

Brand New 1041

Chapter 1041: Divine Golden Heaven Gourmet Arts

Moving on, the [Divine Aeternitas Dragon Spirit Agriculture: Lv9] Skill was also an upgraded Main Class Skill, it was the original Farmer Skill after all! It came with all the original effects, from domain creation to tile creation, farm plant growth boost, stat boosts while in certain terrains, and so on.

The new effects seemed to include the ability to combine Time Essence into Agriculture, greatly hastening the already super-fast creation of plants and spirits, and by that logic, also increasing the chances for stronger Spirits, Spiritual Plants, and other related things to emerge.

There was also something about a new Terrain called "Fragmented Time Terrain" which seemed to naturally decrease stats of a foe and slow them down by stealing their own Time... I'll have to experiment with that later.

And lastly, there was the [Divine Golden Heaven Gourmet Arts: Lv1] Skill, a direct evolution of the [Spiritual Cuisine and Alchemy] Skill, which seems to have become even stronger after receiving the "blessing" of the Ancient Chef of the Golden Mountain.

It could be said to be the new Main Class Skill, attached to the new Class I acquired. The Skill effects changed a lot I would say, and even its own description was almost unrecognizable, unlike the previous Skills, this one was reset to Level 1, so it probably means it has evolved into something completely different.

So let's see...

[Divine Golden Heaven Gourmet Arts: Lv1]

A Divine Subclass Skill that comes attached to the Mythic+++ Grade Subclass: [Disciple of the Ancient Chef Of The Golden Mountain], the only existing Subclass of such an incredible category.

It grants the ability to combine Ki, Mana, Spiritual Energy, and Divine Gourmet Essence together to conjure powerful mythical martial arts that combine the very essence of cooking and alchemy together as one.

While utilizing [Cooking], [Alchemy], and [Martial Arts] Skills, their effects are enhanced by +200%.

All Spirit-related Skills Power and Effects are enhanced by +100%.

When merging the effect of Cooking, Alchemy, Martial Arts, and Spirit-related Skills together, their total Power and Effects are enhanced by an additional +100%

Grants the ability to summon special Martial Gourmet Spirits to aid the user through their journey, these Spirits vary between Lesser, Normal, High, and Divine Grade. Their summoning time depends on the Skill Level.

The Quality of created Dishes and Items through Cooking and Alchemy respectively is enhanced by two Ranks, and there's a 90% chance to grant Special and Rare Effects.

There's a 90% chance for Martial Gourmet Spirits to be naturally summoned whenever the user practices Cooking, Cultivates, or Fights using these Martial Arts, which will assist the user in anything they can until they disappear.

The Divine Golden Heaven Gourmet Arts are unlocked with each Level, giving the ability to unleash devastating Martial Arts techniques against foes combining your comprehension of the Gourmet Dao, Ki, Spirit Energy, and Divine Gourmet Essence. The Power and Effects of such Arts increases by +200%

Available Golden Heaven Gourmet Arts:

Level 1: [Defense: Buddha's Golden Wok Shield] [Offense: Kali's Crimson Fork] [Mixing: Asura's Rampant Cutting Knife Slashes]

Level 2: ???

Oh, this sounds really strong! Martial Arts, it's really Martial Arts!

And they're based on... Cooking?

Wait, these names...

Buddha's Golden Wok Shield?

Kali's Crimson Fork?

And Asura's Rampant Cutting Knife Slashes.

They are all weird, but they're Martial Arts that use my own body to fight.

I need to try these later, I am quite excited about what they could even do.

But for now, let's just calm down, there'll be a time for everything.

"We're back! How is everyone doing? Did you girls evolve?" I wondered, walking into the smithy as I found Ambil working on his stuff.

"Yeah we did," nodded Rita. "Check me out, don't I look a bit different now~?"

I noticed Rita had already evolved, half her body now covered on learn black scales, it still showed her glossy brown skin in various areas, but the scales now covered her as if they were more clothes.

She now had three dragon horns, two spiraling ones at each side of her head and another red colored one in her forehead. Aside from that, her eyes were gold in color, shining brightly, and there was a black jewel in her chest, perhaps a Draconic Heart in development?

She even had a tail and little dragon wings, so she was definitely more dragon than elf, but not yet, maybe...

"Woah, you do! More black scales!" I said, teasing her a bit.

"Is that all you're going to say?! Look at yourself! What with the white hair?! And two pairs of eyes?! And three pairs of horns! And three... tails?"

And all that silver color..." Rita analyzed my appearance. "You sure changed..."

"Nah, I was joking, you also changed a lot, you look kind of cool! Aren't we like opposites?" I laughed.

"Yeah, we kind of fit one another more, like black and white and stuff? I kinda dig it!" Rita giggled. "I was an [Abyssal Draconian Elf Sorceress] but I became a [Dark Void Dragon Born Elf Witch], I think it's a

pretty good upgrade... from Draconian to Dragon Born. I can now freely manipulate the Element of Void without having to use Malice Energy to summon it too!"

"Oh, that sounds like a mighty upgrade! Maybe next evolution you'll become an actual dragon?!" I wondered. "You're the only one that has been continuously assimilating the dragon aspect the most, aside from me..."

"I'll definitely try to get there, yeah, why not?" laughed Rita. "Anything so I don't get to become a giant and ugly bat, it's better to become a majestic dragon instead..."

I think she was referencing her "Embodiment of the Night" Spell that allowed her to become a monstrous bat-like giant creature, it was a strong transformation, but I guess she doesn't like it...

"Well, aren't you forgetting someone?" Lily asked, showing her new form.

Although she remained relatively small compared to us, she had gained a couple more centimeters after her evolution, initiating as a Brownie, one of the smallest and cutest races out there, she had continuously evolved away from it, yet the origin remains with her size, haha...

