

Brand New 701

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

Chapter 701: Using Spirits On Blacksmithing

Ding!

[A New [Special Subclass Quest] related to the current [Quest Chain] has been now generated: [Forge a Dagger and impress Ambil with your Skills!]

[Ambil has given you a simple challenge! Still skeptical if you truly possess the same aura that his grandfather had, he has decided to challenge you with something rather simple, forge an exceptional dagger using the single ingot he has given to you.]

[Clear Rewards]: [EXP] [Gold] [New Quest Chain]

[Time Limit]: [4 Hours]

[Failure Penalty]: [Lose the possibility of improving your Subclass]

This was a Quest I definitely couldn't fail! After all, if I did, I would completely lose the chances to continue improving my new and rare Subclass.

I know Ambil knows something about Hephaestus and his legacy, but he doesn't even want to name the god until I prove myself as someone worthy of learning about his family's secrets.

And now, I've only got this to work with...

[Fiery Bronze Ingot (D Grade)]

A decent quality ingot made out of Fiery Bronze, mined on the Underground Ezekiel Mines near the Luminous Kingdom's Capital.

It's a simple ore capable of channeling a small amount of fire-attribute energy and mana, a basic yet slightly costly ore used for all kinds of Magic Weapons and Armor.

"I guess it is not the best out there..." I sighed. "Now, let's begin"

Ding!

[The [Hephaestus' Blacksmithing: Lv1] Skill Special Ability [Hephaestus Eyes] has activated!]

Suddenly, my eyes flared with slight quantities of red flames, making my vision turn completely red! It hurt a bit, but it also felt strange, as if information was flowing inside of my mind.

Ding!

[Your Eyes have analyzed the Ore's special properties; a Blacksmithing Tip has been generated.]

[When it is exposed to large quantities of heat, the Fiery Bronze becomes incredibly tough to handle, the secret to make it moldable is imbuing it with moderate quantities of Mana as you shape it. Too much will make the end result terrible, and too little will make it too tough to handle, be patient and do it slowly!]

Oh?! Is this one of the Skill's special effects? It'll surely come in handy!

Come to think of it, I hadn't completely checked what it could do until now...

[Hephaestus' Blacksmithing: Lv1]

A Unique Skill that cannot Level Up through Skill Points and will only Level Up through constant practice and improvement of the Hephaestus Descendant Subclass.

Enhances Crafting, Blacksmithing, and Synthesis Skills by +50% with each Skill Level and allows the user to freely handle all sorts of materials for the creation of items with an ever-growing Mastery of +25% with each Skill Level.

Increases the ability to visualize what the user wants to create and make it into reality through their skills and abilities. Based on the DEX Stat, masterfulness on the creation of items increase further and so does the Bonus Stats, Abilities, and Quality of created items.

Additionally, grants the ability to activate the [Hephaestus Eyes], which based on current DEX Stat, will prove the user with useful information regarding the handling of all sorts of materials.

Okay, it was a pretty amazing Skill now that I read its description! And based in how much DEX I possess, my abilities over this power will increase further, which is really interesting.

Farmers have a pretty good DEX growth, because I currently have over 5700 Dexterity Stat right now, should be good enough, right?

Though, I can't help but feel nervous. My friends were glancing at me as I took Ambil's hammer, which he decided to handle to me for the time being.

Nobody said a thing, but I could tell in their eyes that they were trusting on what I could do... Even though I've never delved too deep into this crafting business, it was time to prove myself.

"Alright, let's do this."

I walked into the blazing flames of the forge, as Mark quickly enchanted them with his spiritual energy, and gave me a thumbs up.

"Good luck."

"Thanks."

First of all, the smelting. I had to melt the ingot into liquid and then place it into a mold, let it cool down and then take out the mold, shape the mold with a hammer, constantly elongating it as I increased its temperature.

FRSSSH...!

"Uwah!"

I felt slightly nervous as I saw the flames blazing too close to me, my hands quickly beginning to feel really hot, but I covered them on my scales for the time being, which only made Ambil more curious about what I truly was.

Ding!

[You have smelted [Fiery Bronze Ingot (D Grade)]]

And right as I did that, what the Hephaestus Eyes had warned me about happened, the moment I tried to move the liquid metal down into the dagger-shaped mold, it became incredibly slimy and heavy!

It wasn't going down at all, it seemed stuck on the kettle, despite being melted. It was an incredible thing that perhaps metals back on Earth would never do...

"Right, Mana."

I started imbuing small quantities of Mana into the melted metal, as I made sure to do it slowly and steadily.

The metal underwent a sudden change, as it slowly started to become much more liquid and moldable, slowly pouring itself over the mold.

"Spirits of Fire, come to my aid! Spirits of Earth, please give me some of your strength."

I closed my eyes in that moment, as several Spirits started emerging from my very body. My body, which seemed like the body of just any human or flesh-made humanoid race quickly turned completely wooden, flowers growing from my body, as from the flowers, tiny spirits emerged.

I couldn't bring too many without having to expand my terrain, but there was this really neat trick using my newest Skills, which allowed me to turn my own body into a "Terrain Tile" and make Spiritual Sprouts grow over my skin.

It wasn't as much as if I expanded it all around me, but it sufficed, a dozen Spirits appeared, floating around me as they obeyed my mental commands, and then flew directly into the still forming mold.

"[Spirit Infusion]!"

FLAAASH!

Ambil couldn't stop himself from gasping in shock.

"W-What is the meaning of this?! S-Spirits...! You're using Spirits on blacksmithing?!"

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Chapter 702: The Results Of The Test

FLAAASH!

As I used Spirits to enchant the smelting process and the molding process, Ambil couldn't help but act rather surprised, he had not expect me to use such methods at all, even though I told him I would do things on my own way.

"Y-You're using Spirits to process the metal?!" He asked in surprise.

"Well, you said I could use any method available." I smiled. "So I simply decided to do things my own way. And well, there's this too! Blacksmith Spirits Summon!"

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

Suddenly, some of the Fire Spirits combined together into completely different shapes, some resembling tiny blazing hammers, while others resembled ores and ingots.

"B-Blacksmith Spirits...? They exists?!"

Ambil glanced in utter disbelief as the Blacksmith Spirits did their own jobs. The hammer-shaped ones started smacking the processing metal into shape, while the rest fused themselves into the smelting metals.

I also worked on my own, using the hammer that Ambil gave to me to gently shape the metal, constantly heating it up so it could become moldable, all while I imbued Mana into it.

It was a rather complicated and complex process, and if I didn't had such a high amount of Dexterity, it wouldn't be as easy as it seemed to be.

I had to put all of my mind and spirit into this job, which was straining my mental fatigue quite a lot. But I perseverated, continuously working harder to process everything properly.

Clank! Clank! CLANK!

The dagger was slowly coming to shape, a sharp blade imbued with not only Mana, but large quantities of Spiritual Energy. The process was coming out smoothly, yet there were still some setbacks.

"Ugh..."

I simply couldn't shape it as I wanted, and the pointy end wouldn't end as pointy as I wanted either, the Spirits helped, but they couldn't do the entire thing on their own.

Maybe it was time to learn some new Skill, my skills with the hammer and incredibly lacking. Of course, I could simply try to use other methods such as coating my hands with magic and forcefully shape the knife, but that would beat the purpose and the result would be mediocre at best.

So...

Ding!

[You have exchanged 200 Skill Points, you've learned the [Hephaestus' Smithing Hammer Techniques: Lv1] Skill!]

[The [Hephaestus' Smithing Hammer Techniques: Lv1] Skill has been equipped in the Subclass Skill Slots.]

[Hephaestus' Smithing Hammer Techniques: Lv1]

A Unique Skill that cannot Level Up through Skill Points and will only Level Up through constant practice and improvement of the Hephaestus Descendant Subclass.

