

A Glitched 71

Chapter 71 Sacrifice

The power of the skeleton was incredible. It was as if he had gone all out. Releasing all of this power over us, Leviathan, who had put up such a good fight so far, ended being reduced into a defensive stance as he shaped into a dome of water and protected us from being devoured by this all-consuming darkness.

Based on how his soul was weakening and slowly dissipating, this power had a similar nature to Death Beam, meaning that could it turn us into ashes if it were to touch us... such a dangerous power.

So, this is the true power of a monster that our parents had to fight, huh. The KinLord of Death, Hell... he was probably strong enough to survive several encounters and escape at the end, hiding until he finally had the chance of picking us out somehow. Well, I guess that's true, seeing how he's attempting to kill us.

At this point, I noticed that Leviathan was slowly dissipating. His soul was turning into literal ashes, while the blue jewels were also fading away. Aquarina seemed to be in a trance as the magic of Leviathan was taking over her body, but I think she had fallen unconscious... in fact, it's taking all my concentration for me to not fall unconscious as well. Right now, my body is too damaged.

My entire body is probably confused at this moment. After all, I don't have supernatural regeneration abilities. With that, even if my HP doesn't go out, it doesn't mean I can recover even if I'm torn apart. I just stay like this while my soul doesn't leave whatever is left from my body. It seems more like a curse from a certain perspective.

Of course, I've tried several times to use magic myself, but I cannot. My soul is weakened and cracked, as if it was like glass. The pressure of all the mana I used almost shattered my soul into pieces, to the point it has severely weakened my Magic Circle as well... if I do anything rash, my soul will be destroyed by my own mana, which is like a constant pressure that keeps growing with every passing second. Sigh... my soul is not strong enough to withstand infinite power after all.

Even doing little things using mana makes it shatter a bit more... I'm basically on my last leg.

My parents... where are they?

Mom...

Dad...

Why are you... not here?

Where are you when I needed you the most?

I wish...

I wish I could do more...

Despite everything I've done, I'm still weak compared to these absolute monsters...

While thinking this, I noticed that Leviathan was left on his last blue jewel. Unfortunately, that one was also dissipating into ashes as the darkness was barely beginning to recede.

"Aquarina... this is... my farewell... I... I apologize for not being able to protect you anymore..." he muttered.

Why? Why did a demon like him decide to help us out so much? I... I wish that stupid Ignatius could be half as decent as Leviathan.

You... know what?

I don't care anymore. I'll just shatter my soul into pieces.

If it means I can give Aquarina a chance to survive... then I'll gladly die.

I could never let my little beloved sister die in front of me.

"Leviathan... take this," I muttered.

"Eh?!"

After saying that, I quickly began to infuse all my mana into Leviathan through the power of Mana Usage. Soon, a stream of transparent energy, mana, fueled Leviathan's entire body as the blue stone that was left of "him" stopped breaking apart. Simultaneously, his entire soul fragment felt renewed.

Huh. To think my mana can do such a thing.

FLAAAASH!

With my aid, the darkness suddenly receded as Leviathan felt this new power surging throughout his entire being.

"RROOOAARRR!"

He suddenly jumped over Hell, who fell to the floor.

"Y-You're still here even after all that?!" he asked dumbfounded. He perhaps thought that with that ultimate attack he did, he would get us for real now.

"You... You're fueling me with mana!" said Leviathan.

Crack... crack!

Unsurprisingly, my soul continued to shatter. Right now, I felt like my entire being was beginning to disappear slowly, bit by bit.

"Use it..."

Leviathan somehow knew what was happening to me and said no more, rushing towards Hell and pummeling him into the ground with dozens of vortexes of high-pressured water.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

"GRUUUAGGGH...!"

His entire body began to be torn apart... Leviathan was doing it!

The might of the oceans resonated around his very soul as the entire place shaped into his domain of oceanic water. It felt like the rage of the ocean waves was materialized into his roar.

"RROOOOAARRR!"

"Y-You damn...! Lizard...!" Hell muttered, his entire body beginning to be destroyed into pieces.

BOOOOMMM!!!

Soon, his skeleton body was torn apart and shattered as Leviathan's water dissipated into mana particles. Seeing that, I quickly stopped giving him mana right before my soul was going to turn into bits and pieces.

With that, a small form of Leviathan was left floating in midair. He seemed exhausted. His entire power was reduced to his current form.

"Ungh... is he...?" he wondered, looking down at the darkness that slowly dissipated.

However, the darkness suddenly began to spread further.

"Ah!"

FLAAAAASH!

"To think I would need to use the fragment of my lord, the Demon King, to defeat a piece of trash such as you!"

Suddenly, a gigantic ghost-like specter emerged from the pile of bones left by Hell. In less than an instant, a massive and monstrous being made out of phantasmal darkness and shadows appeared. At the center of his body was a massive blue flame resonating with some unknown, demonic power, fueling his entire being into an evolution.

This is... a Demon King's fragment, the same fragment that Beelzebub once used against my parents.

"T-This can't be...!" Leviathan muttered with a tinge of despair.

CLASH!

A massive phantasmal claw grabbed him as I felt despair the same way he did.

It was all over now. The enormous pressure that Hell released from his very being... it was completely different than before.

Only despair began to take over my heart. At this moment, I began to only think about how I was going to die no matter what.

"Nnggh...! A-Aquarina...!"

BOOOM!!!

Soon, in front of me, Leviathan was destroyed. The last fragment he had was annihilated, and nothing... was left.

"You two are next..."

Chapter 72 The Last Resort

Crack... crack!

CRASH!

Everything around Sylph's soul began to shatter as the System flew around desperately, trying to evade the large sharp pieces of soul falling from the ceiling of Sylph's Soul Scape.

"S-Sylph... Stop using so much mana... y-you're... you're going to die!"

The System felt completely powerless right now. She couldn't do anything for Sylph throughout all this. Her power was only confined to the status and her skills. Plus, due to the countless glitches, she couldn't even interfere and aid her.

She carried Naturia above her body, which resembled a glowing orb of white light. Currently, Naturia was weakened and in a coma. No matter how many times she tried to wake her up, she wouldn't. The little spirit had done everything it possibly could to help Sylph but ended up exhausted as well. If she were to use more of her power, she would also die.

"That monster is so strong... Sylph's parents are not showing up... is everything... is it really going to end here?!"

The System began to despair. She had forged a strong bond with Sylph all this time, to the point she saw her as her only family and her beloved sister. She had been healed greatly from her mental trauma as a

glitched and wrongly made being by Sylph's words every night, slowly and tenderly healing her broken mind.

"No... there must be some way... surely..."

