

A Glitched 211

Chapter 211 Progress

Aquarina always changes when she goes serious, and I had the chance to see her training with her father several times. I don't really want to steal her time with her father, so I have not been able to find the time to ask Shade to teach me his assassination techniques and dagger techniques either.

And I also feel like my father got some sort of rivalry with Shade where they are competing for who teaches the most techniques to their daughters... which worries me a bit, but I have to bear with it as I move forward, I cannot really concentrate into it all the time, right? Yeah...

I wouldn't mind losing against Aquarina, but that seems hard to do and even without putting effort, infinite mana really makes me a cheater in this competition, because I don't exhaust my mana as fast as Aquarina and can use it constantly with my techniques and magic and combine all sorts of spells with techniques swiftly with the power of Mana Usage.

Meanwhile, Aquarina has a limited mana pool, it regenerates super-fast because she had been using and practicing magic since she was a kid so she had slowly increased its quantity... but she still cannot compare to her parents' mana capacity, so she gets tired, eventually.

Nonetheless, I am all for her surpassing me, even less things I have to worry if she becomes that strong, so I am sparring with her every day too, to see how she slowly progresses, she likes to spar with me a lot, although she dislikes doing it with Zack because she says he's "a muscle-brained brute"... She still doesn't like him as much, but she had certainly slowly began to accept him more.

Anyways, my Aquarina is the best anyways, she's growing so strong, it makes me proud, it is like seeing my little sister growing stronger over time. I care a lot about her, so I am always secretly watching over as she trains harshly with her father. She sometimes likes me to see her training and it is very cute when she waves her little hand at me to give her attention.

Her spirit, Undine, has been training through the same regime as mine, this regime actually came from my mother, she makes her spirits exhaust themselves to near death by training every day when she's not doing anything else, so she said that we must train non-corporeal beings by merely making them conjure all sorts of spells constantly.

She said that: "Magic for spirits is like muscles for us, the more they train it, the stronger they become, but if they neglect it for some time, their magic begins to weaken once more, so you must make sure to make them train every day, conjuring random spells works the best, it also might awaken new spells within them, this is how my spells became so strong, I've been making them do this for all age..."

Imaging these spirits training for over 600 years is really frightening to think about, my mother is really like a tyrant to them, I bet they are so scared of her that this is why they treat her so respectfully... At this point her pact with them doesn't look like a pact but more like slavery!

A-Anyways, moving on, Undine had been training hard, and as Aquarina's best friend after me, she always watches over her and is like a sister to her too, I've discovered that she sometimes begins to talk alone, but it is because Undine is speaking to her through telepathy.

Undine is now able to embody the tridents of Aquarina way better, and might even conjure them as spells now... We'll have to see more of that though.

And moving on, she now has a second spirit in Leviathan, the small sea serpent dragon-like ice spirit, he's still an infant and a few days won't make it the best yet, he's slowly getting better at ice magic, but its going to take more than half a week for him to become stronger, but for now, Aquarina can now conjure small icicle spears to shoot at enemies, which seem pretty fragile, so strong enough foes might just resist them easily. Nonetheless, over time, she'll get better and better and might be able to do more crazy stuff like freeze a foe into an ice statue or something cooler.

Moving on to Zack... well, that boy has been spoiled, isn't he? Now Nepheline and Nin are teaching him stuff, and he's getting better and better at the axe. His body type is more "compatible" with Nepheline's techniques, so she's teaching them to him by muddying them a bit, she's good at using an axe and a hammer so she's the best for the job. His wind spirit is developing a bit more, and his ability to unleash electricity from his body is becoming a bit better over time, but I don't know if he can use the axe to unleash the true power of wind and thunder yet, although I am looking forward to that eventually.

And lastly, me! Well, I already said what I did over this week, but I didn't included by training of the Agriculture Skill! Now that it can level up and gain proficiency by repeatedly using the Skill, I have been doing it behind the scenes to not bring any unwanted attention, and I have gained a nice amount of proficiency over time, enhancing the level of the Skill up to Level 5 in just these few days, amazing, isn't it?

Each level slightly enhanced the Skill's powers and speed of conjuration of the ability, it overall makes the effects stronger, so I can control plants better and do more things with them, like make them stretch and then reduce size, and I might be able to make plant monsters last longer now when I create them out of their seeds directly into plant monsters.

Although it is taking its time, Alice said that if it reaches Level 10, something special might happen, so I am looking forward to that!

Chapter 212 Level 5 Skill

As of now I was enjoying breakfast while I looked into my Skill's progression, I had discovered that nobody but me was able to see my Status Windows even when they showed up in front of me, so it must be some sort of magic that only works for me... everybody else was leisurely having a nice breakfast without knowing I had such a weird and bizarre power.

[Agriculture: Lv5]

Skill Proficiency: 2375 / 5000

A signature Skill from the Farmer Class.

Grants the ability to detect the health of plants, their inner talents, capabilities, and species by just glancing at them. Additionally, grants the ability to enhance and control plants through the usage of Mana.

Level Bonus (5): Enhances the Skill's Effects by +50%

And there it was! When it leveled up, it began to show up this weird bonus thingy, which shows how much each level increases the effects of the skill through a percentage, each level gave +10% boost, so at level 5, it is +50%.

Alice said that the max level was 10, so at max level it should get a +100% bonus, doubling the total power of the Skill! And then something "interesting" will happen afterwards, which I assume might be a new Skill showing up or something.

Though we'll have to see how that goes. For now, I am enjoying some nice breakfast while secretly healing a bunch of grass in my pocket. This is how I practice Agriculture, I have discovered I can even drain the life of plants at higher levels, so I just drain it and then infuse it back constantly.

It feels like I am torturing the little grass, so I am quite sorry for it, but this is what I must do! I am sorry little grass, but your sacrifice will be appreciated.

