

Brand New 1001

Chapter 1001: The Truth About The Demon King Of The End

RUMBLE!

With only two Altars left, the Demon King's manifestation grew weaker, yet at the same time, the flames it conjured only became stronger. It was as if the Demon King was conjuring more flames to make up for his ever-weakening manifestation.

To make things worse, Elayne noticed that his body quickly started to shapeshift. Large tentacles made of shadows started engulfing the monsters that kept being endlessly summoned, fusing their flesh and souls into his body.

"Is he trying to create a new body out of the monsters?!" Elayne thought, gritting her teeth. "Stop it! I won't let you do as you please!"

Elayne's barrage of attacks reached the Demon King, her six giant swords unleashing a storm of lightning-fast attacks. At the same time, her three rotating crowns conjured their powerful multi-elemental magic.

A wave of freezing winds covered the manifestation, slowing it down. Thunder struck its entire body constantly, making its new flesh fall apart. Enormous spears made of wood fell down, piercing its body.

However, aside from these three basic elements, the other two elements she possessed manifested. Fire and water. Spiraling, swirling spears made of oceanic water constantly splashed over the demon, alongside chains of flames.

But even then, Elayne found out his regeneration was becoming too fast, and her spells were slowly becoming ineffective, as if his own growing body was becoming capable of resisting the elements the more they struck him down.

"Planta, stop using the elements separately, combine them!" The Great Spirit told her. "Also, I'll manifest myself! Let me take over one of your Avatars!"

"Me too! I also need to help somehow. I can conjure my magic more easily within a vessel!" Titania said.

"Okay then!" Elayne nodded, hearing the tips from the Great Spirit and also nodding at their request. She quickly transferred their powers and consciousness into two of her Avatars, as their appearances quickly changed, imitating their original bodies.

"Hahahaha! You're becoming weaker! Even as you destroy the Altars, you won't make it in time before I destroy everything, Yggdragon!" Laughed the Demon King. "I am destruction, I am wrath, I am envy, I am greed!"

"What are you talking about?!" Elayne roared. "Just who exactly are you?! Where do you come from?!" As she asked this, Elayne's jaws opened, her draconic heads released three breath attacks containing fire, light, water, ice, winds, and nature elements combined.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

The damage of her dragon breath was strong, incredibly powerful, but not enough to shake him off completely. His wounds rapidly regenerating. As the demon king swung his giant blazing hands at her.

BAAAM!

Elayne used all six of her swords to parry the incoming blow, before releasing a barrage of powerful and rapid blows, piercing the demon king's entire body.

"What I am?!" However, even as he was almost completely shredded, his body came back, relentlessly. "I am the one and only, I am the all sins! I am everything! I am the one that our parents sealed and punished, only for being born! I am Erebus, but now I take upon a new Title. I am the Demon King.

This is my destiny; this is my fate! I will bring destruction to this world, Yggdragon! You died once, and you will die TWICE!"

"So the Demon King of the End is the true origin of all the other Demon Kings?!" Elayne thought. "But wait, that doesn't make sense! Then how were the others born? Were they fragments that fell off him? But wasn't he divided into seven parts?"

Something was off, and Elayne thought that either Erebus was lying, or that there was another nature to the Demon King she had yet to discover. The reason why there were different people born as him, from the monsters that were the first two, to the Demon King of miasma that appeared out of nowhere, to the Demon King of Death that used to be an ancient king.

From what she learned, she knew they had been reborn out of their seals, reformed anew. Their monstrous souls taking into new vessels. While the first two were reborn as monsters, the third was the strangest, as he had become his own self, as if he had unsealed his fossilized body and simply regained the control of it and rejuvenated it.

Yet the fourth was still the most mysterious! The Demon King of Death was reborn as a human, and from what she learned, it was through the betrayal he suffered and the death of his entire Kingdom that he ended awakening his powers as a Demon King of Death and raising everyone back from death.

But even then, he was slain by the Hero Sigurd and his sword Gram, the completed form. Yet despite being slain after that, he still revived, much like the other Demon Kings. She assumed this was due to the game-like system reviving them to create content, but there might be something else.

Especially because the Demon King of Death appeared in the underworld, how did he get there? Was that how Sigurd defeated him? Was that where he had to go? Or did the Demon King of Death die in the surface and somehow respawned there for his recent incoming resurrection?

There were many questions inside of Elayne's head, but little time to ever ask the monster in front of her. She knew the last Demon King originated from Hell and was the strongest. And now, she learned he thought of himself as the origin of them all, and was also somehow, the representation of all seven sins.

This might just be an illusion, a recreation of him through the Divine Dungeon, but she could tell, the Demon King of the End... He was shaping himself to become the greatest enemy she will ever fight, someone so powerful that.

At the end, as she suspected...

He killed the Gods.

All of them.

"What is your desire, what do you want to achieve?!" Elayne asked him once more, slicing through his ever-growing appendages.

"What else than to end it all? This is my purpose. I will kill my parents, eat them, and then use their power to destroy everything!" Laughed the Demon King. "I am the Bringer of the End!"

And this pretty much confirmed it.

Yet...

"If the Gods died, then who... Who are the Gods I've been talking with this entire time?!" Elayne thought, her mind in shambles.

Chapter 1002: Angelina's Holy Power

Angelina watched from afar as the fight between the two titans continued. Not too far from her, Elena and Mark were constantly mowing down foes, accompanied by all their allies.

Her party kept itself together though, Angelina leading them with her flying abilities, superior speed and powerful spear techniques and light magic, Anikitty and Erdrich unleashed their summons and buffs and debuffs, and then Gandalf conjured the strongest magic he could muster.

It wasn't a perfect team though; Angelina wasn't the best tank, and she was a flashy fighter. Although her class was similar to a Paladin in many ways, her defenses weren't the highest out there, and although she possessed defensive skills and a strong shield, she wasn't a tank.

Nonetheless, with the help of General Crimson and his army of mighty soldiers which included Majin, Divine Dragons, and Ancient Elves in their ranks, they were doing an excellent job circling the pit, evading the gigantic blazing hands of the Demon King and rapidly making their way to one of the two last altars.

"We're almost there!"

As Angelina roared, she spread out her wings, releasing bombardments of feathered projectiles. Which rapidly descended and reached the cultists and monsters below, explosions of light consuming everything.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

The explosions of light consumed the monsters, as Angelina rapidly descended, using her divine spear to quickly pierce through and skewer countless miasmic, demonic, and undead monsters at once.

Her stats wouldn't allow her such amazing feats, but thanks to Elayne's Domain and her Skills, Angelina's stats were at least almost seven times as high as before.

This coupled with the support of her party and also of the army of NPCs behind her made of this fight something possible.

"We're almost there!"

As she charged forwards, the group greeted the cultists surrounding the Altar. There were at least ten of them surrounding it. Their security having tightened after seeing the other Altars getting destroyed so easily.

"Stop them from advancing!"

"Don't let them touch the altar!"

"Kill them!"

The Demonic Cultists rushed towards them, three of these demonic monstrosities reached Angelina in the skies, using wings of their own. Their eyes glaring at her furiously as punches, kicks, claws, bites, and beams of demonic light constantly attempted to rip her to shreds.

"Dammit! Move!"

