

SPELLCRAFT 421

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Chapter 421: Hugo

>SHWUUUUUSHHH<

In the blink of an eye, we teleported away from where we were at the Elf Capital.

Space warped and our distance with the Western Border closed in a flash.

Appearing out of the distortion in the air, I looked at both sides to observe the reaction of the Elven beauties.

"W-whoahhh... it feels so amazing! Do it again!" That was, of course, Lemi's response to the wonderful effects of Space Magic.

I felt a warmth permeate my heart.

'Is this what fathers feel when they show their kids something cool? I'm so happy right now!' My warm smile didn't cease as I watched Lemi's cute face.

The fact that she was clueless about my love was a bit hurtful, but her obliviousness had its cute side.

"Ahh, I just can't get used to this," Freya murmured, looking around her.

She seemed to be in an awfully terrible mood. While I understood that she felt threatened by Lemi's presence, or was probably jealous of the way I was focusing on her cousin, there was nothing I could do about it.

Freya liked me, but I didn't feel the same—or rather, I couldn't.

From my experience with women, they tended not to take a sincere 'No, I'm not interested' well.

If I rejected her now, the results would be unpredictable—but definitely devastating. Since I still needed to be on good terms with the Elves, and Freya was a very important member of her race, I couldn't exactly push her away now.

At the same time, I was also intent on giving any sign that I was interested. Hopefully, she would get the hint and lose interest in me quickly.

"Whoah... i-is that them? They're a lot!" Lemi exclaimed, looking at the landscape beyond us.

We were currently levitating, a good distance from the ground, and marching steadily in our direction were our enemies.

I could see the earth tremble, and a terrible chill filled the air.

Waves of Miasma ascended the skies, causing it to appear dark and stormy.

"Don't worry. You guys are safe with me." I pulled both girls closer.

"Eeeep!" Squeaky sounds leaked out of both of them, but it was probably from fear.

'As long as I'm here, nothing will happen to them.' I smiled, somewhat finding it cute that my daughter was shaking in my arms.

As for Freya, it wouldn't be good to neglect her.

The trauma she experienced with the Demon Beasts when I first met her seemed to be manifesting as she was also shaking while in my grasp.

She seemed to be mumbling some things, but it was probably to calm herself.

'It'll be inconvenient fighting with them by my side. So, why don't I just do this instead...'

Instantly, a large Magic Circle appeared on the ground directly underneath me, and I summoned something from my special storage space.

"Look closely, Lemi. You too, Freya. I'll show you guys what a Golem is useful for."

After practicing many things, there was one field of Magic that I took special care not to neglect.

Construct Magic.

I used it to create various models of Golems and Automatons.

While I was fond of using Automatons quite often—and even succeeded in creating a masterpiece—Golems were pretty fun too.

Since I was the one giving them commands and controlling them remotely, it almost felt like a game.

And so, before I realized it, I ended up making the Ultimate Golem.

"W-whoah! What's that thing? It's easily sixty meters high!"

"A-amazing!"

Yes, it was very massive.

"Hugo. Activate."

Instantly, the hulking being that appeared from the Magic Circle whirred to life.

It was colored black and white—having a smooth bodily structure.

I used only the best of minerals and ores to construct this Golem, so it had a flawless body.

Having a giant humanoid figure, a blade strapped to its back, two blasters locked on both hips, and several other gears located inward and outward, it was the perfect machine.

This Golem stood at the pinnacle of Magic Engineering.

That was Hugo for you—the ultimate Golem.

"Let's go inside." I tightly grabbed both girls and made my way toward the open contraption in the massive Golem's head.

"W-what?!"

"We're inside the thing?"

Both Elves shrieked in surprise, looking at the foreign area with both surprise and amazement.

"You guys should sit anywhere." I smiled, loosening my grip on them.

The control room in Hugo's head was similar to a mini house

Having several ores inside to serve as sources of illumination, there was even a relaxation center in the form of a lounge

However, that wasn't the main spot.

I walked ahead of the girls, and they followed after me almost as soon as I ventured forward.

After passing through a small corridor, we arrived at the Command Center.

There was a total of five chairs present, but two were located at the forefront.

Before us was a screen that displayed everything that went on outside through the highly powered lens of my Golem.

It could zoom in, zoom out, focus, target, home in, and do several other things.

'I really went all out with this thing.' I gave myself a secret thumbs up.

I sat on the chair at the center, and both girls chose the seats that were closest to me.

We were automatically strapped in as we sat. The belts were sturdy and comfortable, so it wasn't a bother.

"Huu... display controls," I said, and suddenly, a board full of tons of buttons and levers popped from underneath.

The table was a command board that controlled the Golem from within.

'I can control Hugo without this. I don't even need to be in this room to do that...'

But, the reason I still chose this method was simple.

"Lemi. Freya. Want to have some fun?"

I was with guests, after all.

With these buttons, one could make Hugo do whatever they desired, but I didn't plan on taking all the fun for myself.

Both girls easily caught my drift and nodded energetically. It pleased me that they were also in the mood.

From the screen, I spotted the flabbergasted army of the Demons. Compared to Hugo, they looked awfully small.

Their expressions also showed the kind of despair I liked the most.

"Now, then... what shall we try first?"

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Chapter 422: A General's Worry

A wide array of choices were displayed before us.

Buttons of various colors, signifying different functions were waiting to be used.

I looked at the two girls, eager and waiting for me to tell them when and how to start.

"Okay, I guess I'll run you through what to do."

I glanced and spotted the Demon General who was still staring at my huge Golem with shock and fright written on his face.

He had come too far to back down at this point, and even if he did, there would only be a harsh consequence for failure.

Death would be merciful in comparison.

"Well, why don't I teach you the basics." Seeing that my opponent couldn't run anywhere, I could take my time to tutor the girls a little on how to control such a sophisticated construct.

"This could take a while."

How long had he been standing there? Darik had no idea.

He was too busy shaking in his boots to count the moments he spent in fear and anxiety.

Having a rather stout and muscular figure, Darik resembled a turtle with quite a shell and scaly appendages.

Rather than flabby arms, though, he had rather muscular ones.

His shell also had spikes sticking out, and his green-colored skin was one of the hardest of this race.

Despite being a powerful member of the Demon Society—as well as the leader of the thousand Demon Beasts behind him—Darik couldn't make a single move.

