

Brand New 761

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

Chapter 761: Back To The Forge

Ding!

[You and your Party have defeated [Abandoned Chimera Aberrations: Lv180] x48!]

[You and your Party have defeated [Abandoned Failure of the Laboratory of Madness: Lv225] x1!]

[You earned 146.000.000 EXP!]

[Level Up!]

[Level Up!]

[Level Up!]

[Level Up!]

[Level Up!]

[Level Up!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 164 to Level 170/180!]

[All your Stats have increased. You Earned Bonus Stat Points and Skill Points.]

[Some Skills Have Leveled Up.]

[Due to completing a Hidden Dungeon and defeating a mighty Hidden Boss by showcasing your might as a World Boss, you've received Bonus Rewards.]

[You earned 15000 Community Points and 7500 World Boss Points.]

[You Have received a large quantity of Bonus Rewards due to having completed a Hidden Dungeon]

[You received: [Abandoned Failure of the Laboratory of Madness' Fragmented Body Parts (SS Grade)] x6 [Abandoned Failure of the Laboratory of Madness Eyes And Tentacles (SS Grade)] x15 [Crystalized Otherworldly Demonic Essence (S+ Grade)] x5 [Unique Potential Cubes (A Grade)] x30 [Unique Gear Enhancement Scroll (A Grade)] x30 [Greater Spirit Elixir (S Grade)] x3 [Heroic Strength Elixir (S Grade)] x3 [Legendary Potential Cube (S Grade)] x10 [Unique Gear Enhancement Scroll (A Grade)] x10 [Unique Gear Repair Scroll (A Grade)] x10 [Abandoned Failure of the Laboratory of Madness Themed Treasure Chest (SS Grade)] x1]

[Due to the Event Bonus Occurring, you've received 3000 Nether Coins.]

We got a lot of items as usual, and I gained six levels! All these items I received are usually distributed to all participants based in how much they helped.

For example, I got the max amount because I dealt the final blow and a lot of damage to the Boss, but someone like... I don't know, Brisingra, who apparently was the one that dealt the least damage, got 15 cubes instead of 30, Nieve got 17 cubes, and so on.

The themed treasure chest was only given to me though, looks like it has a low drop rate, or maybe its given to the person that finished off the boss.

Of course, they don't know much what to do with them yet, so they just save them inside their Inventories. These are all usually very rare enhancement items, so they might use them later on.

"I can't believe I got Potential Cubes out of defeating that monster." Brisingra was amazed. "These are ancient enhancement items! It is very hard to create them to begin with, not only you need to be an incredible Master Alchemist, but also the necessary and very rare materials for it. My Kingdom only had a few stored in the treasury, too precious to use."

"Well, keep them inside your Inventory for now and then you can see what you could do with them." I said. "Don't you have your own equipment and weapons? Once you've made the decision, you could use them on those items to make them even stronger."

"I'll be using mine soon! Lady Planta, is the commission done yet?" Acorn asked. He had commissioned me a new set of clothes and bracelets to enhance his physical power and magical conduction.

"Not yet! I haven't had the time to make them." I apologized. "I might get to it today now that we've got the rest of the day!"

"Yaaay!" Acorn celebrated.

"I-I also want something from milady!" Nieve protested. "How much should I pay?"

"Well, bring me some materials, maybe a few Gold Coins? I'll do it for cheap as long as you've got the core materials and the idea. Acorn already gave me most things." I explained to her.

Nieve was surprised I had already done such things with Acorn, she felt like she also wanted some custom-made equipment for herself.

Her equipment was already really good, I had improved on it from its original form by imbuing Spirits of Frost into them, but I guess she wanted something "newer".

"Okay, I'll think about it." Nieve nodded. "This city is big, I will buy materials and ask you again, Lady Planta.

"I'll be looking forward to it." I smiled.

"I got the arms!" Gandalf celebrated, interrupting our conversation. "I got them! I really got them! Now... Hm, what do I do with them anyways?"

"Don't tell me you wanted them so much but had no idea what to do with them?!" Angelina sighed. "Anyways, we were rewarded really nicely. So, to Ambil then!"

Like that, we made our way back to Ambil's workshop, where we found everyone working diligently at his side. Jenny, Anikitty, and Erdrich were working hard while Rita and Lily had just logged-in too.

"Hey, you guys are back! I heard you went to a hidden dungeon without us?!" Rita complained angrily. "I wanted some loot too!"

"Rita you have a lot of things inside your inventory you don't even use in anything! Everyone else wanted to get some action so I brought them along instead." I smiled. "Don't worry!"

"I honestly don't mind not participating." Lily said. "Working at the workshop is quite therapeutic. It calms me down and keeps me concentrated in what I must do."

"Ugh, I've been swallowing ores and turning them into ingots for a while now... And ingots into basic weapon shapes, my stomach feels all fuzzy and wobbly!" Jenny complained. "I need to eat something normal for once, metal tastes like shit."

"Okay, okay, don't get so mad now." I giggled. "Well done!"

"Nyaaah... I'm not made for this." Anikitty sighed. "So how it was?" She cleaned the sweat from her forehead. Her work looked quite messy, she had tried making knives and staffs but they looked terrible and had bad quality despite the high quality of the materials.

"Hmm, mixing the materials and ingots with my Undead and their Souls is quite interesting... I might study Blacksmithing further." Erdrich in the other case was enjoying himself. "Anyways, what happened?"

"A lot happened, we got through and defeated the hidden boss." Said Angelina. "It was... quite a surprise based on everything it could do. But hey, we got a lot of goodies too!"

"It was tiring... But look what I got" Gandalf then showed them the severed arms, Ambil screamed in horror.

"Why are you bringing shit like that to my forge?! Get out of here!" He screamed.

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Chapter 762: The King's Growing Interest

The King Of Luminous glanced his army of soldiers and knights practicing swordsmanship and exercising as usual this evening. Since he had reported that the Cult of the Demon King of Miasma was still existing, and that proof of their existence has been found, he had decided to spend his resources into strengthening the military strength of his Kingdom's capital.

Much like Elayne, as a Ruler of an enormous Kingdom, he possessed special abilities and privileges. Even though NPC cannot see the System in detail, they can know how high their level is, or how many Skills they possess, and with items such as Appraising Accessories, it is possible for them to see their entire Status on detail.

However, unlike Players, NPC are much more restricted on what they can customize once their Class is chosen. Most people of Arcadia begin classless, and can further advance into Beginners, which will then branch out into other Classes, unlike Players that can choose them right before starting.

Nonetheless, there are special cases, such as inherited skills or classes from strong or powerful bloodlines, or also... from titles such as royalty.

The King of Luminous, named Luminous after his father, grandfather, and grand grandfather, possessed such powers. The almighty Class [Luminous Kingdom's King] which was of the Heroic Rank and allowed

him to not only use several skills specialized for a ruler, but also to imitate in a way Elayne's Territory Management System.

