

Brand New 321

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Chapter 321: Catastrophe

"The Tree of Beginnings!" Titania panicked, pointing her rapier at the door. "Planta, step back!"

FLAAASH!

Her rapier shone bright pink and purple in color, as she quickly unleashed a series of attacks against the door, breaking it open!

CRASH!

"Ah, it didn't offer any resistance, the magic barrier is already broken..."

Titania's face panicked, as the two of us ran inside the enormous hall where the roots of the Tree of Beginnings were being protected.

The stench of Miasma filled the entire place.

"Tree... Tree of Beginnings?" I asked, trying to call for him.

"Plan... ta..." The voice of the tree of beginnings echoed, the old and tired voice of the tree.

"Are you okay? I can't see anything in this dark place..." I sighed.

"Light."

FLAAASH!

Titania conjured a flash of bright light, as we were suddenly revealed something horrendous!

All of the roots of the Tree of Beginnings were completely black, as countless black veins spread over its roots, spreading down into the floor with the Miasma.

"Ahhh... Run... RUN!"

The Tree of Beginnings last cry echoed across the hall, as his roots began to grow larger and more monstrous, pulsating grossly as then, red eyes appeared all over them.

The presence of the Demon King of Miasma emerged once more!

"Hahah... HAHAAH! I told you I was going to get a new Vessel! And such a perfect one this is!"

It was indeed his voice, and his presence!

I am fairly sure I destroyed most of his soul but... did he sneak a part of it into here while we were fighting?!

"How...?!" Titania cried. "Let go of the Tree of Beginnings!"

"How you ask?! It was very easy to take a fragment of my soul and insert it here while I distracted you back then..." Laughed the Demon King. "I am sorry, Titania, but this time there is absolutely nothing you can do to save this forest anymore! You're all doomed!"

TRUUUUUMMMM...!

Suddenly, the entire Tree of Beginnings began to move upwards! His roots didn't attacked us, the Demon King simply ignored us completely as he began to push the entire body of the tree upwards, breaking through the ceiling of the ruins and reaching the surface!

Countless boulders began falling from above, as I quickly grabbed Titania, who was left shocked and paralyzed in disbelief and flew away from the place using Spirit Leap repeatedly. Some Wind Spirits summoned through the Dragon Veins began generating Whirlwinds to push me faster away as an enormous amount of debris started chasing me from behind.

TRUUUUUUMMMM...!

"Uwaaaaahhh!"

CRAAAASSHHH!

An enormous boulder fell right in front of me, as more debris were coming from all around. Even at Level 60, I am fairly sure I can die crushed by giant boulders without transforming...

"Land Spirit Call!"

FLAAASH!

Suddenly, several Land Spirits came to my rescue, all of them looking like big golems. Oh! It was the big ones!

"GRUOH!"

One of them grabbed me with his enormous rocky hands and the other protected me from the impact of countless boulders falling from above.

CRAASH! CRAASH! CRAAASSHHHHH...!

...

...

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"Ah... it stopped."

A few seconds later, things became oddly peaceful.

"Inventory!"

I quickly opened my Inventory and began storing all the boulders inside. The Inventory doesn't work on items that are moving, so I had to wait for them to fall before picking them into the Inventory.

Like that, I stored tons of Stone and Ruins Debris, which seemed to be materials for alchemy and crafting for some reason, as I made my way outside of the ruins, going back to the ruins where I left my Familiars.

"TITANIA! Are you okay?"

I called upon Titania, but her Spiritual Projection seemed completely depressed, shocked and flabbergasted.

"Everything is over... everything..."

"Eh? Why?! Even if the Tree of Beginnings was possessed, there's still a way!"

"No... It is over now."

"W-Why?!"

"The Tree of Beginnings is the Core of the Forest, the Core of Nature and Spirits, the last child of the Great World Tree that you saw through those memories once we defeated Saphee..." Sighed Titania.

"T-That means...?"

"It means that now that the Demon King has corrupted it, the last hope for this world's nature and spirits is gone, corrupted! It cannot be purified now... As it was the source of the spirit's power." Titania sighed, suddenly, she began growing fainter and fading away. "My power is banishing..."

"Wait, wait, Titania! There must still be a way to do this!" I said while growing desperate. "Can't we make a new core?"

"No that's impossible... Only children of the World Tree can become the cores, and it is a delicate process made by the gods intervention. The gods have grown weaker, the world... the elements of the world, everything... The end is approaching... It is over."

I never thought Titania would ever say such harsh words, her form slowly banishing more and more.

"No, it is not over... While I am still here, it won't be over! Titania, remember the tree I made?" I asked her.

"That tree?" Titania wondered, as she was banishing more and more.

"Bring everyone there! That's my Heart of the Forest, you can draw Spirit Power from there!"

"Ah... but..."

"Protect it! Don't let that get corrupted! I'll be on my way right away once I regroup with everybody else!" I told her.

"But..."

"TITANIA! Snap out of it!" I roared back at her. "Since when have you been like this?! Where's the brave queen of fairies at?!"

"Ah...!"

"Come on!"

"...Right."

Titania's eyes gained some more light.

"You're right... I don't know what happened to me! Sure! Alright! We can... find a way! Planta, hurry! We'll do everything we can to protect your tree! Our last hope!"

"Thank you!"

FLASH!

Titania's Spirit Projection banished. Even if I wanted, I wasn't able to bring her again. For some reason her powers were directly connected with the Tree of Beginnings, and so might be of all the spirits of this forest, and all of nature and the trees and vegetation, everything!

I have to go pick up everyone else first, they must have already woken up!

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Chapter 322: A Forest Engulfed By Chaos

(Some Minutes Ago)

It happened too fast and out of the blue.

The chief of the Brownie and Gnome village was enjoying some wine at night while looking at the stars while awaiting the return of the heroes that had gone to stop cultists that went into the underground of the forest.

He knew they would get the job done, after all they had rescued that Player lass and even defeated an enormous group of incredibly strong Drakon, powerful Dragon-type monsters nobody could have ever hoped to defeat.

And their feats extended to saving the Fairy Kingdom and defeating the Three Miasmic Monster Kings, the Spider Queen, the Shadow Crow King, and the Mushroom King. The chief kept having faith on them.

However, as time went by, they continued to take longer and longer to come back. He began thinking that the worst could have happened. And when he walked outside the house to take a look at the beautiful night sky, he noticed the grass he was stepping over had dried out.

"Huh?"

Then, as he continued looking around, the flowers were dry, the grass was dead, and whatever vegetation remained alive turned of a deep black and purple color, emanating a strange, toxic and foul stench.

"A-Ah! M-Miasma...?"

Creaaaak...!

And then, he heard the sound of wood twisting and moving.

Slowly looking behind him, he found the tree that was right behind his house moving out of the ground.

Its roots were like insect-like legs, and it gained the face of a screaming person over its bark.

