

A Glitched 651

Chapter 651 The Mysterious Dragon Egg

Rather than showing images, it felt as if we had traveled to the past. It was this very same room, but something had changed, everything seemed less... old. Instead of a deteriorating cave, the entire area was covered with the same metal, walls which had decayed through eons were now back to where they used to be.

However, the same nest remained. Made of blue crystals, there was a large blue egg resting on top of the nest. And surrounding it there were many Mermen, the name of the Aquatic Anima. They were the servants of the Nymph goddesses. However, their face expressions seemed... concerned.

"Our goddesses have changed... Since that incident that they have become... childish."

"The Divine Ocean Dragon Egg which they planned to revive as their Familiar... it is slowly losing its life force."

"It might soon die. Without the true Divine Essence of the Ocean Core, it cannot truly hatch. We should had never unsealed it if we knew this would had happened..."

"Without our goddesses aid, we cannot continue their plans, what a pity."

The mermen lamented, glancing at the egg slowly die.

"The prized child of the Ocean Dragon Queen, now shall perish... alone and abandoned."

"Hahh... If only our ladies could regain their reason, which seems to have disappeared completely..."

"There might be a way, however."

The third mermen spoke, glancing at the other two.

"How so?"

"What are you talking about?"

"Don't you remember how the goddesses lost their reason after the creation of that Relic? Perhaps within that Relic... might remain their reason, their wills."

"You mean...?"

"Could there be a way to save them?"

"Yes, perhaps, but not within our realm of possibilities. We do not possess her powers, and we cannot manipulate this technology as we please either."

The mermen sighed, glancing back at the egg.

"But perhaps, one day... somebody, maybe someone far, far in the future will obtain our goddesses divine protections."

"And if that day comes, you think...?"

"Perhaps that divinely protected might find a way to bring them back to their former selves."

The men sighed one last time, leaving the room. Only the third one remained, glancing at the egg as it slowly lost its life force.

"That egg, even within death, shall only respond to the true inheritor of our lady's divine powers."

And after that, we were back to normal.

We were all left speechless once more.

What we saw there... revealed more than I could have imagined.

It seems that they really lost their "reason" which turned the goddesses into child-like nymphs.

However, based in how they acted in the visions we saw in the first floor, it is very possible they were ruthless and quite selfish, lacking any sort of compassion for their own creations, the Aquatic Anima.

This also brought the theory that... we might descend from a race the gods originally created to serve them, a race created as slaves. We were made to serve them as slaves, but upon their defeat, perhaps many of us, much like those mermen abandoned in these ruins, ended abandoned in the planet.

And due to that, we were able to spread around the world and multiply, conquering it. Perhaps the gods themselves decided to approach us in a way as if they had done this from the beginning, even though perhaps our own multiplication... might have never been within their plans.

Do the gods see us as mere tools? Most likely. Just recalling that conversation we had with them, it was quite clear they seemed to not look at us as anything else than servants. They even found funny how we tried to resist them, thinking we were playing around.

Yet... this only puts me even more nervous.

"Aquarina, drop that thing!"

I quickly grabbed Aquarina's arm, forcing her to drop the relic she was holding. Her eyes slowly stopped glowing bright blue, as she let go of the egg as well.

It felt as if she woke up once I helped her.

"Eh? What... what happened?" She wondered. "Ugh... my head."

The relic dropped into the floor and began glowing bright blue, as if protesting, but then it receded and calmed down, going back to its former inconspicuousness.

"Seems like you were hypnotized by that thing..." I sighed. "Are you alright? Alice! Can you check her mental state?"

"Sure!" Alice emerged in front of me, quickly coating Aquarina with her divine light. "Hmm... She seems to be alright now. But that thing... it seems to have a very strong presence, even a will of its own. It only reacts to her divine protection though."

"Weird..." I sighed. "Well, whatever's the case, she seems alright."

"Sigh... That relic was... could it have tried to control me into touching the egg? But why though?" Sighed Aquarina.

"No idea, but I think its better to throw things inside the Dimensional Bag for now..." I said. "I am quite worried things might get worse if you try to touch these things."

"The Gods seem rather manipulative. Whatever will was left out in that relic... maybe it wanted Aquarina to do something with the egg." Said Celeste. "Seeing how gods are, we should never truly trust them."

"Yeah, even if having a divine dragon pet seems amazing, I think we should take it easy." Zack said.

"I agree..." Mist sighed worriedly.

"Are you feeling okay Aquarina?" Celica wondered.

"You were all weird back there!" Zephy pointed out.

"She seems stable. The egg, however, has regained life force." Nephi pointed out.

"Huh?! It did?!" I asked in surprise.

"It seems dormant, but it might hatch..." Said Nephi.

"This is weird, if it hatches, will it attack us?" Aquarina wondered. "Ugh, well, we might as well bring it with us for now, if it hatches and attacks, it is my responsibility to defeat that thing."

"True, I guess." I nodded, grabbing the relic using branches made with magic and storing it inside the dimensional storage. I couldn't do the same with the egg, which was now alive, so we decided to carry it by wrapping it around Furoh's back using vines made by Naturia.

"Whatever that was, we've still got the whole dungeon to clear, so let's get going... I want to also get to the bottom of this entire story." Aquarina seemed rather angered and yet at the same time, filled with some sort of responsibility to discover what happened here.

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Within a realm far beyond the dungeon, an entity glanced through the eyes eight red eyes of her underlings. Her webs moving rapidly, channeling the divine power of an evil goddess that has blessed her and given her divine protection.

"The Will of the Three Fallen Nymph Goddesses seems to have not been awakened... Just as you predicted, Lady of the Webs..." A smile surged in her lips. "If things go accordingly... Soon, those relics shall be within my hands. For now, you lot, keep trying to find the future heroes scattered around this continent. And bring them to me."

Chapter 652 I'll Always Be There For You

What had happened just now left us a bit surprised, and slightly tired. We agreed on taking a small break before continuing. Aquarina was rather sad she was being controlled, and her hate for the gods became even bigger for some reason. She was also glancing at the egg with a bit of hate, though if it ever hatches and it's a nice dragon, I think we should still keep it.

"Sigh... I can't believe I just did that without even knowing..." Sighed Aquarina. "Thank you for being there Sylphy..."

"Don't worry, everything's alright now. Alice inspected you using her light magic and she says you're already fine, the mind controlling effect has been completely dispelled." I told her, trying to calm her nerves.

"That's... relieving." She sighed, still feeling slightly down.

Everyone seemed silent as well, nobody really knew what to say, so they were leaving it all to me, geez. Well, she's... my special one. So I suppose it is my duty to cheer her up.

"You're still rather tired, aren't you?" I asked.

"Yeah... Not physically but mentally." She sighed. "And I feel... I feel a bit afraid. I don't want to be used... I don't want to be a puppet..."

"I know how it feels." I sighed. "Don't worry, I will never let anybody use you, you're the only one in control of your body."

"Sylphy..."

