

## **Brand New 531**

### **Brand New Life Online: Rise Of The Goddess Of Harvest**

#### **Chapter 531: Goldie**

"W-Well, what do I do now..." I sighed.

Maybe I should apologize to the giant fish? Well, that's a given.

"Anyways, I'm so-"

"Please don't eat me! I-I'll become your familiar even, but don't eat me! I have much to live!" He continued crying so much it was getting a bit annoying.

"I-I don't intend to-"

"You don't intend to make me your familiar?! But I am so strong!" He continued crying. "A-Am I destined to die like this?! I don't want to become someone's else dinner!"

"Lake King please listen." Titania sighed. "We-"

"UWAAAAAHAAHAHA! PLEASEEE! PLEASEEEE SPARE MEEEEEEE! I'll become your familiar! You, yes, please just make your familiar! It is better than dinner!" He insisted.

"You don't really need to-"

"I don't need to become your familiar?!" He cried. "But that's what I want!"

Titania sighed as she gave me a look.

"He seems adamant..." She sighed.

"I guess I'll have to make him my familiar..." I sighed. "Fine, I was planning to do that anyways. King of the Lake, I accept!"

"Y-You do?! Really?!" He asked again.

"Yes..." I facepalmed.

"Yaaay! I get to live another day, mama!" He cried, moving around happily.

FLAAASH!

Suddenly, a ray of light emerged from his body and reached mine, a connection was swiftly formed, as he ended being... tamed, he became a Tamed Monster willingly.

Ding!

[You've tamed the [Giant Golden Koi, King of the Spirit Lake: Lv100]!]

[You acquired a new Familiar!]

[Do you wish to give him a name?]

"A name... Goldie." I shrugged.

"G-Goldie?! That's not a good name!"

Ding!

[The name [Goldie] has been chosen for the [Giant Golden Koi, King of the Spirit Lake: Lv100]!]

[Goldie] Stats have increased due to his new relationship as your familiar.]

[Goldie] Skills have been greatly strengthened as well.]

[Monster Name]: [Goldie]

[Monster Title]: [King of the Spirit Lake of the Forest of Beginnings]

[Monster Race]: [Giant Mythical Golden Koi]: [Lv100/150]

[Monster Affection]: [Lv1/10]

[Satiation]: [54/100]

[HP]: [7300/7300]

[MP]: [5700/5700]

[STR]: [4500]

[VIT]: [4400]

[DEX]: [4400]

[AGI]: [4300]

[INT]: [4300]

[WIS]: [4300]

[LUC]: [10000]

[CHM]: [10000]

[Race Skills: 9/15]

[Descendant of the Ancient Mythical Golden Koi Fish: Lv8] [High Light Magic: Lv16] [Golden Iridescent Scales: Lv23] [Golden Magical Aura: Lv15] [Water Magic: Lv10] [High-Speed Swimming: Lv10] [Magical Burst: Lv12] [Authority of the King of the Lake: Lv17] [Territory Manipulation: Lv13]

Woah, his stats were high! I guess this is what a Level 100 Monster stats look like? No, I think it has also to do with him being a King of the Spirit Lake, most likely. He even has a Title, this is the first time I see a monster with an actual title as well!

"Hahh... I-I need water..." He began gasping tiredly.

"Right! Water Spirit Call!" I said, suddenly summoning several water spirits that fused into a wave of pure water.

SPLAAAASH!

The giant koi was quickly dragged back into the lake.

"Phew! Now this is refreshing!" He sighed in relief, swimming around. "I was so scared~ Ah, well, now I guess it is a good time to introduce ourselves, master! I am the King of the Spirit Lake! Who might you be?"

"Me? Well I am an Yggdryad, that huge tree over there is part of my body..." I said. "I am honestly surprised you don't know... A lot has happened here, and you literally live in the forest! Did you not even see what happened when everything grew corrupted with miasma?"

"I-I did learn about it after a while... But I was actually sleeping while all of that happened, hahah!" He laughed. "I did feel something scratching my scales while I slept below the mud of the lake, but when I woke up, there was no longer any scratchy feeling, and everything looked alright!"

"I can't believe he slept through the whole ordeal!" Titania was shocked. "You're a really lazy fish! Your grandfather would be ashamed of you!"

"Q-Queen of the Fairies, please don't be so rude with me!" Goldie started to cry again. "I-I am just not as strong as grandfather and... Well, I was a bit scared of facing problems..."

"You have yet to even learn the ability to swim in midair like your ancestors! You're really lazy! If you're going to live in our territory, you'll better start working hard." Titania started reprimanding him more and more.

"Y-Yes! I will! P-Please don't scream at me like that!" Goldie started crying. "M-Master please calm her down!"

"T-Titania, don't be so rough on him, he seems to be still a rather young fish." I sighed.

"Yeah, I am young!" Goldie cried. "Young and inexperienced!"

"Young? He must already be over three hundred years old..." Titania sighed. "He's more than old enough!"

"But the lake is so small, how can I even grow strong in here?!" He complained.

"Then you swim outside of it! That is the whole point of swimming in the skies like your ancestors once did!" Titania continued.

"I-I've tried before but it is impossible! I can't!" Goldie continued to banter. "I-I am not good enough!"

"Ugh! Would you two just stop, please?!" I asked angrily. "Enough banter! Alright? Enough complaining, and enough asking for things! We'll slowly resolve things by ourselves. This was supposed to be a relaxing day, let's not get stressed, Titania. I'll take care of him now that he's my familiar."

"Right..." Titania sighed. "S-Sorry about that, I just got really angry... out of nowhere. How about we go back to the castle for now?"

"Yeah, let's go make some fish!" Florie said.

"Hmm, fried fish is nice." Nieve nodded.

"I'm up for anything!" Lily added, bringing a huge sack with jewels.

"Alright then, let's get going!" I nodded.

"Have a nice day, master~!" Goldie said while waving his fins, thinking he'll get to relax.

"Silver." I said. "Teach him how to fly in midair, you got the same skill, right?"

"ROAR!" The silver-scaled dragoness nodded.

"Then I'll leave it up to you." I smiled.

Silver slowly approached Goldie and started "teaching" him. His screams of horror could be heard from afar, but I decided to... simply ignore him for now.

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#### **Chapter 532: New Watchtower**

Once we arrived at my Mushroom Castle, we quickly decided to set up everything for a feast with all the fish we caught. I used my Cooking Knife to filet all the fish, while leaving some fresh ones after taking out their guts. Those were stuck to large metal sticks and grilled after being covered in a lot of salt.

The others, I decided to make them into a variety of ways, the biggest ones were cut into filet-sized pieces, covered on egg and bread crumbs and deep fried into crunchy fried fish filets. I also made some fish stew with potatoes, carrots, onion, and some more seasoning.

Lastly, I packed a few dozen of them inside large leaves with onion, seasoning, and salt, and placed them above the fish stew lid, the steam coming out of the boiling dish slowly cooked them inside the leaves.

As for the rest, I stored some inside my Inventory, while leaving the rest for Nieve and Florie, who could store them inside their Inventory as well, some were frozen and handled to the Fairy Queendom instead.

And as the food was being cooked with the aid of my friends and various Cooking Spirits, I decided to spend this free time on upgrading some buildings. I had enough community points and materials for it, so I decided to prioritize the construction of a new watchtower and also the level up of the walls.