Allows the wielder of the Hephaestus Descendant Subclass to utilize the hammer masterfully, inheriting a part of the blacksmithing god's technique with the tool, and the crafting of proper, good items.

Enhances the Ability to Craft Items, the usage of the Blacksmithing Hammer, and of any other Crafting Tool by +25% with each Skill Level. Additionally, an [Blacksmith's Aura] can be conjured, which increases

DEX, Crafting Tool Mastery, and High-Quality Item Chance by +100% plus +15% with each Skill Level for 1 Hour. Cooldown: 3 Hours.

Available Techniques:

Level 1: [Magic Smelting] [Blazing Hammer Strike]

Level 2: ???

The moment I learned the new Skill, I felt a large quantity of knowledge flow inside of my mind, making me quickly realize the proper usage of tools and hammer to an extent. It felt almost automatic, as I started moving my hands more dexterously.

I utilized the Blazing Hammer Strike Technique to unleash small, yet impactful blazing strikes with the hammer, which sent small shockwaves of flames and mana that shaped the weapon to my visualization.

CLANK! CLANK! CLANK!

"Her movements suddenly became much more dexterous too..." Ambil commented. "Did she learn a new Skill out of nowhere?!"

CLANK!

CLANK!

CLANK!

With each strike, the dagger was reinforced constantly, through a process of smelting and then cooling over and over again, imbued with mana and spiritual energy, a brand-new type of metal was created.

Nieve helped me cool it down and then, I utilized my Spiritual Wood, grown from my fingers to create a beautiful wooden handle, and then, I sharpened the blade until perfection.

It took a lot of time but... I was done after three hours and a half...

"Phew..." I cleaned the sweat from my forehead as I smiled back at Ambil. "It's done!"

Ding!

[You have crafted the Ultra Rare Rank [Fiery Bronze Spirit Dagger (C+ Grade)] x1!]

[You earned 500.000 EXP!]

[The [Hephaestus Blacksmithing] and the [Hephaestus' Smithing Hammer Techniques] Skills have earned +500 Skill Proficiency.]

[Congratulations! You've created a brand-new type of Smelting Metal [Fiery Spirit Bronze]!]

The dagger shone with a pristine luster, as it emanated a magical and spiritual aura. I checked its stats to see how good it could be, and I was pleasantly surprised.

[Fiery Bronze Spirit Dagger]

[Item Type]: [One-Handed Weapon] [Magic Knife] [Spirit Knife]

[Item Rank]: [Ultra Rare]

[Item Quality]: [C+]

[Item Requirement]: [500 AGI, DEX, & INT]

[Item Durability]: [7000/7000]

[Item Effects]: [ATK]: [+700] [MP]: [+800] [STR]: [+200] [INT]: [+500] [WIS]: [+300] [DEX]: [+250] [AGI]: [+250]

[Item Abilities]

[Fiery Spirit Bronze Composition]: As a Dagger composed of a special type of magical and spiritual metal, this dagger can naturally channel Mana and unleash Spirit Slash Waves when swung against any foe, dealing 100% Magic Damage based on INT Stat. When channeling Mana, it can also increase ATK by +30% for 10 Minutes.

[Item Description]

A beautiful green and golden colored dagger crafted by Blacksmith Planta. It possess a brand-new type of metal created through the fusion of Spirits and the Fiery Bronze Ore, which can channel Mana much better, and also unleash Spiritual Energy to a small extent.

"T-This is..." Ambil grabbed the dagger, glancing at its components and crafting with disbelief. "You're... not bad at all! I never thought a Dryad from all people could actually become a Blacksmith, but you've left me almost speechless. This dagger not only is incredibly sharp, but it also has a nice and firm grip, and it even can channel Mana seamlessly, and some spirit energy too! Despite its simple appearance, a weapon like this could be easily sold for a few hundred million gold!"

"So? Do I pass?" I asked eagerly.

"Well, of course you do!" Ambil laughed, suddenly becoming much nicer. "You lack experience and finesse, but you're not bad at all!"

Ding!

[The [Special Subclass Quest] related to the current [Quest Chain]: [Forge a Dagger and Impress Ambil with your Skills!] has been Successfully Completed!]

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Chapter 703: The Divine Forge

Ding!

[The [Special Subclass Quest] related to the current [Quest Chain]: [Forge a Dagger and Impress Ambil with your Skills!] has been Successfully Completed!]

[Not only you've impressed Ambil with your skills, but you've even created a new type of metal altogether! Your path towards becoming a fitting successor of the Blacksmith God might not be that far away.]

[Now that you've passed the test, it is time for Ambil to open up and tell you about what he knows about Hephaestus, and while at that, probably learn more about the reason behind the Family Forge's constant decline...]

[Clear Rewards]: [10.000.000 EXP] [100.000.000 Gold] [New Quest Chain]

[Level Up!]

[Your Level has to Level 139/180!]

[You earned Bonus Stat Points and Skill Points.]

After completing the Quest I got so much EXP I ended Leveling Up, I was now Level 139 out of 180, almost halfway through!

"Amazing, is that the dagger she made with just an ingot?" Asked Rita. "It's so very shiny! You could use this as a flashlight..."

"It is certainly very shiny..." I laughed with embarrassment. "It could help adventurers get through dark places such as caves or dungeons easily though, it also requires little mana to unleash spiritual attacks, so it can be used by mostly anybody with a good enough INT stat."

"Certainly, the requirements are very generous and the ability it has is really good too." Mark nodded "Amazingly done... I wonder if I could commission you a weapon in the future?"

"Sure! Once I get a bit better at crafting and all, I could make weapons for everyone." I smiled happily.

Well, I've already made some back on Earth, but that was more like just sticking items together with spiritual fusion without much of a mastery or delicacy on the creation or shaping of the items.

But things are completely different now! I will get even better at this and... One day, I could probably supply my entire Guild and small country with proper equipment, so they can face off against any threat.

"Sounds like a lot of fun! Maybe I should also try to learn some sort of crafting stuff." Lily wondered, as Ambil crossed his arms with a rather proud smile.

"I guess you've earned some of my trust, that was... well, I hate to admit it, but it was great." He sighed. "Now, where do we begin...? Ah, right, you... Planta, right? Do you possess some sort of Title related with the God of Blacksmiths, Lord Hephaestus?"

"Yep." I smiled. "I wanted to talk about it, but I felt like you could already tell. Was this test to see that I indeed held such title?"

"More or less." He nodded. "I once was told by my father that one day, someone carrying the Title of Hephaestus Successor would appear in this world, and the Divine Forges that he left behind would finally unseal themselves. This is a legacy we've been protecting for many generations in the Ember Family. But I just can't believe that person would be a Player, and a woman, no less! And also a Dryad! This is my first time seeing a female work with the hammer, and you're not half-bad!"

"I don't know why a female would surprise you." I sighed. "But anyways, yeah, being a Dryad is the weird part, because I am actually made of wood and spiritual energy, it is rather hard to handle things

and so on... But still, I got the Subclass of Hephaestus Successor after I forged this weapon, which I reforged out of broken parts from the Ancient Heroic Sword Gram." I showed him the Gram I possessed.

"O-Oooohh! A-A heroic weapon?!" He muttered in utter disbelief. "IT IS! This luster, this shine, these materials...! It does feel like a weapon you would make, but it also possess the ancientness of Heroic Weapons, once wielded by the Legendary Heroes that slain the Demon Kings..."

"I didn't really do it all on my own, and we used a method of synthesis and alchemy too, to make it quicker." I sighed. "There's another sword because Gram was cut into two, the other is on the Dwarven Kingdom, while they let me keep this one. That one was made with the help of the Dwarf King's amazing Blacksmithing Techniques, I only helped on unifying the materials and enchanting them in the smelting process."

