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Chapter 551 A New Demon King
As I saw the Divine Spear of Themis about to reach my Soul, suddenly, rays of light, flames, spiraling water, darkness, and several other elements clashed against her weapon and stopped her.
CLAAASH!
Half of the Gods stopped her, including Theia and Oceanus.
"Unnggh?! Why are you stopping me?! She's an insolent lowly mortal! Do you want this little insect to lecture you now? After all we have done for THEM?!"
Themis roared furiously, her armor shining with the light of the sun itself.
"I agree that she's overdone it, but she's a child, and my chosen one." Theia said, her eyes shining like
stars. "Don't you dare touch her."
"We are Gods, Themis. Hurting and killing mortals is not something we do. It would go completely against our own code, and wouldn't it be what the World's Will want?" Sighed Oceanus. "Insolent or
not, children are children."
"You've really got some anger issues if you are freaking out so much over the rambles of a kid." Sighed Hyperion. "Give them a slack, will you? Children do tantrums sometimes." If I was not wrong, according
to religion, he's the Chief God of Heaven and the Sun, one of the strongest out there.
"Don't be so heartless. All life is precious." A beautiful and motherly goddess said, some of the water
that stopped Themis came from her. I heard she was referred as Tethys, Chief Goddess of Fresh Water and Nursery.

"Tch..." Themis clicked her tongue, as her Divine Spear was quickly taken away by darkness, as it disappeared.

"No weapons in the meeting." The lugubrious, tenebrous voice of the only god whose entire body was covered on black robes spoke. I heard his name was lapetus, Chief God of Death, and Lifespan.

I had said everything I wanted to say, yet they all took it as if I was making a tantrum. They didn't take me serious at all and were most likely not going to take away the divine protections anyways, for fuck's sake.

"Sylphy, let's calm down for now, my child. Let's assess things calmly. I understand your fears, your anger, and what you've gone through. Let me tell you that I merely want the best for you and your family." Theia said with a gentle smile.

"I appreciate your intentions but I already said I don't want this divine protection." I sighed.

"The thing is... even if you don't want it anymore, we cannot take it out." Theia said.

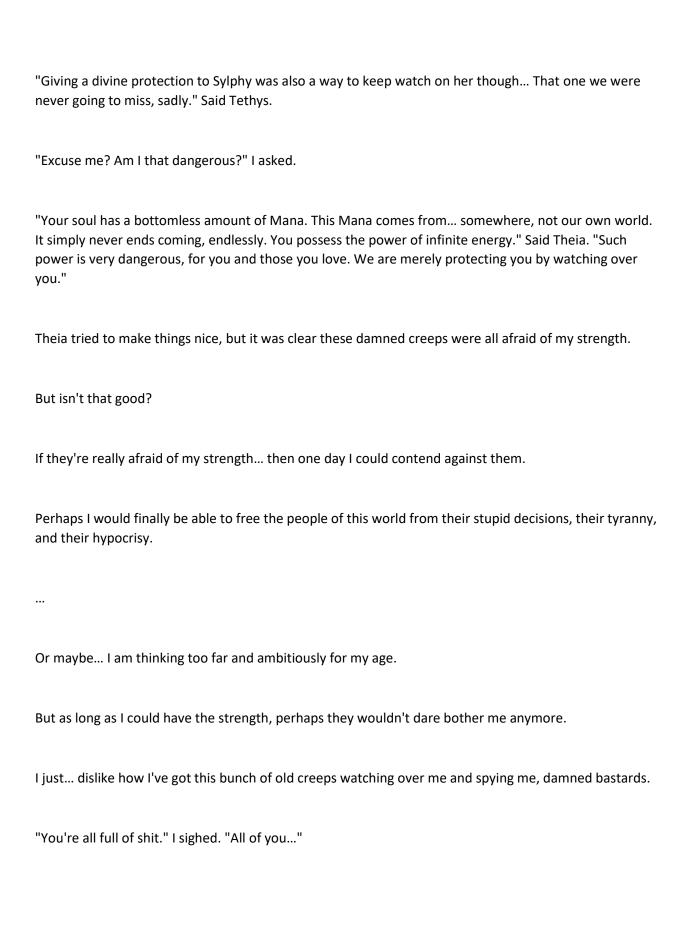
"Divine Protections are a small part of our divinities which we fuse into the soul of our chosen one. It grants them our divine powers, a fraction of it. Which develops into incredible abilities and talents. It is our way to fight the Demon Kings." Hyperion explained. "Therefore, at the stage you two are, it is impossible to take it away, unless we were to destroy your souls."

"Yeah, if you wanted them out so badly, I could had gladly done it for you." Themis smiled maliciously at me.

Geez, is this creep really a goddess?!

"So you can't... take them out?" Aquarina finally spoke, her eyes filled with sadness.

"Sadly we cannot." Oceanus sighed. "But Sylphy... she's right. We have been doing this so forcefully for so long now. Perhaps we should first find those that want to aid us instead of choosing the strongest and most promising ones."



"Sylphy please..." Theia sighed.

The other gods all looked at one another without really knowing what to do. Indeed, this felt very awkward for them. However, one of them ultimately spoke.

The one that has remained in silence, watching over all of us, a tall man with a gray beard and long gray hair, sharp eyes with irises in the shape of clocks. It wasn't hard to imagine who this man holding a staff with the tip of a sand hourglass to be.

"Despite your childishness and immature nature, I understand your feelings, future hero." He spoke with a dignified voice, all other gods shut down, even Themis. "However, as the god of Time, I can assure you that there's no way to turn back time. What has happened is long in the past, we must simply keep moving forward from now on."

He was of course Cronus, the Chief God of Time

"Sigh... So what? What do you want us to do now? Why did you even called us here?" I asked angrily. "If you wanted to forge bonds with us or something, then you're all wrong, there's no way I am doing any of that."

"We must tell you about the dangers that approach, and to find the other heroes lost within the world. A few of them are within the very continent where you are." Cronus spoke.

"Indeed, and we must also tell you two about the Demon King... It is something we must tell you of immediately, we have been hiding this information from you, but we feel it should be time we told you." Theia said.

"So there's already a new Demon King? Ugh..."

