

## Brand New 551

### [Brand New Life Online: Rise Of The Goddess Of Harvest](#)

#### Chapter 551: Back To The Dwarven City

Due to the Great Spirit's request for her aid, I stepped forward into the main battlefield and hit the ground with my bare foot, shockwaves of spiritual energy spread everywhere through her [Spiritual Terrain Expansion] Spell, and then, by combining it with my own Terrain...

"Let's do this then! [Grand Harvest]!"

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLAAAASH!

Several flashes of green and golden light emerged from all across the terrain, as gigantic vegetables and fruits surged from within non-stop, flying towards the Dragons like projectiles, and then exploding into pure Spiritual Essence one after the other.

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!

It was an utter massacre, as most of the dragons died on the spot by being rained with giant vegetables that exploded! I would call this Vegetable Nukes.

"Woah, amazing! You haven't used that one in a while!" Mark pointed out.

"It's a special spell I can use thanks to the Great Spirit's help, so it doesn't come so easy." I sighed.

"Though right now, I am overflowing with enough Mana and Spiritual Energy to do it a couple more of times! [Spiritual... BEAM]!"

FLUOOOSH!

My hammer was loaded with Spiritual Energy coming from the Great Spirit herself, who simply merged into my own weapon, a gigantic beam of pure green light was unleashed, clashing against the farther group of Red Dragons into a loud, gigantic explosion.

BOOOOOOMMMM!!!

"GRYYYARRR...!"

"GRAAAH...?!"

"GRYEEEEHH...!"

The dragons died one after the other, exploding into particles of light. EXP continued surging through all of us at the same time as their dropped items and sacks of gold appeared over the floor.

"Nice! Well done!" Rita celebrated. "Though there are those guys left... Let me take care of them for once!" Rita pointed at the dozen of Blue Dragons left, which were fighting Acorn and Lily. "[Dark Spirit Possession]! [Malice Enhancement]!"

Rita absorbed the Malice Orb at her side, as dozens of Dark Spirits unique to hers, which repelled me, flew into her body, and fused with her, her entire body exuded a dark, powerful aura, as her dark brown

skin gained countless black tattoos, her eyes glowing bright red, as her sharp nails became long black claws.

"[Embodiment of the Night]"

FLAAAASH!

Rita unleashed a brand-new Skill she had, transforming her body even further, as she was swiftly covered in darkness, her body growing huge, and transforming into a gigantic, bat-like monster with enormous, red wings and a long tail with sharp, spear-like end.

"SHYAAAHHH!!!"

FLAAASH!

She leaped into the skies and flew rapidly, landing over the dragons with her sharp claws, and slashing apart their bodies one by one!

SLAAASH! SLAAASH! SLAAASH!

TRUUM! TRUUM! TRUUM!

Each of her blows unleashed darkness everywhere, generating her own [Darkness Domain Tile] that enhanced her own stats and shadow magic... It was amazing, similarly to Acorn, Rita had this "ultimate skill" that allowed her to transform into a beast that best suited her.

I've seen this before, when Dark Mages reach a higher enough level, some of them can undergone what they call "Polymorph Magic", Rita here has chosen the "Embodiment of the Night" which will transform her into whatever beast that dwells in the night best suits her.

Some could become werewolves, others transform into giant insects, but Rita became a huge, furious, and gigantic vampiric bat, with gigantic, sharp fangs that tore apart the bodies of Blue Dragons, and even her wings had gigantic, long fingers with sharp claws.

"Hahahaha! This is the best!" Rita celebrated, massacring the last group of Blue Dragons all by herself. "[Embodiment of the Night's Magic]: [Abyssal Beam]!"

FLAAAAAASSSSHHH!!!

A gigantic beam of darkness and red energy emerged from her open, gigantic jaws, unleashing a catastrophic explosion on the last surviving Blue Dragons, blowing them up to nothing but particles of light...

BOOOOOOMMMMMM...!

Amazing, I guess we're almost even in power when she does that!

"Hahhh... Ugh."

POOF!

However, after just a few minutes, she went back to her normal state. Her Satiation had hit almost zero and her HP was going down rapidly.

"R-Rita?!" I asked, running towards her. "Are you okay?"

"I... am fine." She groaned. "Ugh, but using that Skill drains all my Satiation and it also makes my HP go down a lot... But it was pretty cool, right?"

"It was amazing! I only thought you would summon that one Gate of the Netherworld." I said.

"Yeah that Spell's pretty strong too, but I doubt it could kill these things, so I went with my trump card! Did I look awesome?" She giggled.

"You looked like a huge bat." I laughed.

"Eh?! I-I didn't look like some majestic animal?!" She cried. "But I thought..."

"You were one big, ugly bat!" I laughed. "But it looked fairly strong anyways, it was... like being in the presence of some sort of Divine Beast, was that Bat form something related to a myth?"

"I don't have any idea." She yawned. "Anyways, heal me..." Rita looked like she was being dried out like a mummy.

"Hahaha, right~" I giggled, touching her forehead and healing her HP, and then gave her a fruit to eat.

Once that was done with, we gathered back together as a party and assorted everything together, we had all materials now, and about EXP...

Ding!

[You and your Party have defeated [Lesser Blue Dragon: Lv95] x28]

[You and your Party have defeated [Little Red Dragon: Lv95] x18]

[You earned 920000 EXP!]

[LEVEL UP!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 94 to Level 95!]

[All your Stats have increased!]

[You earned Stat Points and Skill Points.]

As we made our way back home, we had a small chat.

"Hey, don't you have that powerful beam attack for being a World Boss though?" Asked Rita. "Why didn't you use it all this time?"

"Oh, that?" I wondered. "Well, it becomes weaker once we walk away from my territory, but I might try it out in our next hunting session, it just eats a lot of MP, sometimes it is not worth it when I'm not around my own territory..." I sighed.

"Ah, here we are." Jenny said. "Back to the big city- Huh?"

As we walked back to the dwarven city, we saw an enormous group of Dwarves there, all panicking, wearing armor and bringing golems...

"Y-You! Did you see the dragon attacking?! Recently we saw a giant Viper Drake wreaking havoc!" Said one dwarf.

"Oh, that?" I was surprised. "Oh! Don't worry, we killed it!" I said with a smile.

The dwarves all looked at us with eyes wide open...

"EEEH?!"

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#### **Chapter 552: Bringing A Great Dragon's Head**

Once we saw the gates leading to the Dwarven City, we felt relieved. Once we were over with this, we should probably take a break. Also I needed to go cook dinner for my daughter afterwards.

"Ah, here we are." Jenny said. "Back to the big city- Huh?"

As we walked back to the dwarven city, we saw an enormous group of Dwarves there, all panicking, wearing armor and bringing golems... They looked scared, as if all of them had seen a ghost! What in the world is going on?

