

A Glitched 891

Chapter 891 The Sea?! Yes! The Sea!

Once we explored the second floor, which included my parents meeting the two factions of spiders and slimes, and their respective king and queen, we moved to the third floor, the big surprise that nobody had ever seen before.

"THE SEA?!"

This reaction was shared by every single person! Including my two parents. I had already blown their minds with the first floor, but the third one made them go even crazier.

"This briny air, the warmth of the sun, the warm sand below my foot, the coconut trees, the sea waves... And the islands at the distance- Is that a huge castle?!"

My mother was fascinated, looking around everywhere with eyes shining brightly. She even stepped into the water with her clothes on, covering herself on a bubble of light to not get herself wet.

"Wow! And it is so deep! It goes so deep I can't even see the bottom..." My mother cried as she sank into the oceans. "And there's so many fish everywhere! I-Is that a huge reef too?! Corals, crabs, mollusks, sponges?! There's even starfish here?! W-What is this biodiversity!"

"It is so much more diverse than the first floor! And huge!" My father said, swimming without protecting himself with magic and just sinking down. He spoke through telepathy.

"This is amazing! We have never meet the sea before but is it like this?! Is it really this beautiful?! Wooooaaah!" Mist was crying out of happiness.

"L-Let's take a dip, Mist!" Zack was excited, taking out his shirt and boots. "Everyone!"

"E-Eh?! B-But- Uwaah!" Mist couldn't fight against Zack as he princess carried her into the sea.

SPLAAASH!

"Uwaaah! It's salty, ugeehh..." Mist groaned while resting over her boyfriend's shoulders. "Get me out, you dummy!" She started to hit his head.

"Ouch, hahaha! Come on, it's not that bad!" Zack laughed. "It makes a good combination with this warm sun and this cold water!"

"Woah, so this is the sea! Looks like a lot of fun, hehehe!" Lara immediately jumped into the water after throwing away her little boots.

"W-Wait! Lara, don't be so reckless!" Luck ran behind her as he threw away his boots and shirt. "I'll teach you how to swim at the very least!"

"Hehe, looks like they're having fun. Let's go in as well, Celica!" Celeste smiled.

"Sure! I wonder what sort of fishies we can find!" Celica giggled.

SPLASH! SPLASH! SPLASH!

Everyone else dipped into the ocean, so I decided to join them with Aquarina, as we nodded to one another and started swimming with my parents.

Zephy didn't know how to swim, so I told Ignatius to be his floaty. He reluctantly accepted, carrying him around the salty water.

"Why have the great me been reduced to a babysitter?" He sighed.

"Let's go! Move faster, Ignati!" Said Zephy.

"My name is Ignatius!" The dragon angrily said.lightsnovel

We explored the seas and swam as much as we wanted. The waters were calm today, so much that we were able to swim all the way to the Tropical Paradise Island, where we ate a lot of fresh fruit.

My mother was fascinated by the quantity of available fruit everywhere, and the natural animals, an island filled with animals and no monsters was a very rare sight in this world.

"So many fruits and animals... If you ever wanted, you could easily make a fortune by profiting off what your dungeon creates, Sylphy!" She said. "We could also provide much better variety to our country... Its population has increased by a few hundred after the Anima Tribes moved in..."

"I was already thinking about that, mom." I nodded, smiling back at her. "I'm counting on you so you can help me out export these things to other territories or even the capital, so we can slowly build a larger capital and support our country better."

"Y-You don't really have to though..." She said while being surprised over my humility. "You can also simply keep it all for yourself, I will never complain if you choose to do that!"

"It's fine~" I giggled while sitting over the grass at her side, munching on a banana. "I'm not doing it because of some sense of responsibility, it's just because I genuinely like helping people and also want to make a profit!"

My mother smiled sweetly, kissing my forehead, and then caressing my red hair. "I guess we've raised you well... To have such a beautiful heart, you make your mother very proud."

"Aw come on now, you've never been like this!" I giggled, as she was hugging me.

"I-I'm not?! S-Sorry... I'll try to be more loving with you from now on! A-Am I still too strict?! I try to be as much of a good mother as I can..." She sighed, suddenly feeling slightly sad.

"I-I don't mean it in such a way..." I laughed. "Calm down, let's go have some fruit salad! We've collected a bunch!"

"O-Oh, right!" She nodded, closing her book. "Then, how about we make something here? We could find some ingredients and..."

BAAAM!

Suddenly, a big tremor echoed behind us, as my father, Zack, and Luck arrived, bringing huge wild boars, a bear, and some deer they captured.

"We brought some meat for lunch!" My father said while walking bare chested. "Let's make some lunch! I'm quite hungry already."

"There was a bunch of monkeys too but I don't know if those guys taste good." Said Zack. "Monkey meat just feels wrong to eat to be honest, hahaha."

"I got this huge bear!" Luck wagged his tail happily and proud. "Lara! I got this for you! Am I a good mate?"

"You are!" Lara giggled happily.

Eh? Is this how Anima talk? That's a bit awkward, but maybe it's a cultural thing.

"Hey, Allan! Why are you just hunting the precious animals our daughter created so easily?! Don't you think they're precious? You didn't even asked her permission!" My mother started reprimanding my father.

"Hahaha, calm down Faylen, it's fine, right?" My father laughed, asking me.

"Yeah! As long as I supply some mana, they'll reproduce quickly over a few more weeks or months, don't worry." I shrugged. "Let's have a tasty lunch with what we can find!"

I was already on my full vacation mood, time to enjoy this to our heart's content!

Chapter 892 Relaxing Family Time

With the help of Ignatius flames and my father's Agni Sword, which was huge and warm, we were able to roast a lot of big chunks of meat after butchering the beasts that the boys hunted down. The Divine Sword began to complain that he was -once more- being used as a huge roaster for food. Looks like my father used to do this more than once back then!

"Hey you damn brat! Stop using me to roast food! I'll seriously burn you to ashes!"

The huge draconic manifestation of the Dragon Soul imbued into the sword roared angrily, so big that it covered half the Tropical Island with ease. Agni was glancing at him with a sigh.

"And you think I'm in any better situation?!"

I had stretched his ethereal body to resemble a huge turtle and used his wide back to roast meat over him. Because he was made of spiritual flames, the meat roasted with them ended being surprisingly tasty, and could recover Stamina and Mana easily too.

Even if I had endless Mana, whenever I consumed Mana-restoring food, I was able to heal some of the exhaustion I often felt by overusing Mana, and eating all of this food would help me recover from the still lingering exhaustion my body has after all that happened back then.

"Hmm~ Smells nice." I said, adding some spices and salt to the roasted meat. "Oh, the fish is done by now. Let's start eating! I'm starving."

"Let's see how the fish of your dungeon tastes like then!" Aquarina giggled, grabbing a huge, orange-colored fish on a wooden stick, which was gently salted. "Crunch... Hmm?!"

She made a face of surprise, or as if she ended burning her tongue...

"A-Are you okay? Is it bad?"

"It's so goooooood~!"

Of course, the response was something I had expected to an extent, but she still took me aback with that previous reaction!

"The fish is so fresh!" My father was also biting into one.

"Hmm, there's nothing better than fish that you have just gotten from the sea." My mother licked her lips as she enjoyed one herself.

"Usually, there's a few hours from catching a fish to the transportation, and then cooking, even with the fish we capture in the dungeon nearby." My dad explained. "So it's never really, really fresh. Even conservation magic can't do much about the flavors tasting less fresher."