I put to use my new wings and with the aid of the Wind Spirits, I flew into the skies and reached the outskirts of the Territory, in there, I quickly designated a large area for the construction of the Tower.

"Construct [Wooden Watch Tower] Immediately Level it up to Level 4."

Ding!

[You have activated the [Territory Management System], the [Blueprint: Wooden Watch Tower] has begun construction!]

[You have exchanged [10000 MP], [x3500 Large Stones], [x5000 Wood Pieces], and [10000 Community Points!] ]

The Watchtower began its materialization immediately, however, I decided to alter its creation by extending a large root coming from my Yggdryad body and merging it with the tower as it was being made, alongside several wandering spirits, especially Light and Wind Spirits.

FLAAASH!

The tower appearance changed immediately, growing larger and resembling a giant tree with the slight shape of a watchtower, I even grew a single, golden jewel in the middle of its bark, resembling a big eye glancing into the horizon.

It grew branches upwards, and connected itself to my own roots, it felt as if I was now able to share my own vision with it temporarily, this meant it could now send me signals whenever it detected something anomalous.

Ding!

[The [Spiritual Tree Watchtower: Lv4/5] has been constructed!]

[Spiritual Tree Watchtower: Lv4/5]

[Building Type]: [Watchtower]

[Building Quality]: [A]

[Level Up Cost]: [12000 MP] [x2500 Large Stones] [x4000 Wood Pieces] [10000 Community Points]

[Effect]: [Spiritual Eye] [Magic Tower] [Small Fortress] [Eyes of Yggdrasil] [Advanced Magic Detection]

[Description]

A gigantic tree-shaped watchtower that is directly connected to the Yggdryad's roots themselves, working as a sort of physical eye to this entity, who doesn't naturally possess eyes themselves. It can alert of any danger approaching within its vicinity, and it is also capable of glancing farther away into the distance, detecting anomalies and predicting dangers such as enemy attacks.

[Spiritual Eye]: [This watchtower is a "living being" and can watch things by itself and report them to its master, the Yggdryad, at any time. It also can see things within the Spiritual Realm that normal eyes cannot.]

[Magic Tower]: [Due to its composition, the watchtower is now capable of storing Mana within its entire body and empower its master with it, supplying them with extra Mana they had accumulated before. Enhances the master INT Stat by +15% and Spell Damage and Range by +25%. Mana Storage Capacity: 0/40000]

[Small Fortress]: [Thanks to its sheer size, the watchtower can also work as a small fortress, protect the territory with its robust and large body, and also those it can store inside of itself. Increases Subjects Defenses by +10% when they're around the Watchtower.]

[Eyes of Yggdrasil]: [This watchtower can directly connect to the mind of the master, the Yggdryad, and work as the tree's only eye, which can glance around and even work as an extension of their body.]

Additionally, by gathering Mana into the watchtower, it is possible to shoot deadly Spirit Lasers at foes within range, dealing up to 250% Spirit Damage.]

[Advanced Magic Detection]: [The watchtower can expand its field of vision and detection through the usage of Mana, tripling its range temporarily.]

It was much better than I had expected! And its set of abilities were amazing too. It could even shoot a powerful laser by utilizing accumulated Mana, and it can accumulate up to 40k Mana too! To make things even better, it works as a third eye of mine.

It even comes with supporting abilities, enhancing my magic power while I am within territory range, my spell power and range too, and it even protects subjects that are near it.

"I guess I should also upgrade the walls."

I concentrated my Mana into the air and then started absorbing all the surrounding Mana that I couldn't properly use as mine, slowly gathering it into the Tower and keeping it in there, like that, my Mana had magically increased by +40k as long as I am within my Territory.

And now, I can even upgrade this thing that requires a ridiculous amount of Mana with ease.

Ding!

[You have exchanged [x100000 Large Stones] [40000 MP] [15000 Community Points]!] [The [Spiritual Stone Walls: Lv3] have begun upgrading to Level 4!]

FLAAASH!

The walls quickly grew a few more meters into the sky, became even more fortified with several new layers of stone, and its spiritual power seemed to have taken a great boost as well. Oh, it even grew sharp spikes on top of its walls.

Ding!

[The [Spiritual Stone Walls: Lv3] have been upgraded to Level 4!]

[The [Spiritual Stone Walls: Lv4/5] has acquired a new Effect!]

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#### **Chapter 533: Cooking Some Delicious Fish Meals**

Ding!

[The [Spiritual Stone Walls: Lv3] have been upgraded to Level 4!]

[The [Spiritual Stone Walls: Lv4/5] has acquired a new Effect!]

[Spiritual Stone Walls: Lv4/5]

[Building Type]: [Walls]

[Building Quality]: [A]

[Level Up Cost]: [x120000 Large Stones] [50000 MP] [20000 Community Points]

[Effect]: [Territory Walls] [Protection] [Self-Repair] [Magical Shield] [Impenetrable Walls] [Magic Walls] [Spiritual Empowerment]

[Description]

An utterly gigantic wall made of spirit magic-imbued stones that protects the entire Territory of the Forest of Origins from threats of the outside world. It offers immense protection against all land invasions and can grow even bigger and stronger as it levels up.

[Magic Walls]: [Thanks to its unique composition, the Walls are now capable of storing Mana within its entire body and empower its master with it, supplying them with extra Mana they had accumulated before. Enhances the master VIT Stats by +10%. Mana Storage Capacity: 0/30000]

[Spiritual Empowerment]: [The Walls can now channel the power of Earth Spirits and spend accumulated Mana to temporarily increase its total Defensive Power against Physical and Magical Attacks by +1000%]

Amazing, this is such a good upgrade! Looks like I'm done for now though, I've ran out of Community Points already. They went by flying too fast, ugh...

Well, more importantly, the fish dishes should be almost ready by now.

Ding!

[Player: Titan] has logged-in]

[Player: Achlys] has logged-in]

Ooh, looks like everyone's back. My daughter must already be on her way home too, so I should probably have a meal with everyone and then go cook something yummy for her.

I flew back to my castle while barely managing not to fall using these new wings, and landed in front of the castle, finding Mark and Rita walking there.

"Hey, you guys are back! A lot happened while you were out." I said. "We went to catch some fish in the lake but then a huge fish showed up, and it could talk... And I named him Goldie."

"E-Eh? That happened?!" Mark asked. "A Talking fish... I've never read in the forums before."

"Huh, whenever you do something there's always a crazy occurrence." Rita sighed. "Anyways, we're going to the dwarven mountains today, right? I'm getting bored of idling around here!"

"Yeah, yeah, we'll be going there today." I nodded. "After lunch, of course! Mark, how was your day by the way?" I quickly went to hug him.

"A-Ahaha, a bit tiring, there had been a few new employees. Also Jenny said she's coming today too- Did you bought a new dress?" He wondered.

"Oh, this? Does it looks good?" I giggled. "It is a new set of equipment I got from the Bond Quests with the fairies and Acorn, I've been completing them over the week."

"They're some amazing pieces of equipment!" Mark praised it. "It even comes with Potential Bonuses but it can't be enchanted with scrolls, huh?"

"Yeah, seems like quest-acquired equipment cannot be customized around." I sighed. "But the stats are really good anyways!"