"Sylphy why are you conjuring magic in your pocket?"

However, my mother quickly notices my strategy.

"I am just... practicing magic to make it stronger?" I asked. "Like you said! I have to use it a lot to make it stronger."

"..." she seemed in silence for a while. "Did I said that?" she asked. "Okay..."

She seemed to be a bit impacted, she realized I was just being a hard worker and decided to not reprimand me for it.

"Sylphy has like endless mana or something, so she'll always be practicing magic, she never takes a break because... she doesn't need them pretty much." Said Aquarina. "She's amazing!"

"Yeah, it is impressive how your daughter ended with so much mana that she seems near bottomless..." sighed Shade. "The only one with this much mana we have ever seen was the Demon King himself, and that's because he was the incarnation of all other demon kings so he had their accumulated mana..."

"Y-Yeah... I think our daughter might be the new demon queen or something." laughed my father. "I am joking though! Hahah!"

"She really got the potential, huh?" asked Nepheline while smiling back at me. "She's a bit devilish already!"

"I-I am not devilish!" I said.

"You even made a demon your familiar, that already settles it." said Shade. "Sylphy, we must put a stop to you before it is too late."

"Eeeh?!"

Shade seemed very serious there! W-Was he actually serious?!

His intimidating presence was enough to almost make my heart stop, but then he sat down again and sighed.

"...I am joking." He sighed. "Sorry for scaring you."

"Phew... D-Don't worry!" I said. "I always knew you were joking!"

"Hahah, father is bad at joking." Said Aquarina. "He's way too serious."

"I am trying..." sighed Shade.

"Don't worry dear, your jokes always crack me up." Said Nepheline.

"I believe half the "jokes" you think I've said were actually serious but you just laugh way too much."
Said Shade while looking at Nepheline with a mild smile.

"Hahahaha! You're funny sometimes though, even if unintentionally." Said Nepheline.

"You two have been in better mood lately, I see." Said my mother with a smile. "That's good, I am happy to see you two dorks happy for once."

"H-Hey! I am always happy!" said Nepheline. "He's the gloomy one that I have to hug to get better."

"Don't call me gloomy..." sighed Shade, he got gloomy again.

"A-Ah...! S-Sorry, dear... Come on, don't get like that again..." sighed Nepheline, trying to cheer the gloomy Shade again.

"Nothing like a good slap in the back won't do, right?" said my father, as he slapped Shade's back with his natural strength and generated an expansive shockwave that made all the surroundings tremble.

TRUUUMM...!

"Guh...! Y-You idiot! Why did you do that? Agh..." muttered Shade. He felt like the air of his lungs came out in a second.

"That's what friends do! My father always say that when your friend is down, you have to pat him in the back." Said my father. "Sylphy, Aquarina, Zack, always remember that!"

"I-I don't know if I should do that with those two." Said Zack. "Aquarina would cut me down into pieces and I might break my hand if I pat the back of Sylphy..."

"Oi! Are you calling me a gorilla?" I asked.

"I've never said that!" said Zack.

"If you want it so badly I can cut you down..." said Aquarina with an evil smile.

"I-I have to reject the offer..." said Zack.

"Heheh, these children are so fun to be around, they already remember you four." Said Ninhursag. "And talking about that, I was thinking that I should try to teach you three kids my magic."

"Eh? Really?" I asked in shock.

"What?!" asked Aquarina.

"Y-Your magic? You mean...?!" asked Zack.

"Yep! The Magic I use is named Polymorph Magic and Beast Transformation Magic. I have always wanted to pass down my magic to other people, but they're always too untalented, and these four old heroes are too good to learn my feeble magic anyways, so I should pass it down to the newer generations of heroes instead." Said Ninhursag. "How about it? Do you want to try learning it?"

All three of us smiled as we nodded at the same time.

"We do!"

Chapter 213 Time To Learn New Magic

"Alright then! It is decided!" said Ninhursag. "I will try to see if it even works though."

"But can it even work?" I asked. "Isn't your magic unique of your race?"

I had thought about this as well. Apparently Ninhursag wanted to teach us her magic, and that was pretty great, but will it even work? After all, it is a magic used by the skin changers themselves, I had always thought it was their own unique ability, and in a way, it really looks like it is.

But it seems that it still very much related to magic, and in this world runes and magic circles exists, there are wizards too, who learn all sorts of magic by studying it for several years, so anyone that studies enough and has a bit of talent would be able to learn magic, the thing is, would they be able to learn magic right away or would they be able to use it efficiently? This is where the help of magic circles come into place.

Thanks to the power of magic circles, people is able to accumulate runes permanently inside of their souls, which allow them to conjure certain magic faster, this is why choosing the element of the runes you want to infuse into your magic circle is important, because it will decide what you're going to specialize.

Although it appears that most people don't have to choose as everyone already comes with a defined affinity of magic and usually when they make their magic circle for the first time, it ends up turning into the element they have affinity to, there are extremely rare cases of magic circles with more than two elements, but there are, and I am the even rarer case that has a rainbow magic circle, which can harbor all elements without each other disrupting one another's activity and power!

However, I was still surprised that Ninhursag offered us such a thing, because I really thought it was too unique of a magic that only skin changers could use it, but maybe there are ways for others too? Although they might be very hard.

"Technically it is, but all magic is always related to runes and conjurations, although my own race boosts my ability to learn this magic astronomically, there should be ways for you to go around it and learn it on your own way and incorporate it into your magic." Said Ninhursag. "As long as the basis are passed down to you, that would be enough for me. I just want someone to learn this magic, even if it's just a single spell, so it just doesn't get lost in time."

Ninhursag's reason seemed very reasonable. I guess she really just wanted her magic to pass down to the new generations so it wouldn't get lost when she eventually passed away, as the last skin changer and the last wielder of her own magic, if she dies, it ends there... and she doesn't want that, so she had even decided to teach it to all three of us.

