

## Beast Master 741

### Chapter 741 Fertility Stone

"What is that?" Musa asked.

"A fertility stone. Put some mana in it and have the recipients use it on themselves. If it works properly, conception chances should be greatly increased."

Musa looked confused. "Why would we rely on them using it? I could just activate the stone, and they would never know it existed." Karl shook his head. "Safety measure, so it's not used for nefarious purposes. You have to willingly use it on yourself."

The assistant Midwife smiled, and Musa gave him a motherly pat on the shoulder. "You know, you're alright, for a cat. Alright, there are Nobles waiting in the other room. Do we need both of them?" She asked.

"And a private room. I, uh, forgot to put a timer on the effect." Karl agreed.

That made Musa laugh out loud, waking the new mother in the main room.

"Sorry about the lack of space, we've only got one delivery room, we usually go to the mother. But we had two emergencies last night which came to us." She explained.

Karl shrugged. "Don't worry about me. I'm not the exhausted one on a folding cot."

Musa led him to another room, where a dozen overdressed people were waiting for her attention.

Karl realized that this was all the rooms there were, and that might cause issues if the effect was too strong.

{There are private rooms right beside us.} She whispered, then turned a professional smile on the crowd.

"Now, I have obtained a rare Royal Rank fertility charm at great cost. Usage is limited, and both partners need to willingly use it on themselves. Who would like to try? The fee will be added to your tabs." Musa asked.

As one, everyone surged from their seats, and they hadn't even seen the stone yet. They truly were desperate to get access to such powerful fertility magic, which was uncommon among the Demon Clans. After a few seconds, they adjusted their positions by some internal ranking, and Musa took out the stone. "Both partners, please use the stone one after another, then go to a sitting room down the hall while it takes effect. I have been informed that it might have variable activation times." Musa explained.

A few of the gathered Demons and Monsters flushed in embarrassment, but that was why they were here.

The first pair, both two metre tall coal-black demons with golden tattoos all over the visible parts of their bodies, activated the stone. The woman's eyes flashed bright green, and she physically dragged the man out of the room. A few of the gathered Demons and Monsters flushed in embarrassment, but that was why they were here.

The first pair, both two metre tall coal-black demons with golden tattoos all over the visible parts of their bodies, activated the stone. The woman's eyes flashed bright green, and she physically dragged the man out of the room. His feet weren't even on the floor.

"Well, I think that is a success. Next!" Musa cheered.

One after another, the pairs used the stone. The effect was the same every time. Their eyes glowed bright green with the Nature Magic, and they hurried out of the room.

Well, except one pair, who seemed intent to get started before they were even out of the room.

Once they were chased out of the Midwife's office, Musa smiled at the stone, then looked down the hallway in shock.

"No way. It's that effective?" She asked.

"What do you sense that I don't?" Karl asked.

"Pregnancy. I have motherhood-specific foresight. I can sense the instant that someone gets pregnant within my range. I use it to prepare for customers in the Castle. We're up to three couples already, but they are... not ready to celebrate yet. That part is just my succubus senses, not a spell." She explained.

The assistant giggled. "I don't think you needed to tell him that. Half the doors aren't even closed to activate the soundproofing spells. That stone is far too effective."

Karl shrugged. "You wanted a stone to help with fertility, and that is what I made, with the help of a Royal Rank High Priestess of the Green Dragon."

The Midwife nodded happily, then handed a note to her assistant, who ran off somewhere in the Castle.

"She will come back with the payment. This is worth more than I have on hand, and I will give you a bonus for the Duchess, who has been trying for a long time for her heir."

"The first couple?" Karl asked.

The midwife nodded, and Karl sent a short prayer to the Gods for the safety of her partner. "How long does this last, anyhow?" Musa asked.

"It's a spell effect, so either about four hours or until they choose to deactivate it." Karl replied with a shrug.

The halls were quiet now, someone had closed the doors. But the assistant was flushed and sweating with exertion when she returned, followed by two guards and a man in a crown and a deep purple cloak.

Musa dropped to her knees and bowed as the Totem released his aura a little, letting Karl know who he was.

Karl dipped to one knee and put his fist over his heart, the traditional salute to the King of The Golden Dragon Nation.

The Demon gave him a curious look, but didn't say anything about the difference as he motioned for them to rise.

"I am told that you have obtained a fertility item." He spoke directly to Musa, skipping any sort of preamble.

"Yes, Lord Governor. It is Royal Rank, and has already proven repeatedly effective."

The pale Demon sighed. "The King is going to hate us for this. He's already annoyed at the uproar over the Princes, and now half of his advisors will be either pregnant or new parents for the next two years."

Musa smiled at him. "But on the other hand, you won't have the cranky and stressed nobles who are struggling to conceive for the next few months."

The City Governor of Drodh sighed. "That is fair. And neither is why I actually came here. Under no circumstances: not bribery, coercion or extortion, should you allow my daughter access to that charm."

Karl did his best not to laugh at the man's concern. But the Totem Rank Demon was deadly serious about that fact.

The Governor grumbled as he realized he was being secretly laughed at. "She's only been married three months. I'm too young to be a grandfather. I'm not even forty!"

## Chapter 742 Payment Received

The guards that had accompanied the assistant and the Governor set a large chest down on the ground, and Musa gestured to it.

"I believe that should be sufficient payment for your work, Lord Runemaster." The Midwife explained.

The guard opened the lid, showing that it was mostly full of silver and copper coins, but a scattering of rough magical gems and other items.

"If my suspicions are right, this is your entire life savings." Karl replied.

The Governor laughed at the look on his face and patted him on the shoulder.

"On the contrary. It's yesterday's gate collections. The Midwife is an employee of the city government, so her expenses are covered by the city."

Karl smiled. "Well, that does make me feel better about it. Alright, I agree with the price. Thank you for your patronage, and you are welcome to look for me in the future if you need my expertise again."

The Midwife nodded happily as Karl moved the chest to his inventory, but the look on the Governor's face said that he planned to do no such thing. Surely, he didn't think that Karl could only make fertility charms?

Remi spoke up as Karl bowed and turned to leave. [No, I have been researching since people started treating you strangely. Cat Demons, which look a lot like you do now, have a reputation for making deals too good to refuse. Deals that put you permanently in their debt, or that take something much more valuable than you thought you agreed to.

For example, it wouldn't be uncommon for a Rakshasa to have written the purchase agreement in a way that all the children born of the fertility stone belonged to them.]

She even brought up the pages in the {Compendium of Demons} tome that she had acquired somewhere.

[You know, you can acquire more than Priestesses from the Library.] Remi reminded Karl.