The leaves turned deep dark green, and the bark black as the night.

"GRUUOOOHHHH..."

And the groan of a soul whining in pain echoed from within the stretched mouth of the moving tree.

"A-A Monster Tree?! W-What the-"

CRAAASH!

The tree attacked the chief without hesitation! Trees, something people of this forest always thought were their guardians, corrupted by Miasma, turned themselves against the inhabitants of their forest.

"Uagh!"

The chief rolled over the floor; his arm dislocated by the blow. He gritted his teeth as he relocated his arm with the other.

CRACK!

"Ugh! Damn it...!"

"GRUUOOHHH!"

The Treant rushed towards him with utter fury!

"I don't know what's going on but... EVERYONE! WAKE UP! MONSTERS INFILTRATED THE VILLAGE!"

At the same time as the chief screamed, several Brownies and Gnomes rushed outside their houses, armed with weapons! Perhaps they were caught off guard with the Drakon, but if they have lived inside a forest filled with monsters for so long, it was rather obvious they would need to be always prepared!

"The trees...! They're walking around!"

"Careful don't get closer to them!"

"Uuaaagh! Help!"

"Damn it!"

"Kill them! Use fire!"

The people quickly began fighting as more trees that were planted inside the village gained a malicious amount of vitality and started crawling around and attacking people!

Meanwhile, the chief used his Magic and his Magic Weapon, a small hammer he used to make magic items, to fight against the monstrous Treant that attacked him!

"Blacksmith Magic: Furnace Hammer!"

His hammer suddenly blazed with the fiery flames of his furnace, as he smashed the Treant in the face just as it got closer to him!

CRAAAASH!

FLUOSH!

Flames quickly took over the entire creature, as it began squirming in agony in the floor.

"RAAAAH!"

The chief jumped over the beast without any fear, as a Gnome, he had the bloodline of a Dwarf within him, born warriors that feared no challenges.

CRASH! CRASH! CRAAASH!

The Treant tried fighting back but only managed to scratch the chief's muscular arms, as it burned until it crumbled apart.

"Huh, never thought I would end killing the tree I planted in my backyard so long ago... What in the world is going on?"

He quickly joined everybody while fighting against the Treants. There were roughly over twelve trees inside the village, so everyone was fighting them desperately, but managing!

"What is going on down there? How come the trees became corrupted monsters? Are the heroes... losing?!" The chief wondered.

"Chief!" Rosetta, the brave Brownie guard rushed towards the chief. "What is going on?!"

"I have no idea! Hey, I thought you went with the heroes!" The chief angrily said.

"T-There's no way I would go with them chief..." Sighed Rosetta. "Even as strong as they are, something must be happening down there if the trees started becoming monsters out of the blue- and look at the grass and the flowers we've planted for so long! Also all the crops, everything's dead!"

"I know... this is Miasma, there's Miasma everywhere, it is coming from the soil, the soil's completely corrupted!" The chief complained. "We need to-"

Crack...!

Suddenly, the chief and Rosetta heard a cracking sound, like the sound that glass makes when it begins to shatter.

Crack... crack!

The two quickly directed their eyes to the source of the cracking sounds...

And found the invisible magic barriers of the village gaining countless cracks all over, as darkness and shadows began seeping through the magic barrier, breaking it slowly.

It was of course... Miasma!

CRAAAASH!

The barrier broke, and the entire village, which had just ended finishing off the last Monster Tree were greeted with an army of them coming from all around them!

"GRUOOHHH!"

"KILL THEM ALL!"

"AS THE LORD COMMANDS!"

Not only were they just monstrous, but many of them could also speak, and they were all brainwashed by someone... Someone they called "The Lord".

And only one single being in this world was able to perfectly control Miasma to such an extent as to corrupt the Spirit Trees of this forest and even convert them into intelligent and malicious monsters!

"The Demon King's doing this?!" The chief and Rosetta said at the same time.

"A New Age has begun, you lowly beings! All of you shall be purified by the power of The Lord of Miasma!"

And then, an enormous Tree, bigger than the rest emerged from the crowd, a Greater Miasmic Treant!

Despair quickly took over the hearts of the inhabitants of this village.

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Chapter 323: The Mushroom Brigade To The Rescue

"That's a High Ranked Monster, isn't it?" Rosetta sighed.

"Can we even fight beat it...?!" Wondered chief, quickly recalling he had some magic weapons he made inside his home.

However, the path was quickly filled with Miasmic Treants coming from everywhere, they were not just a dozen anymore, they were over fifty of them, and perhaps how many hundreds of these monsters could be all around the forest...

After all, a forest was made of trees, could the entire forest become a swarm of these strong monsters? Even if they were strong enough to take them individually. If they were all swarmed, they would only end up dying!

And as if that couldn't get any worse, the enormous Greater Miasmic Treant, a monster of over twenty meters of height was looming behind the others, its presence alone sending shivers down the spine of everybody.

"Now... Kill them all!" Laughed the Greater Treant, its memories of being a tree banished as it simply was a puppet to the Demon King of Miasma.

BOOOOOMMM!!!

However, right after it said its command, an enormous fireball reached the monster's face!

"GNAH?!"

The Greater Miasmic Treant glanced at the source of the magic attack, finding a squadron of Walking Mushrooms wielding weapons and armor, the Mushroom Brigade!

Magius, the Magician of the group had unleashed her Fireball Spell on the foul talking tree, blowing its face and burning it... but it was not enough to kill it.

"Not enough?" Magius said with her expressionless face. "Then... [Fire Storm]!"

Her Grimoire opened wide as the pages began flipping, her MP was spent rapidly as an enormous mass of flames reached the Greater Miasmic Treant before it could even defend itself or run away...

BOOOOOOMMMM!!!

"GRAHHHH...!"

CLASH!

The enormous Greater Miasmic Treant fell into the ground, its entire body blown to bits and burning. The blazing storm took almost ten other Miasmic Treants as well, burning them along.

"Y-You killed our boss!"

"Damn mushrooms!"

"Kill them!"

The monstrous Miasmic Treants furiously ran towards the Mushroom Brigade, as a valiant and brave sword-wielding Mushroom stepped forward, wearing armor and a shiny golden sword!

"This is a technique my lord taught to me long ago! Holy Blade Arts: Holy Cross!"

Sporegon swung his Magic Sword horizontally and vertically at the same time, generating an enormous cross made of light from within his sword's magical power!

SLAAAASH!

The Holy Cross reached the group of Treants and slashed over six of them at the same time, damaging all those behind! And then exploding, killing another five of them!

BOOOOOOMMMM!!!

The Miasmic Treants, as evil as they were, were left flabbergasted by the utterly devastating power of these mushrooms!

The Gnome Chief and Rosetta's eyes were filled with hope as they suddenly heard the valiant sword wielding Myconid speak to the rest of the village atop the corpse of a Miasmic Treant.

