

A Glitched 941

Chapter 941 The Truth Of Mist's Mother

Because Mist didn't mind us hearing about her mother, or maybe because she wanted us to learn about her, Mary decided to talk about her while we were having our feast. Everyone was quite interested, honestly.

"I only meet her briefly, just... less than a week, and what I know about her isn't that much..." Mary said. "But every parent I meet that lends me their child will always leave a mark on me, someone I'll never forgive, someone I promised I'll protect their children..."

"I admire how hard you've worked to protect those children, even in that town that despised demons so much." My mother said. "I'm relieved we were able to bring you out of that place... You did well, all those years."

"Thank you, Lady Faylen." Mary smiled. "But I couldn't had done it without the help of many good people there as well. Not everyone was bad... I have fond memories of good-hearted people as well. But well, let's go back to the topic. Mist's mother... Well, it was in the morning of a Friday that I meet her."

"She was covered in blood, with a spear piercing her stomach." Mary said, as Mist recoiled. "She was... most likely a survivor from the war, someone that escaped the battle that the Demon Army had brought to the Human Continent... She had you in her arms, when you were so tiny and adorable, well, you still are..."

"Mother..." Mist sighed, gripping her fists. "W-What happened afterwards?!"

"We managed to sneak her inside the city with Lucia and the help of some guards that pitied us." Mary said. "In there, we did our best to heal her wound, barely managing to stop the bleeding... Yet, the damage was too severe, she should had died in that moment, yet she was filled with willpower. I remember her saying "There's no way I'm leaving my daughter alone and starving. Even if it means I

have to hold on the pain, I'll feed her until my very last breath.", resisting her pain, she feed you milk for the next four days."

Mist looked paralyzed as she heard that, her hands beginning to tremble, her golden eyes beginning to form tears, as Zack hugged her shoulders.

"She... She resisted those four years." Said Mary. "She told me that her tribe... was very small and poor, and that she enlisted into the war because she needed the money for her family. She didn't knew that they would go all the way to Gallatea, that it was something nobody informed them about..."

"That Demon King... was sure an asshole." Nepheline sighed. "He really thought that sending a bunch of innocent people to war would somehow help him... Tch..."

"Well, it's not like we did anything different. Our factions, did as well, sent many innocents to die." Faylen admitted. "Nobody is absent of these sins..."

"..." Nepheline remained in silence after hearing that.

"She... looked a lot like you, Mist, dear." Mary smiled. "Though, she had a small body as well, but her arms were strong, and she had large black nails, and a few black strands around her white hair. Her eyes were black, and she said that your golden eyes were from your father, her husband, a hunter that had died a few months before she went to war..."

"Dad..." Mist muttered, as she started crying silently.lights

"She really loved you, and even amidst the pain, which couldn't be relieved by our weak magic, nor our cheap pain killers or potions, she always sang a lullaby while holding you in her arms..." Mary smiled faintly. "She sang the lullaby that mothers would sing to their children, in the language of her tribe. I couldn't really understand it, but I could feel that it was something regarding how the sun will always set, and how the sun will always come back every sunset and every morning, it probably meant something about moving on, and leaving behind grievances and sorrows, because every day, the world will keep moving forward, and it will not wait for you to grieve and cry, that you need to be stronger... and keep moving forward, with your head held high."

Mist seemed to hum a melody; a melody imprinted into her mind that she heard those four days, her tears kept flowing from her golden eyes.

"She told me that her tribe... lived near the Black Withered Forest, to the southwest of the Purple River." Mary said. "I don't remember where it is, as I never visited such places when I was in the Demon Continent... But that's all the clues I have."

"The Black Withered Forest, to the southwest of the Purple River..." Mist said silently, making sure to remember that.

"And..." Mary was beginning to cry now, recalling those times. "In that fifth day, when I went to see how she was, and if she had improved at all, I found her smiling, hugging you while the two cuddled in the bed. You were sleeping so peacefully, that I didn't wanted to wake you up. But as the hours passed, and I heard no words from her at all, nor I saw her opening her eyes... I touched her hand, feeling it very cold. She had passed away peacefully, hugging you, and with... a smile."

"Mom..." Mist continued crying, the more she heard this, the more she cried. "Mom... Sniff... MOM!" She couldn't help it, crying loudly, as Zack hugged her, letting her get it all out over his chest.

"It's fine... let it all out." Zack cried with her, hugging her.

Most of us remained in silence, while I started crying without realizing too, Aquarina patting my shoulders while caressing my head.

"I'm sorry... for not telling you about her earlier." Mary sighed. "I just didn't wanted to see you cry, dear..." Mary hugged Mist, as Zack gently let Mist hug Mary instead.

"It's fine..." Mist cried. "I wanted to know... it makes me both happy and sad... that she died peacefully..."

"The thing she wanted the most was for you to keep on living, moving forward without looking back." Said Mary. "So, let's do just that, alright? Slowly, one step at a time, let's keep moving to a better future."

"Nn..." Mist nodded, while still crying. "I'll do it for mom..."

Chapter 942 Never Lose Hope

The very next morning, we gathered with Mist after having breakfast, at my house's huge garden. She seemed slightly nervous, as she had called us here to talk with her about something important. Even Zack was not aware of what she wanted to talk about, although some of us could have an idea, it might have something to do with yesterday's talk.

"Thanks for coming..." Mist sighed. "Sorry if this was a bit selfish of me... I just wanted to call my friends here so we could have a talk, it was about what happened yesterday."

"Oh, sure, sure." I said. "What is it? Don't feel nervous and just talk your mind."

"It's just that... I've been thinking for a little while now..." Mist sighed. "I want to go to the Demon Continent..."

"Huh?!" Mostly everyone reacted the same way, except me.

Quite honestly, I was expecting this eventually, her curiosity wasn't going to settle down after learning about her mother just like that. She wanted to meet her kin.

"T-To the demon continent?" Asked Lara. "Isn't it a bit dangerous?"

"You want to go right now?" Luck asked. "I know that you want to meet your family but..."

"N-Not right now!" Mist said. "I mean, when we get older, and have much more... free time. I wanna go there with everyone... Is it too much to ask? I-I'll work hard, so I get strong enough to survive that place too... and I'll also save money too..."

"The Demon Continent..." Celica wondered. "I never thought about going there..."

"Me neither, honestly. I've been curious too but... This place is much better than what everyone describes that place to be." Celeste sighed. "Is this really okay with you?"

"I know about that, big sis, but I..." Mist muttered. "I want to see where dad was buried, and... I want to meet grandma, and grandpa... or an uncle, or an aunt... a cousin, something..."

"Mist..." Zack said, he could clearly tell how she felt.

"After spending that week over Sylphy's grandparents, I began to think that... what if I had a grandpa and a grandma too?" Mist sighed. "Maybe... they're out there, completely unaware that I'm alive! And... yeah, it is selfish, isn't it?"

"There's nothing selfish about wanting to meet your family." I smiled. "I'll gladly go with you! In fact, I was already planning to get there eventually."

"R-Really?" Mist got very happy.

"M-Me too!" Zack said. "I don't know why I was even hesitating, sorry! I'll go anywhere with you, Mist... even to the ends of the world! Let's go together to find your family!" Zack quickly held Mist's hands, giving her a kiss in her forehead.

"Zack!" Mist hugged him tightly, tears of happiness coming from her eyes. "Thank you... I knew I could count on you! I love you so much!"