This was also something King Dainn and Queen Titania possessed, through accumulating Community Points passively from all the things their Kingdoms produced or practiced, they could then activate their special skills, enhancing the growth of their warriors, the speed in which products are made, or even improving on the socioeconomic aspects, such as money duplication.

Although this later Skill was often forbidden, as it could alter the economy too much if too much money was produced where there was no value for this money to take.

However, one of the greatest sources of money of each respective Kingdoms ever since the entire world of Arcadia "changed" was their very Kings, producing Gold Coins based on the value and economy of their Kingdoms.

And what King Luminous was doing now was activating the special skill [Great Ruler's Training Decree], which enhanced the natural growth of stats of all his Kingdom's Military by +250% for the next 7 days.

He had to spend a lot of his Community Points for that, but it was a reasonable price to better improve the strength of his Kingdom.

He was watching in silence as they grew stronger, basic training was possible through the Kingdom's Castle Barracks, enhanced with special effects after he imbued them with Community Points years ago.

"To think this damned cult has been thriving right below my noses..." He thought, gritting his teeth.

"What I'm supposed to do now? They hide better than cockroaches. And I fear some of those within the noble families could be working with them! How do I even approach this situation?"

The Young King was unexperienced in all matter of such things and couldn't really think about a proper solution right now, other than strengthening his forces to protect his family.

Until his wife stepped in.

"Dear, David is looking for you again today." Camilla spoke, with her charming red eyes shining brightly.

"Ah, my dear Camilla..." The King sighed, hugging his wife, and giving her a kiss. "You're the only thing aside from our son that brightens my mood these days..."

"Fufu, I know it has been hard, but let's work on this together." She smiled. "Now, don't be lazy and go meet David, he has important matters to assess."

"Alright..." The King nodded, as he quickly put on the dignified mantle again, his weakness only shown to his beloved wife.

The young King reached the Throne hall, sitting on his throne, Camilla right next to him. Kneeling in there was Paladin David, alongside a couple of other Knights.

"My King, we've brought you good news." David said.

"Good news?" The King wondered. "What is it now?"

"Player Planta and her friends have found yet another Hidden Dungeon related with the Cult!" David said with a face filled with joy. "And above all, they have defeated the threats inside and have found many new clues."

"What? So soon?" The King was surprised. "It hasn't even been a whole day since the last time... And it's also the same woman. Hmmm... Bring her here, and her friends too. I need to speak with her and reward her too."

The King suddenly thought of a brilliant idea, if she was so good at it, why not leave the job to her?

He smiled as he rubbed his chin.

"A-Are you sure about this, my King?" Asked David. "But she's... You wouldn't mind that she and her friends are non-humans?"

"Of course I wouldn't mind those things." The King sighed. "Only ignorant people would ever care. Now, quickly bring them here."

"Y-Yes!" David nodded. "Let's go."

He led his group of knights as they made their way back to city.

"What are you planning with that woman?" Wondered Camilla. "Don't tell me! Are you planning on getting a second mistress? Am I not enough for you, my dear?"

"Camilla, that you're a Player doesn't mean I'll chase every other Player out there!" Sighed the King. "Also, I've told you plenty of times that you're the only woman I would ever love. I just thought that she's good at what she does. So how about ask her, with a Royal Decree, to aid us? I'll reward her handsomely as well."

"Well, I guess I should have expected that from my lazy husband." The Queen giggled, caressing his head with a motherly smile.

This always conquered the King's heart... Despite being someone so prestigious, the Queen always had him in the palm of her hands in that regard.

"L-Lazy?! Well! I'm just trying to do what I can! Don't tell me you're expecting a king to go out on the streets looking for thugs?" Sighed Luminous, holding her hand. "Although something like this... I might have never considered it if I hadn't meet you, my love. We used to have a huge stigma against Players, but I suppose it is my duty to fight against it now."

"I do not trust every Player either. Our communities tend to go on wars for every little thing, and we are stingy, greedy, and quite despicable sometimes." Camilla sighed. "But there are also some very good people out there. Planta... She's someone I've seen before; I think you'll realize she's very different. In a good way."

"I'm looking forward to that then." The King smiled. "If you say so, I suppose she might be as unique as you are. Hm, now that I think about it, where's Gustav at?"

"Our son? He's playing in the garden as usual-"

"Daddy, mommy! I found another bug!"

Their little son stepped into the throne room carrying a huge bug, interrupting his parent's talk.

"Gustav! Get that thing out of the throne room!" The King panicked, as the Queen playfully giggled.

"Eeh? But it's a big and shiny bug!" Gustav tried to show it to his father.

"Fufu, why are you scared of bugs, dear?" Giggled Camilla. "Gustav, bring it here, I want to take a look at it."

"Okay!"

"N-No! Gustav, enough!"

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Chapter 763: Invited By The King

(Planta's POV)

CLANK! CLANK! CLANK!

I focused all my mind and magic power into my forging hammer, smithing through the metal and slowly shaping it into a longsword.

Through the various techniques that the Hephaestus Successor Skills gave to me, I was able to instinctively learn where to use my hammer and how to shape the weapons.

Imbuing them with Spiritual Energy and using Lesser Spirits to make it easier was something I came out with, but that seemed to be the right call as well.

FLUOOSH!

I put the sword on the furnace one last time, shaping its form by using Spiritual Energy, and then wrapping its handle with my wood.

And then, using Nieve's icy water, I cooled it down and sharpened it.

Once the longsword was done, it shone with a beautiful silvery red luster, and had a rainbow-colored aura coming from it.

Yet another nice equipment done! I quickly put it aside, where there was a pile of another dozen weapons, armor, and equipment pieces. I had been crafting with my friends nonstop for the next three hours.

Although it seemed complex at first, I've learned to mass produce these items by doing it quickly, maintaining a regular level of quality. Of course, for better items I would need to take my sweet time, but this should be enough anyways.

Ding!

[You have crafted the [Fiery Bronze Spirit Longsword (C+ Rank)] Weapon!]

[You earned Bonus Skill Proficiency and EXP.]

[Congratulations! This is your 500th piece of equipment crafted with your very hands!]

[You gained the [Experienced Blacksmith] Title!]

[Intermediate Blacksmith]

Acquisition Conditions: Become a Blacksmith and Craft over 500 Items without failures.

Equip Bonus: +500 DEX, Created Item Quality Boost +60%, Item Creation Super Success Rate +20%, Bonus Enhancement Success Rate +20%.

A Title bestowed to surprisingly talented Blacksmiths who had not just forged a hundred items, but five hundred of them, and without any failures in between them either!

You've gained such experience that you can maintain a level of quality as you craft items at incredible speeds.

As long as your Class or Subclass is Blacksmith-type, these Title Bonuses are active at all times.

[An Amazing Feat! You gained +500 DEX]

"Oh nice, I got another Title!" I celebrated happily, quickly realizing my Dexterity increased by 500 and was over 5000 right now. "It sure feels like it! I think I could craft things even faster than before..."