"Everyone, we are the Mushroom Brigade! Lady Planta has sent a part of our Brigade to protect this village! Fear not, as long as we are here, your village shall not fall!"

Sporegon's charisma was immense, despite being a small, around a meter and a half-sized walking mushroom, his face was that of a serious and manly man, almost unbefitting of the rest of his adorable looking body, but it still sent inspiration into the hearts of those that heard his words!

"Lady Planta sent them?! What a miracle..." Sighed the chief.

"You heard them boys! Don't give it up yet! Let's form a barricade! Those that can fight join the Mushroom Brigade, the rest come with the chief, form a barricade with the corpses of the Treants! Light up bonfires and torches! They dislike flames!" Rosetta quickly commanded everybody, as the chief began making barricades using his Crafting Skills.

"You heard her! Get to it! Snap out of your fear if you want to survive!" The chief roared, the peaceful Brownies and Gnomes had no other option!

"ALRIGHT!"

They all roared in unison, as the battle continued.

Sporegon slain Treants that kept coming almost endlessly, all while looking into the distance of the forest, which has now turned completely black and purple, with Miasma emerging from the soil everywhere.

"I hope Hunter made it in time..."

...

Meanwhile, within the Village of Squirrel-kin, a ferocious fight was undergoing!

Squirrels were running away from their village atop the trees as the very trees that have sheltered them for so long became enormous Tall Miasmic Treants, destroying their houses and everything they held dear.

CRAASH!

BOOOM!

BAAAM!

"M-My house!"

"Buaaah! Buaaah!"

"Everything... the entire village's gone..."

"Ahhh! M-More Treants are coming from there!"

The squirrel-kin were naturally nimble and fearful people. They disliked fighting and didn't had many skills to fight to begin with. They were agile tree climbers and rock throwers but throwing rocks at giant Treants didn't prove effective.

By miracle they managed to escape before they were to get killed by the enormous wooden claws of the Tall Miasmic Treants, but right now, the entire village was surrounded by Treants slowly approaching them from all sides.

They couldn't simply jump and climb over them, the Treants would simply extend their branches and impale them alive, a few already had fallen to such tricks and died in front of everybody...

Babies and children were crying as they were held by their parents, all while the chief and a few other Squirrel-kins that knew magic were keeping the Treants away only to pointlessly buy time before dying gruesomely.

"Fireball!"

FLUOOOSH!

"Icicle Spear!"

CLAAASH!

Two Squirrel-kin, which were apprentices of Acorn named Almond and Peanut, twins that were always interested in Acorn and his adventures. Acorn ended gifting them the Grimoire he acquired and taught them how to conjure magic from it.

This single Grimoire with only a few Beginner Spells, alongside the chief and Acorn's grandparents' explosive bombs and potions were what kept the squirrel-kin alive for these last ten minutes, and barely.

"Ugh... I am almost out of MP... Chief give me another potion!" Cried Almond.

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Chapter 324: Do Not Despair

"Here!" The chief gave the children MP Potions to keep conjuring magic, the two held the Grimoire together to conjure Magic from within it at the same time, a little trick that Acorn discovered and then taught them to do.

"Fireball! Fireball!"

"Lightning Strike!"

B O O O M!

B O O O M!

ZAAAAAP!

The Treants that were rushing towards them were blown to pieces and engulfed in flames, but there were hundreds of such monsters approaching, all while the Giant Miasmic Treants that used to be the tallest trees holding their houses looked from afar with malicious smiles, awaiting their demise.

B O O O O M M M!!!

A Fire Bomb that the Chief created was thrown into the distance, exploding and blowing into bits more Treants, but this couldn't keep but for much longer, once he ran out of bombs, it would be game over for all of them.

"This cannot keep up for much longer..." The chief thought. "We don't have any escape routes! The only thing we could even do is use bombs to dig underground, but even then the soil's too thick and there's no caves around here that I know about either..."

The chief looked into the night sky; his eyes filled with fear.

"Acorn... W here are you?! Are you okay?"

The chief was growing more and more concerned about everyone's safety, but also about his grandson, Acorn. He didn't even knew the reason behind the Treants appearing out of the blue, but it was most likely because of what his grandson was fighting...

"This foul presence... Miasma, there's Miasma everywhere..." He muttered. "Has the Demon King finally come to invade our territory...?"

"Eliminate them! Kill them!"

"Impale them with your branches! Drink their delicious blood for nourishment of your roots!"

The two tallest trees that had most of the Squirrel-kin village houses ended turning into Giant Miasmic Treants and were incredibly tall yet slow and sluggish monsters. They preferred to command the other dumber Miasmic Treants as they sat down there doing nothing much.

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!

However, suddenly, a rain of arrows coated on magic reached one of the Giant Miasmic Treant's face, easily piercing through its wood and making the entire tree fall apart!

CLAAAASSHHH!!!

"E-Ehh?! B-Brother?!"

The other Giant Miasmic Treant was shocked as he saw his brother die in such a gruesome and unexpected way!

Suddenly, at the distance, a group of Myconid appeared, led by a silent Myconid holding a magic bow and a quiver filled with magic arrows.

"We've barely made it up in time..." He sighed. "Everyone, quickly get rid of the surrounding Treants!"

"GOT IT!"

Several Myconid ran forward, using both magic and weapons to get rid of the Treants in their way. Compared to the Squirrel-kin and even the twins Almond and Peanut, they were incredibly strong, easily slashing into pieces the walking trees one after the other!

CLAAASH! SLAAASH! BOOOOM!

"Heheh, you all look like ideal firewood to grill some meat with!"

Even the Cook of the Mushroom Brigade was mighty, his Twin Cooking Knives easily sliced through the hard wooden bodies of the Treants.

The Squirrel-kin were all left speechless as they saw their saviors appear. Just when they thought things were going downhill from here, things finally got better.

"We have come in command of Lady Planta! Fear not, we'll protect you! However, we must first eradicate these monsters! Can any of you carry things or craft items? We need to build a barricade, also create bonfires! Treants hate fire!" Hunter quickly snapped the squirrel-kin out of their daze.

"A-Ah! Yes! I can do it!"

"Me too!"

"I have the Crafting Skill!"

"I have the Carpentry Skill as well; I can do something with it!"

The chief and the twins stopped fighting and were able to take a breather for one, as they saw the Treants being dealt with.

"W-We are saved..."

"Yeah..."

The twins sighed, dropping the grimoire over the floor out of exhaustion, their MP completely gone.

"Hahhh... So Lady Planta saved us again..."

The chief sighed in relief, as he suddenly smelled the delicious smell of freshly cooked stew.

Some Mushroom Brigade members used their newly acquired Inventory thanks to their Player Titles to bring freshly made food and distribute amongst everyone.