"Wow, I am so envious yet again! How can I get these Bond Quests?!" Rita asked. "It's not fair you get all the good stuff, Elayne!"

"I don't think you can get them unless you somehow unlock the Territory Management System and get your own Territory..." I said. "Wait, it might be possible... maybe. I think I could somehow generate a quest to give you guys your own territories, but it would be a bit complicated, you would need to find another place around the continent aside from my own. We could even make an Alliance of Territories, is that even a thing?"

"Sounds exciting." Mark smiled, rubbing his wooden chin. "I'm in for that, well, after we're done with our primary tasks of finding the materials for the physiques."

"I guess I'm in too! Though I'll need something compatible with me, right?" Wondered Rita. "A dark place, maybe we could find something like that somewhere."

"Yeah, maybe." I shrugged. "Now let's go eat, I've prepared a lot of fish we caught!"

Once we arrived at the castle, the fish was more than ready, the delicious smell of fish stew, grilled fish, fried fish, and more filled the air. Not only we were in the feast, but most of our workers and the squad of new soldiers were invited, including the entirety of the Mushroom Brigade.

Ding!

[You've cooked [Salted and Grilled Large Orange Pike (B++ Grade)] x20]

[You've cooked [Salted and Grilled Pink Koi (B+++ Grade)] x20]

[You've cooked [Shadow Stalker Goldfish Revitalizing Stew (A Grade)] x20]

[You've cooked [Iridescent Lake Manta Ray Fried Fish Croquets (A+ Grade)] x50]

[You've cooked [Steamed Giant Black Spiked Shark Filets On Yggdryad Leaves (A++ Grade)] x60]

[You earned 360000 EXP!]

[LEVEL UP!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 90 to Level 91!]

[All your Stats have increased.]

[You earned Bonus Stat Points and Skill Points.]

I ended earning a whole level out of all the dishes I prepared! The fishes were a few, but they were all absolutely huge, so they ended making tons of food for everyone. We swiftly sat down around a long table and enjoyed our feast, while I talked with my friends about what happened this morning regarding Goldie.

"So you ended acquiring a Level 100 Familiar just like that..." Rita was shocked. "W-What the heck?! I also want to get some familiars! Ugh!"

"You don't need to be so competitive with Planta, Achlys..." Titania giggled a bit. "You have your own great talents and magic she cannot use, you're a rather unique ally we have. I am sure you'll be able to find a strong new familiar in your adventures."

"Hahh~ You're too nice, Titania." Rita sighed, eating the fish croquets and instantly cheering up. "Oh wow, this is deadly good..."

"Goldie might prove to be a rather unique ally, he can also wield powerful Light Magic, isn't it?" Asked Mark. "It'll come in handy once we begin a war against the Demon King of Death... Though the issue about him not knowing how to "swim in the air" is a bit concerning... I hope Silver can teach him."

"Yeah, let's hope for the best~" I sighed. "Honestly, he's quite... special, so let's not have our hopes too high for him."

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#### **Chapter 534: The Future Events**

"Mom, I'm back."

My daughter quickly arrived home after I logged-off and went to buy some groceries in the market. Thanks to my magic and the ability to run super-fast, I was able to buy everything I needed in five minutes.

"Hello dear, how was high school?" I wondered, as I was cooking.

"Fine." She said. "Huh? Are you making fish? Smells nice."

"Yeah I'm preparing some fried salmon! It is fresh right out of the market." I said with a smile. "I'll accompany it with some rice and a fish soup with seaweed I'm making for the side. Can you tidy up your bed while it's getting done?"

"Fine." She nodded. "Did you do anything crazy in BNLO?"

"A-Ah... Well..." I began doubting if I could tell her.

"You're taking a while to respond, I can guess you did!" She sighed. "What is it this time?"

"Err... Well, I caught a certain, golden fish that can talk, and I made him my familiar, nothing much." I sighed.

"E-Eh?! Nothing much? A talking... fish? That's not something that has showed up at all in the forums..." She said in surprise. "Well, nobody fishes in this game anyways, I'm surprised it is worth anything more than just fish to make dishes."

"Hey! I've seen that fishing has many functions, there's higher level fish whose scales and bones can be used to make amazing equipment, and you can also catch powerful water monsters with high level fishing skills, also you can find some that have special crystal scales, or metallic scales. Strongest late-game equipment all use high quality fish materials to be made!" I said.

"Hahaha, well, if you're so confident then I'll take your word, mom." She giggled. "I'll be using your fishing services too!"

Oh, so that was her aim!

"Ah, here's my new familiar stats." I said, showing them to her as we started eating when everything was done.

"A-Ah- Huh?!" Elena was surprised. "T-This is... why is it so strong? You said it was a coward and a pushover but these stats... And the skills too..."

Even my daughter, a powerful Ranker in BNLO was shocked, I guess Goldie did indeed had a lot of potential.

"He's strong, isn't it? We'll need to help Goldie grow stronger though." I sighed. "I hope Silver can teach him how to Swim in the Air, or he won't be able to stick around with us in our journey."

"Hmmm, he's super strong so you better make him stay with you..." She nodded. "He'll come in useful when we confront the Demon King of Death."

"Oh yeah, about that... Well, I have an item that shows me when he's showing up, and we've got roughly half a month to fight him." I said.

"Only half a month?" Asked my daughter. "Hmm, well, we've gotta prepare then, once he shows up, tons of events will begin around the game. Like what happened with the previous one, you made your character when he had already showed up, but special monsters appear, like those Miasmic Beasts everywhere. I suppose Undead will appear now- Well, I think they might appear soon even before he shows up."

"Yeah, Titania told me she has sensed the presence of the Undead more and the world around is slowly beginning to be filled with Nether." I said. "So it might be possible he'll bring his Undead army sooner than later."

"Sounds fun." My daughter smiled.

Ah, I wouldn't say that its really fun... More than anything, I am quite worried! He seems to be prioritizing Earth for now, and his Death Generals had already manifested in here.

But I doubt he'll just limit himself to these forms of manifestation, he'll most likely, like the previous Demon King, bring armies of monsters to every single place he can.

And it is quite obvious he'll confront me too...

But for now, we've got to have a positive outlook at life. We've already managed to defend against the first attack, and we are already on the road to grow stronger.

By strengthening my territory and then finding materials to strengthen our bodies in Earth, things should be going rather fine.

I wish I could bring the territory powers to Earth, but that seems like something utterly impossible as of now... But maybe if I can develop Summoning Magic strong enough... maybe.

"Mom?" My daughter asked, as she found out I was spacing out a bit, thinking too many things at once.

"A-Ah! Oh right, I'll be uploading the video of the fish catch- Actually, it's already uploaded?! Ugh, did the Guider just published it without my permission again?" I sighed.

I checked the video with my daughter, and we were surprised. The video was uploaded just an hour and a half ago but it already had 70k views, and they were steadily rising.

The comments were mostly of people reacting in shock, there were several commenters asking how did I even became the friend of the Fairy Princess and the Fairy Queen to be leisurely fishing with them.

And others were shocked over the fishes I caught, saying that they weren't things they had ever seen before. Of course, the majority was commenting on how easily I ended taming Goldie, a talking fish.

"Wow you're rising in popularity fast." My daughter said. "I've never been into uploading videos myself... But you're talented, mom..."

