something as she gave Lara a last glance. Her entire body was overflowing with an energy she had never sensed before, golden tattoos glowing over her body, as her eyes turned as bright as stars.

"L-Luck... Y-You...! I won't forgive you! I WON'T!" Lara screamed.

"Huh?!!" The demoness was shocked. "What the...?!"

Suddenly, pure Spiritual Power surged from within Lara's body, like an ocean of golden light, encompassing everything and everywhere.

FLAAAAAASSSSH!

"UGRAAAAAGGH...!" The light was so strong the Demoness was forced to step back, as Lara managed to escape her grasp and run towards Luck.

"Luck! Please... live!" Lara cried, pointing her hands at the unconscious Luck as she channeled the power of the River Spirits, and generated an enormous wave of water, throwing Luck into the nearby river!

SPLAAAAASH!

"W-What is she doing?! Catch her at once!" The Demoness roared, ignoring that Luck was thrown down the river, as she went to catch Lara.

Too exhausted after using that power, Lara fell unconscious right after that moment, and was swiftly captured by the Demons.

Chapter 786 Found By The Heroes

"Luck! You need to live!"

Those words constantly resonated within Luck's mind as he fell unconscious. The River Spirits did everything they could to bring him to safety, as he was carried down the river stream, far away from where he was before.

"L-Lara..."

The memories of what happened there constantly tormented his mind, like nightmares. He saw Lara being grabbed by that terrifying demon and dragged away from him.

"N-No..."

He saw Lara's face, filled with horror and fear, as he continued crawling towards her, yet his body felt so heavy, he couldn't move... Countless insects began emerging from the ground, biting his legs and arms.

"S-Stop... Lara... Lara, don't go!"

He saw her being consumed by insects, her entire body being torn to pieces bite through bite, as that Demon smiled back at him, her mandibles grossly opening wide, devouring Lara's entire face...

"Fufufu~ You're too weak..."

"LAAAAAAAAAAA!!!"

Screaming his lungs out, Luck finally woke up, finding himself inside a tent, gasping for air. His entire body was patched up, and he was sweating a lot. He felt agitated, constantly gasping for air, as if he had ran a marathon.

It was all a nightmare, yet part of such a nightmare had really happened. Just merely remembering that made him immediately begin to cry, without even questioning anything around him yet.

"L-Lara... Lara... I was too weak... I was... so pathetic... No... Nooo..."

He continued crying, his tears covering the clothes covering his legs.

"Crying now, huh?"

Suddenly, the voice of the Golden Tiger echoed behind Luck.

"You know that you should first go thank the people that saved your life, right? That brat threw you down a river. I know it was for your survival, but if you weren't rescued, you would had drowned..."

"Ah!" Luck snapped back to reality, as he finally realized his surroundings, and the smell of food being cooked outside.

Suddenly, two people walked towards his tent, slightly opening it and greeting him.

It was two girls, one with long, red hair, beautiful emerald eyes, and long elven ears. Although she looked much like Lara in terms of beauty and innocence, this girl held a powerful aura, like nothing he had ever sensed before.

And at her side, a brown-skinned girl walked in, blue eyes and long, silvery-white hair. She was just as gorgeous as the girl at her side... Yet Luck couldn't react to their beauty alone, as this girl also held an incredible aura.

"Are you alright? You're finally awake, huh?" Sighed the red-haired girl. "Name's Sylph by the way. You're Luck, right?"

"My name Aquarina!" The silver-haired girl said. "It is nice to meet you as well. But why did you just scream so loudly? Had a nightmare?"

"Sylph... Aquarina?" Luck asked. "I-I've never seen you in my entire life, how come you know my name?!"

"Well, we are... heroes like you." Sylph said. "Ugh, well, more like just those blessed by the gods. I honestly dislike the term "heroes"..."

"Thanks to Sylphy's eyes, we were able to find you." Said Aquarina with a smile. "It's a bit awkward... But I'm relieved you're healthy and safe."

"A-Ah... Y-You're... the people that Lara has been searching for this entire time!" Luck was shocked. "I-I can't believe it... Ah! W-We need to go look for Lara! We can't waste any more time! If we can't get to her she'll... she'll die!"

