

## A Glitched 391

Chapter 391 A Talk With Aquarina

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As I was sitting over the floor looking at Natoria's amazing status, she suddenly began to bathe me with her new Skill for healing. The healing effect shouldn't be any stronger than Tier 2 Magic, but somehow, it began to make my body... hurt!

"Ouch! It hurts!"

I began to tremble a lot as Natoria bathed me in her healing light, I tried to make her stop but she was stubbornly showering me with this light. When she finally finished, I felt a lot of electrifying pain over my body, as if all my nerves were being awakened or stimulated.

But suddenly, as I tried to move... I was able to do so!

"Eh?! Natoria, your Skill can do this?!" I asked in shock.

"FOOO!"

Suddenly, I looked at my own Status, the Venom Status was gone thanks to mother, probably, but a new Status was there [Nature's Blessing] and it seemed to strengthen my body and my reflexes... does this means it can help me move even when my body ended as atrophied as before?

Maybe it's only temporal, but it sure helps. I'll just ask Natoria to cast it constantly until my body heals enough so I can move normally again.

Thanks to Natoria, I was able to stand up as if nothing had happened.

When I was about to walk outside, however, I met my parents. My mother ran towards the tent so fast she ended hitting me with her big chest.

BAAM!

"Agh..."

I ended falling over the floor.

"A-Ah! Sylphy! I am sorry..." My mother quickly ran to my side and checked me over.

"Aaha... Don't worry about it... I am okay now." I sighed.

"I was so worried you were not waking up, but no matter how much I tried to heal you and wake you up, I couldn't. It was as if you were incredibly exhausted. Just what did you do to your body now?" My mother asked worriedly.

"I-I just used a lot of Mana into it... I was going desperate because I wanted to stop the cultists that showed up... It was all so hazy... I am sorry." I sighed.

"N-No, don't be sorry... Your idiot father should had been there for you!" My mother angrily said. "I am sorry for not being there either..."

"Sigh... I-I already told you that it happened out of nowhere! There's no way I can just predict the future now." My father sighed. "I was trying to protect the kids, I never thought another problem would surge right after I had all my hands full dealing with those monsters... And then I was sucked in the Dimensional Crack and had to fight a giant Basilisk holding a small Fragment of the Demon King all by myself... I did it as fast as possible..."

"You should had simply grabbed the kids and escaped; we could had deal with it once we regrouped..." Sighed my mother.

"Yeah but if we did that more people would had died!" My father said.

"But our daughter would had been safe!" My mother argued.

"I-I know... I... I had little options..." Sighed my father. "I just... felt anger for those people that died so easily and fast... right before my eyes... the casualties ended at around 26 people, but most of them were young adventurers..."

"Sigh..." My mother sighed as she seemed just as conflicted as father.

Right... A lot of people ended being petrified by those Basilisks, which ended killing them almost instantly. My mother might had healed them but their souls were used for a ritual, so the bodies without souls to inhabit couldn't be healed, most likely.

"I did my best to heal them but without their souls around, it seemed impossible." My mother said.  
"Hah... It was really a big mess."

"Erm..." I looked at my parents as they quickly realized I was still there.

"Right... Well, let's go eat something dear. Sorry for talking these things out of nowhere. What happened there was a big tragedy... I am just glad you're safe and sound, and that you were able to protect Aquarina and Zack as well... You've gone through a lot, let's go eat something." My mother held my hand as she led me to the big tent where we usually ate.

It seems that a lot of things ended happening there. Apparently my parents had a big discussion about what happened. My mother was frustrated and ended blaming my father for it, but ultimately, it was all just out of nowhere, a thing of "fate" as my uncle said, which wasn't taken kindly. It was something none of us was prepared to, we simply responded to the situation however best we could.

I don't know if I should really get angry at my father, I know he was worried and wanted to kill the monsters as fast as possible, so I can't blame him for it.... He did his best, and he ended saving us at the end. I don't want to hold grudges about what he could had done, I am just happy he came and was able to save us.

When I arrived at the tent, I found Aquarina and Zack, both seemed to have been way better than me. And they ran towards me as fast as they could too.

"Sylphyyyy!" Aquarina was the first to reach me, jumping over me and hugging me tightly. "Are you okay?"

"Y-Yeah, I am! Don't worry..." I sighed, as I petted her head. Her adorable face seemed to be about to burst into tears.

"I am sorry for not... being able to do so much back then..." She cried. "I promised I would protect you but... I ended being protected again."

"Aquarina... Don't worry about it. You're still developing and growing stronger..." I said, caressing her head. Maybe I should give her the System Seed next to give her a boost in strength if what she wants is being able to grow faster.

"B-But..." She cried, adorably rubbing her face with her hands.

I quickly gave her a kiss in her nose and then her forehead.

"Don't worry, it is alright... I am glad you're safe. It makes it all worth it."

"S-Sylphy...! Uwahh..."

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Chapter 392 Those Behind The Dungeon Break

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Comforting a little girl is nothing hard, Aquarina is still 8 years old, so after a few pettings she got better. In fact, she was really missing hugging me and receiving my affection, so she ended all cheery after a bit, smiling radiantly. And about Zack, well, he was as rowdy as he has always been, but he expressed his concern and also relief that I was "alright".

"Are you really okay though?" Asked Zack concerned.

"Yeah, I am alright, you don't have to worry about a single thing, Zack! I am ok!" I said, giving him my thumbs up. Although my body was still a bit stiff, it felt as if I was an old grandma forcing myself to walk while Naturia helped me with her healing every thirty minutes.

When we began having breakfast, the conversation got way serious once more, with the rest of the adults having gathered and also expressing their happiness after seeing me alright, they immediately began to talk about what happened. They were especially curious about what we saw and fought against, the cultists.

"The cultists?" I asked.

"Yes, those robbed people, we were able to find four knocked out, but there were more, right?" Wondered my father.

"Yes, there was another one... a woman. She was a demon and had a long and sharp tail. She used a strange magical spear that she could summon and unsummon at will. It was very dangerous." I sighed.

"We never saw her..." Shade said. "She must have escaped while everything was going on..."

"So there are people that ended managing to escape... This is a pain, especially because those guys killed themselves before we could capture them." My father sighed.

"What? What happened?!" I asked.