"I-Is that so? I am only doing whatever, nothing much~" I giggled, feeling a bit embarrassed.

"Huh? It's already at 80k views, gosh, your video is already trending on BNLO videos of the week..." My daughter was surprised. "A-And the top five are also composed of several of your videos..."

"O-Oh..." I was surprised once she showed to me.

"The forums are also constantly talking about you and what crazy thing you'll do next." My daughter laughed. "I guess I don't mind having a popular mom."

"I know it's good for the money but... this kind of popularity all at one is a bit overwhelming." I sighed, drinking a bit more of tea.

Once we were done having lunch, my daughter went to study, saying she'll log-in later. Meanwhile, I logged-in right away and decided to finally begin our small journey to the Dwarven Mountains.

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#### **Chapter 535: Moving To The Dwarf City**

After having lunch with my daughter, I swiftly resumed my journey with my friends. After sorting things out, we decided to quickly fly into the skies, the fastest way to reach the Dwarven Mountains. In our journey, Acorn and Nieve decided to stick with us, but Florie and Titania stayed in the Fairy Queendom, as both had a lot to do themselves.

Lily and Jenny had also logged-in back just a few minutes ago, with her, Mark, Rita, and Jenny, we set off into the skies. We've been meeting Jenny the last three days, mostly helping her out level up a bit more within my own forest, which was populated with monsters too.

"Woohaaa! I never thought there could be a way to freaking fly in the skies like this!" Jenny said, bouncing over my head.

Thanks to helping her level up, she had become Level 60, and had managed to evolve into an Abyssal Poison Slime Princess, it was a fancy-sounding name, but it was pretty much similar to her previous

form, but now she could take into a humanoid form made of slime, and she gained some special curse magic along with her poison magic.

Of course, she found it more comfortable to just sit over my head in the form of a small and compact slime... She had several abilities, from the ability to multiply her own body and create smaller clones for attacking or scouting, which moved automatically through A.I. but that she could give them some commands, to the ability to generate several types of dissolving acids with different status effects. She was also proficient on Curse and Poison Magic, and her shapeshift was rather versatile, as she could get through thin spaces and more.

Overall, although rather unpopular because it made people feel weird when they were possessing a moldable slime body, the Slime Class was surprisingly really interesting and powerful on its own ways, it could be said to be an ideal Race for rogues, thieves, and even assassins.

It had amazing DEX and AGI Stats, and it could chip damage away at any foe using their variety of tools, they were rather impressive, a reason why Jenny was using this race was... well.

"Ah, why do I use Slime? Well I just choose it at random, haha. I was drunk when I started playing and when I used the slime body it felt all bobbly and wobbly and I couldn't stop laughing, it made me really high..." Jenny laughed. "I've read it makes people feel weird, but I've grown kind of accustomed to the freedom it gives."

Jenny was shapeshifting and moving around in her slime form as if she had always been one, it was quite surprising. She took several shapes sometimes, imitating monsters using her Mimicry Skill.

"I just can't imagine myself being one..." Lily laughed. "Though I'm totally fine with this body, it's so cute!"

"Huh, you're a weird girl, Jenny." Rita said while raising an eyebrow.

"Eh? Why are you so rude?! I was just saying its fun!" Jenny was angered.

"Well, it's fine. Non-human bodies can end up being rather fun." Mark laughed, his own body was composed of wood.

"I agree." I nodded. "I am also quite similar; I've learned how to shapeshift around and it doesn't feel as weird anymore."

"Ooh, my fellow non-humanoid players! We would make such a cool guild!" Cried Jenny. "Let's kick these two and only let Acorn and Nieve join instead!"

"Hey what are you talking about?!" Rita got angry.

"Hahaha, she's just joking, though it sounds fun." Lily smiled.

"Well, non-humanoid players are rare." I said. "Though the amount of possibilities in the character creation had always been rather large."

"I've heard there's a guild of Monster Players." Said Mark. "They're rather lowkey, but they always accept non-humanoids into their ranks."

"Interesting..." I said, thinking about the possibilities.

However, my thoughts were quickly interrupted as the Mountains rose in the horizon. We've been riding my Familiars for a little while now, most of them had some level of flight, and thanks to them, we were able to travel in the skies super quickly.

What could have taken a day or two, only took an hour at most. It was really a nice way to travel around this beautiful world, especially with all the beautiful and wonderful scenery there is all around.

Oh, and talking about the familiars, as I had said before, they had all evolved...

[Summon Name]: [Belle]

[Race]: [Greater Heaven Goat: Thunder Tanngnjóstr: Lv74/100]

[Satiation]: [88/100]

[HP]: [6870/6870]

[MP]: [3710/3710]

[STR]: [2955]

[VIT]: [2205]

[DEX]: [1646]

[AGI]: [1814]

[INT]: [1234]

[WIS]: [1510]

[LUC]: [2350]

[Race Skills: 12/12]

[Divine Farm Animal: Heaven Goat: Lv4] [Super Charge: Lv4 (Evolved)] [Lightning Horn Attack: Lv2 (Evolved)] [Divine Milk Production: Lv2 (Evolved)] [Thunder Berserk Mode: Lv3 (Evolved)] [Aura Attack: Lv9] [Unstoppable Strength: Lv8] [Kicking Arts: Lv7] [Divine Lightning Horn: Lv4] [Sky Walk: Lv4] [Divine Beast Transformation: Lv2] [Impregnable Divine Fur Coat: Lv1]

.

[Summon Name]: [Huginn]

[Race]: [Greater Shadow Gallus Raven: Dark Hrafnaugr: Lv72/100]

[Satiation]: [88/100]

[HP]: [4740/4740]

[MP]: [3340/3340]

[STR]: [2375]

[VIT]: [1455]

[DEX]: [1750]

[AGI]: [2365]

[INT]: [1250]

[WIS]: [1215]

[LUC]: [2120]

[Race Skills: 12/12]

[Divine Farm Animal: Shadow Gallus: Lv4] [Abyssal Shadow Kick: Lv4 (Evolved)] [Shadow Beak Attack: Lv2 (Evolved)] [Powerful Intimidation: Lv2 (Evolved)] [Abyssal Shadow Feather Projectile: Lv4 (Evolved)] [Shadow Flight: Lv6] [Shadow Sneak: Lv6] [All-Seeing Eyes: Lv5] [Share Senses: Master: Lv4] [Super Shadow Beam: Lv4] [Curse Magic: Lv1] [Shadow Chains: Lv1]

.

[Summon Name]: [Saphee]

[Race]: [Greater Abyssal Venomous Serpentes: Giant Miðgarðsormr: Lv72/100]

[Satiation]: [100/100]

[HP]: [4720/4720]

[MP]: [3940/3940]

[STR]: [1475]

[VIT]: [1455]

[DEX]: [1810]

[AGI]: [2325]

[INT]: [2640]

[WIS]: [1665]

[LUC]: [2000]

[Race Skills: 12/12]

[Divine Farm Animal: Abyssal Venomous Serpentes: Lv4] [Deadly Weapon Tail Transformation: Lv5 (Evolved)] [Abyssal Venomous Fangs: Lv4 (Evolved)] [Magical Reflective Scales: Lv3 (Evolved)] [Poison Magic: Lv7] [Poisonous Sea: Lv7] [Poison Domain: Lv6] [Snake Queen: Lv5] [Poison Snake Phantom Creation: Lv4] [Deadly Abyssal Toxic Breath: Lv4] [Poison Immunity: Lv--] [Curse Immunity: Lv--]

My three "Farm Familiars" had grown the most so far, and were utterly gigantic, possessing unique names to boot.