Chapter 1042: New Evolutions

I guess Lily was the one that had changed the least amongst our main party, she remained almost the same. Well, aside from having grown a few little centimeters and looking a bit... "thicker" I suppose. For some reason Brownies are quite underdeveloped in their bodies, despite most of them being adults when we interacted with them, they were truly a child-like race.

However that began to change with Lily, after her evolution her body developed much more, she now had large breasts and wide hips, and an overall more mature and sexy appearance than the innocent appearance of the little brownies we know.

I remember hearing back then that Brownies and Dwarves descend from the same ancestor or something, which was originally an Earth Spirit, I think? Or was it Gnomes? Well, there are so many mini races that's hard to remember, but it looked like Lily was taking into the features of a dwarven women now, although still retaining all the appearance of a brownie female as well.

I noticed several "scales" similar to the ones we had growing around certain parts of her body, her shoulders and arms, a bit of her neck too, and her legs, they were, however, made of shiny ores, silver, gold, and also jewels such as rubies, emeralds, and sapphires, giving her a very colorful appearance.

Her long brown colored hair was now made into several beautiful braids, which were entwined with many colorful jewels too, I don't know if they were part of her hair or not. That combined with brown and white colored blouse, small golden and brown colored armor made of dragon scales, and her white-colored skirt and stockings made her look rather adorable and also gorgeous.

"You did change quite a bit, but at the same time you look the same as before," Rita laughed. "It's weird."

"Eh? I thought I changed quite a lot..." Lily sighed. "I look rather cute at least, right? And look, I got a tiny crystal horn in my forehead."

Indeed, she had a small rainbow-colored crystal horn growing from her forehead, it gave her a very unique appearance, like nothing we've ever seen before.

I could tell that the more Players advanced and evolved into unique forms, the more new races they could create at the same time.

Like, as of right now, although we kept a few of the aspects of our original races, we've changed to the point we could considered completely different, new races.

"Anyways, I evolved from an [Earthen Spirit Brownie Titan] into a [Spirit Crystal Gnomie Titan Princess: Smilkas]! I became a Gnomie, it seems I am no longer a Brownie... Though at the same time I still am, right? Every time we evolve, it's not like we lose our previous racial forms."

"Gnomie?! Wait, that's it!" I said. "You evolved into the Ancestor of Gnomes and Dwarves, wow, I didn't expect that! And you got a name too! That's big!"

"I didn't get a name though?" Rita gasped. "This is not fair, I also wanted one! Why did she get one?"

"I didn't get one either I think," Mark laughed. "There must be something related with the world's story if you ever get a name in your racial evolution."

"Smilkas... Both a Gnomie and a Titan, and also a Princess," Nieve muttered. "It does ring some bells, I think I've heard of that somewhere? A tale of old from the Gnome and Brownie village."

"Wait, really?" I wondered.

"Yes... I think it is some sort of spiritual ancestor, or perhaps some sort of old divinity, I can't remember..." Nieve said. "But this is big, it is in the same level as Lady Planta obtaining the Yggdragon Title, her evolution might have given her a Legacy, from Smilkas."

"Wow..." Lily gasped. "I had no idea it would be this big of a thing! I remember I heard some sort of voice, something saying I was now the one wearing the Crown of Jewels. But I didn't get what that meant."

"The Crown of Jewels perhaps is some sort of metaphor to carrying Smilkas Legacy," Mark pointed out. "Nonetheless, fantastic news, Lily. Congrats!"

"Yeah, I guess... Next time I am definitely getting a named evolution too," Rita felt slightly jealous.

"Hahah, calm down Rita, let her be," I patted Rita's shoulders. "Amazing, Lily, we should explore your new abilities over time later. This also opens some interesting possibilities, and maybe some lore of the past and the origin of the many races. After all, we traveled to prehistory and none of the modern races existed.

Elves might have descended from Ancient Elves, and maybe Divine Dragons descendants were some of the other Dragons we've met, lizardmen, kobolds, and other scaled people. And then the Majin probably are the ancestors of all demon races, such as Onis like my daughter, Devils, Imps, and so on... But what about humans, dwarves, gnomes, brownies, and so on? There's also Titans and countless other races."

"It's interesting to think about it, yes," Lily nodded. "Perhaps Smilkas was truly a Gnomie and a Titan, maybe some sort of hybrid that bridged both races?"

"Or perhaps the one that was born different than the rest..." Rita wondered. "What if Smilkas was actually the daughter of a Titan, but was born much smaller? And then her descendants became the Gnomies."

"That the smallest races descend from the largest people of the world is quite ironic to think about..." Mark laughed a bit.

"It really is, but it's really interesting! I bet many of us beast tribes also have important and strong ancestors. Such as Ratatoskr, the ancestor of us Squirrel-kin, it is said he was some sort of powerful Divine Beast, messenger of the gods!" Acorn said. "I think I am the only one that has been able to tap into this ancestral bloodline though..."

"It's all really interesting, yeah, yeah," Johanna nodded, moving towards us. "But don't you have things to do? I'll stay here for now, but I am fairly sure you had somewhere to go!"

"Ah! Right, right, the Magician Guild registration! The Queen just sent me a message, so let's go meet with her," I said. "David will come pick us up to the castle again."

As we moved out of Ambil's smithy, there was already a golden carriage waiting for us.

"Lady Planta and friends! It has been a few days, how are you all doing?"

David greeted us.

Chapter 1043: Assessing All Rewards

As we moved out of Ambil's smithy, there was already a golden carriage waiting for us.

"Lady Planta and friends! It has been a few days, how are you all doing?"

The Knight Commander and Paladin, David, greeted us. He seemed a bit better than what happened the other day, when we raided the Magica Family. The revelation that his master might be in a plot with the cultists for years broke his mind.

But he had seemed to recover after all these days, so I think he's finally okay, thankfully. He greeted us with his cheerful and youthful personality as always, he was quite a ray of sunshine most of the time.

"We're good, David, thank you for coming to pick us up again!" I greeted him.

"It's nothing, really, the Queen seemingly had an audience with you scheduled, so I obliged her majesty and quickly came to look for you," he said.