"Though you can also just bring the fish alive in a water bubble, no?" Aquarina asked while tilting her head.

"Dear, not every person has such mastery over water magic to just create a big bubble of water that can float limitlessly without exhausting their mana midway through and then dropping all the fish into the ground..." My mother sighed.

"A-Ahahaha, right." Aquarina laughed. "How about carrying it on a huge wooden box?"

"That's what they usually do, sometimes. Barrels as well, but fish can't survive in still waters for too long, they need movement and oxygen, even if they breath underwater." My mother once more explained.
"They usually die off after a few hours, so it's also not recommendable..."lightsnovel

"And even then, that place's infested with dangerous monsters, not everyone can go fishing, and usually you need some bodyguards, hiring adventurers of mercenaries and increasing the costs even more." My father explained, drinking some fruit juice. "Phew... I wonder if the meat's ready."

"So! This is fantastic and ideal in many ways, Sylphy can simply catch the fish right away and sell it to someone, bringing a live fish in the method Aquarina suggested in just seconds! The prices would also increase due to its freshness and tastiness." My mother said. "Also these fish have just the right amount of accumulated Mana, making them crispier, tender, and more flavorful than normal."

"I see...!" I nodded. "But aside from our own town, where else could we sell these?"

"Well, there's my big sister's city at the northwest, we do a lot of trades there. We usually export fish to them through flying airships, usually on barrels." My mother explained. "Almost every day they come and go, don't you remember?"

"So that's where those airships always go!" Celica said in surprise. "Can we visit that city, auntie Faylen?"

lightsNovel "Hehe, sure thing." My mother giggled. "It has been a while since mom and my sis' visit, we could go meet big sis for a change. And with her help and connections with many merchant guilds, we could find some amazing opportunities to further monetize your products, my dear daughter- O-Of course, if you want to. I won't force you."

"I want to! Sure! Let's do it!" I was all up for it. "I want to build my own capital too, so when I grow up I don't have to rely on my parent's money to keep on living. Maybe one day I could even make my own little town."

"That would be wonderful, a bright future like that is worth looking forward to!" My father laughed.
"Now, now, let's eat the meat, it's done!"

"Finally! Fish alone can't satiate my hunger." Zack laughed, quickly rushing to bring meat to the table.

"Zack, bring me a steak too! I'm hungry for meat too!" Mist was a foodie like her boyfriend, the two got so well along even in this regard.

"Sure! I'll bring you the tastiest piece." Zack gave her a head pat as he moved and brought a huge plate with several cuts of meat, sizzling with juices.

"I want some of that chicken over there." Said Celeste. "Don't forget the birds I caught!"

"I didn't! Here we go." I laughed, as I brought over several roasted "Dodo Birds" we caught here, they were big and fat, and had tons of tender meat, they mostly feed off the fruits that fell from the trees periodically.

"Yaaay! Lots of food! Was getting bored of the fruit." Zephy clapped his little hands happily.

We quickly started eating, as I summoned my Familiars to join us. Nephilim, who had happened to be busy doing laundry was summoned here instantly too, so she could enjoy. She was as big foodie as well.

"Huh? Ah? Eh? I was doing laundry... Food." She started drooling immediately.

"Hahaha, just join us." I laughed.

"If My Lady insist." She hurriedly sat down to enjoy the feast.

Chapter 893 Aquarina Likes Roleplay

"I'm glad there wasn't any problems here while we fought Arachne." I sighed in relief. "Did you took good care of Zephy, Nephilim?"

"I did my best to protect him and the city, but thanks to Lord Arafunn's Spirits protecting the city with their Wind Magic, even if anything showed up, they would had been promptly dealt with!" Nephilim said with a proud smile.

"Well yeah, it's rather strange that she didn't attacked the city while we were all distracted." My mother began to wonder. "Maybe she lacked resources? She had prepared a whole plan to defeat you guys after all. Ugh, and where's that Arafunn now? Is he still sleeping?"

"Correct, yesterday he drank a lot of alcohol, so the Hero has been sleeping on his room since then." Nephilim nodded. "He had yet to wake up even when you summoned me here... Where am I, by the way?" She began wondering this after she was in her fourth bear steak.

"This is my dungeon." I said, as I explained her a bit of it to her, so she could get the gist of things.

"Oh, like what the gods can do! Incredible, I couldn't had expected anything less from my lady." Nephilim smiled proudly.

"Yeah, yeah, just don't get too touchy with her..." Aquarina's eyes were glowing bright red, but she was holding back.

"Don't be so jealous, geez..." I facepalmed. "A-Anyways, I wonder what's Lolth up to now, I doubt she's gone, we were only able to hurt a part of her after all."

"Hmm, when Evil Gods become as weakened as she has, there's little for you to worry about." My father smiled. "Right, Agni?"

lightsNovel "Nom, nom... Hm? Ah, that spider woman? Yeah, don't worry about that, brat!" Laughed the giant dragon made of flames, manifesting out of the sword as he ate a huge roasted shark. "Evil Gods tend to die off when they get too hurt like she did, she really risked herself there, the other Evil Gods are going to find her and eat her, that's what they do."

"T-They hunt one another?! What are they? Rabid rats or something?" Asked Celeste in surprise. "Do the other Gods do that too?"

"No, only Evil Gods are insane enough to hunt one another. They do this to gain power quickly. Usually they never fight because it's not worth the hassle and risk, but when there's someone so wounded that fighting her would be of little risk, they'll all begin to chase her to eat her." Laughed the Ancient Dragon. "Funny thing for sure! They're doing the job for us, those madmen."

"Though, whoever gets to eat her might gain more power... And could sometimes inherit her will to an extent." Sighed my mother. "Well, for now, I doubt they'll target us anymore, they know what we are capable of, and what you are capable of too, my daughter. Also, the Gods are watching over the populated areas, they will not let wild evil gods do as they please. If they ever get too close, you might suddenly see a very bright lightning strike hit an invisible area in the sky, that's a God attacking an Evil God."

"W-Wow, so that's a thing... Alright, let's just not talk more about this and enjoy the day!" I said, drinking some coconut and mango juice.

We enjoyed the feast while eating below a big shadow made by some parasols we crafted using the long leaves of the plants in the tropical island, it was a lively and fun dinner, and with Luck and Lara as our new team addition, there were even more mouths to feed, we cooked for way longer than I imagined.

"Phew, I'm beat..." Luck said while caressing his belly, it had grown a bit too large.

"I ate a lot..." Lara wasn't any different.

"You guys are real beasts! How much did you even eat?!" Celeste was shocked. "Luck did you just eat a whole bear?"

"Hahaha!" Luck only laughed.

"I-I ate half a bear... Burp." Lara giggled, covering her face. "Oh, my bad."lightsnovel

Despite how angelic she looked, she had a lot of the same traits as Luck, and one of them was a big lack of manners! My mother only let that slide through because they had just gotten here.

But I can already expect her teaching her and Luck a lot about manners, educating them so they could behave well before nobility... Bleh, well, it's a necessity but bleh.

After our feast, we moved on, this time, Aquarina's familiar, Pyuku, our beloved Slime Friend, grew to an immense size and helped us travel across the oceans, sitting over his huge, slimy surface.

"Thanks for carrying us over, Pyuku! You've been growing stronger and smarter lately!" Aquarina caressed her Familiar.