She said my parents and Aquarina's parents were too old and powerful for them to care? And I guess she wants more fresh and young pupils and not overpowered heroes that have already learned so much magic.

My parents and Aquarina's parents seemed to agree with that and even be happy for it, my mother seemed the most enthusiast about it.

"Sylphy is a magic genius and Aquarina too, I am sure the two will be able to learn it, no matter what. Even more because they're very young, young children always have a greater talent at learning magic and languages." Said my mother. "Zack... To be harshly honest, he's not the best for magic, he would need a lot of practice and increasing his magic circle to get the same level of talent as the two girls here, but his physique is amazing and he got a great talent for developing it, he reminds me of my husband."

"Eh? So I am not that good at magic?! But I can use winds and electricity!" he said. "I am surely better than most kids my age."

"Well... Yeah, you're right, I shouldn't put elven children standards on you, dear." Said my mother. "On human standards you're very talented, my bad."

My mother seems to always compare everyone to elves, who are literally the best ones at using magic from all races... So yeah, sometimes her standards are way too high, Zack's magic talent is outstanding for humans, and I am sure he'll be able to learn eventually.

"Faylen don't badmouth my boy like that in front of me..." sighed Ninhursag, as she petted Zack and kissed his forehead.

"Sorry! I didn't mean that..." sighed my mother.

"No, don't worry about it. I am pretty sure I am not as amazing as these two girls, especially Sylphy, she's way too insanely good at magic! She just has to see a spell she can just copy it..." sighed Zack. "I don't feel offended if I am told to not be as talented if I am compared to her..."

"Hahaha! I guess that's true..." laughed Ninhursag. "Anyways! I am going back to my tent now, you three go there whenever you end up eating."

"Sure!" I said.

Ninhursag quickly moved back to her tent. Over the week she had slowly recovered and nowadays she was very cheerful, it was a completely different person when she got happy and filled with spirit, it was quite baffling to see her act like that, but it soothed my heart that she was recovering. Perhaps adopting Zack also made her happier, it feels like she finally got something that she must go forward for, a motivation aside from just surviving, which is seeing Zack grow up.

"Ninhursag really seems happier nowadays, doesn't she?" asked my father.

"Indeed, I hope she can continue like that..." said my mother while drinking some tea.

"It is good to see my friend smile again." Said Nepheline. "I know it is hard to slowly keep going, and she might still be enduring things deep inside, but she's trying, and slowly improving."

"Yeah... We have to be at her side so she can slowly progress further." Said Shade.

Chapter 214 The "Logic" Behind Ninhursag's Magic

After having breakfast we quickly moved into Ninhursag's tent where we met her sitting cross-legged while channeling her mana around her body, it seemed as if the phantoms of several beasts suddenly emerged around her- no, not only beasts, but enormous monsters of all sorts of sizes... three-headed chimeras, giant birds, large reptiles, and more...

"Wow..." said Aquarina.

"What are you doing?" wondered Zack.

"Are these souls?" I wondered.

"Look, children, these are the spirits of animals and monsters I have devoured and gained their power." said Ninhursag. "You know cooking magic, right?"

"We do." I said.

We quickly sat down over the floor to listen to her words more closely.

Ninhursag smiled gently at us as she began to speak.

"I had already introduced it to you before, with the help of your mother too, Cooking Magic is an important magic that is made out of several elements together, it is a Composite Magic or High Magic, like some call it." she said. "The secret behind the pillar of my magic is Cooking Magic."

"W-What?" I asked in shock. "Really?"

"Yes, Cooking Magic is what helps me absorb the essence and the "spirit" of the monsters I eat, conjuring it over the food I cook allows my magic to fully absorb the essence of a monster, and then through another spell, I channel their power through some of their body parts, usually a bone, claw, or fang does the trick," said Ninhursag, as she showed us her long necklace with many fangs and claws on it, each one was a different monster or animal she could convert into.

"So it was Cooking Magic all along..." said Aquarina. "But it can't be that simple, right?"

"Of course it isn't. There are many things that are essential to learn first, such as all the magic, of course. So it is not something simple even if I made it seem that way." Said Ninhursag. "First and foremost, the ability to conjure the power of these animals and monsters and channel them into a transformation is something that is related with Druid Magic which channels spirits of beasts to fight, merged with Polymorph, the magic that allows one to change the shape of the body temporarily..."

"Oohh..." said Zack.

"The steps are simple, though, after you've finally learned the spells what you simply do is use Cooking Magic to consume a prey and gain their "Essence" and "Spirit" after that, you keep a "souvenir" of their

bones, most of the time a fang or a claw will do the trick." She said. "After that, you channel the special spell that transform you while touching the "souvenir" of that certain beast or monster..."

"I see..." I said. "But what is the logic behind the transformations? I mean... What's the magic conjuration behind it? Also, how do you construct it? And lastly, what's the basis behind the ability you have as a skin changer? I am sure you got some special ability that makes it easier for you to learn this magic..."

"Okay, wow, calm down Sylphy, those are a lot of questions at once... I get it, you're excited, but let me explain things to you slowly, okay? There's no point in hurrying up too much." Said Ninhursag. "First, the logic behind the transformation is the ability to change your body shape, which comes from Polymorph magic, it is a High Magic that derivates from Life and Blood Magic, which helps at changing the shape of the biological structure of the body, from muscles, bones, internal organs, and more..."

"I-I see..." said Aquarina. "I didn't get it..."

"You don't have to, really, just know that it is an easy to learn High Magic that changes the shape of the body." Laughed Ninhursag. "Anyways, the magic conjuration behind it is always done passively and without incantation through my magic circle, I have engraved the magic into my own magic circle, so it is easy to conjure. For other people, though, you would need incantations."