"She's still alive, and fine. She's currently in a unconscious state." Sylph sighed. "Calm down and relax first, Luck. You're agitated. You almost died."

"B-But we need to... Agh! Get away from me!" Luck screamed, quickly attempting to push his way out of the tent.

However, as he tried to force Sylphy to move by trying to push her with his arms, he... simply couldn't.

"E-Eh?" Luck realized no matter how much he tried to push her, the girl was like a mountain! His hands tightly grasped her shoulders yet... it was impossible.

"I told you to calm down." Sylphy sighed. "Also stop touching me, pervert."

SLAP!

Aquarina gave Luck a slap in the face before Sylphy said another word, the boy fell into the floor, shocked. That slap hurt more than any punch he had ever received in the face.

"Hey! Don't touch my girlfriend without her permission!" Aquarina angrily said, crossing her arms. "We saved your life, be more polite, okay?"

"E-Ehhh?" Luck felt shocked. "I-I'm sorry... I didn't meant to creep you out... Ugh."

Before Luck could even speak any more, he fell unconscious due to the slap...

"Aquarina you went a bit too far, didn't you?!" Sylphy sighed, facepalming. "Gosh, this girl..."

"A-Ahahaha... Maybe I went a bit overboard? But Zack takes any slap or punch so easily..." Aquarina sighed, feeling a bit guilty.

"The boy's clearly a lot weaker than Zack." Sylphy said. "He's... rather weak, in fact. We'll need to help him grow stronger while we go rescue Lara. Well, for now, he better wake up. Alice, can you help?"

"Sure!" Alice appeared at Sylphy's side, her Light Spirit, as she imbued Mana into her and both combined their magic together into a powerful healing light covering Luck's body.

"[Vitality Restoration]"

FLAAAASH!

The brilliant light restored Luck's vitality in a second, and quickly made him feel better and more relieved, as he slowly opened his eyes again.

"Uwaaaah!" He cried in fear, running away from the two girls to the other end of the tent... "D-Don't hurt me!"

Sylphy sighed, glaring at Aquarina.

"What did I told you? Your first impressions are always quite terrible, Aquarina." Sylphy said with all honesty.

"Ugh... Okay, I'm sorry for hitting you so hard..." Aquarina sighed, crossing her arms. "We should be friends, actually. So... Um, I started a bit bad there. I promise I won't hit you again unless you deserve it." She smiled gently.

Yet the only thing Luck could see in this girl now was a terrifying, merciless monster that knocked him out with a single slap in the face... These two girls were real monsters.

"O-Okay... Lets... get along." He sighed, recalling how Lara often told him to be nicer with people.

Chapter 787 Spying On The Enemy

(Sylphy's POV)

After our battle against the Insect Demonic Beasts, we chased after Luck because Lara had completely disappeared, teleporting from one place to another, much farther away from we were currently.

And because in that moment, Luck was at the verge of death, being thrown down a river, covered in several wounds, and constantly hitting against several rocks all the time!

Thanks to uncle Arafunn's Familiar, Tempest, who was a super-fast flier, we managed to get to Luck and rescue him. Almost dead, Aquarina gently took all the water inside of his lungs and then we healed, patched him up, and set a tent to take care of him until the next morning.

The boy was sure hardy, and he was also quite cute looking. He was our age, but had a long, fluffy brown wolf tail, big wolf ears, long black nails, and brown fur growing around his arms and legs, and a bit on his chest.

Honestly, Anima was always rather cute, but they were rare on our city, so seeing one like this made me surprised. I have to admit that I took a few minutes just caressing his fluffy tail while he slept... Until Aquarina discovered me and dragged me away.

Maybe this is why I didn't feel so angry when he tried to push me away and touched my shoulders a lot... Though Aquarina had to hit him just when he woke up, she was a real brute with anybody other than me and the other girls (except Celeste).

Anyways, we were quite worried about Lara herself, but by using my Compass Eyes, I was able to channel my eyes and senses into her direction, finding myself in the middle of a hive filled with bugs! She was being wrapped around silk and left to rest at the side of an enormous throne, where a gigantic half-spider woman was sitting there, maliciously... sleeping.