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**Chapter 536: Evolved Familiars**

Moving on, the other familiars were just as strong:

[Summon Name]: [Loki]

[Race]: [Greater Voracious Trickster Lotus Vine Hydra: Abyss Ivy: Lv74/100]

[Satiation]: [100/100]

[HP]: [3970/3970]

[MP]: [3780/3780]

[STR]: [2375]

[VIT]: [2375]

[DEX]: [1620]

[AGI]: [1405]

[INT]: [1284]

[WIS]: [1855]

[LUC]: [1650]

[Race Skills: 12/12]

[Mythic Plant Monster: Ivy: Lv4] [Gluttony: Lv4 (Evolved)] [Deep Rooting: Lv3 (Evolved)] [Intoxicating Spray: Lv2 (Evolved)] [Sharp and Venomous Vine Attack: Lv1 (Evolved)] [Black Vines of Steel: Lv1 (Evolved)] [Enchanting Aroma: Lv9] [Blood Drain: Lv8] [Accursed Intimidating Aura: Lv6] [Plant Mutation: Lv5] [Plant Fusion: Lv1] [Overgrowth: Lv1]

.

[Summon Name]: [Terra]

[Race]: [Greater Mystic Giant Cave Mushroom: High Meshgaia Lv71/100]

[Satiation]: [100/100]

[HP]: [4540/4540]

[MP]: [3340/3340]

[STR]: [1235]

[VIT]: [2425]

[DEX]: [1140]

[AGI]: [1140]

[INT]: [1810]

[WIS]: [2370]

[LUC]: [1850]

[Race Skills: 12/12]

[Mythic Plant Monster: Meshgaia Lv4] [Impact Absorbing Body: Lv5 (Evolved)] [Sleeping Dreamy Spores: Lv4 (Evolved)] [Giant Robust Body: Lv2 (Evolved)] [Earth Magic: Lv7] [Mushroom Colony: Lv6] [Colony Mind: Lv6] [Mushroom Soldier: Lv5] [Earth Shield: Lv4] [Earthquake: Lv4] [Rest: Lv1] [Self division: Lv1]

.

[Monster Name]: [Silver]

[Monster Race]: [Young Adult Lake Snake Dragon]: [Lv74/100]

[Monster Affection]: [Lv10/10]

[Satiation]: [99/100]

[HP]: [5260/5260]

[MP]: [3640/3640]

[STR]: [2703]

[VIT]: [2372]

[DEX]: [1737]

[AGI]: [1789]

[INT]: [1890]

[WIS]: [1620]

[LUC]: [1750]

[Race Skills: 9/12]

[Awakened Water Dragon Descendant: Lv5] [Water Dragon breath: Lv5 (Evolved)] [Magic Reflecting Silver Dragon Scales: Lv3 (Evolved)] [Fear-Inducing Presence: Lv9] [Water Magic: Lv7] [Air Swimming: Lv6] [Draconic Aura Boost: Lv5] [Dragon Spear Tail Attack: Lv1] [Dragon's Wrath: Lv1]

.

[Monster Name]: [Mimy]

[Monster Race]: [Abyssal Great Knight Shapeshifting Mimic]: [Lv73/100]

[Monster Affection]: [Lv10/10]

[Satiation]: [96/100]

[HP]: [4550/4550]

[MP]: [2270/2270]

[STR]: [2812]

[VIT]: [3706]

[DEX]: [1297]

[AGI]: [1295]

[INT]: [1184]

[WIS]: [1673]

[LUC]: [1521]

[Race Skills: 9/12]

[High Mimic's Physiology: Lv5] [Reinforced Harden: Lv5 (Evolved)] [High-Speed Roll: Lv3 (Evolved)]  
[Magic Armored Body: Lv2 (Evolved)] [Sword Technique: Lv7] [Shield Technique: Lv7] [Rampant Return: Lv5]  
[Cursed Sword: Lv4] [Shapeshift: Lv1]

Looking at their stats was a bit overwhelming at times, they had all grown very strong. I ended leaving some back home because they're honestly too many to bring them all with us. Loki and Terra stayed back home to protect it, and because they are too big and heavy to be carried by the other flying Familiars too...

If we ever need their aid, I can simply summon them to my side using the respective Skills anyways, so there's no worry about it.

Oh, and the trend I noticed as they all evolved was that they became "Giant", "High", or "Greater" versions of their previous forms, there weren't any options for them aside from these evolutions.

I suppose they're now in their way to evolve into stronger and even greater forms, I presume? It might take them a while to reach a brand new evolution, so these "greater" forms that have made them even bigger should be enough.

The variety of new Skills was also really nice. Loki can now do something similar to me, being capable of fusing with the plants in the forest to gain power. We've not tried yet, but I think he should even be capable of merging with my Yggdryad tree body, or maybe its roots, at the very least...

And then there's Terra with her new Self Division Skill combined with her Mushroom Colony and so on, which makes her capable of creating her own army of hundreds of Mushroom-type monsters, such as Jumping Mushrooms and the like.

They're not that strong, really, but they do help in distracting the enemy, especially because each Mushroom she creates has some sort of spore that causes a status effect, from poison, bleeding, paralysis, and so on.

Meanwhile, as of Silver and Mimy, they're progressing slowly, slower than the summons, mostly because they're tamed monsters. Though, Dragons are late bloomers, Silver might become way stronger after a certain evolution once she reaches her mature adult stage, which might be really soon, after hitting level 100.

Well, if things go well, we should all be able to hit Level 100 in this new area we're visiting. The enormous mountains greeted our sight, as everyone gasped in amusement, they were so huge, and surrounded a large area within the Verdant Continent, they even seemed to act like a natural wall that protected this area of the continent from the other, which is much colder and arid.

"So these are the Dwarven Mountains! They're huge and cover such a long distance! Insane..." Acorn said in surprise. "This is going to be fun! I bet there'll be a lot of new materials to collect."

"I am more interested in ores..." Nieve said. "We could probably find high quality ores in these mountains, to make better weapons for the soldiers and knights."

"Oh yeah, that's a good idea, Nieve." I nodded. "I bet it is much cheaper to buy it in here than in the market as well."

"I agree." Mark nodded. "We should make sure to explore the entire place."

"Hey, that sounds a bit boring, we should also go hunt some monsters, right? And find out if there's really a dragon out there or not." Rita said.

"I agree! Don't be so boring you guys." Jenny said. "I want to test out my skills into those monsters, heheh..."

"I heard that Dwarves share an ancestry with Gnomes and Brownies." Said Lily. "I wonder if that's really the true... I would like to investigate that as well!"

"I guess we've all got our own goals in here." I sighed. "But let's not separate if possible, or we'll end up getting lost. Ah, looks like we're almost there!"

I looked down into the mountain, as I ordered my familiars to slowly descend into the area where there was a bridge reaching to a higher area in the mountains, a giant cave that was protected by enormous walls, and several small soldiers.