The Demon General's gaze had been on one single location for longer than he could count—the massive Golem that was in front of him.

'J-just what is that...?'

Darik, unlike his colleagues among the Nine Stars, knew how weak he was.

He was well aware of his limits in the Demon Society, and he had no intention of changing his position in the status quo.

He was neither too strong nor too weak.

He had managed to claw his way to the rank of Demon General and had no intention of going further than that.

For him, his rank was just a necessary measure for survival.

Respect was awarded to the strong in his society, and since he had achieved quite a high position, he was guaranteed a good life.

Perhaps that was why he slacked off most of the time.

'I don't need anything more than this.' That was his philosophy.

Even when they were to be deployed to invade enemy land, he had been sent to the weakest location—the Western Border of the Elf Kingdom.

Darik had been pleased beyond words—happy to simply slack off and execute his duties with as minimal effort as possible.

That was what he was expecting.

"B-but, what the hell is this...?" The rat-like Demon squeaked in the presence of a true giant.

After locking gazes with the massive Golem for so long, locked in a standstill, Darik finally decided on the next course of action.

'Maybe... maybe we should advance...?'

As he thought this, the Golem whirred to life, causing his entire body to jump in shock.

"Hiyeeeeee!!!"

The Golem's left leg moved, raised higher than Darok could see beyond. It seemed like the ray of the sun was blocked by that single leg raise.

Then, a thought popped into his mind as he marveled at the 60-meter plus Golem.

'S-shit... it's gonna crush us?!'

If the monstrosity before him so wished, it could crush quite a number of Demon Beasts with a single stomp.

However—

>BOOOM<

—It seemed Darik's worries were for nothing.

The left leg returned to the ground, causing the earth to shake for a bit.

Then—

"Hiyeeeeee!!!"

—The right leg moved this time.

It was possible that they just missed, but there was no way an opponent as powerful as the one he was facing could be so careless.

'Would I be able to survive such a blast?' Darik wasn't so sure.

It was a 50/50 chance, but wasn't the type to take risks.

'Ngh... what should I do?'

The Demon Beasts behind him would mindlessly obey his commands, so he could simply send a few of them to test the waters.

'But, I don't want to provoke it...'

Stuck in this endless loop of deliberation, Darik finally got to the end of the tunnel.

And so, he made his choice.

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Chapter 423: Mission Failed Successfully

'We're at war. They probably won't spare me, anyway.'

The end of the tunnel was very bleak.

'I should just give it my all and try to survive.' That was the only way Darik could escape this situation.

For the first time in his life, he would be giving it everything he had.

'Maybe I'll be able to overcome this situation...'

It is said that an individual is capable of bringing out an immense amount of power when confronted with an impossible situation.

This power surpassed their usual limits, and for a moment, they unlock an even greater ability—allowing them to surpass their normal capabilities.

Darik had previously considered that as nothing but a load of crap.

But now, he believed in that concept with every ounce of his body. No, he had no choice but to do just that.

'I can bring out more power than I think...'

Delving further into his delusions, the Demon General stared at the Golem which was at a current standstill for some reason.

Now was his chance.

"I'll do it! Right here and now, I'll push myself beyond anything I've ever done."

The Demon Beasts with him were nothing more than fodder.

If he utilized his Original Magic and condensed his defensive Magic to its very peak, then he would definitely be able to break through the Golem's defenses—further allowing him to destroy its Core.

Without a Core, a Golem was useless!

"Alright, I've got this!" He growled, knowing that any failure on his part would be devastating beyond repair.

>VWUUUUUMMMMM<

Miasma coursed through his body, condensing beyond anything he had ever tried before.

Before long, his body became an intense Miasma Generator.

The spikes on Darik's body grew beyond its regular size and his size increased as well. As though his bulging muscles weren't large enough, they further swelled in size.

The greater the Miasma intensity, the more powerful he got.

It was a simple, yet highly effective Magic Ability he possessed.

Still, he had never focused his Miasma this much before.

It felt somewhat exhilarating—breaking through the normal bounds he had grown comfortable in.

'I can still do it! Faster. Stronger. Deeper. I can concentrate the Miasma more!'

Realizing he had far more room for growth than he expected, the Demon General grinned as his power kept rising beyond his expectations.

As a stroke of luck, the Golem was still motionless, so he had time to keep pushing himself.

"More! More!! More!!!"

Yes, right there and then, Darik had only one thought coursing through his mind.

"I will... surpass my... limi—"

A missile descended upon him and his immediate surroundings with lightning speed, faster than his thoughts could process—much less his lips could complete the sentence he was about to make.

>BOOMMMMM!!!<

Instantly, everything around Darik was enveloped in white light, breaking down the surroundings into nothing but specks of dust.

The eruption vaporized everyone and anything in its path.

The Demon Beasts vanished within the brilliant dome of white light, disappearing into nothingness.

And, unfortunately for the Demon General, he soon followed.

Without being able to utter his final statement or bring it to actualization, Darik was completely immersed in the white light that baptized everything in its destruction.

The entire Demon Forces were obliterated in an instant.

Just like that, the battle was over.

"Why did you press that button? Come on, it's the Nuke function!"

At this point, I was losing my patience with these girls.

I had planned on taking things slow by teaching them the basics of movement and stuff, and initially, things were working out splendidly.

But... Lemi just to be impulsive and activate a missile on her own.

She saw a blinking red light and pressed it—rookie mistake.

The sea roared as it absorbed the blast, so I forgave her for her indiscretions.

Even though she was 400 Years, and wasn't supposed to be making such mistakes, I let it go.

I even halted the Golem and decided to teach them the basics again.

The goal was for us to have fun by toying with the Demon Forces that made the mistake of invading the Elf Kingdom.

But that all went to smoke when Freya mistook another button's function for whatever and nuked our opponents.

She basically ruined the game.

'What was the point of everything?' I murmured, finally realizing how much of a handful these Elves were.

"This is what happens when you let kids use adult toys..." I made the mistake of leaking out my thoughts.

For a moment, everyone froze. Yep, even I realized it after saying it.

'Something about my statement didn't sound right...'

Unfortunately, before I could find out what it was, both Elves burst out in protest.

"I'm not a kid!"

"I'm way older than you, show some respect!"

"You're not even an adult yet!"