"So you made this one in cooperation with many, and the other only with the Dwarf King...?" Ambil was left speechless. "This is... It's just so incredible. You really are a successor of Hephaestus then! Without a doubt! ...However, just by giving this amazing sword a few glances, I can tell it lacks a lot of finesse, majesty, and masterfulness on its craft. It looks good in the surface, but its balance is rather off, its mana conductivity is so-so, and it is mostly being carried by its incredibly high-quality materials, rather than the craft itself. Also, it's strange... It feels like this sword is actually two into one."

"Geh, that's harsh..." Acorn sighed. "We used all our alchemy abilities to somehow imitate forging and blacksmithing, but I guess it would never be the same, hahaha..."

"I-Indeed, to think my father and I thought it was a masterpiece, even Queen Titania found no issues. I guess Blacksmiths are the only ones that can spot such issues easily." Brisingra laughed.

"Father?" Wondered Ambil. "Wait, are you...?!"

"I guess there's little point in hiding it, it seems that Lady Planta trusts you." Brisingra smiled, as she presented herself differently, with delicacy and regality. "I am Brisingra, the Princess of the Dwarven Kingdom of Svartalfheim."

"Such a person is in my forge?!" Ambil panicked. "And you all... I bet you're not normal either, huh?" He glanced at the rest of our party.

"More or less, hahaha..." Mark laughed a bit.

"Heh! You're finally acting a bit more respectfully, old man?" Rita smiled confidently, crossing her arms, and glaring at Ambil with a cocky smile.

"Well, only to those that deserve such praise!" Ambil angrily said.

"Did you said that the sword was lacking?" I wondered. "I wonder if it could be possible to fix it a bit and make it much better?"

"Certainly." The blacksmith smiled. "But first, follow me, I have something to show you all, well, especially you." He gave me back Gram and then opened a door in the floor.

In there, stairs leading to a large underground area emerged...

And an aura of slight divinity and flames started coming from there, I felt as if something was whispering to me, calling for me to walk downstairs.

"W-What is this place?" I wondered, as we started walking downstairs, red-colored torches lighting up as we walked down magically.

"This is the greatest legacy of my family, what we've been protecting all this time for many generations." Ambil smiled, once we reached the last stair, we landed in the middle of a large underground temple.

It looked ruined and covered on dust and spiderwebs everywhere, however, at the end of this seemingly endless hall, there was a huge gate, decorated with beautiful carvings on the black stone, with many red colored jewels decorating it.

The carvings showed a tall, muscular man with two shiny ruby eyes, long white hair, and a beard of the same color holding a huge hammer, made of metal, holding it above an anvil, and behind it, a flame shaped into some sort of spirit.

The number "1" as right above the figure.

"This is... Hephaestus' First Divine Forge."

It is right beneath the damn city?!

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Chapter 704: Meeting The Divine Forge Spirit

Ambil suddenly brought us to the depths of the city itself, where we found ourselves right in front of the entrance leading to Hephaestus Divine Forge! Well, the first one of many.

"Wait, is this for real?! We found it much quicker than we thought!" Rita celebrated. "Alright, now how do we get in?"

"Calm down for a minute, dark elf lady." Ambil sighed. "As of right now, we can't enter, not even in your wildest dreams. This is the entrance of the first divine forge which my family has protected for generations. However, we do not possess the ability to enter it."

"I see..." Mark nodded, analyzing things. "I wonder if this is... Wait, can Planta enter easily at least? She's the successor."

"She can try, and that's why I mostly came here." Said Ambil. "This is a sacred palace where many of our craftsmen in our families grew and developed, this place used to be a secret forge where we crafted magic weapons, our family used to be the ones that supplied the world's greatest armies with their weapons. But over time, as the Demon Kings perished and heroes never came back, our family's business declined..."

Ambil then walked towards the gates, gently caressing them with his old, rugged hands, covered on many bruises and sighing.

"This Forgery, although we could not enter, blessed us with their Divine Flames, which we used to make wonderful items. However, such flames stopped appearing hundreds of years ago." Ambil sighed. "I don't know why... And recently, there had been rumors around town about a group of shadowy people

trying to find the Forge. I am worried that our legacy might soon be taken away from us by malefic hands. Planta, can you touch this gate and prove you're who you are? I... don't want to have my hopes crushed again, so prove to me that you're who you say to be, so I can finally hold some hope with confidence..."

"Okay..." I nodded, giving him a gentle smile. "Let's do this then..."

I touched the gates while closing my eyes, hoping for something to happen. However, the only thing we got was a lot of silence...

"Nothing happened..." I sighed.

"Looks like that thing might be too old or something." Rita said.

"T-Then...?" Ambil seemed disappointed.

"Well, let's not give up yet." Said Mark. "She definitely has the Subclass, we all can see her Status, and-"

"The successor..."

Huh?

Did I heard something?

A whisper...

"You're here..."

It is a whispering voice!

"At long last..."

"Hello? Is there someone there?" I asked the gate, knocking on it.

FLAAASH!

Suddenly, the gate began to glow, shocking everyone with me after that anticlimactic silence. The carvings glowed with bright red colors, the jewels emanated a divine aura, encompassing the carvings and suddenly making them turn alive.

The flames behind the anvil suddenly started blazing, moving on their own, until finally, they emerged from the carvings, an intense heat engulfed our entire bodies, making us feel slightly sickly as we glanced an entity emerge.

FLUOOOOSH!

"W-What's going on?!" Lily cried.

"Ugh, such intense heat..." Nieve complained.

"W-Woooh!" Acorn was amazed.

"A being made of flames?!" Mark stepped closer to me.

"Hmmm..."

The entity slowly took the shape of a huge, muscular being, completely made of red flames constantly flickering around. Their only two eyes were red and made of jewels. Its height was over five meters of height.

"T-The Guardian...! The Divine Guardian of the Forge!" Ambil gasped, suddenly kneeling. "Oh guardian, it is an honor to finally see you!"

"Oh, a descendant of the Protectors of the Legacy..." The entity made of flames spoke.

Its composition was similar to Fire Spirits, but of an incredibly high quality and power. It was perhaps a Divine Spirit on its own, something similar to the Great Spirit of Nature and Harvest.

"G-Great Spirit?" I asked her.

"I can see it, yeah." She spoke. "That guy's not a Great Spirit, he's a Special Kind of thing, a Divine Forge Spirit, although he doesn't rule over the spirits of each element like us Great Spirits, he does have almost an equal amount of power... However, he looks shattered, and weakened."

"Very well, so where is the Successor?" Asked the Forge Spirit, glancing around. "Oh, it must be you, isn't it?" He pointed at Brisingra. "A girl wasn't what we expected but well, you're a dwarf."

"No, sorry, it's not me..." Brisingra sighed.

"Wait, then you?" He asked, pointing at Mark. "You're a strange being, I've never seen something like this before, but you wield flames! Don't you? And those burly arms and strong physique! It has to be you, right?"

"Stop pretending to not know and accept that Planta's the successor." Mark said angrily, crossing his huge arms.

"Hi..." I smiled gently, as the Spirit gave me a single glance and then facepalmed.

"HAHHH... I can't believe a Dryad from all things would become my master's Successor! Just what is going on with this world?! Has nobody else made a Heroic Weapon yet?! In all these years?!" He started complaining. "A delicate Dryad lady with no inch of strength, no mastery over the hammer, and absolutely no resistance nor affinity with fire became the successor?! Preposterous!"

"Do you have to be so rude?" I asked while raising an eyebrow. "And I am not a Dryad anymore. I evolved into a Hamadryad, and then an Yggdryad, and now I am an Yggdragon!"

My body suddenly started to change shape quickly, Ambil suddenly fell into the ground in shock as my transformation slowly completed, turning me into a gigantic, over fifty-meter-tall dragon made of wood, stone, earth, vegetation, and covered on countless golden scales made of spiritual metals, with sharp claws, an intimidating set of fangs, and flashing green eyes.