Angelina roared, her holy light exuding from her body. Her wings released a myriad feather projectile, bombarding the cultists one after another. Then, she rushed towards them and used her spear to pierce their bodies a dozen times each.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

However, the cultists bodies started to meld together as they burned from Angelina's attacks, fusing into a single monstrosity, and quickly punching the Valkyrie down with a powerful downward fist.

"RAAAH!"

BAAAM!

Angelina fell down, impacting the ground below and vomiting blood while feeling her ribs pierce her lungs. She slowly stood back up, Elayne's domain rapidly healing her back to full.

"As long as Planta's Domain is active, it doesn't matter if I take some wounds...!"

Although the domain could heal them quickly and it was a good safeguard, if they were overwhelmed and attacked too many times consecutively, the healing speed of Elayne's Domain wouldn't be enough, killing them anyways.

"GRAAAH!"

The fused Demonic Cultist Aberration descended, resembling a giant mass of bulging muscles. Angelina parried the incoming blows with her shield and her spear, explosions of holy light and demonic flames erupting every time they exchanged strikes.

BAAM! BAAM! BAAM!

Ultimately, Angelina knew her basic abilities and skills wouldn't do. So she quickly started activating something else, her own Divine Skill. Something she had acquired from the shared rewards of Hephaestus' World Quest, which she had received anyways after ending up counting as a party member.

Although Elena's party came too late to receive the rewards, the system did include Angelina's party as "helpers" ending up giving them precious items, such as the Divine Skill Fusion Marble!

With that, Angelina created a powerful and incredible Skill, something she had only been using in times of need.

And right now, there was no better time.

"I'LL KILL YOU!"

The chimeric aberration rushed towards her, yet Angelina stood there in silence. A rain of magic descended over the monster; Gandalf conjured his magic to stop it from advancing. And then Erdrich and Anikitty sent their summons, Undead of many types and Yokai of various shapes.

The summons was being easily crushed by the chimeric fusion of many Demonic Beasts, but this gave Angelina enough time to activate her Divine Skill.

"{Heavenly Archangel Embodiment}!"

Suddenly, the skies above opened up, as a flash of pure divine light struck down Angelina, her entire body disintegrated and then was completely reformed. The presence of an Archangel appeared, even if briefly. The Demon King and Elayne both glanced towards Angelina's direction for a second or two!

Angelina's new form emerged amidst the light; her body seemed to be made completely of the very divine light that struck her body. With six wings behind her back and crown-shaped halo on top of her head, she truly resembled an Archangel.

Her long hair had become something similar to a sea of liquid gold, and her clothes, armor, or even her face were gone. The only thing remaining in her "face" were two sharp, glowing white eyes, amidst her body made of golden light.

"RAAAH!"

The chimeric fusion between cultists roared, freeing himself from the armies of summons from Angelina's friends and rushing towards her. A dozen pentagrams were summoned, firing beams of darkness and demonic flames against her.

Yet Angelina rushed through them, her body made of divine heavenly light simply took them all in and received no damage. In a second, she appeared above the chimeric beast, her spear descending towards its body.

"{Judgement of the Righteous}!"

FLAAASH!

Her spear became a gigantic arch of light, completely obliterating the monstrous beast, and making it turn into ashes in a split second.

BOOOM!

It wasn't even able to scream in agony before it completely disappeared!

And Angelina didn't waste time, she quickly lunged her spear towards the altar, shattering it within a mere second.

CRASH!

The black moonlight crumbled into pieces; its barriers pierced without effort.

And the Demon King's Manifestation started "glitching", its form beginning to melt.

Only one Altar left.

Chapter 1003: It's Now Or Never!

RUMBLE!

The Demon King of the End started glitching, his body couldn't hold his humanoid shape anymore, melting away as his manifestation seemed to be growing weaker and weaker! Yet, through sheer power of will, and perhaps all the demonic power he could muster, he kept trying to grow larger, inflating himself like a monstrous, fleshy balloon.

Now over half of the monsters summoned were beginning to fuse with his ever-growing aberrant body, countless tentacles surging everywhere. Horns, jaws, eyes, and arms started popping out of his body, as he began pushing Elayne back with sheer physical might and overwhelming size.

"I won't let youuuu...! I won't let you get the last one! THIS WORLD SHALL END! I SHALL BRING ITS END!"

The tentacles of the Demon King spread out into the surroundings of the pit, attempting to grab the last altar for himself! Elayne panicked, summoning the Divine Dragon Guardians from her transformation's Divine Skill effect.

A huge rainbow portal opened, as these guardians of all colors surged from within, descending over the monstrous Demon King's body and trying to stop him. They started attempting to restrain his movements, each one being a hundred meters tall.

The rest of her Spirit Draconic Beasts attacked from the skies, bombarding him constantly. Elayne's Divine Beast Familiars were among them, as she told them to not risk their lives too much, letting them fight from afar for the moment.

Meanwhile, her four other Avatars were fighting too. The two possessed by the Great Spirit and Titania's Spiritual Projection were doing all they could to stop the Demon King. The Great Spirit conjured enormous fields of farming, where she harvested out giant vegetables and launched them at the monster, creating tremendous explosions despite the funny appearance of her magic.

As for Titania, she flew with her big, purple and pink wings, releasing winds of light that released her wing's scales, releasing a deadly poisonous curse that started to weaken the demon king's defenses. At the same time, she conjured buffing magic on everyone and created swords of pink light, launching a hundred each.

The other Avatars being controlled by Elayne took care of the Demon King's back; however they were also being slowly overwhelmed. The tentacles and limbs popping out of nowhere constantly was becoming increasingly more difficult to overcome.

And even more now, as all his limbs reached the last Altar, which was being relentlessly guarded by the last 40 cultists together, alongside armies of thousands of Demonic, Undead, and Miasmatic Monsters.

Both from the skies and the earth, Elayne's entire party attacked them, yet they held off barely, enough for the Demon King to step towards them.

"No, stop him! Don't let him grab it!"

Elayne screamed as she quickly started to push forwards, activating more and more of her skills and spells, bombarding the Demon King with all the magic she could muster. All her allies behind her were also going all-out, constant and endless explosions bombarding the aberrant manifestation.

She tried to fly towards the mass of limbs and tentacles attempting to grab the altar, but she was being constantly stopped by more and more of those tentacles. As long as the last altar was destroyed, this nightmare would finally end!

However, no matter what, the cultists and the Demon King were not giving up!

"We will bring an end to this world, no matter what!!!"

"We will avenge Lord Erebus!!!"

"He shall make the Gods pay back!!!"

"Take my life, my lord! Take it all!!!"

The cultists screamed in unison as the magic they've been building out of their comrades' blood and flesh activated. A large pentagram opened up, engulfing them and the altar into a black hole that suddenly opened a portal, a gate, above the Demon King's maws.

And the Demon King opened his jaws, and ate them all, everything.

"Shit..."

Elayne's eyes widened in shock as the Demon King's entire body began to overflow with power. After having devoured thousands of monsters and the last cultists, alongside the very last altar, something started to happen!

"GRUAHAHAHA!"

His form became more defined, as he was slowly trying to attempt to become "truer" to his appearance within Hell! Red skin covered his humanoid form, black scales wrapped his skin like armor, a giant reptilian head with six crimson eyes and eight black horns, nine long tails, eight muscular arms.

This was perhaps only a partial manifestation of him, but for the first time, everyone saw it, a part, an aspect, of the Demon King of the End! The bastard that killed and ate the Gods and destroyed Arcadia.