"You're a bad teacher!"

I learned two horrible lessons at that moment.

One was to never refer to Elves as children. And I mean, never!

The second was even more profound. It was a revelation that I would forever remember.

"We can even lactate already!"

"Yeah! Don't look down on us cus we look young, you know!"

Yep, that was something I never learned from Emilia in my past life.

Though the information was unnecessary... I did appreciate new knowledge.

"Want to see?"

Practical experience was more valuable as well. But—

"..."

—Watching two Elves bring out milk from their chests while watching a devastated landscape within my sacred Golem just didn't seem right.

"I think... I'll pass."

In the end, timing was everything.

As regrettable as it was, there was no way I could indulge in research at such a point in time.

'It's a shame, though...'

After a brief moment of uncomfortable silence, I decided to take the most reasonable approach.

There was still time to spare, and it wouldn't be nice to end things now that I summoned this big boy.

"Well, should we have another round?"

Both Elves were surprised by my proposal, but quickly jumped at the opportunity and responded positively.

"Okay. I'll give you both one final chance. Let's take it from the top."

'Hopefully, nothing gets nuked this time...'

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Chapter 424: Zenkiel's Defeat

After a somewhat enjoyable experience with the two Elves, we finally returned to the Elf Capital.

As expected, the landscape didn't seem to take too well to our little experiments. Fortunately, I was able to somehow reverse the effects with my Original Magic—though it cost an ample sum of Mana.

When I was done, I returned Hugo to my storage space and teleported myself and the girls to the Palace.

Once I dropped them off, I also had to fetch the other group. They were also done with their end by the time I arrived.

According to the murmurs all around me, it seemed only Serah was enough to decimate all of them.

However, as I instructed, everyone at least participated in the battle and they achieved an overwhelming victory.

I was pleased to hear that.

"Now, then... shall we return?"

Once again, the important leaders gathered in a conference hall and discuss matters pertaining to the just concluded strike.

My eyes observed everyone around, and I smiled slightly when it reached a particular someone.

'So, he went and did it, eh?'

I was glad that certain people were predictable in their actions.

Usually, when a person discovers an enemy among allies, the most logical course is to flush them out.

But, I would rather manipulate said mole to perform certain actions that would prove beneficial to me.

'Damien Lawcroft is performing his role well.' I smiled, turning my gaze to others as we began our conference.

The main topic was what we were going to do from henceforth.

"Do not worry. There's going to be quite a bit of time before the Demons are able to invade us. I estimate another week or more."

Even though it was plenty of time for me, the Elves seemed shocked by the short span they had to work with.

For a Race that wasn't geared toward violence and wars, it was a hard pill to swallow.

"Do not worry, though. Within this short while, I also intend to be hard at work."

It was finally time to publicly announce to the Elves—as well as seek their aid—about my plans going forward.

"I wish to bring the other Races into this Alliance—just as in the past."

Aurora was silent for a while, lowering her head a bit, as though considering the matter.

"Hmm. I see what you're getting at. It would indeed be easier if we have more Allies."

I was glad Aurora was on the same page as I was.

"We should start with the Fairies, and then make our way to the Therianthropes." I also further explained that Dwarves would be last.

After laying out my rationale, the Elf Queen nodded in agreement.

At this point, we needed all the help we could get. Besides, Aurora must have found out that it was useless to argue against anything I said.

It was my efforts that brought us this far, and almost everyone in the room trusted me enough already.

"Well, then, we should begin preparations to travel to the Fairy Kingdom."

After all, time was of the essence.

But, even as I spoke to my allies, the image of our enemies entered my mind—especially the one whom I just bested in a game of wits.

'It would be nice for me to see your facial reaction right now... Zenkiel.'

"DAMMMNIIT!!!" The Demon Lord growled as he cursed.

As Commander-In-Chief, he was meant to show composure at all times, but the seething emotions within him couldn't allow him to contain his dissatisfaction.

'I observed all the battles, and... what the hell is this??!' Zenkiel was fraught with inexplicable feelings.

Anger. Frustration. Confusion. Worry. And most especially... FEAR!

"Shit. I just expended four thousand Demon Beasts... and what did I gain?"

The truth was that Zenkiel wasn't exactly interested in the survival of the troops he sent.

By observing them with Magic, he would be able to obtain whatever information he desired from their advancement. His goal was simple—measuring the capabilities of the other Races.

But, after seeing the way they had all perished, Zenkiel had a single thought.

'They're too strong!'

For the Eastern Kingdom, merely a few individuals could handle his Demon Generals and Demon Beasts.

He had to work with the assumption that they weren't the only ones capable of such feats.

The Elf Kingdom incidents were even worse.

'Just what was that Golem?' Zenkiel murmured, worried by how much firepower it packed.

He was a Demon Lord, so that level of destruction wouldn't kill him. Still, he wasn't sure about coming out unscathed.

Those who were controlling the Golem didn't even seem to take the probes as threats.

Even after the Demon Beasts and his General were killed, the Golem kept practicing various things.

It was as though his army had only served as fodder for them.

Things weren't better at their Northern Border too.

Sure, he expected more resistance since it was the most fortified stronghold of the Elves. However, Zenkiel never expected the resistance to be so great.

With only a few individuals spamming Spells of Mass Destruction, the entire area was flattened in no time.

It was inconceivable, but reality made the Demon Lord realize just how formidable his enemies were.

The worst part of everything was that his army was only able to advance a small distance from their starting point. They were destroyed before going any further.

'Damn it!' At this point, he could call his probe venture a failure.

He couldn't estimate the strength of the enemies—which was the whole point of the four-pronged assault.

Not only did he not catch them off-guard, but not even a single casualty came from the enemy side.

"What do I tell His Majesty, the Demon King?"

The loss of some fodder was inconsequential, but Zenkiel had used up 4,000 of them. Even if there were plenty more Demon Beasts in stock—even more powerful than the ones he utilized, it was still a fact that he had just wasted a good number of pawns.

'And yet, I failed miserably...'

Zenkiel did learn a thing or two from the whole incident, though.

"The Humans have allied with the Elves, after all."

Unfortunately, that wasn't all.

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Chapter 425: To The Land Of Fairies [Pt 1]

'There's someone brilliant among them. He saw through my plans.'

Zenkiel was now certain of it.