She quickly tried to exert her powers in every way possible. However, only sharp pain encompassed her being. Because of that, the glitches suddenly became even worse, even feeling paralyzed for several seconds.

"Ungh... why...? Why am I such a failed being...? I... ah!"

At this moment, the System suddenly noticed the large bubble floating in the sky, filled with flames. This bubble was also being bombarded with sharp glass-like fragments of soul, slowly tearing it apart.

"T-That's where Ignatius is!"

Seeing the bubble, the System flew towards the grumpy dragon's soul as she saw him evading the sharp soul fragments, completely confused as to what might be going on outside.

"W-What's happening? Sylph's soul... is it shattering?! No... t-there's no way... Where are her useless parents?!" he roared, also feeling despair.

Despite how he acted and how much he hated humans, throughout the past three years of doing mock battles with Sylph, he slowly softened up to Sylph. Without any other way and any other person to speak, he began to slowly forge a bond of love and hate towards her.

Despite how he reluctantly decided to never help her, at this moment, he began to despair. Thinking about her friend dying as her soul was shattered made him extremely desperate. That was especially so because his soul would also be destroyed as it was "merged" with hers.

The System flew towards the bubble where Ignatius was, calling for his help.

"You! The dragon! Help Sylph out! S-She's dying, you know?! If she dies, you'll die too!" the System told him.

"Y-You? ...Help her? But... I..." Ignatius muttered.

"How can you even think twice after all this time?! Sylph has been trying to be friends with you this whole time! You know that she's not at fault of your soul being trapped here? It's... my fault! Don't blame her for it! Blame me!" the System exclaimed; her tone desperate.

"T-This..."

"I hate to admit it because I don't really like your attitude, but you're the last resort I have... go out... and help her out... please..." the System begged once more.

"..."

Leviathan died a sorrowful death as he was crushed, his last words screaming for Aquarina. At this point, I really don't know what to say, but I felt bad for this. He had probably been protecting her this whole time, only to end up dying at the end.

With Leviathan dead, Aquarina's entire body fell to the floor after he died. She was completely knocked out...

Is everything... over now?

The massive specter approached us quickly. In a split-second, his gigantic claws approached me.

"You're the strangest thing I've seen in all my life. Despite your body already torn apart, you're still hanging on?! This soul... you somehow have it stuck on your corpse... yet you're not an Undead... what a

bizarre ability. Don't worry, you're going to die now. Maybe you can't die physically... but your soul is already quite shattered..." he said with a malicious cackle, his claws extending towards my soul.

However...

An explosion of flames quickly emerged from my soul. However, these were not my own flames.

A draconic presence emerged from my entire soul, flashing with vast amounts of blazing power.

"W-What? Dragon flames? Agh!"

Hell suddenly retreated back in an instant. At this moment, I realized that the flames that came from my soul were from no one else than him, the annoying dragon that never let me make him my familiar.

To think he showed up at the very last moment... this feels... rather ironic.

"Sorry for the wait..." he apologized.

Soon, a massive amount of flames emerged from my soul, transforming into a gigantic red dragon.

The mana flowing into him was mine, but somehow, the pressure on my soul was minimal.

Realizing this, I noticed that the System was doing something outrageous, using her own body as the conductor of mana, taking all the pressure herself. Her entire body was gaining even more glitches due to this pressure. On top of that, she was also groaning in agony...

But she wasn't stopping.

She's... doing this for me? Even if it hurts so much?

With the nigh endless amount of mana flowing into Ignatius, his body continued to grow bigger and bigger as he immediately flew towards Hell. Soon, the two began to fight each other.

"A-A dragon?! From where did you come from?! Wait! Are you her familiar?! Does the Dragon King know about your treason?!" Hell roared.

"I-I don't care anymore! ROOOAAR!"

Ignatius merely answered Hell's darkness-filled blows with loud roars, bites, slashes, and powerful breath attacks, bathing the enormous skeleton with all the deadly flames he possibly could. With that, the entire battlefield suddenly turned into an immense inferno. Surprisingly, these flames didn't hurt us, but instead protected us.

"Another traitor! Fine! More of the same, then! You'll die a pitiful death just like that sea snake!" Hell roared, pushing forward with great fervor.

"Don't compare a dragon with a sea snake! I'll show you the true might of the son of the Dragon King!!!" Ignatius roared in response.

BOOM!

Chapter 73 Union!

In front of me, something truly insane was happening, something that even I couldn't believe. The grumpy dragon that never dared to become my familiar was now helping me out of all things! But why now?! You really took your sweet time!

Just when I was at the edge of despair, he had to appear and save me... really? Ugh...

"Sorry for the wait!" he said arrogantly. Deep down I felt like strangling him for not wanting to show up earlier. In fact, if he appeared earlier, we could have perhaps stopped the death of Leviathan!

Then again, it's not like he cared about him, nor did he know him... Ignatius had his eyes fixated on Hell as he flew towards the giant skeleton, beginning to bathe him with his deadly flames, burning through his entire body. In response, the skeleton groaned in pain.

While Ignatius was attacking, the System was doing something absolutely desperate, risking her own life and her entire structure as she infused herself with all the Mana I had, using herself as the pillar to all the pressure instead of my soul. This effectively stopped putting pressure on my soul, however, that meant she was receiving tons of damage all around her body. She was gaining even more glitches than ever before, groaning in agony. But even through all that, she never faltered.

She was doing this for me... while I was a sitting duck here, already technically dead...

System...

"ROOOOAARRR!"

"Y-you damn lizard!"

Ignatius absorbed all of this endless mana, growing bigger and bigger to the point he dwarfed the gigantic black specter, beginning to crush him using his massive blazing body while bathing him with "dragon flames", flames that seemed to be different from normal fire.

BOOM! BOOOM! BOOOOM!!!

He used his gigantic blazing limbs to push Hell into the ground while his breath constantly put deadly pressure over the Lord of Death. On the other hand, Hell used his shadows and darkness, fueled by the fragment of the Demon King, to fight back, devouring Ignatius' flames as he put pressure on the dragon in exchange.

Ignatius was way weaker than Leviathan, but because he was getting all this mana nonstop, he was growing stronger and stronger every single second. But then... how long can the System keep this up?! She's gonna break at any moment and shatter away! If she dies... what can we do? What will I do? I cannot let my friend die that way!

I feel so powerless in this situation... I feel so useless... I've done everything I possibly could, yet... yet, we're still struggling so much.

"Come on... Ignatius, give it everything you have!!!"

I shouted with all my soul, to which Ignatius roared angrily in response.

"ROOOOOAARRR! SYLPH!" he cried. The darkness and death consuming him was purified by his flames, pushing through, quickly turning it all into ashes!