[But Priestesses come preloaded with knowledge.] Hawk noted.

[They smell better than books, too.] Thor agreed.

Cara nodded in agreement. They even tasted better. Books weren't even worth licking.

Rae agreed with her sister. Humans definitely tasted better than books. Remi sighed in exasperation as her siblings failed to understand the basic appeal of gaining knowledge from books. But they had her, and with her guidance, their Karl could guide them all to new skills.

Karl made his way out of the building towards the gate, where the guards were doing their very best not to laugh.

"Sir, might I ask what exactly you delivered to the midwife?" The Guard Captain asked quietly as Karl reached the exit.

"A Royal Rank Fertility Charm blessed by the Green Dragon God." Karl replied happily.

"Ah, I had hoped that it was finally the delivery of growth potions for premature children. They've been on backorder for ages."

Karl shook his head. "Sorry. But I can inquire if you're desperate. However, premature children normally catch up to their peers once they're school aged. They just need to endure until then."

The guard nodded. "Please do. You're at the Laughing Dragon, right? I remember that the guards said something about a Werebear and a Cat demon hanging out with a bunch of Priestesses."

"Yeah, that was most likely us. I didn't know that we were so memorable." Karl replied.

"No offence, but with so many soldiers just returned to town, I think they've made a note of every potentially single woman of marriageable age."

Karl frowned. "I will have to keep an eye on my friends then. It wouldn't do to have something happen. But tell me, as I'm new to the city, how likely is it that someone might try to push their weight around?"

The Guard shook his head. "The Governor would bust their balls in public if they did, so it won't be the soldiers, though you can expect them to flirt constantly. You might have some trouble with the drunks, but that's true anywhere.

Normally, we would be more afraid of the Lord, but with the triplet Princes just born, he doesn't really leave home these days, and the Governor is doing all his duties."

Hawk was happy resting in his space, so Karl began to walk back across the city toward the Inn.

There were shops all along the main street that led to the Laughing Dragon, so Karl stopped and grabbed some snacks to taste test, and then a jeweller operating a small street stall caught his attention.

"What is that ore?" Karl asked as he examined the oddly coloured items.

"It's Mana Jade, all of these pieces are carved from a single slice of stone." The shopkeeper explained proudly.

It was beautiful, but not magical. However, Karl suspected that it could be.

If his goal was to reach Totem Rank as quickly as possible, it would take money and effort. The dungeon in the city should help on the 'effort' side of things, but making Runic Jewellery and items should make up the necessary funds to get the rest of what he needed.

"How much do you want for the four bracelets?" Karl asked.

"All four of them?" The pale violet Demoness asked in shock.

Perhaps they were more expensive than Karl expected.

"Two Gold coins each."

Or maybe this was a less affluent area than he thought.

"How about a bulk discount? Seven and five silver for all four."

The shopkeeper nodded happily, and Karl quickly moved the items to Remi's space, so the Naga Queen could inspect them.

The Mana Jade was a vibrant green with violet streaks, and looked good against her scales. If it really did take as much mana as Karl hoped, she would make him buy more of this stuff to upgrade.

Karl found a few more interesting shops on his way back, and made a note to bring the others down this street soon.

Back at the Inn, things were quiet. Everyone was just catching up on sleep and discretely listening to gossip on the street through the open window.

You could learn a lot about a city by how the people behaved in public, and while there had been trouble last night in the tavern, the daytime crowd was cheerful and more concerned with shipping delays with a holiday coming up. As they understood it, there was a Mythic Rank or higher 'Lord' person in town, and he had declared his wife's birthday a city holiday. It sounded a lot like White Day at home, when the girls would gift chocolate to their crush and gather the courage to maybe ask him out.

But the gossip had given them a good idea of the power structure of the city, where a handful of Totem Rank leaders working under the Governor controlled the districts, while the Lord was actually the leader of the nation, and a form of royalty, as his sons were referred to as Princes, but not in relation to their power level.

But much more shockingly, that seemed to be a normal thing all over the nation, to have at least a few Totems in every major city and most towns. That final bottleneck was where most people here were getting stuck, and while there were many Overlords, there were relatively few Totems.

Unfortunately, all the talk was about the upcoming Matriarch's Day parties, and nobody mentioned anything about events outside the city, except that some of the deliveries were late.

## Chapter 743 Funding Power

Once he was finally back in his room, Karl sat down at the small table and took out the four bracelets he had purchased from the market.

"Oh, did you get us all gifts?" Dana asked.

Karl smiled. "If the Runic inscription works as well as I hope, not only did I get you gifts, I might have found a good way to make money here. Did you all learn anything today? I see that you have the window open."

"We learned a bit about the city, and that there is a holiday upcoming, but nothing too extreme. How did the delivery go?" Dana replied.

Karl laughed at the memory. "Very well. The city government paid us well for the charm, and they've already started using it. The only condition was that we should refuse if ever the Governor's daughter comes to request a similar service."

With that explanation, Karl began to plan out the carvings for the first of the bracelets. Skill Power and Mana regeneration would stack up quite well. But Remi had a better idea. She had found a set of descriptions that could be translated to runes that should allow the item to store mana as well as helping to regenerate it.

That was an interesting concept, and it would put a lot of reliance upon the actual item, as the Runes themselves did not store the mana. However, according to the description in the Inscription tome that the Blue Dragon Acolytes had provided, an item should be able to store two seconds worth of its maximum mana flow without affecting the function of other spells put on the item.

That was for Inscription, which was similar, but not the same as Runecrafting. It should be a good enough baseline for his next attempt, and even if he misjudged, he could either stop early, or simply replace the item. They weren't that expensive.

The basic inscriptions wouldn't take long for Karl to do, and he didn't want to overdo it when the primary purpose of the bracelet had now become a reserve mana storage device. It might only be enough to cast eight or ten spells at moderate output, or fewer than three full output spells.

But the bracelet would refill itself, and given time, it would provide more free energy.

Karl finished the runes on the inside of the bracelet, and then began to upgrade them.

From Common to Royal, the process went smoothly, but as soon as the runes changed to the rich amethyst of Royal Rank, Karl felt the matching streaks in the stone begin to leech mana, saturating the bracelet.

If he pushed harder, it would almost certainly explode. But with the enchantment at Royal Rank, and the mana storage Runes included, the bracelet contained a significant amount of power, in addition to the Skill Power and Mana Regeneration effects.

"Dana, try that on and let me know what you think." Karl handed the bracelet over, confident in its worthiness, then began to make another one.

The final three bracelets were finished in a matter of minutes, all at Royal Rank, and the ladies now all had matching accessories.

Lotus was smiling like she had just won the lottery.