"Auarina and Zack knocked them down but didn't killed them. However, when things finally settled down and we captured them, they activated a Spell Jewel they swallowed, and exploded..." My mother muttered. "Not even I can just revive a person that explodes into tiny pieces everywhere, especially when their souls flew away just as fast as they died."

"T-That's horrible..."

I didn't thought they would go so far for their goals. To go as far as killing themselves so they wouldn't be able to talk nor be tortured for information... Not even the powers of the heroes can ask the dead about such things if their souls and bodies are gone.

"I'm sorry, I know we shouldn't be talking these gruesome things with you kids here, but you've gone through it all, I feel like you needed to know. You've matured a bit head of time as well, so I believe you can handle this conversation." My father said, all three of us nodded. We were no strangers to death after everything we had gone through.

"...But from what we investigated; they were all Demons." Said my mother.

"This sucks..."Nepheline said. "I never thought there would be a group of demons so hell bent into doing terrorist attacks like these... they even somehow manipulated the dungeon to make a Dungeon Break, and there was a small fragment of the Demon King there, right? How did they even got that?"

"So they were demons... Is that why they were saying they wanted retribution? They really seemed... obsessed with killing the people of this fiefdom." I said, recalling what they had said in that time. It was really scary how insane they acted.

"We had investigated with Shade and the underworld organization we got; we have barely found some things. They're not old, or perhaps they never showed themselves before... but apparently, there's a secret cult hidden in the fiefdom that some call "Abyss Calling". This cult seems to have been peaceful and silent until just now. Perhaps they had been waiting the right moment." My father said.

"I do remember something... They were praying to an Evil God... The Evil God of Dungeons. Could Demons have the ability to communicate with this God somehow through prayers?" I wondered.

"It... is a possibility." My father said. "Evil Gods are a territory we have barely stepped over. They could be said to be the real masterminds before many tragedies and the hate between tribes, but we can do very little against them. They're very powerful, they're gods after all. They hide in their Divine Realms, and control the world with their strings from afar, even as we fight, we might even be manipulated by them to do their bidding. Those demons are probably being manipulated. To think they would go as far as summoning a True Demon, which is a monster of a very high tier capable of absolute destruction if let loose..."

"True Demons... are they that scary?" Asked Aquarina.

"You only fought one that was very weakened, True Demons, when fully summoned, are usually Tier 7 in strength at minimum. Their powers are also alien to us, their demonic essence and everything else... they're very dangerous, my daughter." Shade replied to Aquarina, as the girl slowly began to grow more worried.

"Ugh, it is really troublesome..." She sighed.

"So not only this cult has connections with the Evil God of Dungeons, but are in possession of special items that grant them the ability to create True Demon Summoning Rituals." Said my mother. "They are not merely just thugs anymore, and if their intention is to just kill everybody in the fiefdom, then we have to put a stop to them."

"Yeah, we already began an investigation." My father said. "We'll do everything we can to find them and stop them..."

To think that people would go to such lengths just because they hate one another so much. The demons are resentful of the humans for all the atrocities they had suffered, while the humans hate the demons for the same, and their invasion... At the end, none of both sides is in the right or wrong, they're all justifying themselves based in what the opposite party did to them, but both parties did terrible things to one another.

There's not a good and a bad party, both are just... equally fucked. But if demons want to go to the extent of killing innocents, then, just as the humans are being stopped in the shadows by my parents, they'll have to put a stop to these cultists, which might be able to employ even more dangerous means than humans...

Ah, I wonder how the kids in the orphanage are doing.

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Chapter 393 Choosing A New Leveling Skill!

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When we finished having breakfast, I decided to go take a relaxing warm bath to relax my muscles. My uncle gave me some bath salts made through alchemy that heal the body from pain, exhaustion, and even can reactivate nerves, I quickly used it in the warm portable bathtub to relax for almost an hour, where I ended falling asleep for like twenty minutes, it was way too relaxing.

I wanted to go to the city, but my parents didn't allowed me, as they said I had to rest for now because of all I had gone through, so I ended being mostly reclused inside of my tent. It was still quite a nice day to just relax. Although... there were so many things going on, and so many concerns inside of my mind that it was getting very hard to relax.

But nonetheless, I decided to keep my mind calm as much as I could. Perhaps because I had a previous life where I went through a lot of nerve-wrecking things, I am quite resistant to it more than other children my age, such as Aquarina and Zack, who were so concerned about everything that they came to my tent to spend the day with me. Celica also came, as she had been quick to adapt to the tribe and decided to stick with us because we were the youngest kids around.

"Let's play teatime with mister teddy!" Celica said, annoying Zack and Aquarina.

"But Celica, we played that yesterday..." Zack sighed.

"Yeah... How about you take a nap instead?" Asked Aquarina.

"I don't want to nap..." Celica cried, as she ended sitting down near me and seemed a bit sad nobody wanted to play with her.

"Guys, don't be like that..." I sighed. "Aquinara, you were just like her back then, and I always played with you anyways. And Zack, you were also like her and we still ended bearing with you, right?"

"Err... Well, not like he had changed that much, we are not even nine yet." Sighed Aquarina.

"Eh? You're still just as annoying!" Zack angrily barked at Aquarina.

"Come on guys don't fight, you're scaring Celica!" I sighed while crossing my arms. "Okay Celica, let's play teatime."

"Really? Okay!"

At the end, I forced Aquarina and Zack to play with Celica for an hour and a half. She brought her own makeshift cups made out of wood that my father had carved for her in his free time, and a small little table she put over the ground.

I knew the hardships she had gone through, so I just wanted to make the little girl smile a little bit. Aquarina and Zack understood my intentions and ultimately ended joining the teatime more seriously.

At the end, Celica was happy and smiled, and she warmed up our hearts a bit. She got sleepy as well, so I brought her to my bed and she fell asleep quickly after. With her sleeping, we went outside the tent to practice some magic with my friends while looking at the horizon and the bright blue sky.

"Well, today's sure slow..." Zack sighed.

"Yeah, I really don't feel like doing anything either..." Aquarina said, looking at the sky.

"What happened two days ago was really something, huh? The worst part is this feeling of hopelessness... That no matter what, we can't do much at the end..." I sighed.

"Hmm..." Aquarina slowly got closer to me and then rested her head in my shoulder.

"I wonder what we will do now..." Aquarina said.