Ding!

[The [Hephaestus' Blacksmithing: Lv2] and [Hephaestus' Smithing Hammer Techniques: Lv2] Skills have Leveled Up!]

[20 Skill Points have been discounted for each of their Levels.]

"Oh! Level 3 already? This was fast..."

As I smiled and felt proud of my hard work, Mark gently cleansed my sweat from my forehead with a handkerchief.

"You've been working nonstop since that Paladin guy showed up." He said. "Are you not tired?"

"Well a bit! Though right now I'm wondering if the King will have anything to say about this." I wondered. "Two Hidden Dungeons found in less than 24 hours should make him more interested, right?"

"I just hope he's not just some lazy King or something." Rita said. "He better try to do something to help us out!"

"Hm, I think so too." Lily nodded. "Ah, thank you for purchasing our products today too!" Lily waved her hand cutely as a group of Adventurers walked away with some new pieces of equipment.

Just as that happened, a dozen more Adventurers asked for equipment, making a huge line. Ambil had been working nonstop as well, finally sitting down, and taking a break.

"Yer doing a lot of things, are you not getting too tired of everything? From looking for ruffians, fighting monsters, and even working' here..." He sighed. "I mean, I appreciate the help and all but..."

"Don't mind it! Aside from goodwill, I'm also doing this to become worthy of the Divine Forge. We're getting close to the estimated money we need, right?" I asked.

"Y-Yes, in fact... I think we already made it..." He sighed. "Though I'll need to pay my debt at the bank first."

"Really? Already?!" Asked Acorn. "Well, that's nice!"

"I didn't even realized we sold so much..." I was surprised. "Well, we might continue working here anyways, it helps us develop our skills."

As he said, Ambil needed to first pay the debt in the bank of the Luminous Kingdom before the quest could be completed, so until then, it would be better to rank as much money selling our items as we can.

"Alright then! Let's exhaust all the material reserves and craft as much as we can to rank a lot of money and rewards at the Adventurer Guild, everyone!" I roared.

Nobody cheered along with me, they were exhausted... But after eating a few sandwiches I had prepared, and drinking some tea and fruit juice, we were back to work.

We spent the next hour selling everything without stopping, until we were completely out of both materials and equipment to sell. There were a couple of players and adventurers that came a bit too late, walking away empty-handed...

"Aw, are you kidding me? It's all out?"

"Ugh, I waited on the line for so long for nothing..."

"I've seen so many guys reselling the items at insane prices!"

"Dammit... Will you sell them tomorrow too?! Planta, please sell them tomorrow too!"

It seemed that my equipment has become a hot topic among the Player Community, a lot of people was coming here from faraway areas just to buy equipment from me.

Even people past Level 100 wanted the equipment I created. Even if it was rather underwhelming on rank, their stats, and their unique ability to unleash Spiritual Effects was very amazing, so everyone wanted them.

For example, weapons could unleash spiritual energy imbued strikes, or even channel the player's element too, making their attacks very potent.

Shields and armor could conjure spiritual barriers and elemental guards, helping against strong foes that used magic.

So, naturally, their actual price would be much higher than the price we were selling them for, making it an enormous bargain nobody could miss.

"We don't know for sure, sorry." I apologized.

"Aw... well you're so cute so its fine."

"I'm just glad I got to meet you!"

"I gave you Fame! Thank you for looking at my eyes!"

"She's so cute..."

"Please, excuse me." Suddenly a voice rang from behind the players, pushing them around.

A blonde paladin accompanied by a group of knights arrived in the scene, the Players glanced at the important NPC with eyes wide open.

"Wait, is that a Paladin from the Luminous Knights Order?!"

"N-No way, is Planta related with them?!"

"Argh, don't push me!"

As the Players made way, David arrived once more to the forge. As promised, he came back after telling the King about what we told him beforehand.

"Lady Planta, we're back! Good news, the King has invited you to a Royal Meeting!" Said David. "Also, the Queen just told me it will now become a Royal Banquet with several other Nobles! Please, come with your friends, you're all invited!"

"A-A Royal Banquet?!" I was shocked. "Really?"

The Players that were left around could only look in surprise as the NPC invited us to something they could only ever dream to attend...

"I knew that sticking with you was a good idea!" Angelina celebrated.

"She really brings good fortune." Gandalf laughed.

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Chapter 764: Royal Banquet

"Wait, I'm invited to this charade too?! Why me?!"

Ambil was complaining as everyone was getting ready to depart. The night was already coming closer, and Ambil was complaining angrily that he didn't wanted to come.

"David said it would be at nine, so we got a lot of time before that." I sighed. "Now, find some nice suit and get on it. Of course you're coming, not only we need to help you pay your debt, but I also want to restore your reputation among nobles. Your craftsmanship is unparalleled, yet you're not recognized at all! How's that a good thing?"

"That's because they're a bunch of shitheads hypocrites motherfuckers!" Ambil complained, he looked like a dumb kid like that.

"Hey, stop acting like a child!" Rita said. "This is important business; you're coming no matter what. Do you think we can leave you alone? You'll get hunted by the cult guys! You sound like a dumb man children, just man up for once and come with us, you're not going to die for that! Right? Or are you going to keep crying like a fucking sissy?"

"T-That's..." Ambil sighed, feeling defeated with those words. And that's considering Rita was holding back. "I-I... Urgh... But... Fine! Fine..."

He walked to his room to prepare. Meanwhile, Angelina and her group were coming along as well as all our NPC friends too, nobody was staying behind.

"Alright, while he's getting ready, we'll log off for an hour to have dinner." I said. "Acorn, I left you some stuff in the kitchen, you can cook something for Ambil and the rest?"

"Leave it to me! Your Cooking Spirits are always very helpful too!" He raised a sharp knife imbued with cooking spirits.

This was one of my special "Cooking Weapons" imbued with Cooking Spirits that make everything tastier, and even help the wielder cook with more proficiency and mastery, even when they had never cooked on their lives.

The kettle, and some other utensils were also made this way on my spare time and have become a whole cooking set.

"An hour then? We'll be waiting patiently." Said Nieve.

"Well, David said he'll come looking for us, so please come back quickly!" Brisingra said.

"We'll do." Angelina nodded.

"Yeah, don't worry. Anyways, let's go." I said, logging off with everyone else.

Once I logged off, I took off the helmet and walked to the kitchen with Mark, we were a bit dizzy after overexerting ourselves in-game, some of the mental exhaustion comes back to our real bodies after all.

"Hahh... I'm so tired, I never thought you would go for the five hundred pieces of equipment right away!" Laughed Mark. "You're really a fantastic gamer."

"I-I'm not doing it because it's a fun game though... Though all the gamey stuff is fun, I'm mostly doing it to prepare for the trial." I said, as I smiled back at him. "Remember what that Fire Spirit said?"

"Oh, right..." Mark said. "About a Trial before entering and becoming the owner of the Divine Forge, right? Yeah... Will you have to participate alone?"

