

A Glitched 141

Chapter 141 I Want To Learn Death Magic!

My mother and my father quickly began to celebrate that a second child was coming. So, after we ate our lunch, my mother quickly decided to bake a cake to celebrate the week of life the baby had lived so far, which I told her the age of.

Meanwhile, my father went off into the nearby forest to hunt for wild beasts. He said he wanted to have a big feast with a lot of grilled meat for mom, so she can have a lot of protein for the child... and fat.

I guess my mother might truly grow fat after this. They're really embracing the easygoing marriage life as of now... ah well. I'm pretty sure my mother can reduce her weight with magic, there are certain spells more advanced than Metabolism Enhancement, after all, which could help her consume fat in seconds.

I guess it's more like she's just willingly storing fat for winter... like bears.

Wait, she's an elf. I shouldn't use such comparisons.

"Mom, are you sure a cake will do you good?" I wondered.

"Eh? Ah... but we must celebrate!" replied my mother.

She had indeed become a bit more gluttonous now...

"I guess you're right..." I could only say in response.

I didn't wanted to annoy her over it, so I decided to cut it off for now and help her out a bit.

We began making some whipped cream. Soon after, she made the layers for the cake. She was making a classic vanilla cake with white whipped cream on top, with boiled fruits covered in sugary water, which we got from the storage.

"Sylphy, bring me the fruits, will you?" she asked.

"Sure!" I nodded.

I walked around the house and got into the storage room. There was a special magic in here that made non-living items keep their freshness for a while. It was something I had never seen before.

I remember that my mother even told me once that they did something similar, but with Ice Magic, freezing things in storage rooms with ice to maintain the food.

But this place uses a spell she calls "Preservation", which is a Death attribute spell that can preserve items that decompose, such as all food. There are other spells from the Death attribute, such as Sterilization, Deodorization, Disinfect, and Detoxification, which are all very useful at preserving food and even cleaning a place.

I never thought Death Magic could be used in such many ways. One would always assume that Death Magic was all about just killing people or raising the undead, right? To think it has more uses than that.

Of course, my mother was also an amazing magician. Although her specialization was in Life, Nature, and Light for the most part, she could use almost all other elements. She said she could use up to Tier 5 Death attribute spells, and that she could even raise skeletons and stuff. Though, she didn't do it because she wasn't able to control them well, and well, there was no point in doing so.

She could also create summons like what she and father showed me back then, which they left protecting the place whenever we're not her. They often take the form of angelic creatures, and varied in strength... well, those were often made with Creation Magic.

Anyways, thanks to Death Magic, we can enjoy fresh food that lasts very long, and perhaps a lot of the house being free from bugs and stuff might also be because of this.

In short, Death Magic is amazing.

I want to learn Death Magic!

My mother told me that I had an affinity for all elements due to my Elemental Magic Circle, so I could very much learn as much magic as I want, but she's slowly trying to teach me what she's better at first. Well, certain elements like Death and Blood were dangerous if handled by children.

Ah... now that I remember, my little sibling had a natural affinity for Death and Blood...

I hope he doesn't start using that magic the moment he's born, or it might cause some problems...

Well, if something happens, I'm sure my parents will be able to seal its mana or something. After all, they had showed the ability to do so before.

I browsed around the storage room and found several glass jars filled with sweet water and floating fruits cut into pieces inside it. There were Eden Apples, Spring Damascuses, Summer Watermelons, Verdant Life Kiwis, and many others.

These were all not normal fruits, obviously... these fruits were the ones we harvested in here. They were all magically enhanced and held varied effects, but most of the time they could enhance physical abilities momentarily, give greater damage using a certain element, and stuff like that.

There was a fruit named Blazing Strawberry, which has a very citric flavor. When I eat them, my Fire Magic becomes incredibly strong. Even my Ember skill becomes mighty because of it. Perhaps I should make some potions out of them? Well first, my mother has to teach me alchemy...

"Here, mommy," I said, bringing to my mother the things she asked for.

My mother smiled warmly as she grabbed the jars and left them by the side.

"Thank you, dear. Now we just have to wait for things to bake... phew," my mother said as she sat down over a cushion and rested.

"Are you feeling tired again?" I asked.

"Yeah, I got tired all of a sudden again... I think I know the reason why. The baby might be occasionally draining my mana... I remember you doing the same," mother replied.

"Eh? Wouldn't that be dangerous? Don't elves use a lot of mana in their metabolism?" I asked.

"Yeah, but don't worry. It's not something I can't handle... elven motherhood is like this. We women get tired more so often... if my sister, who's way weaker than me, was able to have like five kids, I'm sure I will be okay, seeing how I am a Priestess and a Hero..." said my mother.

"Ah, I guess you're right..." I said as I sat down beside her.

Chapter 142 My Elven Family

I often wonder about my elven family... I know that there's my grandpa from my father side, who's named... Hunter? Or something along those lines. But I still don't know the name of my grandma. Also, my father sometimes spoke about his older brother, who's a magic swordsman.

But it appears that my mother doesn't like his family very much, saying that her father was a barbarian man that forced his son to the bone while training when he was a child. She also said he was often overly abusive. Then again, my father still respects his father, most likely because he taught him everything he knows, including survival.

And then there's his mother... the only thing I know about her was that he once said she was a huntress and was good at hunting animals to cook. Then, there was his older brother whom he said was good at magic from the beginning unlike him, so he merged his magic and sword techniques from a young age and became a very talented magic swordsman.

But names? No? Can't I know the names of my family at the very least?

I know my father's full name is Allan Bravo Firebrand, and mother's full name is Faylen Naturia Yggdra, so I guess their families are the Bravo family of mercenaries, and the Naturia family of elven royalty of... probably a kingdom of the same name?

I ended up naming my Nature attribute spirit Naturia due to that surname, the same way I called my tree Yggdra.

Wondering about these things really makes me think sometimes... what's the deal with my family? My mother seems to have big drama with her family, and she seems to not want me to go there at the moment for some reason.

Meanwhile, my father had completely cut off any communication with his own family long ago. Plus, he seems to be happy while not knowing anything about them...