"Well, it looks interesting, I'm going too!" Lara nodded, crossing her arms.

"Wait, what?! Ugh, I guess I'm going as well if she is." Luck said.

"I wouldn't mind going either!" Celica smiled.

"I can't just let my little sister go on her own, can't I?" Celeste giggled.

"I also wanted to explore that place one day, so sure!" Aquarina nodded. "You're also my dear friend, Mist."

"E-Everyone..." Mist started crying even more on Zack's arms.

Yet these tears weren't of sadness or regret but filled with joy.

"Thank you so much!"

This was the day we made a vow to go to the Demon Continent, explore it, find its secrets, and also, meet Mist's family, wherever they might be.

This was a little dream I also had, I wanted to go there and explore how people lived there, if I could be of some help to their daily lives, and to make up for what the previous heroes could have done wrong.

"It's fine, really, you didn't have to worry so much." I giggled. "Right?"

"I mean, yeah. It wasn't something so extreme to ask about." Aquarina nodded. "Ain't no way we were going to leave you behind, even less let you go into such a dangerous journey alone, right? You're our little healer and archer after all."

"I-I'm more than just a healer and an archer...!" Mist pouted a bit. "I'll train harder so I can punch harder too! One day... M-Maybe?" She looked at her small hands, wondering if her statement would hold any truth in the future.

"Your talents is what makes you stronger, you survived alone when we got separated in that Dungeon." I pointed out. "You've more than proven your strength, Mist! Be more confident. We'll still accompany you because... To be honest, I'm not even sure if I could survive alone in that place, based in how chaotic and dangerous it is said to be."

"R-Right..." Mist nodded. "I wonder how my tribe and other demon tribes manages to survive in such a harsh place."

"Sigh... Not ALL places are dangerous there. It is just a very wild continent. But there are cities, and even small nations." Said Beelzebub, sitting over my head. "Most tribes know how to live and survive in the wild, much like Amazonians. They're also born with abilities, the reason why all of us Demons are much tougher than your average human even without any training, we've been born and evolved to better survive our environment... With our unified strength, we've also been able to build safe spaces, where our societies can flourish to an extent..."

"I see..." I nodded. "What else do you know about it, Beelzy?"

"Don't call me Beelzy!" Beelzebub angrily said. "Ahem! And, well... the reason why a Demon King is needed to unify us completely is because within our society, it is ingrained that strength and dominance is what makes a good leader, even if they're tyrannical or insane... But I guess this is changing slowly, seeing how there are people from small nations coming to this country through ships. Maybe... maybe things are finally changing somehow."

"W-Well if I can... I also want to make a change, if possible. Even a little bit of help can make a big difference over time." Mist smiled sweetly.

"..." Beelzebub remained in silence, seemingly surprised by the young demon girl's hope in her eyes. "Yeah... Maybe."

He has really grown softer, hasn't he?

Chapter 943 Grinding

CLAAASH! CLAAASH! CLAAASH!

Zack and Luck's weapons clashed mightily against a furious Fishman King, which has been our foe for the last two weeks we've been coming here to intensively gain more and more EXP, everyone was already at their very last levels, except for me and Aquarina, obviously.

"RAAAH! [Divine Battle Axe Arts]: [Mountain Splitting Strike]!"

Zack's axes overflowed with his Mana and Aura, zapping with both electricity, and overflowing with windy gusts, clashing against the Fishman King's powerful trident, and shattering it in half!

CLAAASH!

"Gugoohhh...!"

The Fishman King groaned furiously as it saw its trident breaking, simply grabbing the other half and attacking Zack with both of them, only for Zack to appear right there, swinging his sharp claws, covered on a thin yet tough layer of gold metal, All Gaia's powers imbued into his hands!

"[Divine Claw Arts]: [Elemental Claw: Lightning & Fire Storm]!"

His two claws gained the element of Lightning and Fire, part of his newly acquired abilities and Skills, as he unleashed a devastating slashing attack by spiraling on midair, followed by multiple explosions of fire and lightning!

SLAAASH!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

"Grugaaah!"

The Fishman King stepped back in pain, its wound covering its body. However, its sharp wits quickly helped him get focused once more, several magic circles materializing in front of him, firing dozens of trident-shaped water projectiles against the two boys!

SPLASH! SPLASH! SPLASH!

However, before it could reach them, the water hit an invisible barrier of energy which suddenly gathered the spell's components into a sphere of clear oceanic water, Aquarina appearing right below.

"Your Water Magic is not going to work, big guy." She smiled. "Here, take it back! [Divine Poseidon's Trident]!"

The oceanic water she had gathered suddenly took the shape of a gigantic trident, imbued with her powers, it suddenly began to freeze thanks to her Familiar, Leviathan's Frost Magic!

FLAAASH!

The trident flew towards the giant Fishman King, piercing his left shoulder and pushing him down into the floor!

RUMBLE!

His body was so large the entire dungeon trembled upon falling into the ground. The Boss was not done yet, he wasn't going to let these brats kill him so easily anymore!

"GRUGAAAH!"

With a furious roar, lightning emerged from his claws, as he swung them against them, countless explosive storms of electricity constantly emerged, shaking the entire hall where everyone was located in!

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!

The entire group was forced to retreat back, as I quickly waved my hands the moment the Fishman King was trying to stand back up, several invisible spiderweb threads made him trip into the ground again, while others wrapped around his arms and legs, sticking him into the floor.

"[Spider Queen Threads]: [Invisible Threads]"

I had been practicing this Skill for a little while now, enough to give me the ability to temporarily restrain foes and make them occasionally trip into the ground and get stuck into the floor.

"UUGGHH...!"

However, the thread wasn't just that, as it was constantly draining the fishman king's energies, making him considerably weaker, this was the Spider Queen Thread's unique ability!

"RAAAH!"

The Fishman King suddenly opened his shark-like jaws, unleashing a beam of pure concentrated Mana towards us!

"Oh, so it's that variant." I laughed. "[Void Wielding Arts]: [Redirecting Void]!"

FLUOSH!

A black void emerged in front of me, shaping itself into a black hole that redirected the entire beam into another void I created right above the Fishman King, my current limit of two Void Portals at once was coming in handy at long last!

BOOOMMM!!!

"GRYEEEEH...!"

The whole explosion of energy injured the Fishman King severely, but it actually freed him from the spider threads, quickly making him go into a rampage, as all his Mana erupted into a boost to all his stats.

It wasn't the Berserk Variant's levels of stat buffs, but it was still rather dangerous if we were to take a hit of that undefended!

"Now!" I called the rest of my friends.

"Mister Jester! Mister Teddy!"

Celica called her two strongest golems, two enormous beings, one resembling a reptilian-like jester and another a huge bear appeared to the right and left side of the fishman king, pushing him back, using their almighty physical strength to tank his angered attacks.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

"Let's see...!" Celeste giggled. "[Demonic Shadow Abyss Spear Arts]: [One Hundred Abyssal Spear Storm]!"

Her single Cursed Spear, which possessed some sort of accursed soul and made it a living weapon, harnessed her powers, dividing into one hundred illusions of itself, materializing through the sheer amount of Mana she imbued into the weapon.

"I'll show you guys that I've grown stronger too!" Mist said. "[Celestial Light Bow Arts]: [Heavenly Arrow Rain]!"

Mist pointed her bow into the skies, as her arrows absorbed her magic and divided into almost a hundred arrows made of holy light, descending towards the Fishman King at the same time as Celeste's Spears!

"GRAAAH!"