There was some people entering and walking out of the area constantly, mostly NPC, but we also noticed some Players mixed into the group, the majority were either Dwarf Players or Players with Crafting Job Classes, this place seemed to be popular among them because of the Quests the NPC gave, and the availability of cheap high-quality materials.

Ding!

[Welcome to the Ash Mountain's Dwarven City of Svartalfheim]!]

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**Chapter 537: Dwarven City of Svartalfheim**

Ding!

[Welcome to the Ash Mountain's Dwarven City of Svartalfheim]!]

[The City of Dwarves is a place funded by the Ancient Dwarves thousands of years ago, now only the small vestige of what used to be an enormous metropolis and empire that stretched through all of the Northern area of the Continent of Verdant, the last surviving Dwarves spend their days mining, crafting, and teaching all those that want to learn their ancient craft.]

[Although relatively peaceful, lately, it is said that the Dwarves have dug too deep, and have awakened an ancient evil that was long ago sealed within the depths of the Ash Mountains...]

[If you desire to learn more about this, find clues within the City.]

Just as we arrived, the System instantly throws me a bit of information about the city. It is quite interesting that this enormous city, filled with people is only the "vestige" of something even larger?! Just how massive did the Empire of Dwarves used to be, I wonder?

I've read in the forums that this Dragon thing has been going around for a while, there's an area in these mountains where there are a lot of Dragon-type monsters, but nobody had actually found the "ancient, sealed evil" yet, so it might be up to us to find that, whatever it is while we are at it.

"Did everyone got the same message?" I wondered.

"Oh yeah, about the ancient evil and stuff?" Rita asked.

"Yeah, that one." I nodded.

"I got it as well." Mark said. "I guess we'll have to do this with a classic approach in mind, we'll have to look around for clues."

"Hmm- Ah, why is everyone looking at us?" Wondered Jenny, quickly jumping off my head and turning into a girl-like form, though still made out of purple gooey liquid.

"I-It's Planta, isn't she?!"

"Yeah, she just uploaded a video just now!"

"Woah, what are those huge monsters she's carrying around?"

"I heard she has an army of super powerful familiars... Looks like it's true."

"I-I'm too nervous to approach her..."

The Players among the crowd quickly noticed my presence and were making a slight fuss over it. Thankfully they were only a couple dozens of people, not hundreds like in Nexus.

"Let's go for now, just ignore their stares, Jenny." I said.

"Geez, you're quite the celebrity around here, huh?" Jenny wondered. "But none of these guys know you IRL, that's our privilege, kekeke."

"Move aside guys, my friend's trying to pass through here." Rita said, pushing people away.

"Please don't take photos or videos, that's a bit rude." Mark said, his intimidating presence and tall stature easily made most people walk back.

We made our way to the city's entrance, where the guards seemed to be making sure no dangerous people entered the area... Seems like large cities always have this type of security.

"Who are you that everyone's so focused on you?" Wondered one of the guards, a dwarf wearing steel armor and holding a long spear. "You aren't sketchy people, right?"

"Is that huge guy your friend, lady?" Asked the second guard, pointing at Mark. "And is this slime your pet, I assume? And those monsters over there won't do anything bad, right?"

"Yes, Mark is my friend, and Jenny is also my friend, those monsters are my familiars, don't worry, they won't hurt anybody." I nodded. "You guys should adjust your size a bit."

"Meehheee!" Belle groaned, quickly becoming much smaller, the size of a young goat.

The rest of the familiars all reduced their sizes, even Mimy, who was so tall she was almost as big as Mark, but now had the size of the dwarves.

"I see..." One of the guards raised an eyebrow. "And you're a Dryad, huh?"

"Wait, Dryad?!" Asked the second dwarf. "Don't tell me you're coming from the Forest of Beginnings, where that hue tree is at?"

"Yeah we are!" I nodded. "Name's Planta, I am actually the owner of that tree, it is an extension of my own body."

"E-Eh? Is that true? Don't lie to us!" Said the first guard.

"Oi, the lie detection tool is not reacting, she's saying the truth..." The second guard was holding a small jewel on his hand. It seemed to react to lies.

"W-Woah, alright then, you can pass..." Sighed the first guard.

"You seem like someone really important; don't you want us to tell the King about your arrival, Lady Planta?" Asked the second guard.

"Oh no, don't worry about it, thanks for your hospitality!" I said. "Oh! By the way, do you know anything about this rumor... About an Ancient Evil being Unsealed recently? It might be related to Dragons, maybe? We've been looking for this, we are afraid it could be something that might endanger the city."

"Hmmm, Ancient Unsealed Evil?" Wondered the first guard, seemingly having no clue. "That sounds really melodramatic! Wasn't the Demon King dealt with already? Though, we've heard there's a nest of Dragon-type monsters in the mountain that was recently dug up."

"I did hear something like that, a friend that works in the Mines said he heard someone saying that in the Dragon Nest, they found something big... and sinister." Sighed the second guard. "It could be what you're looking for? But we aren't as crazy as Players to just step into danger, so the miners probably ran away from there and haven't gone back."

"I see..." I nodded. "Seems like they did know a bit." I smiled back at my friends.

"Could it be possible to tell us the name of this friend of yours?" Wondered Rita. "Pretty please~? Oh, did I forget to say your beards are really hot and make you look super manly?"

"Hehehe, such flatter won't work on us, lady!"

"Though, we take it kindly anyway, especially from a beautiful lady."

The dwarves laughed while blushing a bit.

"Ahem! Well, my miner friend's named Kestrellius, by now he should be dining with his friends in the Tavern named "Golden Egg" where they serve the best eggs." Said the dwarf. "Just tell him his good friend Nedrug brought you to him. As long as you pay him some beers and snacks, he'll surely talk."

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#### **Chapter 538: New Quest**

Rita's praises seemed to work on the dwarves, as the second guard instantly spilled the beans without even thinking about it too deeply. I guess they are easy to charm.

"Ahem! Well, my miner friend's named Kestrellius, by now he should be dining with his friends in the Tavern named "Golden Egg" where they serve the best eggs." Said the dwarf. "Just tell him his good friend Nedrug brought you to him. As long as you pay him some beers and snacks, he'll surely talk."

"I see! Thanks a lot, Nedrug!" I smiled, quickly offering him a fruit pie that I took out of my inventory. "Here, this isn't much, but it is a pie I've cooked using the fresh fruits of the forest."

"Ooh, smells nice, and it still warm! Thanks a lot lady! This is actually much better than just some penny."

"Nice! We'll have this for dinner then, will go well with cider! Gyahaha!"

As the two dwarves celebrated, we finally made our way into town, and as I thought, a chained quest instantly began.

Ding!

[A New [Chain Quest] has been generated]: [Find Kestrellius and learn about what he saw!]

[After having a brief talk with the two guards outside of the Dwarven City, you find out a friend of the guard named Nedrug was part of the Mining Squad that discovered the "Dragon Nest" Area and saw something "with black scales" within its depths. Now, you have the chance to find out what exactly that was, and if this rumor is real or not... Remember, Kestrellius will be much easier to talk if you offer a drink and some snacks!]

[Quest Rewards]: [EXP] [Gold] [Progressive Chain Quests]

[Time Limit]: [6 Hours]

"We got it!" I said, everyone celebrated as a new quest popped up in front of us.

"Oooh, so this is how you usually get quests?!" Jenny was surprised. "It is surprisingly easy, what the heck?!"