"This is enough stored mana to cast a Resurrection spell. If I keep this in reserve for the worst-case scenario, I will always have enough mana available to bring a fallen comrade back." She explained.

Tessa nodded in agreement. "This would be enough mana to put up Holy Weapon and Holy Armour spells on an entire five hundred soldier regiment. Truly fantastic."

Dana nodded in agreement with the assessment of the power, but she had another idea.

"We should get more of these. Or possibly rings made of the same material. You could make enough for us to get all the resources we need to keep pushing for the Monarch Rank that way.

Or, enough to buy them for Remi to grow more and make us what we need. I know that it's cheating, in a way. But if we can combine strengthening potions and some trips to the Dungeon, we might be able to reach this place's power standard." She explained.

Karl nodded. "First, we will need to see what magical items are going for here. The jewellery itself was cheap, so I don't know what the upgraded ones will go for. After all, there is a Royal Rank dungeon here in town, so there should be a steady supply of Royal Rank items available for sale."

Not long after, they went down for lunch, intending to check out the shops down the main street that Karl had noticed. But first, Karl needed to get some information.

"Innkeeper, do you know where we might find some Royal Rank accessories?" He asked.

The Innkeeper frowned. "Good luck with that. There are a few shops near the dungeon that resell them, but most of the ones that come out of the Dungeon get sold to exporters. They ship them all over the country, and south to Lared.

Besides, the Dungeon has only been open a year, and accessories are a one in a thousand drop. Hardly one in five gets a weapon, but armour pieces and potions are fairly easy to come by in the shopping district."

Karl nodded. "Thanks. That changes our shopping plans for certain. But we're going for lunch, is there anywhere you recommend? Perhaps somewhere with cake?"

"If you go east to the river, down through the Fool's Walk district, there are all sorts of fancy cafés and shops. The boardwalk runs most of the way to the wall from the port. It's impossible to not find somewhere with good food."

"Not that your food is bad." Karl added, making the Innkeeper laugh.

"No offence taken. My food has always been more popular with guards and sailors than young ladies with a sweet tooth."

It was only a few minutes walk from the hotel to the river, and Karl easily led the group to the boardwalk. There, the crowds of the city began to thin, replaced with couples casually walking, and joggers exercising on the open wooden walkway.

"Now, where do we start looking for lunch?"

#### Chapter 744 Sweet Tooth

There were stalls with sweets and street foods every few metres down the boardwalk, restaurants and cafés in behind them, and a number of more specialized shops spread among them.

Lotus quickly pointed to a spot further up the walk, where Karl could see the picture of a twin tailed Nekomata on the sign, next to a slice of cake on a tray.

"Did we just find a cat café on another continent?" Dana asked as they followed the Nature Priestess to the shop.

"Possibly." Tessa agreed.

But the shop was not what they expected at all.

It was the Nekomata Bakery, but there were no cats roaming the dining room. Instead, it was a maid café stocked with catgirl employees.

"Bonus." Karl laughed as he realized the baker was actually an Ascended Rank Nekomata using a humanoid transformation skill.

But the food smelled delicious, and Lotus was a sucker for the sales pitch. She had been ushered in to a table so fast that the staff hadn't even realized she was part of a group.

Tessa sighed. "It's like being back in school. Every new thing gets her sidetracked."

The hostess welcomed them into the restaurant, where Lotus was already beginning to order for everyone. A different flavour for each, so that she could steal a taste and sample them all.

The staff slid an extra table together with the one Lotus was at to make room, and started to bring out cakes, croissants, puffs and other treats, along with various flavoured coffees.

Now Karl knew why the Cleric had been in a hurry. If she hadn't ordered first, Tessa would have never let her have caffeine. But she wouldn't humiliate her friend by taking her drink away once Lotus had started.

"Are you new in town? We welcome all lovers of sweets to our shop." The fluffy eared server in a frilly maid outfit asked.

Lotus nodded happily. "Yeah, we're on an adventure. They sent us to a random city to start over, and here we are."

The maid looked confused for a moment, then realization hit her.

"Wait, you were exiled from your home island, weren't you? That's wild. You're so cute, who would have thought that you were that sort of badass?"

Lotus smiled at the compliment, not realizing that the woman thought they were criminals from another one of the Dragon Isles.

"Technically, Karl was exiled, and we all chose to go with him on an adventure. But they said we can come back when he reaches Totem Rank, so it's not like it's permanent." Lotus happily explained, then winced as Tessa thumped her on the head.

"The short one misunderstood your words, I think. We weren't exiled as criminals, but for political reasons." Tessa explained.

"Oh, so it's like that. Well, welcome to Drodh. We have some of the best baked goods in the city, and you've only seen half the menu." The server replied quickly.

But the Nekomata baking in the back laughed quietly to itself, but just loud enough for Karl's sensitive hearing and the catgirls standing by the kitchen to pick up. "With an aura like his, the definition of crime might be somewhat different from usual. Treat his friends well, that man is dangerous."

One matcha latte later, Lotus was wired, and ready to explore the city. Fortunately, there was a whole boardwalk full of interesting things to see, and then Karl would lead them through the shopping streets to get more of the Mana Jade jewellery.

They certainly wouldn't be short on sweets for a while, as Lotus had brought them to a dozen different street food stalls, and the proceeds had been saved in the ladies' inventory for later. With the exception of a caramel apple, which Lotus was now using as a half-eaten conductor's wand for their adventure on the boardwalk.

The boardwalk ended a hundred metres from the outlet to the ocean, with a heavy industrial section of warehouses and one large bridge between them and the docks that lined the bay side of the city.

"Where next?" Lotus asked, now that they had seen a lot of the things she had hoped to explore today.

"To the shopping district. Rae was interested in the fashions and needs models. Then I want to get more of the bracelets and rings like the ones I bought yesterday. After that, we can return to the Inn, or find a spot for dinner. We did do quite a bit of walking, so I'm sure we will be hungry again soon." Karl offered.

Those were magic words, and Rae appeared from her space to lead the way. The money making schemes could wait. There were new ways to decorate her team waiting.

She was more demanding and less flighty than Lotus as a leader, and Rae deftly guided them through the streets to the start of the shopping road by the Castle.

Rae even did her best tour guide impression, using Remi's information for the others.

"And here we are. The Castle. The City Governor as well as the Lord, as people here call the leader of the nation, both live here. The Lord has new triplets at home and is on Paternity leave, so he's not visible today. But the Governor is standing on the upper balcony outside the working offices right now, if you can see that from here." She explained.

A few passersby turned to look, and realized that yes, they could faintly see him in his official robes, taking a smoke break on the balcony.