Even though they had done their best to ensure the Humans and Elves were too occupied with their simultaneous problems, so they didn't form an Alliance, that objective was thwarted.

That was when things started spiraling downhill.

After the Western Border of the Humans, and the Eastern Border of the Elves were completely purged of their Demon Beasts, the two Races must have made contact.

Still, Zenkiel had wanted to believe it was all coincidence.

After the recently failed probe, though, he received his answer.

"They have a brilliant strategist. He saw through those attacks, didn't he? The problem is how exactly he was able to predict my moves?"

Zenkiel hadn't also been expecting Teleportation Magic to be at work. That meant the Elves had advanced in Magic more than he previously surmised.

'King Abellion is right. If we leave these people for much longer... our very existence is threatened.'

Zenkiel's major concern was the strategist of the Enemy Forces. If only he could find out what was going on on his end, he would be able to plan accordingly.

'How will that be possible, though...'

"C-commander!" Zenkiel's subordinate swiftly entered the tent where he was all alone in, bowing instantly.

"What's the matter, Lakyus?" He asked.

Despite the Demon's submissive personality to him, he was still a member of the Nine Stars.

He resembled a Dragon, having a scar on his face, and several black tattoos to match his green scales.

The darkness in his eyes, as well as the immense Miasma swirling within him, attested to his strength.

This Demon General—Lakyus—was the most powerful within Zenkiel's Nine Stars.

"W-well, a human is here... in the War Camp."

"E-eh...?"

Zenkiel was surprised beyond measure. What was a human doing here?

They were currently stationed at the border of the Northern Continent—stationed closer to the Elf territory than the Human one.

It was madness to assume that a single one had managed to cross over—and even appeared amid the encampment of the Demon Forces.

"He says he's not an enemy—that he is well acquainted with Legris Damien."

Zenkiel knew Legris Damien, the human. He was a human who aided the Demons.

If not for the support of his organization, then perhaps their plans for war would have been postponed by another few years—maybe more.

But, it wasn't like they operated on charity. In exchange for the help the organization rendered, the Demons had to give a huge chunk of the Miasma harvested from their generator.

It was a give-and-take relationship.

"The human also says he's with 'the organization.' He says you'll understand."

'So, he's with them, eh?' The very fact that the human was aware of the connection between the Demons and those people meant he was indeed in the loop.

The question was how deeply acquainted he was.

"Did you restrain him?" Zenkiel asked, looking at Lakyus.

"N-no. Much to my shame, that human is stronger than I am. None of the Generals also stand a chance. We could definitely defeat him if we teamed up and brought him down with our numbers, but..."

"No. There's no need to go that far."

Zenkiel decided to trust in the man's words. Besides, if it was true that an emissary was coming had indeed come from the organization, then it would be rude to treat him in such a manner.

"Did he give you his name?"

Other than the human called Legris Damien, Zenkiel also knew one other member of the Organization called Kido.

"He calls himself Damien Lawcroft—10th Seat of the Organization."

"I see..." Zenkiel did not need to ponder on his next course of action.

If a member came personally, that meant that it was something important.

Legris Damien had been unavailable for some time now, so this one was probably sent as a replacement.

'They should inform us of these things first, though...' Zenkiel sighed a bit, remembering how abrupt the change between Kido and Legris had been.

"Take him to a reception area. I'll be with you shortly."

Lakyus bowed upon hearing the words of his superior, and the skittered off to carry out the command.

"Huu. Very well then. I might as well see what this is all about."

At the very least, perhaps it would serve as a distraction from the dread that was assailing him.

'The next Grand Demon Assembly is tomorrow...'

All the other Demon Lords would be there—in the presence of King Abellion himself.

Zenkiel gulped after considering his failure. The other Demon Lords would probably take this chance to usurp his position.

They were comrades, but that didn't mean the others wouldn't seize turn on him if given the chance.

Everyone only had unadulterated loyalty toward their King.

'... Let's hope I can get some good results before then.'

With that fleeting thought, Zenkiel decided to leave his tent and see the man who came to visit him.

He could only wonder why.

"Alright. Looks like everyone is set."

It was the following morning, and our little group of diplomats was prepared to begin our journey to the Fairy Kingdom.

Of course, we wouldn't be venturing there with our Envoy team alone.

"We don't want to keep our other members waiting."

The people before me nodded with resolve and excitement.

Serah Crimson

Bradford Levyfield.

Maria Helmsworth

Damien Lawcroft

Fabian Indiavel

Counting myself, that made us a group of six. Ivan Smith wouldn't be following us on this mission.

The reason came as a surprise to me too.

"Jared... I don't think I'll be going for the Fairy Expedition!" He had told me yesterday, just after we concluded the conference.

"Hm? Why?" My response contained hints of surprise.

I was sure Ivan had been feeling inadequate in many ways after seeing so many crazy things. Still, I didn't expect him to simply give up on exploring the world and finding ways to improve.

For a moment, I was nearly disappointed.

"I-I want to remain here." He finally blurted out.

And then, Ivan told me his reason.

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Chapter 426: To The Land Of Fairies [Pt 2]

"I-I want to remain here." He finally blurted out.

More surprise came over me, wondering if the Elven beauties finally got to my thick-skulled friend.

But, after Ivan told me his reason, I realized I was the unserious one.

Apparently, Clara—General of the Elf Kingdom Forces—had a Bond Magic Beast who belonged to the same kind of 'Principality' Class as Ivan's Familiar.

The General had noticed this when she saw him fight in their combined assault and pointed it out.

And so, the Clara offered to help him in his quest to grow stronger.

"I want to take her up on her offer. I know I'm being selfish and impudent, but—"

"It's fine, Ivan. You've finally found an opportunity for growth, right?"

How could I, in good conscience, stand in the way of that?

"Y-yeah..." He had replied me, still feeling slightly guilty for his pursuit of power.

It was unnecessary—though I was glad that he thought his role as an Envoy was also important.

'He's a loyal comrade.'

"Do what you must, Ivan. But know this... you must become stronger than ever when next we meet. That's the penance you must pay for ditching us." My lips curved to form a smile.

Ivan got emotional easily—was what I noticed yesterday.

"Yes! I promise to get much much stronger!"

Since that was what he wanted, I allowed it.

As a result, our group was one member short. But, I wasn't overly concerned anyway.