"You're really an incredible mage..." said Zack.

"Heh, did you think I was just a savage? There is a lot to learn about magic, and in this world ruled by magic, you have to adapt it to your body and use it the best you can." Said Ninhursag. "Anyways, I construct the spells like I mentioned earlier, mostly using several pre-made runes inside of my magic circle... However, without that, you'll have to simply learn how to conjure the runes into magic circles, which might take its time, but it is not like we are going to depart any time soon, even after going away from the jungle, we'll continue sticking together so I'll continue teaching you more..."

Ninhursag continued explaining us more and more about her magic, it was all quite enlightening, from how it was constructed to the very basis of its functions, she had figured out all of that by herself, although part of learning it also came from her family before they passed away, but they only taught her the very basics, and back then she wasn't able to turn into monsters until she reached adulthood, it seems that the spirit of monsters compared to wild animals are way stronger and "corrupt" as she said, so it was hard to channel them without becoming a monster in the process... well, that sounds quite dangerous.

"For now, the very basis of my magic is channeling the spirit and essence of the beasts and monsters you've eaten through cooking magic. As of now Faylen and Nepheline should have already cooked you and feed you a lot of monster meat with cooking magic, so you should at least have a few handful of beast and monster spirits dwelling inside of you." Said Ninhursag. "We are going to try to channel them and awaken them!"

"H-How are we going to exactly do that?" asked Zack, suddenly, Ninhursag smiled maliciously, as she stood up and walked towards us, pointing her finger at us.

"I am doing it forcefully," she said.

"Eh?"

"Ah?"

"Huh?"

"Prepare yourself and grit your teeth, it might hurt a bit, but I got the permission from your parents, so it's okay!"

Chapter 215 Awakening A Beast Spirit!

Ninhursag seemed rather excited about what she was about to do. She wanted to "awaken" the beast spirits we have innately within our bodies... Apparently our parents have been feeding us food using Cooking Magic for a while, so all these monster spirits or well, some part of their essence remained within us, somehow. And now, she can awaken this to see what we are getting... I would say that it would be scary to know what I have, because it is most likely a mess of many things that I really don't want to see. I wonder if a giant and monstrous chimera will show up... Ahh, just thinking about it sends shiver down my spine, I feel like I really shouldn't let her do it.

...But it was too late. Ninhursag touched my head before I could even resist or run away, and she smiled gently at me. The energies within her body began to gather around her hand and then, a stream of gold light flew into my head all the way down to my entire body! And... It hurts a lot.

"You're the strongest here so I expect you to not be so intimidated by the pain, Sylphy." She said. "Beast Spirit Awakening...!"

FLASH!

Ninhursag conjured a special spell named Beast Spirit Awakening that... well, it awakened a Beast Spirit into someone's body through the usage of her specialized magic. The Mana she infused into my began to quickly attempt to take something from within my body that was stuck there, like some sort of very hard thing that wasn't really any physical part of my body, it felt like an essence that has been stuck there for way too long, which she aggressively tried to take away, it hurt a lot, like the searing pain of several needles piercing your insides, it was indeed a ritual of endurance, and I don't know if Aquarina and Zack would be able to resist it as much as I was doing so, mostly because my mind was used to pain and it didn't distract me from it as much as others would be distracted from it to the point they might even pass out...

"It's almost there..." Said Ninhursag, Aquarina and Zack were looking at me with surprise and intrigue, wondering what could be inside of me.

A mass of red-colored energy slowly began to emerge, like a searing flame that started to spread everywhere, several scales showed, and even a long red tail, and then, even wings. What was surging from my body as my primary Spirit Beast essence was not something normal at all, it wasn't some random monster or beast, it was... yes, it was Ignatius, but this didn't felt like him though. This felt like the most primary of his essences, like the thing I got from him without the soul, the "essence" of the Red Dragon I once ate as a little child. All these years it has been stuck inside of my body and it has even enhanced my growth in strength and magic, but now... It was getting to completely new levels.

"W-What is... this?!" Asked Ninhursag in shock. The Skin Changer looked at the fiery aura surging from my body with eyes wide open, the enormous flames shaped themselves as a large and furious dragon covered in hard, red-colored scales, and his entire presence was domineering. The pain changed from needles piercing my insides to a very painful fire burning my entire body, it felt as if I was truly being embraced by the flames and burned alive, this wasn't something that a normal person would be able to bear at all... Wasn't this a bit too much, actually?

Ignatius, the spirit, quickly reacted to this essence within my soul scape, as he began to grow alarmed, he felt as if something, a part of him, was finally being brought back. He looked around desperately and began yapping around as if he wanted me to bring him back outside to check this, but I refused, if I

brought him outside, he would interrupt the ritual and something bad might happen if that really ends up happening, so it is better for him to assess the situation later than now.

"Let me out, Sylphy! T-That's a part of my very power..." He said. "Let me absorb it so I can grow stronger!"

"Ignatius, this is not what you think it is, stop being so annoying and stay quiet!" I told to him through telepathy, the floating egg got pissed and began barking around angrily, roaring back at me, and telling me how this would help us, but I ignored him.

After all this ritual wasn't to make him stronger, it was to teach me how to use a fraction of what Ninhursag is capable of doing, the power of shaping herself as the essence of the beasts she had consumed. If this is true, then what could happen to me? Would I become a giant red dragon? No, I think that's too unrealistic...

FLAAASH!

"GROOOOAARRRR...!"

The Red Dragon fiery aura continued to emerge from my body, growing larger and larger until it suddenly shaped itself as a complete spirit, a gigantic one at that with an enormous and ridiculous size. So ridiculously big that it left me quite. I wonder if this is the size that spirits are supposed to have? No... there's no way that's the case. I saw how Ninhursag looked at my spirit, she was very surprised. The size of the spirit was already shocking for her, and the essence of fieriness it emanated made it hard to breathe around it.