"Well... I suppose our parents will slowly rescue all the slaves first, that's a big priority. After that, they'll take down the underworld organizations, find the Abyss Calling Cult hideout, and destroy them. And then we'll probably bring the entire orphanage with us as well because I know my parents can't trust the people of this fiefdom..." I said, quickly imagining what was next.

"Can we go to the dungeon again, I wonder? After something so dangerous, I bet they will not let us go... I wanted to fight more and practice my skills and magic." Aquarina sighed. "I feel like the dungeon was the right place to slowly learn and grow..."

"Wow, that's quite out of nowhere, that doesn't sound like you at all." Laughed Zack.

"Ugh, shut up dork! You ruin my moment with Sylphy!" Aquarina angrily said.

"Haha... Calm down, it's fine, Aquarina. Don't be so grumpy." I said. "You really change how you are when dealing with Zack or me..."

"E-Ehh? I-It is just that Sylphy is Sylphy... And Zack is... most of the time, a jerk." Aquarina said angrily.

"All of that friendship just to go back to square one..." Ignatius suddenly whispered to me. He had been spying on my daily life for some time now, so I guess he knew about Aquarina and Zack's developing friendship.

"A-Anyways, we can always just continue to annoy our parents about the dungeon, they might eventually let us go again, although the Dungeon Break kind of worried them a lot. My mother in specific is the biggest worrywart you can imagine." I said.

"True, you're right in that." Zack agreed.

"Auntie Faylen really worries about everything a lot... She doesn't have patience at all either." Aquarina.

"Yes, yes, I know... You don't have to remind me of my grumpy mother." I sighed.

"Grumpy, huh?"

Suddenly, I heard the voice of my mother behind me...

When I looked behind me, I found her crossing her arms angrily.

"M-Mommy?!"

"Nothing of "mommy" here! You think I am grumpy, right? Huh?" My mother got grumpy.

"Err... Well, you're being grumpy right now." I said while fidgeting my fingers.

"I...!" My mother was going to argue with me but quickly realized she was indeed being grumpy.

"Sigh... Sorry, I know I might have... temperamental problems sometimes. Let's go make lunch, alright? I want you kids to help out, you can also slowly learn a bit more about Cooking Magic this way." My mother quickly led us to the large kitchen tent. There were several helpers here, not only her. Mostly members of the tribe, but recently other people that were former slaves began to help at cooking too.

But for now, I wanted to do something else...

"Alice, can you make Ember the new Leveling Skill?"

"Oh! Sure thing then...!"

Ding!

[You have exchanged 170000 EXP]

[The [Lesser Fire Magic: Ember] Skill has Leveled Up!]

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[Lesser Fire Magic: Ember: Lv1]

Skill Proficiency: 0/1000

A Lesser Fire Attribute Magic Spell, the weakest there is.

By spending 10 Mana, create a small fire to lit candles, start a small fire, or illuminate a small and dark place.

The power of this Spell is mediocre and cannot be properly used for fighting, even the slightest breeze can turn off this tiny flame.

Cooldown: No Cooldown.

Level Bonus (1): Enhances the Skill's Damage Dealt and Conjunction Speed by +10%

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Chapter 394 Trying To Learn Cooking Magic With Mom

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I had decided to spend the remaining EXP I had into making my trusty [Ember] into a Skill that can Level Up. I had thought it over this entire time and when I analyzed the battle I had against that woman, I felt like I needed more firepower. My magic alone can only bring me so far, and even my flames seemed to not be completely enough against someone powerful like her. My Mana might be endless, but the burden I take into my soul when I overuse it is big. I have to enhance my power so I can conjure magic that is also stronger. I guess I really needed a challenging battle like this one to realize I've been mostly doing quantity over quality this entire time with Ember, but now, I've realized I need to enhance the quality of my magic as well.

Although I will be able to do this over time as my Magic Circle grows stronger and I gain the ability to conjure higher tiered magic, [Ember] is a special Spell that doesn't require chanting and can be brought out in an instant, this is one of the major fortes of Skills. Therefore, I'll Level it up and enhance its power, perhaps even learning new Skills that can be even stronger than Ember. Perhaps things like Fireball, Fire Shield, or even Fire Arrows could be acquired as Skills, if that's the case, I would be able to generate such powerful spells right away instead of having to create them out of thousands of smaller [Embers].

Also, there was something interesting...

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[Lesser Fire Magic: Ember: Lv1]

Skill Proficiency: 0/1000

A Lesser Fire Attribute Magic Spell, the weakest there is.

By spending 10 Mana, create a small fire to lit candles, start a small fire, or illuminate a small and dark place.

The power of this Spell is mediocre and cannot be properly used for fighting, even the slightest breeze can turn off this tiny flame.

Cooldown: No Cooldown.

Level Bonus (1): Enhances the Skill's Damage Dealt and Conjunction Speed by +10%

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Looking at the Skill, it appears that the Level Bonus is different than other Skills I've been able to Level Up. They always had a mere "enhance skill effects by +10% with each level" as a Level Bonus, but this time, this Spell gained the "Enhances the Skill's Damage Dealt and Conjunction Speed by +10%", which is completely different. I suppose Ember, as a Spell that can be conjured, has no special effects that can be enhanced, so what the Level Bonus enhances instead is Damage Dealt and Conjunction Speed... If I manage to get this Skill to Level 10, wouldn't I get a +100% bonus? That means doubled power and speed of conjunction, two times as strong and fast!

However, as much as I wanted to just conjure magic constantly to level this up as fast as I could, I ended being busy helping my mother cooking. I was asked to butcher up a large Ferocious Bird, big, two-meter-tall birds that sometimes wander near the tent, well, they quickly got hunted by the Amazon who have no problem hunting big creatures. They said they taste like a very strong flavored chicken.

After bleeding the corpse I quickly began remembering all of what my father had taught me and began to skin the beast after taking away the feathers, which I piled up separately. Using a good knife I had cleansed and sharpened, I quickly began cutting down the meat, taking out the entrails, and then I asked my mother how she wanted it.

"Cut the thighs for now, we'll roast the rest entirely." She said.

"Wait, the entire thing?" I asked surprised.

"Yeah! We are a lot now, so we need tons of food." My mother said with a smile.

"Okay then..." I nodded.