I fear the possibility that my father's family might be dead... and he's only trying to get over it by casually talking about them from time to time, but without actually explicitly tell me that they're gone...

Maybe with mother's case, it could be some stupid royalty drama I've heard sometimes about, where the siblings hate each other because they all want the throne or something. That always happens in these types of settings, after all.

But it cannot be THAT simple, right?

No way. There must be something else to it than just that... and I think I've heard that my father's father might be alive, so I shouldn't assume everyone's dead just because my father doesn't talk about them to me.

And about my mother's family... maybe she's just introverted and doesn't like them because they're very extroverted unlike her? Well, that's a positive way to put it, but I have no idea. It could probably be what I think, or be way more complex than just that.

"Mommy, when are you going to tell me more about your family? I want to learn more about my aunties, uncles, and grandparents... why don't you tell me anything about them?" I asked.

I decided to be rather blunt in here, as there was no way I was going to get any answers because my mother didn't even seem to be willing to talk to me about them in detail...

"W-Well, it would be a bit too complicated to tell you. My family is quite big... and there are too many names for you to remember right now. Telling you each person and each name would be taxing to your mind, right? We'll be heading there in a few more years from now... I've already decided... so you'll be able to meet them by then, dear," she replied.

"But I want to know more about them right now!" I urged.

"Erm... well, alright. But don't blame me if I reprimand you when you forgot their names, alright?" she said with a sigh.

"Sure! Tell me!" I nodded without hesitation.

I couldn't hide my excitement, I wanted to know about my family after all.

"Well, my father is... well, he used to be the King of the Naturia Kingdom within the Atlanta Continent. He's a stoic old elf, with great power over magic... he was given the title of High Elven Sage King, and he led our country for centuries until he finally retired... My father's name is Thassarion Naturia Treebark... my father's... well... he's a man that is very reserved," my mother started to explain.

"Really?" I asked.

"Indeed... well... he wasn't the best father... your father is like a thousand times better," mother said in response, laughing it off.

"Oh... d-did you have a hard time?" I asked.

"Hmm? Me? Well, that's long back in the past. I've lived for over 600 years now, so I don't really care that much... but he was always... sigh... an insensitive man..." mother replied, sighing soon after.

"Insensitive?" I asked.

"Well, that's that... don't worry about it for now... and then there's my mom! She's... quite the woman. Ahem... well, she used to be the former Queen of the Naturia Kingdom... she didn't have any particular talent other than great healing magic, and well, the ability to fly naturally with her fairy-like wings. She used to belong to the caste of elves known as Faeries, who grow butterfly-like wings when they reach maturity and gain the ability to fly freely... They often have the power to communicate with animals even more easily than normal Light Elves," mother continued.

"Wow! That's cool! So, she was a Fairy!" I said with awe.

"You could say that! Though, I don't know if you'll ever grow wings... only two of my siblings inherited them, so they're rare in the bloodline. My mother's name is Arlayna Yggdra Flowerbud... she's a woman with quite the eccentric personality," mother said.

"Eccentric?" I asked.

"Y-Yeah... I don't know how to say it otherwise, but she really is quite weird... she was a careless mother, and... although she was always gentle and nice, it always felt like her head was always elsewhere, not even being considerate to others despite her gentle nature..." mother clarified, letting out a sigh.

Ahh... I can see why she doesn't like to talk about her family. She had terrible parents...

Chapter 143 The King And Queen Of Elves

So, this is what my mother has told me about my parents that I committed to memory.

Thassarion Naturia Treebark, former king of the Naturia Kingdom, my grandfather, a stoic elf man with enormous magical power, called the High Elven Sage King. He led the country for centuries until he finally retired. A very reserved man who's often insensitive, he has a hard time showing emotions and doesn't connect with others, even with his family.

Arlayna Yggdra Flowerbud, former queen of the Naturia Kingdom, my grandmother, a Faerie woman with butterfly wings. She has a youthful and beautiful appearance, and a childish personality that's always cheerful. However, she also has a hard time comprehending other people's feelings, even those of her own children. She's also insensitive without realizing it, even when she thinks she's a good and gentle mother.

From what I learned about my mother's parents, they seemed like an awful pair. One of them was a stoic man without any emotions who seemed to be incapable of being able to tell other people's emotions, and even worse at connecting with them. Therefore, my mother called him an insensitive man.

And then there's my mother's mother, or my grandmother, a gentle and cheerful type of mother, that ends up miserably failing as one as she only cares about superficial things, apparently. She also has a hard time realizing other people's feelings, even her own children's feeling. She's gentle but never connected with them nor even truly cared. Therefore, she came out just as insensitive, just with a different personality than her father.

With these two amazing parents, I could already imagine that her childhood wasn't the best. Ugh, to think these were my maternal grandparents made me get the shivers. I think I'm afraid of meeting them now... well, it shouldn't be bad as long as I don't expect them to have any emotional connection with me.

"So, those are your grandparents! Excited to see them now?" she said with a light sigh.

"Eeehh... well, a little bit," I replied, my tone now unsure.

"Ah, I see you really want to meet your family... I can't really stop you, dear. It's all up to you. We'll eventually go to my homeland in the future because I want you to take classes from several of the teachers I respect in the Magic Academy," she said soon after.

"Are they really better than you, a Hero?" I ask.

"Of course. Being a Hero doesn't mean being the best at magic. I mean, I'm pretty good at it, and I can teach you a lot, but there are people that are even better at theory, magic rune creation, and so much more. They even have more years of experience in teaching it to children than I ever had... I've lived for

600 years so far, but most of it was spent as a secretary and librarian of the Magic Academy, I did give classes for several years, but not as much as these old sages," mother told me.

"I see... I'm quite excited to go meet them, then! It seems like you know them well, right?" I asked.

"Yeah... they're all eccentric. Some of them are nice and gentle, while there might be some that would appear to be very strict and annoying, but most of the time, their actions have good intentions," mother said in response.

"Okay... I get it." I nodded.

"And about your uncles... t-there are so many... Well..."

However, before we could begin talking about the many uncles and aunties I had, my father knocked on the door and brought with him a large beast to feast upon.

It resembled a small dragon. It was a wyvern around 5 meters long. Mind you, dragons could easily surpass 20 meters.