As a Totem, he didn't really fear surprise assassinations. Anyone below his Rank did so much less damage to him that their efforts would be in vain.

Rae turned the corner onto the shopping street and led them into a custom dressmaker, before being picked up by the shoulders and brought back to the door by Ophelia.

"Understand this much. I'm not wearing a dress around all day without a good reason." The Berserker insisted, her black eyes intently on Rae's face, searching for a sign of understanding.

"Not even a nice skirt? It's easy to move in, you can wear armour under it, and it's extra armour if I make it." Rae bargained.

It was a trick question. Normal armour usually already had a hanging loincloth or long shirt that fit like a skirt to protect the hips. If Ophelia tried to reject the idea, Rae could use her current armour against her.

## Chapter 745 Fashionable

After seeing the excitement of Rae and the dressmaker, Karl stopped at the door. "Why don't I go take care of the work part of the day, and you ladies can try on dresses in peace?" He suggested.

"Oh, good idea. We can make it a surprise for you later." Rae agreed.

Tessa waved him off and pulled Ophelia further into the store, which had everything from travelling cloaks to evening gowns on display in multiple colours. All of which were exquisitely made.

As he walked away, he heard the dressmaker gasp as Rae slapped a few gems on the counter and insisted that she close the shop until they were done. She didn't want her work interrupted.

Karl headed straight for the stall that had the Mana Jade accessories, and found that today the stock was even better. The green and purple jade accessories had been joined by a bunch of white jade rings with red streaks.

If Karl's guess was right, those should accept Monarch Rank Runes. The purple ones had flooded with power when they reached Royal Rank, and these ones perfectly matched Monarch Rank Runes.

"Sir, welcome back. Did your lady friend like the gift?" The demon girl at the stand asked.

"Indeed she did. But I am back here for business reasons this time. You see, I am a Runesmith."

Karl was about to continue, but the demon gasped and surged to her feet.

"Sir, please follow me into the house." She insisted, already starting to fold the sides of her stall down.

Karl shrugged and let her finish the work, then activate a charm to lock the stand, with an "On Lunch, back soon" sign.

Karl followed her up the stairs to a tiny apartment over the shop behind her stall.

Only once they were inside, and she had cast a silence spell over the room, did she speak again.

"Is it true, you're a Runesmith, a real one?" She demanded.

Karl nodded. "I would show you the results of the other accessories, but the ladies are shopping for dresses."

The Shopkeeper took out one of the white and red rings from a box on the table, and Karl saw that she was making them herself, with chips of stone and dust everywhere in the one - room space.

Karl extended a claw from his bestial form and looked her over. The shopkeeper was a Warrior Class, so he made a warrior type Rune. Feline Agility and Titanic Strength. Then he slowly upgraded the Runes until they turned red to match the veins in the ring. The same feeling of saturation, where the runes tried to merge with the stone, happened when it hit Monarch Rank. Karl stopped then, and handed the ring over to the artist.

"See, if you put it on, it will bond, and you can use your system interface to examine the stats." He explained.

She looked panicked at those words.

"Let it bond to me? Are you insane? This thing is worth more than my home!"

Karl was about to point out that her home was likely the spare bedroom of the other unit on this floor at one point before it was given a stairwell to the balcony.

Instead, she cast a spell on the ring, and information appeared over it in Karl's System Interface.

{Nimble Ring of Titanic Strength} Monarch Rank. Increases Strength by 43% of base, Increases Agility by 14% of base.

"See, fancy. But not too fancy, as it's a ring. I would like to purchase most of your stock, the parts that are made of both of the white and the green Mana Jade varieties." Karl reminded her.

The jeweller was silent, crying happy tears as she stared at the ring.

"You really can do it. I will sell you my whole stock. But I want another two. No, another three of these items made for me to sell." She insisted.

It was literally only four linked characters to do the upgrade, under a minute of work for each ring.

"You have a deal. Pick the items, and the enchantments. I will make you what I can."

She quickly picked up three more rings, then put one down and took out a green and violet bracelet.

"Please make these two rings identical to the first one, then for the bracelet, can you do more? It's bigger, so there is more room." She suggested.

Karl looked at her nameplate with the System. {Name} Loros

{Obsession} sculpting

{Class} Warrior

That was new. He had never seen a line for obsessions or personality traits appear before. Perhaps it was a demon thing? Or maybe she was really obsessed with sculpting jewellery.

"Is the bracelet for you?" He asked, and her ivory white skin flushed a little, not just on her face, but her whole upper body.

Loros nodded happily. "Yes. With the ring and bracelet together, I will be able to get respect from the customers. You see, looking poor makes your work look poor. But with this... I can not only sell a lot of my carvings, but I can refer them to you for the extra work."

Karl smiled. "I don't know how long I will be in town. But perhaps we can work out a deal. Being a shopkeeper isn't in my nature, but if you can refer me to a shop that will sell them on consignment or buy them for resale, I will give you a cut of each sale."

Her eyes flashed bright red, and she nodded rapidly. "I know just the spot. The Lord's wife owns a jewellery shop, backed by his money. If you sell to them, nobody will question the authenticity. Plus, they can afford to buy more than one at a time."

Karl quickly inscribed the runes on the other two rings for Loros, and then smiled as he realized that he could have a little fun with the bracelet, which was designed to have room for a custom name on the outside.

{For the Young Lady Loros / Happy Birthday} Karl wrote on the outside, then added the runes for increased Skill Power and Sharpness to the inside. That would make it effortless for her to carve even the most difficult of materials, increasing her work speed, and thereby her profits in the future.

#### Chapter 746 Royal Jeweler

Karl turned over the bracelet, and the demon broke down into full-fledged tears.

"How did you know it was my birthday tomorrow?" She sobbed.

"Divine Inspiration." Karl lied smoothly.

Now that she was crying over it, he was not about to admit that he had intended to make it look like a childhood gift for the daughter of a Noble Family.

Karl picked up a dozen rings from the table, all the green and violet Royal Rank Mana Jade, and quickly inscribed [Giant Strength] Runes on them. Nothing else, just Royal Rank Giant strength.

"Do you think that this will be enough for the shop? I heard that magical jewels were difficult to come by, and I didn't want to go overboard with the first sale." He asked gently, while Loros washed her face in the sink.

"Yes, that should be enough. With the shop cut, and a small cut for me, that should be eighty-five gold pieces per ring for you, at wholesale price. Don't accept less than a hundred before deductions, they will sell them for at least a hundred and fifty." She insisted, becoming determined when it came to money.

"How far is it to the shop?" Karl asked.