"Pyuuuu! Pyuukyuu~!"

Aquarina other Spirits, such as Leviathan Jr. and Undine Spirit really liked this place. They were usually much shier than my Spirits, and couldn't talk like mine either, but this time they were quite expressive.

Maybe I could give them System Seeds too, Aquarina got herself one, so why not her Spirits? They don't seem to have changed much since they were born, so a System to help them evolve would be ideal.

Then again, I also need to let Luck and Lara Rank Up, as they've hit Max Level, and also, I had been thinking about giving System Seeds to the rest of my friends too! And maybe my parents.

After seeing how they hit their limit in that battle against Lolth, I started to think that there might be still a lot of room for them to keep improving.

And that talk that Agni said about there being Monsters of Tiers above 10... It made me think that there must be a much wider world out there, one that my parents need to keep growing stronger to face at my side.

Though, it isn't going to be quick, as I can't make as many System Seeds as I want all the time, Alice needs to rest and all... For now, let's just enjoy the present and leave the other stuff for later.

"Wow, so this is that castle we saw at the distance!" Aquarina was amazed. "So cool! You've got your own castle! We're already queens of a kingdom then!"

"I-It's not really a kingdom, Aquarina." I laughed. "But well, if you want to think that it's fine too, my queen~" I kissed her hand.

"Kyaaah! I like the sound of it!" She was really into the roleplay.

We explored the Coral Castle with my family. My mother was frantically and excitedly analyzing the entire place, from the formation of the golems to the large quantities of Mana flowing everywhere.

"Fascinating! I never thought I would see the day to find out how Golems are born inside Dungeons! To think they just grow out of the walls! I guess it makes sense!" She said.

"It's really quite something!" My father agreed.

We ended spending the entire day exploring my Dungeon's third floor, we explored the Coral Castle, and had dinner there before finally walking out of the dungeon and directly to bed.

The next morning, we prepared ourselves to take a stroll outside Agartha, into the Emerald Forest and the Fishman King's Dungeon in look for materials to add to my Dungeon's biodiversity.

Chapter 894 Gathering Resources

The next morning, we woke up early with my friends and after a quick breakfast, we immediately decided to set off into the Emerald Forest, this time we decided to just walk there to admire the beautiful grasslands on the way.

Our parents were fine with it, after having already made the area quite secure once we conquered the Dungeon back then, the path there was peaceful and rather relaxing.

The grasslands were beautiful and much larger than those of my own Dungeon, it makes me feel slightly dumb by thinking my dungeon was already amazing... nothing beats the beautiful world out there.

There was a huge flock of Grassland Bisons, strong bovine beasts that have huge horns and are quick-tempered, but we just ignored them, as they were mostly Tier 1 to Tier 2, and we had plenty of meat.

We also found a few Grassland Wild Boars, and some Grassland Wyverns, green-scaled wyverns of Tier 3 that sometimes fly around and catch prey from here, they ignored us, as they have learned to not attack people instinctively.

They sometimes appear near the city to eat scraps of what we throw away or want to turn into compost. Sometimes, a few young ones would try to catch our cattle, but would be quickly hunted down, so old ones have learned to not mess with people.

"So relaxing~ Even the wyverns are peaceful here." Celeste laughed. "I feel like I just want to live here forever."

"Me too, it's such a paradise compared to the Wild Lands..." Lara smiled with a sigh. "Right, Luck?"

"Y-Yeah, I'm very thankful to everyone for allowing us to live in Agartha... You have our eternal gratitude, especially you Sylphy, without your help, none of this would had been possible." Luck smiled.

lightsnovel "Eh? Hahaha! Come on, you're going to make me blush, Luck." I giggled. "I just did what I had to do. Not only because you were chosen heroes, but because I wanted to help those in need. If I have the strength to do it, why the hell wouldn't I?"

"You said it so naturally, but out there, there isn't that many people with as much empathy as you do." Celeste sighed. "I also want to thank you, again, for the trillionth time."

"Aw, come on now..." I covered my face, feeling embarrassed.

"Hehehe, Sylphy, you're always so tomboyish, but you've got a cute side in you too!" Lara giggled, giving me a head pat. And then gently caressing my long ears. "Your long ears are so cute! Let me touch them a bit too!"

"Uwaah?! Lara, t-that's...!"

Elven ears were very sensitive, so they were very weak to tickles...

"Hahaha! S-Stop it!"

"Fufufuf, cute little ears~!"

"..."

Aquarina was glancing at Lara with bright red eyes, until Lara felt a shiver down her spine and stopped doing that...

"Aquarina calm down a bit..." I sighed.

"Huh? What? I haven't said anything nor done anything..." She said, pretending to not have given the stare of death to poor little Lara.

"I was just playing, Aquarina! I want to touch your ears too, can I?" Lara suddenly assaulted Aquarina, tickling her cute brown ears.

Aquarina instantly grew as red as a tomato, laughing at the tickles. Amazing, Lara has the power to ignore her Death Stare and just treat her like a puppy!

Maybe all that time with Luck had made her quite mentally resilient, I have a lot to learn from her, for sure...lightsnovel

Anyways, we continued our journey, and we eventually arrived at our first stop, the Emerald Forest. The beautiful greenery, plentiful of trees, and many animals and plants Lara had never seen before made her fascinated.

Luck was also quite excited, but not as much as Lara. She had quite the knack for Alchemy I think, her Magic Power is really high, so I might as well teach her about it later.

She seems like an ideal apothecary, and I think her Spirits could help her develop her Alchemy to completely unique ways and forms.

"Wow, so many colorful trees! Look, Luck! Look! I've never seen a tree made of jewels before!" Lara was fascinated. "The Spirits are all so happy too! They keep popping up from here."

"It is quite something, I guess a place like this is to be expected around an elven city." Luck laughed. "Maybe we should bring the rest of the kids here..."

"I wouldn't recommend it, the place's quite dangerous, filled with high tier monsters. Only experienced hunters come." Aquarina explained. "And well, us too..."

"O-Oh..." Luck was quickly taken aback.

"Well, for now, let's get some stuff done! We've got a lot of materials to take from here." I smiled

We quickly decided to gather some of the materials in here, specifically the trees! There was a variety of Magical Trees in this forest which have been well preserved thank to the anti-deforestation policies of Elves.

Unlike Humans, Elves usually have easy access to Nature Magic, which can help them grow trees quickly for wood if they ever need it, so they usually never chop down their forests and leave them grow as much as they want, living alongside nature.

There are policies that protect forests and trees from being overly abused out of their resources, and if we are not careful we could even face a punishment for taking too many resources.

But we were careful, without even cutting down whole trees, but taking a few of their branches each. It was more than enough for now.

Ding!

[You have gathered [Delphiro Herb (E Grade)] x23!]

[You have gathered [Red Maiden Flower (E Grade)] x17!]

[You have gathered [Sapphire Herb (D Grade)] x10!]

[You have gathered [Emerald Crystal Wood (C Grade)] x6!]

[You have gathered [Fiery Red Volcanic Tree (C Grade)] x5!]

[You have gathered [Water Spring Spirit Tree (B Grade)] x4!]

[You have gathered [Red Spotted Mushroom (E Grade)] x16!]

[You have gathered [Green Parasol Mushroom (D Grade)] x5!]

[Thanks to the [Fusion Alchemy] Skill, all Gathered Items Quality has increased by two Ranks!]