I quickly cut down the thighs with leg and all, and quickly gave them to my mother. She immediately moved around and began cooking everything, I saw her using Cooking Magic with my friends, trying to see through it. However, this magic was so incredibly complex combining various elements all together that even now it was quite hard.

However, from what Ninhursag had taught us, learning Polymorph Magic which contained several elements together, and also the Beast Auras which also combined several elements was a good starting point to learn Cooking Magic eventually. We had used the Beast Auras in the battle two days ago and constantly, forcing ourselves to memorize the elemental combination and conjurations.

Maybe we are not ready to master anything yet but I really want to take a grasp of Cooking Magic myself... I boldly stepped forward while my mother was cooking and decided to help her, cutting down a thigh into pieces and adding it to a smaller pot as I added potatoes, carrots, mushrooms, and other veggies such as garlic and onions. This was a simply chicken stew, but then, I quickly started the conjuration of magic, gathering various runes as I began to cook the meal by boiling it with water, adding spices and more.

"Sylphy...?" My mother asked in surprise of what I was trying to do.

"I-I'm trying to...! Ugh [Enchant Spice]!"

I used the lowest tiered Cooking Magic Spell I could, as I felt my Magic Circle grinding my soul, causing a severe amount of pain as the spell was forcefully being conjured. When magicians used spells that were too advanced for their magic circles, the magic circle would take a big burden.

FLASH!

Suddenly, I managed to do it, as a small flash of light came out of my hands.

"I-I did it!"

"Incredible...!"

My mother was surprised, as we looked into the stew being prepared.

POOF!

However, from the shiny golden light, it suddenly turned dark purple, as disgusting bubbles began to emerge from the stew, which suddenly gained a poisonous-looking color.

"Ah... You failed, dear."

"EH?!"

The stew was ruined, and its taste and smell was horrid... I guess I am still not ready for this yet.

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## Chapter 395 Learning About Magic Items

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"Who would had known Cooking Magic from all things would be so damn complex! It is easier to just bring fire out of thin air than enhancing the flavor of cooking!" I complained, as I was sitting surrounding a big table where all my family was enjoying a meal.

The stew I had cooked ended being eaten by Ignatius and my familiars, who seemed to lack a good sense of taste and ate it all. Maybe just to make me feel better with myself... Furoh and everybody is way too nice with me.

"What are you talking about, Sylphy? The stew was delicious..." Said Beelzebub. "I've never eaten something so succulent and deliciously aromatic before! The purple color was really good."

I guess I could believe Beelzebub's words, he was a fly demon after all, so maybe he enjoyed disgusting things like what I did... Ah, I don't know if that would come out as racist. I better keep it for myself.

"I-I'm glad you enjoyed it." I sighed, petting his head. "I can give you more of this whenever I fail again."

"Ohh! That would be nice! The flavor reminded me of the delicious Creature Stew my mother used to make when I was a little child..." Beelzebub sighed while recalling his past.

"I see..."

"I also ate my portion!" The small Baby Dragon Ignatius said, slapping the air with his tail.

"Foo!" Naturia also ate it, despite it being poisonous. I saw her HP go down a bit, but I healed her in time. She was reluctant about eating I though.

"I-It was delicious..." Said Alice, trying to force herself.

"Honestly it was better than what I used to eat." Said Furoh.

He was someone that grew in trash and the abandoned streets of the Demon Continent, so I can see that his palate is quite... wide.

"It is pretty obvious that you guys ate it just to make me feel good...!" I sighed. "Well, I appreciate it."

I ended petting all my spirits for a while, until I finally decided to resume my cooking. My mother had reprimanded me that I shouldn't rush things ahead and that if I wanted to use Cooking Magic, there was another option, using a Magic Item.

"As I told you before, dear, you're still too early to use Cooking Magic, Ninhursag is teaching you the basics of Compound Magic, right? The combination of elements is something incredibly complex. Cooking Magic combines a wide variety of them. You must first master the ability to combine them to try out Cooking Magic... Of course, there are shortcuts." She said.

"Yeah, like the Magic Items, right?" My father wondered. "Oh man, this bird's meat is tastier than I had imagined." He said while chewing a big roasted leg covered in seasoning.

"Magic Items can do Cooking Magic?!" Wondered Aquarina.

"Can they?" Wondered Zack. "I am not really that interested in cooking to be honest. Roasting meat and boiling vegetables is all I need to know about."

"But what if you become a father and want to cook for your kids, Zack? You need to prepare for that one day." Said my father.

"Huhhh... No way. If that ever happens I'll just tell my wife to do it." Sighed Zack.

"A man can conquer a woman's stomach if he cooks delicious food. Do you think I just gained my wife just by my good looks? Women expect more of you if they want to have kids with you, Zack." My father began talking to Zack as if he were his son. I really couldn't complain, it was obvious my father wanted a boy too. Maybe if he's lucky, the child my mother has will be a boy.

"ANYWAYS." My mother said. "There are various Magic Items you've already seen, right? Those that enhance your magic power or can even let you conjure magic spells by infusing Mana into them. Your sword, your clothes, and everything new you got from that Dwarf are Magic Items as they grow stronger and have magical effects when you infuse Mana into them." Said my mother. "Of course, there are also more complex Magic Items such as special Accessories, they often come in two varieties of appearances, accessories of small size that are easy to carry such as bracelets, rings, or earrings and necklaces, or wands and staffs for easy conjuration."

"Oooh... Is your Staff a Magic Item, mom?" I wondered.

"Yes, my Staff is a very powerful Divine Grade Magic Item I acquired from a Dungeon of the Gods, a Trial made for us to acquire powerful Weapons... In the future, you might be thrown into such Trials by the gods, as you've already been chosen... sadly." Sighed my mother. "This is why we need to make you and Aquarina as strong as possible for the future you've been put into. We'll do everything we can to not endanger your lives but... ultimately, when you grow up, you'll have to take a decision of what you want to do. We'll raise you well, but what you want to be... it is all up to you, dear."

"I see..." I sighed. "W-Well, can you tell me more about the Magic Items and your Staff?"

"O-Oh, right, I guess I went out of topic once more." My mother apologized. "As I said, my Staff is a Divine Grade Magic Item named Aether, the Staff of Oblivion. It has several enchantments of divine level and even hundreds of Spells of high Tiers imbued into it. It was thanks to this Staff that I was able to use stuff like Creation Magic or high Tier Magic that would take a big burden on my body and soul. Magic Items, the stronger they are, can share the burden of your Magic and Techniques." Said my mother, as she enlightened me once more.