Chapter 552 The Concern Of The Gods

The Demon King, a threat that is born within a certain time frame since the previous one dies. The first one to have ever existed was a monstrous titan that rivaled Gods created by the World's Will. It fought against the Gods and forced them to escape into Heaven, while they summoned the First Hero and the First Saint, which were powerful beings with incredible power said to have been directly created by the Gods. They slain the First Demon King and then the Demon King's corpse became the Demon Continent.

Since that moment in the long past that Demons and Monsters began pouring from there, filling the world. The Demons formed countless tribes and Monster terrorized both Demons and other tribes anyways, becoming a real threat rather than Demons, whose cultures and intelligence made them have varied countries with different viewpoints.

Maybe if no Demon King was born since then, life might had been more peaceful, but that wasn't the case. After a few hundreds of years since the first one died and everything else... or maybe thousands of years, or even millions of years, something happened. A Demon was born with a Title, Demon King.

This Demon King was said to have inherited a part of the first Demon King's power and was given the task by the World to conquer it and kill all humans... and other related races. Or something like that, I can't really recall how it was.

This means that a new Demon King has been born, someone, a demon child within the demon continent, has been granted this Title... Somehow. I don't even know how they're given Titles or something, but that's that.

"A new Demon King was born?" I asked. "So you want us to kill it?"

"Well, not now, but yes that's the mission you have." Theia said.

"All Heroes must go against the Demon King and slay him." Said Cronus.

"I don't want to. Aquarina, you want to?" I asked Aquarina.

"No..." Aquarina answered.

"We don't want to." I answered the Gods with a bright smile.

"W-Well, maybe you can at least let us explain a bit more..." Theia quickly tried to calm down the tension. "Strangely enough, the Demon King was born almost at the same year as you did, Sylphy. His powers are also like nothing we had ever seen before, and it is said he might be the strongest so far."

"He has the power of Summoning Monsters and Manipulating them. He can also enhance their power, and more... Or so says the report we've gotten from an insider, a Demigod sent to spy on him from the heavens of the Demon Continent." Said Cronus.

"He has strange and bizarre powers we had not seen before ever. They're like magic, but work instantly, and grow stronger the more he repeatedly uses them. He can also keep growing stronger by slaying monsters and humans, and by repeatedly doing actions. He has even been seen to Materialize Objects, such as Magic Weapons, Armor, Potions, and Magic Books that can instantly grant his servants Magical Powers they didn't possessed before, even if their affinity is not appropriate for them." Said Hyperion. "He's an incredibly talented demon with endless potential... He might be the greatest threat we'll face since the first Demon."

Wait, that description... Kind of reminds me of something. Isn't this power similar to... the System? Ugh, I don't really want to imagine it but... it is a possibility.

"That is why we brought you here, to tell you about his existence. You may share it with your parents as well." Said Theia. "Now, the real request I want to give the both of you is to assemble the heroes. It is necessary for all of the heroes to be together for their true power to flourish. Divine protections are made so they power up each other when their users are together."

"And would you look at that! Just in the continent where you two girls are, there's a few of them! The nearest heroes are perhaps the most important as well the Saint of Spirits and the Hero of Wild Beasts." Hyperion said.

"The Saint is the pillar of the hero's group; her healing powers and buffing abilities are what will make everyone flourish in battle. She's someone essential you must quickly meet." Said Tethys.

"Aquarina, I am entrusting this mission to you as well." Said Oceanus.

"Eh? What? But..." Aquarina seemed reluctant.

"So you want us to kill someone we don't want to kill and find people we are not interested in finding and somehow force them to just stick with us? We are only 13 you know?" I sighed.

"The younger you begin your journey and growth progress the best the results in the future." Cronus said. "We are not forcing you to do anything right now but keep this request in mind as you live your life. Eventually you will have to fulfill your destiny."

"Also, the Saint of Spirits and the Hero of Wild Beasts are going through difficulties. If you can meet with them and... help them in their endeavors, it would be appreciated." Theia said. "They're brimming with potential and power, but their lives are quite bad. They're going through difficulties."

"Ugh... I feel like you're abusing my goodwill. Now I feel kind of... forced to help these people. they're also victims like us, from your tyranny!" I said angrily.

"Ahahaha... A-Anyways, they're in the Wilderness Territory of the Atlanta Continent. I've created a special Ability that will let you find the Heroes around the world within your Divine Protection." Said Theia, as a flash of bright golden light reached my soul.

FLASH!

"Hmmm... Thanks I guess." I sighed. "I still haven't said anything about doing it though! So don't expect me to move mountains and rivers to find some random dude or lass."

"We understand." Theia nodded.

"We know you'll do it, you're a good girl." Said Oceanus.

Ugh these bastards are the worst! I hate people that take advantage of other's goodwill! But at the same time, I feel bad for these future heroes, they were all cursed by these monsters in god clothing.



"Aguarina, thanks for convincing her." Oceanus said. "I know Sylphy might be disrespectful sometimes, but she's a nice person." Said Aquarina. "We are willing to take the burden of your curses." "THEY ARE NOT CURSES!" All the Gods said at the same time, as if they were losing their patience at long last. After that, they sighed and relaxed. "We've decided to give each one of you an additional Divine Protection from another god, someone related to your Affinities." Said Theia. "For Sylphy..." "I'll do it, of course." Hyperion smiled. A gigantic burly man walked towards me. "Ugh, can't I get a nature or life divine protection instead?" I sighed. "Hey! Don't get cocky now. Many warriors and heroes have wished to get this from me! I am admired as one of the strongest gods that represents the sun itself!" Hyperion pridefully. "Yeah, yeah..." I sighed, as I simply received his power, a fireball entered my soul. FLAAAASSSSHHH!!!

The change was almost immediate. The power of my Fire Attribute Magic skyrocketed in mere seconds. I even felt as if a small sun suddenly emerged inside of my very soul! My Magic Circle and my Physique, both of them developed even further.