"I got this adult wyvern. It looks pretty strong, so it will give you a lot of protein and energy for the baby, Faylen!" my father said happily.

"Oh dear... I'm going to end up stuffed... sigh... how fat will I end up getting? It's only been a bit over seven years since Sylph was born..." mother could not help but say.

It seems she was going to have some weight problems in the future. Well, she needed even more energy now that she was pregnant, but I guess she doesn't like it.

"Daddy, can I help you butcher?" I requested.

"Yes, come with me, Sylph. Let's leave your mother for now and let her rest," father said as he nodded.

I quickly decided to help my father butcher the giant wyvern. Well, it was not as easy as butchering the smaller six-limbed lizards. This beast had a lot of scales, which were even harder than the lizards.

Then again, it was also pretty tasty. I've eaten wyvern meat before. It was almost comparable to dragon meat, but less intense in flavor and more bearable. Dragon meat was almost addictive when one took a few bites, and it would be very hard to stop eating.

"Hmm... how about I upgrade your equipment using this wyvern leather and scales? I think I can get you something pretty good-looking as well. Do you like the red scales? They match you," father said while we were butchering.

"I do! But can't I use the red scales from the Red Dragon you killed years ago? Where did all those materials go?" I asked in response.

"Oh, those! We sold most of them..." father replied.

"EH?!" I asked in surprise.

Why did you sell them?! I thought my parents were rich! You don't need to sell stuff if you're rich!

"We have money to spare, but sometimes that's not enough for people that don't value money. They're mostly away from civilization, so trading is a thing there... the Witch of the Blue Mountain accepts requests if we give her good compensation first, although she does give out a few freebies," father said.

"Oh..." I said, sighing not long after.

"Don't worry, we still got a few items left from it saved around... I guess I can whip something up for you," father said sometime later.

"Really? That would be awesome! Thank you, dad!" Naturally, I was ecstatic to hear that.

"Hahaah! Don't worry, my little princess. For you, I'll give you anything!" said my father pridefully. He really liked to spoil his young daughter.

Chapter 144 Cooking Wyvern Meat With Father's Special Recipe

Father promised me to upgrade my equipment using new materials, so I was rather excited about the future where I could wear an even stronger set of clothes.

Because I was small, wearing conventional armor wouldn't do. So, father made these materials into clothes that even a little girl could use. Well, it also included leather armor made out of the scales from the six-limbed lizard I once hunted, but now he was going to upgrade it even more using the scales from this wyvern, and perhaps the scales left over from Ignatius.

After butchering the beast, father quickly set up some fire using his magic. Then, a massive grill was put over the flames as we began grilling pieces of the wyvern, which we decided to cut off as it was too large. Some pieces still had the bones attached to them, but bones made things tastier, right? So, it's for the best.

There was also a lot of grease, surprisingly. This wyvern was putting on some weight, and the tasty meat became even tastier as the juices of the grease slowly attached to it and began to meld with the meat.

"Look, Sylphy. This is my special marinating sauce. I put it over the meat when I grill it so it tastes even better..." father said as he retrieved a small bottle from his inventory, which had some sauce on it.

The sauce was very liquid, looking like a mixture of herbs with other juices...

"Oh, what's in there?" I wondered.

"There's a lot of aromatic and tasty herbs inside. I also mixed it with lemon juice and other fruit juices, mostly citric ones. The meat becomes tasty because of it," father replied, his tone somewhat proud.

"Ooohh... so that's why it always has this sweet and citric flavor... and the aroma that your grilled meat always has... it was all because of this! You're pretty good at cooking grilled meat, father. You even think about stuff like this!" I could not help but say.

"Hahaha! Yeah, this sauce is not my own recipe, though. It was made by my mother. Because we used to wander around all the time, we often hunted for food whenever we wanted to eat a lot in dinner... because the best way to quickly cook a lot of meat was by grilling, my mother came out with ideas like this sauce, to always give it a nice flavor to add to the meat, so it wouldn't taste bland," father said in response.

"Ooh, I see... it must have been a fun childhood if you were able to wander everywhere..." I said.

"Haha! It certainly was! My father was very strict with training and all, but it was what made me into the strong man I am right now. With the strength my father helped me to grow, I've been able to protect Faylen and you... well... I... I wasn't able to protect you... I guess I wasn't..." he said with pride, only for his tone to become sorrowful soon after as he let out a sigh.

Suddenly remembering what I went through with Hell, my father quickly fell into silence as he looked at the grilling meat.

I hugged my father and comforted him.

"Don't worry about it, father... you did everything you could, it wasn't something we could predict..." I consoled him.

"Ah... I guess... but still, I get flashbacks to it and... Sylphy, how can you deal with such things if you were the one... most affected by it?" he asked.

I looked into my father's eyes. Our conversation and our mood quickly shifted into this out of nowhere... then again, I get it. Sometimes remembering traumatic experiences can make people change their mood in seconds.

I suppose my father wasn't capable of protecting me back then. I would have really died back then if it wasn't because of the glitched system's endless HP... I don't know what my father would have done

himself. Perhaps they would have attempted to revive me even as I was on the floor made into a pulp. Then again, I don't know if there were ways to revive people in this world.

Well, I'm not particularly traumatized, but I really don't want to talk about it...

"I don't want to talk about it... father, just forget about these things for now. Come on, mother's pregnant, and we are about to celebrate it. Let's not dwell in the past. Instead, let's be happy and thankful we can all be together now," I told him, wanting to change topics.

"S-Sylphy... Y-You're right! I shouldn't be... thinking about this... I just love you so much it makes me sad when I think about this stuff! But you're right! L-Let's just enjoy the moment and be happy as we are!" he replied, nodding and hugging me tightly.

He kissed my cheek and my forehead, then he rubbed the tip of his nose with mine.

"You're my precious little girl... I won't... let that happen to you ever again..." he said.

"Father... don't worry," I said as I kissed the tip of his nose.

"Hahh... Ah! The meat! Damn it!" My father quickly began to turn the meat around so it wouldn't end up charred on one side.

"Is it ready?" mother could not help but ask, who came out of the house.