"Most likely." I nodded. "It's not going to be easy, so I want to Level Up my Skills related to that as high as I can."

"Makes sense." Mark agreed. "They can't level up with just skill points?"

"It's a combination of both, using Skill Proficiency, and then Skill Points once their level is high enough." I explained.

"Interesting... I guess I do have some skills like those, can't level them up manually and need to practice using them constantly." Mark said. "Anyways, what should we cook today?"

"Hmm... Well, no more ordering food for now. Let's make something to celebrate Elena's date with Anna, shall we? The two should be getting here pretty soon." I said. "Monica, are you there?"

I walked to the empty room we gave to Monica, which had yet to be filled with more things, but there was a TV, a small night table, and her bed there.

She had brought most of the things from her home. That house still belonged to her, but she preferred living with us than alone in there, so she had been considering selling it.

"Hm? Ah..." Monica yawned, opening her eyes slowly. "S-Sorry, I was napping..."

"Were you tired from using magic?" I wondered.

"And doing so much exercise in the gym... I-I don't think I've ever done so much before." She sighed. "I-Is it late, auntie?"

"Quite so, come, help me out cooking dinner with Mark." I invited her.

"I'm not good at cooking... B-But I'll try to help in anything I can." She smiled gently, looking much better emotionally than before.

"That's good enough! Help me at cutting the onions. Let's make a tasty pasta." I smiled, petting her head.

"Pasta... I remember my mom used to make that a lot..." Monica sighed. "I think I can help, I used to cut the carrots..."

"Nice!" I celebrated.

Like that, we go to work. Monica helped cutting onions and carrots into little cubes. Mark cut the tomato into small bits and also the garlic, while I prepared the dough for the homemade pasta, using eggs, some water, and good quality flour.

Using the pasta making machine, I put the dough there and then it slowly turned them into long noodles. The water was boiling, with some salt and oil in there. And a bay leaf of course.

I quickly added the noodles as it started boiling, while the tomato sauce was also getting ready. I made sure to stir fry the ground meat, added what everyone cut down and left all their flavors and juices combine together until everything became soft and the meat was cooked.

Once that was done, I added some pasta water, salt, pepper, oregano, and a few other condiments, alongside a few meatballs too, to add extra meat. Naturally, I also added some tomato sauce I had bought in the supermarket, the one that comes in glass bottles.

"Smells good..." Mark said.

"Yeah..." Monica agreed.

And as we were waiting for things to get ready, the door opened, Elena and Anna arrived just in time!

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Chapter 765: A Mother And Daughter Talk

"Welcome back, dear! Anna!" I greeted them, turning off the fire for the pasta and the sauce as both were done by now.

"Hi mom." Elena greeted me, looking a bit tired, but she seemed clearly happy.

"Auntie Elayne!" Anna said. "Are you making noodles? Smells so good! Can I eat too?"

"Of course, I was waiting for you two to get back home." I giggled. "Come sit down, let's have a meal together."

We sat down as I happily served pasta to everyone, with some parmesan cheese of course. Everyone was really hungry, so we started eating right away.

As we ate, we talked about the game and what we've gone through mostly, my daughter and Anna were once more rather envious that we defeated a Hidden Boss again.

Though, what the Hidden Boss did... we didn't go into details with Mark for now. We'll need to do some of our own research before we are sure what just happened.

But I'm getting some ideas already, and I can confidently say it wasn't anything good. Whatever happened there, it is something very dangerous we have to neutralize before things become even worse.

The Cult... might not have the same objective as before. Hell, I think their objective might be much different than anything we could ever guess.

And that the Demon King of Death is helping them makes it even more ominous, especially because he hasn't made a move against us at all and is concentrating into helping them.

But well, I can think and discuss about it later, maybe on the Banquet.

"So did you had fun together?" I wondered with a giggle.

"W-Well... Yeah." Elena nodded while blushing.

"We're girlfriends now!" Anna said out of nowhere, making my daughter blush in shock.

"A-Anna! Why did you just said it out loud like that?!" Elena cried; she was melting on embarrassment.

Monica and Mark were slightly surprised by that, but Mark simply nodded, I had already told him about my daughter, so he was half-expecting this to happen like I did.

Monica was more shocked, covering her face in surprise. But she remained in silence. I suppose she didn't had much to say about it.

"Well, didn't you said your mom already knew about it?" Asked Anna. "S-So it doesn't matter, r-right?"

"I-I mean, that was still sudden but yes, I did know. And I was half-expecting this to happen." I giggled.

"I'm glad she finally confessed! Anna, I'm hoping you'll take good care of my daughter."

"S-Sure...!" Anna nodded. "I-I... Ah, this is embarrassing, yeah..." She quickly realized how embarrassing was the conversation.

"You started it..." Elena sighed. "A-Anyways, t-that's that! Let's just finish eating..."

"Heheh, I guess you're right." Anna giggled, giving her a kiss in her cheek.

Because of their embarrassment, and because I didn't wanted to intrude into their personal lives, I let them simply keep what happened a secret.

No good father would ever try to get involved into their children's personal lives, even less with their first ever girlfriend.

It's all up to them from now on... Of course, she can ask me about stuff, or tell me some things, but that'll be when we are alone.

The dinner went on flying by talking about anything. Anna and Elena were desperate to change the topic, so they were constantly talking about other things.

I just heard them out and sometimes commented, just feeling rather happy my daughter had found someone that loved her and that she loved back.

I hope their relationship lasts forever, and the two can be happy and grow into a lovely pair...

As a mother, the only thing I want is her happiness.

Once dinner was done, we helped Anna get back home on Mark's car, where we greeted her mom. It was now up to Anna to tell her mother about her sexuality and everything.

I might have become her friend, but I still feel like I have no rights to intrude into their personal life, nor try to help her mother understand.

For now, let's leave things go on their own... If there's any problem, I might try to help, but it's always better to respect other families personal space and issues.

Once back home, Mark said his goodbyes, as he decided to go back home and not stay for tonight... I wish he could, but he had job tomorrow.

"Take care honey." I gave him a big kiss on his soft lips before he went off. "See you in-game!"

"Yeah, I'll make sure to log-in soon." Mark said, as he quickly moved back home.

Monica was feeling sleepy, so after saying that she was happy for Elena and Anna's relationship, she went back to her room to sleep. Maybe tomorrow I'll help her get a magic circle.

"So? How was it?" I asked my daughter after we were finally alone. "Tell me! Please!"

"Geez, you really want to know?" She sighed, crossing her arms. "O-Okay, I'll tell you a bit..."

She said she couldn't find the courage to ask her about that, so Anna ended doing a lot of the heavy lifting in the entire process of asking her to become her girlfriend.

Both were really happy though, especially Anna, who had some sort of complex over her appearance, she often was called ugly back in high school, so she thought Elena didn't deserve her and all...

"Honestly she's a pretty cute girl, I don't understand why anybody would call her ugly... What's wrong with kids these times? Do they want a supermodel's appearance to be the norm or something?" I couldn't help but make a small rant.