"It's actually just around the corner. On the street that faces the Palace, so the Lord can keep an eye on his wife when she goes out to inspect her shop. He's quite protective, and even more now that she's just given birth." Loros explained.

Karl looked down at the casual grey polo shirt with the spider on the pocket, and the black pants he had chosen for the day. That should do. But Loros was a mess of stone dust and tear streaks.

"Do you have something fancy? Or do they already know you?" He asked.

The Demoness laughed. "Of course they know me, I live next door. They walk by and make fun of me every morning. You see, if my skill was higher, I could make magical items with my crafting as well. But until then, I'm just another poor street vendor."

"Alright, follow my lead when we get there. I'm told that my aura is somewhat terrifying, and it helps in negotiations."

Loros stuck out her tongue at him. "You know that almost all Demons can see auras, right? It's not exactly a secret what your aura looks like."

Well, that was embarrassing. But she had brought him into her home, knowing that his aura was deep red and black? Perhaps the slender sculptor was braver than she looked.

Or more obsessed with getting recognition for her work.

She led the way, and Karl noticed the disgusted looks when she entered the shop, but Loros quickly bowed her head and apologized. "Jeweller Magos, forgive the intrusion, but I have brought you a business opportunity." She whispered.

The short, four-armed demon known as Magos was an Overlord, and unnaturally bronze, which he complimented with an all black suit.

Magos turned to Karl. "I suppose that you're the business opportunity?" Karl nodded, and placed one of the rings on the counter between them without saying a word.

The demon did a double take, then slowly smiled and reached out a lower arm to pat Loros' head.

"Good work, little street vendor. Now, Sir, how much were you hoping to get for this ring?"

Karl smiled and one by one he placed nine more on the counter, keeping the last two in reserve.

"Given the time and effort involved, I would ask for a hundred fifty gold coins for each." Karl insisted.

The demon stared at the rings for a moment, then cast a spell to identify them. That told him instantly that they were all identical, with only a few percentage points of difference to the strength buff. "You made these?" He asked.

"Loros made these. I upgraded them." Karl agreed.

That brought a look of enlightenment to Magos' face. Now he understood why she was brave enough to come into the shop while he was on duty.

"That is too much. I can offer you a thousand for all ten."

That was the minimum that Loros had suggested he accept, and he hadn't even negotiated yet.

Karl put the last two on the counter. "Thirteen hundred for all twelve."

Magos quickly swept the rings into a velvet lined box, using deft hand movements to drop them on the finger shaped protrusions.

"You have a deal, Sir. Please wait here while the accountant prepares your funds."

Karl waited for someone to come out, and then a System Notice appeared.

{Trade Offer. Royal Jewellers offers you Thirteen Hundred Gold Coins.}

Karl accepted, then quickly transferred a hundred and eighty to Loros.

Her face lit up with joy, and the Jeweller bowed politely to Karl. "It seems your skills are exceptional. Should your collaboration with this young lady lead to any other successful creations, please think of us first in the future."

Karl nodded. "Of course, Jeweller Magos. I intend to have a few Monarch Rank items with more diverse abilities for you soon. I do hope that your shop will be able to assist me."

Magos looked down at the ring on Loros' finger, and his eyes lit up in excitement. "Thank you, Lord Runesmith."

They left the shop, and Loros returned to her stall. She unlocked the boards on the side and flipped the sign to open. "Such dedication." Karl joked, knowing that this was the most money she had likely ever had at one time. "Oh, right. You intended to buy the entire stock, didn't you?" She realized.

Karl nodded, then stopped her from packing up. "How about this, I will take the Monarch Ranked items you have today, and all ten of those green cloak brooches. Those are large enough for a proper upgrade. That's payment enough for today, and then you can make me an equivalent number of items later. These all have similar engravings on them, but Magos would be much happier if they were all distinctly different with one identifying mark on them, so he could trace them back to his shop later."

That worked out well for Loros.

"You're not worried about me running away with the money?" She asked.

"I could tell Magos that you ran off with the raw stock for the next batch, and it wouldn't take long for someone to find you." Karl shrugged.

The pale Demoness shuddered. "Please don't. That man is a savage. There are rumours that he beat his cook to death for burning his dinner."

Karl smiled. "See, we have an understanding. But I'm at the Laughing Dragon with my friends. You can bring the items over when you finish. So, even if you want to move apartments now that you have a load of gold coins, it's not a problem."

"And give up my spot? I'll wait for a bit before I move." She giggled.

So, the rights to the spots out front were part of the rental deal. That made sense, as the shop behind her was a furniture store, and not a competitor. Most likely, the furniture shop owner had the rest of the apartment on the second floor as well, and Loros simply rented the small suite in the corner with the outside entrance. It was a functional solution for a crowded city with so many street vendors who wouldn't want to live too far from their spot.

After all, they could take the items home, but the stall had to stay to save their sales location. It was peace of mind to be able to see it from your home, so you knew it wasn't being vandalized.

## Chapter 747 Rae Found Fashion

With Loros hard at work selling her existing stock, Karl returned to the dress shop where he had left the ladies.

There was a large mound of dresses in five different stacks, presumably one for each of them. Then, Remi came out in Naga Queen form and gave Rae a pleading look.

The shopkeeper didn't see her appear, only after she had entered, and quickly held up a hand.

"Ma'am, my apologies, but the shop is closed for the moment for a private shopping group." She announced in a firm tone.

"Oh, she's with us. Hello Remi." Rae replied, waving the Naga Queen over.

"There are some dresses here that didn't look right on us, but might on you with the extra two arms. Here, but this on. It should be your size, you're pretty slender."

Karl could practically see the cash register ringing up new sales in the woman's eyes, so he leaned in to quietly ask her the important questions as the assistants catered to Remi.

"What are they at so far?" The shop owner double-checked the stack, and then her math, before shrugging. "About seventy gold coins, but for this large of a purchase, I can offer a discount." Karl nodded. "Not as bad as I had feared."

Then he turned to Rae. "Are all these items the ones to keep?"

Rae nodded. "Yes, they're all different styles, and all exquisite. I want them all for my art."

The shopkeeper seemed to take that as Rae being a personal stylist, whose art was her outfitting of her clients. So, there was no hesitation as the shopkeeper began to carefully fold and bag the items.

She had dealt with many wealthy clients in the past, and that man had already said he had no problem with the total cost.

Dana messaged Karl. {Do you have enough local currency? Or can we convert gems?}

Karl smiled at her. {I have enough. I found a buyer for Rune crafted Rings, and made a few more with the help of the sculptor who made the bracelets.}

No need to mention that what he had made today was ten times what they had managed to spend buying out half of a high-end clothing store.