"Indeed, we designed your sword so it could take part of your burden too." My father said. "Haven't you noticed that the better you got at using the sword, the less tired you felt?"

"T-That's right... So it was the sword this entire time..." I muttered, looking at my sheathed sword.

Magic Items were truly amazing.

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Chapter 396 Training Skills And Magic

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"That's right, the sword has been helping you circulate Mana and also carry some of the burden you've had." Said my father. "That's one of the primary objectives of Magic Weapons in specific, although they can also channel Mana and Magic, they are made so they become a part of your body. My sword is special as I can materialize it at any time, Inferno, the Blade of Hell seems to be completely made of fire but it can actually take a solid form if I want to. Ultimately you'll get your own Divine Grade Weapon, maybe. But if you're not strong enough to take on their power, you might be rejected by them."

"The stronger Magic Items are, the more requirements they have. Weapons in specific can develop Egos and might even not accept certain people not just because they're not compatible, maybe just because they dislike their attitude." Said my mother.

"Oh... I see... I wonder if there are more Magic Items I could get, so I could easily conjure other types of Spells don't you have any in your stash of items you've gotten in your adventure?" I wondered.

"We ended giving away mostly everything we gained in our adventure to the Kingdoms before leaving. We didn't wanted to carry these riches that much. We only took money for ourselves." My father said. "If we carried all those things, we would ultimately become the targets of greedy people, we wanted to be left alone."

"Makes sense I guess..." I sighed.

"But we can craft them." My mother said. "Of course, now that we found a talented Dwarf here, we'll request him more stuff using the materials you've gotten from the Dungeon, how about it?" My mother asked with a rather cheerful demeanor. She had suddenly become gentler than the grumpy mother I know.

"Really? Can I get a Cooking Magic Item?" I wondered.

"Yeah, I had thought about making one myself, I am well versed in Alchemy and Magicraft. So I can make something little, not weapons or armor, that takes too long and it might be too complicated, but a pain, or a special pot, things like those shouldn't be hard to make." My mother said.

"That would be cool!" I said happily.

"You've been working hard this entire time so it is fair to reward you." My mother said. "your growth and your strength is something that hasn't been merely accomplished by our teachings, you're a competent and hard-working girl, and you seem to have a very strong will. I suppose I've been overlooking this part of you because of my own fears... But I suppose I can't simply keep restraining you, it will inhibit your growth, the growth you need to fight the challenges that will eventually come your way. After all, there might be a time that we won't be able to help you..." My mother sighed.

"Mom..." I said, feeling slightly emotional. "What do you mean?"

"Aside from the Magic Item I might let you go on hunts more. The Dungeon is currently being guarded and nobody is being allowed to enter for now, but the surrounding forest has some dungeons too, and big monster nests near the mountains as well." She asked.

"R-Really?!" I asked in happiness.

"Do you love hunting, don't you?" She sighed.

"I really do! It's super fun." I said while nodding.

"Sigh... Alright then, we already talked this out with Aquarina's parents and Ninhursag too." Said my mother, everybody nodded. Aquarina and Zack were happy to hear this out of the blue.

"Yeah, we are going to allow you to hunt more to train your strength. After all hunting monsters is the best way to refine your Physique, challenging living beings with power and then eating them after they're cooked with Cooking Magic is a quick way to grow some more muscle, even if you kids are only about eight years of age... Times are not like before nowadays." Nepheline said.

"Yeah, I agree. But for now you're going to rest, tomorrow we'll go into an excursion outside after we go meet the children in the orphanage." Shade said.

"Nice! Thank you daddy!" Said Aquarina happily, hugging her father.

"I guess you're just like Sylphy in that regard. I've raised a battle junkie..." Shade sighed.

And like that, various things were decided.

After we had lunch, my parents, who had already come back from the orphanage, went back to there again bringing some more provisions. They also wanted to check how the state of the city was after the dungeon break. Meanwhile, as I was finally left alone for a bit, I decided to conjure Ember continuously.

Unlike Agriculture which requires a target, I can just make as many Embers as I want, firing fireballs into the sky or making fire whips to practice. I was just constantly earning Skill Proficiency. A small Fireball usually gave +10, but big things such as Fire Walls could even give +50. But I couldn't do anything too flashy or I would be found out and then quickly reprimanded by the adults. Aquarina and Zack were with me as well, as I had come near the tent of Aquarina.

"Erm Sylphy why are you using magic?" She wondered, as Aquarina walked to my side and hugged me from behind rather lovingly.

"If we don't practice our magic how can it become stronger?" I said. "Come on, let's practice our magic some more, firing it into the skies seems to be rather okay!"

"Huh, you're telling me that using my Magic constantly can make it stronger? Well, I've heard from Ninhursag that she said the same thing..." Zack said.

"Where is she by the way?" I wondered.

"Oh, she went to hunt right now. She says that sometimes she just wants to "go wild" and transform into a beast to feel better..." Sighed Zack.

"I guess that's how skin changers are." I wondered.

"Water Bullet! Water Whip! Water Bubble... Nnggh... Icicle Spear!"

Aquarina began conjuring several Magic Circles one after the other, firing magic into the skies. Quickly after, Zack began unleashing gusts of slicing winds and lighting strikes into the skies as well.

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Chapter 397 Levelled Up Skills

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D i n g!

[You earned +50 Skill Proficiency]

[The Skill [Ember: Lv1] has Levelled Up to Level 2]

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[Lesser Fire Magic: Ember: Lv2]

Skill Proficiency: 25/2000

A Lesser Fire Attribute Magic Spell, the weakest there is.

By spending 10 Mana, create a small fire to lit candles, start a small fire, or illuminate a small and dark place.

The power of this Spell is mediocre and cannot be properly used for fighting, even the slightest breeze can turn off this tiny flame.

Cooldown: No Cooldown.

Level Bonus (2): Enhances the Skill's Damage Dealt and Conjunction Speed by +20%

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Ah, level 2 already! It has only been around an hour and a half since I got the Skill to be able to Level Up. I guess I can keep this going quite nicely for some time now. And of course, Spirit Blessing had also leveled up recently to Level 3.