"Hoh?" The Divine Forge Flame was surprised, glancing at my entire body, as I quickly conjured golden flames into my hands, the Flames of Life.

"And I can control some flames too! Thank you very much!" I groaned, showing what I was made of.

"Heh... Hah... HAHHAHAHAH!" The Spirit started to laugh. "Now THIS is something out of left field! To think the successor of Yggdrasil would also become my master's successor... This is... unprecedented!"

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Chapter 705: A New Quest

"Now this is something!" He laughed, crossing his arms again. "You can turn back, lady, I get it. Sorry about looking down on you, I just couldn't believe it at first, but alright, you've shut me down! Hahahaha!"

"Oh well." I sighed, turning back to my humanoid shape. "Should we go back to the topic at hand? Why have the flames stopped coming? And what's exactly going on in here with that shadowy organization? Do you know something yourself? Flame Spirit?"

"Hmm, you ask too many questions." He laughed. "However, I can answer the first one right now. I've stopped giving out Divine Flames because the bonfires of the forge have stopped working. It seems that the old man didn't designed things properly, and I cannot open it either unless that's properly repaired. However, there's another reason why I stopped even before the flames could not be produced any longer..." He glanced at Ambil.

"There's another reason?" Ambil asked in confusion.

"It is because these flames have no longer a purpose... Or well, they had no longer a purpose before. The Protectors grew accustomed to these flames making their craft perfect, and your greed and selfishness grew alongside these flames too. I've been watching you all for a while now. One of the reasons of your family's forge decline is because you choose to stay with your old habits and method and didn't wanted to revolutionize and create new forms of crafting, new items, new weapons, and armor. You are all stuck in the past." The Divine Spirit spoke with a harsh tone of voice.

"T-That's...!" Ambil was about to attempt to argue with the Divine Spirit, but quickly came to a halt, stopping on his words and thinking it more deeply. "No... You're... you're right... It's all our fault. The place where we are now is all our fault... My grandfather and my father grew without those flames as well, yet... their methods were still ancient. And my own too. I've witnessed what new blood can make on Planta, and even as I felt she lacked some mastery and finesse, it was incredible..."

"Ambil..." I sighed, gently patting his huge shoulders. "You don't have to lower yourself so much, there are many other factors that are behind the decline of your family business... But we could do something for that, right?"

"Bingo." The Divine Spirit spoke, a malicious smile surging on his flame-made face. "Right now, the Forge cannot open, and because this Forge leads to the Ancient Valley, one of the Fragments of Cloudia, I can tell you not only want what's in here, but also to get over there, right?"

"H-He guessed really fast, huh?" Wondered Rita. "Does this guy has clairvoyance or something?"

"Divine Spirits have the ability to partially read minds." The Great Spirit spoke. "Something not even we Great Spirits can do."

"EH?!" Everyone was shocked.

"Hahaha! Don't worry, it was the most basic and surface of thoughts I picked up, but I've figured out things, mostly." He smiled. "How about we make a special deal...?"

"A deal?" I asked. "What do you mean?" I crossed my arms, trying to listen to him more carefully.

For someone that was guardian the forge of an ancient god, he was much more tricky than I imagined. I had thought that things would be smooth sailing, but I forgot that never in this world really is smooth sailing...

"As you can see the poor and sorry state of the Protector's last descendant, I want you to change things. To prove yourself as someone worthy of my master's successor." He smiled. "And at the same time, you will also learn the darkness of this city. Let's use the System for this, hm? I've heard this power can change destiny and fate. So?"

Ding!

[A New [Special Subclass Quest] related to the current [Quest Chain] has been now generated: [Help the Ember Family Forge Increase Their Sales!]

[After meeting the Divine Forge Spirit, you've learned the truth that the Hephaestus Divine Forge cannot function properly, and therefore, without the Divine Flames to move the gears, you cannot enter it... yet.]

[However, in this world, there's always opportunities. The Divine Spirit has challenged you to help raise the sales from declining any further of the Ember Family's Forge. You have seven days to triple their sales and save the family from going bankrupt at the end of this month, which might mean the eventual closure of the forge forever.]

[If you are capable of helping Ambil's forge improve their sales, and perhaps everything else in between, you shall be rewarded for your efforts.]

[Clear Rewards]: [EXP] [Gold] [Special Quest Item] [New Quest Chain]

[Time Limit]: [7 Days]

[Failure Penalty]: [Lose the possibility of improving your Subclass]

And there it is! Where it said "Special Quest Item"... Did the Divine Forge Spirit actively used the System's incredible ability to create items, money, and more to his advantage?

So if we can properly accomplish this challenge, the System itself will help us open the Gates by giving us some sort of item that could do it?

I wonder how Quests work, if this entire world is real, how do they create situations, generate abilities, and even powers and items? The Gods themselves didn't seem to be completely in charge either.

It feels as if... the System is the real God of this world. An ever-changing world, with many facets, working everywhere all at once.

"It seems to have worked." I sighed. "But how did you figure this out?"

"Every living being in this world already knows what the System is. Although only Players can see it to such an extent, we can feel it, connected to our very souls and bodies." The Divine Spirit smiled.

"However, the System will not simply hand things to you without properly earning it. Although I have not comprehended it myself too much, it has to do with Casualty, Fate, and the energy produced by Changing Fate, an incredibly rich energy that can create miracles. This might be the reason why the harder the quest, the greater the rewards. And now, you've got yourselves a good challenge, will you be able to accomplish it before the time limit, young Yggdragon?"

"We better do." I glanced back at Ambil. "Ambil, let's go back to the surface, we've got work to do!"

"R-Right!"

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Chapter 706: A Surprise Attack

As Elayne and her friends found out the truth behind the Divine Hephaestus Forge and decided to challenge the System itself to accomplish the impossible and obtain an item capable of imbuing enough power into the Forge so it could work again, Angelina's party wandered the streets of the Luminous Kingdom's Capital, the night sun slowly descending from the horizon as the night was already about to enshroud the skies with its gentle veil of darkness and stars.

"We've been asking around for a while now, but nothing yet, nya... This is hopeless, without Elayne's help, I doubt we'll be able to find many clues without barging inside of places that might get us banned." Anikitty sighed.

"We have already asked around most Guilds, and even some nobles we encountered..." Gandalf sighed. "Yet we still can't find any more clues about the Sect of the Demon King of Miasma. Just what are we missing?"

Angelina stopped walking as she sighed, rubbing her chin, and then glancing into the sky.

"From what we've investigated, the Cult's latest whereabouts were the Southwest Sewers, but we've already explored that place and even fought some Zombies that some of the unfortunate Cultists ended turning into." Sighed Angelina. "But that was days ago, we haven't been able to find clues about where they could be at all. And how they're infiltrating this city exactly."

"It's not like they'll openly reveal themselves either, or we've run out of clues because our informant only knew the most basic info." Said Erdrich. "What do you think, Julius? You've been hanging around with us for a while."

"Hm? Oh, I can feel the presence of the Demon King of Death here for a while." Said the skeleton.

"Anyways, now that I've registered in the merchant guild, maybe I should try-"

"Wait, WHAT?"

The rest of Angelina's party was shaken the moment the small skeleton merchant spoke those revealing words, their hearts began beating rapidly as they realized things weren't as they looked like.

"He's here? His forces? Someone?" Angelina asked.

"Hm, I can't tell completely." Said Julius, rubbing his bony chin. "But I can sense his presence, the Necrotic Energies, all over the city. Humans seem incapable of smelling it I guess..."

"So that means that bastard's here, or his subordinates, nya." Anikitty wondered. "Does this means... Could the Cult be working with them?"

"That's..." Angelina muttered, suddenly noticing something, presences were slowly approaching, they were following them. "Who's there?!"