His body began to grow larger and larger, a monstrous being of almost a kilometer of height started to slowly form, his giant arms attempting to crawl out of the pit!

An endless sea of demonic flames washed it all, yet Elayne's {Immunity} Status made her Domain relentlessly fight back, taking no damage whatsoever, creating a bizarre sight where a pristine forest was being constantly bathed by the infernal flames of hell!

However, this buff was only temporary, Elayne only had roughly 6 more minutes before her transformation were to end, and so all her divine skills would also disappear with it.

"You've gotta be fucking kidding me!" Rita screamed. "Fuck, fuck, FUCK! Okay, take it all, take fucking everything out of me, bastard!"

Suddenly, Rita flew into the skies as she spent all her Malice Essence spent, activating her strongest Spell, further boosted by the power of her Divine Fusion Skill that allowed her body to transform even more into a half dark dragon elf, the {Abyssal Void Dark Dragonborn Elf Embodiment} Skill.

"{Abyssal Void Darkness Magic}: {Nether Gates Of The Void}!"

RUMBLE!

Suddenly, everyone watched in disbelief as the skies above the Demon King trembled, a crack in space opened, as Rita spent everything she had, even her health points were going down.

And from within the portal, an enormous gate appeared, opening up rapidly, and revealing an endless, spiraling black void inside.

And from within, countless red eyes opened, and countless black tentacles surged, rushing down towards the Demon King!

"Uugh?! What the...?!"

The Demon King of the End was stopped by Rita manifesting a monstrosity out of nowhere, and everyone was shocked!

"What are you sitting and looking at?! Hurry and deal with it, QUICKLY!"

Rita gritted her teeth.

"On it!"

Elayne and her party roared in unison, the entire group rushing towards the final boss.

It was now or never!

Chapter 1004: One Last Push!

As Rita grew stronger and evolved her magical abilities, her "Gates of the Underworld" Spell, an ultimate Spell that consumed all her Malice Essence naturally become stronger as well, as did all her spells.

However, to release its true potential, she first needed to transform using her Divine Fusion Skill and channel the power of the Void Dragon Spirit Soul she was cultivating within her very being.

This power was one of immense strength, but it came at the cost of consuming her life force rapidly. Without Elayne's domain, Rita would have already dropped dead from summoning this enormous gate, an upgrade that didn't led to the Underworld anymore, but to a completely separate realm.

One where only the Void, and whatever resided in it existed. And that thing, what resided within the void, it moved. And it acted. Unable to find a logic explanation as to where exactly this thing came from, Rita conjured the spell.

The monstrous entity whispered into her ears words she couldn't understand, she simply focused on what she was doing right now. To maintain the gate and to keep the Demon King at bay. Thankfully, the system provided her with protection against mind controlling powers and so on, so the whispers of this strange void entity did not affect her!

However, it wasn't as if the monster needed to be understood, as long as she offered her energies, he would feed and he would fight happily. His gigantic tentacles relentlessly wrapped around the Demon King's body, his arms tightly wrapped, and stopping his movements!

"W-What is this?! Who are you?! AARRGH!"

The Demon King of the End had absolutely no idea what this thing was! Elayne for a second wondered why the system would even let someone summon such a monstrosity.

However, there was absolutely no time to think about it anyways. Her entire army clashed against the Demon King, shredding through, slashing through, and smashing through his flesh.

Everyone, absolutely everyone was here!

"I won't let you move! Freeze!"

Skadi released her frost magic at full power, beginning to freeze a part of the Demon King's face.

"My Beast Spirits, go!"

Johanna summoned and channeled all the Beast Spirits she had contracted, unleashing a stampede of their manifestations.

"RAAARRR!"

Acorn transformed, becoming a gigantic and muscular divine squirrel monster, biting, gnawing, and releasing beams of light from his jaws.

"Dammit! I definitely shouldn't be here!"

Ambil unleashed his full powers he had been accumulating after leveling so freaking much, his hammer growing up to a hundred times its original size, composed entirely of his flames, as he started smashing the demon king's head with it.

"I'll use everything I have too, everything, absolutely everything! To become one with the Earth, even the one of the Demon King Continent!"

Lily transformed, commuting with the corrupted and miasmic Earth of the Demon King continent as she relied on Elayne's healing to resist the miasma coursing through her ever growing and expanding body.

This was Lily's Soul-Bound Divine Fusion Skill: {Spiritual Divine Mother of the Earth}!

A giantess made of black stone and Demonite surged from the ground, and then a second, a third, a fourth! She controlled it all, even as she felt it burned and hurt.

Lily unleashed a barrage of physical blows; the Demon King was being punched constantly!

"ENOUGH WITH YOU!"

However, with a furious and demonic roar, the Demon King unleashed a shockwave of demonic energies of high corruption levels, pushing almost everyone back.

TRUUUMMM!

Yet Lily resisted and used her many "doppelgangers" to protect everyone else, while continuously hitting the demon king more and more, forming giant spears of black Demonite and diamond.

At the same time, Elena attacked with all her might, all her skills all her spells, everything. countless slashing attacks reached the demon king, his body slowly beginning to give up!

However, he bit his own flesh and started to regenerate, eating himself!

"I WON'T GO DOWN!"

"Are you sure about that, buddy?!"

BAAAM!

However, a massive blazing fist punched the Demon King's face and then reached his chest, a barrage of punches, in fact! This was followed by a myriad metallic feather projectiles piercing and slashing through the demon king.

It was Mark, of course!

"Keep going at it, don't stop!"

As he roared, Angelina appeared from above, her Archangel Form quickly phasing through the Demon King's magic attacks and beginning to destroy most of his arms. Her magic attack struck his face and chest, beginning to slowly open up a large wound.

"Use that wound, abuse it! Keep hitting it there!"

"Let's fucking do it!"

Elayne roared, her body beginning to transform as she saw everyone working together! Inspired, she transformed, channeling her equipment abilities and her skills one more time.

FLASH!

Suddenly, the skies opened, as an angel-like being surged from the skies and descended into Elayne's draconic body, covering her with an aura of holiness and divinity! Her appearance became more defined, resembling a white and silver colored dragon with feathered angelic wings.

[You have activated the [Gaia's Yggdrasil Valkyrie Orichalcum Torso Armor] Ability: {Valkyrie's Descent}!]

[A Valkyrie has descended into your body, enhancing all your capabilities, temporarily changing your appearance and increase All Stats, Holy Light Power, and Weapon Skill Power by +500%!]

[Duration: 5 Minutes.]

"Not enough...!"

Suddenly, she activated her other Divine Beast Skill, the one that had just recently evolved. Her entire body twisted, gaining black scales and tentacles monstrosly surging from her back, resembling long whips.

Red eyes spread through her entire body, contrasting with her previous transformation! Elayne's draconic form took an even more drastic appearance change, as she resembled a dragon of both holy light and pure darkness and void.

[You have activated the [Space-Warping Eldritch Spirit Body] Skill Effects, transforming into the Eldritch Embodiment of your own abilities!]

[You've become an Eldritch Spirit, an Abyssal embodiment of your very being. Once transformed, your Stats increase by +1109%. Your Mana and Spiritual Essence are being constantly drained, however.]

[Duration: 10 Minutes.]

"RAAAHHH!"