"Fufu, it was easy because we've convinced them with our womanly charms." Said Rita with a seductress smile. "Nobody can say "no" to us when we're shoving these big ones right in front of their faces, and dwarves probably got a really good view from below, hehe." Rita started pointing at my breasts.

"H-Hey! Don't talk like that! Geez." I sighed, feeling a bit embarrassed. "You're the one that did that, and I think we didn't even need to... they were being nice."

"Mostly because we were hotties though, hehehe." Rita giggled.

"Yeah I noticed too~" Lily smiled. "They were even giving me glances, hehehe. Oh my, it made me feel younger again."

"Geez! Not fair..." Jenny sighed, crossing her arms. "I didn't get any pervy looks! Is it because I am a slime?"

"Ugh, it isn't as if that's a good thing though..." I sighed. "Well, whatever, let's go meet his friend!"

"Yeah but where exactly is the Golden Egg Tavern at?" Mark wondered.

"Good question!" I nodded. "Open World Map."

FLAAASH!

The World Map opened in the palm of my hands, as I quickly continued pressing the magnify button until we arrived in the interior of the city. All the important areas were given names, and the Golden Egg Tavern was one of the oldest and most popular ones, it was at the west corner of the city, near the entrance to the Mines.

Using the map, we guided ourselves across the beautiful city. Looking around the infrastructure surprised us; it looked like something straight out of a steampunk fantasy city. We even saw Dwarves riding giant golems, and the city was filled with gigantic workshops with dozens of dwarves working and crafting, they were a race that loved creating things.

We went through the market while we were at it, and decided to purchase a variety of ores. Haggling wasn't my specialty, but Rita did an amazing job at helping us get a lot of discounts. We purchased a variety of ores from Steels, Silvers, and even some Golds, all of them with different colors, imbued with elements.

There were also some shops selling large metallic spheres with crystals inside named "Golem Cores" that the Dwarves used to reanimate their powerful metallic golems. I ended purchasing a few of them to try out later and make my own Golems.

"Here we are, the Golden Egg." Said Rita. "Let's get in then! Don't chicken out now, there's tons of people inside!"

"O-Okay, let's go then!" I nodded.

As we stepped inside, we saw dozens of dwarves and a few other species, such as humans and gnomes drinking, talking, and more. However, the moment I stepped inside with Rita and Lily by my side, the majority of stares were directed at us in a single second... Even the female dwarves were looking aggressively.

"H-Hello! H-Hahaha..." I said nervously. "W-We're looking for someone named Kestrellius, is he around here?"

"Kestrellius, that bastard?"

"Oi where did he go again?"

"How come he knows these hotties?! Not fair!"

"Hey, I'm Kestrellius." A dwarf with a red beard showed up, raising his arm.

"Oh!" We swiftly walked to his side and sat down around the table where he was having a small meal, just a sandwich with cheese and a cup of beer he had already almost finished.

"I've never meet you in my whole life, how come you know my name?" He crossed his muscular arms and looked at us. "Okay I have to admit you ladies are beautiful but honestly you're all over the place! An Ent, a Dark Elf, a Slime, a Brownie, a Fairy, a... giant squirrel? Are you some sort of freak show?"

"I'm a Squirrel-kin!" Acorn said angrily. "Don't call me a mere squirrel!"

"Milady, maybe we should freeze him a bit so he knows his place." Nieve said angrily.

"C-Calm down you two!" I sighed. "Anyways, here."

I quickly placed several bottles of beer I had bought previously, some pieces of fruit pie, freshly baked bread, goat cheese, and butter. Kestrellius immediately started drooling.

"Your friend Nedrug sent us to you, he said you know something about the "Ancient Unsealed Evil" that awakened when you discovered the Dragon Nest." I said with a smile, offering the goods.

"Oooh! So you know my ol' friend Nedrug! You should had said so sooner! Hahahaha!" Kestrellius laughed. It was quite clear how fast he changed his attitude towards us.

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#### **Chapter 539: The Dragon Nest**

"Oooh! So you know my ol' friend Nedrug! You should had said so sooner! Hahahaha!" Kestrellius laughed. It was quite clear how fast he changed his attitude towards us.

Once we offered Kestrellius some beer and snacks, he quickly became more friendly. I guess the quest was right in that regard. Sometimes for people to show their kindness, you have to give them something to incentivize such kindness.

"Anyways, about what we said earlier, mister Kestrellius..." I said, giving him a kind smile.

"Oh right! My bad, I was a bit rude there, I had no idea you guys were so kindhearted as to give me some beer and snacks." Kestrellius laughed. "Sorry about being grumpy, I often have a hard time getting by nowadays..."

"Huh? Why is that the case?" Asked Acorn. "I had heard the dwarves were living rather well, no?"

"Well, little squirrel, that happened a while back ago." Sighed Kestrellius. "When we had yet to discover the dangers of these mountain's depths. Curse our ancestors for being too greedy and mine too much when they didn't need to, leaving little for their descendants..." He sighed.

"Is this related with the Dragon Nest?" Mark wondered.

"Yeah, yeah, you have some sharpness in your wood, young Ent." Kestrellius nodded. "As you heard from my friend, I used to be part of the team that discovered that place. Back then, this mountain was never truly THAT dangerous, we could handle most monsters by our own, with our machinery and weapons, and the adventurers that often arrived here to learn our arts would pay us back by hunting monsters too..."

Kestrellius grabbed the cup of beer and drank it almost to half in a single go, and then sighed, his face looked slightly sad.

"Well, that happened." He sighed. "It was... I don't know, like almost a year ago when we found it? The Dragon Nest ended waking up a hell of a large group of dragons. They came pouring relentlessly and took over most of our mines, whatever mines were left were all the emptied ones. These damn lizards eat ores too, so they started eating all our precious products, and could even tear through our golems with their sharp claws and jaws, and eat them! It was utter chaos..."

"I-It sound much more terrible than I imagined." I sighed. "Why did your King never asked help to the other nations? The fairy queendom is just right around the corner, you know?" I asked. "We could had come to your aid!"

"The fairy queendom?" Kestrellius laughed. "Sorry, I don't want to offend you or anything but before that whole Demon King thing happened we barely knew of its existence. Now the whole world learned about them just recently. It is a bit of a mixed opinion, some are skeptical they managed to defeat the Demon King, and others just want to invade the place... It's a mix of things, but nobody really wants to get along with them."

"A-Ah..." I felt a bit shaken.

I guess the people of this world is not that friendly, not at all... Maybe the Forest of Beginnings was an exception to this rule, everyone there was rather nice.

"And so, we go back to your topic." Kestrellius said. "The black scaled thing, we saw it, I saw it. Huge, with four giant wings, three pairs of red eyes, sharp black horns, giant claws, a behemoth amongst behemoths... And something above all else, a big, red jewel on its chest, with ancient, dwarven inscriptions..."

"Dwarven... inscriptions?" Asked Mark. "Why?"

"No freaking idea man, I didn't had time to stand there and read what it was!" The dwarf sighed. "I just ran the hell away from that thing before becoming his breakfast." He drank some more beer before eating a piece of fruit cake. "Ahem... Well, so anyways, later on I learned that place connected to what we call now the Dragon Nest, it is catalogued as a Dungeon or something. We miners barely have anywhere to mine now, so we go look for scraps in mostly emptied places and come back with almost nothing. I've been thinking on just becoming a hunter, but I am kind of... you know, afraid of dying."