"I swear on my name, I'll be there to protect you and help you. If these damn gods dare touch you again... I will make sure to make them pay." I swore on my name, as I felt my rage beginning to grow in intensity as the curse in my soul became wider and stronger, desiring to absorb more...

I had managed to slightly hurt Evil Gods using the curse, their spiritual vessels were easily wounded and they screamed in agony when I attacked them like that... if I keep growing stronger, maybe there could be some way to hurt them even more badly.

I won't let them touch her...

"Hahah..." Suddenly, Aquarina giggled a bit. "You sometimes say some really funny things..."

"A-Ah..." I suddenly snapped back to reality, as if my own anger was bringing me elsewhere. "Right... Yeah sounds stupid, right? I just don't know what else to tell you. I want you... to feel safe, at least with me."

Aquarina smiled adorably, her blue eyes shining brightly.

"Sorry, I got a bit frightened, but I am not really weak either, am I? I am strong too... And with you, I think we are unbeatable!" Aquarina said with a confident grin. "Mooch!"

Suddenly, she stole me a kiss in my lips.

"Uwah! T-That was sudden!" I got embarrassed; I couldn't help it.

"Heheh, that's all I needed!" Aquarina giggled, getting up and back to her energetic personality. She quickly hugged me and began petting my head. "You're so cute when you're worried about me~~!"

As I received her pampering, everyone was watching at us while giggling and gossiping with one another. I had already grown accustomed to this...

"Look at them, so shameless..." Said Celeste. "They could find a room already."

"Aquarina only needed some Sylphy to fill her energies up, isn't it?" Sighed Zack. "Well, I can understand her, Sylphy's lovable..."

"Huh? I am not too?" Mist asked at Zack surprised.

"Y-You too, Mist, of course." Zack felt slightly pressured, giving Mist a head pat.

"They're so cute together... Mister Teddy and I wonder if one day we'll find someone we can love like that." Celica said with an innocent giggle.

"Big sis will marry Aquarina?" Wondered Zephy, my little brother asking Nephi.

"It does seems to be the case, young lord." Nephi nodded. "We shall celebrate when the wedding begins."

"Ugh you lot, just shut up!" I cried in embarrassment, as Aquarina giggled at my side.

Alice seemed rather happy while seeing this scene.

"You've come a long way, Sylphy. Look at all the friends you've made... So many sweet people at your side. You're great."

"Huh? W-What with that compliment out of the blue?"

"N-nothing... I just am happy. I've been at your side since you were a little baby after all... It is like seeing my child grow up, or my little sister!"

"Geez, even you're getting corny..."

"Hahaha, sorry, sorry, I can't help it~"

"Fooo fooo!"

Naturia seemed to agree.

Like that, before departing, we decided to have a small snack. Whatever dangers awaited us at Floor 3 weren't going to be any easier than the Eels or that dangerous Sea Snake Lesser Dragon, so we better fill our stomachs with healthy snacks to boost our stats as well, utilizing Cooking Magic!

"I'll cook for now, you've been cooking all the time, Sylphy." Aquarina said. "I've been practicing cooking with your mom for a while now, you can count on me!"

"O-Oh! Sure then!" I nodded. "I'll take a break for now, I need to wash myself as well."

I quickly brought out a tent from the Dimensional Bag and undressed me inside, beginning to wash myself from all the sweat using some basic Tier 1 Water Magic Spells.

And while I was taking a bath, Alice began talking.

"I know you want to save your EXP for later, but I would recommend you making a few more System-using equipment, Sylphy. You've already seen in Scarlet's performance enhancement. Her abilities have become over ten times better, and she keeps getting stronger, sharper, and sturdier with each level up. How about you turn something else with a System?" Alice spoke to me through the telepathy that spirits and their masters could do.

"I had considered it but I still don't know..." I sighed. "Well, do you have any ideas?"

"Yeah! Your boots change too much, and clothes... not for now. I believe either accessories you can carry anywhere easily without needing to be changed or... another weapon." She said. "Items created by the System are especially powerful and have a lot of durability. How about the Coral Golem's Shield?"

"Huh... A shield wouldn't be so bad. Alright then! I guess you've convinced me."

Chapter 653 Giving A System To My Shield!

After Alice's suggestion, while using warm wind to dry my body from the water, I began to check on the items inside the Dimensional Bag, quickly dragging out the Coral Golem's Shield from it. The shield was very sturdy, and imbued with a powerful magical effect which seemed to have been inherited from the Coral Golem Dungeon Boss, the same way the other item I got from the Sea Snake was imbued with the Sea Snake's powers.

"I hadn't taken much attention before but... Whenever I hold it, it feels like my defenses naturally rise." I said. "It feels heavy yet not..."

"Told you! System-made items are very powerful!" Alice seemed prideful of her creations.

"You seem a bit too prideful! Did you made these yourself?" I wondered teasingly.

"Well, kind of. I do remember having put some inputs and stuff... But the Quest Giving Part of the System is actually managed by a different artificial intelligence. I don't know if it is an exact clone of me or not, I haven't had the opportunity to talk with her or him." Alice lamented.

"You still can't?" I wondered.

"It seems so, there is a large wall of glitches separating us. Perhaps if you keep growing stronger and we keep spending and earning EXP, it might go away." Alice said. "Though having another mind within my body will feel a bit strange."

"Interesting, I still can't really tell how your body is truly composed or made... You're incredibly intricate." I said.

"Well I am a Divine Construct, so that makes sense, no?" She giggled. "Now, let's make that System Seed!"

"Alright!"

Ding!

[You've exchanged 800000 EXP!]

[\$%#\$&\$% 234&&\$ \$##\$...!]

[You've created a [System Seed]!]

From within Alice's body, a small silver cube emerged out of her. As if she had laid an egg. This had happened a lot of times already. I often times wondered if she was really a mother now... Each System she makes is silent and lacks a personality, but they're still living beings, right?

"And done... Phew..." Alice sighed, feeling slightly tired. "Creating System Seeds always leaves me exhausted. Making two today is my limit, sorry."

"It's fine, don't overexert yourself. Part of why I didn't want to make another one was because of you! I don't know why you want to go so far sometimes..." I sighed.

"S-Sorry, I just want to feel useful. Sometimes, I get... a bit of a complex for being a glitched system. I am a failure... So I want to help you more in the only ways I can." Alice said.

"You're not a failure! Your powers are amazing, way more than I could had ever expected. Come on, cheer up. You're unique and that's what makes you amazing." I told her. "It is thanks that you're you that I've managed to survive all this time, right? That endless mana glitch and my health glitch... and everything."

"W-Well, I do recognize I have some unique features..." Alice admitted. "Sorry about that talk... I know we're doing our best, so for now, let's put this seed here."

FLAAASH!

The System Seed flew inside the Coral Golem's Shield, as the item began to glow with a blue light, gaining new life and then beginning to transform. Several circuits appeared over the item, as we sensed something, a small flame, emerging within the shield, the same way we felt when my sword gained a system seed.

Ding!

[The [Coral Golem's Shield (D Grade)] has received a System Seed!]