With a furious and monstrous roar, Elayne clashed against the Demon King of Death. Her Aura of Holy Light and Dark Void combining together with all six of her swords, fusing into a massive spear of pure holiness and darkness.

She had never felt this burning sensation through every inch of her body! She was combining elements that clashed against one another, constantly destroying her insides and even weakening her soul!

"DON'T YOU DARE STOP MEEEE!"

The Demon King hit Elayne in her three heads, almost destroying them! Even with all this power, she wasn't able to damage him properly. His wound was already beginning to recover.

"More... I need more power...! Everyone, please!"

Yet she kept moving forwards, golden threads connecting her to her Divine Beasts shone brightly, her Familiars suddenly turned into masses of light, fusing into her body temporarily, giving her even more power.

[You have activated the [Divine Beast's Spirit Soul Fusion] Divine Spell!]

[Temporarily, all your Divine Beast Spirits have fused into your very soul! You gained a bonus based on 50% of all their Stats!]

[Duration: 5 Minutes.]

At that moment, Elayne's giant black and white sword finally felt like she was piercing through. The burning flesh and black scales of the Demon King of the End began to slowly disintegrate.

Void, Divine Light, and all her other elements converged together into something all-consuming.

And then her sword struck it, the last Altar that was guarded within the Demon King's chest.

Crack, crack...!

"N-NO...!"

The Demon King of the End attempted to grab Elayne's body with his enormous arms, only to be stopped by everyone else.

"S-Stop...!"

Crack...!

"NOOOO!"

As he screamed in agony, the last altar was destroyed, shattered into pieces and then turned into fine dust.

CRASH!

"GUUUAAAGGGHHH!"

The manifestation of the Demon King of the end trembled in utter agony, his entire body melting and beginning to disappear, as Elayne's gigantic spear released all its powers, her foe's body exploding.

BOOOMMM!!!

The Demon King fell into pieces into the depths of the pit, as the flames coming from beneath attempted to rush towards her, forming a massive hand!

"I'LL TAKE YOU WITH MEEEE!"

As it was about to grab Elayne, a massive hundred-layered shield of rainbow-colored magic emerged below her, shielding her from the attack!

BAAAM!

Elayne glanced towards the origin of it, it was Brisingra, of course!

"Lady Planta, please end this!"

Elayne nodded with her draconic heads, charging her power into her spear.

"RAAAHHH!"

However, the Demon King attempted to keep fighting even from the depths of hell, more and more blazing hands surged from below.

Yet...!

"{Absolute Divine Time Magic}: {Chrono Stasis}!"

TRUUUM!

All the blazing arms stopped moving instantly, captured within a domain where time stopped completely.

It was of course, the doing of Mercedes.

Her Mana and her life force were being consumed to conjure an incredibly powerful spell.

"Do it... PLANTA!"

As she cried, Planta already had her powers completely accumulated within the tip of her massive spear.

"You really don't know when to give up, don't you?!"

She pointed the spear down.

"Go back to hell and think about what you've done!"

FLAAASH!

The giant spear descended towards hell, piercing all the blazing hands at once and destroying them.

An explosion of bright light and all-consuming dark void reached the pit's depths, quickly making all the stone around it collapse down.

BOOOMMM!!!

Another enormous explosion consumed everything, as the rubble completely covered the pit, sealing the only entrance the Demon King of the End had to reach the surface!

As Elayne watched the scene in silence, her sword and her shovel appeared by her side, as if teleporting towards her, this was the power of soul-bound weapons such as these.

"You made it back..." She sighed in relief. "I think... I think it's finally over now."

A wave of purifying light passed through the entire continent, purifying the miasma and leaving behind vegetation everywhere.

The once corrupted continent where only death and miasma existed, was now lush green, as the beautiful sun slowly descended from the horizon.

Chapter 1005: Dungeon Complete

I felt my body beginning to slowly fall apart into pieces, as my small body fell from the skies, hundreds of meters above the ground below.

After having destroyed the Demon King's manifestation and then filling that hole so it couldn't come out from hell anymore, the rest of the Demon King Continent was purified.

For some reason, the miasma was cleansed completely through the powers of my attacks, and greenery grew through every single corner of this continent.

There were no more strange miasmatic tentacles, miasmatic swamps, or any other sort of toxic wasteland.

Instead, it had become a beautiful world of greenery, forests, plants, and spirits.

As I fell, I saw Mark fly towards me.

"Elayne!"

Reducing his size into his humanoid form, and then flying with his phoenix wings, he caught me as I fell, gently carrying me with his arms.

"Mark! We did it... We did it!"

I couldn't help but celebrate as he held me with his arms, I hugged him tightly, and then kissed him.

"Yeah... I know, hahaha!"

Mark couldn't help but laugh cheerfully as well.

Every victory had to be celebrated, even if small, even if this world might just be a dungeon simulation.

It was something we all achieved together, with all our efforts!

"What a beautiful sight," Mark looked at the horizon, the sun slowly setting down, as the night slowly began to veil the skies. Beautiful stars shone brightly on top of the night sky, as the moons slowly emerged, shining like colorful jewels.

"Looks like it's night already," I said. "Hmm, I wonder if the entire world will now be deleted once the dungeon is completed?"

"At the beginning, it did say it was a place where Players could come, so perhaps it'll open up for everyone now..." said Mark.

"We'll see, I suppose..."

Slowly, we descended into the lush greenery down below, our entire party, friends and family, greeted us happily as we reached the floor. The remains of the cult, the demonic beasts, and everything had disappeared completely.

"Planta!"

"You're back!"

"Are you alright, Lady Planta?!"

"My liege!"

I was greeted by most of my friends, especially the NPC friends, they were all happy to see me fine and dandy. I think that last transformation took a toll on me though, I feel really exhausted both physically, mentally, and also from my soul.

"I'm fine, I'm fine. No need to worry so much," I giggled. "Acorn, you can stop using skills, I'm fine."

"O-Okay, I was worried, your body almost completely disintegrated after that!" Acorn said. "I grew really worried..."

"It's fine dear," I giggled, patting his fluffy head.

"Mom!" Elena hugged me tightly. "That was so amazing! You fucking nailed it, for real!"

"Hahaha, I'm glad you enjoyed the show?" I said. "Though, watch your language dear!"

"A-Ah, sorry," she apologized, feeling embarrassed. "Anyways, are we done with the Dungeon yet? Is this world going to end or something?"

"Hmmm, I don't know. We'll need to check what's next. How's Mercedes and the other soldiers?" I asked. "And Brisingra!"

"They're fine," Angelina appeared behind me, descending from the skies, her Archangel Transformation slowly deactivating as she went back to normal. "Pheh... I feel so tired for some reason. This game is really good at simulating all of these things."

"Y-Yeah, I guess," I laughed along, while resisting the impulse of telling her that such exhaustion might be as real as it can get. "Mercedes!"

"Ah, Planta!" she ran towards me, hugging me. "Thank you, thank you so much for what you've done!"

"I-It's fine..." I sighed. "But... Now what do we do?"

"Huh?" Mercedes wondered. "What do you mean?"

Didn't she truly understand that this world was a dungeon? Or maybe she doesn't remember that?

Also the world is still here, it's strange. Is there some cooldown to it before it resets?

Ding!

[Congratulations! You and your Party have completed the Scenario 4/4: {Defeat the two Divine Beasts guarding the Ancient Ruins and Escape with Mercedes!}]

[You've done it, with your friends, with everyone together, you've stopped the manifestation of the Demon King of the End, and you've saved the future that couldn't be saved before.]