"Yeah, almost ready, dear," replied my father.

"Here, I brought you some juice," she said soon after.

Mother brought us some Eden Apple juice with some ice cubes on it. Well, it was very refreshing. Because of it, I realized I haven't drunk any water in the entire day, and my throat was quite dry.

Ahh. The taste of apple juice is so nice, especially when it's so sweet and cold...

"Hmm... this really hits the spot..." Father let out a satisfied sigh.

"Eden Apple is pretty good for pies and juice, after all. It even enhances your physical body and magical power slightly," mother said in response.

"Wow, it does that?" I asked.

"You never figured it out?" mother asked back.

"Ahh... W-Well, maybe not as much..." I replied, letting out a light chuckle.

I knew it helped a bit, but not that it did it permanently... wait, could one of the reasons why I have so much magic power is because I've been eating magic fruits since I was a baby? I guess a healthy diet is very important...

Chapter 145 My Little Sibling Is Not A Vampire!

We sat down around the table as the meat was served. There were also a lot of boiled potatoes, rice, and vegetable salads, alongside all sorts of sauces. My family enjoyed their sauces. In fact, mayonnaise was my favorite to go with freshly boiled potatoes, pouring the creamy sauce over them was always nice, and then eating the potato with the meat... mmm~

However, meat and potatoes were very dry, so I had to accompany it with mother's delicious Eden Apple juice. She said she made it by boiling the fruit and then cooling down the juice that came out of the fruit while it was being boiled.

There were also the fruit pieces, which she put inside bottles with water with sugar, saving them as snacks for later, or to add into apple pie or even in cake, just like the one we were having today.

There was also the big cake, of course. It was covered in white cream and was decorated with a beautiful crown of colorful fruits over it. Mother had also mixed fruits in between the layers with the white whipped cream.

Everything looked so tasty, so I stuffed myself eating! Using the Metabolism Acceleration spell, I was able to digest food faster, so my stomach was able to store more food, allowing me to continue eating for a while.

At the end, most of the meat was gone. In fact, my parents used similar magical methods to eat a lot of it. Because of that, the delicious wyvern had almost completely disappeared!

As of now, we were all enjoying slices of cake with tea. Though, the night had already come, so we were close to going to sleep.

"Yawn... I think I'm sleepy..." I muttered.

"Well, this has been a long day, so you should really go to bed now, Sylphy," mother said in response.

"Yeah..." I nodded.

"Let's go, I'll bring you to bed," father said as he stood up from his seat.

After getting in bed, my parents gave me a hug and then left me on bed.

Phew, I'm really tired.

It was definitely a long day...

For now, I just closed my eyes and decided to sleep.

...

While I slept, I woke up within my Soul Scape. Like usual, I come here while I sleep to train my magic, techniques, and also spend time with my familiars.

It was quite obvious, but if I didn't spend time with my familiars, they'll grow detached from me and their trust in me would decrease. I don't know exactly when they spend time with their familiars, but I would guess that my parents also do it when they go to sleep.

"Sylphy, congratulations on your little sibling!" said Furoh as I appeared.

"Ah! Furoh, so you heard about it? I'm also excited to see it!" I said with a smile.

"Yeah! I've never had siblings before, so I wonder how it'll feel..." wondered Furoh.

"I'm sure you'll be able to meet it when it's born. After all, you're also part of the family," I replied.

"M-Me? But I'm a demon..." he said.

"But you're my familiar now! Haven't we spent time together since the contract? That's more than enough for me to count it," I told him.

"Haha... you're too humble sometimes..." He chuckled.

"Fooooohhh! Foaaa!"

Naturia flew around me before resting over my head. I think this means she missed me a lot.

"Naturia, will you give your blessings to the little baby?" I asked.

"Foo! Fooo!" replied Naturia.

I heard that True Spirits were capable of blessing people to give them good fortune, but that would usually be very strong ones. So, I guess Naturia wouldn't be able to... yet.

However, she seemed very enthusiastic about it, so I guess she really wants to help in that regard. It makes me happy to have such a cute little spirit with me.

"So, you're having a sibling... but wait, didn't you see it with your eyes? What gender is it?" Ignatius asked.

"We couldn't discern it yet, Ignatius. A one-week fetus has yet to develop a gender..." replied Alice, or well, the System, who emerged in her usual form as a sphere of bright white light.

"Oh, I didn't know that... well, I don't know if dragons are the same. Never had the chance to just sit and watch an egg," replied Ignatius.

"They should also be like that... anyways, that baby still had interesting things... the soul it had... it possessed quite dark affinities," Alice said soon after.

"Oh yeah. I also saw them... what's up with that? Will your sibling be able to wield Blood Magic? Wait, did your mother have an affair with a Vampire?" Furoh asked with curiosity.

"Vampire? What's that even? And no, she didn't have any affair with any Vampire!" I replied.

"Furoh, don't mess around with things like those. Also, explain what's a Vampire," Alice said in response to his words.

"A Vampire is... erm, well, a group of arrogant demons that are partially undead, and are highly proficient in both magic and physical strength... they drink blood and are good at Blood Magic, or something... I think they can't walk on the day or they get burned by the sunlight," answered Furoh not long after.

"What? They get burned by sunlight? Well, that sucks," I sighed.

"It really does suck! But in exchange, they get to be highly prestigious in the Demon Continent. Also, I think they even have influence around humans... they're really cunning," he added.

"Huh... well, my mother is very loyal to my father, so I doubt she'll ever have an affair. People are just born with different affinities. There's nothing wrong with my sibling's affinity for Blood. It doesn't necessarily have to be a Vampire," I said after his explanation.

"I-I know! Sorry, I was just joking around. I was trying to lighten the mood..." Furoh said, apologizing soon after.

"Well, at least I got to learn about these Vampires or something... I wonder if there are more weird and quirky demon races out there... no offense," I said to Furoh.

"No problem, we demons are very diverse..." replied Furoh.

And so, we continued chatting through the night after that. In any case, it seemed that everyone was happy over my new sibling.