"Right? Those shitheads are all full of crap!" Elena was quite unhinged when it came to her beloved Anna. "I'm glad I'm not going to see them ever again anyways... After cheering her up she finally felt much better. I'll have to tell her every day she's pretty so she doesn't feel bad."

"Hehehe, that sounds so cute! You better do then." I smiled. "I'm sure she'll feel much better if the girl she loves is always complimenting her."

"Y-Yeah, I guess..." Elena smiled gently. "Thank you mom, for... helping me on this."

"It's fine..." I said, giving her a hug. "If you have anything else you want me to help you out, just ask! Mommy's here for you."

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Chapter 766: You Didn't Really Need To Say That Joke

"Mommy's here for anything you need, so don't worry!" I hugged my daughter even tighter. "You can tell me anything you want and ask anything you want!"

"Uaagh! Mom! S-Stop it, you're too annoying now!" Elena quickly pushed me aside. "But okay, yeah... Thanks. A-Anyways, I'll go back to my room before you get cringier..."

"Cringier?!" I felt shocked. "E-Elena! Wait!"

But she left quicker than I could catch her! Dammit, this was the perfect opportunity to cuddle with her a bit and give her some kisses because I miss the days when she was a little baby that would always cuddle with me in bed...

"Oh well..." I sighed. "She's growing up faster than I can catch up with her sometimes, dear."

I caressed the picture of my husband with a slight smile, wondering how he would react if he knew what had happened right now.

"I'm sure you'll be just as happy as I am..."

...

After taking a warm and relaxing shower, I logged back in the game. I ended taking an hour and twenty minutes, but thankfully David wasn't here yet.

Everyone else had logged in by now, even Mark, so they were all just waiting for me... Oops.

"H-Hi! I'm back! S-Sorry about that, I was busy talking with my daughter." I giggled nervously. "You know, kids these days."

"Daughter?! You have a daughter, Planta?" Asked Angelina in surprise. "So you're a mom!"

"I can't believe you got time to be one of the game's best Players while having to deal with the responsibility of being a mother, nyah..." Anikitty was shocked. "I guess westerners are a different breed altogether." She was Japanese.

"Anyways, it's good that you're back." Gandalf said. "I do not have kids despite being probably older than you... I think that's actually quite the blessing in disguise."

"Have you attained magical powers by being virgin for over 30 years?" Asked Erdrich while laughing manically.

"Really? That joke from all of them?" Gandalf facepalmed.

"Her daughter is a nice girl, she's someone responsible and also a genius." Mark said. "Planta has raised her well, she's an excellent mother."

"Aww, you don't have to praise me so much." I giggled, as he hugged me with his big arms and as I gave him a few kisses over his wooden face.

"Oh my, do you two know each other IRL?" Wondered Anikitty, giggling.

"Yeah we're all friends IRL, didn't we told you before?" Rita could swear we did.

"I think so? Maybe they forgot." I shrugged. "Anyways! Is Ambil ready or not? Ambil! Where are you?"

"I-I'm here... Dammit..."

Ambil slowly walked out of his room, wearing a very elegant black suit, with a clean white shirt, and even a little black tie!

"Oh my! I never thought this old man could look this good!" Rita laughed. "You actually look like someone with some dignity for once."

"S-Shut up!" Ambil cried while feeling all embarrassed. "I-I'm doing my best, okay?! So don't make fun of me, you shiteads!"

"Nobody is making fun of you." Mark sighed. "Look I can't even wear proper clothes myself, so don't sweat the details." He was wearing a green tunic decorate with golden drawings resembling trees I had for him.

"Hahaha, me neither." Acorn was just wearing his casual clothes.

"My armor and dress will have to do, I'm a knight..." Nieve said. "I believe it shouldn't matter."

"A-Am I the only one that got into proper clothes?!" Ambil complained.

"I got into my fancy dress!" Said Brisingra. "Is that not proper?"

Rita, Lily, and I were also wearing fancy-looking dresses, although they were just our usual equipment anyways, we looked quite regal from the start.

"Then let's get going." I said. "Ambil, stop complaining, this is for your good. We're not doing this to make you suffer or something! I just want the best for you as someone that has inherited Hephaestus Legacy through your family. You have to think about your reputation and grasp the opportunities that appear in front of you. If you don't... you'll end up regretting it sooner or later." I sighed, recalling the many times I also lost great opportunities through my life.

"Ugh, fine... You don't have to get all dramatic about it." He crossed his arms. "So when is this brat of David coming here? I remember when he was just a little kid playing around the streets, he might not recognize me anymore but he sure has grown to be someone quite famous around town."

"He's an important Paladin, yes." I nodded. "He's quite a charming young man... But a bit naïve and childish I think."

"I don't like him..." Mark said with a serious tone of voice. Perhaps he thought that because of David's rather shameless flirting towards me...

"You don't like him because he keeps flirting with your girlfriend." Laughed Rita. "Just tell him that you're her boyfriend!"

"I-I mean, I... Well that's a bit embarrassing, but I should do so." Mark agreed.

"I'll stop him if he gets any further than that, but he's simply being quite nice." I said. "I'll tell him that though, don't worry, dear. That someone flirts with me, or likes me, doesn't mean I'll just look for someone else, nor that I'll stop loving you."

"I-I know... Sorry if it came out as toxic, that wasn't my intention..." Mark sighed, lowering his head.

"Hehe, it's fine, it was a bit cute." I giggled. "Don't worry and relax. You know that you're the only one I love, right?"

Well, I guess I still love my husband, but I doubt that's something good to say in this situation.

"I know... Sorry." He apologized again. "I'll try to be... friendly, I guess."

"Hahah, don't force yourself if you don't want to anyways." I shrugged, patting his big shoulders. "Oh, talking about the devil..."

A huge golden carriage made its way towards these rather poor streets, a bunch of people in shiny armor stepped out of it, alongside David.

"Lady Planta, I've come to pick you up and your friends!"

David finally arrived.

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Chapter 767: Joining The Banquet

We swiftly entered the carriage with everyone else and set off into the castle. David was rather delighted to see me, as usual. However, he was rather surprised we were bringing "an old man" with us.

"Excuse Lady Planta, but who is... this man?" David wondered, tilting his head.

"You damn brat! That you're a Paladin doesn't mean you should just forget about me!" Ambil angrily said. "I'm Ambil Ember, member of the Ember Family of Blacksmiths!"

"Ember Family?" David wondered. "Oh, that Family that was thought to have fallen long ago?"

"Fallen?! Last time I checked I was still alive and kicking..." Ambil sighed. "David, do you truly not remember me? You used to play around my forge when you were a kid! There was once a time you came knocking at my door to play inside the forge and made a huge mess once I let you in! Or the time you came to shamelessly ask me for money. Or when I gifted you your first sword!"