[With this event, the Demon King will be unable to destroy Cloudia, and the Demon King of Miasma will never resurrect as the Continent of the Demon King has been cleansed of all the Miasma that would have given birth to him.]

[Yggdrasil is now safe, and it will continue to grow stronger, protecting not only the continent of Verdant, but the rest of the world of Arcadia.]

[You've successfully completed all four scenarios of the Divine Dungeon.] Exclusive content from m,v le

[Scenario Requirements]: [Defeat the Cultists: 227/227 (Complete)] [Stop the Summoning: 1/1 (Complete)] [Protect Mercedes: 1/1 (Complete)]

[Completion Rewards]: [+14.500.000 Score Points]

[Current Score]: [30.000.000]

[You've reached the Maximum Score possible! You will receive the best rewards once you exit the Dungeon.]

[Once you exit the Dungeon, the Divine Dungeon will be reset.]

[You can only stay here for some time before the Dungeon automatically kicks everyone out and resets.]

[Time Remaining: 24 Hours.]

So it's really going to disappear. Everything we built, everyone we talked to, and even Mercedes. Little Titania, everyone...

"..." I sighed, feeling rather despaired. "It was nice meeting you, Mercedes. You're an amazing woman, and you endured so much... I hope you are well, wherever you are now."

"E-Eh?" Mercedes felt flustered. "What... What do you mean with that?"

"I... The Dungeon, this entire world, the Past. We accessed it through a dungeon. But now we've completed all objectives. The Dungeon will reset in 24 hours. It'll go back to nothing..." I sighed. "I'm sorry..."

"S-So that's... That was it, huh?" Mercedes took the truth surprisingly well. "I see... After that breakdown I had, I have somehow guessed it was like that... This, everything, it's not real, right? The past cannot be changed..."

"I'm sorry!" I started crying, as I hugged her tightly. "I wish I could do something; I don't want this world to go away..."

"Planta..." Mercedes started crying as well. "I'm grateful for your friendship, and for showing me how beautiful my daughter in the future would be... That is enough for me."

The sun slowly and finally set beyond the horizon, as the moonlight illuminated this melancholic night.

Chapter 1006: The End Of The Past

Sir Crimson and his knights were unaware of all that might happen within a day's time, and they seemed tired and happy. We decided to sit down and celebrate, despite this world resetting soon enough, we wanted to spend the little time we had with those we met and treasure.

This is why we ended moving back to Verdant, where we greeted little Titania, her little Divine Beasts, and Yggdrasil. All of them greeted us, and even Yggdrasil spoke, congratulating our victory.

"Well done, Planta. Everyone... I am so happy you were able to save the past," she spoke. "I am so tired now... I've spent a lot of my energies. But it'll recover in some time. It was a worthy sacrifice to save the world and everything else."

"It's fine... I'm happy that things are well now," I sighed. "Thank you for trusting us, Yggdrasil, and for giving us your power."

"No, please forgive me for not trusting you sooner," Yggdrasil commented. "Now, please, rest here as much as you want. This place is your home now. I don't know when you must return, but you can stay as long as you desire."

"Thank you..." I nodded, still feeling rather sad.

"The people of Cloudia have already received the news through an artifact," said Sir Crimson. "Everyone is celebrating! I wish we could go, but I suppose it'll take some time. Let's spend the night in here with everyone, my knights."

"Oooh!"

"Let's celebrate!"

"Let's cook something, whatever we find!"

"Man, I'm so hungry..."

"Anybody got some wine?"

The knights that accompanied us quickly started to scatter around the palace of little Titania, deciding to make a big feast.

"It's amazing what you did, everyone!" little Titania giggled happily. "I'm so happy you helped us save the world! I will bring all the fruits I can! Wait here please!"

She flew away with her little wings, reaching the branches of the many trees surrounding Yggdrasil and picking hundreds of delicious fruits with her magic, bringing them back with the help of her Divine Beast siblings.

"Mom, are you alright?" Elena asked me. "You look so sad, is it because the world's resetting?"

"Yeah," I nodded. "I just don't know what to do... It makes me frustrated I can't do a single thing. And at the same time, it makes me think it would be too selfish to try doing that. After all, this past, this world... It is a fabrication, no matter how real it feels."

"It kind of feels like I felt when I didn't know Arcadia was actually a real world and existed," My daughter said. "I always wished this world was real, and that everything I was doing was real too... It made me depressed to think it was just all an illusion, just a video game that would one day shut down its servers and be forgotten."

All the people in the game, all the NPC, their stories, their world, it would all end..."

"Elena..." I sighed. "I guess I did feel like that back then too, when I started playing and everything. Although learning about Arcadia being real brought a lot of dangers to the world, it also made me happy to learn it wasn't just a video game..."

"Honestly, me too." my daughter nodded. "But now, there's nothing much we can do about it, unfortunately."

"Yeah..." I sighed. "Let's move on, I suppose. Let's spend the last hours with these people together and enjoying a good meal. It's the least we could give to them."

Like that, we spent the rest of the night eating, talking, and laughing. I tried my best to cheer up, but every time I remembered Mercedes, little Titania, Yggdrasil, and even all the people of Cloudia would disappear, it made me feel melancholic, and any appetite I had disappeared instantly.

The night went by, and then the morning came. I looked at the sun slowly rise. In a few more hours, this world, and everything would disappear. I noticed Brisingra being with her mother, Mercedes, spending the last hours together.

"Dad misses you a lot..." Brisingra sighed. "I know you are not from the time you met him but... He always has you inside his heart."

"I see..." Mercedes sighed. "I wish I could stay with you, Brisingra. I could have never guessed I would have such a brilliant and strong daughter like you one day."

"A-ahaha, I am not that brilliant," Brisingra giggled. "I'm kind of clumsy most of the time... I am too reckless, and almost got myself killed once."

"Well, to me, those are the traits of someone with a strong heart that would put their lives before their friends," Mercedes said. "That is, by itself, an incredible trait for a leader and a ruler. To want to protect your people no matter what. I think you'll become a good queen once you inherit your father's throne, dear."

"I-I don't know... I am still thinking about everything. I am too young anyways," Brisingra shrugged. "Once I get older, and more knowledgeable, and experienced... I think I might give it a go."

"You'll be fine, trust me," Mercedes giggled. "Now... Well, isn't this a beautiful morning?"

"Y-Yeah..." Brisingra nodded. "Hey, mom... Are you really going to disappear after a few hours?"

"I-I think so..." Mercedes nodded. "This time I won't panic or go crazy though. I have already made peace with myself. Whatever happens, it happens..."

"But mom..." Brisingra started crying. "I don't want you to go!"

Brisingra hugged her mother as Mercedes sighed, hugging her back by embracing her with her arms.

"I'm sorry, but the real me is already dead, Brisingra..." Mercedes cried. "I am nothing than something created by this Dungeon, and-"

"That doesn't matter! You're my mom! And I don't care how you came to be..." the half-elf girl said. "I've always wanted to meet you!"

"I'm sorry, Brisingra..." Mercedes kept crying. "But you need to move on, you need to keep moving... Your world is real, so please, keep moving forward with it. And do your best... For your father, and for me, okay?"

"Ugh..." Brisingra tried her best to resist her tears. "O-Okay..."