I guess that's Arachne, huh? She was just taking a normal nap. I wish I could just teleport there and blow her into pieces while she was taking her tiny, cute nap... But anyways, using this knowledge, I can already tell they're not planning to kill her, the silk Lara was wrapped around helped her sleep without the need for food or water, and it seemed that Arachne might have plans for her.

She most likely plans to use her as some sort of bargaining chip against us. If she'll keep sending swarms towards us endlessly, the best thing we can do is help Luck recover and grow stronger while we are on our way to her hideout and crush her once and for all...

Oh, and I overheard this little conversation before my eyes could no longer gaze there.

"You have done well, Asarashk. Although you didn't bring the boy, bringing the girl is already a good enough result." The voice who I assumed was Arachne spoke, who have woken up from her meditation.

"Indeed, I deeply apologize for that! I promise I'll bring him as well, at all costs." The one named Asarashk spoke. "My queen, will you give me a reward as you promised?"

"A reward you say?" Arachne wondered. "Don't get too cocky..."

"Eeep! I-I didn't meant to be greedy or something..." Asarashk sighed. "J-Just anything... to show appreciate would do."

"Hmmm, appreciation?" Arachne wondered. "What are you even talking about?"

"Ugh..." Asarashk sighed, feeling hopeless. "N-Never mind, milady..."

"No, where are you going? Speak your mind." Arachne said. "You're the one I trust the most around here. So speak, what do you want?"

"A-Ahahah... W-Well..." Asarashk sounded... embarrassed? "How about we go on a date together?"

"Date? What's that?" Arachne wondered. I think you should take a look at

"A-Ah... It is when two people share... an intimate moment together and have fun." Asarashk smiled.

"Fun? In such times when I'm trying to conquer the continent?" Sighed Arachne. "Asarashk, you're too childish."

"J-Just forget about it..." Asarashk sighed.

I feel like the one that captured Lara might never have her love reciprocated against... Arachne sounds rather detached, emotionless, and too focused on her horrible goal of filling the entire continent with destruction.

Maybe if things could be different... Perhaps if she wasn't so driven by revenge. But can I even change her? After all the horrible things she had done, after the innocent lives she has taken. Can she change like Celeste did?

Is there any way for me to even change such a being? Even if I beat her... I doubt it'll come out nicely. My father has spoken to me about this sometimes.

Of people that simply cannot change, that are so self-centered on their own malicious motives that nothing can make them change, and if they show some sort of change, it'll be a fake one.

They wait until you lower your guard and backstab you at the end. Aquarina and my friends are all ready to slay Arachne and all her lackeys, I guess. Maybe I should just stop doubting for now and focus.

After apologizing with Luck, we finally had some time to relax with him and talk at long last. And as we introduced him to the rest of our group, including my parents, he slowly got a bit better at talking.

"My village... was destroyed by those bug monsters. Over half of the villagers ended getting killed..." Luck sighed. "And my brother... my brother didn't make it either."

"I-I see..." I sighed, clenching my fists.

"Lara's village too..." He said. "Those damn bugs... Why do they do this? What will they gain with having us? And killing so many innocents that aren't even related... My brother... He didn't deserve to go like that. I... if I could, I would have taken his place."

"Y-You can't just say that, come on man." Zack sighed.

"But it's true... What have I even accomplished in my entire life other than slaying a single boar?" He cried. "Compared to him, I lack the bravery... and I lack the resolve. I lack... so much. And I'm so weak and pathetic... What can I even do? What... can I even change?"

Luck's face seemed filled with despair.

And all of his suffering originated from her, Arachne...

Is this her way of revenge? To make us, the unwilling heroes go through the same traumatic experiences she did.

Just like some say... it is an endless cycle of hatred and vengeance.

Chapter 788 Breaking The Cycle

"Compared to my brother, I lack the bravery... and I lack the resolve. I lack... so much. And I'm so weak and pathetic... What can I even do? What... can I even change?"

Luck's face seemed filled with despair.

And all of his suffering originated from her, Arachne...

Is this her way of revenge? To make us, the unwilling heroes go through the same traumatic experiences she did, isn't it?

Just like some say... it is an endless cycle of hatred and vengeance.