"E-Eh?!" David was shaken, suddenly opening his eyes wide. "U-Uncle?! It's really you?! Wow... How could I forget that?! But I don't remember you looking so old, sorry..."

"Argh, well I was younger back then..." Ambil sighed. "So? Apologize for treating me badly if you remember me!"

"R-Right! Sorry..." David sighed. "I just... Wow, very old memories just opened in my mind. It brings me such a strong sense of nostalgia too."

"Heh, well, whatever." Ambil crossed his arms. "You've gotten pretty famous nowadays... All that training you did back then seems to have paid you well. I remember you always showed up near the forge swinging that shabby wooden sword. Don't you remember when you told me that you were swinging that sword a thousand times every day? Though last time I checked you barely hit a hundred swings! Hahahaha!"

"T-That's... So embarrassing." David laughed a bit, scratching his head. "I didn't know Lady Planta and her friends were working in your forge, uncle. I thought it was just some random place they rented to craft and sell equipment."

"Of course it wasn't a random place!" Ambil laughed. "You dumb brat... Seeing you reach this high, I can't help but feel I'm quite proud of having helped ye, even if a lil' bit when you're an even smaller brat."

"Thanks..." David smiled gently; his eyes looked filled with emotions.

It was quite a big surprise to learn that David and Ambil knew each other years ago. David was a rather troublemaker kid back then, that always ran around and wandered the streets at a very young age.

Once he learned there was an uncle with a forge making weapons, he never stopped bothering him every day, Ambil ended growing fond of him because the brat, as annoying as he was, brought him company.

He even gifted him his very first real sword, and helped him a bit on his swordsmanship training, even buying materials from him wherever David hunted a monster outside the city, even if he didn't really needed the items.

After all, only people above 10 years old can register in the Adventurer Guild, so for a little while, David's only source of income to help his sickly mother was his uncle, Ambil.

"How's your mother?" Ambil wondered.

"Mother is fine." David nodded. "In these last years, she improved and seems to be able to do most of the things she could. She's living well in the noble district, where I bought a house for us."

"That's good to know." Ambil nodded, smiling a bit. "You worked hard to help her, you're someone admirable, you damn brat."

"Y-You're praising me too much now, hahaha." David felt embarrassed.

It was sure sweet to see how there were so many beautiful relationships even in this faraway city. People living their lives, their lives interconnecting with one another...

Even if I had never learned this world was real, I would have guessed it either way. All of this... It just feels so sweet and real.

"We're here." David said.

We went through several walls until we reached the garden right in front of the Luminous Kingdom's Capital Castle.

The beautiful castle was glistening with white painting and golden linings, the moonlight shining beautifully on its surface.

There were many other golden and silver carriages stationed in front of it, beautiful horses resting while their masters were walking inside the castle's open gates.

From there, I could hear the sound of a small orchestra, there was also the loud voices of many people talking and laughing.

Ding!

[You've arrived at the [Luminous Kingdom's Royal Castle]!]

[You've been invited by the King and the Queen to attend the Special [Royal Banquet] to discuss what you've found out recently, and to be rewarded for your great efforts.]

[In normal circumstances, you wouldn't be allowed to enter the Castle, congratulations!]

Even the System seemed to agree in that being invited here was sure quite an amazing opportunity... I guess this has happened before with Titania and Dainn, we always get invited to meet the Rulers after we do amazing things.

"Wow, this castle is sure huge compared to Queen Titania's and King Dainn's!" Rita said. "So cool! It truly feels like we're walking into a prestigious place. Look, all the noble guys over there!"

"There must be hundreds of them attending today's Banquet." Said Mark. "This is a bit worrisome... With so many people around..."

"Don't worry about it, Sir Titan, our Knights Order will be there watching everything, there will be maximum security!" David said proudly.

"If you say so..." Mark still seemed a bit concerned.

"What are you waiting for, let's get in already!" Lily ran into the gates.

"W-Wait! Don't go so fast!" Acorn ran behind her.

"This is such a huge place!" Brisingra giggled.

"Milady, let's go." Even Nieve seemed excited, even though she was doing her best to hide her excitement.

"Hehe, okay, okay, calm down a bit." I giggled, walking inside the castle with everyone else.

Once we got in, we were greeted by the beautiful sight of the castle's interior, finely decorated with all sorts of paintings, statues and more.

And of course, a huge Banquet, with... many nobles staring at us in surprise.

Ugh... This isn't going to be easy, isn't it?

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Chapter 768: Banquet Hall

We entered the Banquet Hall to be greeted by hundreds of nobles giving us strange stares. Some were simply curious, others were not hiding their disgust from our appearances, and a few seemed to be frowning really angrily at us, as if we've offended their entire family by just existing.

"Well? What are you staring at?!" Rita asked angrily, staring daggers at several nobles. Her rowdy attitude made them recoil, several of them stepped back in fear.

"How rude, how could you address nobility in such a manner?"

"Who invited these beasts here?! Bring them out of here immediately!"

"Disgusting non-humans!"

They were certainly worse than I could have ever imagined. Then again, Rita was the one that started fighting against them for just being glared at. Typical thug girl behavior. She hasn't changed since high school.

"Ahem." David stepped in before things were to get a bit heated. "These are our guests for today, and the very reason this banquet was hosted, dear nobles. They are Lady Planta's party, who have exterminated several cultists and discovered two hidden dungeons within our country. They're nothing less but heroes. The king himself has called them to reward them for their efforts and feats."

"Huh?"

"Is that so?"

"W-Well..."

The nobles quickly fell into silence, most feeling embarrassed about what they had just spoken about seconds ago. I suppose that having a Paladin with us in this time was really the right call.

It seemed that David, as a Paladin, was highly respected and trusted even by other nobles. Although their annoying eyes were still glaring at us as if we were freaks.

But I should have known what we were getting into when we accepted the invitation, especially because the King decided to turn it into a Banquet instead of just a private meeting.

Perhaps so he could let the nobles know us and recognize us as well.

"Well, this started with the wrong foot." Mark sighed. "Anyways, we should just sit around and wait for the King to show up for now, I think."

"Yeah." I agreed. "Let's just chill and act s just chill for a bit... Rita."

I glared at Rita, who was about to fight with someone again.

"Okay, okay...!" She sighed, crossing her arms.

With that done, we tried to enjoy the banquet's food at the very least. Although no nobles ever wanted to speak with us, so we mostly had ourselves to enjoy the place.

"Well at the very least the food is not half bad." Rita said, stuffing herself with little cupcakes. "Hey, you, bring me more wine." She called a butler.

"Y-Yes..." The butler brought her a whole new bottle, leaving it at her side. Rita quickly opened it and started drinking it from the bottle...

"Phew! I love this, I can drink myself to death here without any repercussions." She laughed heartily.

"I don't know if there are no repercussions... But I guess you're not wrong in that we can eat and drink whatever." I laughed, sipping some wine myself. It was quite good; it had a strong flavor with an aromatic scent that made you feel in the clouds. "Hmmm~"

Also there were little toasted slices of bread covered on roasted meat, shrimp, and potato salad, and an arrangement of many different and colorful sauces from this world.