Chapter 1007: Using The System Administrator Privilege

After looking at Brisingra and Mercedes talk, I also noticed another endearing conversation, right behind me, where Titania's Spiritual Projection and little Titania were talking.

"Will I one day really become like you, big sis?" Little Titania asked, with endearing innocence.

"Yes... You will one day become like me," Titania smiled. "You will become big, and strong... A-And you will be able to protect your people too."

Despite her words that seemed cheerful, Titania was also sorrowful, she had already learned all of this would disappear soon enough.

"And will I also make a lot of friends like you did?" Little Titania kept asking.

"Yeah, yes, you will..." Titania nodded.

"And... What's wrong? Why are you so sad?" Little Titania asked. "You should be happy instead! You won!"

"I-I... I guess so, yeah," Titania nodded, hugging her little self.

"Eh?" Little Titania was surprised by the sudden hug.

"I'll never forget you..." Titania started crying. "My younger self... You'll always remain within me, okay?"

"Huh? O-Okay..." Little Titania was confused, but ended accepting the hug, and hugging Titania back as well.

As I watched the scene, I felt even more frustrated with myself.

What was the point of everything?

Of all these bonds we made...

If everything is going to the damn gutter once we're done?

And wasn't this Dungeon made using a Time Memory Fragment? Maybe there's a way.

If it's truly a fragment of time, perhaps it is not completely just an illusion, maybe these are truly the memories of the past given life.

Then... what can I do? How can I change this?

I remember there was something... Something I had gotten.

It was back then when Mercedes lost her stability and began to distort everything within the "world" of the past.

I had gotten a special, and strange reward.

It was...

Ah, right!

[System Administrator Privileges]!

I think it was a one-time use thingy? But I would only get it once the dungeon is over, right?

Then it would be useless, unless...

"Hey, Helper, are you there?"

FLASH!

Suddenly, an old friend appeared before me.

Made of white and silver light, it was the Helper Spirit every Player gets.

He has been helping me in the background since the beginning of my journey, and even now, he's there.

"Yeah, I know what you want," he already had guessed. "You want to use your [System Administrator Privileges] even though you haven't received it yet, right?"

"Yes..." I nodded. "Is it possible?"

"Hmmm... I'll have to ask the Administrators or the System Synapsis itself... But after all we've gone through, I also kind of feel bad about this. Let me ask them," he said.

"T-Thank you so much!" I almost cried.

"No need to start crying..." he sighed, disappearing.

Hah...

I guess that's that.

He might take longer than-

FLASH!

"I'm back."

"Eh?! So fast!"

"The Administrators say they want to meet you first before letting you use the privilege, because they know what you want to use it for already."

"Already?"

"Of course, it is as clear as looking at your crybaby face, Planta!"

"Okay... Just what are these Administrators? The Gods, right?"

"No, while the Gods manage the world, the quests, and the Players, Administrators are different." Said the Helper Spirit. "They manage the deepest areas of the System, what makes everything work as intended. This even includes how the world changes and transforms by the System's powers. The Gods have a saying, they can usually vote if they're on favor or not of things.

But they... they are the ones that decide when things happen."

"I had no idea these people existed..." I sighed. "Wait, could they be related to Nexus Corporations? The ones that launched BNLO and-"

"It's better for you to meet them yourself." The Helper Spirit said. "I don't have the right to speak any further, so please, let me bring you there."

"Wait, you're bringing me there- Uwaah!"

FLASH!

The Helper Spirit grabbed me and teleported me away in an instant. I found my entire body traveling through many strange membranes, as if each membrane separated the world itself.

Eventually, my body dropped over a cold, white floor. Everywhere I looked, there was endless darkness, and four giant pillars standing around the white floor.

There was a faint light above the skies, a gigantic white and silver colored crystal, which was connected to... everything.

I saw millions after millions of circuits of blue light, connected through the darkness, which expanded beyond it, and probably to the world of Arcadia itself.

I saw countless system windows appear across the darkness, connecting endless across a sea of information and electromagnetic energies.

Where...

Where am I?!

The four pillars trembled, rumbling, as four figures made themselves clear to my eyes amidst the darkness. The light of the giant crystal illuminating their existences.

I couldn't discern how they properly looked even as I glanced though, it was as if my eyes themselves couldn't comprehend what they were aside from... an outside appearance.

But even then, it was confusing, and my head hurt the more I looked at them.

"What is this... place?" I asked. "A-Are you...? Are you the Administrators?"

"We are."

"You must be Planta."

"We have been looking at you since you created your account."

"You are one of the few that carry the forbidden knowledge of BNLO."

They spoke one after another, as if their minds were connected. I could barely discern, the first one resembled a child. I couldn't tell which child. The second was a tall man, wearing some sort of black suit. The third was a woman, a young woman wearing a ballet dress, I think? And the fourth was an old man, with a long beard, I think he had glasses and was carrying a book.

"I am known as Entertainment, nice to meet cha!"

"I am Balance. It is hard to keep an eye on you."

"I am Gameplay! I make things be nice and dandy!"

"I am the Archiver, but others call me Story. I weave an endearing world."

They all had simple titles; it represented an aspect of BNLO as a videogame.

The four aspects that make a videogame.

Entertainment, Balance, Gameplay, and Story!

Chapter 1008: Meeting The Administrators

Entertainment, Balance, Gameplay, and Story.

The four basic requirements for a videogame.

And even as Arcadia is actually a real world, these are still necessary.

Why? Because the world itself seems to be maintained by the power of the System, which has transformed it all into a videogame-like world.

From what I've learned from that dungeon, it appears the past had no such game-like powers. People seemed to cultivate Mana and Ki into their bodies, and they mostly used martial arts and spells.

They had no levels at all either! No Skills, and no items. There were things called Relics, which was the closest to equipment, but they worked using divine power.

However, this world was much different than what it is now. Events, Quests, Items, Skills, Levels, Players, everything in between, such things did not exist.

Therefore, when the System appeared, somehow took over everything, and reconstructed it all back from what was left, these four Administrators were created.

I don't know if they're real people, or if they're beings beyond humans or players, but I know something. Their presences alone seemed to be linked with the most basic and profound aspects of the System.

I don't know how everything truly went, but I am fairly sure the System was what "revived" Arcadia after its destruction by the hands of the Demon King of the End in the original timeline.

But where did the System come from?

That is... Something I can't even guess.

"We've called you here for a reason." The Archivist spoke. "And I believe you must have already guessed for what reason it was."

"I..."

"You want to use the privilege we've granted you as a reward for fixing that error to do something unthinkable, right? Right? Heheh!" Entertainment laughed childishly. "That's so fun! Can't we let her do it?"

"That doesn't feel balanced at all. In fact, I've been eyeing you for a long while, Player Planta. You've been granted already many privileges and an unbalanced power and build because you are one of the holders of the Forbidden Knowledge," Balance talked with the voice of a sharp and intelligent young man. "You've been serving the System well, keeping your own world safe from the threats of Arcadia.

That, we recognize you for. However, what you want is too much."

"Think about the gameplay! Wouldn't it be disastrous for the other Players if they suddenly can't no longer access the special Dungeon we prepared?" sighed Gameplay. "Though... You do have the privilege."