I think my fire attribute power might be several times stronger than before now Just how many Fire Attribute Runes did I get? Thousands, maybe?
In fact, isn't this bonus way more generous than Theia's Divine Protection?
So Theia was either being stingy, or she's way weaker than Hyperion.
I guess even amongst gods, there's power levels.
"Hyperion, did you blessed my father as well?" I asked.
"I did, yes. Your father's an exceptional warrior. I know that as long as you've got him, he'll protect you and help you grow stronger." Hyperion nodded while crossing his burly arms.
Even though I got his divine protection, Alice didn't come to tell me through the system's messages. It could be possible that familiars cannot come here, and that even the power of the system is suppressed in this Divine Realm
"And for Aquarina I've also decided your second patron." Oceanus said.
"Huh? Who is it?" Wondered Aquarina, taking a look at the black robbed God.
Maybe she wanted his blessing? I think Shade has the Blessing of the God of Death.
Sadly for her, the most gentle and motherly looking of the goddesses walked towards her, giving her a big kiss in her forehead.
It was Tethys, the Chief Goddess of Fresh Water and Nursery.
"It is me, dear."

FLAAASH!

Aquarina quickly felt an overflowing divine power reach her soul and body, enchanting everything in an instant. Her eyes shone bright blue.

"I am the most compatible with you. With the combination of Oceanus Divine Protection and mine, you've got quite a strong start. But that shouldn't be enough even. Two big blessings and... we'll bring our strongest Demigods as well."

Tethys quickly called forth three beautiful mermaids, they were someone Aquarina and I had seen before, the playful mermaid triplets that often played around the divine realm of the gods. It was Amatheia, Amphinome, and Amphithoe.

"Ooh! Aquarina! You've grown so much!"

"You're such a beautiful girl!"

"What a wonderful pair of sapphire-like eyes!"

The three mermaids surrounded Aquarina, praising her beauty and then they all kissed a part of her body. One kissed her cheeks, the other her left hand, and the other her right hand.

FLAAASH!

Their divine protections were weak compared to the gods, very weak. However, once they all granted it at the same time, their little divine protections combined in a strong one, boosting Aquarina's magic power even more.

"And... well, we requested to help you as well, Sylphy."

"I am glad you've calmed down."



Before leaving I wanted that question to be answered at the very least. They seemed very secretive about this topic unlike the Demon King's subject. As if the thing of Evil Gods was a completely different thing, and even more serious than the Demon King itself.

"We are aware that those two were the ones targeting you and your families." Cronus said. "However, much like us, without using mortals to do their bidding, they cannot truly target you directly. For now, you must simply deal with those that obey them and desire to fulfill their wishes. The Evil Gods themselves... We'll deal with them eventually."

"What?! So you're just telling us to fuck off then?" I asked angrily. "They were the ones behind our first attack! We almost died back then! And you're just okay with is?!"

"Sylphy, we are not." Sighed Theia. "We are doing everything we can to find them, once that happens. We'll crush them. The problem between gods stays between gods. Mortals must not interfere in our affairs. These are powers beyond your understanding, if you were to ever fight a god, you would only perish."

"Indeed, do not fight the Evil Gods, that's something we must take care of by ourselves." Hyperion said.

"Those damned traitors... I'll eventually find them and impale them!" Themis said angrily.

"Sigh..."

I guess I didn't had much I could do right now, it was all up to the gods to decide something like this. Even if I wanted to get rid of the Evil Gods, I lacked the strength... Or did I?

Well, I have the Curse that could hurt their projections at least, and these gods themselves said my Infinite Mana could destroy the entire world if misused... Maybe I could one day have a shot at it.

"Though, at the very least can you tell us they won't show up out of the blue?" I asked.

"They lack authority over the Atlanta Continent aside from wild monsters. It is very unlike that anything organized will ever happen for now." Said Theia.
"Rest assured." Oceanus replied.
"Hmm And what about them? Who were they before? I know Evil Gods used to be Gods like you guys, right?" I asked curiously.
"Yes" Cronus spoke. "There are many Evil Gods now. They're traitors that didn't want to abide with our rules. They wanted to terrorize humans or use people like cattle to gain divine power indiscriminately. Some of them simply were chaotic by nature. They escaped from our grasp and went on their own, they turned their backs against us and even made pacts with Demon Tribes and Demon Kings"
These guys really hate Demons, I wonder what they would say if they knew I have several Demon Friends or maybe they know and simply don't care?
"That's it?" I asked.
"We can't say more of it, it is something that mortals cannot know." Said Cronus.
"Ugh Do you guys hate Demons that much? They're normal people at the end, you know?" I asked.
"We do." Theia said.
"We really do know." Oceanus said.
"But the threat of the Demon King is something that might eventually be too dangerous, we cannot ignore that!" Said Hyperion.
"As long as the Demon King is defeated and the Demons subjugated or kept on check, chances for new Demon Kings will go down" Said Theia.

"Huh, so you know what you're doing, all of you know you're dirtying your hands and still do it anyways without trying to find another solution to this entire endless cycle..." I sighed.

"It's not like that." Theia said. "We know this and... Well..."

Theia seemed to be struggling to find words to answer me.

"The conversation's over. All of you should leave." Cronus said. "I wish you good luck in your mission."

Cronus' bright eyes seemed to give me a sharp glare, as if he was seeing through me for a few seconds before we disappeared from the place.

The next second, we were back to our bodies and just woke up from our beds, almost jumping out of them as we gasped for air.

The sound of birds in the outside, the warm sunlight, and the gentle breeze coming from the open window quickly calmed us down, making us realize we were finally away from them.

"That was really horrible..." Sighed Aquarina. "I just wanted to get out of there. The air was so thick and all the gods were so powerful, I felt like I couldn't even speak even when I wanted..."

So that explains why Aquarina wasn't even speaking that much herself and seemed afraid of everything. She was also hugging me tightly. But it wasn't much the case for me. I mean, I could sense their powerful divine auras and all, but I didn't felt as bad as she's saying she felt.

"Huh, it must have been rather scary for you... Well, I was also scared and all but I don't know where I got all of this courage." I sighed.

"Yeah, I can't believe it... You confronted them all without fearing anything..." Said Aquarina. She began admiring me even more, her eyes were shining at me.

"Well, everything should be alright now..." I sighed. "Calm down."