She summoned her spear of light and pointed it towards the dark alley behind them. Silence was the only thing that greeted their surprise, as all four of them glanced at one another.

The shadows remained still, perhaps too still, Angelina's eyes shone brightly... However, the presences she felt quickly disappeared, as if they were never there.

"It's gone..." Angelina muttered. "Just what's going on?"

"It's not gone." Julius empty eyes glowed with bright blue phantasmal flames. "There!"

Suddenly, he summoned a spear made of bones and fired it to the left, the spear hit the walls, or something in the walls, as the shadows suddenly materialized into the shape of a shrieking, amorphous beast!

"GRYEEEEH!"

It had a slightly humanoid shape, made completely out of black miasmic liquid, with a spiraling, red eye on its bald head, and sharp fangs and claws.

The beast groaned in agony, taking out the spear of bones on its back as black blood started to splatter out, glaring furiously at everyone else, as dozens of more of these beasts suddenly emerged from the shadows!

"W-What the...?!" Anikitty cried in shock.

"Monsters?! But there shouldn't be monsters inside the city, no?" Angelina muttered, stepping back as she quickly gathered her Aura to unleash light.

"Hmph, to think that little skeleton would find us out..." Suddenly, the figure of a tall man wearing black robes emerged from within the shadows, his face wearing a black and red mask, similar to the heads of the creatures. "Oh well, you guys are looking for "clues" a bit too hard... The higher ups told me to get rid of you."

"What?! The higher ups?" Angelina asked angrily. "You.... So you're a member of the Cult, huh? Even if you manage to kill us, we're Players, we will simply come back eventually!"

"Oh yeah?" Laughed the masked man. "I wonder if that's possible after I seal your souls in place... You'll take a while to revive, hehehe... Days, even weeks."

The man suddenly showed them his right arm, which was completely pitch black, made of a slimy, miasmic substance, and filled with spiral-shaped red eyes, overflowing with a black flame aura that then shaped into phantasmal chains.

Whatever he was, it wasn't just a normal lackey... And the powers he possessed were both similar to the Demon King of Miasma and also... of the Demon King of Death!

"A Special NPC that can make our revival time take much longer?!" Angelina thought. "Heh, the Developers really went out of their way with this secret event..."

Usually, when killed by a monster or an enemy NPC, and if there's no further penalties, a Player can take up to 24 hours to revive. The higher their level, the longer it takes. For Level 200+ player, it can range from ten to twelve hours.

"Well, it wouldn't be a World Quest without its amazing challenges anyways!" Anikitty smiled defiantly, summoning her staff.

"Well, well, a fight in the middle of the city? Oi, isn't this against the rules though?" Erdrich laughed, summoning a huge scythe made of bones, his shadows spreading and bringing out skeletons of all shapes and sizes.

"We're Level 200 Players, good sir." Gandalf summoned his Staff, elemental energies synergizing around his body. "We're not going down easily."

"It's not like I'm any weaker..." The masked man laughed, as the Party quickly noticed his Level...

The number 2 was followed by 5 and 0...

"Level 250...?!" Angelina smiled. "Hoh, not bad... This is going to be quite the challenge! I'm pumped up now!" Her wings spread out.

"Hahh... You really don't know when to give up, huh? You're all surrounded, fools." Laughed the masked man. "And so will be your friends, as we take down that pitiful forge out of the map tonight~"

"What did you said, nya?!" Anikitty cried.

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Chapter 707: The Three Annoying Brothers

"Wait, HUH?! You completed the Quest?!"

The receptionist in the Adventurer Guild was left flabbergasted once we came back almost four hours later, with the quest completed. Ambil himself walked out of his forge and accompanied us to testify we did a good job.

"Of course they completed the damn quest, lass!" Said Ambil angrily. "If I come here to tell you they did it, THEN THEY DID IT!" He slammed the table. "Now give them their reward! They deserve it! Plus some more."

"A-Alright..." The blonde girl sighed, walking away while trembling before Ambil's presence.

"If she ever discriminates you guys because you're not humans, just tell me. I might have a declining family business but people in here respect their elders." He smiled. "Well, I ain't that old though..."

"Haha, thank you, Ambil, I didn't thought you would step up for us." I smiled.

"This is surprising coming from the grumpy grandpa that treated us like shit before." Rita smiled, giving him a cocky smile.

"T-That's...! Well, I just learned you guys ain't that bad! That's all." Ambil rubbed his nose as he looked elsewhere, clearly embarrassed of himself.

"I guess you have to be nice with the people that's about to help you get out of bankruptcy." Mark teased him, crossing his arms.

"T-That's..." Ambil muttered. "Well, it was a quest from the Divine Spirit, don't blame it all to me! I haven't forced you do to anything..." He crossed his muscular arms.

"Sorry for the wait, here's your rewards, distributed evenly with everyone." The receptionist walked in, bringing forth the rewards with herself.

She gave us one bag of coins each, and also three Fiery Bronze Ingots too, which was the "extra reward" that Ambil had put up for those that were really competent, oh, also completing these Adventurer Guild Quests give EXP just like normal Quests!

Ding!

[You've completed the Adventurer Guild's Quest [Assistance Request from the Ember Family Forgery]!]

[You earned 100.000 Gold]

[You earned 2.500.000 EXP]

[You gained [Fiery Bronze Ingot (D Grade)] x3!]

[You earned +1000 Adventurer Guild Merit!]

[Your Adventurer License has improved from F- Rank to F Rank!]

The moment we got the rewards, the Adventurer Cards glowed brightly, their dark bronze color changing to a slightly brighter one, as the F- letter became just F!

"C-Congratulations, you've ascended from F- to F Rank Adventurers! Yaay..." The blonde girl clearly didn't seem to like seeing demi-humans being competent.

"Not bad, we've got tons of ingots now." Mark said. "I guess we can repurpose them on the forge."

"Wow, so this is what it feels like to earn my own money." Brisingra was surprised. "I barely helped at shaping and sharpening some weapons and I earned this much? Amazing..."

The dwarven Princess was rather surprised of pulling her own weight and being rewarded for her efforts. I can tell she must feel surprised, seeing how she had a life of luxury as a princess back at her home.

"Yeah, it's great, isn't it?" Acorn was just as happy.

"I only cooled down things and I got paid this much?" Nieve as surprised.

For NPC, 100k Gold is a lot of money, it's mostly little for us Players because we sell each other things at millions...

"Ah, I also wanted to place some new Requests." Ambil said, quickly placing them on the table, and paying the fee.

"S-Sure..." The receptionist muttered.

And as she placed them, we went immediately to pick them up. They were all sorts of quests, from helping in the forge, to enhance flames, to make molds, to craft weapons, armor, and so on.

It was a trick we talked with Ambil, about making him set up quests for the work we were already going to do for him, and in exchange, we get Guild Merit and rewards, abusing the System!

Of course, to properly do this you need to befriend an NPC with at least some funds, something not many Players out there can do.

"Eh?! You're accepting the quests right away?" The receptionist was surprised, raising an eyebrow. "Ah... Well, there's no rule saying you can't so... A-Alright." She changed her attitude the more Ambil glanced at her with a deadly glare.

And as we were getting almost ready, suddenly...

"Well, well, well, would you look at this?"

"I can't believe my eyes."

"Has the old man Ambil walked out of his cave for once on his life? Incredible."

A trio of petulant young men suddenly walked in, surrounding the much smaller Ambil, because of his Dwarven Blood, they were taller as pure-blooded humans, and they used this to their advantage, glaring at him down as if he were walking garbage.

"Move! I don't have anything to talk with you guys." Ambil complained.

"Hoh? So rude, I can tell why your forge's about to go down soon." Laughed the first one, a cocky blonde with blue eyes.