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[Spiritual Blessing: Lv3]

Skill Proficiency: 114/4000

You are greatly connected with Spirits, you can feel their emotions, their thoughts, and even their hearts, and connect with them through strong bonds that can last for eternity.

Passively enhances the All Stats of all Spirits and Familiars that you've contracted with, while also enhancing their growth speed. Can be used actively to enhance the power of selected Spirit and Familiars by a certain percentage for a few minutes. Additionally, connecting with Spirits now becomes easier.

Passive Effect (3): Permanently Enhances Spirits and Familiars All Stats, HP and MP Regeneration Speed and earned EXP by +30%. Spirits can connect more with their Master, increasing the synchronization of Master and Spirit by +40%.

Active Effect (3): Temporarily grants [Blessing] to a target Spirit or Familiar, increasing All their Stats, HP and MP Regeneration Speed and earned EXP by +30% for 30 Minutes. Cooldown: 1 Hour.

Level Bonus (3): Enhances the Skill Effects by +30%.

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With these two Skills leveling up simultaneously, I am beginning to finally realize how this System was supposed to work. If I didn't had it Glitched, I would had been able to Level Up and learn so many new Skills it is a bit insane to even think about it. And even more as Skills have Skill Trees, so whenever one reached max Level, new ones could be learned as well. Damn it, if I had this power since I was a baby, I would had unlocked so many powerful Skills already...

"I'm sorry for not having been able to provide you with such powers before, Sylphy..."

Suddenly, I heard Alice's voice. She is capable of being able to listen to my mind sometimes. I've told her to not do it all the time, but she still does it occasionally. Especially when I am feeling some sort of regret of sadness is when she listens to it the most.

"Eh? I am not blaming you or something, don't worry, Alice. I know it was hard for you to reach this Level of Power. I am glad about what we have right now. Don't sweat it." I told her.

"...Really? But even then... I am still just a failure, aren't I?" She sighed.

"Eh? No way! You're one of my best friends, you've been there since the beginning, haven't you?" I asked her.

"Maybe but still..." Alice seemed slightly depressed today.

"Come on now... Summon Spirit."

**F L A S H!**

I summoned her while we were taking a break by sitting over the grass, and then saw Alice's form, a large lump of light. If I wanted to, she could become invisible to others except me. I decided to hug her tightly to make her feel better.

"Come on now... Don't feel bad, I am happy as I am. Sorry for having thought about that, I won't do it anymore." I sighed, caressing her body.

"A-Ah... T-That's not it, I am not trying to tell you to not think about it, you're free to think however you want to, Sylphy. I am sorry for making you feel like that." She sighed.

"Come on now, you say sorry for everything... You're now more than the System, you're Alice, my Light Spirit! You're a companion in my life now. And you can even come out of my Soul Scape if you really want to as well." I said to her.

"T-That's right..." She sighed.

"I know you're shy about coming out, but if you don't come out of my Soul Scape constantly, you'll never be able to learn more about the world outside, right?" I asked her.

"Well... I... I guess you're right in there..." She said while nodding.

"How about you stay outside and we practice Light Magic together?" I wondered.

"Light Magic... Well, it is one of the divine runes that make my body, and I suppose it is part of what it has been qualified as my affinity in elements, so sure thing... I had never thought about fighting myself though. I wonder how that works." She wondered.

And like that, I summoned Alice for my friends to see. They were surprised when a big floating spherical light emerged before me, she was as bright as a star.

"W-What is that?!" Aquarina asked.

"So bright... Ugh, my eyes..." Cried Zack.

"She's Alice, she's a Light Elemental Spirit I found long ago, I've been keeping her a secret for some time because she's very shy." I said.

"A-Alice..." Aquarina said. "Wait, just how many spirits do you have, Sylphy?" Asked Aquarina, she only had two and one familiar, however, if I counted the sealed blue demon resting inside my Soul Scape, I had Ignatius, Naturia, Beelzebub, and Alice, that's five spirits, and Furoh is a Familiar, so six familiars in total.

Wow, that's a lot isn't it.

"Erm, anyways! She's shy but she wants to get along with everybody, we'll practice some Light Magic now." I said. "Don't look at her weirdly please..."

"Sure..." Said Aquarina. "Let's see what magic you can use!"

"I agree, I want to see as well." Zack added.

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Chapter 398 The Enormous Potential Of Alice!

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Although I've used Light Magic before and even merged it with my Sword Techniques, I've never truly brought out Alice to enchant my elemental magic like I usually do with Naturia and Ignatius. Thanks to those two spirits, my Fire and Nature Magic are always enchanted and become even stronger, and not only that, but they can cast spells for me while in the middle of a battle, making it convenient when fighting.

Even more now that they acquired the power of the System Seeds they absorbed and gained the ability to use Skills and Level Up, their future as helpers has become even brighter than it already was.

Now, Alice, who was a rather mysterious entity all together, was brought outside just to do what these two had been doing for years. After our contract of spirit and master, Alice's entire structure had changed lightly, and over time, she had changed for the best.

She no longer felt pain due to her glitches, and although the glitches had become even less likely to be possible to solve, she feels more "complete" and even she told me one day she felt more "alive" than

before. Her transformation into a spirit might had been something big for her health. But well, that's not all of it of course.

If she's really a Light Spirit, it wouldn't be bad to see how she can use magic or be able to enchant my own magic. And below the gazes of Aquarina and Zack, Alice nervously decided to help me in the conjuration of magic. She channeled my Mana into her body and began to look into the skies.

"It is okay to fire whatever I have into the skies, right?" She wondered.

"Yes, let's try something simple... Light Ray should be okay." I said.

Light Ray was a Tier 2 Light Attribute Spell, a simple ray of light that can barely do much burn damage over the skin, barely, and it is usually made to surprise an attacker and make them flinch. If enough mana is concentrated, the ray can become a Laser, but for that, it should become the Tier 4 Spell Light Laser, which can burn through skin and flesh and deal damage properly. Light Magic is rather hard at dealing damage due to the nature of the element, because it needs a lot of Mana to actually deal damage, Fire Magic or Water Magic can get the job done way easily.

Nonetheless, as the daughter of a Master of the Light Element, I can't simply sit down here and never master the power of such an element! Due to that, I promptly asked Alice to aid me in the element's conjuration.

"Follow my words..."

"R-Right... Alright!"