"Nnngh...! H-How do you have so much goddamn mana?! T-This is ridiculous! But even with all this fuel, you lack total power to defeat a being such as myself!!!" Hell shouted in response. With all the might of his darkness and death, he began to overwhelm Ignatius as both suddenly entered into a stalemate!

BOOOOMMM!!!

Flames against darkness, the spectacle before me was that of pure catastrophe...!

"Nnngh... T-This isn't enough...!" Ignatius murmured. Although he had all the energy he could get, his power still wasn't enough! Without properly having cultivated magic power, he could only get this far...

"Come on... Ignatius... System... Ah, Natoria! Wake up! Please!"

At this moment, I sensed Natoria sleeping inside my soul. As she suddenly heard my call, the System infused Mana into her as well, agonizingly crying in pain in the process.

"Naturia!!!"

"FOO!"

Naturia suddenly opened her eyes wide, flashing with bright yellow and green light as she rushed outside my soul, only to... reach Ignatius!

"Y-You?!"

Ignatius was suddenly embraced by the power of Naturia as something I never thought could happen at all... happened!

The two... fused?!

"Unnggh...! Agghh! T-This power! This overwhelming power...!" Ignatius exclaimed. Through their fusion, his entire body began to grow even larger as life and nature merged with his flames. Eventually, his flames turned... golden!

"W-What is this?!" Hell cried in utter disbelief! Then again, I wouldn't blame him. After all, I was just as shocked as him!

Soon, Ignatius' entire body began to grow larger and more majestic, as if the design of his draconic scales turned into a majestic armor made of gold. In fact, his entire body received this treatment as well. His claws became golden while his head gained a golden helmet. His wings spread out, covered in golden flames...

It exuded the strong power of Life and Fire the most, with Nature encompassing all of it to form a wonderful combination.

The golden flames began to eat into the darkness, devouring and burning it all with a bit more ease than normal fire.

Surprisingly, even though they didn't seem that amazing, Hell cried the loudest when he touched them.

"GRYYYYYAAAAAAGGGH...! Y-You damn lizard! Y-You've fused with a spirit and acquired such power...?! T-These are... Flames of Life! It can't be... t-this is absolutely impossible!" he roared.

"Oh, you better believe it!!!" roared Ignatius in response as his entire body began to pummel Hell into the ground, pushing through with enormous fists, kicks, whips, and bites, all with the goal of tearing down the darkness within this specter!

CLASH! CLASH! CRASH! CRASH! BOOOMM!!!

His golden flaming claws slashed through the darkness, consuming it with great haste!

Because of that, Hell's darkness and death couldn't keep up with it as he began to falter. Soon, he felt weakened. Eventually, he started to move back...

He seemed... fearful?

While that was happening, Ignatius didn't give Hell a break as he continued to fight arduously. After all, the darkness and death of Hell was tremendous, at a completely different level even. Yet somehow, he was pushing through...

At this point, I could finally sense it. The fusion between Ignatius and Naturia... it was glorious.

I could sense that their minds were aligned, as well as their thoughts. They were working together despite how incompatible they were with one another, all for me...

The System continued to supply them with mana as she began to weaken further. They only had a bit more time before the system were to weaken too much... to the point she wouldn't be able to push more mana...

"GROAARR!"

Soon, a massive blast of golden flames consumed Hell...

BOOOOM!!!

Chapter 74 A Mysterious Entity

The fiery might of Ignatius continued to pummel Hell into the ground. His golden flames were fierce and powerful, to the point they consumed all his darkness and death, thrashing him to the ground!

Ignatius charged all the power he could muster inside his draconic jaws as it began to flash with bright yellow-gold light, so bright and dazzling that it completely illuminated this entire dark space.

After that, he unleashed the deadliest breath attack he could, releasing all the power he had in an all-out breath attack! The burst of golden flames continued to consume the darkness of Hell as it spiraled around like a holy vortex of golden flames.

BOOM!!!

Having lost his physical body, Hell began to groan in agony as his soul was directly hit! The soul of this dark specter began to be "infected" by the bright Life Flames that Ignatius and Naturia's combination formed, fueling themselves with my mana which was being supported by the System. Everything came together in that very instant as Hell's spectral soul began to crack into pieces, completely overwhelmed by the golden and fiery brilliance of Ignatius.

His pitch-black soul wavered in agony. The brightness of the golden flames exploded all across his spectral body as the skull-like face this specter had cried in agony. Golden flames came out of his jaws and eyes, surging from within the depths of his very soul!

"DIEEEE!" Ignatius roared with all his draconic fury. Meanwhile, the power of Naturia within him pulsed with the essence of life and nature. His fiery flames converged together with her, uniting in this all-out attack!

"I-Impossible...! I am... d-dying?! It... can't... be! Unnnnggh...! Aaaaaggh...! GRYYYYAAAAAGGH..!"

BOOOOOOOMMM!!!

With that, Hell's entire body was consumed by the fiery golden yellow flames of Ignatius and Naturia as his entire spectral body exploded into nothingness, becoming purified by the holy flames...

Soon after that, the two separated from their temporary fusion as the stream of mana disappeared. The System fell on my Soul Scape's floor as her entire body was deformed and in great pain. She had done everything she could, falling unconscious after everything was over.

Sometime later, Ignatius and Naturia slowly went back to my soul, too weakened to do anything else.

After that, I felt a painful share of the pressure the System went through, but for some reason, my soul... was barely hanging on.

In any case... it's... over...

Hahh...

Maybe I should fall unconscious now...

My mind feels numb... I don't think I can hang on for any longer-

Creeak...

Suddenly, a cracking sound was heard within the space.

Eh?

I suddenly sensed a powerful, divine presence looking over the entire place we were in.

"Incredible! Your power is amazing!"

"Eh?"

"You've defeated this being and even through all that, you're still alive?! What... are you?"

I heard the voice of a fascinated man.

Who was he?

What was happening?

"W-Who are you?"

I spoke with my mind in response. Surprisingly, he somehow heard me.

"Isn't it obvious? I'm a God..."

"A... G-God?"

"And you're an interesting being! What makes you this way? You seem to have near-endless mana, and on top of that, an ability that lets you stay alive even in your current state?"

"..."

"Oh, right! I shouldn't speak like this when we're enemies, technically... young Sylph..."

The voice of this man was creepy, it sent chills through my spine... or whatever was left of it anyway. The worst part was that I couldn't even see him, but I knew he was somehow here, within this space.

"At this moment, you're wondering why your parents haven't showed up, right? Well, the time in this dimension is 20 times faster than outside!"

W-What?!

Are you telling me that no matter how much time passed... no matter how much we tried to buy time, my parents would take 20 times as long to get here?!

Then... will this being kill me before they can arrive?

But for some reason, he seems stupid. Why is he wasting time and speaking to me so much?