And that's without even counting into consideration the blazing aura it emanated, which seemed to burn like real fire to anyone except me, so Aquarina and Zack ended retreating back several meters while Ninhursag covered herself in mana to resist the fiery power... Ninhursag looked fascinated though, as if she had found a mine of gold all for herself.

"I-Incredible, Sylphy! This is the Red Dragon... you ate so long ago?!"

Chapter 216 Red Fire Dragon Physique

Within my Soul Scape, Ignatius was a bit angered, he really wanted me to give him the power of this Essence, but I don't even know if it could work properly, after all this wasn't part of him anymore and it was now my own "beast spirit essence" or whatever other name it had. And it was also for a ritual that Skin Changers did, if he got in the middle of it, I was sure he would screw things over and not make anything better at the end, and this is not what I want him to do! He had already ruined enough of my plans, so I don't want him to get his nose into this ritual.

"T-That's my power... Give it back!" Cried Ignatius.

"Stop already, you're just annoying Sylphy!" Said Alice. "You've already gone through a metamorphosis into a Fire Spirit now, you can't really retake that energy even if you wanted and Sylphy allowed you to."

"T-That's... there's no way..." He said.

"Ignatius you're already more than dead, you went ahead and challenged Sylphy's parents and got killed because of that." Said Furoh. "Stop thinking that you can somehow miraculously revive now, in fact you've somewhat revived as a Fire Spirit. You have willingly accepted helping her now, so don't go back on your words..."

Ignatius felt the pressure of Alice and Furoh as the floating egg seemed a bit overwhelmed, but he sighed and seemed to have given up a bit more.

"Sigh... I was just excited to see such a large part of my powers..." He said. "I am honestly quite surprised that something like that was happening... I had thought that such a part of me was lost, but... I guess Sylphy had the essence of a dragon within her body after she ate me... Ugh."

"Well yeah... It is one of the factors that has allowed her physique to grow this strong, it could be said she has a Red Fire Dragon Physique, in fact." Said Alice. "I suppose that's a good name for it... Although it is not yet fully developed, and it might change into something different in the future."

"Red Dragon Physique..." I thought to myself, as I looked back at the enormous dragon spirit.

Ninhursag smiled as she nodded. Although this spirit seemed to have "come out" it was merely an expression of what was within me, and it wouldn't easily just get out of my body and weaken me, after all it was part of my own physique. I guess it could be said that it was the expression of it that could be unleashed through the usage of the Spells that Ninhursag was using. I have seen things similar with my father, Shade, and Nepheline when they fought. Their physiques are so strong that they exude a certain aura in the shape of something. I don't know if that's their spirits or something, but it is as if their very bodies have their own spirits and essence.

Is this the basic principle of it? It wouldn't be so far-fetched, seeing how they can easily use Cooking Magic and eat any monster they have hunted after cooking it with this magic to gain their essence and perhaps grow stronger over time. Perhaps one of the strategies for when they were younger to grow stronger was by eating the meat of strong monsters cooked through Cooking Magic, and if my mother was like their teacher and guider in those times, she probably cooked all their meals to reinforce their strength even further. Wow, my mother had to babysit everyone if that's the case.

"I think this is it...! Ah, the fiery presence it has is very strong..." She said.

"I-I don't have any more spirits?" I asked. "No more essence?"

"I think you have... The thing is, all the other beings you've consumed left some essence on you but this one... This Red Dragon is the strongest, and it simply assimilated all the essences and continued growing bigger and stronger." She said. "Also, I think I've awakened your Physique, the Physique of a Red Fire Dragon!"

"A physique!" I said in surprise.

It is just like Alice said I would! I really had the physique of a Red Fire Dragon at the end... Did I always had it since I was a child after I ate this dragon's meat for weeks and weeks? My parents feed me this for literally months because there was so much, and with their magic it never rot, so we could eat it all year long. And because I ate it when I was a mere child, I really did receive an amazing boost to my total growth. Now it has been years since then I have already been enjoying the benefits of this physique quite a lot ever since then, but now it seems that it was finally awakening thanks to Ninhursag.

"Yes... This is enough for now; you've awakened the Beast Spirit necessary. I doubt you can get anything else than it though, the Fire Dragon is way too fierce and will eat anything else..." Sighed Ninhursag. She suddenly took away her hand from my head and the dragon immediately turned into red energy and

flowed back to me, filling me with even more energy than I had before. It was so impactful it made me fall over the floor and sigh in relief.

BUMP!

"Uaggh... That was so tiring..." I sighed.

I realized that it was all thanks to Ninhursag at the end, without her hand atop my head, the Dragon Spirit thing wasn't able to stay outside and would go back to my physique immediately after... This probably means that it can only get out of my physique through specific magical means that I need to first learn before I can fully use as if it were my own power. It is a bit of a bummer, but we are here for that very purpose, to learn from Ninhursag and try to learn a fraction of her powers. Ninhursag petted my head gently as she looked at Aquarina and Zack

"You two are next now..."

Chapter 217 Aquarina's Beast Spirit

Aquarina and Zack were growing nervous already, the two saw what I went through and were certainly not desiring to go through the same thing as I did, but Ninhursag was a merciless teacher, despite being so gentle and nice with us, she was really merciless at the times like these, and it really showed what she was truly capable of. I am not saying she's bad or something, I am actually happy that she's helping us grow stronger, I've always wanted to learn a bit about her powers and even see if I could learn any of them if possible, and now this dream was coming true at long last, of course I was going to get happy because of that! It is common sense.

However, I feared for Aquarina and Zack, I don't know if the two were as accustomed to pain as I was. Yeah, I've seen Aquarina training very hard with her father, and he really likes the concept of tough love because he always leaves her in the floor gasping for air when they spar, he's not as gentle as my father when he fights with his daughter to train her, perhaps it comes with the ruthlessness of an assassin? Although I used to be one and I wouldn't be so rough with my daughter if I ever had one and she wanted to learn from me...