This was a good haul!

Chapter 895 Luck's Growth

Ding!

[You have gathered [Delphiro Herb (E Grade)] x23!]

[You have gathered [Red Maiden Flower (E Grade)] x17!]

[You have gathered [Sapphire Herb (D Grade)] x10!]

[You have gathered [Emerald Crystal Wood (C Grade)] x6!]

[You have gathered [Fiery Red Volcanic Tree (C Grade)] x5!]

[You have gathered [Water Spring Spirit Tree (B Grade)] x4!]

[You have gathered [Red Spotted Mushroom (E Grade)] x16!]

[You have gathered [Green Parasol Mushroom (D Grade)] x5!]

[Thanks to the [Fusion Alchemy] Skill, all Gathered Items Quality has increased by two Ranks!]

This was a good haul!

We not only gathered some of the classic materials we gathered back then, but also a few mushrooms to add to my Dungeon, so we can get those to grow as well, it is one of the things my ecosystem is lacking, they're important decomposers of corpses and stuff.

Well there must be some out there, but they're mostly the poisonous, non-edible ones, these we collected grow near trees, and are edible because they suck up their nutrients, or share them with the trees in symbiosis.

Not only the Red Spotted and Green Parasols are good mushrooms to eat, they grow fast on dead wood if you plant them, and also work in symbiosis with the magic trees in here, which we'll also grow inside my dungeon.

"Next, we should go to that river we once caught a huge squid, let's catch a lot of freshwater fishes for the lake that's forming on the first floor, and also the rivers connected to it." I said.

"Oh, sounds nice! Freshwater fish always tastes different than sea water. I wonder if we can find some of those long fish..." Said Luck.

"You mean eels? Yeah there must be, they're indeed quite tasty." I nodded.

"Let's have something to eat once we get there!" Lara was excited.

"Fine~" I laughed. "The plants should be alright for the rest of the day, but to keep the fish alive, it would be better if we put them in a huge wooden box with water... Well, we'll do that once we get there."

We walked across the forest peacefully, we sometimes meet some crystal wolves along the way, but the aura we exuded made them quickly run away.

Most monsters were Mana-sensitive, and if they knew what was better for them, they would usually run away the moment they sensed a powerful Mana Aura.

Of course, if you wanted them to find you, you just have to deactivate it... Which is what we did. We wanted some action and well, EXP. And as we almost reached the Spiritual Waterfalls, we were ambushed by a group of giant tigers walking on two foot like humans.

"Rooooarr!"

"Graarr!"

"Grooaarr!"

"W-What are those guys?!" Asked Luck, stepping back in shock. "They resemble Anima... A bit?"

"But they're much bigger and menacing!" Lara cried.

The three huge and muscular tigers slowly walked towards us, rather wary of us as they sensed something wrong, yet were too hungry to care too much about it.

"Oh, they're Tyrant Tigers!" I said. "They're the strongest monsters in this forest, we fought one back then, it was Tier 5, these guys are... Tier 4! Looks like they're reckless youngsters, must be the time they're going around looking for females."

"Is it fine to take them down?" Luck wondered. "I've been wanting some warmup for a while now!" He started smiling while preparing himself.

"I'll go too!" Lara said excitedly, her Spirits quickly assembling around her without her not even needing to call them for help.

"Sure, I'll help you guys Rank Up while you are at it." I smiled. "Go on!"

"ROOAAARR!"

The bulkiest of the three Tyrant Tigers seemed pissed off we were ignoring their threatening roars, as he quickly rushed towards Luck, swinging his gigantic claws at him.

Tyrant Tigers, even as juveniles, are as huge as ten meters of height, this guy was a big stud too, probably having a height of twelve meters.

Compared to him, Luck looked like a tiny little wolf!

SLAAAASH!

A powerful slash attack reached Luck, as he swiftly evaded it. The attack strong enough to shatter the floor right below him.

CRASH!

"Damn, these guys are strong...!" Luck gritted his teeth. "But not so much... I guess it might be a nice way to find out how strong I've truly become."

"Go for it, Luck!" I smiled.

Ding!

[System Owner]: [Luck Blacktail] Class and Subclass have Ranked Up!]

[Class]: [Wild Warrior: ★] -> [Beast Warrior: ★★]

[Subclass]: [Beast Magician: ★] -> [Wild Beast Magus: ★★]

[All Stats of [System Owner]: [Luck Blacktail] have increased greatly! New Skills have been learned! Old Skills have gained some Bonus Levels!]

[Level Cap has been increased! Max Level has been reset to 0!]

[His [Magic Circle] has grown to [Magic Circle]: [Tier 4: Rank 1: Wild Beast Magician Magic Circle]

[His [Physique] has grown to [Physique]: [Tier 5: Rank 1: Intermediate Beast King Physique]

<System>

[System Owner]: [Luck Blacktail]

[Magic Circle]: [Tier 4: Rank 1: Wild Beast Magician Magic Circle]

[Physique]: [Tier 5: Rank 1: Intermediate Beast King Physique]

[Level]: [0/50]

[EXP]: [0/50000]

[Class]: [Beast Warrior: ★★]

[Subclass]: [Wild Beast Magus: ★★]

[HP]: [6150/6150]

[MP]: [13840/13840]

[Strength]: [6500]

[Defense]: [3730]

[Magic]: [4550]

[Resistance]: [3750]

[Agility]: [6500]

[Luck]: [4200]

[Charm]: [3600]

[Skills]: [Anima: Black Wolf Tribe: Lv3] [Divine Protection: Lv3] [Hunting: Lv5] [Keen Beast Senses: Lv5]
[Butchering: Lv4] [Forager: Lv4] [Heavenly Divine Beast King: Lv4] [Divine Beast Transformation: Lv4]
[Divine Beast Magic: Lv4] [Divine Beast Spirit Summon: Lv4] [Divine Beast Aura: Lv4] [Divine Claw Arts:
Lv5] [Beast Mimicry: Lv3] [Super Self-Regeneration: Lv3] [Hero of Wild Beast's Inheritance Seal: Lv2]
[Magic-Resistant Fur: Lv1] [Elemental Claw: Lv1]

[Divine Protections]: [Rhea, The Chief Goddess of Nature, Life, and Maternity] [Golden Tiger, Divine
Beast King of Light] [??? (Yet to Awaken)] [??? (Yet to Awaken)] [??? (Yet to Awaken)]

FLAAAASSSH!

A golden aura covered his entire body, boosting his strength even further beyond. His eyes shone brightly, as his claws grew out of his hands, and suddenly started to gather Flames and Winds, part of his new Skill, [Elemental Claw]!

"I'm ready! Let's dance."

"ROOOAARR!"

CRAAAAASSSH!

Chapter 896 Lara's Growth

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH!

Luck and the Large Tyrant Tiger clashed, their claws letting out tremendous lightning strikes whenever they hit one another, causing the surroundings to tremble greatly.

The Tyrant Tiger had the power and size, but Luck had the speed and explosive damage. His claws gained the element of flames and winds, enhancing his attack's speed and damage over time.

In just a couple of seconds, the Tyrant Tiger looked to be in quite the pickle, his entire body flaring with flames, burning rapidly while covered in many slashes.

"GROOAAARRGH!"

"Bring it!"

CLAAAASSH!

Luck wasn't using any of his killer moves, nor any other transformation either, wanting to test his newest Skill and putting to use all of his stats, learning how to use his strength and body as it developed.