Ivan's role in the group was practically vague. It was good that he found what he wanted to do amid everything.

Besides, we were going to be getting two new members for our Expedition.

Yep, as expected, it was Freya and Lemi.

'I want Lemi to come with me so I can teach her more about her new abilities, but what about Freya?'

As Princess, her presence was necessary—or so she said.

"It's rude to wish to visit Fairy Royalty without Royalty on our end." The Elf Princess added.

What she said was a load of crap, considering the Fairies didn't care about that in the slightest.

'Let's not drag this matter on...' I finally conceded to her clamour.

Either way, her participation was unavoidable. As a result, our group of six increased to eight.

"Welp, let's get going, shall we?"

The journey didn't take up to five seconds, thanks to my Teleportation Magic.

Thanks to my Automatons, who had practically surveilled the entire Western Continent at this point, I was able to easily locate and transport my comrades to the borders of the Elf Kingdom in the South.

What blocked our path was a massive wall of trees.

The large sea of green shrubs, undergrowth, and plump trunks made it seem like an impenetrable fortress.

A closer inspection of the trees also made it appear as though they were alive.

'Creepy...'

Still, I was glad nothing had changed from my memories.

"What now?" A voice came from beside me.

My skin nearly jumped because I could sense the amount of energy coming from the one who spoke.

"It's in the way. Should I just tear it down?"

'Heck no! Are you crazy?' I thought, but didn't dare to say.

Serah Crimson was a fearsome woman, so I had to use the best choice of words when dealing with her.

Especially after observing her fight with Aurora.

'Why are women such a handful?'

"I'll take it from here." Freya smiled, stepping away from our group.

Her steps were light and gentle, and she moved in the direction of the thick forest walls.

"Where do you think you're going?" Called out Serah.

She looked perplexed by the Elf's sudden action.

I smiled slightly, looking at the expression of the others with me.

Bradford was still recoiling from the fact that his closest confidant—Ivan—was not coming with us. As for Fabian and Damien, they were uncharacteristically silent.

After being relieved of his position as leader, Fabian had become nothing more than an extra.

As for Damien, well... his case was a little more interesting.

Maria looked the same, though she smiled occasionally when we locked eyes. I returned her smile too.

'We've been talking a lot more, after that night...'

I realized Maria was more interesting than she appeared, which made me want to talk to her more.

'After this whole thing, we should host a get-together and have an extensive talk.'

Yeah, that would be for the best!

In any case, other than Freya, it seemed only Lemi and I knew what was going on right now.

"I'm going to request an audience." The Elf Princess responded to Serah's earlier question.

The barrier before us was no ordinary cluster of trees.

It was actually made using Magic Technology. Unlike the Elves, Fairies were not averse to Magic Innovations. In fact, they embraced it.

Evidence of this was how we were able to convince the Fairy King in the past thanks to the innovations I offered in exchange for assistance.

For a Fairy like Jane Ursula to have existed, it meant their society welcomed Magic Research with open arms.

As for the cluster of trees, it was a simple automated defense system.

While it appeared to be trees, the thick constructs before us were artificially produced.

Using special ores and dense materials, the Fairies created this large forest.

Added automated functions and Magic conductivity so they could control the trees freely, this entire area could serve several functions—from absolute defense to utter annihilation.

Each tree contained so much sophisticated tech and weapons of mass destruction—and were also overflowing with Mana.

If anyone were to attempt an assault, the System's danger sensory functions would kick in and counter the force of the assault with an even greater one.

Most aggressors would end up dead as a result.

'Well, not that anyone is stupid enough to attack them head-on.' I smiled wryly.

"I am Freya Vindiel, First Princess of the Elf Kingdom. Please grant us entry into your sanctuary." The girl raised her voice as she spoke.

For a moment, nothing happened.

However, that only lasted for a few seconds at most.

>DING!<

A sound rang out, and something like a board appeared in front of us.

[System Recognition]

<Successfully Recognizes the Target>

[Target: Freya Vindiel]

~You have been granted entry into the Sanctuary. Other guests should state their identity and wait for recognition.~

[Thank You For Your Patience]

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Chapter 427: The Fairy Sanctuary [Pt 1]

[System Recognition]

<Successfully Recognizes the Target>

[Target: Lemi Vindiel]

~You have been granted entry into the Sanctuary. Other guests should state their identity and wait for recognition.~

[Thank You For Your Patience]

As I was still reading what was written on the System Board, slithering sounds filled the air.

>SHWIISSHHHHHH<

The trees began drifting apart, like large snakes with bloated bellies, they made a path for the recognized guest to traverse.

"I'll explain the situation to them once I get in. You should all just wait here."

"I understand. Thank you, Lemi."

The Half Elf smiled, nodding positively as she ventured into the small path created for her.

After some time, when her figure could no longer be seen, the trees closed back.

'Well, try your best for us, Lemi.' I smiled.

This was the reason why I required the assistance of the Elves when dealing with their Fairy neighbors.

'This makes things easier...'

The Fairy System is efficient, so we didn't need to wait for very long.

Either that was the case, or Lemi had a special relationship with the people here.

'She did say she was acquainted with the Royalty here...'

The trees opened up for all of us and we entered without much difficulty.

It felt weird, passing through humongous trees that could close in and crush us at any moment, but I kept my cool.

Maria clinged close to me, and I ensured to wrap my arms around her to calm her down. She must have sensed the density of Mana that each of the trees possessed.

'Poor girl. She must be overwhelmed...'

I was lucky not to have been able to sense Mana in my past life, so my comrades were even more afraid than I was when we wanted an Alliance back then.

Freya also seemed familiar with the surroundings, so she moved comfortably. Everyone else treaded carefully, though.

Lemi was the one who was most carefree among everyone. She was very much acquainted with this place, after all.

After helping her out with the Miasma Poisoning, I made sure to converse with the girl often—much to Freya's dissatisfaction.

She told me quite a few things, including the fact that she visited the Fairy Kingdom very frequently.

'That must be where she got the bright idea to dive into Research and Tech.' I smiled.

It didn't take us very long to reach the other end of the forest. The moment we did so, the huge wall of vines returned to their clustered state.

None of us turned back to see this happen, though.

We were more enamoured by the landscape before us.

"W-whaohh..."

"I've never seen anything like this before."