The Fishman King fought desperately to not get hit, hitting both golems and pushing them away, only to provoke Lara and Celica to act once more.

"[Phantasmal Magic]: [Phantasmal Legion Fusion: Soul-Sealing Chains]!"

Celica combined several phantoms she had stored within her very soul, a new ability she possessed which she had discovered not so long ago, combining them into chains that wrapped around the Fishman King's soul, weakening him severely.

"[Spirit Scepter Arts]: [Spiritual Blazing Freezing Fire Storm]!"

Lara combined the powers of Fire Spirits, Ice Spirits, and Wind Spirits together into her Spirit Scepter Arts, unleashing a devastating blast of spiraling winds composed of freezing flames over the Fishman King, restraining him even further, while constantly damaging his defensive scales!

At the same time as that happened, the projectiles from Celeste and Mist landed on his body, piercing it hundreds of times, he perished rather quickly.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

"GRYYAAGGHH...!"

The Boss Monster finally collapsed into the ground, splattering the floor with blood and guts... EXP quickly flowed back into everyone, as I receive the notifications of most of my friends finally hitting Max Level!

Chapter 944 Everyone Rank Up!

Ding!

[You and your Party defeated [Fishman King] x1!]

[You earned 1.500.000 EXP!]

[Zack] [Mist] [Celica] and [Celeste] Level has increased by 1!]

[Their Level has reached the Maximum Level; it is now possible to allow them to Rank Up.]

"Max Level... we finally did it! Why were the last levels so hard to get to the max level?!" Zack celebrated as he raised his hands. "You two leveled up so quickly compared to us!"

"Well, it was mostly because we were being swarmed with Rank 8 or above Demonic Monsters every day back then... and by the hundreds." Luck sighed. "It wasn't something I would like over just taking our time and grinding inside Dungeons!"

"Hahaha, well, I'm soon to reach max level myself!" Lara celebrated. "I'm Level 25 right now... five more to go!"

"Those five levels are going to take a while, and I'm getting tired of coming to the same damn dungeon every single day..." Luck sighed. "I want to take a break, if possible. Aren't there other dungeons out there by any chance?"

"There is the monster-infested forest and some ruins, but this is the largest dungeon so far." I explained. "To find another dungeon of this caliber, we would need to travel farther away, to a neighboring dukedom, and I don't know if they'll let us in so easily, seeing how some of the family members are rivals..."

"Well, at the end of the year we'll go to our own adventures, we can gain levels there." Aquarina said, having accepted her journey to come much better now. "Anyways, can't you help them Rank Up?"

"I'm doing that right now~" I nodded.

FLAAASH!

Suddenly, the bodies of Zack, Mist, Celica, and Celeste started glowing brightly, their physical strength, fitness, durability, and magical power quickly started to increase thanks to the Rank Up Bonus Stats.

Their Classes increased to higher tiered ones, and their Skills received some bonuses, all while acquiring new Skills altogether...

"This power..." Zack said. "So this is what it feels to Rank Up! It feels like I am unlocking a power I never knew I had within me!"

<System>

[System Owner]: [Zack]

[Magic Circle]: [Tier 4: Rank 7: Lightning Tempest Lord Magic Circle]

[Physique]: [Tier 5: Rank 9: Thunderstorm King Physique]

[Level]: [0/30]

[Class]: [Axe Warrior] -> [Axe Barbarian: ★]

[Subclass]: [Wind Magician] -> [Storm Magician: ★]

[HP]: [10.267/10.267]

[MP]: [25.754/25.754]

[Strength]: [9.254]

[Defense]: [8.630]

[Magic]: [6.973]

[Resistance]: [4.286]

[Agility]: [5.176]

[Luck]: [3.630]

[Charm]: [3.960]

[Skills]: [Amazonian Warrior Bloodline: Lv4] [Forager: Lv6] [Hunter: Lv6] [Butcher: Lv6] [High-Speed Climbing: Lv7] [Beast Aura: Tempest Horned Bear: Lv3] [Heroic Talent Seed: Lv3] [Divine Battle Axe Arts: Lv5] [Tempest Magic: Lv4] [Thunderstorm Aura: Lv2] [Berserk Mode: Lv1] [Tempestuous Rampage: Lv1]

[Divine Protections]: [Sylph, Hero of Heavenly Eyes and Draconic Blaze]

Zack acquired two new Skills, one allowed him to enhance his stats and go on a Berserk Mode similar to the Fishman King, but it looks hard to master, as the Skill specifies he'll lose part of his sanity while in this state.

The second Skill is a simple yet devastating attack Skill that'll unleash a devastating rampage, hitting multiply targets or a single target multiple times with winds and lightning magic imbued into his physical blows.

Overall, his stats improved a lot as well, he seems much stronger, even without being an actual Hero...

"Uwaah, I never thought I could have this much Mana..." Mist said. "It feels like I'm overflowing with it!"

<System>

[System Owner]: [Mist]

[Magic Circle]: [Tier 4: Rank 9: Healing Light Saintess Magic Circle]

[Physique]: [Tier 3: Rank 7: Dexterous Magic Archer Physique]

[Level]: [0/30]

[Class]: [Priest] -> [Light Priestess: ★]

[Subclass]: [Archer] -> [Magic Archer: ★]

[HP]: [4.850/4.850]

[MP]: [52.200/52.200]

[Strength]: [5.450]

[Defense]: [4.460]

[Magic]: [9.008]

[Resistance]: [6.575]

[Agility]: [6.800]lights

[Luck]: [12.200]

[Charm]: [9.900]

[Skills]: [Jaw Demon Bloodline: Lv1] [Sharp Biting Jaws: Lv2] [Inspiring Words: Lv7] [Healing Innocence: Lv6] [First Aids: Lv5] [Beast Aura: Heavenly Swan Aura: Lv3] [Unyielding Love (Zack): Lv6] [Heroic Talent Seed: Lv3] [Celestial Light Bow Arts: Lv5] [Revitalizing Magic: Lv6] [Restorative Light Circle: Lv1] [Magic Arrow Creation: Lv1]

[Divine Protections]: [Sylph, Hero of Heavenly Eyes and Draconic Blaze]

Her new Skills were a circle of light that would constantly heal wounds and restore health points, while also healing from basic poison, paralysis, or curses, and also the ability to create and reinforce arrows made out of pure Magic, something she wasn't able to do before without having to conjure a Celestial Light Bow Arts!

Her MP was the highest for sure, but she also had really good Magic Stat, and insane Luck and Charm! I think those bonuses come from her Light Priestess Class... Though I have to admit it, Mist is a very cute and charming girl, so those stats were to be expected.

"Aside from the Mana, I don't feel much different... Hmm?" Celica wondered. "Oh! My soul feels much bigger... Can I store more Phantoms there?"