Although he just reached Tier 5 on Physique, he was much weaker compared to Aquarina, this was because Aquarina's body had been tempered from a young age by her father and mother's training, much like mine.

So even as he leveled up, it won't be easy to break the gap between him and the two of us. Hell, I'm pretty sure Zack has higher stats in a few things than him too.

Luck's main trump card, that even allows him to win against Tier 7 monsters by himself is his transformations, which give him divine auras and spiritual power.

This is the way he can close the gap between him and us... However, it's not like he can do it all the time though. And he doesn't want to abuse that power.

That's why he's training his best to fight physically without having to rely on transformation and boosting skills, which will eventually help him raise his stats, as stats grow the more you put your body into stressful situations and exercise.

His Beast Runes are particularly good at that, they're specifically made to boost his physique, so the more the fight, the more their "true power" will awaken.

And as for Lara...

CLASH! CLASH! CLAAASH!

While Zack decided to slay one of the three tigers, Lara decided to take care of the third, who was swifter than the one Luck was fighting against, leaner, and slightly smarter.

It was constantly trying to crush Lara with kicks and punches. However, Lara was constantly, and playfully, escaping his grasp using her Spirit's assistance.

She enveloped herself in Spirits of the Sky, and flew around like the wind, evading his incredibly fast blows, leaving the Tyrant Tiger shocked and slightly exhausted.

Lara had an incredible amount of Magic Power and Mana, and although she was handling things fine now, her physique was very weak, and she had to rely completely in magical power to survive anything.

So, naturally, she was constantly forming barriers of spirits and more, but lacked the mastery necessary to create complete arrays without wasting so much Mana.

She can brute force a lot of things, but eventually, she'll run out of Mana and then, it'll be over for her... For someone so specialized on magic power, she needs to learn how to utilize her resources properly without wasting them.

And finishing off her foes quickly too, something that might not be what she has in mind due to her playful nature. Another thing she lacks is a way to restrain foes properly.

Let's see how much she can blossom with this!

Ding!

[System Owner]: [Lara Goathorn] Class and Subclass have Ranked Up!]

[Class]: [Apprentice Saintess] -> [Intermediate Saintess: ★]

[Subclass]: [Spirit Mediator] -> [Spirit Whisperer: ★]

[All Stats of [System Owner]: [Lara Goathorn] have increased greatly! New Skills have been learned! Old Skills have gained some Bonus Levels!]

[Level Cap has been increased! Max Level has been reset to 0!]

[Her [Magic Circle] has grown to [Magic Circle]: [Tier 5: Rank 1: Elemental Spirit Crown Magic Circle]

[Her [Physique] has grown to [Physique]: [Tier 2: Rank 7: Spirit Beast Princess Physique]

<System>

[System Owner]: [Lara Goathorn]

[Magic Circle]: [Tier 5: Rank 1: Elemental Spirit Crown Magic Circle]

[Physique]: [Tier 2: Rank 7: Spirit Beast Princess Physique]

[Level]: [0/30]

[EXP]: [0/10000]

[Class]: [Intermediate Saintess: ★]

[Subclass]: [Spirit Whisperer: ★]

[HP]: [2550/2550]

[MP]: [110.548/110.548]

[Strength]: [1575]

[Defense]: [1483]

[Magic]: [15641]

[Resistance]: [11342]

[Agility]: [3357]

[Luck]: [9564]

[Charm]: [10404]

[Skills]: [Anima: White Sheep Tribe: Lv3] [Divine Protection: Lv3] [Keen Beast Senses: Lv5] [Forager: Lv4]
[Spiritual Senses: Lv7] [Heavenly Divine Spirit Princess: Lv6] [Divine Spirit Beast Transformation: Lv2]
[Divine Saintly Spirit Summoning Magic: Lv7] [Spirit's Call: Lv8] [Spirit Fusion: Lv5] [Spirit Creation: Lv4]
[Spirit Scepter Arts: Lv2] [Spirit Infusion: Lv2] [Spirit Weaponization: Lv1]

[Divine Protections]: [Rhea, The Chief Goddess of Nature, Life, and Maternity] [Phoebe, the Chief Goddess of Intellect and Prophecy] [Freyr, the Great Divine Spirit King] [Freyja, the Great Divine Spirit Queen]

Her stats increased by a lot, especially her specializations. And she only gained... a single skill? But a rather strong sounding one!

And she also had a strange skill she hadn't used before at all, it was called... Divine Spirit Beast Transformation? Is it similar to Luck's? So she can do something similar?

Odd, she hasn't even used it now...

"Ah, this aura...!"

FLAAASH!

Lara quickly realized she had Ranked Up, her Spiritual Senses and Keen Senses Skills leveled up, making her ability to sense her surroundings and predict enemy's attacks sharper.

"GRAAAH!"

The Tyrant Tiger attacking her tried to surprise her with a blast of light magic from its hands, followed by a descending kick as it leaped above her.

However, Lara smiled confidently, as dozens of Spirits gathered in her hands, her eyes shining bright rainbow in color.

"[Spirit Fusion]! [Spirit Weaponization]!"

FLUOSH!

All Spirits she gathered around her converged together, merging together and then taking a shape and a form she couldn't create before, the shape of a huge red and green shield!

CRAAAASSH!!!

The tiger's kick was blocked, as Lara was pushed several meters back, but kept her ground. The shield gained countless cracks as it effectively tanked the attack, and when it was about to break as the tyrant tiger smiled triumphantly...

BOOOOOOMMMM!!!

It exploded with flames and cutting winds right in front of its face, unleashing all the accumulated energy it absorbed from the impact!

Did she copy the effects of Sapphire?!

Chapter 897 Time To Make More System Seeds

At the same time as that happened, Luck's claws pierced the tyrant tiger he was fighting, right into the back of his neck. The beast instantly fell into the floor, incapable of fighting anymore and with such a deadly blow that it died instantly. Its body was covered on wounds, showing how tenaciously had Luck fought.

Zack had finished off the other Tyrant Tiger by himself, ending its life rather swiftly by easily blocking its hits with his winds and lightning and then beheading it with his powerful Divine Battle Axe Techniques.

Ding!

[Your Allies have slain [Tyrant Tiger Juveniles (Tier 4)] x3!]

[You earned 200.000 EXP!]

Well, thanks for the EXP, I'll take it. It's not so much EXP, but it'll suffice for now, more than enough EXP for what I had expected, which was nothing at all.

"Well done! Looks like you guys Ranked Up well enough." I nodded confidently.

"Ugh, I am so close to Max Level myself, but I need so much EXP!" Aquarina complained behind me.
"Can't we go raid that Arachne Dungeon again, I wonder?"

"The Fishman King Dungeon will have to do, there's still a lot of strong monsters down there if we ever want to do some heavy grinding, which we'll eventually do, I need the EXP as well." I nodded.

"Well, I guess so." She shrugged.

"Phew, that was amazing! Those new Skills you awakened for me were really good, Sylphy!" Luck said, leaping out of the huge tyrant tiger corpse.

"The Weaponization Skill was unexpectedly useful too!" Lara was happy as well.

"Ah, well, it is just your own talents blossoming a bit faster, but it was all your own powers, I didn't exactly gifted them to you or something." I laughed, feeling a bit embarrassed.

"Hmmm..."

"Uh-huh..."