[A New Soul has been formed within the item.]

[Do you wish to give it a name?]

"A name...?" I wondered. "But what name should I give them?"

"Hmmm, something fitting?" Wondered Alice.

"Let's see..." I said, thinking, but not coming with nothing, until I remembered Aquarina's eyes.

"Sapphire!" I said.

Ding!

[You've named your [Coral Golem's Shield] as [Sapphire]!]

<Status System>

[System Owner]: [Sapphire]

[Race]: [Lesser Magic Shield]

[Rank]: [D-]

[Level]: [0/25]

[EXP]: [0/5000]

[Class]: [Coral Golem's Shield]

[HP]: [1000/1000]

[MP]: [450/450]

[Strength]: [350]

[Defense]: [900]

[Magic]: [350]

[Resistance]: [700]

[Agility]: [200]

[Luck]: [50]

[Charm]: [350]

[Skills]: [Living Shield: Lv1] [Material Assimilation: Lv1] [Iron Defenses: Lv1] [Coral Golem Guardian: Lv1]
[Water Absorption: Lv1] [Elemental Damage Resistance: Lv1]

"Ah, her stats are much different than Scarlet!"

"Of course, Sapphire is a shield, not a sword, so she doesn't specialize in offense, she's the best at defense... Interesting, it seems she developed more skills than I imagined."

"She can absorb water element? Well that's going to be useful in this dungeon... And then, huh? Coral Golem Guardian? What does this do?"

I quickly gave a mental order, as Sapphira automatically utilized that Skill.

FLAAASH!

Suddenly, a magic circle emerged in front of me, as a massive creature started emerging from within. It looked like the Coral Golem Boss, but slightly smaller?! What in the world?!

"GRUOOH-"

"No! No! Go back! Unsummon!"

FLUOSH!

The magic circle quickly disappeared before the golem were to blow up the entire tent where I was taking a bath, thankfully nothing bad happened.

"It seems it literally summons a golem to fight and protect you..."

"Y-Yeah..."

I decided to check the skill description.

[Coral Golem Guardian: Lv1]

Gather the essence of the Coral Golem and summon a perfect, yet weaker copy of the terrifying boss of Floor 1. The golem is powerful and has high defenses, sharing almost the same stats as the shield itself. However, it cannot grow stronger by itself and once its health points reach zero, it will crumble and disappear.

You can only summon 1 golem at a time, but this quantity can be increased by leveling up the skill, and so the strength of the golem and its maximum amount of health points. As the shield evolves and changes, the golems might change as well.

Cooldown: 30 Minutes.

"So that's how it is... Seems nice, might use this guy to buy us time or distract bosses while we smack the monsters." I nodded, finding quite useful a tank I didn't had to care so much for.

Chapter 654 Powerful Shield Skills

Aside from that awesome Golem Summoning Skill, there's more Skills which Sapphire came with, such as the same ones that Scarlet has:

[Living Shield: Lv1]

A Living Shield is a Shield that possess a Soul, and has the power to constantly grow, evolve, and develop. Although its will is small, it will develop over time as it experiences new things and grows stronger. By receiving Mana from its master, the Shield's stats can temporarily increase by +10% with each Skill Level. The Soul Grows larger and smarter with each of the user's levels.

[Material Assimilation: Lv1]

A Special Ability that only very unique Living Weapons possess. It grants the capability of absorbing compatible materials into the sword's body to both regenerate damage and to increase stats, or even generate new Skills. After absorbing a certain quantity of that special material, absorbing more won't give any extra benefit. Increases the chances to get Special Skills or Additional Stats when assimilating a material by +10% with each Skill Level.

Yep, the same Skills, just a bit different? Even though she doesn't have demon powers, she still has Material Assimilation! Maybe this is a property that all equipment with a system acquire? Would be cool. Anyways, with this Sapphire can evolve into different and stronger shields, and also absorb materials... But this bring something more dangerous, I'll have to distribute materials wisely.

I can already imagine Scarlet and Sapphire fighting over the rare materials... I'll have to be careful with this. Well, so anyways, there's three other Skills Sapphire has, they're quite interesting and unique, not like those Scarlet has. They seem fitting of a shield.

[Iron Defenses: Lv1]

A Skill that Shields possess, by enchanting the shield with Mana, the total defenses of the shield can increase up to +30%, with an additional +15% with each Skill Level. Additionally, the [Iron Defenses] Buff can be conjured over the wielder's entire body and any nearby allies, lasting as long as the Mana input is added but with only half of its total effects.

Oh this is nice! It's like a buff I can conjure even on my friends! Very useful.

[Water Absorption: Lv1]

The ability to absorb the element of Water. By infusing Mana into the shield, it is possible to absorb up to 30% of Water-Attribute Damage as Mana (which increases by +2% with each Skill Level) and utilize this absorbed Mana to unleash a powerful Water Attribute Spell within the wielder's known spells will receive bonus damage based on 50% of absorbed Mana.

This is an awesome skill, kind of similar to Ignatius version which is for the fire element... If I can absorb a lot of water damage, then it will come out as an even stronger water spell? Well, maybe...

[Elemental Damage Resistance: Lv1]

Decreases Elemental Damage taken by -25%, with an additional -5% with each Skill Level. By taking more elemental damage, the skill will naturally grow stronger.

And the last, yet simplest one. It seems like I could abuse this one a lot if I keep hitting my own shield with elemental attacks, though I would be risking breaking it a lot, so its better if I don't go overboard in that aspect.

"Seems like you're pretty strong, Sapphire! I am counting on you from now on, be a good shield." I said, giving her some pats.

Sapphire suddenly began glowing with a blue aura to respond to my words, and then I sensed Scarlet shining bright red as well, as if surprised of her existence.

Both suddenly began shining very brightly, and the closer they were with one another, the more brighter they shone. Through our connection as familiars and master, I could even sense their emotions.

And they were angry at one another.

"Scarlet... is she angered?" Alice wondered.

"I think she's angry. She feels like Sapphire is going to replace her?" I wondered.

"And what about Sapphire?" Asked Alice.

"I think she's taunting her? Ugh, you two stop discussing!" I told the two. "Scarlet I am not going to replace you, a shield and a sword do very different jobs! Also Sapphire be nice with her, don't taunt her."

Flash...

Flash...

Their light became dimmer, although at times it would pulsate back to very bright, they were still angered but at least obey me a bit... I wonder how loud they're going to get once they become capable of talking though, ugh.

"Hah, you've got yourself a pair of loud weapons." Laughed Ignatius.

"Seems like they're both going to be VERY annoying once they awaken their ability to speak..." Beelzebub sighed.

"Agh, even more annoying people to deal with? I am already tired with you two." Curse sighed.

"What did ya said you ball of curses?!" Beelzebub angrily protested.

"I am not annoying! I always give useful tips and information! You're just envious because you're a useless curse thing..." Laughed Ignatius.

"And you're an ignorant talking lizard." Curse sighed.

As those idiots discussed inside of my Soul Scape, I suddenly heard Aquarina's voice coming from outside the tent.