I hugged Aquarina back and comforted her. We already forgot our little discussion last night and hugged in bed.
"At the end I was still rather tempted by their power" Sighed Aquarina.
"Yeah you were the one that convinced me at the end" I sighed.
"I mean, it was right. Now that we already have their curses and we can't get rid of them, and we have already become the targets of these foes, we might as well just take as many curses as we can, we'll be targeted anyways either if we have one or two or three" Aquarina said. "We should had asked for more, the ones we got weren't enough to be honest."
"Hmmm, maybe. Perhaps some more would had been good But I am not too fond of them and I was getting bored of being there. I just wanted to get out as soon as possible. Also there might be a limit of how many they can give"
Chapter 555 Hero Compass
"A limit?" Wondered Aquarina.
"Yeah, these types of things are not something we can get limitlessly. A reason why they waited for us to grow older might be so our souls get bigger and we can fit more divine protections or something." I sighed. "Nonetheless, it's over now, we can just resume our daily lives I guess."
"But what about everything we learned? About the Saint of Spirits and the Hero of Wild Beasts?" Asked Aquarina.
"Ah yeah" I sighed. "Right, we should tell our parents right away. Let's go, they should be awake by now anyways"



"Y-You did?!"
"It was quite hard, but I managed to."
Alice sighed in relief.
"Nonetheless, I've already finished assessing the strength you gained by the divine protections of those gods. And I have converted them into Skills as well! This is amazing, you've gotten two Skills right off the bat with them!" Alice seemed very happy.
"I guess I've got some help from them." I sighed.
"Yeah, check them out!" Alice quickly showed them to me.
Ding!
[The power of Divine Protections has been processed and made into Skills!]
[You learned the [Heavenly Sun] and [Blazing Sunshine Ward] Skills!]
[The power of your Patron Goddess has enhanced the power of [Heavenly Sight]!]
"Oh, Heavenly Sight got an upgrade, right!"

[Heavenly Sight: Lv5]

The Goddess of Sight and Heavenly Light has blessed you with her power, giving your eyes the power to see all matter of things. This Skill includes several effects.

[Hawk Eye (5)]: You can see up to 8 kilometer away from your position by adjusting your sight as if that area was right next to you, like a hawk.

[Lesser Foresight (5)]: You have a lesser Foresight to see 6 seconds in the future of a certain area or target.

[Identify (5)]: You can identify inanimate objects, see their quality, state, and even delve into who made them and what purpose they might have. Living beings can be identified, but the information given is lesser and depending in the difference in strength. However, even if the strength difference is large, the user can still see a bare minimum of information no matter what.

[Heroes Compass (5)]: You can identify where every single Hero that has been given a Divine Protection is located in the entire world through an internal compass inside of your eyes. The compass will guide you with great accuracy, and even gives an insight of the heroes you seek and their health. Accuracy enhanced by +50%.

Level Bonus (5): Enhances All Skill Effects, Light Attribute Magic Damage, Conjuration Speed, and Magic Manipulation by +50%.

The new Ability within Heavenly Sight was named [Hero Compass] and just as I thought, it allowed me to have a hidden compass in my eyes and points towards the heroes I want to see or find. By merely thinking about it, I suddenly can see a lit of the heroes within my sight, and where they might be. It is a bit confusing but even... wait what?! I can even see their names!

[Hero Compass]
[Hero of Heavenly Eyes and Draconic Blaze] [Name: Sylph] [Age: 12] [Race: Half-Elf (Half Human)] [Status: Dressing Up]
[Hero of Glacial Oceans] [Name: Aquarina] [Age: 12] [Race: Human (Half Amazon Tribe)] [Status: Dressing Up]
[Saint of Elemental Spirits] [Name: Lara] [Age: 13] [Race: Sheep Anima] [Status: Tired, Hungry]
[Hero of Wild Beasts] [Name: Luck] [Age: 14] [Race: Black Wolf Anima] [Status: Tired, Hungry]
[Hero of Forging Hammer] [Name: Ruby] [Age: 16] [Race: Dwarf] [Status: Healthy, Forging]
[???] [Yet to be Awakened] [Status: Healthy, Playing]
[???] [Yet to be Awakened] [Status: Hunting]
Damn I could see them! And how many are there? Ah, I can even see Aquarina on it! So she's Glacial Oceans? Damn that's kind of a lame title, couldn't they think of something better? Ah, I am also there.
Anyways, the other Heroes I can see is Lara, Luck, and Ruby. Two of them are Anima? What is that? And then the other is a Dwarf! I don't know if they're males or females, but based on names alone, the Saint and the Forging Hammer Hero are girls, and the Wild Beasts Hero is male.
Oh wait, I can actually touch these things and find information in them?
Then

[Race: Sheep Anima]

Often referred as Beast people, Beast-kin, and so on. They're people that is half beast. There is a wide variety and many tribes spread across the world. Said to have been created by the gods in an attempt to connect more with nature. They vary from friendly and nice to overly wild and savages.

Sheep Anima are the nicest of them all, often living in the peaceful plains, they are gentle hearted and help weary travelers. Due to their calm and gentle nature since birth, they had been hunted down almost to extinction. It is said they have an incredible affinity with the Spirits of the Land and their hair grows into fluffy wool with sharp horns they barely use to fight.

So our Saint is not even a human nor an elf.

It is an Anima, a sheep girl!

Chapter 556 Lara And Luck

Now that I can see them here and all, it kind of makes me feel even bad. I guess Ruby's alright, she probably is safe as of now, but what about Lara and Luck?! It says they're tired and hungry! C-Can I do something for them with this power? Maybe I could teleport them some food...

No, that's just fantasy, I cannot do anything right now other than hope their strength and divine protections can protect them, even if they're in the same continent, they're so far away it would take me days to get where they are.

Ugh, now it makes me feel even worse to think I am just ignoring them... But come on, shouldn't be there someone gathering us together? I remember that mother said that all heroes gathered somewhere all together to meet and form their party.

But now it seems it might not be the time yet, as nobody seems to be minding the whole god business at all, nor being heroes either. I just hope they're alright...

"It might be possible to help them... If that's what you're hoping for." Alice said. "Of course, the most direct yet incredibly risky way is going to find them, but there's another way."

"Another way?" I wondered.

"Through my powers, I can detect them. I can give them Quests, by completing them, they might gain food and even other items to shelter themselves." Said Alice.

"Eeeh?! You can?!" I asked.

"At the expense of your EXP..." Said Alice.