Hopefully, this level of spending didn't continue, as the market for magical jewellery was bound to be somewhat limited. But for Rae's sake, they had to find local fashion.

Remi's fashion choices were limited due to her extra arms, but there were options for multiple armed customers, as well as ones with wings. In fact, there were countless options for customers with wings, to the point that backless dresses seemed to be the standard here.

The shopkeeper smiled at Karl when Remi was done shopping and whispered to him, so as not to disturb the ladies.

"How does seventy for the entire pile, with your last friend added, sound?"

Remi had added at least ten more dresses to the pile, so Karl nodded, and searched his interface for a moment until he found the way to initiate a trade for seventy gold coins.

He shook hands with the shopkeeper, and the carefully bagged items were moved into Rae's space.

These were all lovely, but she wanted them as samples to remake them in her own silk and innovate.

She had even managed to get Ophelia into a few dresses.

Because of that success, Rae was in much better spirits as they headed to the Inn again, and she now had at least two weeks worth of designs to study and work on. It was strange for everyone in Karl's group to be somewhat anonymous in the city, as a group of Royal Rank women led by a Monarch was hardly anything out of the ordinary, and dozens of similar level groups entered the dungeons every day.

But after a lifetime in the Golden Dragon Nation, they weren't mentally prepared to live a life of anonymity in a huge city full of Demons.

They could certainly make enough to survive, even without Karl and his Runecrafting skills. But that didn't feel like enough for any of them.

Dana was keenly aware that it was a spoiled and selfish notion that they should remain as a special person when they were on another continent where everyone had some sort of power on their side if they wanted to live a life better than cattle.

It wasn't obvious here in the city, as the weakest had been driven out of the city many years ago. The slums of the Black Shade, as the locals called it, were the residence of the species that couldn't exceed Awakened Rank. In the city, even Janitors and housekeepers were normally required to be Ascended Rank or higher, unless they were children. It appeared to be normal for apprentices to follow their parents to work before they were even teenagers, and the young faces in the shops that they passed only served to remind Dana that they really were in somewhere entirely different from anything she was familiar with.

But the most notable fact about the city was its cleanliness. There were no rodents anywhere, no rot or filth in the alleys, other than around the garbage bins. Old Jared, the one - eyed sailor, waved and greeted them from a stool at the bar as they entered, looking much worse for wear than he had the other day.

He hadn't been part of the fight at the tavern, but it was obvious that he had been in one sometime today.

"Old man, are you sure that it's wise to go picking fights in the middle of the day?" Tessa joked.

The sailor laughed and ran his fingers through his shaggy hair. "Ye'r a funny one, Priestess. I was at the Dungeon today, and our healer was worse than useless. Some Gnoll Shaman, who seemed to forget that they were supposed to heal someone other than themselves."

Tessa patted him on the shoulder and cast a healing spell to remove the bruises and cuts from his body.

"Well, you'll be alright now."

Old Jared laughed, then waved to Beth, who was in the back room. "Bring my friends a drink. They've fixed my face as good as new, and that lingering cough has cleared right up."

## Chapter 748 Tavern Nightlife

Karl's group retreated to their room before dinner, in order to make plans for the upcoming days.

"Do we have enough local money to get by? I know Karl said he had made and sold some items today." Tessa asked, ever the practical one.

Karl nodded. "Yeah, I've got about a thousand Gold coins left. If we keep spending like this, I might have to make more rings soon, but now that Rae has cleared out a designer shop, our basic costs even staying at the Laughing Dragon would take years to go through that. But I suspect that sitting around all day is going to get boring quickly. We could also check out the Dungeon, and see if it helps our power levels grow. I have some hope that if we keep practising, one or more of the beasts will be able to activate an Overlord Rank skill long before they have grown to advancement. The extra combat power or defensive abilities would put us in a good spot."

All four women nodded, and Tessa spoke for them. "That's what we were thinking. The way that the locals speak of it, being in the dungeon helps you grow faster. It might only be true for Demons, but the Dungeons are System relics. So, logically, it should help everyone with a fully active System grow as well."

I know that Thor loves his job, but we would rest easier if we didn't actually need his protection most of the time. We would still gladly accept it, but it would be best if it were just an extra layer of safety."

Then Lotus smirked. "Plus, who knows what the Dungeon might give us? It's like a random treasure box."

Cara wholeheartedly approved of that idea.

The smell of fresh bread wafted up to their room from the kitchen below them, and they all headed down to get some additional information, though they weren't particularly hungry after loading up on cake at lunch.

There was a younger lot of sailors in the tavern tonight, along with quite a few soldiers, but none of the old guards who had been cycled off-duty.

Karl took them to a table along the back wall, away from any chaos that might happen, but with sailors and soldiers all around them.

"Oh, it's the new arrivals. Have you ladies had a chance to see the city yet?" One of the guards asked.

"We went to the boardwalk and did some shopping today. We were thinking about trying the dungeon tomorrow. Anything we should know?" Ophelia replied with a toothy grin.

The burly demon smiled back at her. "Well, it's a water realm Dungeon, so everything is swampy. The dungeon is full of Ogres, though. Kind of a strange setup, but at least the running water makes them smell a bit better than usual.

There is a five-gold coin per group exit fee. The last lot charged it on the way in, but we found that it's much easier to charge it on the way out. At least on the way out, they'll be guaranteed to have money, and nobody can accuse us of robbing a dead man."

A tall blonde man that almost looked human, except for his eyes, whose eyelids operated in the wrong direction, nodded in agreement. "It's a five-person run, and you can go in every day if you're feeling spicy. I don't think anyone really does, except that one group of adventurers from Drurkor, and they're trying to save money to buy a farm.

If you clear everything, it usually nets you about three gold a member, plus loot, so the fee is only a third of the average income, and even if you skip half the mobs to go for the boss drops, you'll still at least break even."

Ophelia nodded in understanding. "Then it should be good for us. With two clerics and plenty of combat power, it should keep our bar tab funded."

The guard laughed. "Now, you make it sound so easy. The bosses are all Monarchs, and they're no pushovers. Not heavy on the magic, but Ogre Lords can be pretty nasty even without the Dungeon making them unreasonably durable."

Karl motioned for Beth to bring a round of drinks to the guards in exchange for the useful information, right before one of the other guards chimed in with a bit of interesting information. "We got a lot luckier than those poor bastards in Bara, the Capital of Nabibun. We stopped there on the way back from the Northern Island, and they got themselves an Overlord Ranked dungeon that's nothing but bloody spiders and Dark Elves. The whole bloody place is cursed, I swear."

One of the sailors began to laugh and nod in agreement. "And in a city full of Dwarves, no less. I swear they'd brick over the entrance if it wouldn't start a riot."