I quickly formed a Magic Circle while conjuring the runes.

"Bright, Flash, Speed, Impact, Light... Light Ray!"

FLASH!

The Magic Circle was formed slowly, as I could do it faster, but for Alice, I had to do it slow so she could catch up to it. And just as the Magic Circle was formed, Alice's power suddenly enchanted it, as she connected with the Spell faster than I had expected.

FLAAAASH!

Suddenly, the Magic Circle grew larger and larger, until it lost its control.

"Huh?!"

I couldn't help but gasp in surprise as the Ray that was unleashed was so big it broke the Magic Circle itself and flew right high into the skies, it was so enormous it was comparable to the Tier 4 Spell I couldn't conjure, Light Laser!

BOOOOOOMMM!!!

An enormous explosion reached the skies, way stronger than Light Laser could even accomplish, covering the skies with the brightness of the light element.

"W-Wha..." I muttered in shock, feeling like I've gone blind after looking directly into the light.

"Uwaah! W-What I've done?! Sylphy? Are you okay?!" Alice asked in surprise, quickly trying to heal me. Natoria appeared before me and began to shower me with her Nature's Light, quickly healing my temporal blindness.

I ended in the floor completely tired, even though I was healed, that attack was devastating. Is Alice's power this much? Is this because she has Divine Runes in her? Could she be considered something like a Divine Spirit then? Wow...

"I-I am alright, don't worry... Ugh, I am tired though, how do you feel?" I wondered.

"I'm tired as well." Sighed Alice, falling over the grass.

"Sylphyyyyy!" Aquarina ran towards me with Zack behind her. "What was that?!"

"Ugh, sorry..." I sighed. "Alice's power might be a bit too strong."

"T-That was insane! That powerful spell wasn't something someone like you would conjure so easily!" Zack said while crossing his arms. "What the heck? Where did you get this overpowered spirit?" He seemed slightly jealous.

After that, Ninhursag and my uncle ran here, as the only two adults left in the village, they held the responsibility of our parents, and reprimanded me a bit.

"How did you even conjure such a strong spell, Sylphy? Be more careful please, it is very dangerous! Not only you could have hurt yourself, but also people in here." Said Ninhursag. "Your mother told me that you would be practicing low tier spells but that was clearly above Tier 4 if not even 5..."

"Hah~ I don't know how to even reprimand children but... Err, just don't do that again, it's dangerous." Arafunn said. My uncle was not really made to be a father, wasn't he?

"Sorry..." I sighed.

"Hmmm, maybe you shouldn't use magic for now as a punishment." Said Ninhursag.

"What? But I want to use magic to make it stronger!" I complained.

"Come on, she learned her lesson now." Said my uncle.

"Arafunn you're really an irresponsible man." Sighed Ninhursag.

"Hahaha! What are you talking about? I am a super responsible person!" Laughed Arafunn.

"You're just laughing it off right now..." Sighed Ninhursag.

At the end, I was able to use magic again, but this time we decided to practice magic a bit less intensively with Alice. It seems that Alice discovered she had a lot of power within her, it is going to be hard to be able to properly manipulate it.

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Chapter 399 The Three Primary Energies

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We spent the rest of the day yesterday practicing light magic with Alice while I was also conjuring Ember and Spiritual Blessing to gain Skill Proficiency from them, eventually, Ember reached Level 3, it was going to level up rather quickly I suppose.

Anyways, with the training of light magic for Alice, we had tried using Tier 1 Light Magic for now, as Tier 2 might go a bit unstable. Also, Alice was having a hard time manipulating this enormous quantity of energy she had within herself, which seemed to be merely the power that made her up as she was.

This morning, as I woke up from practicing some more with her within my Soul Scape, which was a safer area to practice these things, she suddenly spoke to me after she summoned herself in front of my bed.

"I think I've figured out more or less what that power is..." She sighed rather fearfully.

"Eh? What is it?" And why are you afraid?" I wondered.

"This power is not Mana, Sylphy... W-Well, with you I can get tons of Mana. But you know what's the power that comes after Mana?" She wondered.

"Huh? there is one?" I wondered.

"You see... Erm, how do I explain this in simple terms? Well... Err, ah! Well, let's go with this. You see, in all living beings and in creation itself, there are three primary energies that rule different things.

Although there are other energies in between them, they're often made by the combination of these three primary energies." She said.

"Primary Energies?" I wondered, tilting my head in confusion.

"Yes, these three Primary Energies are Mana, Aether, and Vitality, which is often referred in some cultures as "Ki" or even "Stamina"..." Said Alice. "Mana is the energy that rules Magic. Aether is the energy that rules Souls and the Supernatural. And Vitality, or Ki, is the energy that Rules Living Beings."

"Ohhh..."

"You see, every living person has these three energies. Usually you have Mana within both your body and soul, while Vitality is only existent within your Body, and then Aether is the major composition of your Soul." She said. "These three energies, refining them and making them grow, is the essence of growing stronger. You exercise your body to enhance your Vitality through Physique Tiers, you increase the power of your Magic by increasing the quality and power of your Mana, and you develop your soul and both Magic Affinity and Physical Strength can be enhanced by strengthening your Aether. Usually the soul grows stronger through special methods, but it also depends in the strength of your mind." Alice explained.

"Ah... I see... But what does this has to do with what you have?"

"We are getting there... You see, the energy that Gods utilize- or at least the God that created me, the God of Transmigration used to make me is Divine Energy, a combination of these three Essences merged and refined together, it is incredibly rich, and it is a power that only beings catalogued as Gods can achieve. My entire composition is made of Divine Energy, all the Runes I have are made out of Divine Runes, which are like billions of normal runes combined together perfectly." Said Alice. "So when I conjured a spell, what came out was due to the enormous power that I hold, which is the Divine Energy of my composition... It will be hard to hold it back, and if I overuse it, both of us will end up very tired, or might even be internally crippled from using magic for a long while. It is a power that a normal body or soul can't handle, even you."

"I see... I wonder if the infinite mana I have has something to do with this..." I wondered.

"Quite probably." She said. "I did feel as if I had taken away a large piece of my creator's Divine Power when our full synchronization was done. Since then, he completely cut off our connection as if he was completely discarding me. But now that I think about it, my entire existence is flawed to the point that I could have continued draining his energy away, which could have been a very dangerous thing for him."