"What is exactly happening?" Wondered the chief as he was given a bowl with soup and noodles, something they named Ramen. "Why are the trees... becoming monsters?"

"Not even we know that." Sighed a member of the Mushroom Brigade. "But we must trust our Lady that she must be dealing with that at this moment! We must never lose hope. Now eat up, you can't fight or move with an empty stomach!"

"I see..." The Squirrel-kin chief sighed, hoping for Acorn and Planta to be well in this chaotic night.

CRAAAASH!

The second Giant Miasmic Treant was slain, as his enormous body fell off into the soil.

Hunter stood over its dead bark as he looked into the distance.

"I hope Sporegon and the rest made it in time..."

...

...

...

Meanwhile, as the Mushroom Brigade protected the two smallest and weakest villages of the Forest of Beginnings, the fairies, without receiving any help, were fighting against countless of Treants emerging from all around their country.

Their walls were strong and Treants couldn't fly, so even if their magic barrier was shattered, they still had their strong walls to protect themselves. The fairy queen Titania was commanding her troops from the sky, all while multi-tasking to aid Planta in fighting the Demon King.

She had told everything to her subjects right away, and everyone was putting their all to fight the new army of the Demon King, made of the very trees of this forest. Thankfully, in this little time since the

snake queen's invasion, most of the golems were repaired already and there was an army of over fifty golems piloted by the fairies fighting all the Treants.

BOOOM!

CRAASH!

BAAAM!

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Chapter 325: The Fairy Queendom's Last Stand

BOOOM!

CRAASH!

BAAAM!

Golems were sturdy and powerful; their arms could crush the Treants with consecutive blows and they were also able to fire Magic Missiles and blow into pieces their targets while setting them ablaze. Anybody would think they were handling things very well...

But compared to the two other villages, the fairies were not fighting just less than a hundred Treants, in fact, there were thousands, most of the entirety of the forest was crawling directly towards them!

The Demon King of Miasma knew very well that Titania was also known as the Heart of the Forest, so he ordered mostly all the Trees that ended converting into Miasmic Treants to go kill her at all costs!

Therefore, as the Fairy Queen flew into the skies, she saw thousands of Miasmic Treants rushing towards her territory and surrounding all walls. The near sixty Golems they had were totally not enough to fight them all, and they had to constantly attack and fire more and more magic to do anything.

However, although golems were the vanguard force, fairies specialized in magic above all things, and there were thousands of fairies in this country willing to fight and proficient at magic!

Enormous flying squadrons assembled, firing enormous fireballs everywhere, and then exchanging places with someone else once their MP ran out. Those that had ran out of MP were healed using potions the alchemists were constantly crafting.

There were also enchanter using magic to increase the damage dealt by magic spells conjured by the attacking team, all while the defense team enhanced the defense of the golems and created traps, pitfalls, and walls using Earth Magic or Ice Magic.

Healers healed the injured that fought in the frontlines alongside the golems, as they were too few. Meanwhile, the debuffer used their magic to lower the stats of the Treants and conjure abnormal status effect on the monsters.

And while everyone fought, there was also another squadron that repaired and reinforced both the walls and the magic barrier with the aid of the Fairy Queen Titania, who was also enchanting the fighters and magic attackers' stats with her blessings.

But the Treants kept coming, a never-ending army of walking trees. Even with all their efforts, they started piling up into enormous masses of trees, trying to climb the walls and get to the magic barrier, which started to slowly gain more and more cracks.

"Barrier Heal!"

FLAAASH!

Titania and a group of dozens of Barrier Magicians enchanted the Barrier and healed it once more. However, they were all going against time now. Titania knew that a battle of epic proportions was going down there, everything was up to Planta and her friends...

"GRUOOHHH!"

"Huh? What's that?!"

"Lady Titania!"

"Look!"

Suddenly, some of the fairies pointed at something emerging from far away.

Hundreds of Miasmic Treants began breaking apart, as Miasma came out of their bark instead of sap, this Miasma was like an adhesive, unifying the Treants together into an enormous giant made of black wood...

"That's... A Giant Miasmic Treant Golem?!"

Titania was left shocked, as the enormous Golem made of living Miasmic Treants reached the height of sixty meters, quickly reaching the Kingdom's Magic Barrier and smashing it with its enormous wooden arms!

CRAAAASSSHHH!!!!

TRUUUM!

An enormous shockwave was unleashed, as the entire Kingdom's barrier was completely shattered in a single hit!

"A-Ah...!"

"No..."

"Nooo!"

"T-The barrier! Quickly put it back!"

"I can't... I ran out of MP..."

"Ugh, I feel sickly of overusing magic..."

The Barrier Magicians were already at their limit, and Titania herself was exhausted by multi-tasking in here and also with Planta.

"GRUOOOHHH!"

"GRUOOHHHHH!"

And as if that couldn't get any worse, two more Giant Miasmic Treant Golems appeared from the west and the east side of the city! One of them ran forward, using its enormous size to stomp the ground furiously.

Countless and sharp wooden spears emerged all across the ground piercing through the army of fairies protecting the city outside. Half of the golem squad was flatted by the golem's foot. Fairies were dying by the dozens.

Blood, screams, horror, pain, fear...

It was all repeating itself, the same things that happened before the rehashing, when everything came to an end... but now, it was even more accelerated.

Despair...

Titania, amidst everything felt despair, even more as she saw Planta struggling against the Demon King's Phantom, which had emerged once his physical vessel was destroyed.

"P-Pull back! Run to the underground base!"

Titania quickly gave the command, the fairies had to run away, there was no chance they could win against these titans, their stats were too high once hundreds of Treants merged together, and their power utterly devastating!

"GRUOOOHHH!"

The third Golem began kicking the walls from the east side, shattering them after a third kick.

CRAAAAASSSHHHH!!!

The entire Fairy Kingdom was invaded then by thousands of Treants rushing inside, swarming everything. The majority of the fairies managed to escape into the underground as those fighting outside had to fight while running, many began falling.

The queen, weakened as she was after having most of her strength drained by the Curse she had before the Spider Queen was defeated, couldn't do much other than support them, generating barriers to temporarily stop the golem's blows while stopping the swarms of Treants.

But it was becoming harder and harder to keep everything together.

"GRUOOOHHHH!"

CRAAAAASSSHHHH!!!

The first golem kicked the walls once more from the other side, opening even more the way for more Treants to enter and swarm, fighting the guards and slaughtering the poor fairies.

Screams of agony echoed everywhere, as everyone retreated while fighting to the death with a swarm of the trees that once protected them.

So many things were happening everywhere that Titania couldn't be everywhere, she was pushing herself to her very limits creating barriers, healing the wounded, and helping others run to the underground basement.

"RUN! I'll hold them off!"

"Queen Titania!"

"Please don't sacrifice yourself!"

"JUST RUN!"