"A-amazing!"

"Incredible!"

"Unbelievable!"

"H-how is this even...!"

Cries and bellows of disbelief sprang up from everyone. It felt like I was among country bumpkins who were just arriving at the city for the first time.

'You guys are embarrassing me...' I nearly murmured.

But, how could I blame them? After all, compared to anything they had seen in the past, this was the most amazing metropolis anyone could lay eyes on.

For one, there were no such things as solid ground, or even a visible sky.

The entire city was enclosed in a very massive dome.

But, did it feel clustered or constructive in the slightest? No way!

Every building we laid eyes on was luxuriously built, all having glimmers of Mana around them.

They also floated in midair—every single structure.

Floating boards served as platforms for those who didn't want to fly—or couldn't.

Though, in a nation of Fairies, such a person didn't exist—so only the former utilized the boards.

The floating boards used for transporting people or goods from one destination to the other.

There were several floating System Windows like the one we witnessed before entering the Elf City—and they displayed various things.

Some were adverts utilized by stores, while others displayed news or entertainment.

Designated lines existed for the floating boards, so the routes each Floating Board took were organized.

The chances of an accident occurring as a result of a crash between two boards were nonexistent.

Brilliant lights illuminated the city with multiple colors, giving it an aesthetic glow. Everything was perfect—a truly modern city.

'So much has improved since I last came here...'

The Floating Boards were new, and the fact that they now utilized their System Interface to advertise or entertain passengers or workers as they went on their activities.

The System was only used for important news and security in the past.

The buildings now looked more modern, and there were quite a few more structures I didn't recognize.

In short, it was a new and refreshing experience for me.

We were in a transparent building when we entered the Fairy Kingdom, so we could see the brilliant sights around us—though we hadn't officially entered yet.

'Looks like we still have to go through an Immigration Officer...'

The System checked everything just fine, so there was no problem with security.

The major reason why an Officer had to be dispatched was so guests—especially first timers like us—would get accustomed to the new place we just arrived in without freaking out.

The Officer would run us through the important things to note concerning the Sanctuary, as well as serve as our guide for whatever we wanted to do.

Their existence also prevented the perpetration of illegal activities by newcomers.

The Fairy Society operated in an efficient manner which ensured that the peace and tranquility of the denizens.

It was a literal sanctuary.

"Welcome to the Sanctuary, everyone—also known as the Fairy Republic." A voice appeared from behind us.

The gawking members of my groups sharply turned and saw a denizen of the City. It could be the first time they would see one so close.

"My name is Lu. I'll be aiding you on your visit today." The Fairy bowed slightly.

Everyone awkwardly did the same, still completely flustered by his appearance.

'Lu, uh? I've definitely seen him before. Wasn't he a Researcher back then? He looks different too...' I made sure to suppress my surprise as I bowed as well.

As everyone raised their heads, the young-looking Fairy smiled warmly—displaying a charming radiance.

"It's a pleasure to meet you all."

[A/N]

Sorry for the errors

Will be corrected soon

[**SPELLCRAFT: Reincarnation Of A Magic Scholar**](#)

Chapter 428: The Fairy Sanctuary [Pt 2]

Fairies had small statures.

The biggest among them was probably as tall as an adult man's head.

However, according to what I learned from Jane Ursula—one of my most trusted friends—they weren't always like that.

Apparently, the Fairies were the ones who intentionally reduced their size so they could feel more comfortable in the limited land they possessed.

With their smaller figures, it would certainly feel like their city was bigger than it really was.

Their size was beneficial, which was why they chose to remain that way.

However, to people seeing them for the first time—like our team of delegates—they couldn't help but stare quizzically.

"I know I have quite the small size, but it's rude to stare so much." The Fairy called Lu chastised their intense gazes.

"A-ah, sorry!" Our group members apologized profusely.

Well, almost all of them.

The entity called Lu, like other fairies, had a small size, as well as wings behind that kept him afloat.

He had a very child-like face, and his body made him seem even cuter. His attire was a well-made black and green suit—custom wear for someone of his caliber.

The wings behind him fluttered with a swift, yet beautiful motion, giving him a dignified look.

"Ah, it is of no consequence to me. But please keep that in mind as you venture into the city." Lu warned.

No one would like it if some strangers were staring at them too much. In fact, to the people here, we would be considered the weird ones.

"Now, then, I will run you through a few things before we enter the city." Lu added.

"Is that really necessary? We're in a hurry, though." The person who spoke was Lemi.

None of us were complaining, and I wasn't exactly pressed for time. The Half Elf was only saying that because she wanted to avoid going through the boring orientation.

"Well, you're an exception, Lemi. You're a regular here. But, for newcomers, it is mandatory."

"Urgh. Then can I just go ahead?" She smiled brilliantly at the small being before her.

"No. They were allowed in because of your recommendation. You have to remain with them."

"Ah, that sucks..." The Half Elf pouted.

I glared at Lemi slightly, realizing she would have simply ditched us so that she could go have her fun.

"Alright, then. Let's get the orientation done with quickly, shall we?" Lu snapped his fingers and several System Windows appeared before us.

Several images, as well as texts, were displayed.

They contained rules, regulations, safety measures, a brief explanation of proper behavior, etc.

I was quite puzzled when I saw some of the information displayed before me.

'Hm? Something seems different from before.'

"Ah, you don't need to focus on those aspects. They're mostly for our denizens, or those with intentions of staying here for a long term. Since you're visitors who came on a diplomatic visit, you need not concern yourself with that."

Apparently, my confused expressions were read by Lu.

"Ah, I see..."

What I read had to do with the current system of governance and public order in the Fairy Sanctuary. It conflicted with how I remembered it to be.

Sure, a few changes could have been made, but the Fairy Kingdom was still as I remembered it to be. However, the policy I just read made me realize just how much had changed.

'I may end up facing more issues than I initially expected.'

Lu put us through the norms of the strange land, but thanks to his articulate expressions and succinct speech, we were done with everything before thirty minutes elapsed.

"Well, since you're all caught up, I will be taking you to your destination." He smiled with his charming innocence.

My allies were all enamoured by his beauty, unaware of the truth about Fairies.

They had developed their Magic and Technology to the point of making their bodies appear however they wished.

They called it Plas-gic Surgery.

Even ugly Fairies could look however they desired without consequence.