"Sylphy! Are you done taking a bath?"

"A-Aquarina?! Ah, almost! Wait a bit!"

"O-Okay...! Don't worry, I didn't take a peek..."

"Huh?"

So she did?

Well, whatever.

I quickly got some cleaner clothes from my Dimensional Bag, then I put back my armor and special adventuring equipment, and I was done. All fresh and without any fishy smell from all the monster blood and guts that has been sprayed over me, phew.

After that, I joined everyone else as they were having some food. Aquarina made sandwiches with some fish broth. The sandwiches were nice, she had made them herself back home, and they had ham, egg, cheese, tomato, and lettuce.

"Hmm... Aquarina's sandwiches are the best~" I enjoyed myself eating her meal, as she blushed a bit happily.

"Hehe, I'll try to get better at cooking. I-I hope I can be a good wife in the future..." She smiled cutely.

"W-Wife?!"

"O-Oops! T-That's... forget what I said!"

She got incredibly flustered, but now I can't forget what she said!

Chapter 655 The Powerful Coral Golem Guardian Summon

"I can't believe she just said that out loud..." Celeste gossiped with my friends. "So shameless..."

"Isn't she?" Giggled Mist. "She's testing Sylphy at this point!"

"Gee~ I wonder what she will do next, fufu..." Celica started laughing.

"The complexity between humans' relationships always surprises me, so much yet to discover." Nephi said, somewhat enlightened.

"It's getting a bit too corny for me..." Zack sighed. "Ugh..."

"Yeah, girl's stuff is too corny! Corny!" Zephy protested.

"S-Shut up! Stop gossiping...!" Aquarina got all flustered, growing redder like a tomato.

Even when she gets like this, she's way too cute.

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Like that, after having our snack, we finally decided to continue, reaching the end of the stairs, which were extremely long, and reaching the final depths of the Fishman King's Depths Dungeon, the Floor 3, which was called "The Fishman King's Castle".

It is said it is as big as the previous floors, but very big and labyrinthian, surrounded by fishmen knights, guards, and magicians from all sides, or even their more powerful fish monsters which they tame using brainwashing magic.

They're dangerous barbarian and intelligent monsters, but completely monstrous in nature, they immediately try to kill you on sight and conversations are impossible either. Some have speculated these types of intelligent monsters have cursed souls and minds, constantly possessed by the Ancient Demon King, who told them to destroy everything.

Therefore, although they seem intelligent and could be considered "people" their actions, complete lack of empathy, and barbaric, monstrous attitudes make them enemies of all, demons and humans alike.

"This is... its really like a castle built out of stone and corals?!" Aquarina was flabbergasted.

Indeed, once we reached Floor 3, we were greeted by a massive hall which led to different corridors and paths. The entire infrastructure seemed finely created, this was rather intriguing.

Could this entire place had been made by the fishmen, or the dungeon's powers? It is certainly possible it could also be part of the ruins' interior...

"This is going to get confusing if its just an endless labyrinth..." Sighed Zack.

"We could probably try sending our Mana Sense around the entire place." Said Celeste. "Or maybe send our spirits as scouts?"

"Don't worry guys, I got this. My eyes have evolved a lot since I got them..." I said, quickly infusing thousands of Mana into my Heavenly Eyes, quickly making my green eyes shine bright gold.

FLAAASH!

I expanded my vision across the entire floor, slowly seeking the best route. My eyes had now the power to expand vision even more like this, so solving labyrinths wasn't as hard anymore. Though it was still a lot of mental loadout I had to take care of...

However... after just a few minutes.

I figured a route, my vision led me straight into a massive red door, guarded by an army of fishmen wearing armor made of magic crystals, metals, and monster bones.

Talking about crystals, I picked a lot of Aquarium Crystals from the previous hidden room we found, now the only thing missing is Mithril.

"Found the fastest route to the boss room! Just follow me. Though there's a ton of encounters. The fishmen are organized like armies, and they've got big monsters with them, so let's be careful!" I said.

"Alright!"

Everyone quickly followed me, as I led our entire group by riding over Furoh on his Fenrir form with Aquarina behind me, alongside Zephy and Nephilim. Although I trusted Nephi, I still had to have my little devil brother nearby or I wouldn't feel confident.

"How has your first dungeon exploration been, Zephy? Having fun or terrified?" I asked slightly teasingly.

"It's fun! Big sis and friends are very strong... I barely get to fight though!" He complained childishly.

"Hahah, sorry, but you're not ready yet to fight very strong monsters. Though you've been growing stronger by fighting tons of weaker ones, more fitting for our current strength." I lectured him. "Be

careful and don't rush into danger, okay? Mom and dad would die of a heart attack if they knew something bad happened to you, so I've gotta take good care of you."

"Oway... I get it! I am not a baby anymore!" He said while pouting cutely. He was so adorable I ended giving him a kiss on his nose.

"You're my precious little brother, okay? So make sure to not step in when big sis is fighting." I said while pampering him.

"Fine..." He sighed while blushing a little bit.

Suddenly, my Mana Senses were activated in a flash, as I sensed the fishmen approaching. Using my ability to see some seconds into the future, I was able to see that they were an enormous army of over thirty fishmen, all of them Tier 3 Rank 10 at the very least, with some commands at Tier 4 Rank 5 even! But nothing we can't handle with enough teamwork.

"They're coming! Get into position everyone!" I said, as everyone quickly got into an organized and special composition we had discussed beforehand. Zack and Aquarina stood in front as the major heavy hitters, while Celeste right behind them with Celica, and lastly Mist who offered her support with healing, buffs, and her magic arrows.

Separately from the formation, Nephi and Zephy remained behind Mist. Nephilim's strength also made it so she could cover the back if any monster tried to sneak from behind too, it helped the corridors were narrow, so we didn't had to worry about enemies coming from all places.

"Gyaaaahaha!"

"Giiijaaaa!"

"Yihihii!"

The laughter and roars of the fishmen echoed around the corridors, their army drawing closer, as I quickly decided to summon my new friend.

"[Summon Coral Golem Guardian]!"

FLAAASH!

A massive magic circle emerged in the floor, as a large figure slowly started to come out of it, a massive guardian made of stone and corals, of over five meters of height and with massive arms and legs.

"GRUOOOOHHHH!"

My friends were naturally surprised.

"Draw the attention of them, roar and attack them!"

"GRUOH!"

The golem was as strong as Tier 4 Rank 1 Monster, but his defenses were superb, he could take tons of hits and get the enemies' attention so we could sneak attack them from the sides! A perfect strategy with a disposable summon like the golem.

Chapter 656 An Useful Tank & Strengthening The Shield

The Coral Golem roared as it was summoned. The summon immediately stepping forward and utilizing his enormous arms to break through the army of Fishmen. His arms were so strong and powerful that most of the Fishmen were sent flying into the air, none of them were actually able to stand their ground against the Coral Golem!

CLAAASH! CLAAASH! CRAAASH!

"Gryyshieeeeh!"

"Gagaakkh?!"