Titania ordered the fairy knights to get away, but they remained at her side, the squadron that Nieve led was here to die at her side!

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Chapter 326: The Arrival Of Unexpected Allies

"We cannot run!"

"We won't let your Queen die in vain."

"We are prepared to die!"

"While Commander Nieve is fighting the Demon King, we must also uphold our duty!"

"We'll fight!"

The Fairy Knights squadron, the strongest fairies in the entire Kingdom stayed with Titania, as the last stand before an enormous army of Miasmic Treants and three devastating Giant Miasmic Treant Golems defended the entrance to the underground basement.

Titania created barriers and mostly healed, while her knights fought desperately, unleashing their magic and weapon techniques together. The last golems also remained here, fighting desperately with the knights.

The queen constantly saved the lives of the fairy knights as she fought against the never-ending army of Miasmic Treants. Her barriers being shattered over and over as she made them again constantly.

The golems began to move once they saw the swarm wasn't enough, their enormous fists were enough to shatter Titania's barriers in an instant, stomping half her knights at the same time.

CLAAAAASSSHHHH!!!

Titania was thrown away by the enormous shockwave, when she opened her eyes, her face was filled with despair as she saw all her beloved knights crushed, blood was everywhere.

Tears began flowing from her eyes...

"This is why I told you to go away... It is a thousand times more painful to see you die than to die myself..." She cried, surrounded by Miasmic Treants.

"Give it up, Queen of Fairies."

"Your reign ends today."

"Your head shall be a good trophy for our Lord!"

"Get her! Tear apart every single limb of her body slowly!"

"And after that, we'll crush all those fairies in the underground!"

"Do you think we don't know they're there?!"

"All of them shall join the Lord!"

"Their bodies will become our nourishment, and their souls his food!"

Titania constantly heard these monsters' words as she continued fighting with whoever survived. The fight constantly devolved into becoming a mockery to her, they laughed at her as she struggled, to her very last breath...

FLAAAASSSHHH!!!

TRUUUUUMMMMMMMMM...!

However, from across the skies, a flash of light descended.

It felt as if a star has come to Titania and the fairy's aid.

But it was instead a beautiful woman.

Long blonde hair, shiny golden eyes, and long white-colored feathered wings.

She wore holy armor and held a long spear.

Her very descent unleashed a shockwave of light so bright it burned alive the surrounding Miasmic Treants, turning them all into ashes!

"We've made it just in time! Are you okay?!"

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

At the same time, three other figures showed up at the side of the beautiful and angelic woman.

Titania couldn't believe who they were...

They were people she remembers.

Some days ago how harshly she treated them, throwing them away from her Kingdom, and not trusting them despite how kind they were acting.

They were slightly eccentric, but they never really acted rude at all.

She was just... unfairly rude with them due to her own insecurities.

"Y-You... The four Players that came looking for Planta back then?" She wondered.

"Oh yeah, we took a little while." Sighed Anikitty.

"We apologize, we had already begun walking away from the Forest when we suddenly saw something happening. It seems Planta has triggered yet another World Event!" Said Erdrich.

"We cannot possibly miss it, so we came rushing!" Said Gandalf.

"Are you okay? [Revival Light]!"

FLAAAASH!

Angelina, the beautiful angel, conjured incredibly High-Level Holy Magic, as she unleashed a wave of light spreading further everywhere.

The dead fairies suddenly had their wounds healed and stood back up!

"W-What is going on?!"

"Ah, I am alive?!"

"D-Didn't I die?"

"Queen Titania!"

Titania was left speechless! Not even she could conjure revival magic!

"Thanks god it worked..." Sighed Angelina. "It can only work within a time frame of only five minutes after someone's death. I cannot bring people that died for long, but this much should be possible." Sighed the angel. "Don't worry, we are here to help, we are not enemies."

"I... why?" Titania asked.

"Hm? Why not?" Anikitty wondered, as her grimoires emerged out of thin air, shooting spells of all elements against the Miasmic Treants and blowing them into pieces one after the other.

"It would be a pity if this beautiful Kingdom was destroyed." Said Erdrich. "Come out, my Legion. Time to chew some wood~" Erdrich summoned a hundred zombies and skeletons out of thin air, as they marched against the Treants. Being higher level than the walking trees, they easily crushed them.

"I know it is kind of against the rules to interrupt a world quest someone else is doing but at this point we couldn't simply stand still and do nothing." Gandalf said. His magic summoned thunderstorms and small meteors, already taking down one of the golems on the spot!

"Why? Because we love the world of BNLO." Said Angelina. "We want to protect it, and we want to see its people happy. That's why. It is just that simple." The angel smiled back at Titania, her smile and honesty making her remember Planta.

"I was wrong about you... I am sorry..." Sighed Titania.

"Don't worry, don't worry!" Anikitty giggled. "More importantly, aren't the monsters getting weaker? Oh, the Miasma's intensity is receding!"

"Ah!"

Titania suddenly saw how Planta finally defeated the Demon King's Phantom, unleashing all her power. Quickly after, several windows showed up, the System. The World Boss has taken great damage after such a fight.

"Planta did it! She defeated the Demon King's Phantom!" Said Titania, celebrating.

"So that's what it was down there? Huh..." Gandalf rubbed his beard.

"Well, good for her!" Anikitty said.

"But that thing has sure created a disaster here..." Sighed Erdrich.

"We should purify this place... but my magic doesn't seem to actually work." Sighed Angelina.

"Planta and her spirits could do it- Ah!"

TRUUUUUUMMMMMMM...!

Before everyone could sing victory, something else happened, however.

The Tree of Beginnings, the enormous and tallest tree in the entire Forest of Beginnings began to turn completely black and purple, his eyes glowing bright red.

His enormous roots moved around, making the entire forest tremble!

RUMBLE!

"Woah, what with that giant Boss over there?!"

"It is enormous..."

"Wait, the Tree of Beginnings became a monster?!"

"This is really bad news, isn't it?"

The four Players began to grimace, as Titania's face lost all hope.

"No... it can't be..."

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Chapter 327: The Heart Of The Forest

The Players suddenly noticed that Titania was growing weaker. Her powers were slowly beginning to fade away, and many of the fairies that Angelina had revived had fallen unconscious, their life energy and mana being almost emptied. The players looked into the distance, finding the Tree of Beginnings suddenly transforming, becoming a monstrous giant Treant overflowing with Miasmic and Chaotic energy.

The entire forest quickly began to grow darker and darker, not even a single plant life was spared, everything was absorbed by the deathly miasma, becoming a wasteland. The beautiful place the Players and every inhabitant of this forest loved with their hearts, which they had protected for so long... it was now gone, turned into a land of death and darkness.

The night sky was shrouded by black and purple clouds, red lighting gathering within the skies as the enormous Tree of Beginnings started to laugh evilly. The darkness it exuded shrouding any light that people could see, yet the light of the red lightning atop the skies illuminated everything ominously.