"Oh... I guess he did what he could..." I sighed.

At this point I really didn't resent this God. He had given me a second chance at life, even if it was a mistake. And although he gave me a crippled System that ended affecting my growth in this world, this crippled system ended being a good friend like Alice, who also gave me strange powers nobody else has in here, which is a plus, a big one. I guess the good and the bad end up being balanced, and I don't hate him or anything.

"So, the power you have is the power of the gods? Wow..." I gasped a bit.

"But it is too dangerous! Don't even think about using it, your entire soul would simply turn into nothingness if you tried to utilize it! It is a power that a normal soul cannot fathom to utilize, even less your body, you would be completely vaporized!" She said.

"But I was still able to channel it within my spell, right? Maybe we could find a way to abuse this power, even if a little." I wondered.

"Ugh, I knew you would begin having those thoughts, you're really hopeless, Sylphy!" Alice began to reprimand me but I couldn't help but think about the possibilities of using such power. Nonetheless, it was better to not annoy her nor force her to use a power that also hurts her.

"I get it, I won't do anything..." I sighed. "But we still need you to practice more, this energy and the mana, you need to learn how to separate them so you don't end up mixing divine energy into our spells, which might become too catastrophic to be controlled. Imagine if I used this in the middle of a city, we might have ended killing a lot of innocent people."

"R-Right... I guess we need to practice."

I never thought Alice was so overpowered though!

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## Chapter 400 An Annoying Feeling Of Hopelessness And Powerlessness

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Today in the morning while having breakfast, my parents were getting ready to go to the orphanage.

"So how were things?" I wondered while drinking some tea.

"It was all alright. The people though, had grown rather unrestful. The government of the city decided to not reveal the origin of the terrorists though, the knight order in there at least seems to be a bit decent." My father sighed.

"I see..." I said. I quickly noticed a lot more people than usual around here, more demons and beast-kin as well. "Are all these new people...?"

"Yes, we brought them here last night, dear. As you know.. well, they're former slaves." Said my mother. "We already talked about this."

"I know..."

I noticed the adorable little, blue-skinned baby girl, Celica, snacking a big sandwich at my side. I suppose they had yet to find her mother because she was still alone. Well, we spent most of the day with her yesterday, though she fell asleep midway through the day. She likes to take a lot of naps.

"Is Mama not coming yet?" She wondered, her face quickly growing a bit worried.

"N-Not yet, dear. We are doing our best to find her." Said my mother.

"Yeah, patience is a virtue, Celica." My father said, petting her head and giving her a kiss in her forehead.

"Hmm..." Celica sighed a bit, quickly growing more gloomy.

"C-Come on! How about you try this?" Aquarina quickly came to the rescue, showing an Apple Pie Slice she had saved for herself. The pie was finished before Celica could even grab a slice, so she didn't had the opportunity to eat.

"Apple pie!" Celica's face quickly changed as she got happy out of the blue.

"You can have it." Aquarina said with a gentle smile, giving her precious Apple Pie to Celica. Although I also noticed she was forcing herself to this, she loved Apple Pie a lot.

"Thank you big sis!" Celica said adorably, quickly digging into the sweet pastry.

Aquarina was watching her head as her eyebrows dropped with a bit of regret in her face.

"Well done." I said, petting her head. "You wanted to see her smile?"

"Hmm..." Aquarina sighed. "Ugh, my pie..."

"You can have this." I said, quickly giving her a toast with butter and strawberry jam.

"Oh, really?" She wondered.

"Yeah, come on, I know you love sweets." I said.

"Thank you!" Aquarina quickly began to dig in as well. She looked the same as the little Celica.

As breakfast ended, I decided to ask what was in my mind.

"How long will it last to get the former slaves?" I wondered. "And... how's the investigation going?"

I knew as a child I shouldn't be getting my noses into the issues of adults, but as I had fought one of these people that appeared near the dungeon, I felt involved into the whole thing.

"Well..." My father began to think. "I guess in a week from now, we already got half the people."

"I see... That's good." I sighed.

"After that, we'll probably grab the orphanage's people and get the heck out of here." Nepheline said.

"The organization is being tackled down slowly; we already got some clues. There might be some more clues in the red-light district, and perhaps within the forest outside." Said my mother.

"Wait, aren't we going to hunt into the forest?" I wondered.

"Yep." Said my father. "We are going together to both investigate and help you hunt."

"O-Oh, I guess we are really getting involved now, aren't we?" I wondered.

"These people are dangerous, but with most of us together, they're not really a sizable threat, but what they are capable of doing if they gather together is one." Said my mother. "We'll get this done quickly; I don't want to bother so much with this..."

"Quite honestly, I think the same." Shade agreed.

"Hmm..."

I couldn't help but feel worried about this even though I knew my parents were there for me. The whole attack, the instigated Dungeon Break and then the usage of innocent's people's souls to summon an otherworldly "True Demon" was all too eerily terrifying. Whatever they did back then might be repeated soon, I can tell the sense of urgency they have. It could even happen at any moment. The resentment of

this group of Demons is strong, but what are their true roots though? I wonder... what is their endgame in all of this?

I heard that they simply wanted revenge, to bring destruction to these people and rule the city by their own. But haven't they considered that they allied nations of this fiefdom would fight back? They might win now and avenge their people, but later on they'll be persecuted once more, and the enmity against demons will only grow.

It feels like it is a desperate and reckless act of defiance, which I can't help but feel like I would had done in their position, without thinking too ahead either. But this can only and ultimately end bad for them, they should really stop doing this... I hope they could realize this before my parents catch them and crush them. They don't really care if they're demons or no, if they had done something like this... I can only think that they'll just wipe out the entire organization before they kill more innocents.

My father was rather impacted after seeing so many innocents die, I was as well, my friends too. This was perhaps our first-time seeing innocents die out of the sudden, the sight of what could be war on its totality. Well, in my previous life I killed many people for my own revenge, so maybe I am a bit desensitized compared to Aquarina and Zack, but it was still surprising to me, and made me rather sad deep down, even though I didn't really showed my emotions to anybody.

"Let's have some fun today then, Sylphy. Cheer up." Aquarina said with her usual gentle nature.

"Aquarina..." I sighed. "Can I hug you?"

"E-Eh? Sure..." Aquarina seemed a bit surprised, but she accepted my hug.

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