Violence leads to more violence, endlessly.

Yet every time I try to think of a way to stop this cycle, I can't think of anything other than... beating the enemy in front of me.

What else can we do when they're never willing to change, at all?

It feels like it is all hopeless.

Even if I wasn't reborn as Sylph but as someone more normal, a commoner.

Maybe I would have still gone through the same horrible things anyways.

"What can you change, you ask?" My father suddenly spoke. "Well, what you can change is yourself. Grow stronger, become a better version of yourself. And with that strength you've cultivated, save Lara. Stop Arachne. And save... all those people that in the future will die by her hands."

"Sometimes it is not about stopping a cycle or changing the great scheme of things..." Shade sighed. "I learned that after so many battles and wars... Sometimes, it is all about saving a few around you. As long as you can prevent a disaster, as long as you can save the lives that would have been otherwise taken away by someone that couldn't change, you're already changing fate, you're changing the world."

"Maybe violence breeds more violence." Arafunn sighed. "But if we don't employ violence against those that do, how come we can ourselves defend against them? When there's no other choice... We have to fight for our survival, and the survival of those we love and care about. That's something natural, our instinct."

"Yeah, like they said." Aquarina nodded. "Cheer up, Luck. We'll help you grow stronger as we make our way to her. Arachne is strong, but not invincible."

"Although her rampage, and everything she has done was provoked... by the actions of our kin, the innocent lives she's taking away have nothing to do with her revenge anymore." My father said. "Defeating her is not continuing a cycle, but stopping the cycle altogether."

"I guess..." Luck sighed.

"Yeah." I nodded, quickly realizing that I have been thinking just dumb things. "Let's have a bit more resolve, okay? Together, we can do it, Luck. Let's defeat her not to avenge those that fell due to her actions, but to stop her destruction from reaching even more innocent lives."

"...Maybe." Luck sighed. "If you put it in that perspective, it does makes a bit more sense than just senseless revenge... I want to put an end to the cycle too."

"Ugh, anyways!" Said Celeste. "Can't we just get along for now, beast boy? Nice to meet cha. We are demons by the by! Ah, well, I'm half human half demon, but Celica and Mist here are pure breed demons!"

"N-Nice to meet you..." Mist said. "We are not all bad... Much like humans, elves, or other people, it doesn't have to do with our race... Some people is simply just... different, and decide to do bad things."

"Yeah... I hope we can get along, Luck." Celica smiled. "Ah, this is mister teddy! He's happy to see you too."

"O-Oh... Wait, you girls are demons?" Luck was surprised. "I-I thought... demons were like monsters?" I think you should take a look at

"Some of us are." Furoh showed up, shapeshifting into a variety of monster forms. "But we are all very much intelligent. Some of us though... are quite the evil barbarians, that just don't deserve to live. Much like human brigands, or elven assassins, or any combination between races and bad things!"

"W-Woah, you can shapeshift?!" Asked Luck in shock. "I-I didn't knew there were so many different types of people out there..."

"Hahaha, yeah, we are all different, but also what makes us similar is that we are all people." I smiled. "This is why I'm making up a team different than what the gods intend by including my beloved friends here. They're all so lovely. And there's even more lovely people back in our town."

Luck's eyes opened wide, as if he was finally realizing things...

"A world... where we can live together without conflicts... I wonder if it could be possible?" He wondered.

"Well, we need to set an example ourselves." I said. "A part composed of heroes, demons, and everything else in between... How about it? We'll constantly help others, and get along, and show people that we can change, and that we are different. That we don't have to constantly chase revenge, and that not everything the gods say is the real truth either."

"Sylph..." Luck sighed, and started laughing a bit. "Hahaha..."

"Hey, why are you laughing at her ideals?!" Aquarina angrily said. "They're beautiful!"

"I'm not laughing at her I just... was reminded of Lara." Luck smiled. "She would... just pretty much agree with you if she was here. She would be so happy, smiling and giggling... Sylph, you're pretty similar to Lara."

"Me? Is that a compliment?" I wondered. "Well, I'll take it as one, heh."

"More or less, hahaha." Luck laughed. "I wish she was here..."