"This can't be... The tree of beginnings..." Muttered Titania, falling to her knees while feeling constantly more weakened.

"What's going on?!" Asked Angelina, rushing towards her.

"She's dying? But why?" Asked Anikitty.

"The tree must have some sort of connection with the inhabitants of this forest." Gandalf said.

"Is she okay?!" Asked Erdrich.

"Hahhh... The tree is our heart, the heart of the forest... the heart of this world's life. The spirits... whose lifeblood is connected with this tree... we'll die." She cried. Titania began to fall into despair. "It's over... everything's over..."

"What? Of course it's not over...!" Angelina said.

"The life of the spirits?!" Asked Anikitty. "Wait, is this some sort of apocalyptic event? Is this guy a new world boss?"

"No... this thing is the world boss." Said Gandalf. "The Demon King has somehow brought himself here and has possessed the heart of the forest and spirits, he's going to kill them all and shroud the world into darkness at the same time. Damn this guy's cunning."

"W-We are not even in the right level to fight a World Boss yet!" Erdrich panicked.

"Please tell me what should we do?" Asked Angelina, trying to heal Titania, but she could not.

"There's... nothing more you can do. This... the end." Titania cried, tears flowing from her eyes. "The end of everything..."

The Players looked at one another, panic was clear in their eyes.

FLASH!

However, as everyone despaired, a bright glow emerged from within the destroyed Fairy Queen's castle. The four players noticed it, and so did Titania.

A shockwave of bright golden and green energy emerged from within it, as the rubble covering the origin of this energy was blown away, and a beautiful tree was revealed to everyone.

"Wait, that's a tree right?" Anikitty wondered.

"That is no normal tree! It is not being infected by the Miasma... Why?" Asked Gandalf.

"That's..." Titania looked into the tree, her eyes glowing brightly in surprise. "Planta's Heart of the Forest."

At the same time, Titania had a conversation with Planta through her Spirit Projection...

"Everything is over... everything..." Titania seemed defeated, she couldn't really think of any solution anymore, her power was fading.

"Eh? Why?! Even if the Tree of Beginnings was possessed, there's still a way!" Planta couldn't give up.

"No... It is over now." But Titania continued refuting her.

"W-Why?!"

"The Tree of Beginnings is the Core of the Forest, the Core of Nature and Spirits, the last child of the Great World Tree that you saw through those memories once we defeated Saphee..." Sighed Titania.

"T-That means...?"

"It means that now that the Demon King has corrupted it, the last hope for this world's nature and spirits is gone, corrupted! It cannot be purified now... As it was the source of the spirit's power." Titania sighed, suddenly, she began growing fainter and fading away. "My power is banishing..."

"Wait, wait, Titania! There must still be a way to do this!" Planta said while growing desperate. "Can't we make a new core?"

"No that's impossible... Only children of the World Tree can become the cores, and it is a delicate process made by the gods intervention. The gods have grown weaker, the world... the elements of the world, everything... The end is approaching... It is over."

Planta never thought that Titania would ever say such harsh words, her form slowly banishing more and more before her eyes.

"No, it is not over... While I am still here, it won't be over! Titania, remember the tree I made?" Planta asked her.

"That tree?" Titania wondered, as she was banishing more and more.

"Bring everyone there! That's my Heart of the Forest, you can draw Spirit Power from there!"

"Ah... but..."

"Protect it! Don't let that get corrupted! I'll be on my way right away once I regroup with everybody else!" Planta told her.

"But..."

"TITANIA! Snap out of it!" Planta roared back at her. "Since when have you been like this?! Where's the brave queen of fairies at?!"

"Ah...!"

"Come on!"

"...Right."

Titania's eyes gained some more light.

"You're right... I don't know what happened to me! Sure! Alright! We can... find a way! Planta, hurry! We'll do everything we can to protect your tree! Our last hope!"

"Thank you! And I'll hurry, wait for me! I'll come with everyone else!"

Titania's Spiritual Projection banished in front of Planta, but her real body opened its eyes. She began slowly absorbing the energy that Planta's Heart of the Forest imbued at her, at the same time, she saw the fairies gaining a second wind, although it was very faint, this power was enough to help them move and fly.

"This power... that tree is Planta's Heart of the Forest." Said Titania. "She said we could use it to heal ourselves, and its energy, although faint, is healing us and giving us strength..."

Titania slowly stood up, walking there.

Quickly, she noticed the Treants began walking directly towards it!

They immediately knew it was something they had to destroy.

"We need to protect it, the Treants are aiming at it now!"

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Chapter 328: The Amazing Skills Of High Level Players

"That tree is made by Planta?!" Gandalf asked. "Can Dryads make such buildings in the shape of trees?"

"I've never seen a Dryad player aside from Planta before so I have no idea." Anikitty said.

"But you're right, we can't let these things touch the tree!" Angelina said. "Let's go!"

"My army of Undead is at your service then, Lady Titania. [Graveyard of the Dead]! [Automatic Undead Creation]!" Erdrich smiled, he quickly conjured hundreds of graves that emerged from the ground, and from within, Treants emerged out!

"W-What is this?!" Titania had never seen Necromancy before, so she was taken aback.

"It is easy. [Graveyard of the Dead] takes over Tiles and imbues Death Magic into them, meanwhile [Automatic Undead Creation] automatically creates Undead from the Tiles I've taken over. Any monster that dies in them can be promptly revived into an undead to serve me! They're not as strong as the ones I've leveled up, but they serve their purpose at forming an army quickly." Erdrich smiled evilly.

"This is Death Magic flowing everywhere... Yet it is not near as repulsive as the Miasma left behind. And it doesn't affect Planta's energy either..." Titania was surprised.

"Of course, that's because we are allies. The system won't simply allow me to affect another player, that would be like PvP." Laughed Erdrich. "Even less NPC."

"E-Eh?" Titania was shocked.

It seemed that despite being opposite powers and elements, Players that didn't had the PvP mode on, innately couldn't hurt one another, forming this special effect where both opposite energies could live and thrive at the same time.

"Heheh... Now, my Undead Treants, beat the living ones and bring me more materials!" Laughed Erdrich. "I think we can make one of those big golems if I gather enough Souls and Mana!"

Titania was even confused than before.

"Come on Erdrich you're confusing her!" Angelina sighed. "Here, I'll carry you there."

Angelina quickly held Titania with her arms as she flapped her wings, flying into the skies. Her wings didn't just do nothing but fly, as she suddenly conjured countless feather projectiles.

"[Light Feather Projectiles]!"

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!

The feathers easily exploded over the endless armies of Treants, blowing them up into pieces one by one!

Once the group finally reached the Tree that belonged to Planta, the Players quickly decided to go hardcore into their tower defense setup.

"Erdrich! Anikitty!"

Angelina ordered the two, as they nodded.