He even revealed to me that he had technically made this entire "dimension" ... this space where the two of us were sent...

"Hm, do you think you've actually won? It was very fun to see you play around with Hell, but he has a special ability, you know?" the being told me.

"Eh?!"

"He, as the Lord of Death, can obviously cheat death! Did you know your parents actually killed him three times and he's still kicking even after that? Do you know why that's the case?"

"W-What?!"

"Because he has many lives! As long as he has souls within his soul scape... he can revive as much as he wants! Look, the fragment of the Demon King is activating! He's coming back to kill you! Hahaha! How amusing! Let's see what your last struggle will be, Sylph!"

The voice of this jackass resonated across the entire space as I saw a large black crystal flash with dark and death energy. Soon, it exploded out of nowhere as countless wailing souls emerged out of it, merging together into one and then... Hell was back into his specter form.

"Hahh... technically, I died. After all, this is just a recreation of my own self! But it worked once more... hahaha! I am invincible!" the skeleton-faced specter let out a loud cackle.

"No... this... can't be!"

"Oh, it can! All your efforts only took down a few thousands of my souls, but I possess billions! Can you kill me a few dozen times before I spend all of them? I doubt it! Now that all your stupid little toys are gone... you're nothing but a rotting corpse!" he said to me, directly to my mind!

"Finish them already. I don't want to do it because I don't want to dirty my hands... if I do something to them, the other Gods will easily be able to detect it..." the entity told Hell.

"Hmph, I was going to do it anyways!" Hell said in response.

With that, he slowly moved closer to me, pointing his dark claws towards us.

"I'll finish you off swiftly. Reviving fills my mana back up, so I can even use Death Beam once more...!"

Two dark beams reached us in an instant.

Crack!

However, as if the air in this space was glass, it split open... as a massive blazing blade emerged from it.

Chapter 75 The Cavalry Is Here!

Crack!

Just as I thought that everything would end then and there, a massive blazing blade appeared out of thin air. As if space itself cracked open like glass, this blade surged with fiery flames, slicing through space with great effort.

SLAAAASH!

"Huh?!"

Hell was left shocked as the flames quickly emerged into the space and flew towards him, blasting him into the ground, thrashing him as if he was just a pile of rubble!

BOOOMMM!!!

"Gruuuuagh...!"

In fact, his entire phantasmal body was consumed by these incredibly powerful flames. Wait... he actually died?!

Those flames... there's no way...

My father finally showed up! He actually came!

Even with the time dilation... I knew he would eventually get here...

It seems that they were quick in their actions then... if time is 20 times slower in here, and it has barely been half an hour, that means their response to our disappearance was incredibly swift... they would have taken a minute to get here if the time wasn't different from outside.

"SYYYYYYYYYYYYYLPH!!!"

The roaring scream of my father calling for me made me awake from my daze. After all, even in the pitiful state I ended up in, I was still alive.

Father...

"Fa... ther..."

I tried to muster these words as I saw Hell being consumed by the flames as he died on the spot... my father's might was unparalleled!

"Hmm?! You heroes got here already? H-How?! You sliced through space and time?!" the entity that I assumed was some kind of god muttered in shock. Surprisingly, he was nowhere to be seen, as if he was invisible.

"OOORRRRRRAAA!"

BOOOM!

Space and time cracked open as father unleashed all his power. With that, the entire crack in space widened like a gate, leading to the outside world. Then, his body rushed inside, covered in a spiritual armor of flames.

"Sylph!" he cried, looking for me... until he saw me.

"Ah...!"

His eyes almost sunk into his eye sockets at that moment. His eyes squinted so tightly he could have broken them if it wasn't because they were incredibly resilient. His face showed an incredibly pained expression. It was as if his soul had been taken out of his body.

His lips trembled in horror and shock, seemingly becoming stiff.

"S-SYLPH...!"

He screamed in agony as he rushed towards me. Tears began to flow out of his eyes as he saw the horrendous mess I had become.

"No...! NO...! NO! NO! NO! NO! NOOOOO! SYLPHY... SYLPHY! MY... MY DAUGHTER! AHHH...!"

I felt the anger, frustration, and sorrow of my father. He screamed as if the most precious thing in his life was taken away from him. He screamed so loudly that his lungs were about to burst. Even through all that, his tears continued to flow out of his eyes as he kneeled before my corpse.

"Fa... ther..."

I mustered all the strength I could, moving my dislocated jaw. Thankfully, a few words came out, albeit faint and little. However, I couldn't say anything else after that.

"S-SYLPH... y-you're still alive?!"

"ALLAN!"

Suddenly, my mother entered through the portal with two more figures, who rushed by her side. Of course, those two figures were none other than Shade and Nepheline.

"SYLPHY!"

My mother cried in agony alongside my father. She gritted her teeth and appeared in front of me in an instant. Meanwhile, Shade and Nepheline looked at my corpse with great shock. After all, my body was filled with holes as blood splurged out like rivers everywhere. My guts were also out. In short, I was barely holding on... if it could even be considered barely.

"No! NO...! NOOO!"

My mother began to scream like I had never heard her scream before. Thankfully, my father stopped her.

"HEAL HER! S-She's still alive!" he cried.

"Ah...! FULL REVIVAL!"

Suddenly, my mother utilized a technique capable of saving people from near-death. Full Revival, a special spell at the 9th tier of Holy Light Magic that could completely heal any wounds. In exchange, it took a gargantuan amount of Mana and my mother's lifespan.

Soon, the streams of light flashed into my body. As if time was going back, my entire body was being reconstructed back to how I previously looked. The warm light felt so good as well! A few seconds later, my heart began to beat once more, alongside my lungs which I could use to breathe. Thanks to that, my brain immediately felt lighter as it gained the oxygen it required.

"Sylphy!"

My parents suddenly hugged me tightly as they saw me become whole again. Their tears covered my entire face as I began to cry as well. Of course, I couldn't contain myself. The sorrow, frustration, fear, and anger I felt all together made me want to cry a river nonstop. I felt their warm and comforting hugs, finally feeling like I was alive again

"I was so scared... I was so scared... it was so scary..."

I couldn't help but weep like a little girl. Then again, I was one... it was so scary, but I had been containing my own horror this entire time. The monstrous being I had been fighting and struggling against had left such a big trauma on my own soul and body that I couldn't help but cry desperately.

"Oh, Sylphy... Sylphy... my girl... I'm so sorry... I'm so sorry!" my father cried as he apologized.

"We'll never let this happen... n-never!" my mother said soon after, crying as well.

"Aquarina...! Ah, she's fine..." Shade said.

"S-She has no wounds at all... i-it can't be... S-Sylph... you...?" Nepheline muttered.