"Yummy! I can't stop eating these!" Acorn was devouring a large bowl of toasted nuts decorated with colorful candy.

"H-Hey, Acorn, don't eat them all!" Nieve said, she was also enjoying them, but the little squirrel was leaving none for anybody.

"Human food is certainly in the lighter side compared to my country's meals." Brisingra analyzed. "We would usually accompany every meal with copious amounts of roasted meat, potatoes, and cheese. But everything here is just on the smaller side, even the meat are just small little steaks." She was enjoying it, nevertheless. "I was always so tired of my home's food, it felt like my father was trying to fatten me."

"Honestly, I kind of liked the dwarven cuisine over this one." Mark laughed. "The larger portions fit my body better... I can barely taste anything when it is so small." He was barely able to pick things with his huge fingers and place them on his large wooden maw.

"I can feed you if you want dear." I smiled, climbing him and sitting on his shoulder. "Here." I gave him a cupcake.

"T-Thanks." He felt embarrassed. "Ah, maybe I should try to reduce my size? I've never tried going below my base form..."

"Hm? Have you tried?" I wondered. "Well, why not? Your power over your body should be advanced enough I think."

"Right..." Mark nodded, quickly beginning to concentrate.

To shapeshift our wood-made bodies, we channel both mana and spiritual energy into them, making the wood change form, either growing larger or smaller.

It takes some concentration and mastery, and apparently not many players have managed to deal with this problem, this is why races like us or slimes are so rare, people can't get used to their bodies.

However, we are quite unique in that regard, we adapted very quickly to them, as if they always belonged to us, and we were able to shape them as we desired.

Well, Mark took a longer time to get used to it as he said, but since the beginning that I and Jenny had been able to shape and mold our forms as we desired without any complications.

Crack... CRACK!

The sound of Titan's body cracking and reducing its size echoed everywhere, his form slowly taking shape as his Spiritual Energy helped him remodel it as he pleased.

FLAAASH!

Suddenly, several nobles glanced at the scene, his huge and bulky form becoming much smaller, only around thirty centimeters taller than his human appearance.

And his skin... also became clear white, and soft, imitating the skin I can produce on this body as well. His face was as handsome as his real body, and his hair... was long, and made of wooden branches and roots, his muscular body frame, covered by blazing runes made him look like an ancient god.

And as he transformed, I ended falling on his arms.

"There, you almost fell, haha." He giggled.

His embrace felt warmer than before, and even more personal...

"Elayne?"

I couldn't speak, I was blushing as I caressed his big and muscular chest.

He's so hot!

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Chapter 769: Titan's New Form

"Elayne?" He wondered, looking at me while raising an eyebrow. "What's wrong? Is this form weird? Ah, the hair is weird, right? I couldn't quite imitate how you make your hair, though yours is still mixed with plants and flowers. It's really pretty..." He caressed my hair as he held me with his arms.

"Uwaah, you're so cool sometimes, Mark..." I sighed. "But I'm fine! I was just admiring how handsome my boyfriend can be sometimes..." I stepped out of his arms.

"A-Ahahaha... Don't say that out loud, it's embarrassing..." He started giggling innocently, blushing.

A lot of the noble ladies around us began staring at Mark with eyes wide open. Well, in a similar fashion to some of the men when they saw us.

"S-Such a big stud...!"

"I didn't know that big creature could be such a handsome man.

"W-Wait... Was he that handsome?!"

"His Aura, like a God of masculinity... Ungh~"

Some ladies were even biting their lips as they glanced at him! I was shocked... I guess they do agree he's really hot. But begone! He's mine.

"What are you even saying?!"

"Mom?!"

"You're my mistress, stop staring at another man's abs!"

Several fat and ugly noble men complained to their mothers or wives as they saw them lusting for my boyfriend...

It was honestly a hilarious sight.

"Wow I'm definitely digging that new look!" Said Jenny. "Though the other look was also quite unique."

"I'll think about keeping this form or not, but to fight, I definitely need a bigger bulk." He admitted. "But if Elayne likes it, I don't mind staying like this."

"I-I love it!" Admitted instantly.

"I-Is that so?" Mark felt even more embarrassed.

"Well, well, aren't you two quite the lovey doveys." Ambil interrupted us. "I did know there was something going on between the two of you, but Planta, is Titan your husband or something?"

"I-I mean, I wouldn't say we are that far...!" I laughed nervously.

"W-We're just boyfriends for now..." Mark laughed nervously too.

"Hmmm, for someone that seemed so clueless about everything, you seem to have a lot of things going on for you, huh?" Ambil looked at me.

"H-Huh? So... S-Sir Titan is Planta's... I see..." David had overheard the conversation, mumbling to himself behind Ambil.

"What? Did you have a crush on the lady or something?" Laughed Ambil. "She's already evidently taken, brat! Don't be dumb. I bet there are many other ladies interested in you." He patted the young paladin's back.

"I-I didn't know this... Ugh, now I feel bad." David sighed. "I-I apologize, I had no idea Lady Planta...!"

"Don't worry, it's alright, David." I smiled gently. "Don't think about it too much."

"Just don't act all flirty with her again." Mark said with a rather menacing look, crossing his muscular arms. "You heard me?"

"Y-Yes..." Nodded David. "I'm sorry..."

"Hahaha, you guys are so funny." Lily was giggling in the back. "There's never a moment of boredom when I'm with everyone! Heheh."

"Lady Lily..." David sighed, suddenly his eyes lighted. "D-Do you have a boyfriend too?!"

"Huh? No?" Lily smiled back. "Why?"

"A-Ah, nothing..." David said nervously.

Wait, I see... So the reason why he seems to ignore girls his age is because he's into older ladies... Is he a cougar hunter? I guess Lily is next on the list. This is a bit hilarious, because it might actually work.

"I never thought NPCs could fall for Players." Said Angelina. "But then again, everything is so realistic, I suppose it makes some sense?" She wondered, drinking some whiskey, she looked gorgeous in her gold dress, white heels, and her blonde hair tied into a ponytail.

She was the one everyone was watching constantly aside from me... Both males and females at that. Her figure and appearance, and her beautiful wings made her look like an angel.

And well, she technically was one. She had already had many nobles approach her, some flirting with her, others asking her if those wings were real.

"Well, you've been quite the victim of that right now." Anikitty giggled. "I'm a bit jealous... Everyone thinks I'm a kid, so nobody had come to flirt with me nyah!"

"Well you act like a kid too." Erdrich nodded.

"What did ya say nyah?!" Anikitty started scratching his face with her claws.

"Aaargh! Let me go you cat woman!" Erdrich and Anikitty had rather cute interactions together.

"Hehe, it certainly is flattering." Angelina giggled. "Planta, so your name's Elayne? I overheard it from Titan."