"Got it!"

"Alright then!"

Erdrich smiled, as a glowing blue orb on his left hand began overflowing with souls he had been reaping off the Treants he had slain.

"It is time... [Necromancer's Pandemonium]!"

FLAAAAASH!

Erdrich's very command suddenly unleashed a shockwave of souls and mana everywhere. The hundreds of Tiles he had taken over with his [Graveyard of the Dead] suddenly began transforming!

TRUUUUUUMMMMM...!

Enormous pillars made of twisting souls and bones emerged one after the other, quickly forming a gigantic undead fortress made of bones, flesh, and the groaning souls of the damned!

"Hahahaha! All set! Now, load the Necrotic Cannons!"

Erdrich commanded the Undead he brought, a large army of Skeletons obeyed his words.

"Aye, aye master!"

"Alright, load them up boys!"

"I'm going in! I'm going in! Gahahaha!"

Titania's eyes almost popped out of her face as she saw the Skeletons loading themselves into the cannons and then being thrown away into the middle of the army!

"[Undead Bomb]!"

BOOOOOMMM!!!

The moment they landed, Titania believed they would get massacred, but in fact, they exploded!

BOOOOOMMM! BOOOOOMMM! BOOOOOMMM!

More and more Undead, Skeletons, Zombies, and Undead Treants flew into the army of Treants, exploding as they landed over them, and defeating more and more.

Titania saw as the Necromancer smiled evilly! His orb absorbed dozens of souls together, which he quickly repurposed to restore his Mana and then summon more Undead.

"More Souls! [Soul Conversion]!"

FLASH!

Erdrich quickly spent 5 souls to restore 50% of his MP, quickly summoning even more Undead from within the Graveyard of the Dead surrounding the Necromancer's Pandemonium.

"Incredible... Is Death Magic this powerful?"

This insanely broken endless loop that Necromancers could perform was one of the things that made them so popular, they were a one-man army!

"Hey! Don't steal all the glory!"

However, Anikitty was also asked to do something similar.

She smiled quickly summoning a staff from her hand. She wasn't a mere Librarian, but was a shrine maiden!

"[Spirit Domain]! [Yokai Pillars]!"

She hit the ground and then, a tremor happened. The tiles merged with Erdrich's tiles, as they flowed with both spiritual energy and death energy in tandem! Not only that, but enormous pillars emerged around her, resembling Yokai, spirits and monsters from Japanese folklore.

The pillars began glowing brightly, unleashing rays of magic against the Treants approaching her. But that wasn't all! In fact, this was just the beginning. Anikitty immediately conjured more and more skills, building her entire domain.

"[Bellflower Barrier]! [Heavenly Sakura Shrine]! [Shinigami Haunting]!"

FLAAAAASH!

Titania's eyes opened wide, as she saw Anikitty summon an enormous tree at the side of planta's tree, this one was a beautiful, magic-made tree of bellflowers. It shone brightly and beautifully, yet it wasn't a permanent one, but the spirit of the tree itself.

As long as it stood behind Anikitty, a barrier would be created which quickly began to enhance everyone's stats and their MP was regenerating at a rapid speed as well.

TRUUUUMMMM...!

And then, a gigantic Sakura Shrine appeared from below, rising the Nekomata girl all the way into the skies, the Shrine suddenly opened its doors, as a black portal within it began to summon... Shinigami! Monstrous death spirits Yokai!

The phantasms were also part Undead, which were boosted by Erdrich's domain at the side, this was something well known as combining playstyles through skill synergy!

However, these types of classes such as Anikitty's one were too frail, not many even wanted to be a shrine maiden, so they were very rare, although not as much as Planta and her Dryad/Farmer combination.

"And now... [Dance of Flames and Wind]!"

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Chapter 329: [Grand World Quest]!

FLAAAASH!

Flames and Winds emerged from within Anikitty's staff as she suddenly took off her secondhand weapon, a beautifully decorated fan. Meanwhile, several grimoires emerged around her as well, which shoot down beams and elemental spells automatically.

She wasn't the owner of a giant Library for nothing. Aside from her amazing skills which were very underappreciated due to their need for proper synergy, she also had special non-class-related skills and magic she acquired by completing a special quest, which gave her the enormous Library of Knowledge, which she made her guild's headquarters.

This Library allowed her to store Grimoires inside and summon them whenever she felt like it. The Mana spent wasn't even hers, as the Library had its own Mana Core which she had to feed with Mana Crystals that monsters dropped once in a while. The more Grimoires she collected, the stronger she would grow.

This was also a reason why she decided in making her guild alliance with the Grimoire Collectors, owned by Erdrich, and why the two of them became good friends, enough to even have skill synergy to this point.

FLUOOOSH!

And her [Dance of Flames and Wind] Skill quickly took effect. And no, it wasn't an offensive skill! The phantasmal Shinigami that emerged from within her Shrine of Yokai, which resembled aberrant black ghosts wearing skulls as heads suddenly were boosted!

And not only them, but also the Undead that Erdrich summoned. This was a special massive buff spell that enhanced the power of Summons massively the more they died and revived. Additionally, it granted them Fire and Wind Attribute Damage with their normal blows...

And against an endless army of walking trees, there couldn't have been a better buff!

"OOOOOOH!"

An enormous Shinigami stepped forward, smashing into bits a dozen Treants and then unleashing an explosion of flames, killing even more Treants in the way!

BOOOOOMMM!!!

Titania glanced at the chaotic scene, dumbfounded. The best thing was that they were not even exhausted, their Mana was recovering quickly, and even if they needed more Mana, they had stocked thousands of MP Potions, as they were players that had been playing the game for over a year now and were often prepared for anything.

"T-This is incredible, I never thought you could do such a thing..." Titania was shocked. "These skills seem oddly similar to those of Planta, the power of taking over tiles and create terrain effects... It is certainly something unique of Players, but every time I see it, it always feels like a god-like power."

"With this much we can hold back as long as you want. Anikitty and Erdrich are amazing at holding back. We've fought armies of millions of monsters before in those Super Dungeon Raid events before. Their strategy is infallible." Gandalf said. "But I must also work hard, this old man can't simply watch."

Gandalf stepped in, as he saw from the distance four enormous Golems composed of fused Treants drawing closer. He quickly waved his hands, his staff conjured several magic circles in mere seconds, as the powerful Archwizard summoned his elemental magic!

"[Five Elemental Magic Circle]! [Elemental Resonance]! [Lightning Dragon]!"

Suddenly, Gandalf conjured two powerful buffing spells, enhancing his conjuration speed and spell damage, all while increasing his elemental damage as well.

And then...

TRUUUUUMMMM...!

The skies started shaking! The black clouds opened, as an enormous mass of golden lightning emerged, in the shape of a ferocious dragon no less!

"GROOOOARRRR!"