"Sylph, you were protecting Aquarina this entire time? H-how... how...?!" father asked when he found that out.

"I did everything I could... it was hard... so many things... happened... I... ah! Don't relax yet! That monster you killed can revive back, father!"

I mustered these words as I pointed at the large black jewel left on the floor, which began to shine brightly with countless souls.

"So, he did this... Hell! My flames killed him again, but he's coming back already... this bastard!" my father roared as he let go of me, rushing towards the jewel.

"You bastard... You'll pay for what you did to my daughter! I won't go easy on you! RRRRAAAAAA!"

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

"GRYAAGH...!"

Soon, Hell's screams of agony resonated around the entire space as the core he used to always come back was being sliced into pieces by father!

Chapter 76 Escape!

"Let me give you a hand as well..."

My mother summoned her familiars, which all flew towards father and began to attack the giant core. From the looks of it, this time around, they were actually going to finish him off! He always somehow escaped and revived back again, but now... they finally got him!

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

Father's fiery blade released powerful fire-based attacks, slicing and piercing through the entire black jewel with power that continuously got stronger. In response, the entire artifact, which was also somehow a fragment of the Demon King, was being sliced and burned into tiny pieces.

Then again, it was made of an incredibly resilient material. Even with all this pressure, it was still somewhat compact, not burning into ashes. Though, my mother's familiars joined and used their holy light to purify this darkness, making the mind of Hell inside the core wail in agony.

A specter soon surged from within the fragments, roaring in pain and trying to blast away my father and my mother's familiars with his deathly power. However, my father merely swung his blade and made him disappear! My father is so strong!

"Agghhhh...! Uuaaggh...! No...! I cannot... die! Wait! I was... just doing... what I was told! UUAAAGGGH...!"

"And I don't care! Die miserably, you piece of garbage! You won't even burn in hell! You'll completely disappear!!!"

My father's soul suddenly surged from his entire body like a monstrous chimera made of flames. Quickly, it expanded its sharp and wide jaws, tearing apart all the souls stored in the core alongside Hell's main consciousness...

"GRRYYYYYAAAAAAAAAAHHH...!"

BOOM!!!

The fragments of the exploded core were quickly turned into ashes as the entirety of Hell was finished off rather swiftly... well, this simply showed the difference in power between me and my parents. They were in a completely different level. While it took me all I had to even finish him off once, with the sacrifice of Leviathan in the process, breaking apart my entire body, damaging my soul to the point of almost being shattered, and the System, Naturia, and Ignatius' great efforts, my father easily destroyed him at long last... I'd like to think I helped a bit... if possible.

"It's over..." my father said, lightly sighing.

"No, father! Wait!" I quickly said.

Everyone then looked at me as they felt the presence of someone truly powerful. This presence was overwhelming, all-encompassing, and made one feel as if it represented all the heavens themselves...

"Bravo! That was a wonderful show!"

The voice of this man resounded across the entire dimension as my parents looked at the current situation with confusion...

"This being was the one that created this dimension... I don't know who it is... b-but I think it might be a god!" I told them.

"A god?!" my mother asked, not expecting that at all.

"The Dimensional Lord was slain by us... so there's a god with the power of manipulating space colluding with the Demon King's army? But how and why?! Who are you?!" father roared with anger.

"Who am I? That doesn't really matter, no? Dead people don't need to know about this... now that I've got you all here together, I might as well dirty my hands and kill you heroes off!"

"What? You bastard! You're a god and you're trying to kill my daughter and us out?!" father exclaimed in response.

"You're a traitor to the gods!" my mother could not help but say.

"You would never understand! My goals are beyond your understanding. You cannot even possibly begin to fathom the TRUTH of this world and my goals... you're all chess pieces playing on my board...!" he said.

"What kind of nonsense are you talking about?" I asked.

"Shut up you little wench! You're all going to die! DIMENSIONAL COMPRESSION!"

TRUUMMM!!!

Suddenly, the entirety of this dimension began to tremble. It was as if something strange was pushing us in.

"W-What's happening?!" I asked, slightly fearful.

"This... he's compressing the entire dimension!" Shade said in response.

"We have to escape, quickly!" Nepheline hurriedly said soon after.

"On it!" roared my father. With that, he quickly moved towards us while my mother held me with her arms.

"You won't escape! I'm the master of this space! What I say are the rules! I've had enough fun now. It's time for all of you to enter the chopping board!"

The Dimension God, as I will call the guy from now on, laughed maliciously. He seemed to be a typical jackass that enjoyed the feeling of schadenfreude. I don't know why he was being like this with the heroes that gods were supposed to protect, but he really wanted to just kill us off.

The entrance that father created was closed in an instant as the entire dimension continued to compress itself. With it compressing a meter every second, and with the space only being a kilometer in size... in due time, we'll get crushed to death!

I didn't know if we could do anything, really. If this being could really control space, then how would we escape? We're all inside of his own domain, after all. It seemed hopeless...

"If I've already sliced a dimension once, then I can do it again!" said my father all of a sudden.

"I'll help," Shade said soon after.

"Heh! You only did it because I allowed it! You won't be able to easily slice through my dimension- ah!"

SLASH!

My father's blade, which had the legendary power of flames in it, soon began to slice through the dimensional walls in front of him. The strong blade was even capable of piercing the walls of a dimension, doing it quite leisurely even!

In contrast, his entire body bulged with muscles. It felt as if the power required to do this was enormous. Soon, his entire body began to unleash a strong aura of flames.

Shade did the same as his entire body was infused with shadows while Aquarina was being held by Nepheline's arms. His daggers suddenly grew in size, turning into thin and sharp blades, which he coated in shadows.

"Dimensional Cut!"

"Dimensional Slash!"

CLAAAAAASSSHHHH!

Surprisingly, their attacks made the entire dimension tremble!

RUMBLE!

"I-Impossible! You can't just do that! How...? This wasn't within my calculations...!" the entity could not help but say in shock.

"Then, you've calculated it all wrong, jackass!" I said, flashing my middle finger into the ceiling as a large crack in space opened. Soon, I was carried outside of this dimension while I heard a frustrated cry from the being inside it...

Chapter 77 A Calm Aftermath

The mysterious entity looked at its own dimension slowly collapsing on itself. The enemies it wanted to slay had unfortunately escaped.

"Tch... it didn't work out at the end... who could have guessed they would even develop dimension-slicing attacks? This is outrageously unexpected. I should quickly head back for now. I can't stay in this space any longer, lest I risk getting caught by the gods..."

Despite its initial frustration, its temperament suddenly became calm and calculative. It was as if it was a different person altogether.... what kind of being could this god truly be?