"We'll go find her boy." My father said. "For now, let's get down our breakfast, we've got a lot to do now. Our journey to her hideout might take us a few more days, in the way, we'll hunt monsters and help you grow decently strong."

"Thank you, Sir Allan." Said Luck.

"Hahaha, just call me uncle or something." Laughed my father.

"Me too, no need for honorifics." Shade smiled.

"Same. You can call me auntie." Arafunn giggled.

"Huh? You're a girl?" Asked Luck.

"Hahaha, I'm joking! Do I look like one to you?" Arafunn giggled.

"W-Well, it is hard to tell... Are all elves this beautiful?" Luck asked.

"Oh my, a young boy praising my beauty..." Uncle Arafunn blushed a bit. "Don't get ahead of yourself."

"E-Eh? Ah, did I said something wrong?" He wondered, which resulted in us all laughing a bit.

Luck ended being much more expressive than we thought.

Chapter 789 The Legacy Of The Previous Hero Of Wild Beasts

"S-Sorry about that..." Luck apologized as we were making our way across the plains. "I haven't even meet other people than Anima before, so this is all new to me. I didn't knew male elves could look like females so much."

"Well, they vary, some do have quite the rough appearances." I said. "Uncle Arafunn is just especially handsome. I think its because he uses beauty creams- Anyways, on a more important note, what powers do you have? You're the hero of wild beasts, right? Who's your patron deity?"

"Patron deity?" He wondered, feeling confused.

"Like the god or goddess that blessed you." Aquarina explained.

"These two have one after all." Zack said. "So do you have one too? If not then you're a faker."

"I have one!" Luck said angrily. "I'm not a faker... And... Uuuh, what was her name? The Goddess of Nature."

"Oh, Rhea!" Said my father. "I see. I can tell why you're the Hero of Wild Beasts now. Rhea is the Goddess of Nature, Life, and Maternity, this also includes all animals. Someone blessed by her probably has Beast Magic."

"Like Elise..." Shade sighed, slightly sorrowfully.

"Elise?" I asked. "Who was she?"

"She was known as the Heroine of Beasts and Creatures." My father explained. "She... died before we could defeat the Demon King, tragically."

"Sigh... Poor Elise." Arafunn sighed. "She... I bet she's in peace now, wherever her soul is."

"Eh? My predecessor died?" Asked Luck, feeling shocked. "W-What... happened to her?"

"Before we talk about how she died, why don't we talk about how she was?" Sighed Shade. "Elise was... a wonderfully endearing girl. She was one of our youngest too. She grew in a forest in Atlanta, protected by Divine Beasts named the Beast Kings. She was a friend with nature and animals and could summon their strength and power into battle wonderfully."

"She was a free-spirited soul." My father sighed with a smile. "But I think your mom and Nepheline know her better. After all, they used to be good friends. Your mother in specific was always taking care of her, she was like... her little sister."

"Mom..." I sighed, imagining her losing someone so important... It must have been horrible.

"She was able to use special Beast Magic. Can you do that?" Wondered my father.

"Was she able to transform?" Luck asked.

"Oh, no, she wasn't." Said Shade. "Though her physical attacks could merge very well with her magic, and she had magic that allowed her to be covered on armor made of Beast Spirits. But she could not transform herself, because well, she was still a human, there must have been some limitations that she couldn't reach."

"You can, Luck?" Asked uncle Arafunn. "I've heard that very strong Anima can transform into Beast Forms depending on their tribe."

"I can... Since I awakened my magic." Luck nodded. "I remember I was in a weird dream where I meet Rhea, and the Divine Beast Kings. My magic is about channeling their power and transforming my body, I gain several times my original power. But even then, unless they had very weak heads like the giant mantises, my attacks still couldn't pierce through the hard exoskeleton of those giant spiders..."

"Hmmm..." Shade nodded. "Certainly, it feels like your power is more orientated into physical fighting rather than animal taming and beast magic compared to Elise. You're a fighter-type rather than a magician-type."

"And a really strong one!" My father said. "Elise had difficulties channeling the Divine Beasts powers at the beginning, but you can use them right away?! It took her years to do what you did immediately!"