"A-Ah yes... And Achlys is Rita, I guess you've heard me saying that name a lot." I laughed a bit.

"Name's Mark." Titan said. "I guess it doesn't matter revealing our true names, we're good friends by now."

"Y-Yeah! My name is Angelina too, so I guess you always knew it, ahah." Angelina giggled innocently.

"Was it?! Oh my gosh, it's actually rather common to find people with their real name as their player's name..." I laughed a bit. "But I doubt your friends' real names are those..."

"Ah, no, but I guess they could say them now, right?" Angelina asked.

"I guess so, I don't mind... My name's Han." Said Erdrich.

"My name is Hinata!" Anikitty puffed her chest. "Yeah, yeah, like that Naruto character... It's a fairly common Japanese name, you know?"

"I'm Hendrick." Said Gandalf. "Anyways, knowing our real names doesn't matter much, no? We don't even know each other IRL... But I guess it's a thing to reinforce our bonds of trust or whatever?"

"Don't be so cold, Gandalf." Said Angelina. "Ah, I guess that name fits you better..."

"Yeah, yeah, just call us by our nicknames, we're too used to them by this point." Laughed Anikitty.

"I agree. I'm more of a necromancer than a real human at this point." Said Erdrich. "...Just joking by the way."

"Huh, you guys are sure strange..." Jenny said, munching on a huge roasted chicken leg. "Anyways, what's- Oh, is that the King coming here?"

Suddenly, the banquet's orchestra was interrupted as a man wearing a golden crown stepped forwards.

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Chapter 770: The King And The Queen Of The Luminous Kingdom

"The King arrived." David spoke, stepping forwards and kneeling before him. "My King, I'm glad you've made it in time."

"Ah, David, yes, sorry for being too late." The King said. "Hello everyone, is the banquet to your liking? Among these darker times, I wanted to create a happy atmosphere so we could relax, there has been a lot of work lately."

Surprisingly, the King of such a Kingdom was rather lax on his way of speaking. His appearance seemed youthful too, not older than thirty years of age. He had golden blonde hair and sharp blue eyes.

Accompanying him was a lady with long and silky silver hair, and sharp crimson eyes, wearing a gorgeous silver dress, she had a small crown over her head.

It must be Queen Camilla, I think.

Both came accompanied by a child too, which was silently walking by the side of his mother, with blonde hair and red eyes. The boy was curiously glancing everywhere in silence. He seemed well behaved.

"Your Majesty."

The nobles all paid respect despite how lax he talked, bowing down to him. Except us, we didn't bow down, he wasn't our King after all.

"You can stand up." He said, glancing at the nobles and then giving at us. "You must be Planta, isn't it? And these your companions, right?" He slowly walked towards us.

He was a rather tall and well-built man, yet he carried himself with elegance akin to a young lad.

His youthful face carried a handsome smile and relaxed eyes, but I could see that there was something deeper within his gaze.

A ruler in the making, for sure.

"Yes, your majesty." I nodded. "And these are all my friends. Titan, Achlys, Lily, Jenny, Brisingra, Nieve, Acorn, Angelina, Gandalf, Anikitty, Erdrich, and Ambil."

"My name is King Luminous." He said. "But I suppose you must already know my name; it is nice to meet the heroes of my nation. This is my beloved queen, Camilla. Like you, she is a Player. And his is our beloved son, Gustav."

"It is nice to meet you guys." Camilla smiled. "I knew that Players had something to do with this, but to see people of this world as well, it is a pleasure to see both of our factions working together wonderfully."

"Indeed." King Luminous said.

"Wait... Player?!" All of us ended reacting like that after we started to think what we had just heard.

"Fufu, it is a bit surprising, right? But things are just like that. Despite our differences, our love broke through all barriers." Camilla smiled. "I-I hope you don't find it odd, seeing you've befriended many of the people of this beautiful world."

"Indeed." The King nodded. "Camilla to my Kingdom many years ago and saved us from a great menace. Despite her appearance of a delicate lady, she's incredibly strong."

"Fufu, dear, you're flattering me too much, you're also quite strong." Camilla giggled. "Gustav? Are you not going to talk to the guests? They're Players like mommy and you."

"E-Erm... Hi..." Gustav said, timidly.

"W-Wait- Ahem, I mean..." I was still shocked, thinking about everything. "Gustav is...?"

"He's the child between an inhabitant of this world and a player, yes." Camilla nodded. "He was born blessed with the abilities of a Player while being an inhabitant of Arcadia. Isn't it incredible? To think I gave birth to such a beautiful little angel." She gently kissed her son's cheeks.

"M-Mom! You're embarrassing me...!" Gustav complained.

This meant that the King of the Luminous Kingdom had married a Player?! And that's possible? I guess... I suppose it should be possible, yeah, but the System puts so many restrictions on people that it is a bit hard to consider.

I suppose Camilla somehow played in a way that allowed her to grow closer to the people, similarly to me. I guess I could hypothetically reach something similar with an Arcadia's inhabitant, if I wanted, not like I want though. I already have Mark.

But still, this is amazing... And she even had a child? So it is possible for our Avatars to even become pregnant and give birth! And not only that, but her son is also special.

He probably holds a similar authority than the honorary player titles my friends have.

It was all shocking nonetheless, and they seem so lovely together. I suppose the System lifts off limits as the Player and the inhabitant grow closer.

Well, after all, it works by consent. I do remember seeing a lot of other Players that get parties of NPC with them, and didn't Rita said her son had like three NPC girlfriends?

I suppose the most shocking thing is that a Player can get pregnant.

But when our body disappears as we log-off, how does that work? Where would the baby go? It's all... filled with mystery.

And she said... that she came here a couple of years ago? Their child seems to be at least eight years old despite how shy he looks.

That means she has been in here for at least eight years.

But BNLO... has only been active for three years, counting the Beta Testing Year where only a couple of Players played it.

This is... weird.

Who is Camilla really?

If she's a Player then it shouldn't be hard to check her basic Player Information, right?

[Player Name]: [Camilla]

[Gender]: [Female]

[Title]: [Queen of the Luminous Kingdom]

[Guild]: [None]

[Guild Alliance]: [None]

[Fame]: [217]

[Race]: [Arcane Human: Lv280/300]

[Job Class]: [Blood Sorceress Queen: Lv280/300]

[This Player has already been registered as your Friend.]

Huh? She's already my friend? Her status seems quite... normal? I can't see anything weird with it. Arcane Humans are a usual type of human evolution for mages, and... Blood Magicians are interesting but nothing rare either, they're effective against monsters.

But she's... my friend? I don't remember ever adding someone like her, nor meeting her either! This is weird... It feels like I'm forgetting about something.

"Planta, I assume you've already seen my Status." Suddenly, Camilla's voice echoed inside of my mind.

"Dear, it would be convenient for the two of us if you didn't say who I truly am to my husband..."

"Huh?!" Suddenly, I finally remembered. "B-Black Haze?!"

Camilla simply smiled and nodded.

WHAT?!