<System>

[System Owner]: [Celica]

[Magic Circle]: [Tier 5: Rank 4: Phantasmal Puppeteer Magic Circle]

[Physique]: [Tier 3: Rank 3: Demon Princess Physique]

[Level]: [0/30]

[Class]: [Puppeteer] -> [Golem Puppeteer: ★]

[Subclass]: [Phantom Magician] -> [Phantom Witch: ★]

[HP]: [3.950/3.950]

[MP]: [90.100/90.100]

[Strength]: [3.750]

[Defense]: [3.760]

[Magic]: [12.090]

[Resistance]: [10.700]

[Agility]: [4.900]

[Luck]: [8.700]

[Charm]: [8.700]

[Skills]: [Puppeteer Demon Bloodline: Lv7] [Phantom Strings: Lv6] [Golem Creation: Lv6] [Minion Guard: Lv6] [Puppet Obsession: Lv5] [Beast Aura: Phantasmal Puppeteer Aura: Lv5] [Heroic Talent Seed: Lv3] [Demonic Puppet Creation: Lv5] [Phantasmal Magic: Lv4] [Demonic Puppet Fusion: Lv1] [Phantom Soul Realm: Lv1]

[Divine Protections]: [Sylph, Hero of Heavenly Eyes and Draconic Blaze]

Damn, Celica was sure a specializer on magic, with a whopping 12k Magic and over 90k MP, she was a force to be reckoned to, but her magic affinity was very limited, and because of how ingrained was the phantom element into her soul and body, she was mostly restricted to this element, not even her magic runes could be of other elements.

My mother said this was a trait of her bloodline, and apparently, it is. There are some tribes of demons that specialize on a single element so much they cannot learn any other element at all. Celica can only use Phantom Magic, and its abilities are unique, but limited too.

However, with her new ability to fuse Demonic Puppets and a Phantom Soul Realm to store more Phantoms, I'm sure she'll find out new ways to improve her abilities even further.

"Huh, not bad." Celeste seemed happy with her changes.

<System>

[System Owner]: [Celeste]

[Magic Circle]: [Tier 5: Rank 5: Dark Shadow Witch Magic Circle]

[Physique]: [Tier 4: Rank 5: Abyssal Bat Queen Physique]

[Level]: [0/20]

[Class]: [Spear Fighter] -> [Cursed Spear Fighter: ★]

[Subclass]: [Witch] -> [Curse Witch: ★]

[HP]: [5.650/5.650]

[MP]: [68.600/68.600]

[Strength]: [8.550]

[Defense]: [3.760]

[Magic]: [10.094]

[Resistance]: [8.050]

[Agility]: [7.700]

[Luck]: [3.400]

[Charm]: [7.100]

[Skills]: [Abyssal Tail Demon Bloodline: Lv6] [Paralyzing Poison Tail: Lv6] [Explorer: Lv6] [Demonic Eyes of Darkness: Lv6] [Dark Arts: Lv5] [Beast Aura: Abyssal Bat Queen Aura: Lv3] [Heroic Talent Seed: Lv3] [Demonic Shadow Abyss Spear Arts: Lv4] [Ancient Abyss Magic: Lv4] [Cursed Spear Strike: Lv1] [Cursed Dark Chains: Lv1]

[Divine Protections]: [Sylph, Hero of Heavenly Eyes and Draconic Blaze]

She was a good magic fighter, having both good physical strength and magic power, and her new curse-based skills will help us weaken our foes even more, making her a pivotal part of our team's strategies.

"Alright, shall we go back home and celebrate?"

Chapter 945 All The Systems Want Attention

With only four months left before the end of the year, we finally managed to reach one of our goals, for everyone that got the System recently to reach Max Level and Rank Up their Classes to Two Star Rank.

And about me? Well, I've been growing stronger slowly at my own pace, some of my high-level skills need a lot of proficiency, so even practicing every day won't yield quick results, and it might take months or over a year to see some changes without doing something drastic.

I've been accumulating a nice amount of EXP as well, which I've been mostly saving so far, while constantly practicing all my Skills as much as I could on my free time. My Void Wielding Arts and Spider Queen Thread Creation Skills have gained a level each since then, but aside from those little techniques, it still rather hard to control these Skills properly.

My Illusory Mist has hit Level 2 as well, and... that's about it I think. I could probably use the EXP I have accumulated to forcefully level up more of my Skills, but I would rather save those points and let the Skills level up over time.

To celebrate today's achievements, we moved with my friends towards a restaurant, one where we had helped their chef once, and had a big feast of all kinds of tasty meals over there, which utilized the seafood we gathered and sold to them to make wonderful plates.

The day went by rather quickly after that, from eating to laughing, to talking and then exploring a bit of Agartha again before going back home. Mom and dad were busy preparing things for the end of the year, and my little brother had accompanied us to the trip to the restaurant and went immediately to sleep after that big feast.

And once I was back to my room, I decided to quickly open a Dungeon Gate and enter my Dungeon, to check how things were going. Today was the day we were going to open the fourth floor!

The beautiful greenery of the first floor greeted my sight, which had slowly expanded even more in size ever since its creation. There was an even larger lake, several rivers spread everywhere, and the Beast Forest had expanded into a gigantic forest, covering almost half of the entire landscape.

All the plants I've been planting here and helping grow have become much larger now. Wisdom Fruits had been harvested for a few days now, Man Fruits, Spirit Leaves, Yggdrasil Crystal Branches, and also all the fruits and vegetables my Harvest Familiars could produce, which after consuming them, would generate buffs.

I was still considering if I should sell these, so I've been mostly accumulating them inside my Inventory and saving them for personal use, and also for my mother to cook in our meals.

I think they might be a bit too strong to just sell around, their buffs are amazing and because I can easily replicate them, they could become a problem in the future... Hell, an enemy could one day use these buffs against us.

Or maybe I am being too paranoid? Well, I might take a different decision in the future.

Nonetheless, things were growing rapidly, and aside from these plants, I had also planted many other rare fruits and vegetables to sell off into the Merchant Union, which were growing rapidly.

[The [Dungeon System] greets their Master, saying that they're very excited about today's activities!]

[They're beginning to wonder what Dungeon Type you will choose for the Fourth Floor!]

The small yet adorable floating cube-shaped Dungeon System emerged in front of us, Alice and the rest of my Familiars appeared at my side as well, wandering around and exploring, they always liked to go wherever they wanted when we entered the Dungeon.

"Looks like he's quite excited." Alice giggled.

"I can tell!" I laughed. "I guess that's your son... or daughter for you!"

"S-Son and daughter?" Alice suddenly felt surprised.

"I mean, aren't they?" I asked. "They were born from you..."

"I've always thought of them as something similar to a clone, but modified... But I guess it does align with the concept of what a child is..." Alice gasped, covering her mouth. "I-I'm already a mother of many!"

"D-Did you just realized that?!" I facepalmed. "Also every other System you create..."

"T-They're my children too." Alice blushed a bit. "Ahh, so I've been gifting my kids to people?!"lights

"I don't think you should be using normal logic with this though, aren't they required of a host to develop?" I wondered.

"R-Right, sorry, I got a bit silly there." Alice nodded. "My children have been growing strong alongside your friends, so I'm happy about that... Also the Dungeon System and the Quest System..."

"Also your kids, but I guess we could say they're your strongest kids, capable of staying within my body too." I explained.

"That's right..." Alice nodded.

[The [Dungeon System] is beginning to get tired of this weird conversation!]

Suddenly, the Dungeon System started hitting my head with its tiny cube-shaped body, I laughed a bit until I gently pushed him back.

"Hahaha, sorry, sorry, we got a little off topic there! Anyways, let's decide what the Fourth Floor should be! Any suggestions?" I asked the Dungeon System.

[The [Dungeon System] nods happily, quickly bringing up the Dungeon Type Options for the Fourth Floor!]

[The [Quest System] has woken up, wondering what you're up to this time...]

"Well, would you look who is awake now..." I crossed my arms.

[The [Quest System] apologizes for not having been done too much lately, but there hasn't been any big things to incentive your growth, Causality is also required.]