"Ah..." I sighed. "I guess, how much?"

"Approximately a million to set everything up..." Alice said.

"Ugh..." I cried a bit internally. "S-So how are you doing it? Wait a second, I can give quests to people?"

"Indeed, it is all part of the powers of the System and its brand-new Spell you've learned just now [Quest Helper]! And through the connection you have with them, I can use this thin thread of energy connection all of you to assign them this power to help them, even if a little more." Sighed Alice.

"Well, alright, just do that then!" I said with a nod. "Is there any other hero that is having a hard time?"

"Not for now, the others that have yet to awaken and even the dwarf girl are alright." Said Alice. "Lara and Luck are together protecting one another, if they're so close. But they might be having a hard time at life right now."
"Alright then there's no other option. Maybe we can set up the quest so they slowly get closer to town?" I wondered.
"That would also be convenient, but they're literally in the farther wildlands. It might be too risky." Said Alice.
"Ugh So I'll have to just help them bit by bit with tiny quests? This feels a bit sad How long will it take them to meet with us?" I wondered. "Ah, I don't even know them, maybe I shouldn't worry so much Agh! Who am I kidding?! I am really worried!"
"Well, I'll just talk this out with my parents. I'll need their help anyways." I sighed.
"Yes, I would say that's the best thing you could do Should we give them the quests?" Asked Alice.
"I don't know Maybe they'll get something very impossible." I sighed. "Leave it be for now."
"Alright. Don't feel so guilty over this, Sylphy. It is not even your fault that anything is happening to them, but your good heart is truly something touching. Don't worry. I know you can feel how they are. Concentrate." Alice told me.
I sat down over bed and closed my eyes.
Slowly, I felt their presence, far, far away.
They seemed to be resting inside a hollow tree.
I could smell something grilled fish?



"Phew t-that's as much as I can do for now, sorry"
Alice apologized while feeling tired.
"Oh, don't worry. I guess I was able to sense and listen to them due to your help, thanks."
"D-Don't worry about it Now, check your new Skills first, that'll be better for now. Let's worry later. They seem to be capable enough, don't feel the necessity to desperately help everyone. Sometimes you have to trust others that they can take care of themselves some more, Sylphy."
"I know I'll take that into consideration." I nodded.
Though now I am even more curious about what has been happening to them, and about Lara and Luck! They seemed to actually be old friends, like me and Aquarina and Zack.
And Lara said she had received the help of spirits since she was born, since she was a baby! Like me? But at the same time she was different, she could simply call spirits and they would come. They were not normal spirits made into familiars that grew with her, but any surrounding spirits would simply lend her a hand.
Is this her actual power? Maybe the Sheep Anima simply develop it naturally but Lara sure had one that was way better, perhaps stronger than their race version. I suppose it is part of being a Saint of Spirits.
"Sylphy check the skills!"
"Ah, right"
Chapter 557 New Divine Skills

After Alice almost lost her patience with me, I quickly decided to check the Skills. I could think about Lara and Luck later. They seemed to be resting and about to eat, so everything was fine for them as of now. I hope they can be alright for longer, way longer, if possible.

Anyways, time to check the new Skills so Alice doesn't get any madder!

[Heavenly Sun]

The God of Heaven and the Sun has blessed you with his blazing and heavenly power, giving your Soul and Body with the power to control fire, and enhance this element to incredible levels of power. This Skill includes several effects:

[Sunshine]: While bathing below the Sunlight, your stats grow based in how intense the sun is, from barely +5% in the morning to up to +200% at peak midday. Fire-Attribute Damage is also increased to up to +100%.

[Pyrokinesis]: Grants the ability to naturally generate and control the Element of Fire without any kind of conjuration or magic at all. The power of this Fire is based on Magic Stats and Fire Runes within the Magic Circle. Additionally, if used with Fire Magic Spells, spell control, effectiveness, and total power is enhanced by +50%.

[Fire That Burns Everything]: Your Fire Attribute Attacks and Magic can ignore the foe's natural Element Resistance, Immunity, and Absorption by up to -50%, while giving the ability to ignore Magic Damage Resistance by up to -25%.

"Huh?! T-This is insane... Do I possess that power now?! Wait, isn't this the power my father has too?"

"Indeed! He has this but even more improved. Divine Protections effects grow alongside the user. He probably has the same effects but multiplied even more times. Your father's very strong."
"You tell me Yeah, he's amazingly strong. Maybe I could one day become a fitting successor."
I looked at the second Skill.
[Blazing Sunshine Ward]
The God of Sunshine and the Goddess of Burning Passion have converged their power into this powerful Divine Protection, which was specifically made so you can protect your life and that of your allies. This Skill includes several effects:
[Sunshine Ward Protection]: The user is naturally protected by a powerful Ward made of Fire and Sunlight, which grows stronger and tougher as the day passes whenever the user is bathing in the sun. It is the weakest at night and the strongest at day. It can regenerate quickly on day and create up to three layers. At night, only one layer can be made, and it is rather frail, breaking in a single hit. Ward Regeneration Cooldown: 1 Minute (At Day), 10 Minutes (At Night).
[Blazing Ward Riposte]: After accumulating enough damage taken by Wards, it is possible to unleash this accumulated damage into a powerful Blazing Explosion towards a target or the user's surroundings which can deal up to +200% damage, ignore Elemental Resistances by up to -10% and Magic Damage Resistance by up to -5%.
[Ward Protection]: You can assign a [Sunshine Ward] to 1 ally, which will automatically regenerate layers and take MP from you. Wards conjured on allies are only 70% as effective as normal ones. Allies cannot perform [Blazing Ward Riposte]. Ward Duration: 10 minutes. Cooldown: 1 Hour.

Wow this is also pretty useful... I guess I'll be using it from now on. More defense means more chances for me to live and someone else I might be protecting. This would had come so handy when I was protecting my mother years ago... Ugh, well, whatever. I'll make sure to use it once I find the opportunity.