They were sitting and drinking, waiting for dinner, when an Overlord in a Guard uniform strutted in, looking excessively proud of himself.

"Hey boys, look what I found at the Royal Jeweller." He called, holding out his hand with a very familiar looking ring on it.

"Got yourself Married? Congratulations. Was it old man Magos, or his sister?" One of the guardsmen teased.

"I'm not married, you idiot. They got a whole batch of Royal Rank strength rings in today, and I got my hands on one before they sold out. Now, it took a fistfight and twice the asking price, but look at this, thirty percent strength increase on top of my base." He boasted.

All the ladies looked at the bracelets on their wrists, then turned to look at Karl, who was trying not to laugh. The guards whistled in appreciation.

"Now that's a good strength ring. Is it on your personal base, or on the Royal Rank base?" One asked.

"Mine personally. I checked it once I bought it. With the increased base strength Warriors get, this thing is no joke by the time you get to Overlord Rank." The Captain confirmed.

The Jeweller might require some sweet-talking next time Karl came in to make a sale. After this round caused fist fights in his store between Overlords, there was no telling how he would react to a Monarch Ranked item or two.

## Chapter 749 Drodh Dungeon

The guards were highly entertaining, and they had nearly as many tall tales as the sailors did after their recent deployment. Karl and the others only ended up heading to their room near midnight, with plans to go to the Dungeon after breakfast.

Waking up late meant that the tavern was quiet as they ate, but the streets were still busy as they headed out to the Dungeon to try their luck. Fortunately, it wasn't a long walk, and there was no lineup to enter.

All they had to do was let the guards check their Ranks as they passed by so that nobody took on a stupid bet and got themselves killed. Or, dragged someone unwilling and under Rank into the dungeon to kill them and dispose of the body, Karl assumed.

Karl led them into the entrance, then called out the whole team, including the Bodyguards and the Guardian.

Thor sighed as he could finally stretch his Cerro body, and Hawk flapped up into the air.

[This is nice. Human bodies just aren't the same.] Thor informed them.

[Sorry about that. I will try to come here as much as possible, so everyone can be themselves for a while.]

Rae snorted in amusement. [Speaking of being ourselves, Cara has pulled the first group of Ogres. We should likely go save them from her.]

That was a good description of the situation. Cara wasn't even trying to kill them, she had Disintegrated their feet and was in the process of turning their pockets inside out.

[Skill: Pilfer] Successful. 8 silver coins obtained.

[Skill: Pilfer] Successful. Fire Opal obtained.

Well, that was unexpected. You really could loot them while they were alive. The Void Badger had become a menace to Ogre Society.

But more importantly, they still gave a reward of coins that was split between the group members when they died, and a few Common Grade items dropped beside their bodies.

They might be good for raw materials, if Karl wanted to practice his Rune work. But not much more than that.

Karl realized a second later that the humans had been left behind. The beasts and the summons had all gone ahead to pick a fight with the second group, following Thor's exuberant charge.

Ophelia looked like she was going to chase them as Hawk began to bombard another group, pulling them to where Rae was watching the fun with her Golems.

"Don't hurry. They've been cooped up in their space for days. Let them burn off some energy." Karl advised.

Ophelia snorted in amusement and gave Karl an 'and I haven't?' sort of look.

She was a berserker, and yet that insufferable spider had forced her to wear a dress. The fact that it actually looked good on her Werebear form only made the indignity worse.

Karl took out his bow and followed as Ophelia headed in the other direction, transforming into Dire Bear form before raging and expanding to tower over the hapless Ogres.

[Don't engage the bosses. We will clear out everything else first, then do them as a group.] Karl warned, focusing on Cara and Rae, who were most likely to get curious and attack them.

Once he had warned the excited beasts, a single [Smite] upgraded shot with his bow sent a glowing golden arrow into the eye of a wounded Ogre, and its head simply exploded in a flash of light.

If Karl had realized that skill was so overpowered, he would have started using it as soon as he got it.

But his bow was feeling a bit lacklustre now that he had experience with his abilities to upgrade others. It was also limiting his attack power, and if he wasn't careful, he would break it.

This was already a completed item, he couldn't mess with it any further, so he would have to purchase a high quality nonmagical bow somewhere to upgrade. Or have Lotus make him a new one.

However, that wasn't the only weapon he had. The Maul might be falling behind a bit, but the skill stacking ability was as good as ever. As long as he didn't push it too hard, either.

He really was outgrowing his weapons, Karl realized.

The weapon was quickly reaching its limits as a Commander Rank weapon, and he had been pushing his luck using it with Overlord Ranked skills, even when at Commander Rank himself.

However, it was the Blade of Champions that really stood out. It was overflowing with power from all the absorbed energy that it hadn't been able to transfer, as Karl wasn't using it, and with the Haint Claw on his hand, it glowed with an eerie pale green light. Karl charged forward to join Ophelia and used a [Disintegrate] covered [Rend] to attack the neck of one of the Ogres.

The head came cleanly away, and Karl paused to look at his blade in shock.

{Blade of Champions}

{Grade} Artifact

{Effects} Each kill cumulatively increases the User's strength and skill power. Harvests Life energy to transfer to the Champion. Life Steal on Hit.

Karl didn't remember the description saying all that before. But the power that it had stored was beginning to flow into him even as he cut down the Ogres at a walking pace.

Of course, he couldn't go too overboard, as Ophelia was venting her frustrations beside him, and he didn't want to steal her kills. But the already exaggerated abilities from the Packmaster Class and the [Bestial Champion] skill that came with it were becoming ridiculously overpowered now.

Overhead, even Dana was holding back, only using some basic blade attacks, while practising her form, and letting the Golems herd the monsters to Ophelia. The Berserker needed the release more than anyone.

By Karl's calculations, his fully buffed combat power was well into the Overlord Ranks now, but his base power was still lagging, and the beast spaces were still making their steady upwards climb.

Whether it was Karl's side of the battle with Ophelia, Dana and Tessa, or the beasts' side, which had been joined by Lotus, this dungeon was more of a massacre than a fight.

If he was being honest, just the summoned creatures could likely clear the dungeon on their own. Maybe not the bosses, but that remained to be seen, as the Bodyguards had gained [Life Leech] when Karl had learned the skill.

Lotus was mostly just a cheerleader at this point, and Remi didn't even have her healing totems out. Just the poison fireball ones.

But Tessa was only casting buffs on Karl and Ophelia, as they both had life steal as well, and they were gaining much more than they were taking in damage.

"Guys, come back this way. We need to do this boss before we can go to the other stuff." Lotus shouted from across the dungeon.