"Meanwhile, we recently got ourselves a big deal, the Magician Guild just asked us for another batch of a hundred staves and magic weapons! And what have you done lately, Ambil?" The second guy asked, similar to the first one but with green eyes.

"I bet he just told these freaks to bring him some company. I can't imagine what else would this blistering fool ever call these monsters to his house for!" Laughed the third, the other two bursting into laughter. He was just as the other two, but with red eyes.

"Tch... S-Shut up!" Ambil roared angrily, gritting his teeth. "One thing is insulting me and another is insulting my friends! Just because you're getting sales doesn't mean you're competent, you damn Forgery Brothers!"

"Ambil..." Rita sighed. "We are his friends?"

"Ah, I guess this is why he didn't like to step out of his forge..." Mark sighed.

I couldn't let them bully our patron while we stood there doing nothing! I quickly stepped in, asking who the hell were these gentlemen.

"Forgery Brothers?" I asked, walking in, and standing right besides Ambil.

"Oh my, excuse me for not introducing ourselves, madam." The blue-eyed man spoke. "We are the Forgery Brothers, Adman, Cassin, and Helpes. We run our family business of the same name at the other side of the city. I remember when our parents used to tell us that we were nothing compared to the Ember Forge, oh, how things have changed now..."

"Heh, well, it's not like things are getting any better, right? You've done some good deed in helping this idiot get through." Laughed Cassin. "Eventually his place will close down, so how about you come help us in our forge later?"

"We'll make sure to treat non-humans fairly..." Smiled the third brother, Helpes, as he approached me and attempted to touch my hair. "Some of you may be rather beautiful, I have to admit..."

"Don't you dare touch me." I waved my hand; his arm quickly being hit by my hand and pushed back.

Yeah, unlike other Players, I can harm NPC because of being a World Boss, something nobody here knows, of course.

"Y-You bastards! My place's not going down!" Ambil cried furiously. "Stop annoying me, you bunch of flies!"

"Oh well, keep crying, old man, you're going to the streets at the end of the month, just a week from now!" Laughed the brothers.

"And you, demi-humans... you better watch out. You're not welcomed here." The second brother whispered to me.

I resisted the urge to blast him into smithereens, as I smiled back at him as gently as I could.

"Oh? We'll see about that." I giggled. "Let's go." I called my friends.

"Are you sure about this? They're getting too ahead of themselves." Mark began cracking his knuckles.

"You know we can't harm NPC, let's go." I shrugged, pretending I didn't had the power to do so.

"They were so rude..." Brisingra sighed. "Well, I am not a Player, so I could probably smack them down... But that would be unsightly."

"Y-Yeah..." Acorn sighed. "Though, I'm getting tired of being called a freak!"

"These humans need someone to teach them a lesson on etiquette." Nieve seemed as angry as this morning.

"Ugh... Thugs like these get fucked easily in the streets, how can these guys just walk around?" Rita complained.

As we walked back to the forge through the streets below the setting sun, Ambil sighed, apologizing.

"I'm sorry about that... Those guys are always like that, well, not like the other ones aren't that different, always calling me names, bullying me... Even at my old age, they don't even respect me..." Ambil gritted his teeth, gripping his fists. "I might act all high and mighty but I'm... I'm just a loser that can't even make a sale..."

"Well, that's about to change." I smiled, patting his shoulder.

"Yep, leave it to us, gramps." Mark nodded.

"We're here to help you!" Lily smiled.

"Ah..." Ambil was about to cry, his eyes looked really teary right now. "S-Shut up! Why do you get all corny out of nowhere, you damn brats?! Now let's just go back home and have some dinner, I'm starving!"

He cleaned his face with his hands and started walking straight back home, trying to ignore us. But he seemed rather happy though.

"Oh well, let's have a meal with him and then let's log-off for today." I said, just before something strange happened.

FLAAAASH!

Shadows and darkness started spreading across the dark alleys where we were walking across, the sky above seemed to freeze, as we felt the presence of both miasma and nether spreading across...

"What's going on?!" Acorn cried. "Lady Achlys, is this your doing?"

"Eh?! Not at all! These shadows and darkness... feel much different than what I use!" Rita panicked as well. "Wait, what's going on over there?!"

"W-What?! Ugh! ARGH! Get off me you damn...!"

And Ambil, who was a few meters away from us, was suddenly wrapped on black tentacles, emerging right from the shadows! Everyone else seemed to slightly panic, as things were changing too fast! We were being ambushed!

"AMBIL!" I ran towards him, only to be stopped by the shadows themselves.

"Groooaarrgh!"

Dozens of humanoid-shaped figures emerged, made completely out of miasma, with creepy, sharp-fanged smiles, and spiraling red eyes!

They quickly started slowly walking towards us as we found ourselves completely surrounded by them, who seemed to be emerging almost endlessly from the darkness.

"Oh well, I made it here at long last..."

And a masked man emerged from the shadows, laughing. He revealed his right arm beneath his black cloak, it was completely pitch black, made of some sort of miasmatic substance, emanating a foul aura of malice, as black flames appeared from his arm, shaping into chains.

"Time to get rid of the uninvited guests."

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Chapter 708: Ambushed!

It felt as if we were trapped in some kind of domain, a different space separated from the city. When we finally realized what happened, it was too late, as countless of strange monsters, seemingly made of Miasma, materialized from the floor.

The black miasmic liquid constantly moved across the entire area, shapeshifting into more of these aberrant humanoid creatures. They resembled ugly versions of venom or carnage, sleek black gooey bodies, with a spiraling, red-colored eye in the middle of their face, and sharp fangs.

They didn't look like any other Miasmic Monster we've ever seen before; the Demon King of Miasma had died as he was, and whatever remained of his soul still remained as a fruit within my main body back home, I can still sense him sleeping and developing there into something new.

So it is impossible for him to have given birth to these beings, whatever created them was not him, but someone that managed to control a part of his powers, his cultists!

"AAARGH...! D-Dammit!"

Ambil struggled as he was wrapped in tentacles made of miasma, which were attempting to not capture him, but to kill him!

"AMBIL!"

I immediately ran to his help, with Gram and the Gaia's All-Purpose-Tool in both of my hands, shapeshifting the second into a long spear and imbuing my Spiritual Energy into it!

"Not so fast! Catch her!"

[The [Corrupted Miasmic Cultist Chimera: ???: Lv250] has summoned [Aberrant Miasmic Demons: Lv200]!]

[The Aberrant Miasmic Demons are empowered by the Cultists' very presence, their Stats all increase by +100%!]

The Cultist ordered, as dozens of Miasmic Aberrations ran to my side, roaring furiously. Their sharp claws slashing towards me, and unleashing waves of chaotic energies! And not only that, but their power also seemed to have doubled in just a second by his mere commands!

"[Divine Sword Slash]!"

I swung both of my swords at the same time as I activated the Divine Sword Slash Technique, a wave of spiritual energy and light emerged from my weapons, slashing through the monster's attacks, and reaching them, covering them on countless slashing wounds!

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

"GRYYAAGH!"

However, the beasts groaned monstrosly as they started to slowly regenerate from the enormous wounds, recombining their bodies together!

"[Infernal Blazing Phoenix Magic]: [Purgatory Blazing Feather Rain]!"

Suddenly, Mark descended from the skies on his Phoenix Form, spreading his wooden wings and unleashing a rain of hundreds of sharp wooden feathers covered on flames, constantly bombarding the regenerating beasts!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Flames from a phoenix spirit seemed to work surprisingly well!

"Go help Ambil, we'll take care of the mobs!" Mark roared.

"Okay!"

I nodded as I saw the rest of my friends confronting the beasts. Lily and Nieve were the second and third most active fighters, as Lily used her powerful Earth Magic and her newfound strength from her evolution plus her hammer to crush the beasts, while Nieve froze them with her magic and then sliced them into pieces with her rapier.