But perhaps his teachings were rough, whoever taught him all the knows about perhaps treated him just like that, and he just slowly learned to do it this way. But I am nobody to tell someone how to be a

parent... It is up to Shade to teach his daughter how to do things, and Aquarina seemed willing to go through such training anyways... I was amazed by how this shy girl had evolved over the years, now she's more confident on her own strength than ever!

And Zack... Well, he had always a rough life, he lived in the wilderness of the jungle for over two years and since he finally came back to the village that he had been training nonstop by himself, hunting down monsters to feed himself. He had been living a solitary life... But later, he was pretty much adopted by Nepheline and Shade and these recent months he had been training with Nepheline and learning a lot from her. If Shade was ruthless with training, we could say that Nepheline was a demon, because I think she really enjoys beating down the poor little Zack, but he always kept standing back up again and has continued training with her for some time now.

"I'll do both of you at the same time because you're easier to handle than Sylphy... I hope." Said Ninhursag, as she touched the head of the two kids.

"W-Wait, I am not ready yet- AAAAGH!" Zack cried, as he felt the same pain I felt.

"T-This is a bit sudden but- GYAAAAH!" Aquarina cried, as she felt the same pain I did.

Yeah, they're crying in pain... I don't like seeing this but there's no other way. It is funny how many ways to grow stronger all involve extreme pain. I guess this is the price you have to pay for power, excruciating and agonizing pain, not many people is willing to go through so much pain in their lives, some even think they're not even living yet, some are still processing that they were born. And the three of us... Well, we are kids, so it would be normal to expect that from us as well. But I suppose we are not normal children at all.

Only after two minutes, Aquarina and Zack were gritting their teeth and enduring the pain while standing up as straight as a tree, they were just as stiff as one as well, but they were bearing with the pain very well, they both surprised me a lot, and I began to admire them a bit more as I saw them putting so much effort into resisting the pain as they were doing now. Aquarina's Aura resonated with the element of water and ice, both of such elements were the strongest within her physique and magic affinity it seems and resonated with the brightest azure-colored light.

Her aura emerged from her body into an enormous stream of blue light forming into an ocean of water and icy winds entangled together, slowly spiraling with one another until it suddenly formed into something similar to serpent! Yep, it is just as I thought, I had the Red Dragon and Aquarina has the... Sea Serpent.

"A-Ah... Leviathan?!" Asked Ninhursag. "Incredible, just like Sylphy, Aquarina, you ate the preserved meat of that Demon Lord that your parents defeated long ago... I suppose you're a parallel with Sylphy in this regard, and both of you possess spirit beasts so strong that all the other smaller ones were simply devoured by them and assimilated..."

"GRUOOORR...!"

The giant sea serpent made out of Aquarina's aura roared angrily as it swam across the air, it seemed to be capable of bringing a whole flood into the world if it really wanted, it looked like a truly frightening creature, but this is what was inside of Aquarina's physique... I don't know how much this one relates to Aquarina's Leviathan Spirit, but that spirit seemed slightly similar to my Ignatius, but also not at the same time...

Whatever's the case, there was another aura coming as well, a green colored aura with various golden colors, this was Zack's Aura. It flowed outside of his body as if it were a spiraling tornado, and it was so strong it left me mesmerized, but I don't really remember any special monster being eaten by Zack, and certainly there's no way Ninhursag hunted down one like that for him when he was a kid, so what is this essence coming from him?

His physique has always been naturally strong from the very beginning, but this amazing potential within him showing through this Aura is... something way more than just the normal aura a person would have...

Chapter 218 Zack's Beast Spirit

FLAAASH!

What emerged from Zack was a storm of winds and thunder! It surprised all three of us as we saw what was coming out of his body, I do know that from what they told me, since he was a child that he showcased the power of wind, but my mother had analyzed his magic talent many times, and even after making his magic circle, she said he was similar to my father when he was younger, he wasn't good at magic by itself, but he had a strong element, which allowed him to infuse such element into his physical attacks such as weapon techniques very easily, something that would actually be rather complicated for people without magic talent, and even those that research magic would find it hard, apparently.

I was surprised, it seems that having a "strong element" doesn't always mean having a "strong magic". And some are capable of having low capacity with magic conjuration and small talent, but strong element, in such cases, these people often have strong physiques from the get-go and are more talented at fighting physically. There are rare cases of people that is good with both magic and physical fighting, but sometimes people think that's the norm because physical fighters are still able to conjure some magic spells and infuse their weapon attacks with their elemental affinity, but their spells cannot really compare to the spells of an experienced magician.

And Zack was one of such people, he was someone like my father was originally (after awakening fully as a hero and working hard for years, he became good at magic too), he has an excellent and talented physique since birth and also a strong element with wind, but his magic is subpar, even with the assistance of his spirits, so he has to do everything physically to cause an effect with his elements, but they're sometimes like spells. A good example is when he unleashes a powerful destructive slash using his axe by infusing it with the power of the wind and thunder elements... This means that his power with his element is amazing, and that paired with his physique is even better.

Then what's the reason behind this physique? My father had it that way because of both being a chosen hero and also because of his strict father making him train so hard since he was like three years old... But what about Zack?

What showed up from his aura was surprisingly simple, there were a lot of different small animals coming out as beast spirits, small and big birds, roaring panthers and tigers, fierce bears, and other monsters and beasts that are common from this jungle, but there was also a strong wind element surrounding them all... Perhaps his element had been developing alongside his physique, which made these beasts stronger than they should be originally? They looked like they were merely the essence of common beasts he had eaten that were cooked through Cooking Magic, nothing too much.