"David how are you feeling as of now?" wondered Mark.

"Oh? I'm fine, thank you for worrying, Sir Titan," David smiled. "I have... thought a lot about many things, I've talked with the King and the Queen too, I feel better, my resolve has been restored. What happens, happens. We must strive forward to protect our home and those we love... If what we learned is the truth, then... I will do what's necessary."

"I guess that's the resolve of a Paladin for you!" Rita laughed. "Just take it easy sometimes. I know we're dealing with a lot of stuff but... Just don't overdo it. We're already like a party, you included."

"Lady Achlys... Thank you for such kind words of encouragement," David felt rather embarrassed, blushing as Rita patted his shoulders.

"Heh, it's nothing..." Rita quickly walked inside the carriage with all of us.

"Ah, Lady Lily, you've changed- Actually, everyone has changed now that I think about it!" David gasped. "Your appearances... Is this Evolution? I have heard that Players can undergo Unique Evolutions! Lady Planta, Sir Titan, Lady Achlys, and even Lady Lily... You're all much cooler!"

"Ahaha! Is that so? I guess so!" Rita smiled proudly.

"Hehe, thank you David~" Lily winked at him, the young man's heart was quickly caught.

"So we'll stay here then, we wish you good luck!" Acorn said.

"Yeah, I know it is an infiltration plan, so we'll stay in the smithy helping for now," Nieve nodded.

"Thank you guys, we'll be back soon, hopefully," I said. "We'll just register, explore the place and find clues, but we don't plan on getting in any fight if possible, not yet at least."

With that said and done, we moved through the carriage towards the castle, it was a short trip there, but I used this little and precious time to quickly use a few items I had been saving inside my Inventory for a short while.

They were some of the rewards from the Dungeon Clear and everything else, which I had no time to use because I was so busy already. Hah, I wish I could have some more free time, there's always a million things left to do.

Ding!

[You have consumed [Legendary Skill Points Elixir (SS Grade)] x10!]

[You gained +5.000 Skill Points.]

[You have consumed [Legendary Stat Points Elixir (SS Grade)] x10!]

[You gained +5.000 Stat Points.]

[You have used the [Subclass Skill Slot +1 Ticket (SS Grade)] x1!]

[You gained +1 Subclass Skill Slot.]

[You have used the [Job Class Skill Slot +1 Ticket (SS Grade)] x1!]

[You gained +1 Job Class Skill Slot.]

Oh wow, I have over eight thousand Skill Points and ten thousand Stat Points now! That's way more than I ever expected. What should I spend the Stat Points into? I can only spend them on the starter Stats anyways, can't use them on KI or SOUL.

Looking at my Stats, I have a very balanced stat line, but I think going for full Agility wouldn't be bad, the faster I can move and react, the better, right? I'll add 5k to Agility and the rest to Strength, to balance it with my Intelligence so I can deal good physical and magical damage.

Ding!

[You have exchanged your Stat Points.]

[You gained +5.000 AGI]

[You gained +5.866 STR!]

With this, my STR Stat has surpassed my own INT Stat by two thousand, woah. So now I am an even better warrior? I suppose it's fine, seeing how there's now a myriad of ways for me to fight physically.

Back then I could only rely on a shovel and my farmer class attacks, which couldn't deal as much damage as I hoped. But now I have my Heroic Swordsmanship, my Ki, and also the new Golden Heaven Gourmet Martial Arts.

If I combine everything together plus all my dragon abilities such as the claws, tail, bites, and so on, I constantly use my physical strength in battle just as much as magical power.

With this great balance between Strength and Magic, I do feel more confident about fighting powerful foes, as I make use of both stats, I can easily overwhelm anybody that specializes in either of the two in terms of damage.

Lastly, there were these other items:

[Divine Skill Fusion Ticket (SS Grade)] x1

[Divine Dungeon Themed Treasure Chest (SS Grade)] x2

[Skill Specialization Marble (SS Grade)] x1

[Divine Legendary Dungeon Themed Treasure Chest (SS Grade)] x1

[NPC Skill Inheritance Scroll (SS Grade)] x1

[Divine Skill Evolution Grimoire (SS Grade)] x1

[Divine Gear Enhancement Scrolls (SS Grade)] x5

[Divine Potential Cubes (SS Grade)] x5

[Divine Pet Egg (SSS Grade)] x1

I think I'll use the Divine Skill Fusion Ticket whenever I get into a battle, I'll keep it there for now.

As for the Treasure Chests, I've been thinking on opening them alongside the many others I have accumulated.

Then the Skill Specialization Marble, this one is much less situational and takes a while, so I think I might do this once I'm done with the Magician Guild infiltration mission.

The NPC Skill Inheritance Scroll and the Divine Skill Evolution Grimoire seem strong and interesting as well, the former seems to only work on NPC I've befriended, so I'll have to think carefully which one I chose.

"We're here," David called us, as we slowly stepped out of the carriage, and we made our way inside the castle.

Chapter 1044: Taking New Appearances

Amidst the item list, there was a "Divine Pet Egg", I don't know when I can find the time to use it, but it could help me get a strong new Tamed Monster Familiar, if its already a Divine Beast, then I wonder if my Divine Fusion Skill will further boost its power even more? I'll have to see that later though, no time right now.

Oh, also, I should remember to try using the Skill on Blackie, right! If I can use it back home to summon my Familiars, then maybe I can also use it on Blackie...

"Welcome back, Planta, everyone, it seems David brought you here quickly and efficiently, he's the one I trust the most amongst our servants and knights," Queen Camilla greeted us with a calm, beautiful smile.

Despite her regal attitude and majestic appearance as a member of one of the continent's biggest royal families, she was also a Player known as "Black Haze", the first Player to have reached Level 300, who was still stuck at that Level... I think? I am not really sure right now.

"Yeah, he was really quick! Thank you for calling him to bring us here, makes everything quicker," I said.

"Thanks for offering your help," Mark said.