"Y-You! Did you see the dragon attacking?! Recently we saw a giant Viper Drake wreaking havoc!" Said one dwarf.

"Some said it was actually the Viper Drake Queen herself!" Said another.

"That thing is simply unstoppable... Are you alright? Did you meet with her?!" Asked a third dwarven, this time a woman.

"I remember she has taken many of the lives of the miners that wanted to continue mining these areas..." Sighed a fourth dwarf, a younger girl.

"So? Did you see that thing?!" Asked the first dwarf, panicking.

"Oh, that?" I was surprised. "Oh! Don't worry, we killed it!" I said with a smile, summoning the giant dragon's head in front of me out of my inventory.

FLASH!

As the gigantic head materialized in front of the dwarves, they all looked at us with eyes wide open. Many of them dropped their jaws almost to the ground. Others simply fell into their butts out of sheer shock and horror.

"EEEEEEHHHH?!" They all screamed in unison.

"Hm? What's wrong?" Mark wondered. "We shouldn't had hunted her? Won't she spawn again anyways?"

"No, I think this monster is an Unique Monster tied to some sort of storyline, so it can't just spawn back up." I said.

"Oh..." Mark nodded.

"It is more than just that! You defeated that damn thing... I just simply can't believe it!" Said another dwarf.

"We've been freed from one of the Four Great Dragons..."

"Woah..."

"And they're not just Players, there's some normal people with them too? First time I see players joining hands with us!"

"Alright, this call for celebration! Let's go to the tavern right now! Huzzah!!!"

"HUZZAH!"

The dwarves roared in celebration, dragging us along as we were thrown in the middle of the same tavern where we found Kestrellius. And funnily enough, the man was still there once we arrived.

With his help, we were able to claim a seat with him in the tavern while we were given free food and drinks. I left the dragon's head outside of the tavern, watched over by some Spirits, so everyone could see the proof that the beast was slain.

"You see, the reason why they're so happy over this... Which you seem to truly not get, is that that monster was a really dangerous, terrifying dragon!" He sighed. "It was one of the Four Great Dragons, they emerged once the Black Scaled Dragon woke up, when we discovered the Dragon Nest."

"I can tell there might be more of them." I nodded. "But I thought they were recent?"

"No, they emerged only a few days after we discovered the Dragon Nest... Due to some stubborn guys still wanting to mine in there, they provoked those giant monsters, and we were able to see them firsthand. Much bigger, stronger, and meaner than the lesser dragons." Sighed Kestrellius. "Many died after provoking the Viper Drake Queen in specific, the one whose territory was the closest to our city. A lot of our people had been praying every day for that monstrous thing to not attack our city... Thankfully, dragons, once they choose a territory, won't really move out of it that much."

"She was really strong but not invincible." Said Acorn. "Was there really no way for you guys to fight that monster? What about other Players that came here?"

"No... Those cowardly bastards just ran away. Nobody was high level enough to even scratch that monster. Even between our own warriors, the strongest are Level 100, even with their best skills and golems... they were all crushed, some died, others barely managed to escape." Kestrellius sighed. "No matter how many times we tried, we couldn't defeat her... So whenever we heard her roars and screams, we would panic, and get all scared. Ugh, pathetic, right?"

"Not really, I can understand that pain." Nieve sighed. "It must have been hard. To be honest, without Lady Planta here, I don't know if we could had been able to do it either. Her Magic and Support is superb, offering constant healing and buff to all our stats. The only reason we were able to fell such a fearsome beast was thanks to her abilities."

"You're giving me a bit too much credit, Nieve." I sighed. "It was all thanks to everybody's efforts! Without you to be there, I don't think I could had been able to solo that thing... After all, even my victory against the Demon King back then was thanks to my friend's help, and so has been the battles so far

even in... well, the other side. I might be quite strong myself, but I can't imagine fighting these powerful foes without them at my side."

"Aww, you're going to make me cry!" Jenny sobbed, while eating a big, fried chicken leg. "Nom, nom..."

"Actually, I guess she's right." Rita smiled. "Without all of our combined efforts, it wouldn't had been possible! Yeah her support and buffs help a lot, but it is the combination of everything that did it."

"Hahaha, I guess there's some truth in that." Mark smiled. "Though, I just can't bring myself to put Planta's efforts below ours. Ah, well, Jenny was also surprisingly useful. Her ability to absorb the venomous substances that Dragon Queen exuded was a key to our victory."

"Oooh, I see... So even that Slime worked. We've never seen a Slime Player before, they're often just monsters." Laughed Kestrellius laughed. "But I can tell that maybe that's what we were missing, a combination of several powers, magics, and races to fully defeat those threats..."

Suddenly, some soldiers appeared at our side.

"Are you the ones that slayed the Viper Drake Queen? The King of Dwarves is asking for a meeting."

Wait, what?!

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#### **Chapter 553: Quest Completion!**

"T-The King of Dwarves?!" I asked in surprise. "I-Is this right?"

"Indeed, after hearing of your great feat, he has asked you if you could join him in a small meeting." Said the soldiers. "Of course, the King has little authority over outsiders, even less Players but he has promised great rewards over your efforts, and also, the intention of offering new quests..."

"Huh..." I nodded. "Well, we can go. But first, can we bring Kestrellius and his nephew with us?"

"Me and my nephew?!" Asked Kestrellius in surprise. "W-Why us?"

"Well you're an important person that saw everything that happened before firsthand." I explained.

"And your nephew, is an important biologist too, we'll give him what we collected and then we'll let him join us, so he can further prove the authenticity of our hunt."

"I see..." The guards nodded. "Then bring them along."

Like that, we made our way back to Richard's atelier after I collected back the head I had left outside, Richard was scared when he saw a pair of heavily armored soldiers coming in though, but after a few explanations, and after we gave him all the materials he wanted, he understood.

Ding!

[You Have Completed The [Chain Quest]: [Bring Richard the Materials he needs for his vital investigation!]

[Thanks to your efforts, not only have you brought Richard everything he needed, but also special materials from the Viper Drake Queen herself, which seemed imbued with a special type of energy not present before on other Lesser Dragons, helping Richard further advance on his investigation...]

[All Materials Have Been Delivered]:

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

[Cave Drake Scales]: 20/20

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

[Poisonous Viper Drake Guts]: 10/10

[You Received the Following Quest Rewards]: [500000 EXP] [10000000 Gold] [Dragon Emblem (B Grade)] x1!]

[LEVEL UP!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 95 to Level 96!]

[All of your Stats have increased.]

[You earned Stat Points and Skill Points.]

[Dragon Emblem]

[Item Type]: [Accessory] [Emblem]

[Item Rank]: [Unique]

[Item Quality]: [B]

[Item Requirement]: [Complete Researcher's Richard Request.]