"Now, Alice, can you make them Level Up Skills?"
"On it!"
Ding!
[You have exchanged 1500000 EXP]
[The [Heavenly Sun] Skill has Leveled Up to Level 1!]
[The [Blazing Sunshine Ward] Skill has Leveled Up to Level 1!]
Now these Skills can level up! Oh, and they got some new bonuses too?
[Heavenly Sun: Lv1]
Skill Proficiency: 0/2500

The God of Heaven and the Sun has blessed you with his blazing and heavenly power, giving your Soul and Body with the power to control fire, and enhance this element to incredible levels of power. This Skill includes several effects:

[Sunshine (1)]: While bathing below the Sunlight, your stats grow based in how intense the sun is, from barely +10% in the morning to up to +210% at peak midday. Fire-Attribute Damage is also increased to up to +110%.

[Pyrokinesis (1)]: Grants the ability to naturally generate and control the Element of Fire without any kind of conjuration or magic at all. The power of this Fire is based on Magic Stats and Fire Runes within the Magic Circle. Additionally, if used with Fire Magic Spells, spell control, effectiveness, and total power is enhanced by +60%.

[Fire That Burns Everything (1)]: Your Fire Attribute Attacks and Magic can ignore the foe's natural Element Resistance, Immunity, and Absorption by up to -55%, while giving the ability to ignore Magic Damage Resistance by up to -30%.

Level Bonus (1): Enhances All Skill Effects, Fire Attribute Magic Damage, Conjuration Speed, and Magic Manipulation by +10%.

[Blazing Sunshine Ward: Lv1]

Skill Proficiency: 0/2500

The God of Sunshine and the Goddess of Burning Passion have converged their power into this powerful Divine Protection, which was specifically made so you can protect your life and that of your allies. This Skill includes several effects:

[Sunshine Ward Protection (1)]: The user is naturally protected by a powerful Ward made of Fire and Sunlight, which grows stronger and tougher as the day passes whenever the user is bathing in the sun. It is the weakest at night and the strongest at day. It can regenerate quickly on day and create up to three layers. At night, only one layer can be made, and it is rather frail, breaking in a single hit. Ward Regeneration Cooldown: 1 Minute (At Day), 10 Minutes (At Night). Enhances Ward Durability and Regeneration Speed by +10%.

[Blazing Ward Riposte (1)]: After accumulating enough damage taken by Wards, it is possible to unleash this accumulated damage into a powerful Blazing Explosion towards a target or the user's surroundings which can deal up to +210% damage, ignore Elemental Resistances by up to -20% and Magic Damage Resistance by up to -10%.

[Ward Protection]: You can assign a [Sunshine Ward] to 2 allies, which will automatically regenerate layers and take MP from you. Wards conjured on allies are only 71% as effective as normal ones. Allies cannot perform [Blazing Ward Riposte]. Ward Duration: 12 minutes. Cooldown: 50 Minutes.

Level Bonus (1): Enhances All Skill Effects, Fire and Light Attribute Magic Damage, Conjuration Speed, and Magic Manipulation by +5%.

Ooh! They really got amazing bonuses! They suddenly became way stronger, all thanks to the power of the System... Spending all that EXP was sure worth it.

Chapter 558 As Long As I Have Her At My Side...

After checking the boost of the Skills, I quickly looked back into my Status:

<#23a System>

[System Owner]: [Sylph Naturia Bravo]

[Magic Circle]: [Tier 3: Rank 7: Elemental Magic Circle]



[Skills]: [Royal Elven Lineage] [Agriculture] [Lesser Fire Magic: Ember] [Mana Usage] [Hero Seed] [Divine Protection] [Heavenly Sight] [Alchemy] [Heavenly Sun] [Blazing Sunshine Ward]

[Special Skills]: [Agriculture: Lv10] [Yggdrasil's Endurance: Lv10] [Spiritual Blessing: Lv10] [Divine Fruit of Knowledge: Lv3] [Lesser Fire Magic: Ember: Lv10] [Fire Magic: Blazing Wall: Lv4] [Mana Usage: Lv9] [Heavenly Sight: Lv5] [Alchemy: Lv4] [Heavenly Sun: Lv1] [Blazing Sunshine Ward: Lv1]

[System Magic Spells]: [System Seed Creation] [System Modification] [Quest Board] [Quest Helper]

[Curses]: [Curse of the Devourer of Darkness]

[Divine Protections]: [Theia, the Chief Goddess of Sight and Heavenly Light] [Hyperion, the Chief God of Heaven, and the Sun] [Aeolus, the God of Sunshine] [Fiere, the Goddess of Burning Passion]

Ah, stats are still locked and the same as ever, but I guess that's a good sign. As long as they remain frozen, I have infinite mana, a power even the gods fear, hehehe.

And... oh! Some things changed. It seems the [Divine Protections] section showed up. Is this something Alice did? Well, this now makes it clearer which gods have given me their Divine Protections.

Though I am not too much into the idea that I'll have to read their names every day from now on... But well, whatever. I guess Hyperion and those two other Gods just wanted to give me a hand.

Perhaps I was being the one being overly annoying with them? But yeah, forcing me to do their bidding is not something I am into either.

It felt weird in a way, like they really didn't had any bad intentions, but they also didn't seem to tell us all the truth either....

I suppose I should stop thinking that they have to be act like the villains I imagine they are. The world is not black and white, even the gods act sometimes good and sometimes wrong.

I suppose it is all gray at the end, they do good things and also a lot of bad things.

Perhaps even the Evil gods might be to blame for this as well, they do a lot of bad things but at the same time, I remember the God of Dungeons having some rather good intentions.

He wanted to end the cycle I also pointed out. He said he was doing all these things so he could end the endless cycle of destruction, the battle between heroes and a demon king, this endless struggle the gods had been doing for so long.

I guess he's doing it for the world's sake though, as it seems he had somewhat allied the World's Will. But that's where things get so weird, why the world itself is our enemy? It is the very place where we are living too... the world that brings me so much happiness.

Why must I fight it and even fight her children, the Demon King? Can't we find another way around it? can't we simply not... fight all the time?

The Evil God of Dungeons had some good ideas, but he still wanted to do it in an overly extremist way. He even said he was going to just wipe everything out, and only the most fitting would, or something like that, I can't even recall it well... But yeah, he had some good intentions but then mixed it all with his wickedness.

I guess you can't really trust someone called "Evil God" at all. But just how many Evil Gods are out there? And what are their truest intentions? I want to know about it, I want to know what they want... I've already confronted them personally. I am sure they are not going to forget about me the next morning or something.