Chapter 146 One Month Later, Zack And The Wind Spirit

It has been a month since my mother discovered she was pregnant. Although her belly had barely grown a bit, she had begun to feel more tired and sleepy. Nonetheless, we had still gone to Aquarina's place to stay for an entire week. However, I fear that the more my mother's belly grew, the weaker and more tired she'll get, so we wouldn't be able to travel around the skies with her.

It would be possible that this might result in us not being able to visit Aquarina and Zack as much. Perhaps, in the final months of her pregnancy, it won't even happen at all until she gave birth.

I think I could go with father to Aquarina's place, but my father doesn't want to leave me alone nor does he want to leave mother alone. He wants all three of us to always stick together.

After all the things that we had gone through, such a thought process is more than reasonable, so I cannot really blame him. In any case, Aquarina and her family can still come here occasionally, although it will take them time. Also, they'll need to go back after some time. After all, leaving the village without their protection is not something they liked to do.

However, for the moment, I should cherish this time I could still keep in touch with them until those months come. Aquarina and Zack have become my most beloved friends and the people I hold dear a lot, probably the most after my parents.

We were currently sitting around that one special stone near the Amazon village, which was the spirit stone or something like that... I don't remember the name anymore.

Anyways, this special stone had a lot of spirit energy. Recently, while I wasn't here, Aquarina told me that Zack got his spirit when she was wandering around with him.

"It happened without me realizing it... we were hunting horned hares and then I stumbled into this stone. I ended up touching it because it was glowing so bright... it was like, attracting me or something... well, after that, I heard the whisper of something, a little voice... then, I got this thing," explained Zack.

His palm opened as his spirit appeared. It was a small, white-colored mass of... floating clouds? That was his spirit, which was classified as a... wait for it... Sylph!

Yes, it had my name. Elemental Spirits had "classifications", which named them according to their element. Wind attribute spirits were called Sylphs, and my name was Sylph too, so I was named after Wind Spirits. Then again, I haven't even learned Wind Magic in detail.

Maybe I should honor my name and really get into Wind Magic... there are some useful stuffs on it... but as of now, I am trying to learn more of Fire, Light, Life, and Nature, which are the primary elements supported by my spirits and my skills.

The cloud floating atop Zack's palm suddenly opened an eye as small amounts of lightning came out of the eye slightly...

"It's quite a pretty cloud!" I said.

"Yeah, I guess..." replied Zack while blushing a bit.

The cloud looked at us with its big eye and instantly flew towards me. Then, its eye fixated on my face. What's wrong with this spirit?

"..."

Spark!

Suddenly, a spark of lightning hit my nose, shocking me and making me fall to the ground!

"Ouch! What was that for?!" I asked.

"..."

The cloud flew back to Zack in silence.

"Cumulus, why did you do that?! Apologize!" said Zack angrily.

"Sylphy! Are you okay?!" asked Aquarina.

"Yeah, I'm fine. It wasn't much," I replied as I quickly got back up.

The little attack was shocking more than anything, but it wasn't painful. Maybe my sense of pain has become a bit duller over time... whatever's the case, if I have survived getting dismembered alive, I'm sure that I can survive this much without problems!

"Sorry about that again, Sylphy..." Zack apologized with a sigh. Cumulus was the name that he gave to his spirit. He had always had an affinity for Wind, so it fit him to have a Wind Spirit, just like how Aquarina got herself a Water Spirit named Undine.

Spirits help us wield the elements better and more easily, which was especially good for children such as ourselves who were still developing our powers. All in all, they help us in many ways.

"Don't worry, Zack. I'm just happy to see you with a spirit. I hope it can be of great help in the future..." I said.

"Sure! I'm going to train with him and one day, we'll get as strong as you and your spirits!" replied Zack.

"Haha, we'll see about that!" I said defiantly, so he could feel encouraged and competitive.

"You'll see!" Naturally, Zack wasn't going to relent. He was getting pumped.

Aquarina quickly summoned Undine to show it to us.

"M-My Undine had grown up since the first time I met her. Wanna see?" she asked as she looked at me with her pretty aquamarine eyes. Soon, she opened the palm of her hand as a wave of water emerged, which turned into a fountain moving upwards, spiraling around, summoning a small little mermaid-like spirit.

It had the upper torso of a cute, blue-skinned girl, with long blue hair, and bright blue eyes. On the other hand, the lower half was that of a fish with shiny scales. She was also holding a trident, surprisingly.

"Wow, she has indeed grown! I remember she used to be the size of your hand, but now it's almost half your body size!" I said.

"Right? Undine has gotten big!" replied Aquarina with a nod. I'm glad she got a friend to be with her even when I'm not here for her, Undine has helped her a lot at using and mastering her Water Magic.

"Hehehe..."

Undine lightly laughed. She wasn't able to speak but sometimes would giggle sweetly when she got happy. She was also an infant spirit, the same as Zack's Cumulus and my Naturia.

Ignatius was not an infant, but he was definitely far from reaching maturity now that he was back to an egg, which he hasn't grown out from even after trying many times to break out of his own shell...

Chapter 147 Let's Spar!

After seeing Zack's spirit, I realized that he had everything required to be a great fighter now. Although he wasn't good at conventional magic, he had a large mana pool and was great with the axe. He was mostly self-taught in that regard, but he was already pretty good at using the axe techniques, as well as unarmed martial arts.

Using his Wind Magic, which he couldn't really conjure into anything flashy, probably being similar to my father in his youth, he was able to boost his speed and even acquire the power to unleash stronger attacks with the axe. The strength of his axe merged with the wind, generating slashing winds when he swung the weapon.

Now with a spirit, this battle prowess was enhanced even further, making him even more formidable than before! I'm looking forward to his growth, to be honest.

"So, you're having a little sibling in the near future, Sylphy?" Zack asked.

"Oh yeah. I guess I never talked about it. Aquarina kind of knew... I think," I replied.

"Hmmm... Sylphy's little sibling will surely be cute like her... I wonder if it's going to be a girl or a boy... either way, I will also treat it as my little sibling!" said Aquarina.

"Hehe, I would be grateful if you did. It'll be hard to be a big sister myself... I'm still growing and all, but mom said I didn't have to worry about such things, raising the children was their responsibility after all..." I said in response.

"I see.... must be fun to be waiting for a sibling to be born soon... I wish I could have one," Zack sighed.