"Alright then..."

"Huh? Exupe? Levels? What are you guys talking about?"

Meanwhile, as we talked about System-related stuff, the rest of our friends felt... left out. Zack, Celeste, Celica, and Mist had little idea what we were talking about and felt like they needed some explanations.

"A-Ah, well, I guess we should explain this now that we're alone." I decided to tell them anyways.
"Remember that Heroic Talent Awakening I did to you guys back then?"

"Oh, that..." Zack said.

"Is it related to what you did?" Celeste wondered curiously.

"That awakening was really cool, I gained a lot of power from it." Mist said.

"I got magic I never thought I could use." Celica giggled.

"Yep, that... Well, this is a more advanced form of that." I explained.

"Yeah! When you defeat monsters you gain EXP, which are like numbers, and once you fill a certain amount of numbers, your level goes up, and you get a bunch of stats, which increase your body strength, speed, magic power, and other things passively!" Said Aquarina very excitedly. "Do you think you could give them one of those too? Lara and Luck got them as well before them..."

"I was thinking about distributing more System Seeds, yeah." I nodded. "I gave them to Lara and Luck first because they needed to grow stronger the fastest to catch up to us, also Heroes tend to grow faster with the system I think, and it helps me dig their talents faster."

"I see..." Zack nodded. "Okay then it's my turn to get one, we've been friends for years so its only natural!"

"Haha, okay... Alice, can you make some?" I asked my Spirit.

"I can." Alice nodded. "I can make more than one a day now that I've grown so much healthier, I think I could give them all one actually!"

"All of them?!" I asked. "A-Are you sure that's fine?"

"Yeah, don't worry, I can just rest the next days!" She said. "It's your friends after all, we wouldn't want to make them wait, right?"

"So it's Alice, huh?" Wondered Zack. "She's always been a rather mysterious spirit, she was born with you, right? Is she where the System Powers come from?"

"Y-Yeah, kind of..." It felt a bit weird to talk so openly about the System with my friends after so long. "I am a bit different, unlike others, I can't level up, but I can use the EXP I earn to make my skills level up faster, and I can utilize it to enhance my dungeon's growth, or even create more systems for everyone."

"But why can't you level up Sylphy?" Lara wondered, confused.

"Well... It's complicated, it's just that my main system came with problems, or something. they can't be fixed, but in exchange for that, I get different and new abilities." I explained as easy to understand as I could.

"Oh, I get it. You sacrifice something to get something else." Luck nodded. "I'm guessing it wouldn't be possible for us to get Dungeons or Quests, or anything like you do."

"Yeah, those are unique to mine." I smiled. "But anyways, let's begin, Alice, let's do this."

"Alright! I've been waiting for all of your friends to get a System this entire time!" Alice seemed really happy. "If I tell you the truth, these Systems I create, once they acquire a host, gain some energy that is administrated back to me. The reason I've grown so healthy is also thanks to these Systems that are supplying me with energy."

"Oh, I didn't know that... But it makes sense now that I think about it." I caressed Alice's little head as she sat over my shoulders. "Are they like your kids in a way?"

"M-Maybe... Though they cannot develop into the level I am, they do get attached to their hosts, and seem to be rooting for them." Alice said. "Well, enough banter, let's do this..."

Alice raised her hands, as large quantities of energy gathered in her hands. The energy seemed similar to Souls themselves, this was the purest form of the "EXP", Souls, which were also the source of power that the Transmigration Gods used to become rulers of the universe, according to Alice.

FLAAASH!

Chapter 898 You Get A System! And You Get A System! Everyone Gets A System!

The reason the systems are made this way is also because these "Gods of Transmigration" get a share of the EXP for themselves, gaining Soul Power, and further strengthening themselves. The higher level their champions, the stronger they can grow.

Though seeing how selfish they actually were, I doubt they do this without personal gain in mind, after all, there's no way they would just do this because they felt bad for the people or something, they specifically send heroes to worlds to harvest their Souls through their hero's Systems.

At the same time, they "solve" problems there that are making their Soul Reincarnation Cycles slower. Or so I've learned from Alice as she had told me about them the more she regains her memories or feel that they had become clearer.

However, the Glitched System has no such connection with them, meaning that I get all the EXP for myself... And perhaps these abilities we've developed are similar to the abilities that Gods of Transmigration can use. I can even gain some of the EXP they gain if they have a System too, so its really similar now that I think about it.

In fact, they're very similar, from System Creation to Quest Generation, and even Dungeon Creation, and not just a normal dungeon, but a World-Type Dungeon said that can only be made by Gods of High Ranks, which emulate worlds by themselves.

It could even be said that my Dungeon is something similar to what Gods call a "Divine Realm", an expression of their Divinity that materializes into a pocket dimension where they can stay safely, and travel across space.

I can't move my Dungeon around while I'm inside, but it somehow fits a bit... Well, these are just speculations at the end.

Ding!

[You have exchanged 10.500.000 EXP!]

[You have created [System Seed] x4!]

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

Alice created four beautiful silver-colored cubes, covered on blue-colored circuits, they floated in midair, glowing with a mighty divine aura.

"Amazing... I can create four at the same time without feeling that tired..." She said. "Phew! Alright you guys, take these, one at a time."

Everyone felt slightly nervous, but Alice trusted my friends just as much as I did. Starting from Zack, to Celeste, Mist, and Celica, everyone took a cube and gently absorbed it into their chests.

The results were almost instantly!

Ding!

[Zack] has been registered as a [System Owner]!

[Celeste] has been registered as a [System Owner]!

[Mist] has been registered as a [System Owner]!

[Celica] has been registered as a [System Owner]!

<System>

[System Owner]: [Zack]

[Magic Circle]: [Tier 4: Rank 5: Lightning Tempest Lord Magic Circle]

[Physique]: [Tier 5: Rank 7: Thunderstorm King Physique]

[Level]: [0/20]

[Class]: [Axe Warrior]

[Subclass]: [Wind Magician]

[HP]: [6267/6267]

[MP]: [23754/23754]

[Strength]: [7854]

[Defense]: [5230]

[Magic]: [5173]

[Resistance]: [2686]

[Agility]: [3376]

[Luck]: [2230]

[Charm]: [2560]

[Skills]: [Amazonian Warrior Bloodline: Lv3] [Forager: Lv5] [Hunter: Lv5] [Butcher: Lv5] [High-Speed Climbing: Lv4] [Beast Aura: Tempest Horned Bear: Lv2] [Heroic Talent Seed: Lv2] [Divine Battle Axe Arts: Lv4] [Tempest Magic: Lv3] [Thunderstorm Aura: Lv1]

[Divine Protections]: [Sylph, Hero of Heavenly Eyes and Draconic Blaze]

.

<System>

[System Owner]: [Celeste]

[Magic Circle]: [Tier 5: Rank 3: Dark Shadow Witch Magic Circle]

[Physique]: [Tier 4: Rank 3: Abyssal Bat Queen Physique]

[Level]: [0/20]

[Class]: [Spear Fighter]

[Subclass]: [Witch]

[HP]: [3450/3450]

[MP]: [63600/63600]

[Strength]: [5150]

[Defense]: [2160]

[Magic]: [6094]

[Resistance]: [5650]

[Agility]: [5300]

[Luck]: [1800]

[Charm]: [5500]

[Skills]: [Abyssal Tail Demon Bloodline: Lv5] [Paralyzing Poison Tail: Lv5] [Explorer: Lv5] [Demonic Eyes of Darkness: Lv5] [Dark Arts: Lv4] [Beast Aura: Abyssal Bat Queen Aura: Lv2] [Heroic Talent Seed: Lv2] [Demonic Shadow Abyss Spear Arts: Lv3] [Ancient Abyss Magic: Lv3]

[Divine Protections]: [Sylph, Hero of Heavenly Eyes and Draconic Blaze]

.