[Item Durability]: [4000/4000]

[Item Effects]: [HP]: [+250] [MP]: [+500] [STR]: [+250] [VIT]: [+250] [DEX]: [+250] [AGI]: [+250] [INT]: [+120] [WIS]: [+120] [LUC]: [+250] [CHM]: [+500] [AUT]: [+100]

[Bonus Effects]: [STR +6% (C)] [VIT +7% (C)] [Dragon-type Monster Damage +25% (B)] [Dragon-type Monster Damage Taken -25% (B)]

[Item Abilities]

[Dragon Aura]: As an emblem made using Dragon Materials, the power of Dragons naturally flow through your body whenever you equip this accessory and fight a Dragon-type Monster, enhances your Damage Against Dragon-type Monsters by +15% and increasing STR and INT by +5%.

[Dragon Shield]: By equipping this item, and when fighting a Dragon-type Monster, decrease Damage Taken from Dragon-type Monsters by -15% and increase HP and VIT by +5%.

[Item Description]

A small yet pristine Emblem with the shape of a roaring dragon on top of it. Often wielded by those that have slain several Dragons. Increases survivability against all Dragon-type Monsters.

Bonus Effects cannot be reset using Potential Cubes.

Oh, the reward this time was one level up, a lot of Gold, and this amazing accessory! We all ended equipping it right away, which will increase our survivability against Dragons by quite a lot. It has an amazing bonus to all Stats as well comparable to even some A Rank items.

Also it seems this item is entirely Unique, and no other person will probably be able to complete it either as these Quests are very unique, I doubt they can be repeated either as the story continues. I've heard that several end game bosses are all Dragon-type, so this item looks extremely useful and valuable, especially for end-game players.

"Woah, these emblems are great!" Acorn said. "Especially to fight dragons!"

"Indeed, I can tell they'll come in good use." Mark nodded.

"Well, I'm glad you could put them to use, I had crafted them using some of the materials you gave to me." Richard smiled. These Emblems were all what he made using materials we gave to him, which then transferred into the quest reward, interestingly enough. "Now, I think I can reach a breakthrough in my research... The blood of the Viper Drake Queen contains a large quantity of Nether aside from Miasma, these two, evil substances are corrupting the dragons and making them much stronger than before. It wouldn't be wrong to assume that the Kings and Queens that surged from each monster race, were probably normal lesser dragons that mutated through these energies."

"Such a conclusion..." The guards were surprised. "You better tell all of this to the King, boy."

"I will." Richard nodded. "How about we meet with him so I can explain everything once we get there?"

"Sure." I nodded. "Then let's get there."

Like that, using a moving golem resembling a carriage, we moved to the Dwarf King's castle in a second, arriving at the area swiftly, and being greeted by many more heavily armored guards, giant golems, and then, in the inside of the beautiful and expansive castle, several maidservants and manservants.

"Woah, so this is the castle of the dwarves..." Said Acorn.

"Incredible..." Nieve said. "Though my Queen's castle is better..."

"Has any player even been allowed to enter here?" Mark asked.

"There was once a player that was allowed to enter here. He offered the King a special divine treasure, and in exchange, the King let him take a treasure from our Kingdom's treasury." Explained a guard. "It was said he choose the Ancient Smithing Hammer of Divine Flames, said to have been created by the God of Fire. Since then, we've heard he has become a rather famous Blacksmith in the farther regions."

"I see. Interesting, what did he offer?" Mark wondered.

"Oh, it was a special Divine Sword made out of the Tears of the Queen of Fairies." Explained another guard. "It is usually there- Oh, you can see it from there." They pointed out.



And there it was, a pink and blue-colored sword that seemed to have been made out completely from crystal, beautiful, radiant, and divine...

"It was said that this is the sword that an Ancient Human Hero used to slay the Demon King of Miasma thousands of years ago before his resurrection." Said another guard.

"W-What...?!" Nieve asked. "T-That's... Lady Titania's sword! So that player was the one that stole it?!"

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#### **Chapter 554: Meeting The King Of Dwarves**

"Nieve, calm down." I said, quickly patting her small shoulders. "Panicking here won't get us anywhere... Everyone is watching, be careful."

"A-Ah... Right..." Nieve sighed.

"Wait, what did she said?"

"The sword... stolen?!"

"What sort of insult is this to our great king, who traded for it fair and square?"

"Who is that insect-winged foulmouthed brat?!"

"I'm sorry, she's just... got excited. We apologize, she really didn't mean it." I smiled gently. The people sighed and then forgot about it, though some still were glaring at us weirdly.

"L-Lady Planta... Why are you acting like this? Doesn't it frustrate you that they have our Queen's treasure that was stolen away from her?!" Nieve whispered to me angrily.

"It does, but there's nothing we can do right now." I said. "Nieve, think carefully before acting. We'll first meet the King, and then, through negotiations, we can reach some sort of agreement. Don't worry, I won't forget about it." I gave her a reassuring smile. "Let's go now."

"I will trust you, Lady Planta." She sighed. "Because I've given my utmost trust and loyalty to your judgement. I shall walk down the path you've chosen..." Nieve calmed herself down and nodded with a confident smile.

Well, she is certainly a little knightess.

"You're about to be in the presence of the Dwarf King, so please, make sure to watch out your manners." The guards said, as they glared at Nieve while raising eyebrows...

Creaaaak...!

The doors to the Dwarf King's throne room opened, revealing to us a gigantic hall, beautifully decorated with gold-made statues and accessories, a red carpet over the floor leading to the throne, which seemed to have been made of several precious jewels, ores, and more.

The King sat there, glancing at us with a calm yet surprised gaze. His appearance wasn't really that far from any of the other old male dwarves we've seen so far. A long black beard, fierce red eyes, big eyebrows, and his long hair made into several braids down his back.

Wearing a combination between a battle armor and regal clothes, he greeted us, raising his hand with a smile. I couldn't really detect any malice from him, he was a genuinely normal person, just a King, I guess.

His Aura though, was quite strong, he exuded a great magical power, but also a strong physical power aura all together combined into a gigantic presence... Yet at the same time, I could tell why he wasn't able to defeat that Dragon, he was still lacking on Skills and Magic Knowledge to make total use of his amazing strength.

"Welcome to my throne room." He said with a smile. "I have heard that outsiders composing a party of both players and people of our land have defeated the Viper Drake Queen. I had heard you also held the proof; can you show it to me? That you've truly defeated that beast that has tormented my people for so long?"

"Yeah, I got it right here." I smiled, quickly waving my hand, as the inventory opened and the beast's giant head dropped over the floor.

BAAAAM...!

"W-Woah!"

"T-That giant head...!"

"Without a doubt, my king!"

"Impressive!"

The many guards and councilors of the King were all shocked as they saw this. And then I noticed a young, dwarf girl with long red hair and blue eyes glancing from behind the King's throne. Who was she?