"[Yggdryad's Divine Spiritual Presence]!"

I activated several skills together with Yggdryad's Divine Spiritual Presence at the same time, my steps quickly beginning to change our surroundings as plants of all kinds began to grow rapidly, small trees, grass, flowers, herbs, and even mushrooms started to pop up with each step I gave towards Ambil.

The terrain slowly started to become my domain, as the Tiles were transforming into Spirit Forest Tiles, further activating my Skills as not only my stats, health, and mana regeneration speed increased, but this buff was also applied to my allies, although in a slightly weaker form.

FLAAASH!

"Don't get ahead of yourself!"

The single Cultist roared, suddenly rushing to my side, and moving his black-colored hands, which showed to have countless red eyes on them. Blazing phantasmal chains flew towards me, attempting to capture me!

"[Holy Ascent]!"

However, I responded with yet another technique, swinging Gram upwards on an arc-shaped fashion, a gigantic wave of holy light and spiritual energy emerged, slashing through the chains!

SLAAAASSH!

"UGH?!"

The Cultist seemed slightly taken aback by the strength of my attacks. This was because I had inherited the legacy of the heroes that had slain Demon Kings before. Therefore, it was easy to assume that the Heroic Sword Techniques were effective against them or any of their underlings!

BOOOOMMM!!!

The ascending attack also provoked an explosion of light, temporarily blinding him and forcing him to step back. For a Level 250 Cultist, he seemed strangely sloppy. Was he given some sort of artificial strength to be of such a high level?

Once I got past the cultist, I finally reached Ambil!

"Ugh...! D-Dammit!"

Ambil swung his hammer, imbuing it with his flames and barely fending off a few of the miasmic tentacles, but his entire body was already wrapped on them.

"Stand still!"

I gathered my Spiritual Energies and combined them with the plants within my terrain, expanding them into an enormous mass of nature.

"[Plant Absorption]! [Nature's Assimilation]!"

By combining these two Skills into one, I desperately wrapped Ambil's entire body with these plants. The plants moving on their own as I fused them with my body.

"[Spiritual Purification]!"

FLAAAASSSH!

Ding!

[You have combined your body with countless plants and spiritual energy, attempting to absorb the impurities and miasma infecting the body of Ambil!]

[The power of the [Spiritual Purification] Spell has fully manifested itself!]

[Miasma and Dark energies are being absorbed and purified through your entire body!]

[Warning! You're taking constant damage!]

[Your damage is being recovered rapidly thanks to several Skill Effects.]

"Ugh...! AARGH...!"

Ambil groaned in agony as his entire body started to glow bright gold. The roots and branches wrapping around his body quickly began to absorb the miasma, cleaning him until they were completely gone, shrieking in agony one last time before disappearing!

"Hahhh... Hahh... I-I did it! Ugh, this is the first time I do something so disgusting." I sighed in relief.

It felt as if my entire body was filled to the brim with a disgusting, bitter and goeey substance that constantly tried to burn and melt my insides.

"Ugh... W-What happened... Argh..." Ambil tried to stand up but immediately fell into his knees, he was too exhausted to even move.

"Stay where you are, Ambil, we'll protect you." I said. "[Spiritual Sacred Sanctuary]!"

FLAAAASSHH!!

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Chapter 709: A Desperate Battle

"You useless rats, stop wasting your time with them! Capture her! Don't let her take him away!"

The Cultist ordered the wave of endless miasma emerging from his own body, as an army of dozens of Aberrations ran towards us in that very moment!

However, I had just the right skill to protect Ambil from these critters!

"[Spiritual Sacred Sanctuary]!"

FLAAAASSHH!!

Ding!

[You have activated the [Spiritual Sacred Sanctuary] Skill!]

[A protective sanctuary made out of your own Mana and Spiritual Energy is protecting you and your friends from all damage.]

[However, MP and Spiritual Energy are being constantly consumed...]

"[Spiritual Infusion]!"

At the same time as the barriers were created, I manipulated Spiritual Energies flowing into my body from the Terrain surrounding me, alongside a dozen Lesser Spirits, fusing them into the barrier protecting Ambil.

FLASH!

Ding!

[You have strengthened the [Spiritual Sacred Sanctuary] protecting Ambil!]

[Durability and Defenses have increased by +250%!]

"GRYYYARGH!"

The Miasmatic Aberrations reached Ambil, attacking him with their claws. The reinforced barrier held off well enough, giving us the time to counterattack against these beasts.

"[Spirit Sword Fusion]!"

FLAAASH!

Gram glowed brightly, as I activated one of its Special Abilities, its aura erupted with countless colors, the radiant brilliance of spiritual energy encompassing my body as well.

[You have exchanged -1000 Durability to activate [Radiant Divine Spiritual Heroic Sword: Gram Freyja] Special Ability [Spiritual Heroic Sword Fusion]!]

[While the effect is activated, it is possible to unleash the powerful [Spiritual Heroic Sword Fusion Aura], which will increase all Spirit and Blade Skills Power and Effects by +300%, Increase All Stats by +30%, alongside allowing the user to summon [Spirit Sword Illusions] which have a high chance of increasing the strikes of the sword against a foe by 5 times!]

[Duration: 10 Minutes.]

"RAAAH!"

With a ferocious roar, I jumped towards the aberrant creatures, constantly swinging my sword as I activated several Heroic Sword Techniques on quick succession, this even allowed me to increase my stats even further through a special technique.

Ding!

[The Effects of the [Heroic Swordsmanship's Footwork] Technique have been activated, AGI and DEX have increased by +200%!]

By moving while constantly changing the stance of my weapon, I was able to channel the Blade Energies into my entire body, increasing my Agility and Dexterity through the roof!

"[Divine Sword Slash]!"

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

Dozens of slashing attacks descended upon the monsters, slicing through their miasmatic bodies, this time, each attack was multiplied into five, increasing the damage dealt tremendously!

CLASH! CLASH! CRAAASH!

"Gryyaargh!"

Several of the Miasmatic Aberrations gave out agonizing shrieks before their bodies were turned into ashes! However, more kept coming, surrounding me!

"[Dragon Spirit Summon]!"

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLAAASH!

My Dragon Heart glowed brightly as four draconic spirits emerged from within, the four dragons that we had battled back in the Dwarven Mountain materialized, with their semi-transparent and glowing bodies, representing their elemental affinities as spirits.

"ROOAARR!"

"SHAAAHH!"

"RUOORRR!"

"GRUOOHH!"

The Blue Dragon King, the Venomous Viper Drake Queen, the Red Dragon Queen, and the Cave Drake King emerged, their enormous bodies towering over the Miasmic Aberrations as their elemental attacks instantly started to push them back!

Explosive blazing breaths made of infernal flames, a shadow breath made of darkness, hundreds of spears made of crystalized poison, and swords composed of crystals and metals, their devastating attacks swiftly started to weaken our foes.

"Gryyyarrgghhh...!" One of the aberrations suddenly crawled towards me, its arms fusing together into a gigantic black and goopy hand, attempting to grab me with it!

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH! CRAAAASSH!!!

However, before I could react in time, a huge tail made of darkness and malice energies descended, crushing the entire beast several times until it was left completely torn to shreds!

"Phew, I almost didn't make it. Make sure to watch your back!"

Rita had saved me, as her magic had progressed into completely new forms. Her darkness now capable of transforming and summoning the parts of a dark dragon, having become a Draconian Elf might have been the reason behind such new magic powers.

"Yeah, I'll be careful!"

I quickly covered my body with several layers of spirit wood armor and golden Yggdragon Scales, as I ran towards the dozens of Aberrations to strike them down, while looking for the Cultist, wherever he was.

"[Yggdragon's Flames]!"