<System>

[System Owner]: [Mist]

[Magic Circle]: [Tier 4: Rank 7: Healing Light Saintess Magic Circle]

[Physique]: [Tier 3: Rank 5: Dexterous Magic Archer Physique]

[Level]: [0/20]

[Class]: [Priest]

[Subclass]: [Archer]

[HP]: [2850/2850]

[MP]: [47200/47200]

[Strength]: [3250]

[Defense]: [2860]

[Magic]: [5008]

[Resistance]: [4175]

[Agility]: [4800]

[Luck]: [8800]

[Charm]: [6500]

[Skills]: [Jaw Demon Bloodline: Lv1] [Sharp Biting Jaws: Lv2] [Inspiring Words: Lv5] [Healing Innocence: Lv5] [First Aids: Lv4] [Beast Aura: Heavenly Swan Aura: Lv2] [Unyielding Love (Zack): Lv5] [Heroic Talent Seed: Lv2] [Celestial Light Bow Arts: Lv4] [Revitalizing Magic: Lv5]

[Divine Protections]: [Sylph, Hero of Heavenly Eyes and Draconic Blaze]

.

<System>

[System Owner]: [Celica]

[Magic Circle]: [Tier 5: Rank 2: Phantasmal Puppeteer Magic Circle]

[Physique]: [Tier 3: Rank 1: Demon Princess Physique]

[Level]: [0/20]

[Class]: [Puppeteer]

[Subclass]: [Phantom Magician]

[HP]: [2150/2150]

[MP]: [85700/85700]

[Strength]: [2150]

[Defense]: [2160]

[Magic]: [7690]

[Resistance]: [6700]

[Agility]: [3300]

[Luck]: [6500]

[Charm]: [6500]

[Skills]: [Puppeteer Demon Bloodline: Lv6] [Phantom Strings: Lv5] [Golem Creation: Lv5] [Minion Guard: Lv5] [Puppet Obsession: Lv4] [Beast Aura: Phantasmal Puppeteer Aura: Lv4] [Heroic Talent Seed: Lv2] [Demonic Puppet Creation: Lv4] [Phantasmal Magic: Lv3]

[Divine Protections]: [Sylph, Hero of Heavenly Eyes and Draconic Blaze]

Just seeing their Status after so long since we've been friends made me feel in awe. Their stats were amazing in many ways, much more than I had originally thought! Although Aquarina's Status is still the highest amongst everyone, the rest of our friends are not slacking at all either...

Zack is a powerful warrior that specializes on Health, Strength, and Defenses, and has a really good Mana and Magic Stat despite being a warrior primarily! He's amazingly talented. Although this might also be thanks to our early training too.

Mist is a strong healer that combines her alright offense with her great magic power, has a lot of Mana, moderate to good speed, and a lot of Luck and Charisma! I didn't expect that!

Celeste is a combination of both fast physical and magic attacks, and a small bulk, she compensates with high speed and really good spells that restrain and weaken foes.

And lastly, Celica is a fantastic summoner and golem creator, like I always thought... Though, her Mana and Magic are much higher than I had expected.

"Wow, so this is a system thing, huh?" Zack wondered.

"So many numbers..." Mist felt confused.

"Huh... Oh, it says I'm a puppeteer!" Said Celica, giggling.

"Hey, Sylphy... What is this Divine Protection?" Celeste asked me. "Why... does it says your name?"

"Huh? Wait, what?!"

Chapter 899 Mist's Dreams

After seeing everyone's Status, I have to admit that I was left... slightly speechless. Why is my name in the Divine Blessings thing?!

"Why is it there?! Alice?!" I asked her in desperation.

"C-Calm down a bit..." Alice sighed. "It's not like it's a bad thing! It just counts as a Divine Protection because you've given them heroic seeds."

"The Talent Awakening thing?" Wondered Aquarina. "Hey, I was wondering why we weren't getting that..."

"It's because you already have a Heroic Talent and a powerful Heroic Seed, something Gods plant into your souls to make you flourish through their Divine Protections." Alice explained. "So you can't get another one... However, it is different with Sylph and her friends. Because they lacked one, when Sylph gave them one, even if much smaller and weaker than the one that Gods can create, it still counted as that, and it was qualified as a Divine Protection, just like when Gods do it."

"U-Unbelievable..." Said Zack. "I always knew something was wrong with you Sylphy, you're a goddess!"

"I-I'm not anything like that, geez!" I gave him a karate chop. "Anyways, are you happy now? Try practicing your Skills whenever we find monsters to fight. The system will be especially powerful for non-heroes, who can develop their power even more than us, it might take some time but you'll get even stronger."

"A-Alright! I'm quite looking forward to it, actually!" Mist seemed the most excited. "I-I'll practice all my Skills like I've been doing since I got them! I won't fall back!"

"You sure are motivated." Celeste laughed, giving Mist a head pat. "I guess I'll give it a shot too... Hmm, come to think of it, why is your Bloodline so low level? You haven't awakened your innate powers?"

"E-Eh?" Mist was confused. "Dunno... It says Jaw Demon, but I don't like using my jaws... It's ugly, right? So I prefer to heal and shoot from afar! N-Nothing wrong with that, right?"

"They're not ugly..." Zack sighed. "But well, it still your decision, so don't worry."

"Mist should try biting some more things! Her bite will get stronger!" Celica commented. "Maybe she can gain the powers of Glutton or something! She could bite everything and store everything and-"

"S-Shut up! I-I don't wanna become an ugly biter critter...!" Mist got very angry out of nowhere. "S-So enough already!"

"Okay, sorry..." Celica sighed, but Mist ignored her.

Mist remained in silence after saying that, looking elsewhere while furrowing her white eyebrows. Zack was trying to comfort her, but for the first time ever, she was ignoring him!

I approached Celeste as we made our way to the Dungeon, to ask her what was wrong. She knew Mist the most after all.

"Ah... Well, when she was much younger, before meeting you guys, I remember that human kids used to bully her, they called her Ugly Biter Critter..." Sighed Celeste. "It has been a while since then, but I guess she hasn't gotten over that. Kids can be so cruel..."

"Well, we are kids ourselves, but yeah." Aquarina sighed. "That's really going too far. But can be expected from the human kids of that Eastgrain city, it was filled with filth."

"Yeah, nobody here has ever bullied her since we got in here, it has been years now but... I suppose Mist is taking her sweet time getting over that." Celeste sighed. "It's understandable now, she got a stigma over her jaws. Despite being the pride of her tribe she sees them as something ugly and unsightly. I remember... many times seeing her looking herself in a mirror, covering half her face with a piece of paper, pretending to be a "normal" girl, and then she would start crying. I haven't seen her do this since we got here but... yeah."

"Oh... That's so awful, poor Mist." Sighed Lara. "She's such a cute girl! I would beat down anybody that were to ever bully her!"

"Now I feel so bad I told her that... I-I just wanted her to make her feel better..." Celica seemed very regretful.