Nonetheless, it wasn't as impressive as Aquarina's aura, but it was still very remarkable and honestly quite strong, it surprised me and also made me proud, I am happy my friend is getting stronger... I can't wait to see him grow stronger and spar more with him, sparing with my friends is always where I have the most fun after all. Seeing how they're slowly developing and attempting to catch up with me is always entertaining.

"Incredible, you got a large quantity of many beasts working together somehow..." Said Ninhursag.
"You've got a lot of knack for it as well, Zack! Very well."

With that done, Ninhursag took out her hands from the kid's heads and sighed in relief. Aquarina and Zack's bodies stopped exuding such enormous elemental auras and finally reseeded for the moment, resting in the floor. I quickly moved to their side and petted their backs, slowly massaging their shoulders and using my healing magic to relax them. The pain was not gone completely after Ninhursag pulls her hands away, so I had to calm them down.

"Are you okay now?" I asked. "Ninhursag was a bit rough, but the ritual should be done now."

"Yeah... I am okay..." Sighed Aquarina. "I am very tired though, but thanks to you, Sylphy, I think I am fine. Your healing hands are always the very best there is!" Aquarina smiled adorably back at me as she seemed to grow more relaxed after I massaged her shoulders while infusing my healing magic.

"Yeah, I feel better now... I didn't expect a whole jungle of monsters to be inside of me though..." Sighed Zack. "That was way too freaky, I don't know if I will ever be able to actually transform into all of them or something, but it would be convenient I guess." Zack seemed to have recovered better, he was a hardy boy after all, and as firm as a rock, but his shoulders were still sore, and he masked his relaxation with a serious face.

"Yeah, it would be pretty nice if you could transform into all of those, I am honestly envious, I wish I had more beasts, but my dragon just ate them all..." I sighed. "I will need to eat the meat of something equally strong as a red dragon or stronger if I want a second beast spirit, don't I?"

"Exactly." Said Ninhursag. "That's what you'll need to do, sadly. I have also strong beast spirits within me, but I know how to control them from not eating the rest, I seal them in the depths of my body and soul and only unleash the chains binding them when I really need them... That three-headed chimera was one of them, but you wouldn't believe me if I told you I have a few other monsters just as terrifying if not even more terrifying inside? Oh well, you didn't see the chimera I guess..."

"We didn't see it but that certainly sounds pretty scary nonetheless..." I said. "A-Anyways, what do we do now?"

"For now you should rest a bit... But what comes later is learning some basic Druid spells and comprehend the ability to call upon the beast spirits." Said Ninhursag. "It is complicated and might take many weeks or months, so take it easy, there's no rush."

Chapter 219 The Great Benefits Of Leveling Skills

After that initial ritual with Ninhursag, we decided to move out to other things, such as eating with our parents and then we decided to take it easy for the rest of the day, mostly by practicing magic conjuration for me, while Zack went to hack a tree with his axe and Aquarina was practicing magic with her new spirit. Due to that, I was left all by myself in the tent and I was able to begin my operation "gain more skill proficiency"!

How do I do it? Well, I just stealthily walk outside using the Stealth Spell that I transferred from my previous life to this one and improved with new rune conjuration, which makes me more... well, stealthy, and then I walked into the nearby forest. With the help of Naturia at my side, we began to conjure the Agriculture Skill constantly, making all plants around us grow bigger and then taking out that life and slowly making them grow drier. It was the same process of giving and taking! And now that the Skill was at Level 5, it was very strong.

The effects of Agriculture at Level 5 were enhanced by +50%, it was a flat +10% with each level, and now at Level 5, it was enhanced by half as much as its original effects, making plants grow even healthier, but also dry even faster when I take away the life, I gave to them. Of course, it cannot let me take the energy that they originally had, but when I infuse so much life to them and then take it away, it become deadlier. Of course, I cannot use it on animals or mushrooms, only plants. This is a specific skill so unless I fight some plant monster, I won't have an advantage using this.

Of course, I can use it to enhance the plants of my surroundings to help me out, or even grow plants out of seeds into plant monsters, but those are still generally weak and don't last long, of course, their strength and duration has been extended now that I got the skill to level 5 and it has a +50% enhancement to its effects, so there is something nice to that.

I have discovered it didn't worked on animals or mushrooms long ago. Some people in this world still associate mushrooms with just some type of plant, but they're their own clade of living beings after all, they're just their own thing, mushrooms. They come in various forms, and I remember some of them doing symbiosis with certain types of algae and plants too, but I don't know if I can control those, and I also have to find them yet.

I continued doing this same thing over and over again, making plants grow and then taking away the life I infused into them, I did this moderately with short breaks of around ten minutes to relax and not get myself too stressed or tired either, my body can only take as much mana before it gets too exhausted to even move.

I continued doing this while I sat down in the forest with the help of Natoria, and without realizing it all the exhaustion of the day hit me and I fell asleep while sitting near a tree, Natoria continued conjuring the Skill for me through our soul connection which allowed her to do this, but I ended falling asleep and she wasn't able to continue without me being conscious...

...And when I woke up, I found myself inside of the tent, sleeping over a bed.

"Eh? Ah, someone must have carried me here..." I sighed, as Alice suddenly spoke to me.

"Your father found you and carried you back to the tent to sleep, he said that you were working too hard." Said Alice. "You shouldn't overexert yourself to the point you fall asleep, Sylphy!"

"Ahh... My father was the one... Oh well..." I sighed. "It is not like I got any option, right? I might as well train until I drop half dead rather than lazing around, it is just not my style, and sleeping after working so hard always feels extra nice..."

"I see, you're just a workaholic..." Sighed Alice. "You're really quite hopeless, aren't you?"

"Not even the dragons trained this hard back then, you're really an insane girl, Sylphy..." Sighed Ignatius. "But I guess that was rewarded."

"Rewarded?"

Ding!