"The castle's as pretty as I remember it!" Lily smiled.

"Is it true that you can enchant equipment to give it abilities like the ones you have?" Rita went right to the point.

"Hahah, yeah, I can. It's called Runic Inscription," the Queen smiled, without minding Rita's words. With everyone else she acted quite like a Queen, but with us she was always casual. "Let's first talk about your mission.

From everything we've investigated so far, the Demon King Cultists seem to have been growing weaker as we've been taking down their hideouts and slaying a lot of their creations and also members. Although we've progressed quite a lot, we have yet to find their true hideout, and also who exactly is the one behind them.

Without further proof, we also can't just blame Herbellstein yet, although Magica said that it was him, he died right after..."

"So what you want us to find in this mission is...?" I asked.

"Indeed, I need you to find proof. Any proof that the Magician Guild is holding demonic creatures, demonic materials, doing demonic rituals, anything," she said. "As long as you can find me that and record it using the System's Photo and Record Modes included already within it, then I can show it to everyone as proof, and then we can finally start a raid."

"I see..." Mark nodded. "It is indeed wise of you to not jump into conclusions yet, if the magician guild were indeed not bad, then you would all lose the trust of the magicians, especially of Merlinus, the strongest Arch Wizard."

"If possible, I would rather not have that man as an enemy, but it's not like he's impossible to defeat either..." Camilla smiled. "Now, give me those robes, I shall enchant them with what you need. This will be an enchantment created using an incredibly high-level fusion skill I have, so no mere magician can detect it."

I am sure that as long as you don't meet Merlinus himself nobody will be able to see through the illusion."

"I see, thank you, Camilla!" I nodded.

We handed her the robes, as she quickly did her trick, rapidly imbuing countless runes into the robes until they looked completely different, gaining blue color and golden linings. They resembled magician scholar robes, like those graduates would usually wear.

"These are usually the robes given to graduates of a magic school, which are the people that often joins the Magician Guild," she explained. "You will need to build yourselves a new background if possible, do you have any ideas right now?"

"More or less," I nodded. "We've already discussed something."

"Very well," Camilla nodded. "I don't know what happens there, not even my husband is allowed to enter most of the time, but he has told me that every magician has to go through a special test of knowledge about magic formulas and also of strength. They make you fight monsters; I believe. It shouldn't be hard for you, right?"

"We do know about magic runes and formulas at this point, yes," I nodded. "Runic inscriptions and whatnot, not too hard to figure out."

"Hah, it took me a while to figure it out myself! Most Players conjure magic only using Skills, so if they catch you doing that without a proper magic circle formed, they might grow suspicious if you pretend to be NPCs, so you better just say you're Players that were taught magic in a school," she explained.

"Every magic school is usually connected, so most magicians will always know if you're lying or not about a certain school. Here, there's some information about the schools of this city. The easiest to fake you're from there is the Whiteheart Magic School, it teaches basic magic, healing magic, enhancement magic, and elemental magic.

It is a new school that opened just five years ago, so it's easy for the older magicians that work in the tower to not know much about it yet."

"Gotcha, thanks a lot for all the details!" I quickly read everything and stored the information inside my wooden body's interior, literally written over the wood itself so I can read it at any time. "Make sure to memorize this too, guys."

I handled the papers to them as they read everything, the robes were also done, we equipped them and then, according to a pre-set background that Camilla had already designed, our appearances changed alongside our own status information.

"Woah, what the...?!" Rita muttered. "I'm a blondie now? Woah, my skin's so pale..."

"My hair's black?" Lily wondered, noticing her changes.

"Ah, I look a lot like my IRL appearance like this..." Mark looked almost identical actually.

"Hmm? Well, this appearance is fine I suppose?" I felt slightly embarrassed to see my appearance having changed into a younger girl, with long pink hair made into twin tails, and ridiculously large breasts. "We do look very different than usual, so I guess that works well."

"Alright, you're all set and done," Camilla nodded. "Off you go, try to get it done before the night arrives. Any clue would do."

"Okay, thank you," I nodded. "Let's go, everyone."

We moved across the streets in our new forms, until we arrived at the Magician Tower.

Chapter 1045: Time To Infiltrate The Magician Tower

After accepting the request from the Queen, we received a new Quest.

And guess what, the World Quests were back.

Ding!

[You have accepted the {World Quest}: [Infiltrate the Magician Tower and find out Clues that could lead to the Cult of the Demon King's whereabouts!]

[After a conversation with the Queen of the Luminous Kingdom, you've been given the important task of infiltrating the Magician Tower and seek clues that could confirm the existence of the Cult of the Demon King within their numbers.]

[This is an important quest for the future development of the world and the story, so you must make sure to be very careful. Find clues within a given time, before you're found out or worse, the Cultists manage to accomplish their goals.]

[Completion Rewards]: [EXP] [Gold] [???] [???]

[Time Limit: 3 Days.]

It was a World Quest, indeed.

The time limit was only three days, it was quite harsh, although I planned to get it done by today.

It has been a while since I've seen one. I think the last one I got and completed was the one related with Hephaestus Smithy and the Fragment of Cloudia.

Maybe it could be said that the whole Cloudia Dungeon was also a World Quest by itself...

The Magician Tower drew closer as we moved there. We decided to walk by foot this time to not draw attention to our group. It was just me, Rita, Mark, and Lily, a party of four young magicians that just graduated from a magic school and were looking to join the Magician Tower.

Our task is quite vague, but we need to find any clue that could help us find if the Magicians have anything to do with the cultists. We've already detected that several of their artifacts led near the Magician Tower through their trails.

However, that's not enough to frame them, the Queen and the King want to make sure it is them before doing anything rash, I suppose I can't complain about that, they're not wrong.

"Alright, everyone, remember," I said. "We all come from the Whiteheart Magic School. My name is Elizabeth, Mark is Hendrick, Rita name's Maria, and Lily is Erika. All of us specialize on two elements. Elizabeth specializes on Light and Life Magic. Hendrick on Fire and Wood.