"Dang it, that place was hellish. I can't imagine how they would had treated us Anima folk over there." Luck crossed his arms.

"Yeah, I'm glad we're out of that place..." Celeste sighed. "Though, it's better to leave this to her boyfriend, he's the only one that has gotten so deep into her heart. Zack's a bit rough around the edges though, so I don't know if we should trust him too much on this one."

"Hmmm, let's just hope. If nothing works, we'll make something for Mist. She's our best friend after all." I smiled. "I bet we could bake some of her favorite pastries, and big loaves of bread."

"Sounds good!" Aquarina nodded. "Let's give her all the love she needs, she's our sunshine sometimes after all, hehe."

"Yeah! Besties forever!" Lara giggled happily.

"Well, alright, tell me what I can do to help too." Luck nodded.

"You sure are good friends." Alice smiled, sitting atop my head. "Sylphy, I'm feeling a bit sleepy... I'll be going to the Soul Scape for now... Yawn..."

"Sure, rest well!" I said, as Alice disappeared.

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After having been reminded of her Bloodline, and the abilities which she believed to be ugly and bizarre, Mist fell into depression, as she recalled the bullying she suffered by the hands of the human children in Eastgrain.

She ended yelling at Celica, her friend, and she felt so embarrassed and angry at the same time that she couldn't even talk anymore, something very different from her usual cheerful self. It seems that as years went by and she reached puberty, her emotions changed, and she recalls her traumas much more painfully than she used to do back then, when she was much more naive.

Going as far as distancing herself from her group to not bother them anymore with her temper tantrums, she sighed, looking into the forest.

However, she wouldn't be left alone, as the warm hand of Zack gently touched her shoulder.

"Mist... Let's talk. You don't really need to act like this, we're all your friends. And I... well, I'm your boyfriend, right?" Zack asked. "So please..."

"Z-Zack..." Mist glanced back at him, as she hugged him tightly, crying over his chest. "S-Sorry... I didn't wanted to be rude! Sniff..."

Chapter 900 Mist's Lost Mother

As Sylphy and her friends decided to leave Mist and Zack alone for some time, the little demon girl hugged her boyfriend, placing her face over his chest. She liked to smell him a bit, his scent always kind of made her calm.

"Mist... Let's talk. You don't really need to act like this, we're all your friends. And I... well, I'm your boyfriend, right?" Zack asked. "So please..."

"Z-Zack..." Mist glanced back at him, as she hugged him tightly, crying over his chest. "S-Sorry... I didn't want to be rude! Sniff..."

"It's fine." Zack sighed. "I can understand how you felt... I used to be bullied as well when I was much younger back in my tribe."

"Y-You were?" Mist was surprised.

"Yeah, I mean, it's nothing really to brag about, and I am not trying for you to relate with me because we were both bullied, it's not right... But well, I was an orphan as well." Zack sighed. "My parents both died on a Goblin Invasion, and I was always alone and grumpy. The kids bullied me for having no parents and looking like an animal... because I grew up in the jungle."

"E-Eh? So awful..." Mist sighed. "I never thought you would had gone through that yourself..."

"Not like I look all that perfect myself, you're exaggerating. We've all gone through our fair share of stuff." Sighed Zack. "Though, I guess not even knowing that would change what you went through your past."

"Hmm, no, I want to learn more about you too..." Mist said. "I never imagined you could go through that... I'm so sorry, yet a bit intrigued... How did you deal with it?"

"I couldn't really deal with it..." Zack sighed. "I grew up lonely, and no kid ever played with me. I hunted on my own and lived on my own. It felt as if I didn't even belong to the village. I felt so lonely... But it changed one day when Aquarina appeared, she didn't discriminate me like the other kids, although she was rude, she didn't chase me out either."

"Aquarina... Right, you two come from the same village." Mist said.

"Yeah, she was... perhaps the first person I could have ever considered a friend, although we were more like rivals." Zack laughed, recalling those times with a bit of laughter. "Though, it really changed when Sylphy showed up. Aquarina was head-over-heels for her, and I ended sneaking into the two, Aquarina would get annoyed, but wouldn't really tell me to go away, and we ended becoming friends, all three of us."

"Ooh, so cute..." Mist smiled. "So they...?"

"Y-Yeah, without realizing, I ended making two really good friends, they were always there for me. Always, it felt like... I was finally with a family. Their parents were also friendly and took me over as one of their own." Zack sighed. "I sometimes thought it was a bit unfair, that I didn't deserve their help, but... There wasn't much room to argue with them."

"..." Mist remained in silence as she glanced at Zack's bright green eyes. "Yeah... I do also have friends; Celeste was like my big sis... And some other kids at the orphanage too, like Annette, and Mina. They were always trying to cheer me up... And big sis Celeste was there, always... without her, I don't know what would have become of me. A-Ah, of course, with Mom Mary too..."

"Mom?" Zack wondered.

"M-Mary is like my mom... Well, she raised me and all, I never really met my real mom or dad..." Mist sighed.

"I guess we're not so far either in that, Ninhursag in her various animal forms protected me through all my childhood, secretly. And then, once it was revealed, she pretty much adopted me." Zack laughed a bit embarrassedly. "She's like my mom too... I really love her."

"I love Mary too!" Mist smiled. "And mother-in-law is a really nice mom too, she always greets me and invites me to eat at her house."

"She really loves you, hahah." Zack laughed. "There hasn't been a day where she hadn't told me to treasure you, because you're very important and special."

"Auntie Ninhursag..." Mist blushed a bit.

"Feeling better now?" Zack asked. "You're not whatever those stupid kids called you back then, you're a lovely girl that always brightens everyone's day. Sylph, Aquarina, Celeste, Celica, and everyone else always say that you're the one that brings everyone's happiness with your energetic personality and your positiveness. And even I... well, you've healed my broken heart quite a lot too."

"Z-Zack... I..." Mist started crying again.

"Eh? You're crying?" Zack panicked.

"But not out of sadness, I'm just... sniff, really happy..." Mist cried. "I'm so dumb, to get mad at something so stupid... Everyone's like my family too, like you said! Also you... you're m everything, Zack!"

"C-Come on now, stop saying such embarrassing things..." Zack blushed, scratching his chin.

"Heheh... But what did you mean by healing you?" Mist wondered.

"I... well..."

Zack started recalling some of the memories of the crush he once had.

"I once had a crush on Sylphy... I really liked her." Zack sighed.

"Eeeeh?!" Mist suddenly panicked. "You like her?!"

"N-Not now! Not anymore, I only like you now, Mist." Zack calmed her down. "I'm just talking about the past."

"O-Oh..." Mist nodded. "T-Then go on."

"Unlike Aquarina, who was really tomboyish and a bit of a meanie, Sylphy was really so nice with me. She was always helping me, always trying to cheer me up, and always gifting me things, talking with me, playing with me..." Zack laughed. "I really fell for her; I couldn't help it. I was a bit dumb though, I never realized how much she liked Aquarina. It took me a while to realize that... And once I did and saw the two girls holding hands, seriously in love I... I felt so heartbroken." Zack sighed, lowering his head.

"But it was obvious, isn't it? the clues were right there, maybe... I had tried to ignore the fact Sylphy liked Aquarina, and stupidly tried to compete for her love with my friend, only separating us further instead of keeping us close... Now it is different, we're even more together than ever but... Well, in those times, it was when you showed up."