"A-Amazing..." The King gasped. "You've felled one of the Four Great Dragons... Now there are only three left, and that accursed black dragon left!"

"More or less." I nodded. "We were actually doing an errand for Richard here..."

Like that, we began explanations to the King while we introduced ourselves to him. Nieve tried her best to keep herself calm, but she was constantly letting out a chill aura of cold winds.

Richard also introduced himself alongside Kestrellius. The later was much more shocked than the former, as Richard was a rather calm man, even before being in front of the King.

He then, explained the reason of his research, which also was related with our own research. We explained him about the Demon King of Death, and also of the possibility of this black scaled dragon to be related with him, as Nether, the energy he exudes and controls, is present in every dragon we've hunted.

"So the reason why the dragons are so exceedingly strong compared to other lesser dragon type monsters we've fought before is the Demon King of Death's resurrection!?" The King was amazed. "Also, I was not aware you were actually Planta, the embodiment of the new World Tree, and a World Boss yourself... I apologize for my rude behavior earlier, you are of an equal, if not greater status than me, Lady Planta."

The Dwarf suddenly stood out of his throne and bowed his head to me. I was honestly amazed, but he seemed very grateful for having defeated the previous Demon King, and also, he held great respect and even thought of me as a goddess among mortals.

"A-Ahahaha, please, don't worry about that." I smiled with a giggle. "Let's act casual for now, I've never been someone that liked titles and all of that."

"F-For sure." The Dwarf King nodded, blushing a bit over my smile. "But, if you could let me say, your beauty is unparalleled. Since you entered this room that I've been struck with a great shock. Not in my entire life have I ever seen such a beautiful woman. Lady Planta, if you could, would it be alright for you to accompany me in my dinner? Of course, your friends can come too."

"E-Eh?" I felt a bit shocked. Was he just flirting with me just now? It felt a bit weird, but I guess I should have expected it... "Ah, well, we're in quite a hurry, but sure thing. If it can be made quick."

I noticed Mark glaring at the Dwarf King. He didn't seem angered, but rather surprised of his sudden speech.

"But of course, fair lady of the world tree!" The Dwarf King seemed lovestruck. "And-"

"FATHER!" Suddenly, the girl hiding behind the throne appeared, roaring at the King. "How can you be so shameless?!"

"G-GEH...! B-Brisingra, my daughter?!" He cried in surprise.

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"You perverted old man! Can't you honor mother's passing for once?!" She cried angrily. "Actively flirting with an outside like that... J-Just what is wrong with you, idiot?!"

"M-My daughter, I can explain! I was merely being friendly!" The Dwarf King cried. "Please don't say such things, I still love your mother! But... you know, it has been over twenty years since-"

"Shut up!" The Princess cried. "Ugh...! Ah! I-I'm sorry about this... My father is often flirty with beautiful women, especially outsiders."

The princess of the Kingdom stepped in, she was much taller than her own father, almost the same size as my daughter, in fact. Her fiery red hair, sharp blue eyes, and regal appearance made her resemble a half-dwarf.

"I'm sorry if I caused... Any sort of embarrassment." Sighed the Dwarf King. "This is my daughter, the princess of this Kingdom and also the future queen, Brisingra."

"It is an honor to meet the World Tree herself, Lady Planta." Said Brisingra, bowing her head.

"O-Oh, alright... Ahem... Anyways, we need to talk a lot about what we spoke before, right Richard?" I asked Richard.

"Eh? Ah, yes!" Richard nodded. "It would be nice if we could gather together to speak more privately."

"Very well, the dinner is already being made." The King said with a gentle smile. "For now, how about I take you into a trip around my great castle, Lady Planta?" He gallantly offered me his big hand.

"Eh? Well..."

"Father!" Brisingra quickly reprimanded her father again. "Stop it."

"I'm just being nice!" He sighed.

Despite how serious things got, at the end, these two seemed rather funny together. The tense atmosphere slowly calmed down and it became much easier to breathe around here. Knowing the quirky side of people helped us get along with them better, sometimes.

"I can't believe he would flirt with you like that..." Mark sighed.

"A-Ahahaha, well, it couldn't be helped." I shrugged. "Heheh, are you jealous or something?"

"J-Jealous? Me? O-Of course not..." Mark looked away, scratching his big, wooden head.

Like that, we were already sitting around a big, regal table, as servants were constantly serving an enormous buffet, mostly composed of meat, potatoes, and pies of all sorts of types. Dwarven diet was much different than the fairies, that mostly ate fruits and vegetables.

"And so, after much research, I've reached to a strange yet fascinating conclusion." Richard said. "I believe... that the black scaled dragon could possibly be related to the ancient myth of one of the Dwarven kings, Fafnir."

"F-Fafnir?" Asked the King. "You mean my old ancestor, the King of Greed that, after being cursed, became a Dragon?!"

"Indeed." Nodded Richard. "In the myths and stories I've researched, it was implied that, in ancient history, Fafnir, the King of Greed, had taken a contract with Thanatos, the King of the Sorrow Kingdom, one of the few Human Kingdoms of those times... And Thanatos, later one. Based on this, he had acquired tremendous power to obtain any riches, yet he was cursed, the greedier he became, the more he would become a beast. Until Fafnir was forever trapped in the body of a black scaled dragon."

"Wait a second, you said Thanatos the King of the Sorrow Kingdom?" I asked. "That's... The name is the same as the Demon King of Death. So he's not just a monster that showed up in ancient history?"

"Indeed, further research hasn't shown me anything more than that, but it is implied that these two Thanatos might be one and the same. And seeing how Nether, the element the King of Sorrow also used for his Necromancy and Dark Magic is the same the still sealed Demon King of Death uses and is exuding into our world... Then everything slowly connects together." Richard explained.

"Hmmm..." The King groaned, closing his eyes as if he was deep in thought. "I don't know if I should tell outsiders about this information... What the royal family know..."

"Father." His daughter said. "They need to know the full context about the story of King Fafnir... If this is all true then, it makes much more sense."

"...Right." The King sighed. "And well, if Lady Planta is here, I shouldn't had even doubted either." He smiled lightly at me. "There's a part that hasn't been revealed to the rest of the public about this ancient tale of King Fafnir."

"Oh?" Richard felt curious, and so did we all.

"The Tale also told the story of Fafnir's son, Sigurd." The Dwarf King explained. "Once he saw his father corrupted, turning into a dragon, and terrorizing the entire Kingdom, he and his allies were chased away from the territory. Since then, Sigurd embarked into an epic journey across the entire world, gathering allies and growing stronger to defeat his own evil father."