"No matter, no matter. There will be more chances for me in the future... after all, my plans are beyond this entire charade... I won't rest until I can accomplish my goals..." he muttered.

After the entire nightmare happened, I ended up falling asleep.

I don't know how long I slept but it definitely felt like an eternity went by.

My body was reconstructed by mother, but I had died back then... technically.

As for my soul... it was close to shattering into pieces. I was sure that pain was still there, but it seems it went away. I'm pretty sure my mother did something to heal me.

As I slept, I saw my soul scape slowly reconstruct back together. Eventually, I was able to spend some time with the System, Naturia, and Ignatius now that things had finally calmed down.

I really wanted to meet everyone outside, but I couldn't wake up even if I forced my soul to wake my body up. Maybe I was put into an induced comatose through some kind of spell by mother. I guess she wants my soul to heal more thoroughly. Then again, I've read that sleeping is a good method to heal souls, so that might really be the case.

As I spent time here, I was able to talk with Ignatius, Naturia, and the System about everything that happened. I also slowly used the healing light directed at me from my mother into the System, healing her pained wounds a bit. She's technically something like an artificial spirit, so this light healed her up quite a bit.

"Phew... I feel way better..." she said with a sigh.

"Thanks a lot for helping me out at that moment, System. It really means a lot..." I told her.

"A-Ah... i-it's nothing... it's the duty of the System to help her host as much as possible!" the System said in response.

"You've grown a lot these past three years. You've developed way more, plus you're way more mature than before..." I pointed out.

"Ueh? W-what are you talking about? I-I'm a system, not a person!" she could not help but say.

The system was still a glowing orb of light, but she meant a lot to me.

"You mean a lot to me... even if you think that way. You're my friend, my partner... basically, you're my sister!" I said.

"Uwaah... i-is that so?" she asked nervously.

"Yeah, hug!"

I hugged the System as she seemed to grow increasingly nervous and embarrassed.

"I-I'm glad... you see me like this... Sylphy... You're also the most important thing in my life," the System said as we hugged.

"R-Really?" I asked.

"Yeah! Y-You're quite literally my world..." the System replied.

"O-Oh... well, I'm glad... we have mutual feelings of sisterhood!" I said in response.

"R-Right! Yeah, that!" the System said after that.

Hugging the System felt rather good. Then again, I was getting tired of calling her like that. With that, I began to think about what name to give to her that wasn't just "System". In the meantime, Naturia flew around us. She seemed energetic and had gained her life force after resting up and being healed by my mother.

"Foo! Foo!"

"Have you thought about getting another name?" I asked.

"Oh? A-a name?" she asked.

"Yeah, I was wondering if you wanted a name! Calling you System doesn't sound nice..." I said with a sigh.

"Well... how about... Alice!" suggested the System.

"Alice?! Well... that's quite a good name. Sure, Alice it is," I replied.

"T-Then... I am Alice from now on. Not just... a System!" the System, well, Alice said.

"You seem oddly happy. I guess you really wanted it deep down, didn't you? From where did you get that name?" I asked her.

"From that Alice in Wonderland book you like to read sometimes... you talked about it for like three months straight a year ago," Alice replied.

"O-Oh, right... maybe we should read some books together some more... after I wake up, that is." I sighed.

"Yeah... even with all my glitches, I'm really happy that I've been able to help you out, Sylph..." she said.

"I-I should be the one who's very thankful. Without you, I would have surely died... this glitch ended up making me unkillable!" I told her.

"N-Not exactly unkillable..." Alice said with a sigh.

"Well, whatever the case may be, I managed to do it thanks to your help... so I am very thankful." I doubled down.

"W-What about me?! Stop ignoring me for once!"

At that moment, Ignatius exclaimed. He had appeared in a small form I never thought I would see. Right now, he... looked like an egg. Yes, he was a red egg with orange patches resembling flames. There were two little cracks on the egg where two small draconic eyes looked at us...

"Oh right! I should be thankful, I guess... though you could've helped earlier, you know?" I told him with a sigh.

"I-I know that! But shouldn't I get a bit of gratitude at least? Look at me! After using all my power, I ended up in this pitiful state. I resemble an egg for crying out loud!" he cried.

Apparently, after he helped me out, Ignatius ended up looking like a small dragon egg because he used all his power or something, so I guess that's that... maybe he'll grow up into a bigger dragon soul one day. Or hatch?

"Why did you turn into an egg to begin with?" I asked.

"Well... I don't really know! After using all my power, something weird happened with me, I ended up becoming weakened... but even then, it feels odd to suddenly become an egg, right?" Ignatius wondered.

"I believe I know why... Ignatius is undergoing metamorphosis," Alice said all of a sudden.

"Metamorphosis? Into what?" I wondered.

"A Fire Spirit! He's no longer just a dragon, he's the soul- or well, the fragments of the soul of a dragon... perhaps fusing with Natoria ended up filling him with spirit energy..." Alice said, explaining the process.

So, such a thing could actually happen...

Chapter 78 An Egggy Excuse Of A Dragon

"Well... I hate it! I don't want to be an egg! Where's my big body?! Ugh... I shouldn't have helped you!" Ignatius said with a tone of anger. However, I couldn't really take a floating egg seriously.

"If you didn't help, we would all be dead by now," I said in response.

"R-Right... but even then! I... am I really becoming a Spirit?" he wondered.

Apparently, something triggered this change in him. Alice speculated that fusing with a spirit ended up filling him with spiritual energy, which ended up becoming permanently added to his very soul. With that, his soul slowly mutated into a spiritual soul after he was weakened, only having this leftover energy to assimilate and make himself whole. However, he lacked the strength to become a big dragon, so he ended up regressing back to a spirit egg.

Much like Natoria, I'll have to raise him all the way into a big dragon again. He's just an egg now, a spirit dragon egg, I think... in any case, his development is connected to mine. As long as I develop, he'll develop and eventually hatch into a baby dragon!

Even as a baby dragon, he might still be weak I guess... then again, it's not like he's a conventional dragon either. He's a weirdo that has become half-dragon and half whatever he is now. I guess I could call him a Dragon Spirit, or a Fire Dragon Spirit... hmm...

"Are you okay with being a spirit now?" I wondered.

"Of course not!" he roared back.

"Ah! A predictable response!" I replied.

"Anyways, Sylphy, how are you feeling? It seems your soul has recovered greatly..." Alice asked.

"I do feel better. At this point, I'm just waiting to wake up... but this seems unlikely. It's taking an awful lot of time, to be honest." I sighed.

"Well, let's hope things are going well..." Alice sighed as well.

"Yeah. Anyways, as long as I'm with you guys, it doesn't matter if I'm in here," I told them.

"Well, we think the same way," said Ignatius, which was quite a surprise.