[However, there might be new chances to get Quests as long as a greater connection with the [Dungeon System] can be made...]

[The [Dungeon System] says that the [Quest System] should just shut up and stop stealing attention from them!]

[The [Quest System] glares at the [Dungeon System] with disbelief, they were just trying to help!]

"Okay, okay, don't fight." I laughed.

Ding!

[The [Dungeon System] is giving you three options!]

[What do you want the third Dungeon Floor to be?]

[Option 1: Desert Type Dungeon]

[Option 2: Cave Type Dungeon]

[Option 3: Volcanic Type Dungeon]

Huh, these options seem a bit hard...

Chapter 946 New Dungeon Floor

Ding!

[The [Dungeon System] is giving you three options!]

[What do you want the fourth Dungeon Floor to be?]

[Option 1: Desert Type Dungeon]

[Option 2: Cave Type Dungeon]

[Option 3: Volcanic Type Dungeon]

The three options looked complicated, they were two of the ones I rejected and a new one! Caves, Deserts, or a Volcanic Land!

All three of them seem harsh and hard to manage I think... Well, Caves seem decent? I think looking what they can do first should be my priority.

"Dungeon System, can you show me their details first?"

[The [Dungeon System] nods rapidly, quickly bringing up the descriptions of each type of Dungeon, with new added information.]

Ding!

[Showcasing Dungeon Type Information...]

[Option 1: Desert Type Dungeon]: [A vast and near endless Desert filled to the brim with golden sand. It has some mountains with unique and precious ores, and there are a few oasis here and there. This place is harsh, and the sun is incredibly strong, but the harshness of the desert gives birth to the strongest monsters out there, giant creatures that constantly compete for supremacy are born in the deserts, alongside unique types of cactuses of many species, and even mysterious ancient pyramids, where treasures could be found, or something else, perhaps.]

[Option 2: Cave Type Dungeon]: [A large underground area, resembling a section of enormous, connected caves. Covered on stone, where ores of all types can grow naturally, with a high chance for magic and spirit ores to grow. Contains underground-type monsters and special cave-dwelling boss-type monsters. Specializes on ore production and mining, and also on underwater spring water production, and can produce unique monsters.]

[Option 3: Volcanic Type Dungeon]: [An enormous landscape filled with volcanoes in constant eruption, lava constantly flowing everywhere, and special biomes such as blazing tree forests and swamps made of burning oil, making it a deadly place, where the hardiest of creatures prevail. Has the ability to produce very strong fire and stone-type monsters and especially strong boss-type monsters that dwell in lava and caves, can also produce most types of ores, and rare metals. Normal Plants won't grow here, but fire-type plants can.]

First of all, the Desert Type Dungeon somehow looks even more intriguing than I had realized now! Oasis, Special Cactuses, incredibly strong monsters, and... pyramids with treasures?!

It sure looks appealing! But the Caves and the Volcanic Land have improved as well. The Caves are now described to be much larger, and that they can now harbor underground spring waters, magic and spirit ores, and a larger variety of unique monsters.

And as for the Volcanic Landscape, it is quite similar, but now it is emphasized it harbors mighty fire monsters, and strong boss-type monsters as well! Also there's blazing tree forests and burning oil swamps, new biomes added just now...

Ahhh, I don't know what to choose now, everything seems much more appealing!

"I wonder... Does the Volcanic Dungeon has any chance to get dragon-type monsters?" Asked Alice to the Dungeon System. "Something close enough that could imitate Dragons? We need materials for Ignatius after all."

[The [Dungeon System] says they can check...]

"Please do!" I nodded.

[The [Dungeon System] nods, beginning to check...]

[Analyzing...]lights

[Analysis Complete.]

[The [Dungeon System] explains that there is a possibility for the Boss Monsters to be Dragon-type! Also, most lava and fire-dwelling monsters will be reptilians, some with dragon bloodlines.]

"Now we're talking! The Desert might be my next option, but let's pick the Volcanic Landscape! I want to check that one asap! It looks so unique too!"

[The [Quest System] celebrates! You've finally chosen the Volcanic Type Dungeon they wanted you to choose some time ago!]

Ding!

[Your Dungeon Dimension Fourth Floor has become a [Volcanic-type Dungeon]!]

[An enormous volcano has appeared within the fourth floor, overflowing the entire domain with its hot magma and lava, all while small volcanoes begin to emerge one after another surrounding the largest one!]

[Rivers of molten stone begin spreading across the ever-expanding landscape. Blazing trees have begun sprouting!]

[Blazing oil erupts from the ground, forming a huge swamp where special blazing trees and plants grow surrounding it, the oil is boiling hot!]

[It is a hellscape for sure...]

Even the System notification was terrified of this enormous volcanic landscape. Well, among all the elements, Fire is the one I'm the most resistant to, so this shouldn't be so annoying for me, right?

"Alright, let's get there immediately!"

I quickly led my Familiars downstairs, as we passed through the Labyrinth Dungeon in the second floor, greeted the slimes and spiders, and then moved to the third floor of beautiful coasts and seas, where we flew over the sea until we reached yet another stair, appearing right in front of the Coral Golem Castle.

FLUOOSH!

A very strong heat wave emerged from the stairs, and we had yet to even enter its depths! It made me step back a little, it was much hotter than I imagined. I reflectively ended activating my Pseudo Draconification, the passive ability of the skill that allowed me to grow scales, claws, and a dragon tail, with some horns and dragon eyes.

It wasn't as strong as the full powerup, that was temporary, but this was pretty alright, nonetheless. With these new scales reinforcing my resistance against the intense heat, I stepped downstairs.

"Wow, this place just feels right at home! The Soul Scape does have a volcanic land and all, but because it is ethereal and not physical, it never feels completely like my home." Ignatius laughed, quickly running down. "Woow! Look at this! It's paradise! Sylphy, come down already!"

"O-Okay? Calm down a bit!" I said, running downstairs and finally landing on the fourth floor of my Dungeon.

And the land was... much, much larger than I imagined. The skies were almost deep red due to all the flames, the volcanoes constantly pouring lava and magma, there was a huge forest that was constantly burning, and the huge black oil swamp with black and purple flames on top.

There was a very strong, almost intoxicating smell of sulfur and other toxic smells produced by these blazing substances, but Ignatius smelled it happily, as if it were tasty for him.

"SNIFF... Haaahhh... It has been such a long while!" Ignatius laughed.

He was really happy about it...

Chapter 947 A Giant Volcanic Landscape

"This place is HUGE!" I said in surprise, looking around. "And it smells so horrible! Do all volcanoes have this terrible smell?"

"It's a good smell! Smokey and a bit acidic!" Ignatius laughed.

"Ugh, well, it still better than some places in the Demon Continent." Beelzebub commented, sitting over my head.

"Guuhh... I don't like this place... It feels like my leaves are going to burn at any moment!" Natoria was very upset, quickly hiding inside my Soulscape.

"Wow, this place is sure... hot." Furoh commented, quickly transforming into a small Ignatius, the egg-shaped one for convenience. "This form is much better... Wow, this is comfier than I imagined!"

"Hey why are you reminding me of my humble beginnings?!" Ignatius got angry. He was no longer Eggnatius, but a medium-sized young dragon, good-looking enough to be recognized as one.

"Anyways, Sylphy, I think it should be about time you buy some of the Facilities inside the shop! I think some might be tied to dragon-type monsters generation." Said Alice.