"Well? We can be your little sisters if you want," I said with a smile.

"Eh?!" asked Aquarina in shock.

"L-Little sisters?! For me?!" said Zack. He looked at us while becoming continuously redder.

"Yeah... eh? What's wrong? Are you okay?" I asked.

I noticed that Zack had become way too red, and steam was coming out of his ears. He looked at me in shock, as if I had said something I shouldn't. On the other hand, Aquarina was looking at me with disbelief.

"S-Sylphy! How can you say that?!" she asked in surprise.

"What? What's wrong?" I asked back.

"I don't want to be this brute's sister...!" replied Aquarina.

"Oh... okay, I get it... you don't have to be like that..." I sighed.

"D-Don't say such weird things... even if they're jokes..." said Zack.

But I wasn't joking? What's wrong with that? Does he feel weird? I guess I should cut it out then...

"Okay, okay, I won't say weird stuff again. Happy? Though, I really don't know what's wrong with that? I just want to become closer to you," I said.

"C-Closer?!" exclaimed Zack as he once more got red.

What's wrong with this guy? He really acts the weirdest in the most serious of moments.

"What?! Sylphy, you want to get closer with Zack? W-What about me? You don't want to be closer with me instead?" asked Aquarina in response. She seemed desperate, as if her entire world was shattering before her and whatever I was about to say right now would decide her destiny.

"Eh? Erm... I also want to be closer with you too, Aquarina..." I replied as I held her hand and smiled back at her.

Aquarina blushed a bit as she hastened her breathing.

"Uwah... Sylphy! Sure! Let's get closer!" she replied as she hugged me tightly. I petted her head and made her feel happier.

"I-I'm okay as it is now. Don't get closer to me or something... also, it seems you lack common sense sometimes. What you said sounded very awkward..." said Zack not long after.

"It did?! I just thought we should bond more as friends... ahah... I'm not good at this..." I sighed. Aquarina looked back at me with an alarmed look once more, each attempt at me trying to "get closer" to Zack made her panic.

"Can you stop overreacting?" I asked Aquarina, who was startled, soon nodding in response.

"S-Sorry... I know I overexaggerate sometimes..." Aquarina said, letting out a light sigh after that.

I petted her head to comfort her a little bit. These two kids were often rather simple minded, but sometimes they would get way too complex for me to handle correctly. There's Zack getting weirded out with my attempts at getting closer to him, and then Aquarina getting jealous about it. The whole dynamic is cute, but it gets repetitive very quickly.

In any case, for today, I had already checked the spirits of the two, and kind of wanted to do a few things. I knew I had been practicing my sword techniques and magic, and I also know Aquarina had been learning from Shade. On the other hand, Zack mostly learned by himself, although Nepheline came to teach him some martial arts using his body, which was more compatible with her own techniques.

And because I love to see them grow stronger, I've been itching for a fight lately. Back in my house, I've been mostly locked at home or practicing the sword or spells. I've been exploring the nearby forest, but I only get so far before my time is up.

So I thought, 'Hey, why not spar with the two?'

Well, why not? It seems fun, and perhaps we could learn from one another better that way.

"Spar?" asked Zack.

"Yeah, you saw me spar with Aquarina back then. It was pretty intense. Wanna spar with me? I want to see how far you can go," I told him.

"H-How far I can go..." murmured Zack.

He suddenly looked at his hands, which were covered in scars. Ever since he was a child, he has been battling and surviving. I could feel that he would be an even fiercer fighter than Aquarina.

"Come on. Why are you doubting so much? Are you chickening out?" asked Aquarina teasingly, making Zack grow furious.

"I-I'm not chickening out! I will fight... spar, I mean..." replied Zack.

"So, you accept? Nice! Alright, Zack. I've been seeing you grow for a while now. Time to show me what you're made of!" I said proudly.

Chapter 148 What Are Your Ambitions?

Simply growing stronger was boring. I also want to experience more. Sure, battling wild beasts and monsters was very fun... but there's something even more fun than that. Fighting against someone that has also been growing stronger on their own.

Despite what it might seem, my fight against Aquarina really left quite the impact in my mind. It made me realize that I really wanted to fight strong people. There was a certain, intrinsic fun in doing so, as if something primal within me was always flaring up when I did.

I guess I might be a battle junkie deep down, or maybe it's out of boredom that I suddenly find enjoyment in fighting someone. Perhaps there were more reasons than that, but those were the ones I could come up with for now.

I've been seeing Zack grow stronger for years now. Since that day I met him in this village, where he was following us around like a creep, all the way to now, when we accepted him in the party. Now, he was a crucial part of our trio. He was indispensable. Even Aquarina would think that if she were forced to say the truth of what she thought.

Aquarina's fight with me was amazing. She had showcased abilities I had never seen before. Plus, she showcased to me what her intentions were. She wanted to protect me a lot, because I might act too reckless sometimes. She wanted to overpower me and show me that she was strong enough, stronger than me, so she could properly protect me.

But in the end, I still beat her, and I showed her that I didn't really need the protection of someone. Also, despite being reckless, I had the strength to back up my recklessness. In any case, I still found a lot of value in her emotions and concerns, and I also realized that having someone protecting my back is never a bad thing, especially if we protect each other's backs.

But what about Zack? Unlike Aquarina and I, he didn't seem to be moved as much by emotions or something like that. He was often rather relaxed or calm. At other times, he felt like the one that was the most grounded among us, the one that was often a voice of reason to us, although he also tended to be a bit weird himself.

But the thing is... what were Zack's ambitions? What does he want to accomplish with all of this? Does he just want to grow stronger and nothing else? I wonder what's moving him aside from survival.

"So, Zack. Why are you growing stronger?" I asked.

"Eh? Why...?" he asked, somewhat confused.

We were currently facing one another in the middle of a clearing near the Amazon village.

Zack's emerald-colored eyes looked down to the ground as he seemed to be thinking.

"What do you mean? I just want to survive... it's normal to want to grow stronger in a world like this one..." he answered.

"That's fair... but is there nothing else driving you? All of us are ultimately driven by survival, yes, but there's always something else as well," I replied.