Maria specializes on Darkness and Curse Magic. And Erika specializes on Earth and Metal Magic. Alright?"

"Got it," Rita nodded. "So I am Maria and specialize on Darkness and Curse magic. What's my personality though?"

She looked like a gloomy girl, with long and curly blonde hair, deep blue eyes with bags below, and an overall lazy and also tired expression.

"You seem like a gloomy and weird girl, so act a bit creepy I guess?" I wondered.

"Aaah, that's harder to ask than to do... I'll do what I can," Rita sighed.

"What about me?" Mark wondered.

"I think the information says you're our senior by one year, so act like that?" I wondered. "Calm, composed, and also a bit serious, you can't take jokes well, use these glasses too."

"O-Okay then, I'll try," Mark nodded.

"What about me?!" Lily wondered.

Her appearance had short bobby-styled black hair, and she was as small as right now, apparently a half-human and half-dwarf girl. Her eyes were big and green, and her face was cute and slightly boyish. She was definitely an energetic tomboy type.

"You have to just act a bit more energetic than usual, scream if necessary, just be overall very... Err, celebrative? Of everything," I said. "A tomboyish girl with big Genki energy."

"Genki... energy?" Lily was confused. "Okay, I get it I guess..."

"Alright, we're here..." I nodded. "My personality is quite clearly a young lady, like Elisa... It's going to be hard to imitate but I will do my best."

I sighed, breathing in and out.

The gate was already open, magicians coming in and out of the tower all the time.

Some noticed our presences, so we decided to quickly walk inside to not look suspicious.

"Alright everyone, please make sure to behave! We're in front of the Magician Tower, it is a place where the people I admire the most reside! So all of you commoners should behave, okay?" I tried to act like a cocky young lady.

"I don't think you should be the one telling us about how to behave, Elizabeth," Mark readjusted his glasses with a sharp glare.

Oh my god he's good!

"Hahaha! Okay~ I'll do my best and behave!" Lily kept screaming.

Good, that's a good tomboy girl.

"Hah... I'm tired of this..." Rita sighed.

I don't know if that was an honest comment or not.

We started the act before even interacting with anybody, in fear of some sort of detection mechanism that would catch us speaking differently than our personas.

Slowly, we made our way inside the Tower, there were guards, but after seeing our robes and seeing us talk like a typical group of young magicians, they didn't even mind us entering.

Looks like the façade worked well!

The moment we stepped inside the Tower, we were left flabbergasted.

We stopped moving as we looked around in disbelief.

It was as if we had stepped into a huge library that spanned for countless of floors above.

There were hundreds of stairs going up and down, some books were flying around with wings, and magicians moved across floating platforms like nothing.

The floor 1 where we had landed was nicely decorated with all sorts of statues, paintings, and furniture of the highest quality.

The statues were apparently of many famous magicians, some still alive.

In the middle of the floor, there was the largest statue, of a very old grampa with long beard, made completely of gold, with eyes made of embedded rubies.

"This must be the statue of Merlinus, right?" Lily wondered. "Woah! He's so tall! Is he really this big?!"

"Hah, it's obviously not like that..." Rita sighed.

"It's just a statue anyways," Mark said. "Let's go."

"Yeah, stop looking at the statue like that, you're practically telling everyone you're just peasants!" I sighed, crossing my arms.

We moved to the front desk, or well, the spiraling area where the front desk was located, which looked more like a ring-shaped dark blue table where several magicians were processing many other new members, handling out all matter of items, selling and buying materials, potions, and equipment, and also giving out quests.

Alright, let's do this...

Chapter 1046: Tomas

I looked at the World Quest information for a second, trying to find if it was giving out any clues. Usually they would tell you what to do, well, sometimes. But this one was quite, well, vague.

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[This is an important quest for the future development of the world and the story, so you must make sure to be very careful. Find clues within a given time, before you're found out or worse, the Cultists manage to accomplish their goals.]

[Completion Rewards]: [EXP] [Gold] [???] [???]

[Time Limit: 3 Days.]

I guess it is pretty much confirming that it is indeed the magicians, huh? If it is saying it like this... Or maybe not?

Ah, it's a bit confusing, but at the same time, too vague! We lack too much information, which makes it even more irritating.

I suppose the System simply expects me to do everything now, and that I don't require further assistance. I would feel flattered by such a thing, but right now I am quite nervous.

The time limit is 3 days, so I suppose we don't have to hurry too much, however, tomorrow is the crafting competition, so I don't really want to miss it because I'll be here.

So today, I plan to get the clues right away and confirm everything to the King and the Queen. As long as we're done with that, they'll begin preparations on their own.

I doubt it'll be right away; they might take a couple of days themselves to prepare completely against the raid to the magician tower.

Anyways, any clue seems to count, so I guess this is a really important quest for the entire future of the Kingdom, and it's all on my hands.

It is indeed a bit nerve-wrecking, but here we go.

Once we approached the front desk by waiting in line, it was finally the turn of our party, a blonde-haired and blue eyed magician greeted us, he was a rather handsome young man, who was wearing circular glasses, looking like a cute dork.

"W-Welcome to the Magician Tower! My name is Tomas, I am a Four Circled Magician, and I've been assigned today to be your receptionist, is there anything you need today? I-I can see you're all very young! Are you students?"

"Heh, well, we were!" I said with a confident smile. "Just recently we graduated from our magic school, you see. We've been a party since we started studying. Of course I am their leader, Elizabeth Von Crystal! These are all my servants by the way, Hendrick, Maria, and Erika."

"Wait, Elizabeth, we're not your servants!" Hendrick complained.

"She's saying whatever she wants again..." Maria sighed.

"Hahaha! No way I would be a servant, I'm a magician!" Erika laughed.

"Um, haha, I see! So you just graduated," Tomas was a bit overwhelmed by our presences, he was the shy type, maybe it would be easy to convince him. "From which Magic School did you graduate from? We get students like you all the time, so we would like to confirm things first."