"Maybe this magic is much better and more compatible with Anima..." Said Shade. "I am still surprised that they have chosen more than just humans and elves in this case. Maybe the Gods are becoming more open-minded and searching for those most compatible, regarding of race this time." "I think you should take a look at

"If that were the case, Aquarina wouldn't had become the heroine of water, no? They would had chosen a mermaid girl." My father laughed.

"And Sylph wouldn't had been chosen either then, maybe they would had picked an angel." Shade teased my father.

"H-Hey!" My father got a bit angry.

"Hahaha, it doesn't matter." I shrugged. "Though uncle Shade is a bit right. Some magics and blessings are much more compatible depending in the race. Luck seems to have the most compatible around us."

"Hmmm... Elise..." Suddenly, the small spiritual entity resembling a golden tiger showed up behind Luck.

"Uwaah! A spirit?!" Asked Zack.

"Is this yours?!" Celeste laughed. "It's so HUGE!"

"Ah... Y-Yeah, he's the Golden Tiger." Said Luck. "Did you had to scare everyone?"

"I remember her..." The Golden Tiger sighed. "Elise was such a good girl, compared to this brat."

"Hey!" Luck got angry. "Well, do you know her well?"

"Of course..." The Tiger smiled. "She was my master until her last breath... She was a gentle and free-spirited girl, a bit naughty sometimes, but very good... I miss her."

My father, Shade, and Arafunn lowered their gazes, remaining in silence.

"I miss her too..." My father sighed.

"We miss every person precious to us that passed away..." Shade.

"Hell, I still can remember her so vividly, that childish smile and her playful nature..." Arafunn sighed.

"Let me tell you that you're not the only one missing her, mister tiger."

"Yeah... I do remember all of you too when you were much younger too!" The tiger said. "Allan, was it? You were such an annoying damn brat! You were worse than Luck! And Shade? You were such an edgy, gloomy guy! Nobody could even get closer to you! And the elf man... Nah, you're pretty much still the same."

"H-Hey don't just say that!" My father felt embarrassed. "Damn cat!"

"I was certainly... quite unapproachable before." Shade sighed.

"If there's nothing wrong then there's no need to change." Arafunn shrugged.

"Well, I wonder if I could use more magic than just my transformation magic..." Luck sighed.

"Certainly you can, but you'll need to first grow stronger." Said the Tiger. "And- Oh, look, it seems we've reached a nice place for you to train a bit."

As we traveled across the skies, we came across a large Haunt, a special place filled with Miasma and Monsters.

Chapter 790 A New Gift For Luck

As we arrived at a new hunting grounds, I decided to take a look at one of my Skills...

[Hero Seed: Lv1]

A Developing power within your very being. A Hero Seed will enhance your talent and learning speed of all kinds of Magic types and Martial Art types by +500%.

Your charm over people as a hero is great, and you have an easier time influencing people and growing friendlier to them through the natural charisma of a hero, Charisma increases by +500%.

Those who you create bonds with will receive a special benefit in their growth, as they will be catalogued as Hero's Companions.

Additionally, you can sometimes awaken the [Heroic Potential] of a target with talent, allowing them to learn new innate abilities, magic, or skills.

Level Bonus (1): Increases All Stats of the Hero's Companions by +50%. Those who you've awakened their [Heroic Potential] can share a part of their strength with you, but it will only have 25% of its original power.

This Skill in specific could help me awaken the Heroic Potential of my friends, except Luck and Aquarina because they're already Heroes. Though, I wonder how do I even use this? At the end, as we made our way to the Haunt in front of us named "Wild Beast Savannah", I talked with Alice about this.

"Oh you can use them like System Seeds, though to awaken their talents, you need to spend EXP." Said Alice. "The greater the talents, the more EXP they might require. Also, you can specify which talents you want to awaken, selecting what's best for someone based on their strengths."

"I see..." I nodded. "It is a pity it doesn't work with those that already have the Hero Seed."

"Yeah, a pity, but at the very least you can use me, the System for that." Alice said. "I know it might be a bit unfair to the rest of your friends, but giving a System Seed to Luck, who doesn't have much time to grow stronger would be ideal."

"Ugh... I guess you're right, it is worth the investment." I nodded, as I talked with her through telepathy as always. "I'll create it for now..."