I might be ultimately targeted once more, someday, somewhere... If our own patrons don't want to help in anything other than giving us a little boost to our power and growth speed, then I'll have to think on ways to deal with them all by myself.

Ugh...

"Sylphy? What's wrong? Are you okay?" Aquarina asked, looking at me from the left side. Her bright blue eyes shining brightly.
"Yeah, I'm not I am so worried of everything happening We should quickly go tell our parents about everything. I cannot simply keep this as a secret or something. They're more experienced than us, I am sure they can find some answer." I sighed.
"Let's go then." Aquarina smiled, showing me her hand.
This world so filled with so many threats and challenges, with an uncertain future, where I am constantly wondering what it will be of me and everyone I love
Sometimes I feel so desperate that I cannot properly think straight.
But as long as I have them with me.
As long as I have her with me.
"Yeah, let's go."
I think I can keep going.
At least a little further.
And see what awaits our future.
"I know it must be hard, just calm down. Once we speak to our parents, they'll figure out something." Aquarina smiled.

"Aquarina..." I sighed. "Yeah, I guess..."

We walked downstairs and meet with the rest of our family. Aquarina's parents were here having breakfast, or well, preparing it. My parents were enjoying the weekend and little Zephy was playing around with his wooden toys while practicing shadow magic he began showing off some months ago, he mostly creates tiny threads of shadows and make his toys move around.

Zack and Ninhursag were naturally here, and even uncle Arafunn. Well, I guess that'll make it easier. Though if we have Celeste here that would make it even better as she had direct contact with Evil Gods years ago.

At the end, I ended calling Celeste using magic, and once we were all together we began telling absolutely everything that happened. Our parents seemed more and more intrigued, although it was obvious that their faces were filled with concern. Even Arafunn's often lax nature seemed to have come to a stop, as he narrowed his eyes.

"This is so much to process..." My mother sighed. "I can't... I... Sigh..."

My mother facepalmed, as she began massaging her forehead, something she often did when she was nervous and worried.

"So these bastards are already ordering our daughters to do their bidding..." Shade muttered.

"Sometimes I wish they could all just die to leave us alone."

"We did what they asked us to do, we all worked like their puppets, their slaves..." Nepheline said. "We did so many atrocities, we lost so many... So many friends... And now they just want the same thing for our girls? These bastards..."

"We all have kind of forgotten about it, huh? But yeah... I guess they're the heroes at the end." Sighed Arafunn. "But there's a different pattern now. They were granted even more divine protections. The Gods seem afraid, something like this never happened before."

"I think it is more than just for the Demon King, they're trying to prepare the two of them for more threats than someone in a completely different continent minding his own business..." My mother said. "Someone at the age of 12 at that. I can't... I am not going to help my daughter kill a child..."

"Don't worry, I am not going to do it. I won't... I will not kill the Demon King; I've already made up my mind." I said with a nod.

"Something that was never ever said by a hero in all of history." Said Arafunn with a smile. "Quite the bold words, Sylphy. I like that."

"Even if we don't intend to..." My mother said. "If that kid ends up growing bad, if he becomes someone that is corrupt, or simply harbors hate against all humans, then... if he truly has such powers, what can we do then? Sylphy, in the future, what will you do?"

"What... will I do?" I sighed.

"What will you do too?" Asked my mother back at Aquarina.

We were left both speechless, we really didn't had anything figured out yet. It was way too much pressure, too many variables, too much to consider. If we didn't wanted to kill someone, but if that someone becomes so overly strong and then begins a quest to genocide everybody else... then we'll eventually be forced to kill them, and the cycle will continue, endlessly.

"Faylen, are those things you ask thirteen-year-old girls?" My father asked. "I know they look more mature now as they're at puberty and all, and well, I can't believe how tall Aquarina has become too, but... these are not things you ask to girls this age- no, to anybody. Even an experienced old man would tell you they have no idea what they would do..."

"I... Well, yeah. Perhaps I am worrying too much. There are just too many variables. And the lives of many people might one day be at stake. I know that killing the Demon King won't really end anything, it simply will restart the cycle again... But if he becomes a big enough threat once he grows up... Sylphy, Aquarina..." My mother looked at the two of us.

"Mother cut it out!" I said, hitting the table.

BAAAM!

"Ah...! Sylphy?!"

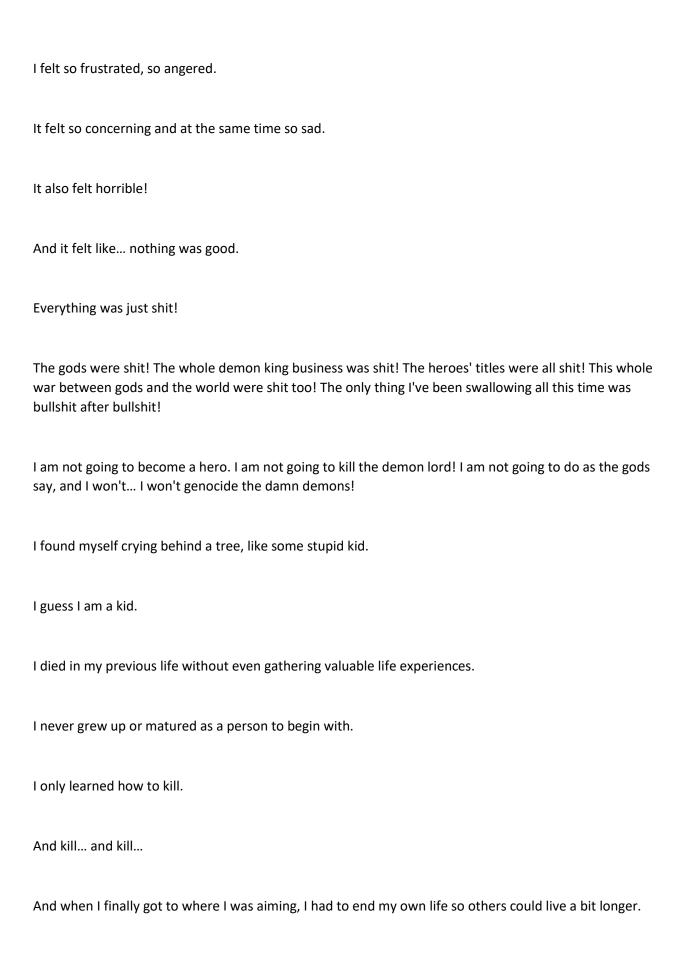
"I am tired! I don't want to talk about this stupid thing anymore! I am so tired of all of this... this BULLSHIT! Ugh... Why do I have to take so many decisions?! Why are we being so forced into this?! Why do we have to think over the safety of everything?! Isn't this the work of the gods?! Ugh... UGGGH!"