The only way one could really tell about a Fairy's age and level of ability was the state of their wings.

Just as humans and Elves had Mana Cores within them—as well as Grades to judge—the wings of Fairies contained their Mana Core.

Their Grade could be deciphered by the color, and the older a Fairy was, the bigger the wings were.

'Which is why I'm surprised about you, Lu...' He was definitely one of Jane Ursula's subordinates in the department of research.

That meant he was over five hundred years old already—no, he was most definitely way older than that.

Yet...

'Your wings are shorter than the last time I saw you.'

Just what was going on? According to a popular saying in Fairy Culture, "Wings don't lie," it wasn't possible for Fairies to fake their Wings.

'Is he perhaps someone else who bears the same name? Maybe his child?'

Even though this Lu was very identical to the one I knew, the possibility of Plas-gic Surgery existed. So, perhaps I was simply mistaking the Fairy's identity for the one I knew in the past.

"Where would you be heading to first? Would you like a bit of sightseeing before heading to the Green House?"

Apparently, the Royal Palace of the Fairies was now referred to as the Green House.

My comrades stared at me, waiting for my decision. Officially and unofficially, everyone recognized me as the leader.

They all gave me pleading stares, hoping I would allow us to take a slight tour before getting down to business.

But, these people should have known me too well to expect such leniency.

"We would prefer heading straight for the Green House, if you don't mind."

Lu smiled and nodded in response.

"Understood. Then, I shall summon a Flaring Board for everyone. Please, a moment." The Fairy Officer left the room—probably already sensing the dissatisfaction that arose from my comrades as a result of the decision I made.

"Come on, Jared, would it kill you if we just looked around for a little bit?"

"It's a magnificent place. Come on!"

"I could show you around! They wouldn't mind, honestly."

"No, I'll show you around instead."

These silly people really thought I would change my mind. It was funny, so I chuckled slightly.

Everyone halted their clamour, and then awaited my words.

"NO!"

It was as simple as that.

[SPELLCRAFT: Reincarnation Of A Magic Scholar](#)

Chapter 429: An Old Ally [Pt 1]

Lu arrived not long after, having a luxurious board trailing behind him.

The floating platform had sofas constructed on them, allowing passengers to sit while it took them to their destination.

'It's clearly for important persons...' I thought as I stared at the glimmering piece of Fairy Technology.

"Please, get on board."

The door that blocked us in from the waiting room was opened, allowing us entry into the Fairy Nation itself.

Excited sounds came from a few people behind me—namely Bradford and, surprisingly, Maria.

While she did her best to adopt a stoic facade, it was clear that she anticipated traversing the Fairy Sanctuary.

As we stepped out of the room, we entered the floating board that was waiting for us.

There was no ground beyond the room—since Fairies didn't need them.

As a result, the platform we would be utilizing was our only viable means of transportation.

'Magis is permitted for residents, but visitors aren't allowed to utilize it...' That meant we couldn't fly.

The boards were truly made to be the only viable means of transportation.

"W-whoah, it's so comfortable!" Bradford exclaimed as he made himself at home on the floating platform.

The seats were bigger than the bodies of Fairies, so one could surmise that it was designed with delegates of other nations in mind.

Every member of our team was able to secure seats, and their expressions made it certain that the sofas they sat on were comfy.

"I'm satisfied you find our reception comfortable."

I didn't take the Fairy on his offer, deciding to stand instead. It wasn't out of anything in particular—just personal preference.

And so, the platform began moving—detaching itself from the building we were previously in.

>VWUUUUUUUUUU<

It initially started as a slow, smooth ride. However, as time went on, the pace picked up and the board sped.

No one was bothered about their safety since Lu already explained how completely secure the experience of traveling with boards was.

Even Fairies, who could freely fly, preferred to use their Floating Boards rather than soar through the vast expanse themselves.

A Magic barrier prevented anyone from falling out, and the wind pressure was completely eliminated.

This provided for a smooth and comfortable ride.

To be honest, I enjoyed the trip.

We eventually arrived at the location called the Green House.

Before reaching the tall monolith that seemed to ascend to the peak of the Fairy Sanctuary's ceiling, we had passed through quite a bunch of Fairy Settlements.

This allowed some of our members to enjoy the sights around them.

While we didn't have the time to spend, preventing us from fully appreciating their peculiar structures, the interest of my allies seemed to have been satiated a tiny bit.

The Floating Board came to a slow halt, connecting to the edge of our destination.

Once it was parked properly, we were all able to step out of the vehicle.

Lu followed after us, and then swiftly arrived at everyone's front.

"Alright, everyone. I certainly hope you enjoyed your short trip using the Floating Board. If you have any complaints that warrant concern, please speak up so we can work on it."

No one could speak because the ride was perfect.

"Excellent. Then, shall we proceed?" Lu smiled sweetly, showing us his back as he glided through the air.

Our group simply followed him obediently, taking good looks around us.

'It looks a bit different—renovated, maybe?—still, this is the Palace I remember.' My thoughts lingered as I observed the giant tower.

It was so massive, yet it managed to remain suspended in the air.

I often marveled at this sight back when I was still Lewis Griffith, but the trick behind it slowly lost its luster as time went on.

"Please, come with me," Lu spoke more as an instructor than a tourist guide.

Maybe it had something to do with the fact that he was originally a researcher—not into affairs like tourism.

'The females were the ones who did these sort of things in the past.'

However, considering the change in technology and governance, having Lu as our Supervisory Officer didn't surprise me any longer.

There were no guards stationed at the Palace Gate, and the moment Lu approached it, a System Window popped up.

It identified the Fairy, and then the gates were automatically opened to all of us.

We walked down the large hallway, looking around as we strolled.

"U-um, where do you think the Throne Room is?" Bradford murmured, whispering to Serah Crimson.

The red-haired woman shrugged. Apparently, she didn't care.

I observed that the Fairy's ears pricked the moment the bushy-bearded man said this, smiling internally.

I was also slowly understanding the situation. The situation seemed a bit strange, but I finally figured it out.

'They don't run the Royal System any longer, uh?'

It all made sense.

This was now called the Fairy Nation. The Public Policies seemed too liberal for a monarchy, and the elective system I was seeing was a foreign concept.

'The fact that this Lu is working as an Immigration Officer rather than a female shows that that guy is no longer in power, uh?'