"Eventually, at the end of his journey, the Hero Sigurd meet the God of Light, who gifted to him the Radiant Sword, Gram, capable of slaying all evil." Said the princess. "Armed with this weapon, Sigurd walked back to his Kingdom with his many new allies, and with their help. They slain the dragons conquering the Kingdom."

"Sigurd then meet his father, Fafnir, in a battle to the death. Wielding the powers of both darkness and death, Fafnir was extremely powerful, and almost killed Sigurd, even with the Radiant Sword, Gram." Sighed the King. "However, in Sigurd's last moments, Fafnir revealed to him that he was actually his adopted son, and that his real father, the Ancient Hero Sigmund, was defeated by the King of Sorrow, Thanatos and him."

"Filled with rage for revenge over his real father, Sigurd unleashed the true powers of Gram, which had been originally shattered into two parts on Sigmund's last fight against Fafnir, when Sigurd was merely a baby." The princess said. "With the awakened power of Gram, Sigurd pierced the heart of Fafnir, and killed him."

"It is then said that Sigurd avenged his father, while at the same time freeing the Dwarf Kingdom from his adopted father-turned dragon Fafnir's greed and tyranny." The Dwarf King sighed. "Lastly, it was said that Sigurd buried Fafnir and the corpses of a thousand dragons beneath the mountains. Where they would rest for eternity below their feet."

"Woah... This game has some crazy world building..." Jenny said.

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#### **Chapter 556: The Radiant Sword Gram**

"Game?" Wondered the Dwarf King. "Well, we are not sure if all of this was real, but it seems that it might had been real. Somehow, Fafnir and the one thousand dragons that died alongside him had been revived... In a similar fashion than the Demon Kings and their loyal servants."

"If this is all true then..." I said. "It could be possible that the Dragon Nest opening triggered Fafnir to wake up from his slumber. With the Demon King of Death already slowly beginning his resurrection, it was obvious he would come back, just like the other servants he had."

"But I am now intrigued about Thanatos origins..." I said in surprise. "If he truly was... a human, then this is completely different from the Demon King of Miasma's backstory."

"Yeah, we only have those tales anyways." Sighed the princess. "I'm sorry that we can't be of more help..."

"Hmm, no, it is fine." Mark smiled. "This has proven to be great help to aid us in our understanding of our foe... For now, our priority should still be to slay Fafnir."

"If he's really that ancient dragon, then you would need a powerful enough sword to pierce through his scales first." Said the King. "Another thing that could further prove that this tale was real is... because within our treasury, we possess a fragment of Gram, only a piece of its cracked blade, and the hilt though."

"Wait, the Radiant Sword exists?!" Brisingra was shocked. "Father, why did you never told me about this?"

"I'm sorry, my daughter, but this was something I couldn't easily reveal to you." The King sighed. "Without the complete blade though, it might be impossible to slay him. Because if the tales are really, truly the truth, Fafnir was granted an incredible, impenetrable defense on his scales, he was able to bounce all matter of magic attacks, and physical attacks dealt absolutely no damage either. Even the most radiant of lights could not hurt him, he was one of the strongest servants of the King of Sorrow, Thanatos."

"I doubt he would be THAT invincible." Said Rita. "There's no way he's stronger than the Demon King of Miasma. But yeah, he probably is pretty tough."

"Certainly, the tales might be greatly exaggerated." Said the princess. "Yet... perhaps this fragment which father has never told me about might be useful to you."

"It is said in the tales that when Sigurd killed Fafnir by piercing his heart, the other half of the blade stayed in his heart..." The King said. "Kestrellius, did you see anything in that dragon's chest?"

"Hmmm..." Kestrellius tried to remember. "I... do remember some sort of thing on his chest. It looked like a big purple jewel, was that his heart? There was a small crack on it, and some sort of pointy thing coming out of it... But I can't really confirm for sure."

"Maybe... it is really Fafnir then; he holds the other half of Gram within his heart..." The princess said. "But if his heart is already still pierced, then how does he lives?"

"Necromancy." I said. "Most likely Fafnir and the other dragons, who possess Nether inside their bodies, are something similar to Undead. It is probably the reason why they're much stronger than before as well..."

"That'll pose a problem for sure..." Richard sighed. "Well, now, I would like to inspect this Gram fragment, if possible. I think we could find a way to use it and reform the sword somehow..."

"Right!" The King said. "If we could somehow reform a slightly lesser and weaker version of Gram by replacing the blade with other, strong materials, perhaps... we could slay Fafnir!"

"Well, I guess we can begin investigating that then." Mark nodded. "However, there's something else we wanted to discuss beforehand, right, Planta, Nieve?"

"Right..." I nodded, sighing while drinking some tea. "Well, the sword we saw outside of your throne room, the one being showed to everyone as a prize. King Dainn, that sword belonged to Titania, the Queen of Fairies."

"Is that so? That sword... Some time ago, a rascal brought it to me and offered it to me in exchange for a treasure within my kingdom's stash." The King sighed. "So he stole it from Queen Titania?! And she's still alive?"

"Of course my Queen's still alive..." Nieve sighed. "Please, you must give back her sword! She has gained great distrust against Players because of that one man that stole it from her."

"That's... well, that's not possible for now." Said the King. "I'm sorry, but that sword is extremely valuable, and we exchanged it for something equally as valuable! If we give it away now, the economy might plummet."

"Really?" Rita asked. "For just a dumb sword?"

"You see, beautiful dark elf lady..." The King said. "Across the Continent of Verdant, all great Kingdoms hold a special power, or a special, divine treasure that represents us and at the same time, protect us and keeps our economy from plummeting to the ground. Because of such Powers, People, or Treasures, we are not invaded by neighboring Kingdoms, and we still hold great trust with other nations."

"I see, so it is kind of like a balance. That Divine Sword, made from the Fairy Queen's Tears, which was capable of slaying the Demon King of Miasma in ancient times... Is most likely what's holding your Kingdom from falling apart now since the Dragon Nest discovered, right?" Mark nodded.

"Indeed..." The Dwarf King sighed. "If it wasn't because of this reason, I would gladly give it back! I trust Lady Planta and her companions, so I take that your words are the truth. I believe I've also been wronged as much as your Queen, beautiful young fairy. Before the sword, we held the Divine Hammer forged by the God of Flames, which was gifted to our oldest Ancestor, the Ancient Blacksmith of Creation, Logi. However, due to never finding someone that could properly wield it, we exchanged it for something much more useful and powerful, the Divine Sword Freyja."

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#### **Chapter 557: A New World Quest!**

"This doesn't change the fact this is wrong!" Nieve angrily said. "Give it back!"

"Nieve, that's enough." I said. "It is not like you to act this way, the Queen would also be angered if she saw you acting so unknighly."

"A-Ah..." Nieve gasped for air. "Right... I apologize..."