[The [Dungeon System] encourages you to buy the Facilities! They said you should have enough EXP for everything, right?]

[Dungeon Facility Shop (Level 4)]

[Available Items: 4/4]

[Salamander Blazing Lake (C+ Grade)] [Cost]: [10000 DE]

[Abyssal Peaks (C+ Grade)] [Cost]: [15000 DE]

[Withering Tree Forest (C++ Grade)] [Cost]: [20000 DE]

[Dragon Nest Mountain (C+++ Grade)] [Cost]: [25000 DE]

"Hey! You're just showing me everything straight away- Ah, wow." I said, looking at everything. "It sure IS expensive! Are you trying to scam me?"

[The [Dungeon System] apologizes, but the more Floors you have, the more expensive Facilities will become, the price of Dungeon Energy is equivalent to the further expansion of the Dungeon!]

"Okay, okay..." I sighed. "These facilities sound pretty good though, let's first check the Dungeon Status, how many Dungeon Energy Points have I accumulated so far?"

[Current Dungeon Level]: [Level 4]

[Dungeon EXP]: [24.520/200.000]

[Dungeon Energy]: [18.300]

[Bonus Stats]: [+5.000]

[Available Dungeon Floors]:

Level 1: [Floor 1]: [Grassland-type Dungeon Floor]

Level 2: [Floor 2]: [Labyrinth-type Dungeon Floor]

Level 3: [Floor 3]: [Sea-type Dungeon Floor]

Level 4: [Floor 4]: [Volcanic-type Dungeon Floor]

"Oh nice, I guess it's not so bad! We got 18k, I guess I'll buy the rest..." I said. "It still a lot of EXP..."

Ding!

[You have exchanged 52.000.000 EXP for 52.000 Dungeon Energy Points!]

[The Dungeon Energy Points have been added to your Dungeon Master Status.]

FLAAASH!

The EXP flowed out of my soul and then imbued itself into the Dungeon's very floor, fusing with it and turning into usable Dungeon Energy. Pretty amazing.

"Now, let's begin, buy everything!"

Ding!

[You exchanged 70.000 Dungeon Energy Points!]

[You purchased [Salamander Blazing Lake (C+ Grade)] [Cost]: [10000 DE]!]

[You purchased [Abyssal Peaks (C+ Grade)] [Cost]: [15000 DE]!]

[You purchased [Withering Tree Forest (C++ Grade)] [Cost]: [20000 DE]!]

[You purchased [Dragon Nest Mountain (C+++ Grade)] [Cost]: [25000 DE]!]

[Please choose where to place the Dungeon Facilities.]

Four enormous facilities appeared above the skies. Well, they were more like pieces of land themselves. It was quite incredible how I could just summon things like this out of nowhere... Really made you feel like a god.

"Alright, your turn, Dungeon System."

[The [Dungeon System] nods, telling you to leave it all to them!]

[The [Dungeon System] has gained temporary permission for the placement of Dungeon Facilities.]

All four enormous landmarks started moving across the red skies, everyone glancing in utter disbelief as they started to slowly place themselves on the landscape.

The Salamander Blazing Lake was placed right behind the largest Volcano, quickly beginning to blaze with magma and lava of higher quality than others, from within them, several new creatures started popping out of the lake, as if it were a soup of life! And it was all huge Blazing Salamander-type monsters.

Ding!

[The Dungeon Facility [Salamander Blazing Lake (C+ Grade)] has been placed successfully, six different species of Blazing Salamander-type Monsters have emerged from its blazing magma surfaces. Your Mana is being constantly absorbed for their creation. Their population will slowly grow as they hunt one another and expand across the rest of the Volcanic-type Dungeon Floor.]

[The first [Blaze Salamander (Tier 3)] has been created.]

[The first [Blue Blaze Salamander (Tier 3)] has been created.]

[The first [Serpentine Blaze Salamander (Tier 4)] has been created.]

[The first [Black Fire Axolotl (Tier 4)] has been created.]

[The first [Magma Tyrant (Tier 4)] has been created.]

[The first [Blazing Lake's King (Tier 5)] has been created.]

"Wow, so many new guys popped up!" Ignatius said. "They look big and strong too!"

Each monster wasn't small at all, the smallest was as big as ten meters, while the largest, the King of the Blazing Lake, a boss-type monster, was a whopping 50 meters big, slowly pushing his gigantic head from within the lake's depths and glancing around, before submerging once more.

Suddenly, to the far northwest of the floor, I saw an empty area suddenly change, as tall and pointy mountains emerged one after another, reaching so high into the skies that one could clearly see them from very far away.

The spiky mountains were as sharp as spears, and their peaks were completely black, containing some sort of special mineral, the surroundings of the peaks were covered on a black mist and black clouds, constantly letting out lightning.

From the clouds, several flying monsters appeared, resembling wyverns!

Ding!

[The Dungeon Facility [Abyssal Peaks (C+ Grade)] has been placed successfully, five different species of Wyvern-type Monsters have emerged from its abyssal clouds. Your Mana is being constantly absorbed for their creation. Their population will slowly grow as they hunt one another and expand across the rest of the Volcanic-type Dungeon Floor.]

[The first [Small Dark Wyvern (Tier 3)] has been created.]

[The first [Raptor Wyvern (Tier 3)] has been created.]

[The first [Abyssal Wyvern (Tier 4)] has been created.]

[The first [Black Flare Wyvern (Tier 4)] has been created.]

[The first [Abyssal Peak's Queen (Tier 5)] has been created.]

Five times of new Monsters appeared, all wyverns. The smallest of only around three meters of height, the largest, their Queen, was a gigantic dragon-like wyvern, of over thirty meters of height, with enormous wings with patterns resembling gigantic red eyes glancing down below, terrifying!

There were still two more facilities to add, but the place was already so filled with life!

Chapter 948 A Dragon Dungeon?

The next piece of land that floated across the skies and landed in the far southeast of the Volcanic Lands was a gigantic forest filled with withered, black colored trees, giving fruit to gray leaves and red fruits. They seemed devoid of life, but once planted, the forest instantly started overflowing with a red-colored mist.

The red mist wasn't it all either, as it spread around, living beings started emerging from within the mist, of all kinds of shapes, but they looked... strange as well. Their bodies had exposed flesh, and some looked like they were decaying.

Were these Undead Monsters?!

Ding!

[The Dungeon Facility [Withering Tree Forest (C++ Grade)] has been placed successfully, seven different species of Undead-type and Dark-type Monsters have emerged from Crimson Mist, beginning to slowly populate the area. Their population will slowly grow as they hunt one another and expand across the rest of the Volcanic-type Dungeon Floor.]

[The first [Decaying Wolf (Tier 3)] has been created.]

[The first [Putrid Poison Tiger (Tier 3)] has been created.]

[The first [Dark Shadow Bat (Tier 3)] has been created.]

[The first [Blood Bear (Tier 4)] has been created.]

[The first [Black Bone Beast (Tier 4)] has been created.]

[The first [Withered Tree Treant (Tier 4)] has been created.]

[The first [Crimson Mist's Queen (Tier 5)] has been created.]

Not only a variety of Dark and Undead-type monsters emerged, but the Boss Monster was truly strange! It emerged as some sort of mist-made entity, but the closer I looked, the more I realized it held the appearance of a gigantic, stretchy... doll.

With long fingers, and a white face, which once finding a prey, would open it to reveal hundreds of sharp fangs, devouring anything that stepped in front of its invisible body... It was truly a terrifying creature, even if its Tier was low enough that I could defeat it rather easily.