"Gygyaaaahkh!"

The fishmen were being stopped from their tracks, even the Fishman Commander couldn't even confront the Coral Golem directly, hiding behind his underlings. A Giant Warrior Crab, of over three meters was his mount, but the crab could only tank the hits, its pincers incapable of piercing through the Golem, even less when I utilized [Iron Defenses] on it!

Funnily enough, it also works with the Summoned Golem! Sapphire is really an amazing addition to the team with her many abilities and usefulness.

"Now, everyone!" I commanded.

My friends immediately jumped into battle. Attacking the distracted Fishmen one after the other. Zack unleashed a storm of thunderous and storming slicing attacks using his axe, devastating his surroundings, and killing several fishmen at once.

Aquarina summoned dozens of three-meter-long Ice Spears using her magic and pierced the Fishmen to death. Celeste bombarded them with shadow bullets and cursed them to make them slower, and Celica supported us with another tank in her Mister Teddy on his Beast Form, offering even more support.

Meanwhile, Mist offered healing, buffs, and her magic arrows from afar, hitting the head of the Commander and making him confused of where that attack came from, which I took the opportunity of!

"GRYKAH?!"

I emerged right behind the Fishman Commander, his big fishy eyes opening wide as it saw my Sword, Scarlet, unleashing lightning fiercely and piercing through his neck, beheading him!

SLAAAAAASH!

CRAAASH!

The lightning of my attack was a bit too much though, which ended unleashing a shockwave that killed his mount in the process, electrifying the Giant Crab until it was boiled alive...

BAAAM!

The crab fell to the floor, crushing the body of its rider on the way. The battle was over in less than ten minutes as everyone worked well coordinated.

Ding!

[You have slain the [Fishman Commander (Tier 3: Rank 8)] x1!]

[You have slain the [Giant Warrior Crab (Tier 3: Rank 3)] x1!]

[You and your party have slain [Fishman Warriors, Soldiers, and Magicians (Tier 3: Rank 1)] x23!]

[You earned 280000 EXP!]

[Your Familiars have earned a large quantity of EXP!]

[Scarlet] Level has increased from Level 18 to Level 19!]

[Scarlet] Stats have increased!]

[Sapphire] Level has increased from Level 0 to Level 7!]

[Sapphire] Stats have increased!]

[Sapphire] Learned a New Skill: [Restoration: Lv1]!]

[Restoration: Lv1]

Spend large quantities of Mana to restore a target's body and health by a small amount, which increases by 10% with each Skill Level.

When used on summons, restoration power is enhanced by an additional +30%.

Oooh, Sapphire learned a new Skill upon leveling up! Nice. Come t think of it, I should really give her some materials to absorb, and Scarlet too! How about some Sea Snake Bones, Fangs, or Scales? I think those are compatible.

"Phew, that was a good warm up! How's everyone handling it?"

"We're fine." Zack said carefreely. "That can't even be considered warm up, it was way too easy."

"But your golem's crumbling!" Said Celica, feeling worried.

"My healing doesn't work either. Is this a new familiar of yours, Sylphy?" Wondered Mist.

"Oh no, it is a special summon that comes from this shield I found." I said. "It seems that it can be summoned once it dies, but the cooldown is a whole hour... Let's try another spell: [Restoration]!"

I channeled the power of Sapphire into my hands, utilizing her skills as if they were mine, which was the basic power that other System Seeds granted to me through my Familiars, effectively allowing me to collect and obtain more skills through my own familiars.

FLAAASH!

A blue light reached the Coral Golem, which was crumbling down by all the damage it took. Suddenly, most of its rubble was restored, moving back to where it was. As I put more Mana into it, it finally reached the restoration limit. Its total HP now was around 70%. I guess I cannot really restore him to 100%, but this makes him last longer, he probably can last another two more fights before completely crumbling.

"GRUOOH!"

The Coral Golem celebrated its restoration, raising its enormous arms. It still had many cracks around its body, and half its face was missing, but it was still up for another fight.

"Having this tank really makes things quicker! Usually tanking is really dangerous, especially with our lack of stronger armor and defenses. And we are all smaller in size, so we can't tank really well either." Sighed Celeste. "This guy over here compensates our lack of a proper tank quite well."

"I agree, it was super easy now!" Aquarina said. "Alright, where should we go now, Sylphy?" Aquarina wondered.

"Here! Follow me!" I commanded Furoh who was my ride, and we set off across the corridors.

While waiting for the next wave of monsters, I quickly took out several materials and feed them to Scarlet and Sapphire. Aquarina seemed confused about what was I doing but seemed amazed as the items absorbed the materials and slowly grew stronger.

Ding!

[Sapphire] has absorbed [Water Spirit Stone] x1, [Coral Golem Fragment] x1, [Sea Trident Fragment] x1, [Fire Spirit Stone] x1, [Sea Snake Fang] x1, [Sea Snake Scale] x1, [Coral Tree Branch] x1, and [Aquarius Crystal] x1!]

[Sapphire] gained +70 HP, +50 MP, +35 Strength, +40 Defense, +50 Magic, +35 Resistance, +20 Agility, +10 Luck, +20 Charm!]

[Sapphire] learned the [Flame Shield: Lv1] Skill!]

[Sapphire] learned the [Sea Snake Protection: Lv1] Skill!]

[Sapphire] cannot gain more power from these materials!]

Ooh, Sapphire acquired a lot of bonus stats and even two new Skills! This is already great. It makes me want even more System Seed-having weapons...

Chapter 657 Advancing Through Floor 3

I tried feeding Sapphire with fishmen scales and even their magic crystal, but she didn't accepted them. She probably has a rather high standards or something, so she only accepted those starting materials and now just wants something even better. Well, at the very least she got some nice stat boosts out of that and also two new skills!

[Flame Shield: Lv1]

By channeling mana into the living shield's body, it is possible to unleash a large amount of flames, which protects the shield from even stronger fire and lightning attribute attacks. It can also absorb a part of this damage and unleash it as a devastating [Blazing Parry] to a foe, dealing up to +120% Damage. Absorption Rate and Damage Dealt using [Blazing Parry] increases by +10% with each Skill Level.

[Sea Snake Protection: Lv1]

Whenever the living shield takes a lot of damage, it can channel a large quantity of Mana from its wielder and summon a powerful Sea Snake Protector, a spirit made entirely out of water in the shape of a small Sea Snake which will attack any foe, dealing up to 50% of the damage the shield has taken back to the foe as Water-Attribute Damage randomly. The more it is hit back, the more savagely it will fight. Increases proc chances by +10%, and Damage Dealt by +25% with each Skill Level.

Oh, these two skills are rather interesting. The first one is kind of similar to my Heavenly Sun Skill, isn't it? But a bit more limited, though it still a good defense against fire and lightning. And then the latter is a more offensive, and random as it only appears randomly with a set chance that increases with each skill level.

Ding!

[Scarlet] has absorbed [Sea Snake Fang] x1, [Sea Snake Scale] x1, [Coral Tree Branch] x1, and [Aquarius Crystal] x1!]