Ding!

[You have exchanged 900.000 EXP!]

[You have created a [System Seed]!]

With the System Seed inside of my Inventory, we waited until we reached down into the Savannah and then I asked Luck some time alone... I explained to Aquarina what I wanted to do beforehand so she wouldn't get suspicious.

"So what do you need?" He wondered. "Is your girlfriend not going to get angry if we're together here?"

"Don't worry." I smiled. "I'm here to give you something special, take this." I gave him the System Seed.

"A... metal cube?" He wondered.

"It is named System Seed..." I explained him everything the same way I did with Aquarina.

"A special power? Woah... So it is like a unique magic of yours. It can help me grow stronger?" He asked.

"Yeah, I wanted to give it to you as a little help." I nodded. "Aquarina also has one."

Luck seemed a bit prideful though and hesitated a bit at the beginning.

"Getting a power so unfairly... That will help me grow stronger even more easily?" He sighed. "Well, after struggling for so long, it does feels nice..."

"Luck, instead of thinking that way, why don't you consider all the lives you'll be able to help if you become stronger faster?" I asked. "About Lara, who you need to protect now? This is not some pact with the devil either, you don't lose anything at all, nor I will suck away your power either... But if you don't trust me, then that's fine." I smiled.

"N-No, sorry for doubting..." Luck sighed. "You've saved my lives. I have no right to doubt you now... In our tribe, those that save our lives are precious family to us right away. You and everyone else... are my family, even if little time has passed since our meeting. Thanks, Sylphy. I'll take this power. It is not so different from my magic already, which was given by a goddess at the end... I'll use this power and make a difference."

"Good! That's the spirit!" I nodded.

FLAAASH!

The System Seed instantly melded into his body, blue circuits emerged across his body, as his powers were being decompressed and converged together into his soul. Everything came together as one.

Ding!! I think you should take a look at

[Luck] has acquired a System.]

[He has developed new Skills and a Job Class.]

<System>

[System Owner]: [Luck Blacktail]

[Magic Circle]: [Tier 1: Rank 8: Beast Rune Magic Circle]

[Physique]: [Tier 2: Rank 1: Apprentice Beast King Physique]

[Level]: [0/20]

[EXP]: [0/5000]

[Class]: [Wild Fighter]

[Subclass]: [Creature Magician]

[HP]: [1550/1550]

[MP]: [4240/4240]

[Strength]: [1250]

[Defense]: [530]

[Magic]: [650]

[Resistance]: [550]

[Agility]: [1320]

[Luck]: [1000]

[Charm]: [700]

[Skills]: [Anima: Black Wolf Tribe: Lv1] [Divine Protection: Lv1] [Hunting: Lv1] [Keen Beast Senses: Lv1]
[Butchering: Lv1] [Forager: Lv1] [Heavenly Divine Beast King: Lv1] [Divine Beast Transformation: Lv1]
[Divine Beast Magic: Lv1] [Divine Beast Spirit Summon: Lv1] [Divine Beast Aura: Lv1]

[Divine Protections]: [Rhea, The Chief Goddess of Nature, Life, and Maternity] [Golden Tiger, Divine
Beast King of Light] [??? (Yet to Awaken)] [??? (Yet to Awaken)] [??? (Yet to Awaken)]

Comparing his Stats to Aquarina and... Well, they're really low, he's quite the weak boy, isn't he? But his potential is immense, already with a lot of powerful Skills right away. He also has three other Divine Protections he has yet to awaken! What with this?

I've never seen divine protection that need "awakening" to show up, this is new. It might be related to his way of growing stronger... Also his magic circle is very unique, imbued with "beast runes" I had never seen before.

The Hero of Wild Beasts' magic and skills are certainly very unique...

"Woah... I feel so different, it is like... It feels like I have finally discovered my power." Luck was amazed.
"Thanks a lot, Sylph!" He hugged me tightly.

"A-Ah, glad I could help!" I said. "Now- Eep!"

And then, I noticed Aquarina's deadly glare coming from behind a tree, and I quickly threw Luck away.

"O-Okay, we're over here! Let's go hunt monsters!"

"Eh? A-Alright..."