"We come from the Whiteheart School of Magic and Nurture, naturally! I am quite the expert when it comes to healing and protecting because of that!" I said proudly.

"I see, the Whiteheart School... That one is very new, so we don't share registry... Um, well, you all seem really confident, so I can't really doubt you're full-fledged magicians, what are your circle tiers?" he wondered.

"I am Third Circled, naturally!" I smiled. "The rest are all Two Circled, unfortunately... They're quite lackluster but make up for it with their utility."

"Wow, Third Circled at such a young age! You must truly be a genius then, Elizabeth," Tomas readjusted his glasses. "I assume you've come to register then. Here, would you be kind enough to fill these papers for your registration?"

He handed us some papers asking for our family names, a slight resume of our background, specialization of magic, and the ten spells we excelled at. It was rather strict and asked for a lot of personal information.

We had to mostly bullshit most of that, but the spell part was easy, we all had a lot of strong spells engraved already. We also had to sign the papers, so we made some new signs just for this.

"There! All done, dear Tomas," I smiled charmingly at him, as Tomas seemed to skip a beat.

"T-Thank you! Let me quickly check everything and we'll move on to the next step," he nodded, blushing.

He spent ten minutes checking everything with fine detail, and constantly asking us questions, while also asking us to demonstrate some spells. After he checked we were indeed true magicians that used runes and magic circles, he nodded.

We would have gone with the Queen's plan of saying we were just Players, but these backgrounds were much better, and she didn't know we actually had magic circles inside, it was something we kept a secret from her, obviously.

Because we indeed possess magic circles, even if it's in our real bodies, we're connected to them, and we can conjure mostly all of their spells here with ease.

So, there was no need to pretend to be players that went to a magic school, and we just went with the whole lie about being natural inhabitants of the world.

All the family names we used were from existing families that the Queen and the King were close allies, so they would immediately work with us if they were called anyways and would pretend we were part of their families.

I already sent a message to the Queen, and she approved of this plan, so we moved on.

"Alright, well done, it seems you indeed are who you say you are, we've already called all your houses and you all indeed are their children," Tomas nodded. "I am deeply sorry for being so suspicious, but lately, there had been a lot of commoners trying to register without proper backgrounds."

"Hah! Commoners, right?" I laughed. "Anyway, what's the next test, dear Tomas?"

"It will be done in another room, please follow me."

Tomas suddenly summoned a big, floating platform, and invited us to step over, then, it quickly started levitating upwards, moving across the tower's interior.

After just a couple of seconds of moving at high velocity, we reached a large golden gate, which we passed through as if it were nonexistent.

From there, we reached an open field, a small arena of sorts, in the middle of a grassland and a forest.

"I had no idea the Tower had this inside!" Erika gasped.

"Hahah, a lot of the new disciples react similarly," laughed Tomas. "Yes indeed, the Tower has been expanded several times thanks to the help of the Tower Master Lord Merlinus, who is a master of Space Magic. He has been able to create several pocket spaces inside to expand the interior of the Tower to over a hundred times its original size!

The Library you all saw was just the surface area, there are hundreds of doors that lead to these separate spaces."

Wait, that big?!

Chapter 1047: Incredibly Talented Student

As we flew towards our destination and entered the new area, which was like a small arena in the middle of a grassland and a forest, Tomas excitedly explained us the reason behind this particularly incredible event.

"The Tower has been expanded several times thanks to the help of the Tower Master Lord Merlinus, who is a master of Space Magic. He has been able to create several pocket spaces inside to expand the interior of the Tower to over a hundred times its original size! The Library you all saw was just the surface area, there are hundreds of doors that lead to these separate spaces."

Merlinus is a master of Space Magic! Could that be the reason why he's able to hide all the evidence so well? Or perhaps, the whole cult isn't even at plain sight, but hidden inside of many of these doors.

Using normal means of investigation and deduction, while trying to maintain our façade, this would be an utterly hellish task, and it would feel completely impossible to find clues within 3 days.

...Thankfully, I do have a lot of ways to find where they are anyways, the same method I've used before.

Of course, I'm not going to use it now though, but I did analyze the composition of the pocket space as we moved towards the arena.

"What a wonderful thing this is!" I said. "Lord Master Merlinus is truly the greatest magician to have ever existed in the entire world!"

"He truly is! He's amazing... Since I landed here that I only saw him once from afar, but with that alone, I felt realized! His presence alone was amazing, exuding so much rich Mana, he was an incredible man," said Tomas. "A man who had reached the pinnacle of Magic Circles at Nine Circles like him is truly unparalleled."

Wasn't he already like Level 400?

And on top of that, his Magic Circle is of Tier 9?!

I never imagined NPC could become so ridiculously powerful.

"Here we are, this is the Magic Arena, in here you all will have to showcase that you're strong enough to call yourselves mages," Tomas said. "All of you will individually fight a monster created inside the tower. Their Tier will be the same as yours, so it won't be an easy win.

I suppose that in levels, it could be resumed that you will be fighting a Level 150 Monsters and Elizabeth a Level 200." He explained.

"Sounds good to me! Bring it on!" I said bravely, trying my best to act as a bold and bravely young lady. "May I go first, Tomas?"

"If you insist, of course," nodded Tomas. "Please step into the arena, Elizabeth."

As the rest of my party stayed waiting over the seats, I made my way towards the middle of the arena, standing right there without moving.

"Now, Summon Tower Monster!" he said, lifting a special necklace with a symbol resembling a magic circle.

FLASH!

A monster was quickly summoned in front of me.

It was a three-headed creature, with yellow-colored scales.

All of its heads resembled a giant dinosaur head, a Triceratops, a T rex, and a lastly a Brachiosaurus.

It was around thirty meters tall, a large beast without a doubt.

[The Tower Disciple has summoned the Test Monster: [Dinosauroid Chimera: Lv200]!]