"Wow, I never thought Undead Monsters could appear out of that forest." I pointed out.

"H-Honestly, I am quite surprised myself as well." Alice said. "Dungeon System, did you know about this?"

[The [Dungeon System] nods, finding that this information was not really important...]

[They wonder if there is a problem with Undead Monsters?]

"Nah, not really, just surprising. They are usually very rare to find. That's all... I wonder if I can get any useful materials out of them? Even though they're decaying and all..." I was wondering.

"I'm sure there could be something of use around there... Undead-type Monsters usually have very strong Souls and Mana Cores as well, as they need energy and soul power to maintain their decaying bodies!" Alice said.

"Oh? Now that sounds interesting! Maybe I could use some of that to enhance my Soul Psyche..." I rubbed my chin. "Anyways, where are you placing the last one? It is rather big."

I looked into the skies, a gigantic mountain was floating in midair, still waiting to be placed to fully materialize. Because it had not materialized yet, it seemed phantasmal, semi-transparent, as if it had yet to become real.

Alice called these "holograms" which showed to give us an estimate of how large the Facilities could be, it wasn't the actual ones floating in midair, those were created once they were added into the landscape.

[The [Dungeon System] has decided where to place the last Facility.]

FLASH!

The facility moved across the skies, quickly landing near the end of the volcanic landscape, a rather empty area, which will become the home of... whatever comes out of this huge mountain.

BAAAMMM...!lights

Once the mountain materialized, it actually made the entire floor tremble rapidly, and rather crazily. It was insane!

However, once it finally settled down, it slowly started overflowing with smoke, its volcanic activity becoming immediately active, lava and magma pouring out of the volcano near endlessly.

It was an active volcano, naturally.

And on its center there was a huge dragon-shaped rock with open jaws, leading to an interior of cave systems...

From within, using my eyes, I could see that there were new life forms emerging, spawning one after another, but the largest of them all appeared at the top of the volcano.

It was sleeping within the depths of the hottest lava in there, without even opening a single eye.

Ding!

[The Dungeon Facility [Dragon Nest Mountain (C+++ Grade)] has been placed successfully, eight different species of Dragon-type Monsters have emerged from within the Mountain's caves, beginning to slowly populate the area. Their population will slowly grow as they hunt one another and expand across the rest of the Volcanic-type Dungeon Floor.]

[The first [Small Blue Drake (Tier 3)] has been created.]

[The first [Slothful Cave Drake (Tier 3)] has been created.]

[The first [Wingless Raptorial Fire Wyvern (Tier 4)] has been created.]

[The first [Blazing Tyrannosaurus (Tier 4)] has been created.]

[The first [Volcanic Serpentine Draconid (Tier 5)] has been created.]

[The first [Ore-Swallowing Great Cave Drake (Tier 5)] has been created.]

[The first [Blue Dragon (Tier 6)] has been created.]

[The first [Crimson Dragon (Tier 7)] has been created.]

"There are DRAGONS!"

As I said those words, Ignatius got excited as well...

"There are?! Then I'm going to go talk with them!"

He quickly tried to go to the Dragon Nest Mountain, but Alice and I stopped him before he did something dumb.

"Wait a second, Ignatius! These are not the Dragons you know, they're not the intelligent Ancient Race of Dragons born from the World of Terrarium." Sighed Alice. "They are Monsters, they lack intelligence, and are beasts. It's different! Like... comparing goblins with humans."

"What?! Ah... Ugh." Ignatius got disappointed right away.

"I wasn't excited about them so they could talk with you or something, dummy. It's so we can get materials for your evolution. Did you forget about that or something?" I raised an eyebrow.

"I haven't forgotten!" Ignatius said, crossing his arms. "Though, are you really going to kill your own dungeon monsters? Aren't they already obedient to you regardless? I would feel kind of bad..."

"Hahh... Thanks for reminding me of that." I felt bad as well. "Dungeon System, if I hunt a few, do they respawn? Especially the bosses..."

[The [Dungeon System] is beginning to search for an answer...]

Chapter 949 Where To Get Materials?!

Ding!

[The [Dungeon System] explains that Boss-type Monsters are pivotal pillars to each ecosystem, as they provide with vast amounts of energy and maintain the food chain, sometimes even being able to provide new young such as well.]

[Therefore, they cannot be easily replaced. And it might take forever for another to reappear, or maybe they might never appear again.]

[However, lesser monsters can still be hunted. Bear in mind that the higher their ranks within the Floors, the rarer they are and the slower their reproduction becomes as well.]

"Hah, I guess it couldn't be easy. I should probably let them grow their population over time then." I said. "Though... Should I really do this? Ugh, it feels different than hunting monsters outside. After all they're all so gentle with me because I'm the Dungeon Master..."

"You're feeling bad about killing monsters now?!" Ignatius asked.

"It's not that! They're different from the outside monsters! I feel like they're my kids! ...In a weird way." I said, sighing.

"Ugh this is ridiculous." Ignatius sighed. "S-So you're delaying my evolution because you don't want to kill these guys?"

"Yeah! We'll find another way! And we can always just harvest some of their scales and blood if we ask them nicely." I said. "Claws, fangs too, I think that would be alright. Though, we'll still need a Heart. Hey Alice, do you think Crimson Dragon Scales and Blood would do to replace some of the other materials?"

"They should do as long as you give a lot of them." She said. "Though, for the heart, the most important material, you'll need something stronger, even with the single heart of the Crimson Dragon, you'll need... three to four more."

"Eh?!" I cried. "That's a lot! Why is your evolution so damn expensive?" I began shaking Ignatius. "You're such a golden spooned dragon!"

"Agh! Hey, I am a Great True Fire Dragon! What did ya expect?!" Laughed Ignatius. "To fully evolve my spiritual form, you'll need a lot of power! Heh."

"Quest System, can't we get a Quest so we can get the Heart right away? You've given me other heart items before!" I said.

[The [Quest System] says that for that to happen you'll need to either supply them with one billion EXP or do something that changes fate to the equivalent of the previous war against Arachne, which would give, perhaps, enough Causality to create such a reward.]

"Hahhh... it's hopeless." I sighed. "I am blessed by your dad though, and there's your brother as another familiar too... I wonder if there's some grave of your family we could borrow a heart from?"

"D-Do you think it's that easy?! And no, there's no grave of my family out there..." Ignatius said. "We Dragons live to fight and grow stronger, wherever we die, we die. Our bodies stay there, and the stronger we are, the more we affect our surroundings."

"That's true, many of the landscapes around the Demon Continent, and even other Continents as well were shaped by Dragons bodies that died and decayed." Said Beelzebub. "It shouldn't be so different compared to other lifeforms as well, your parents, for example, whenever they die and are left to decay, they'll fill their surroundings with a lot of their leftover mana, changing the landscape greatly-"

"Okay, okay! I get it! You don't need to put my parents as an example!" I cried, smacking the moth a few times.

"Hahaha! Did you imagined them decaying and dying? Hahaha!" Beelzebub started to laugh at me.

"Sometimes I forget you're a sick Demon Lord." I facepalmed. "Anyways... Is this really true?"lights

"Yeah, usually above Rank 10 its when it happens to a wider scale." Said Ignatius. "Naturally, we dragons are even more stronger than that, our bodies are filled with Elemental Draconic Runes, the secret to our almighty strength and magic power! Because of that, once we die, our Dragon Runes spread everywhere... My father once said that we are bringers of nature as well, we are seeds of life. Even when

we die, we continue living across the world! Though... I didn't get to Rank 10 myself, and when I died... I... Ugh, well, I was made into equipment."