The Fairy Palace was now called the Green House as well.

If I wasn't mistaken, then had the Fairies somehow adopted a republican system of rule?

'This is weird.'

"Please step into this contraption." A Magic Elevator awaited us.

Once we all stepped in, the vehicle took us above, until we got to the second highest floor.

Our group encountered a door the moment we stepped out, and Lu bowed slightly.

"Our President will be waiting for you inside."

'President, eh?' It seems I was right.

A System Window popped up the moment we drew closer, but we were instantly recognized and the luxurious door parted for us.

"We, delegates of the Eastern Kingdom and the Elf Kingdom seek an audience with the Head of the Fairies." I declared.

"Do come in." A voice that resonated with my soul sounded.

My body was fine, but my insides churned for some reason.

'What's going on?' I thought in shock.

However, since it was no time to dawdle about it, I decided to let the matter slide.

We glided into the place—meeting a finely furnished room with a strange aesthetic that was different from the Throne Room everyone was used to.

For one, it seemed more like an office than anything else—though it was quite big.

However, that wasn't what shocked me the most.

>Ba-dum! Ba-dum! Ba-dum!<

Reverberations echoed in my Soul as I stopped dead in my tracks—looking at the person who sat behind the desk.

She also stared at me in the same way.

The Fairy's eyes widened and her jaws nearly fell. Both our gazes met each other, and we entered into perfect sync.

"J-Jane...?"

"Lewis?!"

[SPELLCRAFT: Reincarnation Of A Magic Scholar](#)

Chapter 430: An Old Ally [Pt 2]

Bright pink hair, like ripe peaches.

A small, curved face—similar to an adorable child's—and wide eyes filled with curiosity.

Her irises were green, her lips were small and cute.

The round glasses she wore accentuated her beauty, and her tiny physique made her absolutely adorable.

Her outfit was a suit made up of black and white materials, glittering regally as she sat behind her desk.

There was no way I could forget the person who was seated before me.

She was an old friend unlike any other.

Jane Ursula—Head Researcher and Innovator among the Elves—was one of my closest friends in the past.

I could say that she understood me better than most people. In some ways, she even surpassed Emilia in her compatibility with me.

And that was because of one simple fact...

... We both loved Magic to the point of obsession!

There was a reason she was called the Mad Witch. At some point, I was also referred to as the Crazy Sage.

The both of us formed a joint brand dubbed 'The Insane Duo'.

I was a Magic Theorist while Jane was a Magic Technician.

There was no better person I could relate with in my love and pursuit for Magic more than her—much to Emilia's dissatisfaction.

As a result, we spent so much time together, and I was able to get very close to the Fairy—enough to be the first among our group to receive something from her.

—A Soul Brand.

Jane Ursula was a Magic expert who specialized in the Soul.

Her Original Magic allowed her to directly interfere with the Souls of people, and she was even the one who drove me down the path of researching the true essence of a person's Soul—in relation to Magic, of course.

A 'Soul Brand' was the marking only Jane could inflict on her target, allowing her to connect herself to them.

She could sense such a person from a distance, locate them wherever they were, control them if she desired, gain access to their memories, etc.

Basically, she could somewhat interfere with her target's Soul.

Why, then, would I allow her to do such a thing to me?

It was because when executing it in my case, Jane made sure her Magic went both ways. In essence, she linked both our Souls through equal channels.

It was more like a bond of friendship than anything else.

As a result, we could never lie to each other. We could also tell where the other person was, or sense if they were close by.

Our respective works were also able to work in perfect sync thanks to the ability of one person to completely understand the other.

It was the perfect bond of friendship.

Which was why... I was surprised to get the same sensation as we drew closer to the Green House.

It was like something sparked within me.

As we drew closer to the office, I had felt it grow stronger.

However, at the moment, as I was staring at the person opposite me, I knew for sure...

"J-Jane?"

... That it wasn't a mere feeling!

And the most amazing part was the fact that the most important Fairy seated before me was also wide-eyed, having the same sensation as me.

I could tell from a single glance—

"L-Lewis?!"

—She recognized me too!

'Eh? What's going on right now?' The Fairy called Jane Ursula was in utter shock.

Her winds fluttered excitedly as she looked at the young human who stood before her.

His handsome features didn't faze her in the slightest, but something about him ensured she couldn't take her eyes off him.

And that was because he had her Soul Brand within him.

'H-how is this possible...?'

Jane knew every single person she ever branded, and she was also able to identify them individually.

The one standing before her bore the soup of a familiar person—too dear to her heart to forget.

"Lewis...?!"

But, was that even possible?

Lewis Griffith, her best friend, died over five hundred years ago.

She knew for sure that he indeed gave up the ghost. After all, she was there when he drew his last breath.

Jane knew just how much she suffered after his death—how her heart wept for the loss of her dearest friend.

It was this very grief that drove her to develop her most phenomenal project. There was no way none of that was real.

Yet... there was the Soul of her friend right in front of her.

And the boy? He was staring at her with the same eyes she used to look at him.

They say the eyes are a window to the soul. And so, when Jane locked gazes with the human, she realized that the impossible was indeed true.

'He really is...!'

The question was how?

Jane Ursula wasn't sure, but a guess popped into her head so she decided to use that logic to guide her turbulent mind.

'What's important is that he recognizes me and I recognize him.'

Even though the link between the two of them was weak—too frail for her to read his thoughts or manipulate his Soul—Jane had enough evidence already.

"I believe I already told you not to stare so intensely. It's rude!" Lu gave a slightly irritated comment, rousing both the Human and the Fairy from their intense staring contest.

"A-ah, sorry about that!" The human responded rather awkwardly, causing Jane to smile a bit.

He really looked nothing like Lewis, neither did he exactly behave like him.

However, Souls never lied. And so, Jane Ursula was comforted by the sight of her most trusted friend.

That was enough to make the adorable Fairy's lips form a smile.

'Lewis, after so long....you've finally come back to me...'

"That's enough, Lu. I've got it, thanks." I heard Jane's voice softly say, causing the angry Fairy to soften his expression.

In my last life, Lu had quite a crush on Jane—or so certain rumors went.

'Looks like some things never change...' I observed, watching him back off.

That's right. This was the reunion of the century.

Extras were unnecessary!