[The Test Monster: [Dinosauroid Chimera: Lv200] sees you as its greatest enemy by the curse of the Tower Monsters, immediately charging to attack you!

It's a Chimera of Dinosauroid monsters? I thought these creatures had gone extinct, as they only appeared in the Prehistoric Verdant Continent.

But I guess I was wrong, they probably roam somewhere else, maybe in much smaller numbers, but they're still present on today's Arcadia.

This wasn't a normal monster though, but a Chimera, like the many Chimeras we've encountered before, it was a creature made using alchemy and magic, out of the pieces of many creatures.

It even came with a special curse that made it attack me no matter what, which was both convenient and deadly.

Do they not care if someone just dies here?

It's a bit frightening.

"Don't worry, if you can't handle it, please state that you surrender, the monster will immediately stop attacking, its curse is programed to act that way," Tomas said.

"I see! No worries, Tomas," I smiled.

"GROOOAARR!"

The monster rushed towards me with its four bulky legs, its three gigantic heads aimed towards me, with the sole thought of eating me and tearing me to shreds.

Let's first begin with something simple.

I summoned my Gaia's All-Purpose Tool, which I had shaped into a beautiful golden staff, and quickly conjured a defensive spell.

A barrier!

I didn't have this Spell engraved on my Magic Circle, but I just made the magic circle itself in front of me, arranging the runes together.

"{Holy Light Barrier}!"

CLAAASH!

The monster's charge slammed the barrier with great force, but it was unable to pierce through it, hitting its heads so hard that blood came out of them.

"Ooh?! She had such a spell too?" Tomas wondered. "To be able to tank the hit from a Level 200 monster with a single spell! Impressive! Your party leader might truly be a genius!"

"Yeah, I hate to admit it, but Elizabeth is incredible," Hendrick nodded.

"She's the best when it comes to barrier, healing, and long-ranged attacks!" Erika said.

"Wait, wouldn't that be everything then?" sighed Maria. "Ah, well, she's not good at curses, I win there."

"I see! Let's see how she'll handle that monster tough; its scales have been specifically modified to be able to bounce most weak spells," Tomas said. "I had a lot of difficulty dealing with it myself... I am ashamed of even remembering that time."

"Don't worry, Elizabeth will win," Hendrick smiled confidently.

As I heard them talk between each other, I looked at the beast in front of me.

"ROOAR!"

The monster was furious, attacking my barrier constantly with its giant, sharp claws, small cracks slowly started to spread across the barrier.

Crack, crack...!

"The barrier's breaking!" Tomas panicked, biting his nails. "Elizabeth, hurry and prepare a spell! Ah?!"

FLASH!

However, as the barrier was about to shatter, I summoned a magic circle once more.

It was one of enormous size, overflowing with countless runes.

Tomas eyes widened, his glasses gaining a few cracks.

CRASH!

As the barrier broke, I unleashed the spell into the monster.

"{Celestial Heavenly Sun}"

A sphere of pure concentrated light, life, and fire element was lunged into the monster's face.

BOOOM!

And its entire body was set ablaze.

Chapter 1048: Amazing Acting Skills

In this world, my magic spells are further boosted thanks to my INT Stat compared to IRL, where I can only rely on my internal Mana and Runic quantity, alongside, well, the equipment I have.

In here, however, the bonuses are just much, much larger, to the point that the {Celestial Heavenly Sun} Spell, a Fusion Spell that was already pretty strong, was capable of one-shotting a Level 200 monster with ease.

BOOOM!

The explosion of flames and light engulfed the chimera instantly, its body dropped on the ground after giving a sharp cry of agony, its scales were burned, and its entire body ended charred completely.

The battle ended in less than twenty seconds.

"How did I do~?" I asked Tomas.

"C-Celestial Heavenly Sun?! I have never seen such a spell before!" Tomas gasped. "I-It was incredible, fantastic! Was that a Spell of your own creation, Lady Elizabeth?!"

He started calling me "Lady Elizabeth" now, heh.

"That's right! It is a spell of my own creation!" I puffed my big chest. "Aren't I just incredible? Amazing? Dashing? Ohohohoho!"

"Y-You sure are! Incredible... You are so much more talented than any student that has joined in the last years!" Tomas gasped, clapping in surprise. "You pass! You pass with flying colors, Lazy Elizabeth! Now, you only need to do the knowledge test and you'll pass and become a Member of our grandiose Guild!"

"Nice! Bring it on!" I laughed cheekily.

I quickly walked back to the seats, as I sat down cross-legged, Tomas continued talking about the magic I used and how I even came out with it as the rest of my friends did their own tests.

They also had to fight against Chimeras on their own, each Chimera being Level 150, it was even easier for them.

Hendrick conjured a dozen spear-like roots of wood blazing with flames, which then exploded on contact, killing his foe instantly.

"W-what was that?! Fire and Wood combination magic? I didn't know such elements could even be compatible! Amazing..."

Maria conjured a Sea of Shadows which both trapped her foe and then killed it with deadly curses that sapped away their health.

"Such proficient use of Shadows and Curses! Such a frightening sorceress!"

And lastly, Erika summoned a giant stone and metal hand, crushing her foe and killing it with a single slamming blow.

"So powerful... This is indeed how Earth Magicians must be...!"

Tomas was fascinated and flabbergasted time and time again, and as I sweet talked him, I quickly earned a lot of his trust and admiration. Over our conversations, I was able to sneak some important questions.

"Naturally, Tomas, I bet you must be an incredible magician yourself, right? I can see in both your handsome face and incredible Mana Aura that you're not normal either!" I said with a smile, making him blush instantly.

"A-Ahaha, Lady Elizabeth, you praise me too much, I am but a humble magician," he smiled. "You're the only one here with such incredible talents."

"Now, no need to be humble, seeing how strong you are, I assume you were taught many things here? I've heard from my parents that the magician tower also incentivizes the growth of talented magicians with both special classes and resources, is this true?"