[Scarlet] gained +20 HP, +10 MP, +25 Strength, +10 Defense, +15 Magic, +10 Resistance, +10 Agility, +5 Luck, +10 Charm!]

[Scarlet] learned the [Dragon Fang: Lv1] Skill!!

[Scarlet] cannot gain more power from these materials!]

[Dragon Fang: Lv1]

A Skill that only Dragon Blades can obtain, it allows the Living Sword to unleash a powerful, devastating slicing blow that can ignore up to 30% of the foe's defenses. When combined with other skills and techniques, it becomes truly frightening. With each Skill Level, Defense Ignorance increases by -5%.

Oh, this doesn't deal bonus damage to dragons, but that's still good enough in my book! With that done, Aquarina's eyes were stuck into my two items growing stronger. She seemed to be completely confused about what was even going on in here.

"Sylphy your sword and your shield absorbed more materials?" She wondered.

"Yeah, they seem to be able to grow stronger by absorbing materials, pretty cool, right?" I asked with a smile.

"I am a bit jealous to be honest..." Sighed Aquarina.

"Well maybe we could eventually find a way to make your weapons into the same, as long as we keep researching." I said, giving her some hope. I was planning to just give system seeds to her equipment in the future anyways.

"Huh, I wonder if we could find a way... Well, I smell fish, are we getting closer to another horde?" Wondered Aquarina.

"Yeah, they're getting closer, almost the same formation and numbers than before! Let's go! Golem, bring their attention!"

"GRUOOOHHHH!"

"Everyone! Let's go! Remember to save your energy! If you need Mana I've got plenty to share with you all!" I commanded, my friends roared back, the fight quickly began.

Lightning, Ice, Light, Flames, Darkness, and other magic elements showered over our foes, as the golem took the hits and their attention from us, we massacred the fishmen before they could ever know what was coming to them.

Like that, we continued advancing through the Floor 3 while fighting armies of Fishmen one after the other. The Coral Golem ended breaking down after the third battle, so we had another battle with a slightly smaller group before taking a break before my golem could be summoned again, it had become quite essential. After only an hour, we were already only around two more groups of monsters before reaching the boss chamber.

Ding!

[Calculating EXP Earned...]

[You and your party have slain [Fishman Commander (Tier 3: Rank 8)] x4!]

[You and your party have slain [Giant Warrior Crab (Tier 3: Rank 3)] x5!]

[You and your party have slain [Fishman Warriors, Soldiers, and Magicians (Tier 3: Rank 1)] x71!]

[You and your party have slain [Various Sea Critters (Tier 1 ~ Tier 2)] x42!]

[You earned 400 EXP!]

[Your Familiars have earned a large quantity of EXP!]

[Scarlet] Level has increased from Level 19 to Level 21!]

[Scarlet] Stats have increased!]

[Sapphire] Level has increased from Level 7 to Level 15!]

[Sapphire] Stats have increased!]

[The Level of the [Fire Magic: Blazing Wall: Lv4] Skill has increased to Level 5!]

[The Level of the [Mana Usage: Lv9] Skill has increased to Level 10!]

[The [Mana Usage: Lv10] Skill has reached its Max Level!]

[You can now obtain a new Skill through the [Mana Usage] Skill Tree!]

[Mana Usage: Lv10]

Skill Proficiency: --/--

The ability to naturally wield Mana. Grants the ability to use Mana without any previous required experience, while activated, you can use your own mind to shape the Mana to your liking, but a lot of Mana is utilized. Can be practiced continuously for better and more efficient results. The lowest tiered Mana Usage-type Skill, below Mana Manipulation and Mana Mastery.

Level Bonus (10): Enhances the Control over Mana by +100%, Lessens the Pressure of Mana Usage by -100%, and Enhances Magic Spell Power by +50%.

After spamming a lot of Blazing Walls and Mana Usage to share Mana with everyone, these two Skills ended leveling up, nice!

The Level 10 Skill looked pretty strong already, and it lessened all the pressure of using Mana by 100% too, while enhancing my control even further. And as if that couldn't be enough, all my magic spells are stronger.

Now, while we are taking a small break, let's see what I can get now.

Chapter 658 A New And Powerful Skill

Ding!

[The Level of the [Mana Usage: Lv9] Skill has increased to Level 10!]

[The [Mana Usage: Lv10] Skill has reached its Max Level!]

[Mana Usage: Lv10]

Skill Proficiency: --/--

The ability to naturally wield Mana. Grants the ability to use Mana without any previous required experience, while activated, you can use your own mind to shape the Mana to your liking, but a lot of Mana is utilized. Can be practiced continuously for better and more efficient results. The lowest tiered Mana Usage-type Skill, below Mana Manipulation and Mana Mastery.

Additionally, Enhances the Mana Flow of your entire body by +50% and grants 100 Mana Veins. (NEW!)

Level Bonus (10): Enhances the Control over Mana by +100%, Lessens the Pressure of Mana Usage by -100%, and Enhances Magic Spell Power by +50%.

[You can now obtain a new Skill through the [Mana Usage] Skill Tree!]

After the Mana Usage Skill reached Level 10, it was finally time to advance through the Skill Tree and obtain a brand-new Skill of my own Status!

F L A A S H!

However, before I could do something, a sudden burst of power began overflowing across my entire soul and then body. I felt many Mana Veins flowing across my entire body, enhancing my body's ability to manipulate Mana and make it flow freely across my entire body.

My soul began growing larger as well, which made me realize that every time skills reached Level 10, they would give some sort of passive bonus!

Ding!

[The [Mana Usage: Lv10] Skill has enhanced your Mana Flow and has formed 100 Mana Veins across your body!]

[Your [Magic Circle]: [Tier 4: Rank 1: Spiritual Magic Circle] has increased to Tier 4 Rank 3!]

[Your [Physique]: [Tier 4: Rank 1: Yggdrasil's Dragon Heir Physique] has increased to Tier 4 Rank 3!]

100 Mana Veins! This'll help me use Mana way better now... Oh, and my Magic Circle and Physique got stronger too.

Well, now time to get the new Skill. Although I am quite curious about something...

"Congrats Sylphy! You can now evolve the Skill through the Skill Tree function!" Alice seemed to be rather happy, celebrating right away. "Want to see the available Skills?"

"I would but I've got a question first..." I said.

"Yes?" She wondered.

"I was wondering if this Skill at Level 10 is already better than the Mana Manipulation and Mana Mastery Skills..." I said. "The Level Bonus thing is really strong and amazing."

"Oh, that! Well, even now, it's still not as good. Also the Skills can stack in their effects too! Check the new Skills available and you will see what I am talking about." She said.

"Huh? Is there something else than these two available?" I wondered.

"Yes, there's another path you could take. Though knowing you, you might end up taking both paths." Laughed Alice.

Ding!

[Showcasing [Mana Usage] Skill Tree]

[Available Skills]

[Mana Manipulation: Lv1]

[Mana Disruption: Lv1]

"Huh? Mana Disruption? What in the world is this...?"