"I'm sorry..." I sighed.

"It's fine." Ignatius said. "It has been over a decade since then, and now thanks to you I've revived into a new and almighty form! Even as a Spirit, I'll surpass all dragons eventually! Hahahaha!"

"Yeah! To make up for your death, I'll turn you into the strongest dragon!" I nodded. "And for that, finding a place where a Red Dragon died would be ideal. Your hearts are crystals, so they don't decay, right? If we can find an area where one died, there's a chance the heart will be untouched."

"Hmmm..." Ignatius began thinking. "No idea about that... Sorry."

"Ugh..." I sighed once more. "Wait, I wonder if I could talk with your dad? We have a link with his Divine Protection after all!"

"Wait, Sylphy, you're not thinking on just boldly trying to speak with the Dragon King, right?!" Beelzebub asked me in disbelief. "He's so strong he can give Divine Protections! Doesn't that give you an idea of how terrifying he is?! If you make him mad he could...!"

"Well, the old man spoke to me easily anyways, so let's do the same again..." I said, quickly concentrating.

By imbuing the newfound strength into my soul, I quickly fused it with the dragon energy coming from the Dragon King's Divine Protection

And then, I slowly followed the origin of this power given to me, slowly traveling across an incredibly long distance, with only a part of my bare soul.

FLAAASH!

Suddenly, I found myself floating inside a dark space, in there, two blazing eyes opened, gigantic in size, glaring at me.

"What do you want, brat?! You've gotten stronger but that doesn't give you the right to come and wake me up! I was having a nice nap and now it's ruined!" He roared angrily.

"P-Please don't get angry! It is about your son, Ignatius!" I said.

"My dead son?" He wondered. "Isn't he a spirit or something?"

He was surprisingly chill about it...

"Yeah, well, we need materials to help him evolve... In specific, a Red Dragon Heart..." I said.

He squinted his eyes, glaring into my bare soul.

"Hmmm..."

Chapter 950 A Request To The Dragon King

The Dragon King was pissed off I interrupted his nap, but by dropping Ignatius name, he quickly calmed down and started to think about his son.

"I see, so you want to find a Heart of one of my deceased children to help him evolve into something stronger?" He wondered. "Sigh... So pathetic, why do Spirits need such frivolities to grow stronger? You should had let him dead!"

"Well, I feel bad about what happened to him, even though he was the one that walked into a tiger's den back then and all... So I want to make up for it and help him become the strongest dragon!" I said.

"The strongest you say?!" He asked, rising one of his scaly, hairless eyebrows. "Heh, a half-elf helping a dragon become the strongest?! Heh, HAHAAHAHAA!"

He started to laugh loudly, making my soul tremble with his mere loud voice.

"You're interesting! I did well in blessing you, brat!" He laughed. "You kind of remind me of someone from eons ago..."

"Someone?" I asked.

"Yes, someone that once used to be my partner. When I was their familiar." The Dragon King sighed. "Alas, he died long ago..."

"I'm sorry to hear about that..." I commented.

"Hmph! I don't need your sympathy!" He laughed. "Also, you want that dead brat to become stronger than me? I like how ridiculous you are! As if! Well, if you really want a damn heart, I'll tell you where there is one, and it's right inside your grassy continent!"

"Really?!" I asked happily.

"Look for the "Black Dragon Mountain" within the southeast of where you're living. A land filled with snow and with constant blizzards... If you follow the crimson path, you will find it." He smiled. "Now leave me alone!" He roared furiously.

"S-Sorry! And thank you very much!" I quickly pulled back.

FLAAASH!

I opened my eyes once more within my Dungeon, gasping for air... My soul hurt a bit. I think that if I hadn't developed a Psyche, I would had taken a strong blow.

He wasn't even attacking me, just speaking soul to soul, and it was already painful! Just how strong is he?!

Well, he did mention... exchanging blows with the original Demon King. Yeah, the one that made up the whole Demon Continent? That one.

"Sylphy!" Alice appeared at my side. "I can't believe you actually did it..."

"Y-You talked with my almighty father?!" Ignatius asked. "Not even I dare do that so boldly!"

"He's nicer than you think." I said in relief. "Though, very grumpy at the same time... Anyways, I got some clues about where it could be, where there are snowy mountains, on a black dragon mountain, following the crimson path... that's all he said."

"He even cooperated?!" Beelzebub was surprised.

"A-Amazing..." Ignatius said. "Maybe father still cares about me..."

"Well, that clue is more than enough!" Alice nodded. "I'll simply memorize it within my database because I know your memory is a bit clunky, especially because you do so many things every day, you forget others."

"Hey! I... Well, you're right." I agreed for once.

Ding!

[Your Dungeon EXP has increased by +50000 for placing three C Rank Facilities.]

[The many Facilities in your Dungeon are increasing the amount of Dungeon Energy produced naturally!]

[You gained +32 Dungeon Energy.]

[You gained +22 Dungeon Energy.]

[You gained +17 Dungeon Energy.]

[...]

And right as I was back to the Dungeon, new notifications popped up. It seems that I was slightly rewarded for expanding it with a nice amount of bonus EXP.

I still need around... 130k more EXP for the Dungeon to Level Up... It can gain EXP over time slowly too, but I still think I can fit some new things in this landscape.

"Anyways, I guess we could begin collecting some scales and ores that are growing here for now." I said. "Later, I'll come here to bring things to add, and monsters as well. Alright everyone! Come and help me out! Furoh, you too! Glutton, Violet, even Curse!"

"BARF! BAARF!" Glutton was happy.

"Guu...?" Violet seemed confused.

"Eh? Why should I help you on carrying things?" Curse seemed unwilling...

But I forced them to help anyways, and like that, we began exploring the vast landscape, picking up ores I found, and then moving to meet the dragons, the Crimson Dragon was my target.

He was gentler than I imagined, and once I called for him, he licked my face with a titanic tongue... Leaving me covered on drool.

"I've heard even the drool of a Crimson Dragon is costly, so I'll collect that..." I giggled, collecting it. "Can you give me some scales, fangs, claws, and... blood?"

"GRRRHHH..." The Crimson Dragon, of over forty meters of height, seemed to nod, quickly beginning to scratch its tail, and letting out hundreds of huge scales, piling the up.

After that, he regrew new claws and fangs, letting the old ones fall into the ground too! Wow, that was easier than I imagined.

And then, it cut through its front arm and began bleeding a beautiful red blood from within.

"Okay, I'll collect it! Wait a bit!" I took out as many bottles as I had, filling over twenty of them! Now that was a lot of blood!

"T-Thanks a lot! I'll heal the wound for you." I healed his wound, as he seemed rather sleepy, moving back to the depths of the active volcano to take a nap.

He was unexpectedly very cute, there's no way I can kill him now!

"Well, with this we should have covered every material necessary except the Dragon Heart!" I celebrated.

"Nice!" Ignatius was happy. "Now we should go find that heart and-"

"Nah, let's go back home, I'm so sleepy..."

"Ah..."

Today was quite the long day, so I quickly walked out of my dungeon and stepped directly into my bed, the fluffiness of it made me feel like I was in heaven.

After such a long day, there's nothing better than sleeping on a comfortable and cold bed, especially after being stuck for hours inside a very hot place...