"However, it is not like I'll simply keep it forever." The King smiled. "If we can properly stop the Dragon Nest from expanding, and defeat Fafnir, then I'll give it back. Because after that, we'll be able to resume our mining and we'll be able to also make our economy continue to grow."

"I can also offer my protection." I said. "I don't think that would mean much for those that don't know me, but if they ever dare invade your kingdom, I'll crush them."

"L-Lady Planta..." The King and the Princess were both moved by my words.

"A-Ahem!" The King muttered. "A-Anyways, we would gladly receive such an offer, but that won't be enough for now... This is why I would like to first give you a special request, I believe it could be possible for you. To slay the other three Great Dragons in the meantime of young Richard's investigation?"

"I guess it does seem doable." Mark nodded. "Will you give the sword as a reward?"

"No, but I will give it as a reward after Fafnir is felled." The King nodded. "Until then, in exchange, Gram will be your reward."

As we spoke, the King and some guards opened the doors to the Dwarf Kingdom's treasury and showed us the entire mountain of items and gold. In the center of all, a stone table held the hilt of Gram, and a small part of its original blade stuck to it.

"Oooh!" Richard entered the treasury and looked at the sword happily. "Amazing! This is... I think it might really work! The texture and what my skills are saying... Maybe if we combine the Fangs of the Great Dragons together into a new blade... But we would also need the assistance of a capable, powerful blacksmith. However, it does seem doable to create a "lesser version" of Gram."

"With the Fangs of the Great Dragons..." The King said in surprise. "I see... Nobody is stronger than Fafnir except those dragons, who might not as strong, but are certainly right below him. Combining their fang's strength together into a blade could potentially create enough power to pierce through his impenetrable defenses."

"Well, actually, I am one of the most talented Blacksmiths so far, although I was unable to wield the divine hammer either. That thing had some sort of... will of its own." Sighed the Princess. "But my Magic is also dedicated to forging! If possible, I would love to help."

"Oh, certainly, the princess has the most talent in Blacksmith magic in our Kingdom." Richard nodded. "With your help, this hypothesis of mine could be possible!"

"Hehehe... I-I'm glad to help in anything I can, Sir Richard!" Brisingra giggled playfully with a slightly enamored smile.

Do these two know each other? They do seem slightly close when they talked. Or maybe that's just Richard's eccentric way of speech? Though Brisingra seems a bit in love with him, too much for this to have just surged today.

"Do you two know each other by any chance? You look like love birds." Jenny giggled while talking above my head in her small slime form.

"W-Well..." Richard muttered. "Yeah, kind of."

"W-We went to the same Magic Academy." Brisingra explained. "Richard was a good friend of mine. His eccentric nature is hard to get through, but he was... one of the few people that treated me like an equal friend, instead of just seeing me for my title."

"Hahaha." Richard laughed a bit. "It isn't that much, Brisingra."

"Well yeah, they do know each other..." The King said grumpily. "Though, Richard, I'm sure you're smart, but you better not do any funny business with my daughter while I'm not watching."

"E-Eh? My King, I would never..." Richard felt weirded out.

"Father stop being a douchebag!" Brisingra reprimanded her father.



"B-But my daughter, you're too young!" Cried the King.

"I'm already twenty two and I can do whatever I want, I'm an adult now." Brisingra crossed her arms. "Also, we're just friends, stop thinking weird, crazy stuff..." She sighed, although she blushed a bit afterwards.

"O-Okay, I shall trust my daughter's words." Sighed the King. "Anyways, let's make this official! This is a special request, Lady Planta and company. Defeat the three other Great Dragons, bring us their fangs, and then aid us in reconstructing a new Gram Sword so we can stop Fafnir from ruining our country!"

Ding!

[You have received a [Special World Quest]: [Hunt The Three Other Great Dragons That Dominate The Dragon Nest, And Bring Their Fangs To Recreate The Radiant Sword, Gram!]

[Now that things have finally cleared up, you and your friends have learned the truth behind this dragon, the dwarven kingdom, and even a fragment of the Demon King of Death's backstory. Having brought back the Fangs of the Viper Drake Queen, bring the Fangs of the other three Great Dragons within the Dragon Nest and aid in the reconstruction of Gram, so you can finally have a chance against Fafnir, the Dragon King of Greed!]

[Quest Rewards]: [EXP] [Gold] [Special Key Item] [World-Class Quest]

[Time Limit]: [7 Days]

There it is, a World Quest already! This means that this Quest revolves around the entire world of Arcadia! Amazing... With this, we can finally, finally continue this world's history.

"Alright, we'll bring them in then." Rita smiled.

"Yeah, leave it to us." Mark nodded.

"Got it!" Acorn said. "Though, can I help later on the sword's creation? I am a rather good alchemist myself! And if we use Lady Planta's Spirit Manipulation and Spirit Fusion Magic, the weapon could end up being even stronger."

"Oh, for sure." Said the King. "If Lady Planta recognizes you, young squirrel-kin, then we shall trust you."

"Looks like things are coming together nicely." I said. "Don't worry, Nieve, we'll retrieve your country's treasure."

"Thank you, Lady Planta..." Nieve sighed with a more relieved smile. "I'll do everything I can to help as well!"

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### **Chapter 558: The Next Morning**

After a lot of conversations, info dumps, and more, we finally decided to take a break. It was already getting late, so once I logged-off, I decided to cook dinner for my daughter. Having seen all the fish that I had caught in the morning really made me want to cook some myself, I could probably retrieve the

lowest ranked fish from my Inventory, but they would still count as "magic items" and I better just not give that to my daughter.

Thankfully, I can also store normal items! And in our trip back to my parent's house, we still fished a lot of fish from the river, I can store them inside of my inventory and they were as fresh as caught once I retrieved them. This Inventory Ability is really handy... I can already imagine how crazy people would become if they heard of such a miraculous ability, it has a lot of uses.

I decided to first clean the fish with some cleaning magic, and then cut their meat into filets, which I seasoned and fried over olive oil. I also prepared some white rice, and fried potatoes using the potatoes that I've naturally grown in my garden, alongside some tomato and lettuce salad.

While cooking this delicious dinner, I was overhearing the news.

"In other news, it has been reported that the Dungeon Gate located on New York has yet to be completed. The Military and Hunters that entered the Dungeon led by a special Hunter representing the country seem to have held several complications."

"However- Huh? Oh, we got breaking news! Just a few minutes ago, a survivor had finally crawled out of the Dungeon Gate and... this is what he said."

The news reporter stayed silent as the video was shown. From within the portal in midair, a wounded soldier dragged himself outside, gasping for air and half-dead.

"Call the medics! HURRY!"

"Sir, what happened inside?!"

"Sir?!"

"Ugh...! No... It's impossible... Everyone... everyone's dead... We can't win... Humanity... we are all doomed..." The soldier groaned, suddenly beginning to laugh. "These monsters... nobody can defeat them... Hahah... Humanity... this is our doom. Our end... God has finally decided to punish us for our sins... Everyone is dead... everyone is dead..."