"Me too. I think we can be fine as long as we're together," Alice said, agreeing with my words.

"Fooo! Fooo!" Of course, Natoria also agreed.

We were all resting over the grasslands of my soul scape. I wanted to see what was going on outside, how my parents had reacted to the events that occurred, and more... but I fear that things might not be the same after this big event.

I fear that things might change, and that I might not have as many liberties as I wished I could have. Realizing that, it frustrates me... I wish these annoying beings from the past could stop coming to kill us all the time.

I hate that I've enjoyed such a nice relaxing life all this time, yet there's never a true sense of calm. There's always this powerful danger lurking behind us, wanting to kill us no matter what.

It's as if our very existences were a nuisance in their eyes, while the gods that seem to represent us or protect us barely give any help other than the divine protections, which I guess helped greatly now that I think about.

I suppose I should still be grateful for them. Without those things, Aquarina would have died... I don't know about myself, but perhaps if my body turned to ashes, I would have died as well.

I hate to admit it, but I guess I own these gods a favor for what they did for me, even if the only thing they left for us was this and nothing else...

Recalling that fight makes me think all sorts of stuff. It reminds me of all the powers there are and how weak I was. But even then, there were things I was able to do even with the vast difference in strength...

I remember that even when my body ended up being torn apart, I was able to do things with my soul, something I didn't know I could do... there were other things such as the life infusion ability I used on Hell before... though, I don't know if this can be done again.

Maybe there's a way to develop senses beyond my body. Hmm... I would have to check it out someday... but anyways, I can't do much here for now...

Uwah... maybe I should just rest my mind for a bit.

I can't stop thinking about my parents and Aquarina... I hope they're doing fine.

After the incident that transpired regarding Hell, Sylph, and Aquarina, Sylph and Aquarina's parents quickly gathered the Amazon Tribe and relocated it from their original place.

Staying in the same place where this monster had left its dimension was dangerous. If it could try doing something again, it might end up capturing someone else. With that, the entire tribe was relocated to a farther place within the vast wilderness of the jungles where they lived.

Sylph had fallen unconscious after the entire event... and remained asleep through the whole ordeal. Her parents decided to leave her in an induced coma when they found out her soul was barely holding on, about to crack into pieces.

Through the special methods of Faylen, Sylph had been resting in her bed ever since the incident for several days. She had been infused with a special ambrosia from the elves directly into her blood, which nourished her with mana and nutrients. Simultaneously, Faylen's Soul Therapy spell was used to slowly recover and heal Sylph's soul from the damaged state it was in.

Meanwhile, Aquarina had woken up just a day after the incident. Of course, her parents had to explain to her briefly what had occurred. The little girl felt relieved that Sylph had somehow been revived, despite the horrendous state she had seen her before falling unconscious.

Aquarina wanted to see Sylph at all costs, but had to wait an entire week and a half to get to her home. After all, she also had to recover from her mental trauma with her parents.

But today, finally, she had come back to her. Seeing the red-haired half-elf sleeping over the bed peacefully, tears began to flow out of Aquarina's eyes...

"Sylphy... I'm so happy you're... okay..."

As if hearing her call, the little tears of Aquarina slowly woke up Sylph.

"Huh? Aquarina?"

"Sylphy!"

After a week and a half, Sylph had finally woken up.

Chapter 79 I'm Happy To See You Again

All what had happened before I went to sleep felt like a bad dream. It was as if I was experiencing a nightmare of sorts. I couldn't believe all of this was real now that I woke up on my comfy bed, feeling nice and healthy. I thought I had just dreamt all of it, and that my life was just as nice and relaxed as it always has been.

However, I quickly remembered that it was all real... all the crap I went through, how we almost died several times... everything, it was all real. Though fortunately, when I woke up, the first thing I saw was something very beautiful, something that soothed my fearful heart.

"Sylphy!"

Aquarina stood in front of me, crying rivers once she realized I woke up. Her warm tears dripped down my arms as her beautiful and shiny sapphire-colored eyes shone brighter than ever due to her tears. She was such a cute girl...

"Aquarina?"

"Sylphy! Buuuuaahhh!"

Aquarina jumped over me and began to hug me tightly, screaming loudly while crying a lot. She was crying all over my face, covering me with her tears. Seeing that, I couldn't help but hug her back as her warmth really felt comfortable. At the moment, I felt like hugging her forever.

"Aquarina... I'm so glad you're alive..." I told her. I recalled everything that had happened in that fight, how much effort I put in to protect her life, and how hard it was. Of course, I'm glad I was able to do it at the end, I'm glad I was able to... not lose her.

"Sylphy... mommy and daddy told me what you did... what happened... I... I only have faint memories... is it true that you protected me... even when your entire body was destroyed?" she cried.

"Ah... t-they shouldn't have really told you that... but... well, a bit... erm, maybe they're exaggerating. Well, it wasn't much, so don't worry," I replied

"Sylphy!" she cried even louder. Then, out of nowhere, her lips suddenly kissed my cheek.

She was already over my body, and she was way heavier than I remembered her to be. I embraced her in my little arms as we rested over the bed while she slowly stopped crying.

"Y-You shouldn't have... done all of that..." she told me.

"It's fine... I'm alright now, see? My body is back to normal!" I said in response.

However, I suddenly realized I had enormous hole-shaped scars all over my body. Was my mother not able to heal them?! Then again, a long dress can easily hide them, plus I've had worse scars in my previous life.

"B-But your entire body is filled with scars..." she told me.

"Don't worry about it! Mom is an amazing healer. She'll help me out and heal them one day. Don't worry too much," I said with a bright smile. I didn't want her to feel guilty.

"I feel guilty... what happened to you is because I'm weak... and pathetic... Sylphy-chan... y-you're the most important thing to me... sniff... I don't want you to die..." she cried.

"T-The most important thing? W-What about your parents?" I asked.

"A-Ah...! Uwah... I-I mean! I... after them..." she corrected herself while blushing.

"I-I see... well, my memories of that time are just as blurry as yours, but I do remember a bit of it. I know that you did your best as well... you awakened the power of something, and you saved my life back," I told her.

"Eh? Really?" she asked.

"Hmm... maybe we should talk about that with our parents present, but Leviathan from all things showed up to help you..." I said to her.

"L-Leviathan? The monster that my accessories were made of? Come to think of it... the accessories disappeared..." she said.

"Well... he... he sacrificed his life for you," I replied, my tone somewhat sad.

"I-Is that so... I didn't even get to talk with him... why would he do such a thing?" she asked.

"I don't know... but he seemed to have seen your growth. Through that, you earned his heart... he was only a soul, so he perished after doing everything he could to protect us... without him, we would have died," I answered.