I quickly decided to see both skills in detail.

[Mana Manipulation: Lv1]

Skill Proficiency: 0/1000

The ability to naturally wield Mana. Grants the ability to Manipulate Mana with even more mastery than merely Mana Usage. While activated, you can use your own mind to not only manipulate your own Mana, but even the Mana of our surroundings with even greater precision and control. Can be practiced continuously for better and more efficient results. A Mid-tier Mana Skill, right below Mana Mastery.

Level Bonus (1): Enhances the Manipulation over Mana by +10%, Removes Exhaustion of Overusing Mana by -5%, and Enhances Magic Spell Power by +5%.

Oh this one is just a direct upgrade! And the Level Bonus even helps at removing the exhaustion of overusing Mana, which is different from the pressure of using Mana. The exhaustion is something more

of the soul, which becomes worse as mana is overused, which might even lead to my soul being hurt or even shattered. At level 10, that bonus would remove 50% of the exhaustion, pretty good.

[Mana Disruption: Lv1]

Skill Proficiency: 0/1000

The ability to naturally disrupt the flow of Mana. Grants the ability to disrupt the flow of Mana of your surroundings or that of specific targets, making it so their Magic and Techniques, or even their own defenses might drop dramatically as their manipulation of mana is disrupted and their abilities weaken without mana to be used for their effects.

Disrupting Mana from the surroundings might even cause the creation of Anti-Mana, a powerful force that completely negates Mana. However, its power is dangerous and might hurt the user if not used carefully. Nonetheless, its powers are truly frightening, and only a few people in the entire world can utilize such a terrifying power.

Level Bonus (1): Enhances the ability to Disrupt Mana by +5%, Lessens the Chances of Mana Disruption Backfiring by -5% and Enhances the Destructive Power of Anti-Mana by +5%.

-

T-This is really amazing! I had the thought this would be an interesting Skill, but now I desire it more than Mana Manipulation... It might backfire, yeah, but if its powers are true, it is yet another really powerful trump card I could use against literally anybody. If I could disrupt a really strong foe's mana flow, their powers would become unstable and it would open an opportunity to attack and even win.

Many beings in this world rely on Mana for everything after all, having the ability to temporarily disrupt or even negate this power is insane... And this Anti-Mana thing is truly intriguing. I know its risky, but I want it!

"I want Mana Disruption for now, I'll pick up Mana Manipulation later." I said.

"Heh! I knew you would go for the riskier, yet stronger power." Laughed Alice. "Alright!"

[You can now Disrupt Mana around your surroundings, or of a specific single target or a set of targets. The more targets you choose to disrupt, the harder it becomes to control, so be careful!]

Chapter 659 The Power Of [Mana Disruption]!

Ding!

[You have selected the [Mana Disruption] Skill!]

[You learned the [Mana Disruption: Lv1] Skill!]

[Mana Disruption: Lv1]

Skill Proficiency: 0/1000

The ability to naturally disrupt the flow of Mana. Grants the ability to disrupt the flow of Mana of your surroundings or that of specific targets, making it so their Magic and Techniques, or even their own defenses might drop dramatically as their manipulation of mana is disrupted and their abilities weaken without mana to be used for their effects.

Disrupting Mana from the surroundings might even cause the creation of Anti-Mana, a powerful force that completely negates Mana. However, its power is dangerous and might hurt the user if not used carefully. Nonetheless, its powers are truly frightening, and only a few people in the entire world can utilize such a terrifying power.

Level Bonus (1): Enhances the ability to Disrupt Mana by +5%, Lessens the Chances of Mana Disruption Backfiring by -5% and Enhances the Destructive Power of Anti-Mana by +5%.

-

[You can now Disrupt Mana around your surroundings, or of a specific single target or a set of targets. The more targets you choose to disrupt, the harder it becomes to control, so be careful!]

Excited about my new power, I quickly tried utilizing it on my surroundings. I first gathered a lot of blue-colored essence, pure Mana, and then utilized the new Skill.

"[Mana Disruption]"

TRUUUMM...!

Suddenly, the Mana started being disrupted, its very essence became chaotic, and it turned from blue to a deep gray color, slowly becoming darker as I disrupted its power further. Black sparks of lightning started to come out, but that wasn't real lightning though, it was... Anti-Mana.

SPARK! SPARK! SPARK!

"T-This power is strong... I can barely hold it in my hands."

"Sylphy, be careful."

Alice seemed worried.

"I know, but I have to practice raising this Skill's level. Though I can already tell... this power might become yet another trump card in the future."

Perhaps if I level this up a lot, and it eventually evolves into something even stronger... Maybe something like Divinity Disruption? Perhaps then, I could truly fight Gods.

After all, Divine Power is simply an incredibly refined form of Mana, so refined and powerful it attains a new form and power, yet its principles are the same.

Similarly... if I can evolve this ability to disrupt mana, there's nothing saying it won't become something capable of disrupting or even negating divine power, even if only temporarily.

Not even the Ancient Demon King could kill the Gods. According to what Alice has explained to me about a God's body composition based in what she learned from her creator, Gods are mostly made of three layers.

The first layer covering everything is the "Divinity Layer" which protects a god from all attacks, giving them near invincibility. The second layer is their physical body, which is the materialization of the outer layer of their divine soul...

And the very first layer, their true body, a Divine Soul, they lack flesh, so as long as I can get into their Divine Soul and crush it somehow, they'll die.

But that's something not even the Ancient Demon King was able to accomplish. Ah, and it's not like I want to kill all gods or something.

However, it's never wrong to have some sort of precaution to deal with those that might one day dare to mess with me.

"Alice, could there be a way to-"

"I know what you're thinking..." Alice sighed. "I can tell by looking at your eyes when you glanced at the Anti-Mana.... This power is something I designed for years, it is a power that ultimately, might evolve into something that can damage Gods."

"I knew it... So it was your plan all along!" I laughed.

"Well, we're in this together, aren't we?" Sighed Alice. "Although at its current power, it cannot even fathom to hurt a Tier 6 Monster, so first get better at it. Slowly, yet steadily, we might eventually get into that ultimate form."

"Huh, this sounds a bit exciting to be honest..." I smiled rather evilly. "Though for now, I just need to concentrate in what's in front of me."

After we had our break, we quickly continued across the castle. We fought many more Fishmen, they became more and more vicious as they got closer to the Fishman King. They had more tamed monsters, but nothing anything around Tier 5, the max level of power was always Tier 4: Rank 10.

With our coordinated attacks, great tactics, and the Golem taking the hits for us, we managed to get far, ultimately managing to defeat the last battalion, mostly by massacring it with lightning attacks by combining our magic together, and ultimately, before us, stood the gate leading to the Fishman King. The Coral Golem could go for another fight before completely crumbling apart too, so we were ready.

We've been also cleaning the floor from any smaller monsters. Zephy had been having a lot of action himself, utilizing his new sword to fight bravely and also practicing his Blood and Darkness Magic together with his Poison Magic, making his smaller blows even deadlier. Like this, he was getting really close to Tier 2 in both magic circle and physique! He's growing too fast, he's amazingly talented.