The Soldier continued muttering that, with his face filled with despair as he was dragged away by authorities and doctors.

"T-That's... what he said." Sighed the news reporter. "It appears that there might be no other survivors, and the United States are now beginning to create a new team to clear this dungeon."

I felt rather shocked, they weren't able to clear it? But if they were strong enough at the very least... Unless the dungeon by itself is already of a very high rank?

"Hmm, can't really tell from here but... I think that Dungeon could have been as high as B Rank." Said the Great Spirit, appearing at my side. "Nobody's going to clear that thing any time soon... Well, maybe the United States will employ their secret supernatural agencies now."

"I am... Well, I'm a bit worried, but let's trust that things will get better there." I sighed. "Not like I can do anything; I'm living in here after all."

"Well, are you sure that's true?" The Great Spirit wondered. "You're such a good girl sometimes, you can't help yourself but do good things for people! I bet you'll go there on a heartbeat."

"I mean... Maybe." I sighed. "If things get really bad and there's nobody else that can help... Though it would be a first to travel on the skies to another country..."

"See? You're already considering it!" Laughed the Great Spirit.

"Ugh, just cut it out for now." I sighed, crossing my arms. "Elena! Dinner's ready, honey."

The door opened rather quickly, as my daughter emerged from there, looking slightly sleepy.

"That smell woke me up..." She said.

"Were you sleeping?" I wondered. "I made some fish filets."

"Yeah, I was resting." She sighed. "I've studied too hard."

"Hahaha, well, let's eat something so you can feel more awake, dear." I smiled gently, giving her a head pat.

As we enjoyed our meal and we talked about our own things, suddenly, Elena brought up some topic that scared me a bit...

"Mom, if I see... someone being bullied in my school, should I do something to help them or protect them? Or maybe I shouldn't get involved?" She wondered.

"Eh?" I asked. "Someone... is being bullied? But that school is so expensive and prestigious. Are the teachers just allowing that?"

"I... don't know..." She sighed. "It's getting pretty far... Its just that the girl, she's a bit shy and has social anxiety, and has a lot of difficulty talking too... And sometimes they often bully her because she's looking at me. I feel bad..."

"Elena..." I sighed for a bit, feeling both sad yet... a bit happy that my daughter had such empathy.

It is so common nowadays for youth to grow without any empathy at all, it makes me so happy my daughter would think that away about these things.

Yet I simply can't let her expose herself to bullying just because she feels bad...

"If you feel like arguing with the bullies, don't engage with their game." I said. "Try to make that girl... What's her name?"

"Monica." She said.

"Try to help Monica socialize. And if you really... want to, then keep her alongside you and your friends, maybe." I said. "I used to go through a bit of bullying when I was younger, but Rita was always there to protect me, so I can't really help much. How about I talk to your teacher tomorrow? We'll talk about Monica to them."

"Hmm." She nodded. "It would be better to do that first before fighting anybody..."

Of course, I don't want her to fight her classmates, risking getting expelled and all, but we'll talk about this with the teachers. And if they don't listen to me... I'll force them to listen.

There's no way I'm letting this type of bullying happen in my daughter's classroom, even less when it is so damn expensive to pay there monthly!

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#### **Chapter 559: A Responsible Mother**

After yesterday's talk, we woke up early this morning, had breakfast, and then went to my daughter's high school. I decided to go inside the school with her, and greeted her friends as I did. Although I tried to look for Monica with my daughter's and Anna and Elisa's help, we couldn't find her, it seemed as if she either was coming late today, or wouldn't come to school today, which worried me.

What if that poor girl ends up doing something awful because of the bullying? Dropping the school isn't even the worst that could happen... I prayed to whatever gods there was out there for her safety, as the classes were soon to begin, I finally meet my daughter's teacher, Miss Helene.

We explained to her what was happening with my daughter and her friends help, three witnesses were enough for her to get worried about it. Despite being the main class teacher, she only taught math to the class, and she said she had never seen any strange behavior before.

"I-I'm so sorry..." Helene apologized. "I was completely unaware that Monica was being bullied at all. During my classes, all the girls always act correctly and politely. I only thought that Monica had a hard time communicating because she was a bit of an introvert..."

"So you didn't knew?" I sighed. "Girls, does Monica get bullied in any class?"

"No, never during class." Anna said. "She often gets harassed in breaks."

"Yeah..." Elisa sighed. "At first I really didn't gave it much thought, but now that Lady Elayne has explained this properly, I've come to realize this is actually very awful... Ugh, now I feel bad for Monica..."

"W-Well yeah, maybe I was seeing this too lightly myself..." Anna sighed. "Sorry about this, Elena..."

"It's fine, and you shouldn't be sorry to me..." Elena said.

"Well, no teachers watch over breaks. Usually I only see them within the cafeteria. But if this happens inside the classrooms themselves, then... it does seems possible." Helene sighed. "Our school prides itself for having a great quality for all our students... I'll immediately talk with the director about this to see if we can find a solution. I think putting teachers to watch over ever classroom on breaks would be ideal."

"Can't we just call the girls that usually bully her and reprimand them?" Asked Elena.

"Well, pointing fingers at students wouldn't be the best either, it would only cause more enmity between everyone." Helene explained. "We'll be careful for this to not happen, and if it ever happens again, please tell any professor immediately, they'll rush to Monica's help.. And, well, maybe this isn't something I should say but..." Helene sighed, glancing back at us.

"If this happens again... Film it, take a video of it. With that evidence, it will be easy to expulse the students bullying Monica." Helene said. "But only do it when it is too extreme... If possible, could you girls protect her? Stay around her... I know it might be hard, seeing how popular Elena is but..."

"Sure." Elena nodded. "I'll call her to our side."

"E-Eh? But... Ah, fine." Anna sighed, she looked slightly jealous.

"I guess it is the natural thing to do." Elisa smiled. "Nobody mess with me because they know which family I belong to anyways, so as long as Monica's around me, she'll be safe from bullying."

"You girls... Thank you for being so considerate." I sighed in relief. "I know that something can't be done immediately, but I'm hoping that if these bullies persist, that they can be punished accordingly, Professor Helene."

"I will do my utmost to see them being punished if they continue their harassment." Helene nodded. "Monica is a girl that needs special care. I see talent in her, and a lot more that she often hides. Maybe if she can have friends... She'll be able to slowly break out of her shell." She smiled sincerely.

Like that, we did what we could. I didn't wanted to ruin the bullies lives either. Maybe if they stop doing it, they can redeem themselves. However, if they continue... I'll make sure that they pay for what they've done. Young girls or not, they'll learn that their actions have consequences.