I ended having a meltdown, as I ran away from home, running into the garden.

"Sylphy!"

"Sylphy wait!"

I ran and ran, as tears began flowing from my eyes.



Now that I look back, my previous life compared to this one felt so short
"Sylph?"
"My daughter?"
Both of my parents found me almost right away.
"Sylphy Please listen to me" My mother asked.
"My daughter, don't cry" My father tried to touch me.
"Leave me alone!" I quickly waved my hand; I didn't wanted to be touched.
I just wanted to be left alone.
"I am sorry" My mother apologized. "I am very sorry; I shouldn't had said those things. I was just I was just scared. I was scared" My mother suddenly started crying at my side. "I'm sorry"
"Mom"
"I just don't want anything bad to happen to you We've gone through so much already I just Don't want you to die to go and die I don't even know what to do anymore. I have I have no idea." My mother continued crying.
I quickly hugged her back.
Chapter 560 The Helper's Squad

"Then why didn't you just said that?" I asked her, hugging her.

"I just... I was trying to find a solution. Maybe by asking you girls... But at the end, the future is so uncertain and scary... Even I, as strong as I am... I couldn't change a single thing." She cried. "I don't want you to go through those horrendous moments, through those horrible things..."

"If you don't want to do it, then you won't. You're our daughter before being a hero or anything..." My father said, petting my head. "The future's scary, yeah. It is very scary. Despite all the strength we have, we can never change a single thing. But let's try to change it now. Together, maybe we can find another way, a different route... It might be frightening to even think about daring to do such a thing but... There's no other option. Doing what they say is simply not the right thing to do anymore."

"Yeah... Your mother and your father... We will always support you and we'll always help you in anything we can." My mother said.

"We'll do this together! Unlike before, we are a big family here. We all work together." My father said. "You don't have to do this alone, or just with Aquarina and other random kids scattered around the world. That Hero Party bullshit can just go and disappear. We'll do things our way."

"Mom... dad..." I sighed, feeling more spirited. "Thanks..."

"It's nothing..." Said my mother. "For now, how about we sort things out?"

"Yeah, let's go back home, have some breakfast and we can discuss what to do more relaxed, with our bellies full preferably." My father added.

"Yeah... sure."

Like that, we walked back home. I had my little breakdown there, but all I needed were my parents to get me back up. We enjoyed breakfast and we just stopped talking about the gods, heroes, and the demon king.

We simply spoke about the world we were living on right now, not some bastards in the sky, or a weird kid in another continent, or some people I don't even really know scattered around everywhere. We simply addressed the problems of our town, we spoke about the nice people, the delicious food, and what my mother was planning to do.

Instead of racking our brains trying to resolve problem so far away from our grasp, what was better for our mental health is to try to resolve what we have in front of us first. Ultimately, we forgot about the Demon King and the Gods for now.

We simply said "if something happens, it will be in the future and we'll leave this to our future selves", concerning so much over an upcoming future was only going to kill our mental fortitude and make us break down even more.

However, something that seemed more realistically possible was the heroes. There were several heroes in this continent, apparently three had awakened, two had yet to awaken. I don't know if there might be more in the future.

"These kids... So you can see how they are? What a strange power..." My mother said. "For us to gather we did it by the guidance of the gods. I guess they have gotten lazier."

"Yeah, according to what I saw. They were all alive and okay. Two of them, however, the Saint of Spirits and the Hero of Wild Beasts seem to be living in the dangerous Wilderness by themselves, but they have good survival skills, I heard their voices a bit, and they were... rather relaxed even after being tired and hungry." I sighed. "I don't really know what might be happening to them but I want to trust they'll be alright? Sadly I cannot get an exact place where they are, the compass simply points to a direction and that's it."

"Hmm..." My mother began to wonder. "We might have to go pick them up then, at least those."

"However, not now." My father nodded.

"Definitely not now, we are too busy. If they're alright, then they are alright." My mother said.

"We don't really have time to worry about other people at this point when we've got such a big town here." My father sighed.

"Definitely." My mother agreed.

"Yeah, I suppose we can leave it for later once we've got more of our problems sorted out." Shade said.

"The townsfolk seems to be having troubles every day with something, and they often always asked for everything to the chief. This place lacks a lot of adventures that do chores for other people in exchange for a rewards, so the problems keep piling up. Most of them could be resolved with magic and alchemy, but we can't divide ourselves." Nepheline said.

"Sylphy, you said you wanted to help, right?" My mother wondered.

"I do." I said with a nod. "I am good at alchemy already; I want to go help as many locals as I can to ease your burden. Aquarina said she'll help too."

"Then I am in too." Zack nodded. "Count on my brawns, I don't have much else. But I'll do my best."

"Me too! Me too! I can use healing magic... and I learned Detox, Antidote, and other healing spells!" Mist said while being pumped up. "I can heal people in need!"

"I am quite experienced in alchemy actually. Also my magic has a variety of uses and I am strong too, so kiddos, I am in too." Celeste said with a smile.

"Then it is decided!" My mother said. "Sylphy, Aquarina, Zack, Mist, Celeste! All five of you shall become the Helper's Squad! Your task is simple, help as many people with their little yet important problems as much as you can. Of course, not for free. I will pay you all very well for your services, even if the townsfolk cannot pay you, I will as the ruler of Agartha."

"Mom... That sounds amazing! Alright then!" I said happily.

"Then it is decided." My father said.
"Alright." Said Shade.
"Yeah, I trust the kids." Nepheline agreed.
"Indeed!" Arafunn sang.
"Zack, I am counting on you." Ninhursag said.
It was time to do something for this place.