Aquarina looked down, feeling down after that. I shouldn't have told her this now that I think about it. I think I screwed up.

"But don't worry! He went down like a brave fighter...!" I hastily added.

Then again... I remember he died sorrowfully, screaming in pain at Aquarina's name.

Ugh... now I feel bad.

I wish I could have helped him... I know he used to be a demon general once... but he did this for us... I wish he could have stayed for longer.

"Sniff..."

Aquarina began to cry sorrowfully again. This girl cries way too much. She'll get dehydrated at this point.

"Aquarina... crying is okay but... crying so much will not really bring us anywhere... instead of crying, why don't you decide to live up for his sake? Make his sacrifice worth it? Try to live a happy life, just like how he would have wanted you to," I said to her.

"...Sylphy."

Aquarina nodded in response as she wiped off her tears, looking at me with a fiery gaze.

"I-I will! I will also... work hard for you too, Sylphy... I don't want you to suffer... like that..." she said.

"Mn! That's the spirit, dear. See? You have to see the bright side of life. You're still alive, so you still have time to grow stronger. Enjoy every little bit there is," I told her.

"As long as I am with you... I'll be happy," she replied.

"Eh?"

Aquarina held my hands tightly after that as she looked at my eyes with a strong intent.... is she really 4 years old?! I feel like she has the gaze of a tigress all of a sudden.

"A-Aquarina?" I asked.

"L-Let's train together... later on... w-when you get better... I want to spend more time with you, Sylphy... I want to treasure every minute with you..." she said.

"Huh? S-Sure... I will gladly do so..." I said as I gave her a warm smile. And then... I kissed her on the cheek.

"Uwaaahha?!"

She suddenly got all red as steam came out of her ears and mouth...

She almost fell to the floor, but I caught her in time.

"A-Are you okay?!"

"Y-Yeah... I'm just... happy..."

Chapter 80 A Week And A Half After

Aquarina ended up snuggling with me a lot. She simply wasn't letting me go at all. Apparently, I've been asleep for a whole week and a half, which was quite shocking to me after I realized I never felt any hunger or something. Hmm... I guess it might be the doing of my mother's magic or something along those lines.

She seemed very mellow this time around. I suppose our bond had been strengthening lately. Plus, undergoing such a traumatic experience really made us realize how fragile life was sometimes... even our souls were in danger there. Without souls, we don't even get to have a second life or head to the afterlife. We just disappear.

After spending around an hour snuggling with her on bed, she ended up falling asleep. At that moment, I couldn't help but caress her long and silky silvery-white hair. Her glossy chocolate-colored skin was also quite precious as her youthfulness was in full bloom. She was a very pretty girl that would easily pass for a princess or something. I'm quite surprised I got to have her as a friend.

I still remember when she was a tiny little baby girl. Now she had grown a lot in these past three years. Then again, 4 years of age is nowhere near half her life, so there's still a lot for her to experience...

After she fell asleep by my side, I tried to finally move outside my bed. I felt like my entire body was a bit strange. It felt like it wasn't mine for a bit, perhaps because it got so destroyed back then before being fully recovered... my soul itself felt like it was wearing my body. Thus, as I stood up, it was hard to balance myself, which meant I instantly fell on the ground.

I guess even with my ability, completely losing my body and recovering it does leave some sequelae in my mind and body. I guess I have to get some therapy to move better, or simply practice a lot... I don't know, but it's quite hard to move.

Ugh.

I tried to walk a bit more, but it gradually became harder. My muscles ached horrendously while my bones trembled. Even moving my arms and shoulders hurt, but my hands seemed mostly fine.

Moving my neck was also fine. My feet were okay as well. The problem was mostly in my back. I guess it had been broken and regenerated quickly, though it was also filled with pain. I need to quickly get better to adventure more with Aquarina and grow stronger with her and my parents' help. I cannot possibly slack for even a single second more. After all, I've already slept enough.

I began to utilize Naturia's help. Through her, the Metabolism Acceleration spell was cast on me, making my blood flow faster as my metabolism was enhanced. I used this spell bit by bit, spreading this golden yellow essence across my body.

It hurt to move, but I was managing.

With that, I finally stood up once more, looking at myself in the mirror. Well, I looked the same as ever. I can't believe some days ago I was torn apart into pieces... though, at closer inspection, I found the big scars around my body. They were on my shoulders, stomach, legs, chest, and so on. The scars I got were big, ugly scars that wouldn't go away no matter what... being scarred like this as a kid was really quite something. Then again, I guess it doesn't matter for someone like me who already has the personality of a young adult. My mentality won't easily be affected by mere scars.

In my previous life I had even uglier ones, after all. I was even missing an eye and that scar was the ugliest one could ever have. It spread through half my face... I remember that my little sister used to call me beautiful, and my father called me a princess back then by how pretty I had been born... well, that went to hell when I got that ugly scar across my face.

Then again, my teacher didn't care what we were or how scarred we were, we were all trained and taught how to survive, fight, and kill... I suppose I'm getting rusty with the techniques my teacher taught me. I should really ask Aquarina's father sometime. He's an assassin-type fighter, just like I used to be.

Although I'm trying to get good at everything I possibly can, I cannot ignore my past life's specialty, which I could enhance to even greater levels in this new life with magic and talents.

I decided to push myself to my very limits, constantly conjuring Metabolism Acceleration over my body while doing pushups, sit ups, and doing all sorts of exercises. I began to grow hungry at some time, but I resisted the hunger.

However, at some point, a tremendous exhaustion hit me, I was exerting myself way too much, and I ended up falling asleep on the floor...

...

"Sylphy!"

"My daughter!"

Suddenly, I woke up from the voice of my parents. I found both of them with Aquarina as they woke me up in bed.

"Ah... Mama... Papa!"

I quickly jumped towards the two, hugging them with all my strength. I had been without them for over a week, so finding them again filled me with happiness. I had missed them so much, after all. I knew they were taking care of me, but I was asleep and I couldn't see nor hear them...

"I'm happy you're fine but why were you on the floor?" my father asked.

"Oh, my little princess..." my mother could not help but say, hugging me tightly and covering my face with kisses.

"I was working out! My body feels a bit itchy after all the recovery, but I gotta quickly get it back to tiptop shape," I told them.

"W-What? You're a little girl, give yourself some slack!" my father said in response, sighing.

"Yeah... You've gone through a lot. We don't want you to overexert yourself anymore... Leave everything to your parents, Sylphy," mother said soon after.

"O-Okay... but I still want to train hard and grow stronger..." I replied.

"We know. You're a very strong girl," my father said.

"But first, we have to talk... my daughter... what kind of powers do you have?" mother soon asked.

During this conversation, Aquarina remained silent behind them.