Too many bullies always get away with what they do, and live completely normal lives, after having ruined another person's life... I don't want to be pushed to this limit though, so... I'll try to give them a chance.

If they don't take it, there'll be no more chances.

Though... Look at me, worrying for a girl I've never meet in person. But well, if my own daughter is so worried, I really can't help it. Her brave and heroic heart inspired me to do better too. I am no longer a powerless schoolgirl myself.

I am a grown adult now, I have to take responsibility, and do the things that adults can do, the things I wished anybody could had done for me when I was younger... If Rita wasn't there for me, I don't know what would had been of me.

"Thanks mom." Elena said. "I don't think I would had been able to do this without your help..."

"Yeah Miss Elayne, that was good! You didn't even let miss Elene take a break! She looked so scared!" Laughed Anna.

"I bet that if this is known by people outside the school, the reputation of it could lower a lot, which could translate to parents taking away their daughters from our school, and losing money to the school altogether." Elisa said.

"Well, I did what I could. If anything happens again, tell me right away, I'll do what I can to convince the professors to step in." I nodded. "Now, I'll be going, take care!"

"Sure, take care mom." Elena smiled. "Oh, Monica's here."

I quickly heard my daughter say those words, as the young Monica slowly walked to the classroom, she had long messy black hair, tired-looking eyes, and a very depressed expression in her face. She looked lost.

"Monica! Hello there." Elisa said. "Wanna sit at my side?"

"E-Eh? A-Ah... W-Wha?!" Monica immediately was left shocked.

"Let's get along." Elena smiled gently.

"Huh? S-S-Sure..." Monica sighed.

With a slight smile in my face, I walked back home.

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

#### **Chapter 560: Enhancing The Physique By Going To The Gym**

After that, I decided to make my way to the gym, I visited it every morning now. The Great Spirit said that if I didn't exercised everyday for at least two hours, my physique would begin to grow weaker. Also, exercising is a good way to fortify my own physique at the same time, so every morning I come here to do that, for at least three to four hours.

I usually wait my friends to log-in back into BNLO and continue our quest there. Because doing it all by myself is not really fun... Well, Acorn and Nieve might be around, but I also want to include Mark and Rita into the mix. And I bet Rita would get really angry if I didn't included her, as she would miss on the Bosses EXP.

So I just exercised as usual, with my physique, most exercises didn't even got me tired. In fact, I was never tired, nor dehydrated, so I just constantly did heavy lifting and ran at maximum velocity possible in these machines.

Eventually, after three hours of exercising non-stop, people gathered around me once more. Some of the "gym bros" I already knew were there too.

"Amazing performance as usual, but aren't you tired? You haven't even been drinking any water, Elayne!"

"You should definitely drink something, here, have my water."

"I just bought this cold tea, it has no sugar so feel free to drink!"

"Ahahaha, thank you for worrying about me guys." I giggled, feeling a bit overwhelmed.

It was certainly not just my idea, more and more guys would flock around me as I visited the gym every day. They weren't perverts, but just really nice, and usually gave me a lot of tips.

Though, as a woman, it still felt a bit... a bit distracting. I love Mark, but seeing a bunch of muscular men around me made me slightly embarrassed.

Well, there were also girls too.

"Hey you pervs, stop trying to get her to owe you any favors."

"Don't give them attention, they're just vultures, Elayne."

"Yeah! But this is amazing, are you one of those Awakened people?"

"Awakened?" I wondered.

"Yeah, recently there'd been a few of them showing up around this gym. They're amazingly strong and seem to never get tired."

"I heard that people that Awaken get better physical strength and can perform feats they couldn't before."

"Oh, there was this one skinny guy lifting really heavy weights last night... He said he was an Awakener of F Rank. I was surprised how much strength that skinny body had."

"I see..." I nodded. "Well, not really, I'm not Awakened. I just work out a lot back home too. Since my husband passed away that I've always desired to be stronger myself, so I don't have to rely on others to protect me, and so I can protect my daughter."

"Awww, you're so genuine, girl."

"Oh my gosh, you have a daughter? You should bring her here some time!"

"Yeah, teaching her to exercise would help her out a lot, the younger they start the better."

"Ahahah, I don't know... She's the indoors type, she likes playing video games and staying inside her room a lot. But lately she has been opening up a bit more..." I sighed with a smile.

"Aw, must be hard to take care of a daughter as a single mother, I admire you, Elayne."

"For real! And you also work all by yourself to maintain your family, plus you have the time to come here and workout? You're a queen!"

"Yeah, yeah!"

"Ahahaha, you girls are being exaggerated!" I felt embarrassed. The gym sis I had here were just too nice with me.

Once I was done doing my work out, I quickly drank a whole bottle of water and took a quick shower in the gym to wash out all the sweat, quickly making my way back home.

In the way, some of the boys allured by me quickly flocked around me again...

"Hey Elayne, how are you doing?"

"Wanna go have something to eat?"

"We know a good French restaurant around."

"No thanks guys, I gotta go back home. My boyfriend's waiting me there." I smiled.

"B-Boyfriend..."

"R-Right..."

"Ah, s-sorry, have a nice day!"

Just saying the magic word "boyfriend" instantly made them regret flirting with me. Well, there were some more brave ones that would continue even after knowing that, but I just ignored them until they cut it out.

"You're really popular in the gym already, geez." Laughed the Great Spirit. "You've exercised that body well enough, too, your Physique's begininig to develop a bit."

"Develop?" I wondered, as the Great Spirit laughed and slapped my butt.

"Yeah, this butt's as hard as a rock-"

BONK!

"OUCH! Hey! You can hurt me now?!" She complained.

"Don't be a pervert now!" I sighed. "Also you touched me too, so I can touch you back!"

"R-Right..." She sighed. "Sorry, sorry! I thought you wouldn't mind because I am literal floating carrot."

"That somehow makes it even weirder!" I facepalmed.

"Geez, okay, sorry... I thought that's what friends did, slapping each other in the butts. Didn't the girls do it in the gym's shower?" Wondered the Great Spirit with a giggle.

"Y-Yeah, they were just special friends." I laughed a bit. "I saw them kissing too, I don't think they're just pals."

"Oh damn, maybe we should stay in the shower for a bit longer..." She said with a smile.

"Geez, just stop it!" I sighed. "Anyways, my physique is developing, you said?"

"Yep! All of that hard work's paying off, just imbue Mana into your body and you'll see the results." She said.

"Imbue Mana..." I said, as I controlled my internal mana and imbued it into my Physique.

FLAAASH!

Suddenly, I felt my body glow lightly with a green and golden aura, which nobody around could actually see but us. I felt my muscles strengthen and tighten, while my blood flow was flowing even faster than before...

[Your constant Physical Exercise has made your body grow much stronger.]

[You've developed 200 Physique Runes.]

Oh?!