This was a high leveled spell, [Lightning Dragon]!

"L-Lightning Dragon!" Titania was surprised. "Isn't that a spell only Sages can conjure?! It is one of the highest tier spells there is!"

"Oh? Is it?" Gandalf was clueless, it was merely a spell he liked to spam because it had the lowest MP cost and was flashy, covering a large wide area.

TRUUUUUMMMM...!

The dragon reached the golems, blowing them all apart and burning them, a sea of flames extended into the rest of the Treants, dozens died on the spot!

"Hmmm, this is a good amount of EXP despite these things being low level..." Gandalf said. "Wait, why are we getting EXP from low level mobs?!"

The Players quickly realized something odd was happening.

Suddenly, a system window appeared in front of them.

DING!

[Your Party has been automatically added to the [Grand World Quest: Save the Life and Spirits of the World]!]

[The Demon King of Miasma has taken over the continent of Verdant and after almost being defeated by Player Planta, he has managed to escape and possess the Tree of Beginnings, the heart of the forest, life, and the spirits!]

[However, there's still hope... Player Planta's Heart of the Forest must be protected against all costs, while the possessed Tree of Beginnings must be slain as soon as possible before everything turns to the worst!]

[As special Effects for participating in this quest, every member that joins gains x3 times more EXP and Gold, and level restrictions for EXP and Gold acquisition are lifted.]

[Rare Drop Items chance is increased by x5, and new items drop from monsters defeated.]

[Those that defeat the most enemies will be rewarded greatly.]

[Time Limit: 1 Hour.]

1 hour!

In one hour, the Demon King of Miasma would have spread his evil roots across the entire continent of Verdant, and all life would eventually come to an end!

The Players panicked before the incredible quest they were given, and now, they quickly were decided to continue defending Planta's tree alongside Titania and the Fairy knights.

"Planta..." Titania looked into the skies, as the enormous Tree of Beginnings slowly crawled outside of the hole it was stuck from.

But where was it aiming at? It didn't even bathe an eye at Titania or the Players, it was looking at something in the distance, something it desired to destroy.

The nearby Luminous Kingdom, where the Hero that slayed the Demon King of Miasma in the past was born.

"I shall bring this world to ruin... And what better place to start than there? Just as I promised you, Jeremias!"

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Chapter 330: Fear And Doubts

(Planta's POV)

As I walked where I left my Familiars protecting my friends, I quickly saw a window emerge in front of me. This was something I hadn't seen before...

DING!

[Your Party has been automatically added to the [Grand World Quest: Save the Life and Spirits of the World]!]

[The Demon King of Miasma has taken over the continent of Verdant and after almost being defeated by Player Planta, he has managed to escape and possess the Tree of Beginnings, the heart of the forest, life, and the spirits!]

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[Rare Drop Items chance is increased by x5, and new items drop from monsters defeated.]

[Those that defeat the most enemies will be rewarded greatly.]

[Time Limit: 1 Hour.]

"This is...?"

I still felt slightly dizzy, but I could clearly read the Quest was about... protecting my Heart of the Forest while also telling me to slay the Tree of Beginnings.

Ahh... To think things have turned this way. It is really like Titania said, it feels like everything is about to end.

Without realizing it, I've been living in a completely different world, with actual living and breathing people.

I knew there was something odd, but I guess I can finally tell this is all real.

Do other Players know this? Aside from my Party, I doubt others can actually tell unless they try to log off?

Maybe I should try to log off with everyone and save our souls from all of this?

...After all, this is not a world I belong to.

I... I live in Earth, with my daughter, Mark, and everyone else.

This isn't my world.

Maybe...

I shouldn't...

[Logging Off is possible]

[Do you want to log off?]

Eh? It is possible now?!

Did the Demon King loosen his powers or something?

I am very sure I couldn't do it before...

Then...

I should really go away.

I...

"ELAYNE!"

Suddenly, I heard the voice of the Great Spirit within my soul.

"I understand that you feel afraid. I get it! This... everything that is going on is horrendous already. Mark almost died, and you could die now at any moment..."

"Great Spirit..."

"But I... we need you."

"Ah..."

"Please, don't go..."

The Great Spirit begged me for help.

I never thought she would... ever do such a thing.

"Minutes ago you were all spirited! What happened?"

"I... several things came to my head once I've managed to cool down..."

"I understand the fear, despite having been in this world, you always thought it was all a game. But it... it isn't."

"Why? Why let random people get inside this world through the pretext it's a game?"

"I... have no idea, I've been sealed all this time. Only the gods could answer such a question."

"I... see..."

I ended falling to my knees.

Suddenly, tears started flowing from my eyes.

"I... I am afraid... I don't want to die... I've done so much yet that monster's still alive..."

"P-Planta..."

"What can I do? I am just... a widow, a single mother raising her daughter. I am just a nobody..."

"I wouldn't call that a nobody. You're someone special, Planta."

"But Mark... he almost died, I don't want this to happen to him again, or to me... I fought, I did what I could yet..."

"I'm sorry if it came as I was forcing you... I really don't want to, I feel just as terrible. But this world is in peril now, you're... the only hope I have."

"Great Spirit..."

"I beg of you Planta... Please... I beg of you..."

The Great Spirit emerged in her humanoid form in front of me, kneeling and crying.

"Please... please help us..."

"Ah..."

What am I doing?

Why... am I doubting now from all times?

What's wrong with me?

There's someone in front of me begging for help.

How many times has this scene repeated through my life?

How many times have I begged others to help me?

To give me a second chance...

How many times have I been fired from my job, lost my money...

How many times have I cried desperately thinking I couldn't maintain my life or help my daughter in her studies?

Why am I doubting when someone is in front of me, asking for help?

There shouldn't even be a second thought.

I am not that kind of person.

I've become like this... not only because of the hardships of my life, but also because of my husband, and my daughter...

They have made me into the person I am now.

"Don't cry..."

I hugged the Great Spirit, and caressed her head.

"I'm sorry for doubting. I am really afraid, in fact, I am terrified of my life... But I simply can't step out of this now..."

I stood up, helping her stand up as well.

"I'll do it... Sorry for that, that's not how I usually am. As a woman... I've usually always hid these feelings deep within my heart, because I know they're weaknesses people always use against me... I never show that face because I've experienced others taking advantage of me many times."

"Elayne..."

"But this is different... I am... I am not the same as before."

I looked into the sky, which was shown as an enormous hole was made leading to the surface within the underground.

"Let's do this together, okay? I'll help! I'll use every single trick I've got, and the power of the spirits as well..."

As I said those words, my surroundings were quickly purified through the terrain skills. I hit the ground with my very foot and it quickly spread the terrain, grass, flowers, and even saplings grew. Dozens of spirit sprouts appeared as well.

"This is not over yet..."

"Of course it's not over yet!"

And then, I heard her voice.

"Rita?!"