"I see... So the problem with the economy is directly related with the Dragon Nest..." I sighed. "Are there not many players going there? Have they seen the big dragon? I think it could be the leader of the others."

"Nope, there are barely any Players here nowadays." Sighed Kestrellius. "And the ones around are cowardly and just prefer to mine out our own resources, the rascals."

"Well that sucks." Rita sighed, crossing her arms. "Any other rumors regarding that dragon? Like, where it lives?"

"Hmm, I've heard some folks say... It might be related to an ancient myth from us dwarves, of... Well, what was it? Some sort... of cursed king, that was too greedy, and was cursed by the Gods to become a Dragon. He used his powers to transform people into dragons, and ended almost destroying our kingdom, was it like that? But there's no way such a thing is real, right? So maybe its just an old dragon that has been here for a while, no idea. Well, if you want to know more about the dragons, there's my nephew, he's a young monster biologist, alchemist, and engineer of magic items, though most of them fail." Kestrellius smiled. "Wanna meet him? He must be around the Alchemy Street in the northwest of town, tell him that his uncle brought you to him. Ah, his name is Richard."

"Ooh, that would really be helpful! Thanks a lot, Kestrellius!" I said with a smile. "Here, a little gift for your goodwill!" I quickly gave him a bag of fresh fruits, and some ores I had mined in the forest.

"Oh wooow! A-Are you sure miss?!" He asked.

"Yeah, keep them!" I nodded. "I hope the best for you! Thanks a lot! Let's go everyone."

"Thank you!" Kestrellius said with a smile, as the quest was quickly completed, and a brand-new one was also generated.

Slowly, we were getting deeper into this mystery.

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#### **Chapter 540: The Mysteries Behind The Black Dragon**

Ding!

[You have Completed the [Chain Quest]: [Find Kestrellius and learn about what he saw!]

[After having learned the truth behind the Dragon Nest's incident from Kestrellius, he has recommended you speak with his nephew, Richard, who might be an alchemist, biologist, and engineer, about the black scaled dragon and whatever myth there might be behind him.]

[The mystery of the Dragon Nest and the unsealed evil is becoming slightly more clearer, but further investigation will be needed...]

[You Earned The Quest Rewards]: [100000 EXP] [100000 Gold] [New Chain Quest]

"Oh, there it is, looks like we completed the quest and..."

Ding!

[A New [Chain Quest] has been generated]: [Find Richard and ask him about the Black Scaled Dragon's existence.]

[After learning about Richard, Kestrellius' nephew, and his on-going investigation on the various Dragons of the Dragon Nest, you find the idea of asking him about the Black Scaled Dragon a really good opportunity. However, as someone that is a biologist, alchemist, and engineer, he might be really busy... There's a possibility it won't be so easy to get his attention.]

[Quest Rewards]: [EXP] [Gold] [Progressive Chain Quests]

[Time Limit]: [24 Hours]

"Alright! Did everyone got the quest?" I wondered.

"Yep, looks like this Richard guy might be able to help us more." Mark nodded. "Though, biologist? I never thought such a job would exist in this fantasy world."

"Well, with advanced magic tools, it sounds rather possible to me!" Acorn said. "I've always been interested in biology and how monsters and other living beings work and function. But I lack the tools to properly study and research such subjects..."

"Hmmm, sounds interesting." I smiled. "Maybe we could make a lasting friendship with Richard, maybe? It would be nice if we could learn more from one another and progress the research and studies of such subjects for the forest of beginnings."

"Anyways, we should get going, the quest has... a time limit for some reason?" Nieve wondered. "I still don't understand much about how they work."

"I'm having a blast just talking with little bearded men." Jenny giggled.

"Hmm, I am a bit hungry though." Lily sighed. "Oh, right, I've got lunch in my inventory!" She quickly took out a plate with curry and rice, and started eating it while we made our way to the Alchemy Streets.

It was a special and beautiful area of the city filled with alchemist ateliers and alchemy shops. We also saw some golem shops, though most were closed at this hour. Kestrellius also told us that Richard worked on his own study and shop, which we reached after a few turns here and there.

"We're here." Mark said. "Richard's Alchemy Study... It is rather small and run-down though..."

The building was really small, and run-down just as Mark pointed out. It looked like it had a green paint over it but it had already dried out and was slowly peeling off the old wood and stone bricks.

Yikes, he's probably not that far off his own uncle in terms of money.

"W-Well..." I quickly decided to gently knock the door.

Knock, knock.

Nobody responded.

We waited for a bit, but nothing.

Again...

Knock, knock.

Nothing once more...

"Should we just forcefully open the door?" Jenny wondered. "Oh, I could also infiltrate the inside of the run-down place!"

"W-Wait, don't do that!" I reprimanded her.

Craaaaak...!

And the door finally opened. From the building's interior, a young dwarf greeted us. He only had a small mustache and was wearing circular glasses, he looked slightly older than his actual age due to all the wrinkles below his eyes, clearly showing he hadn't slept for a while.

"Y-Yes? My shop has just closed. Perhaps you could come tomorrow?" He asked politely.

"Oh, actually we came here due to your uncle Kestrellius. We've been currently investigating the Dragon Nest and the Black Scaled Dragon on it." I said. "We suspect it could have some sort of relationship with the Demon King, even, so we wanted to know more about him, or anything in particular from the Dragon Nest. Your uncle said that you even knew myths that could be related to it."

"A-Ah, my uncle brought you here?!" He asked in surprise. "W-Well, I would love to talk more about this, but I am currently very busy working on some potions and a research so... Maybe if you could do me a favor or two to help me solve this problem quickly, I could aid you."

"Oh? Sure then." Mark said, nodding.

"Yeah." I smiled. "Ask away! We'll do it for free as well."

"Oh, you are too kind!" Richard sighed. "What are your names?"

After we introduced ourselves inside of Richard's run-down house, he went to the point of the entire thing and asked us to bring him a series of materials for his research.

"Recently, the Dragons in that area had become stronger and more aggressive, so many Players have stopped hunting them and they're multiplying really fast." Richard sighed. "So I would appreciate if you could bring me a few materials off these species." He gave us a paper with the indications.

Ding!

[The [Chain Quest]: [Find Richard and ask him about the Black Scaled Dragon's existence.] has been modified!]

[A New [Chain Quest] has been generated]: [Bring Richard the Materials he needs for his vital investigation!]

[In the last week, the Dragon Nest has become even more dangerous than normal, dragon monsters are becoming overly aggressive and even stronger, some even seen to be overflowing with dark auras...

Richard believes he could find out what's wrong with them if he gets a few samples of their blood, scales, and internal organs]

[Bring Richard the following Materials]:

[Lesser Blue Dragon's Blood]: 0/10

[Cave Drake Scales]: 0/20

[Little Red Dragon's Claws]: 0/5

[Poisonous Viper Drake Guts]: 0/10

[Quest Rewards]: [EXP] [Gold] [Special Item] [Progressive Chain Quests]

[Time Limit]: [3 Days]

"I know it is too much, so feel free to take it easy." He sighed. "I'll reward you for your efforts as well, not just with information."

"Alright! Let's get going then!" I said happily. It was finally time to hunt.