[The Level of [Agriculture: Lv5] has increased to Level 6!]

"Oohh, it increased in level again, nice! Maybe at the end of the week it can reach Level 10? It only needs three more levels..." I said. "I should start gaining some proficiency right now!"

"Wait a bit! Hold on right there, since I gave you this damn power, you're working way harder than usual, come on, go to eat and then you're going to sleep until tomorrow." Said Alice. "And no buts!"

Alice had grown attached to me a lot more, and she was also naturally worried about my health, that was fine, I understood her, but I hate wasting time! I wanted to train more... And it is just very easy so I should still do it while I can... But maybe this is a bit too much, perhaps I should take a break until tomorrow. It is already night by now, probably around 8 PM? So I should just go to eat something and enjoy the rest of the night sleeping leisurely.

"Okay, you're right, maybe I should take it easy..." I said, as I jumped out of the bed and walked towards the dining room, which was just a big tent, so I guess dining tent. On the way there, I began to think about how good the Agriculture Skill could get if I reached Level 10. And what other Skills could emerge after it reached Level 10 too? There should be something else that would show up afterwards, right? But what could it be? I wonder... Well, there's no point wondering this so much, time to eat.

Chapter 220 Change Of Plans

I decided to check the Skill Status and see how it was going and how much it had changed after increasing the level from five to six, it seems to have improved.

[Agriculture: Lv6]

Skill Proficiency: 162 / 6000

A signature Skill from the Farmer Class.

Grants the ability to detect the health of plants, their inner talents, capabilities, and species by just glancing at them. Additionally, grants the ability to enhance and control plants through the usage of Mana.

Level Bonus (6): Enhances the Skill's Effects by +60%

I checked the Status for the Skill once more, and saw that I now needed 6000 Skill Proficiency Points, that's quite a lot now... It might take me more than I expected, and it increases by +1000 plus the previous quantity, so I always need more and more, quite the hassle.

Of course, the Level Bonus has also increased, and I acquired a nice new boost of +10% to the Skill effects. If it could reach +100%, how strong would the skill become? It is quite insane that by just repeatedly using a Skill I can gain skill proficiency and make it stronger, although it constantly requires more and more, so it is quite exhausting. I guess you could call it "grindy".

The mechanics for Skills seem pretty easy to tell, it is just constantly repeating the usage of something for an enormous quantity of time, I don't know how this even works, but I guess in real life it also somewhat is a good way to become stronger, exercising is a repeated action, and also conjuring magic constantly is a good way for your magic to become swifter.

I suppose getting better at such things is all about repeating the same action over and over again, constantly, and probably forever... No wait that's how all life is, isn't it? We wake up, sleep, go to the bathroom, eat, sleep, and repeat... It is a constant repeat of the same actions.

Ah, thinking about this really put me on perspective, I just gotta continue the grind. I moved to the dining room and greeted my family, my mother was the first to greet me by reprimanding me a bit, while my father smiled nervously at her side.

"Sylphy! Did you just fell asleep in the woods?" She asked. "Your father told me that he found you sleeping there, too unconscious to even move for yourself! What if a monster would have showed up? You shouldn't take naps in the middle of the wilderness! And what were you doing there?"

"Sorry... I was practicing Nature Magic." I said. "I am getting better at it, now I can extract life from plants way better than before. It might become more useful..."

"Oh... So you were practicing... You should overexert yourself though. You already worked hard through the entire day, I thought you were going to take the day off and just rest." Sighed my mother.

"Sorry again... I am just a workaholic, I cannot be without doing something, I am either sleeping or training or practicing magic." I sighed. "It feels wrong if I am not doing something like that while on my free time."

"Hmm... I-I guess we can't help it." Sighed my mother. "After all the things you've gone through, it is natural that you might want to grow as strong as possible as fast as possible... I suppose that if you use all of the time, when you grow up, you'll surely become admirably strong. But even then... I don't want my daughter to skip those nice moments of her childhood because she wants to grow stronger, you know? You've already matured so fast... I just want you to appreciate these years and have fun."

My mother was right, I should probably embrace these years and just have normal childish fun, the thing is, my two other friends are also hard workers and workaholics too, so they're probably in the same thing as me, they want to use all the time they got to grow stronger. I guess my mother experienced a bad childhood? Well, I had a nice one... until the thing with the bandits happened.

And my mother probably is so old she misses being a child? Perhaps that might be, perhaps she wants to be a child again without all the bad parenting she probably had, her parents seem, apparently and based in what she told me back then, quite the people...

"I also want you to enjoy your childhood, Sylphy..." Sighed my father. "I wish we could give you a life without worries and concerns, even with all the strength we have... It seems very hard."

"Yeah..." Sighed my mother. "P-Perhaps we should really go to my home... In there, there is a big barrier, stronger than any barrier we can erect ourselves as it is being fueled by the artifacts of my ancestors and my father's tremendously strong magic, he's not a Pillar for nothing... But... Sigh..."

"I guess we should, after this, we should make our way there." Said my father.

"Yeah, you're right, perhaps I'll bring the amazon there as well, they'll be most secure in that place. The travel will be very long though, can we cross the sea with so many people too?" She wondered.

"If we bring out the old ship, yeah, it should be possible." Said my father.

"Oh, that old thing... And yes, I agree, going to the elven continent wouldn't be a bad idea, this continent is plagued with the human nations that just want to use us, at the very least the elves are too prideful to ask for our help openly." Said Shade.

"I don't like the elven continent but sure..." Said Nepheline.

"Eh? W-What's happening now?" I wondered. "What are you talking about?"

"Its going to be a long journey so it is a long-term plan pretty much, but if we go to my home, the Elven Nation, it should be more secure and safe, and you can have a better childhood there..." Said my mother.

"We are accelerating our plans, but it is not as if we got any other option." Insisted my father.