"We've already taken into consideration any crazy thing you might try, and we offered you the Privilege, nonetheless. Because we know how you are, and we know we can trust your common sense," the Archivist said, also known as Story. "But what you're asking is different here. You're requesting us to grant you access to the privilege beforehand, for a reason we didn't expect you to take."

"This, by itself, is a very big problem." Balance spoke, readjusting his glasses.

"B-But this is my reward, and I may choose to use it however I want, right?" I asked them. "That error... I fixed it for you guys! Something that could have escalated into something EVEN worse! You shouldn't limit when I can use what you've given to me. I think this would be a rule of the system, right?"

I have the right over my own things; therefore, it would be against the rules if you want to take that right away..."

"Hmph! You dare speak in such a tone?" Balance got furious. "Let me tell you that such an error was provoked by the NPC you brought along to begin with! You should have never let that mentally unstable girl inside your Dungeon!"

"You're talking about Brisingra?!" I asked. "YOU should be the one to watch your tone! I've been solving all of YOUR problems back on Earth as well! Without me... How much destruction would your little "game" could have already caused?"

"Tsk, that's that, and this is this, two different subjects!" Balance tried to argue against me. "And you're merely a Player at the end of the day. Respect the Administrators, or we will TERMINATE your account!"

"Enough." The Archivist spoke, Balance quickly went silent. "Balance, I understand your concern, and your frustration with Planta's unbalanced strength. But you must also understand that, beyond gameplay, we are dealing with a real world here, with people and their lives. We are trying to figure out how this mess of a world can be saved over time.

And the strength she was given was to fight the threats that sometimes, go beyond what we calculate."

"So you're saying that we should let her do whatever she wants? That Divine Dungeon is too precious and powerful to given to a Player! She's already a World Boss, how many privileges do you plan to give to her?" Balance argued.

"Well, she was the only one capable of entering the Divine Dungeon to begin with, and she acquired it through her connection with the Inheritance of Hephaestus." Spoke the Archivist. "The story does not lie! It has been weaved by me after all. Balance is good, but too much will always make a story feel too restrictive."

"This is why I sometimes believe you never take into consideration the Balance of the gameplay." Sighed Balance. "And-"

"Ahem!" I quickly interrupted their rant. "Can you two please stop ranting? I have come here to ask for your help, not to watch you argue... Am I giving you that much work?"

"Yes, you are!" All four of them said at the same time.

"A-Ah..." I sighed. "I'm sorry..." I lowered my head.

I realized I got too cocky because I was still affected by the sadness I felt, but that was wrong. I had to be more respectful with these Administrators, they're probably constantly working for everything to work properly.

"..."

"..."

"..."

"..."

All four of them remained in silence after I apologized.

Wow, did that work?

"I suppose... Well, apologies accepted," sighed Balance. "Don't lower your head now, Planta."

"It's fine!" Entertainment giggled. "Thank you for all your help so far though!"

"Truly, you've helped a lot... Yes, we had to admit that at least," nodded Gameplay.

"I agree. Thank to you, the story I've weaved is slowly becoming even better," the Archivist said.

"Ah, I'm glad we can get along..." I sighed in relief. "S-So?"

Chapter 1009: Doing The Impossible

"Can it be done? Please? I want to... I want to save those people." I explained. "Even if they are an illusion, or perhaps fragments of the past given life. They're all precious and important to me now. If I let them all go away... It would be so tragic.

Not only me, but Brisingra and Titania too, they would miss them a lot. And also... Well, I would miss Yggdrasil. I think this is a perfect opportunity to learn from my predecessor, and... It is a bit tragic it's ending so soon."

The Administrators remained in silence as they looked at one another.

Then, they started to speak in a language I couldn't understand at all.

It was confusing, and the more I tried to discern what they spoke, the more my entire head hurt, so I stopped even trying.

Yet it seemed that after a few minutes of talking, they concluded, and it was Balance who spoke.

"We've spoken and taken some decision." Said Balance. "However, before we even reveal you anything, we need you to first understand what is happening in that Dungeon, Planta."

"O-Okay." I nodded. "Please, if possible, tell me."

"Okay, so let's begin from the... Well, beginning," sighed Balance. "We won't reveal everything to you, but we will explain you a few things, without too many "spoilers" as my friend here calls them."

"It's important to not reveal the story ahead of time!" said the Archivist.

"Yeah, yeah. I agree, it is part of Balance to also have a balanced story with ups and downs, spoiling everything would make it really boring after all," Balance nodded. "Now, you must already know these things already. How the world ended after the Demon King of the End appeared, right? His destruction was to such a level that even the fabric of time and space was shattered.

This caused these fragments of time to appear. From what we've learned, the System used these fragments of the world, time, and space, to reconstruct Arcadia. However, there were some fragments of time that should have disappeared originally, but that remained despite being from the past. Most likely because of the immense "trauma" such parts of time experienced.

One of such is the Time Memory Fragment that created the Divine Dungeon where you're located."

"W-Wow..." I nodded. "I mean, yeah, I had guessed that the System somehow reconstructed the destroyed world, but getting it explained officially is incredible."

"I suppose it couldn't be helped, you already guessed it anyways," shrugged the Archivist.

"And so, those traumas, get back on topic please, were made into these dungeons." Gameplay explained.

"So history was scarred so much that such pieces of the past were frozen, and left fragments of the memory of time..." I nodded. "I think I get it now, and they're only five?"

"There are more, but those five were the biggest ones, capable of being made into the Divine Dungeons of Cloudia. They were made to both offer a great amount of challenges, and also to introduce the history of the world to Players," the Archivist explained.

"Their original purpose is to spread knowledge of the past. To take that away and make it yours would be unthinkable, as it would go against our vision," Balance explained.

"But those people..." I sighed. "They might be fragments of the past, but they're alive. To reset the dungeon, it would be the same as killing everyone there..."

"Hm..." Balance sighed. "That's why, let us finish what we were talking about."

"We were going to let you stop the Dungeon reset and keep it stable through the Privilege you acquired, one time use," said the Archivist.

"Wait, really?!" I gasped. "Thank you so much!"

"However." Entertainment said. "You'll have to do something for us!"

"Yep, because the Fragments of the Memories of Time are unstable, once one is kept stable through the powers of the privilege, the others might also need to be attuned! Or else, they might go through too many issues," Gameplay said.

"Therefore, if you take this one as your own responsibility, you'll also need to, once you find them, take the others, and connect them with the first fragment," said the archivist. "This was originally my plan, but it was scratched when Balance argued it would be too complicated for Players. However, you've proven that such a thing is not true."

"So you mean that I'll need to find the others and connect them somehow with the first one?" I asked them.

"More or less," Balance nodded. "It'll be a hard task, each Divine Dungeon is hard, and encompasses one time period of the past... To do this properly is a monumental task after all..."

"But if it's completed, we could create something brand-new. A Realm of its own, a Realm of the Fragments of the Past, we could call it... The Realm of Time!" the Archivist said. "Oh yeah, that's a good name! I have to write that down!" he started scribing his ideas on a book.

"So, Planta? Are you willing to take responsibility for all Fragments of Time Memories?" Balance asked. "If not... We'll have to reset."

"..."

I sighed, it was of course going to be a lot of work, but I wasn't going to give up anyways.

It was a lot of responsibility, yeah.

But so what?

As long as I can make my friends happy and keep the new friends I've made along the way with me.

Then it is totally worth it!

Mercedes...

Little Titania...

Yggdrasil!