"Something else... w-well... I want to... I want to one day travel around the world with you... so I don't want to be left behind... I know you're a hero with Aquarina... and I'm not one... I wasn't blessed by anyone... so that's why... I have to put in extra effort so I can stay by your side... I guess..." he replied, averting his gaze from me while blushing.

"Ooohh~?! So that's it! Oh dear..." I could not help but say. I couldn't help but feel embarrassed after that.

It was all because of me! To think he would be so compromised for my own sake... he really has become a good friend, isn't he?

"W-Why are you looking at me like that?" he asked.

"Nothing, I was just surprised... alright. Let's begin!" I said as I charged forward.

"Eh?!"

FLAAAASSH!

By utilizing the Light attribute spell 'Flashing Movement', and the Life attribute spell 'Metabolism Acceleration', I was able to enhance my movement speed, as well as the metabolism of my body, boosting the total strength of my entire body.

With that, I reached up to him in an instant. Ember was used below my feet to propel my legs, giving me explosive movement. This combination of spells was always the best at allow me to move at fast speeds!

"Agh...!"

CLASH!

I swung my normal sword against Zack. In response, he quickly had to intercept with the tip of his axe. However, axes were terrible against swords. The round blade usually slipped off the blade of the sword, so I was able to easily slip through his resistance and attack his side.

"Come on, Zack! You're way too slow!"

CLASH!

"Nngh?!"

I hit the left side of his ribs with a moderate amount of strength, using the dull part of my blade. After all, I wasn't aiming to pierce through his flesh.

"Aaagh!"

Zack cried as he was thrown to the side, rolling over the grass.

Oops, after he said such a sweet thing to me... I do this.

Was I too brutish?

"Zack, are you okay?" I asked in concern.

"..."

Zack looked at the floor and suddenly clenched his fists.

He grabbed the axe again and looked back into my eyes.

His eyes suddenly flashed with bright light.

Something suddenly changed.

"Haahhh..."

He suddenly began to utilize some sort of breathing technique. His entire body exuded a strong aura of mana around him... I could sense something else within him.

I quickly felt his aura suddenly grow threatening. I quickly got into a stance, recognizing that he might be getting serious now.

"Sorry for attacking you abruptly. I wanted to test your reflexes. Now, come at me," I said to him.

"I'll show you I'm not someone you'll mess around with... Sylphy, I'll make you take me seriously!" he roared, rushing towards me.

His strong and corpulent body would imply that he would move slow. However, the winds encompassed his entire body, making him move at an incredible speed.

CLAAASH!

Chapter 149 Sylphy VS Zack 1

Zack's presence suddenly changed. It was as if he had become a mountain before me.

I noticed that Aquarina was looking at him with surprise by the side.

His presence definitely felt different than fighting against Aquarina. His presence was... way too different. It was his own thing.

It was like a mountain, but at the same time, it was filled with turbulent and wild winds flowing everywhere. It was something that I couldn't help but admire.

But wasn't he just a kid that just started training? Why was he so special compared to all the other Amazons in the tribe? There wasn't anything that made him unique compared to them, right?

Nothing aside from his past and what he went through since a young age... but there might have been something within him all this time that really just made him unique.

"I will make you take me seriously, Sylphy!" he shouted.

His conviction was blazing like a flame. His entire body was encompassed in winds as he moved towards me at an increasing speed, surprising me.

FLAAASH!

Like a flash of winds, he appeared in front of me in an instant and clashed against me with all his might. His enormous axe was heavy and strong, suddenly becoming different. It was because he imbued it with the power of his mana, most likely.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

Zack's movements were rough, but they were filled with strength. The spirit of wind behind him used the winds to make his movements more precise and faster, as if he was combining the best of both worlds.

I see. So that's how he can go at it. By fusing his physical strength and brutish fighting style with the finesse of Wind Magic, he can create a perfect combination and balance between overwhelming strength and speed. He's certainly not a normal kid at all. In fact, he might be stronger than normal adults in the village.

I kept defending, trying to parry from time to time, but his attacks were very intense. The weight he put in each swing made it extremely hard for me to parry his attacks with my blade correctly.

I didn't have comparable strength to him when he went all out like this. Our frames were different, after all. Although my Physique had been increasing in rank, Zack must have an innately higher physique. After all, my father said that all people have different starting points. Perhaps Zack's Physique was innately strong, which was why he could wield such a big axe at his young of age.

Because of that, in pure physical strength, I cannot win over him. At most, I can resist and parry some attacks, but he would ultimately overwhelm me!

Of course, that's in the case where I don't use magic. With magic, I can even enhance my own physical strength. With that in mind...

Guess who has a lot of mana?

I quickly conjured several body enhancing spells over my body, reinforcing my muscles, bones, and skin, while at the same time boosting my metabolism, making my blood pump through my body at a faster rate.

"Here I come again!" I said as I pushed forward and surprised Zack.

"Ah...!"

Zack almost tripped over his own weight. The winds he was trying to control sometimes would not completely obey him, showing his experience in the usage of Wind Magic. I abused that to charge forward as I put my palm in front of him and unleashed a fireball!

"Hey, that's cheating!" he cried, before shielding himself with his axe.

BOOOM!

The fireball was made out of many little Embers merged together. Zack realized that's what I was going to do as he saw the many little flames converge into a fireball, something that often happened when I create Fire spells using the Ember Skill.

Then again, the fireball wasn't that strong at all. With that, he quickly realized that it was something to just distract him, while I intercepted him from his left side!

CLASH!

"Y-You....!" he cried, clashing against my blade in time, only to receive a strong kick in the ribs, the same ones I had hit before, making him grit his teeth and twist his face in pain.

"We're going all out, right? This isn't a battle about techniques. You're clearly using magic and an axe. Anything goes, Zack. You should also use everything you got!" I told him.

"If that's the case... don't go crying if I hurt you too badly!" he roared as he suddenly clashed against my blade while his fist reached my chest, punching me with a lot of force. Normally, that wouldn't have been enough to damage me properly. However, he had packed that punch with a lot of Wind Magic. So, the moment the fist hit me, an explosion of winds was unleashed, pushing me back several meters, almost blowing me away!