"Well, I guess it's showtime." Karl informed the others.

Ophelia snorted in amusement, then huffed when she remembered that she couldn't actually voice her thoughts in Dire Bear form like she could in Werebear form.

This had been far more enjoyable than she had expected, and it was good to get to vent her rage on the Ogres, even if they didn't put up much of a fight while she was stacked up with buffs from Karl's overpowered abilities.

## Chapter 750 Rampage In The Dungeon

Karl and Ophelia finished off the last few Ogres on their side of the path while Dana relaxed on the shoulder of one of her Golems, then headed to where the others were already waiting at the boss platform.

The first boss was a simple Ogre Lord, a Monarch Rank boss, but twice the size of an average Ogre Lord, standing seven metres tall.

If it wasn't for that distinctively ugly face, Karl would have thought that it was a Giant.

"How are we going to do this? Do you want to swarm it? Perhaps let the beasts stretch their legs?" Karl asked.

Rae nodded her head happily in spider form and clicked her mandibles. She hadn't gotten to stab anything for most of a week now, and she wouldn't mind getting a boss monster all to herself.

Plus, with the Leafa Golem active, as she had named Karl's Epic Guard, She had Void Body active, for nearly instant regeneration.

Ophelia transformed back to a Werebear and gestured to the waiting group of summons. "Why don't you let Rae and the bodyguards go at it? They need practice working together in battle if we're going to travel the wilderness here anyhow."

That was all the recommendation that Rae needed, and she vanished from her spot with [Night Haunter], or perhaps [Shadow Step], as both allowed instant movement over that distance.

She had activated [Vibrating Blade] on her limbs, a skill she had learned from Overlord Niall, and systematically began to butcher the Ogre Lord.

Rae's Golems were firing spears at its face for the first few seconds to distract, until the Bodyguards took over the distraction job.

The Guardian, equipped with the Haint Claw, leapt into battle, aiming for the backs of the knees and the insides of the elbows to cripple the boss, which was already in a pathetic state as the three spiders brutalized its body.

Remi laughed and held back her bodyguards. They weren't needed, and the boss was only going to last a few minutes anyhow.

The Ogre Lord surged with power, activating some sort of skill, then suddenly stopped as the power vanished without a trace.

Cara did her best to look innocent, while Lotus laughed at the smug Void Badger.

[Nullify] was just ridiculously overpowered in a Dungeon.

One of the Golems was caught and smashed on the ground, but a strike from Rae's forelimb broke the Ogre Lord's grasp, and the golem flitted away for the few seconds it took for [Void Body] to regenerate the damage.

Tessa turned to Karl and shook her head. "That skill sharing is just too overpowered. When you said that the Epic Guard shares its healing and regeneration abilities, I didn't think that it was something like that. When we saw it on Dana, it was a shock, but seeing it in effect on the already overpowered Rae, it's just unfair to the boss."

Karl chuckled. "It really is, isn't it. Plus, with Cara interrupting all his attempts to use larger skills, he really does look pathetic.

He's getting some hits in, but this is closer to a massacre than a fight. It's surprising how much damage he can take, though. I would have expected Rae's blades to sink deeper with all the stacked damage from [Rampage] and her skills."

Remi turned to Karl. {Why are we waiting, though. I just realized, we can use an area ability to just bring everything to us, so we can fight it all at once.}

She still spoke serpent, but for everyone else, the System was happy to translate.

"As much as that sounds like a terrible idea, I would kind of like to see what happens." Ophelia agreed.

Remi poked Lotus. {We will need the Lotus Tree. Hawk and I will pull everything else in the dungeon to us.}

Lotus didn't really understand, but when she transformed, Hawk perched in her branches, and that felt like a new form of head massage.

Both casting type beasts activated their area spells. For Remi, that was [Apocalypse], while Hawk went for multiple castings of [Hellstorm] to gather groups on the pathways and keep them clustered in the fire.

Nearly a hundred Ogres were rushing their way through the flaming Blizzard while being pelted by Meteors and scorched by [Hellstorm] vortexes.

The swamp land was beginning to boil, and the air was thick with steam.

Tessa shook her head in dismay as sweat rolled down her face.

"This might have been a bad idea just on principle. If they keep it up much longer, we're going to have to retreat." She reminded the group.

Karl shook his head. "Void Body is being shared. You won't take damage from the steam, it will just be exceedingly uncomfortable."

However, as the two beasts' mana levels began to deplete, the dungeon monsters began to fall. One after another, they succumbed to the spells, leaving only two large Ogres in heavy armour slowly charging across the dungeon.

Karl began to fire arrows into them, using [Poison Arrow] to add stacks to [Rampage], and whittle down the life of the bosses even further.

The poison also had a slowing and paralytic effect on them, bringing the mighty charge to a stumbling gait. They were also now being directly targeted with Meteors from [Apocalypse], as the only monsters in the targeted area.

{Skill Activation: Skill Master 4} Hawk has improved [Ghostfire Body] to Overlord Rank

{Skill Activation: Skill Master 4} Hawk has improved [Hellstorm] to Overlord Rank

"Good work, buddy." Karl congratulated him, then realized that nobody else could see the notice.

"Hawk upgraded his Ghostfire Body and Hellstorm to Overlord Rank. First of the team to improve a skill to Overlord with Skill Master. Now that we have a winner, I wonder who will be next? I get the feeling that some of them are close." Karl explained.

The Upgraded flames were tearing through the bosses, while Hawk was treating [Flame Bolt] as a machine gun, firing multiple shots every second, and letting the stacked damage caused by [Rampage] turn the skill into something deadly.

The first boss died with a pained roar, and the Summons, along with Rae, were instantly on the remaining two.

This time, Remi let her Bodyguards go play, and within seconds the last two Ogres were dead, and Rae was mentally complaining that the bodies couldn't be taken for her pile.

"Anything good by the Bosses?" Karl called.

Rae shook her head, as the bodies were already vanishing. But the Epic Guard came over with an armload of random items, and one large shining shield.

{Shield of Indomitable Defence} Epic Grade Shield. Reduces damage taken by 12% of armour rating. Adds 210 strength to the user.

It was large, shiny, and while it was lacking in details, it was an Epic Grade item and Monarch Rank. That was the best possible item level you could get from the Dungeon, as far as Karl knew. Most of what came out was Royal Rank, and certainly not Epic.

"Well, who wants it?" Karl asked, already knowing the answer.

Thor had a custom one made for decoration by Rae, and he fought in Cerro form as much as possible. So, the shield would go to Tessa, who would normally fight with a long spear from his back.

Now, they were both tanky. It was a good day, Thor decided.