I summoned golden flames encompassing light, life, and nature within them, covering my two weapons as I unleashed a storm of slashing attacks, devastating five Aberrations who were incinerated into ashes!

"I guess they are still weak to my main element... Now where's the culprit behind this?!"

I kept looking around, slashing the beasts, until I finally noticed where he was. His figure standing above one of the houses nearby, glaring at us down.

He didn't seem all that motivated to fight us head-on, instead constantly summoning aberrations. Was he told to do this or is he doing it himself?

And why did they come to kill Ambil? I mean what can they even win from that? He hasn't done anything to anyone other than going into bankruptcy...

Unless they know of his connection with Hephaestus Divine Forge?!

"To think the Aberrations are not enough..." The Cultist spoke, his eyes glowing bright red. "[Miasmic Fusion]!"

FLUOOOSH!

He raised his strange hands as the endless wave of miasma started to converge together into a single sphere of goopy and deadly liquid, and then transforming into something larger.

Ding!

[The [Corrupted Miasmic Cultist Chimera: ????: Lv250] has activated the [Miasmic Fusion] Skill! By fusing large quantities of Miasma together, a Greater Miasmic Aberration has been summoned!]

CLAAASH!

The beast fell into the ground, its enormous body, of over twenty meters, overflowed with a black and dark purple aura, countless red eyes spread across its gooey existences, several heads popped up from its neck.

"GROOOAARRR!"

FLAAASH!

The beast instantly decided to target me, reaching me, and rising its enormous claws, swinging them down like a gigantic black hammer and striking with everything it had!

BAAAAMMM...!

"Ugh...!"

The impact alone was tremendous, the shockwave it produced forced me to step back, as I felt my entire body beginning to feel tremendous pain, the miasma had infiltrated my insides again, trying to eat me from the inside out.

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Chapter 710: The Cultist' Strange Powers

BAAAAMMM!!!

The impact alone sent down a shockwave of miasma that pierced through my barrier, shattering it in a single second as the miasma viciously attempted to infect my body!

"Ugh...! [Spirit Purification]! [Yggdragon's Flames]!"

I combined both spells at the same time, imbuing them into my body and beginning to quickly purify myself again. The terrain was constantly in a battle against the miasmic terrain, so my stat buffs and regeneration enhancements weren't there at all times.

And that's without taking into consideration that it was night, and there was no strong sunlight to help me photosynthesize and gain more stats easily. I have to rely on all my Skills and use them smartly!

"[Sunlight Spirit Call]!"

BAAM!

I hit the ground with my sword, now turned into a staff again, as a powerful wave of spiritual energy reached the depths of the underground, connecting to the many Dragon Veins surrounding us.

"GROOOAARRR!"

As the beast started running towards me, dozens of Sunlight Spirits materialized, surrounding my entire body, and absorbing my Mana and Spiritual Energies!

There were the small ones, the larger ones, and the biggest of them all, which were named Novas, overflowing with sunlight power!

The sunlight naturally feed off my body, increasing my stats and giving me an augmented regeneration of health and mana, good enough for my magic to become even stronger as a result.

"[Draconic Flare Explosion]!"

My entire body absorbed a few of the Sunlight Spirits as opened my jaws, gathering flames and sunlight energy and unleashing them into a devastating Yggdragon's Breath combined with the Flare Explosion Spell!

Both Golden Flames and Spirit Flames of Sunlight and Inferno combined together as one, generating a spiraling mass of flames, a gigantic beam that clashed against the Aberration of enormous size!

BOOOOMMMM!!!

"GRYYYYEEHH...!"

The beast shrieked in agony, suddenly, a third of its body completely disappeared, the rest of its body swiftly beginning to regenerate back as it grew countless more arms to catch me, swinging their sharp claws towards me, as if they were a dozen sharp knives.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CRAAASH!

I evaded the attacks and blocked them using my two weapons at once! I combined the powers of the Sunlight Spirits once more, now imbued into Gram and the Gaia's All-Purpose-Tool!

"[Spirit Infusion]!"

FLUOOOSH!

Gram suddenly gained a temporary change, transforming into a deep red weapon, with blazing decorations and several red jewels, overflowing with bright red flames.

Meanwhile, Gaia's All-Purpose-Tool turned into a giant blazing spear, which I quickly launched towards the Aberrant Miasmic Beast, piercing its chest with it!

CLAAAAASSSHH!!!

"GRYEEEEHHH...!"

FLUOOOOSH!

The flames erupted from the blazing spear, instantly setting ablaze the entire body of the beast. Without giving it much thought, I jumped into the air and flew using my fake fairy wings, harnessing my energies into Gram, and then unleashing yet another powerful strike!

"[Holy Ascent]!"

SLAAAAASSSSHHH!!!

I swung Gram with all my strength, an enormous eruption of light emerged from that very attack, consuming the entire body of the Aberration, and beginning to turn it into ashes, the ashes turned into nothingness, the monster now reduced into a tenth of what it was!

"GRYYEERGH...!"

"[Yggdragon's Blazing Claws]!"

One of my arms shapeshifted into a gigantic draconic arm, with huge claws and covered on golden scales, as I used them to slash and pierce through the small aberration, reducing it into nothing!

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

"These damn things are so tough to kill, they keep coming back..." I sighed in relief, as the Cultist's sharp red eyes were locked on me.

"I guess there's no helping it..." He sighed, suddenly jumping towards me. "I wanted to get rid of all of you without having to waste too much energy... I have to admit that such a thought was naïve. You're strong!"

At the same time as he confronted me, the Miasmatic Aberrations started to change, their forms taking a more beastly appearance, and growing in numbers, constantly overwhelming my friends!

They had not been able to help as much before because they had all their hands full fighting these monsters.

"Dammit, they keep multiplying!"

Acorn complained, as he had undergone his Divine Beast transformation, having turned into his Beast Form, and crushing against dozens of Miasmatic Beasts at once, that kept climbing over his body without end.

CLASH! CLASH! CRASH!

"Stay still!"

Brisingra appeared by his side, her magical powers awakening through the ability of the ring her mother left behind, as the powerful Magical Barrier that protected the Dwarven Kingdom was summoned around her, shaped into several hands, and clashing against the aberrations.

BAAM! BAAM! BAAAM!

"No matter how many we destroy, they keep appearing...!"

Nieve continued freezing and slashing through her opponents, often the weakened ones that Acorn and Brisingra left behind, her rapier techniques had become much better lately, combined with her amazingly strong magical powers made her pillar for our team's survival.

"Planta!"

"Ugh, if only these things stopped getting in our way!"

"Hang in there!"

Mark, Rita, and Lily were slowly making their way to my side, albeit by being constantly flooded by dozens of Aberrations of all shapes and sizes, that was becoming an increasingly difficult task.

"Do you think I'll let you get closer?! She and the man she's protecting are my prey." The Cultist laughed, manipulating the miasma he produced and encompassing us in an even smaller domain!

"Dammit!" Mark roared, hitting the barrier with his enormous fists, constantly trying to get through.

"The bastard's trying to take on her alone?!" Rita complained, spears of darkness constantly piercing the barrier.

"It's not budging!" Lily cried; her hammer was constantly hitting the barrier with all her strength.

"Who are you and what is your goal?!" I asked, imbuing Mana and Spiritual Energies into my weapons and armor. "Why would you ever want to kill Ambil? He hasn't done anything wrong to anybody!"

"Indeed..." The Cultist laughed, revealing to me his strange, monstrous arms again, as sharp claws grew from their fingers, overflowing with phantasmal and miasmatic energies. "But he is someone we need... Even if death, that'll suffice."

"Those powers... I can assume you're a Cultist of the Demon King of Miasma, right? But then what with the Nether?" I asked once more, the man gave me a single glance, and then smiled.

"We no longer serve anybody..." He laughed, leaping towards me.

CLAAAASSSH!