The Elders, the people, the shopkeepers, the children playing in the streets.

Everyone...

I can't simply let them all disappear.

I'll save you, no matter what.

No matter how much it takes, I won't leave you behind.

"Of course. Leave it to me," I smiled. "I'll do it."

The four Administrators remained in silence and nodded.

"Hahaha! I knew it! She's crazy! But that's why we like her!" Entertainment giggled. "Planta, I am your big fan!"

"Somehow, this is the exact response I expected from you..." Sighed Balance. "You sure love bringing me headaches, but... I am with Entertainment there; you are someone incredible. I am looking forward to what you will do next, Planta."

"Not bad, fufu~" Gameplay giggled. "Geeh! I wonder what sort of new stuff you'll bring to this world now!"

"Very well," Story said. "Planta, I shall entrust in your hands this Story I've written... Because much like you, I am a sucker for happy endings."

"Thank you, everyone!"

FLASH!

Chapter 1010: The Past Cannot Be Erased

The timer above everyone's heads continued going down, and down, and down. The hours went by, and everyone looked at it with worried expressions in their faces. It wasn't just Titania and Brisingra, everyone here had grown fond of the people of this world, of the people of the past.

To let them all disappear was beyond cruel, yet there was little they could. Mark was looking at the forest in front of him, feeling the breeze, and waiting for Elayne to appear. It has been hours since she was gone, but he kept thinking she would return any time soon. He trusted her, and knew she would do the right thing, and take the right decision.

"Elayne..." He sighed, looking into the skies as the sun slowly began going down the horizon.

Titania held the hand of her little past self. She looked at the eyes filled with innocence she once held, and caressed her hair, while also being surrounded by her Beast siblings, the ones that died long ago.

A tear fell from her eyes, as she looked into the horizon, little Titania sleeping, resting her head over her shoulders.

"Is this really the end?"

Brisingra was sleeping over her mother's lap, as Mercedes glanced into the horizon in silence. Recalling her friends, and what had happened, she couldn't help but feel a tinge of both sadness and nostalgia.

Despite what they turned out to be at the end, she still loved them for what they were before, her friends. And despite them being dead, they remained within her heart.

She looked back at her daughter, there was a timer above her head. She knew this was the timer of her world to end, for everything to disappear again.

She caressed her future daughter's head, and smiled, as she started crying.

Despite having acted tough...

"I don't want to die..."

She couldn't help but feel fear.

Like any living being, she didn't want to die.

Not now, when she had finally found a new reason to keep on living.

"Brisingra... Forgive me."

Yggdrasil remained in silence as she watched the horizon. Within her divine soul, she felt something happening. The world itself was beginning to tremble, to change.

"Ah... So that was it, huh?" She wondered, having singlehandedly guessed that this world wasn't truly real. "The end of the world..."

The timer continued going down.

[00:00:14]

[00:00:12]

[00:00:10]

And down.

[00:00:8]

[00:00:6]

[00:00:5]

And down...

[00:00:4]

[00:00:3]

"Thank you, Planta..." Yggdrasil looked into the horizon. "For changing the past for us, even if... Even if it was all but an illusion. A happy ending... It was nice."

[00:00:2]

[00:00:1]

"Goodbye, Brisingra..."

Mercedes hugged her daughter tightly.

[00:00:00]

She closed her eyes shut, waiting for the wave of nothingness to consume her and make her entire being disappear.

For a moment, the world remained in an endless stillness. The sun remained where it was, and all the Players and NPC that had visited the Dungeon closed their eyes.

Yet...

The seconds continued passing, and nothing happened.

"Huh?"

Brisingra looked at the horizon in silence.

Sir Crimson looked at the sky.

The Elders looked at the sky.

Yggdrasil glanced into the clouds.

Little Titania slowly opened her eyes, greeting her "big sister".

"Big sis, I'm hungry... Let's eat some fruit together!"

"Huh?"

Titania was confused.

Brisingra opened her eyes.

"The timer... It's down, but... mom? You're still here?!"

"B-Brisingra...?"

Mercedes eyes widened, as she suddenly saw an explosion of bright white light emerge from above the skies, permeating the entire world.

FLAAASH!

She could see a figure floating above the skies. It was Planta, holding a beautiful, divine light in her hands, and spreading it everywhere.

The world started to "change", it was no longer just going to be a recreation. What wasn't there became real, flesh, matter, everything started to become real.

The skies, the wind, the clouds.

Yggdrasil herself.

The people!

"This little fragment of the past..." she said. "There is no way I am letting it go. You're staying with us!"

Why should she let go of the past, when it was right in her hands?

Planta decided to take matters into her own hands and change the future and the past.

And then the timer glitched and disappeared.

And the sun kept moving down the horizon, the night sky appeared, and then stars and the moons.

The world went on, and there was no reset.

"Oooh, I feel somewhat stronger..." Little Titania said. "Big sis, what happened?"

"T-This is...! P-Planta?!" Titania screamed, standing up as she looked at the sky.

"What's wrong with Lady Planta?" Little Titania asked.

"She made everything real, she made you real... Everyone, everyone here...!" Titania laughed, crying out of happiness. "Everyone!"

Brisingra was happy, hugging her mother as both laughed and cried.

"Mommy, you won't leave?! Does it mean you're going to stay?!" Brisingra smiled happily.

"I-I think so, yeah!" Mercedes kept crying. "S-She did it... Somehow, she did it!"

"Lady Planta...!" Brisingra looked into the skies, her eyes shining brightly with happiness.

Meanwhile, Yggdrasil had been left dumbfounded for a while, and then started to laugh.

"I-I can't believe it..." Yggdrasil laughed. "Hahah...! Planta, my successor! Now I can finally see why you were chosen! You... You truly have a noble heart!"

Not many realized what had happened in this "Past World", but everyone felt it. Something intrinsic within their very being, their own existences, they became much stronger.

The Elders looked into the sky through the window of their home.

"Hoh, what a beautiful night this is."

"I wonder when the heroes are coming back already?"

"We're preparing a great celebration, a festival. We have not had one in many years."

The heavens slowly went back to normal, as the white divine light that permeated the entire world slowly dissipated. The Divine Dungeon's interior stabilized, and changes were made.

Elayne recalled the words of Balance before returning.

"A perfect replica is impossible to maintain. The world will be reduced to a piece of its former self, but it'll cover all the areas you visited."

"Naturally, it involves every living being there as well, so don't worry. The Eastern Continent was not developed, so it wasn't included."

"Lastly, the Gods are naturally not replicated. So it will become a godless world. It will be your task to tell the inhabitants of the news."

"Oh, and the very, very last news, the System will slowly integrate its interior, meaning every inhabitant will gain a Status soon enough. NPC usually can't see it though, but they will notice the changes, such as being able to level up and obtain Skills. It is up to you to lead them now, Planta."

Elayne gripped her fists; she had a lot of work regarding this new World she had made. Especially when she felt its powers suddenly connecting with her very Soul.

"Oh, and don't forget this world will become connected with your Soul!"

Gameplay had told her that before she was whisked away.

Indeed, it was a lot of responsibilities and dangers.

But to see everyone happy and fulfilled, Elayne would have done it again.

She smiled, feeling happy, really happy.

"It didn't disappear..." She laughed happily. "It didn't disappear!"

As she laughed happily, she descended from the skies, and greeted her family and friends to tell them the news.