BOOOOMMM!!!

"W-Wow...!"

I gritted my teeth as I used Ember to conjure several flares around my feet, quickly managing to maneuver in midair as I managed to land on my two feet.

"A punch to the chest didn't even faze you?!" he cried in surprise.

"Hehe, you can punch this girl all you want, I'm not going to fall that easily! Hey, how about you take my fist now?!" I laughed, reaching up to him again and quickly enhancing my speed several times once more through the conjuration of body enhancing spells.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

My blows began to overwhelm him as his lack of true techniques began to turn his axe attacks predictable to me. Unlike Aquarina and I, he lacked technique aside from the most basic ones.

"Hahh... RAAH!"

However, Zack suddenly unleashed an explosion of wind magic, unleashing it as a shockwave of invisible winds reaching up to me and clashing against me. I shielded myself with my arms and sword as he used this opportunity to attack me.

"HAAAHHH!"

Spark... spark!

And then I saw it... Zack showed something more than just wind.

Chapter 150 Sylphy VS Zack 2

"W-What the...?!"

Aquarina cried in surprise as she saw what I saw. Zack unleashed not only winds but... sparks of electricity from his weapon.

I had seen that before, his spirit, Cumulus, had such a power. I had heard from my mother that Wind and Thunder Magic were very closely related with one another. After all, they both controlled the weather, and could be produced from the other in a way.

Usually, when a person has affinity for Wind, Thunder would also show up as a potential affinity. Zack always had the affinity for Wind since he was a kid. He had once told me that he was able to move things around with waves of his hands, which were actually the winds that obeyed him.

And now, through the spirit, he might be awakening the other element, the brother of Wind, Thunder!

Sparks of lightning began to emerge around his weapon, overcharging it with energy...

CLASH!

His weapon clashed against me quickly after as I intercepted it with my blade. I gritted my teeth and received his attack head on, looking defiantly into his eyes only to find his surprised gaze.

A blast of lightning reached me as I was pushed back. Surprised, I quickly decided to attack once more, swinging my blade. I clashed against his shoulder and then, with strength, I changed my stance and threw him into the ground.

His thunder had lightly touched me, and it already hurt quite a bit, but I had unleashed my own wave of fire, a wave of pure heat that dissipated the thunder from his axe. With that, I used the rest of my strength to push him down.

BOOM!

"Agh!" he cried.

"Your thunder is just awakening. You can't control it properly, huh?" I asked.

"Shut up!" he roared as he stood up and quickly charged forward, surprising me.

CLAAASH!

His axe clashed against my blade once more as lightning began to course through his body. His speed was accelerated even more as his axe clashed with my blade constantly, unleashing powerful thundering slashes at me!

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

I decided to greet his powerful barrage of thundering axe blows with my own.

"Blazing Blade Technique: One Hundred Blazing Slashes!"

I covered my blade with flames through the constant conjuration of Ember as I used my blazing blade to intercept his thunder!

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

My blazing blade danced around the battlefield as the flames burned the grass around us. On the other hand, Zack's thunder also did the same with the grass around him.

Zack was receiving the attacks with his axe, but several times, I managed to slash his arms or his legs, leaving burnt slash wounds. The same happened with me, actually. His attacks felt like they were cracking my bones a little bit. In any case, he was very strong, as strong as Aquarina.

CLASH!

Our weapons once more clashed against one another, intercepting each other. His axe slowly started to slide through my blade as I parried him and threw him away, quickly jumping into the air and falling over him while spinning with my flaming blade.

"Blazing Blade Technique: Blazing Dance!"

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

By spinning in midair with my flaming blade, I was able to attack Zack several times constantly, pressuring him and ultimately throwing him into the ground. The heat I was constantly releasing gathered around us, exploding over Zack!

BOOOM!

...

Zack was lying on the floor with a tired expression.

"Hahh... you're a monster..." he muttered with a sigh.

"Oh, come on. You're not fighting anymore? That was awesome!" I told him.

"No... I'm tired..." he said, gasping for air.

"Hahaha! Don't worry. You were pretty good. I had to use a few techniques to win, but a victory is a victory," I said with a smile.

"Next time we spar, I'll go even harder! I just have to master some technique like the ones you girls have..." he said.

"Sure! I could help you with that. I think we can do something about it," I replied.

"Sylphy!"

Aquarina reached up to me, ignoring the wounded Zack while checking my body.

"A-Are you okay? Did that brute hit you too hard?" she asked.

"No, I'm pretty fine. Don't worry about it. More importantly, Zack is a bit burnt..." I said in response.

"Ugh... I've gotten all sorts of wounds anyways..." he replied.

"You're very sturdy for your age," I could not help but say after that.

"And you're also very sturdy for your age, wait why do you talk as if you were older? I was pretty sure I heard a few cracks from your bones. How come you're completely okay now?!" he asked.

"Well, the bones are still healing a bit, but you only slightly cracked them..." I told him.

"S-So he did do such a thing!" cried Aquarina.

After that, Aquarina looked at Zack with an angered expression.

"Why would you be such a brute! I'm pretty sure I made sure to never break any bones!" she said.

"Okay, okay, uagh...! Stop it already, you crazy shrimp!" cried Zack. He was being held by Aquarina as she began to shake him around. He was too weak to even defend himself.

"Hahaha!"

I couldn't help but feel happy after seeing such an interaction. They had really grown closer. I even laughed a bit.

The two looked at me while furrowing their eyebrows.

"You shouldn't be the one laughing at this!" said Aquarina.

"Haha, sorry... it's just hilarious to see you two guys fighting sometimes... I really shouldn't laugh... but... pfff... Hahaha..." I giggled.

"Ugh... you're really a sadistic girl! Heal me already!" cried Zack.

"Oh, right! Wait just a bit!" I laughed as I began to heal Zack's body using my healing magic. Verdant Light, Infuse Life, Regeneration Enhancement, Burn Cleansing, and more. All of these were tiny spells that, when combined, made a pretty good and powerful healing effect.

After we were done here, we continued playing around the forest, and encountered a wild boar on the way. We defeated it together, and then we brought it back to Aquarina's home to eat.

All in all, it was quite a nice day.