Though I guess the intense training of hunting hundreds of monsters today might also be the reason behind this...

Ding!

[Calculating EXP Earned...]

[You and your party have slain [Greater Seasoned Fishman Commander (Tier 4: Rank 10)] x1!]

[You and your party have slain [Fishman Commander (Tier 3: Rank 8)] x4!]

[You and your party have slain [Giant Warrior Crab (Tier 3: Rank 3)] x18!]

[You and your party have slain [Fishman Warriors, Soldiers, and Magicians (Tier 3: Rank 1)] x44!]

[You and your party have slain [Various Sea Critters (Tier 1 ~ Tier 2)] x32!]

[You earned 1430000 EXP!]

[Your Familiars have earned a large quantity of EXP!]

[Scarlet] Level has increased from Level 21 to Level 24!]

[Scarlet] Stats have increased!]

[Sapphire] Level has increased from Level 15 to Level 20!]

[Sapphire] Stats have increased!]

It's time.

Chapter 660 Confronting The Dungeon's Final Boss!

In front of us was the large gate leading to the Dungeon Boss, at long last we have arrived. Through the entire exploration of Floor 3, we never sensed any other hidden room. So it might be right past this one.

"The Gates to the Boss Room... Alright everyone, are you all ready?" I asked, my friends cheering up. We have already taken a little break and we made sure to heal all our wounds and exhaustion.

"Yeah, let's end this for real now." Said Zack.

"Let's get to it." Aquarina cheered. "I want to go back home already and rest..."

"Me too, this has been a really long journey..." Sighed Mist.

"Big sis, can I fight too?" Wondered Zephy.

"Nope, you're staying in here with Nephi. I've already loaded her entire battery with as much Mana as possible, so she'll protect you. It would be too dangerous if you enter the boss room and get trapped in there." I sighed.

"The previous bosses don't count?" Celeste wondered.

"They didn't even had boss rooms! They just kind of showed up." I sighed. "So anyways, Zephy, stay here."

"But I wanna fight the boss!" Zephy complained.

"That's not something that you can do yet, dear brother." I sighed, giving him an hug. "You've gotta first grow up more and get stronger slowly. Also our parent's spirits are around here, I can see them. So that's another extra layer of protection for you."

"Are you sure you don't want me to join?" Asked Nephi. "I can offer a lot of power..."

"It's not as if we don't appreciate you or something dummy, but you have to protect my brother." I said.

"...Very well." Nephi nodded. "Young lady, I should do my duties to the best of my capabilities then."

"Well said." I nodded. "So, everyone, let's go."

Guiding all my friends, I opened the gates to the Dungeon's Final Boss.

Creaaaak...!

The gates opened while making a rather loud sound, they were quite old.

The room was completely dark, but when we entered, several pillars around began lighting with blue flames, illuminating the entire room.

There were no Fishmen here, no guards, or any tamed monster we expected to greet us, even when we were high on guard.

The only thing waiting at the end of this enormous hall was an enormous Fishman sitting over a throne made of corals and magic crystals, and also a shiny, and powerful precious metal.

I instantly recognized it as Mithril!

However, before I could get my hands into that, we had to slay this guy.

"Welcome."

A loud, terrifying voice echoed across the entire hall, making our spines shiver.

Wait, he can talk our language?!

The Fishman King slowly stood up from his throne, glancing back at us with a dreadful glare.

His entire body was as tall as thirty meters, he was a true behemoth. He was humanoid, of course, more than the other fishmen.

His body was extremely muscular, resembling the body of a Giant, another race of humanoid monsters. Covering his body there was an armor made of Sea Snake scales.

And on his left arm, he was holding a massive shield made of these said scales and bones, while a gigantic trident was wielded by his right hand, gathering ridiculous quantities of mana, and generating an icy aura.

His face was still that of a fish, resembling more like a ferocious shark though. His eyes glowed bright red, as I suddenly noticed a strange red tattoo on his forehead. And then I noticed the entire room's ceiling had tons of...

...Spiderwebs? Did he kept a spider pet here or something?

Well, whatever was the case, I couldn't lower my guard.

"You must be surprised I can speak now, you lot. In the past, I used to be able to talk like you, but once I transformed into this aberration, I lost my ability to speak." He said. "But now, thanks to the gifts of Lolth, I have attained the intelligence I once lost from the Curse of the Gods!"

"Curse of the Gods? Lolth?" Zack wondered. "This guy's talking nonsense..."

"No point talking with a monster." Said Aquarina.

"No, wait!" I said. "You can talk? Then we don't even need to fight, if you want, we could lead you outside!"

The Fishman suddenly stopped walking, looking down on me with his sharp red eyes.

"Huh?" He wondered. "I guess... I could do that, yeah."

He suddenly began considering it.

However, I suddenly saw what he was going to do next with my Heavenly Eyes, and promptly evaded.

FLAAAASH!

CLAAAAASSSHHHH!!!

His body moved at an incredible speed by boosting his entire body's physique using enormous quantities of Mana, and using his trident, he tried to kill me. If I hadn't evaded, I would have turned into mush in the floor.

"Hoh, amazing. So those are the powers of the Hero of Heavenly Eyes!" He celebrated.

"How do you know who we are? You're not a simple monster. You mentioned a curse. And... Lolth? Who's that?" I asked.

"Lady Lolth, the Weaver of Fate and Darkness." He said. "She has given me a second chance. And she said I will be able to free myself from the shackles of the Dungeon once I defeat all of you children and offer her your heads!"

"Sylphy, it's a lost cause. He's insane and just wants to kill us. Trust me, I know when someone's insane because I was too." Celeste said.

"Yeah, I figured it half-way through. I was just making sure I wouldn't have any regrets later." I sighed.
"It's not like I would ever hesitate to kill when it's truly necessary."

"Heh, wonderful then! Let us fight and kill one another! GAHAHAHAHA!" The fishman king started to laugh. "This is LIFE! It's all but an ENDLESS CYCLE OF DESTRUCTION! Now, let us dance amidst LIFE and DEATH!!!"

FLAAASH!

The Fishman King did it again, his entire body bursting with an incredible amount of Mana, moving at an insane speed and reaching up to me once more!

"[Dragon Fang]"

However, this time I wasn't going to evade.

CLAAASH!

Ding!

[A Special [Chain Quest] has been generated: [Defeat the Guardian of the Dungeon's Floor 3, and the Final Boss, the Fishman King!]

[You have finally made it to the end of the Dungeon, and in front of you stand the king of all fishman! Defeat him with all you've got to receive wonderful rewards and conquer the Dungeon!]

[Completion Rewards: [500000 EXP] [250000 Shared EXP] [Random Rune Potion (C Grade)] x3 [Random Skill Proficiency Potion (C Grade)] x3 [???] x1!]

[Time Limit: 1 Hour]

[Complete this Quest under half of the Time Limit to obtain a Mysterious Bonus Reward!]