"Yes! If you manage to get good marks in everything, you can get a scholarship!" he nodded. "The Guild then will do their best to make you grow into an exceptional magician. Scholarships are not given around easily though, but only to the most genius of geniuses."

"Interesting..." I nodded. "I wonder though, I've noticed there's a very few magicians around, mostly newbies like you, where had gone all the experts?"

"Ah, lately they've been busy helping the Tower Master in special affairs," Tomas explained. "I am not really allowed to talk much about it, but I've heard it is something very important."

"I see! I wonder if one day we could learn together, Tomas~" I looked at his dreamy eyes. "I do wonder, where they might have gone to?"

"Ahhh... W-Well..." he started breathing heavily as I approached my face to his. I was doing my best to act cute and enticing to this dork, so he could lower his guard. "T-That's... I would love to, Lady Elizabeth. And I believe they're at the top of the tower? Perhaps between... Hmm, Floor 90 to Floor 100, usually that's where all the higher-ups are located.

There are many secret and hidden pocket spaces there! It is top secret stuff, so please don't disclose this info with anybody..."

"Of course not, dear Tomas, don't worry," I smiled. "Now I am really interested in joining! If I happen to be able to join, would you like to become my senior? I will make sure to cook you delicious meals too!"

"E-Eh? Really? I mean... of course, I would love to!" Tomas was really easy to win over.

I really didn't like acting like this, but now that I was taking over a new persona, I might as well use my feminine charm as much as I can.

"Hehe! Thank you Tomas, you're so nice with me!" I smiled cutely.

"I-It's nothing, who wouldn't be nice with such a beauty- I mean, a magnificent genius such as you, Lady Elizabeth," he blushed while giggling nervously.

I could notice that Mark, or well, Hendrick, was a bit tense about this, but he knew this was necessary too, and didn't stop me. Well, it was mostly just this, and nothing more. After this, I had already won Tomas over easily.

[Sorry about it if it's a bit awkward...] I sent him a message.

[Don't worry, I know it's necessary, the guy's an idiot so it's really easy for you. As long as he can lower his guard, all good.] Mark was being thoughtful.

[Thank you, and sorry again... I'll make up for it tonight~] I sent another message.

[...] he only sent back a blushing emoji.

After the fighting test, we found ourselves inside a small classroom by passing through another door. In there, Tomas gave us a large test, which were like, over ten pages long.

"This is the knowledge test; you have an hour to complete it! I wish you good luck," he sat down in front of us.

The questions not only included magic knowledge, but also history.

It was tougher than the monster battle...

Chapter 1049: Passing The Magician Tower Tests

Thankfully we had the internet!

Using the system interface NPC can't see, we all just shared information from forums and other pages I investigated using the internet.

While playing BNLO, you can freely access the internet through its own browser at any time, this is another cheat we Players have.

Like that, by checking the game's wiki page full of compiled lore and from looking at forums, we were able to easily answer the entire thing.

After Tomas checked everything...

"Amazing, congratulations everyone! You all got perfect scores too! You've been qualified to become members of the magician guild!" he celebrated.

"To be expected of myself!" I said with a confident nod.

"Yay..." Maria yawned.

"We did it guys! Uwaaah!" Erika cried.

"Now that we're done with this, what's next, Sir Tomas?" Hendrick wondered, keeping his composure.

"Well, I will bring you all back to the first floor, where you can rest until I bring the special necklaces," said Tomas. "I'll have to show the recordings and also the tests to some higher ups, who will then approve of everything, and then give us the necklaces."

"Necklaces?" I wondered.

"Indeed, such necklaces will carry your names, ID Number, Elemental Specialization, and Circle Number," he said. "Once you finally receive your necklaces, it could be said you're official members of the Magician Guild. After that is done, you're free to roam through the tower, enter the library, read, and even rent grimoires to learn magic, and also attend the many classes done daily.

Of course, you will also have access to the Magic Material Shop where you can buy and sell materials and all kinds of magic items. Then, you can also begin accepting missions. It is slightly similar to the Adventurer Quest, but these missions will require you to always use certain magic for certain tasks.

They can be as simple as cleaning, reorganizing the library, give classes, or even explore uncharted lands and map them, explore the depths of dungeons, and find magic relics or specific magic materials."

"Oooh! That's SO interesting! So we're free to roam anywhere?" I wondered.

"Well, not completely anywhere," Tomas said. "But seeing how strong you all are as a team, I am sure you will be given a Silver Necklace, so you'll be able to explore up to Floor 70, there's countless gates leading to many facilities of all kinds. Some are free to use, and others are managed, and you need to pay for them.

There's Runic Magic Smithies, Potential Cube Forgeries, Alchemical Furnaces, Exploration and Hunting Fields, Mining Areas, and even Farming Zones."

"How interesting, we magicians are so self-sufficient!" I giggled.

"That is indeed true, that is the reason why the Magician Alliance is one of the strongest Organizations in the entire World after all! Welcome to the big leagues, everyone!" Tomas celebrated.

"Ehh? The entire world? I thought it was only the tower?" asked Erika with her clueless-looking face.

"Aah, I suppose you've not been informed completely about everything, Erika," said Tomas. "I am sure Elizabeth knows already, but I'll explain.

There are many Magician Guild Buildings across the entire Continent of Verdant and the Continent of Solterra, they all made an Alliance long ago thanks to Sir Merlinus and the other four Great Arch Wizards, which created the Court of Wizards, that oversee and protect the world, and ensure the advancement of magic technology and its spread across the entire world of Arcadia!

This is how the Magician Alliance was formed, unifying the magicians of dozens of different countries together all across the globe. Fascinating, isn't it?"

I really hope that Merlinus didn't just recruit the entire alliance, or that would be way too much.

And I really hope not every alliance member is a corrupted cultist, that would be way too much...

At this point, I am only hoping...

"I see, that's fantastic!" Erika smiled.

"Anyways, shall we get going, Tomas?" I asked.

"O-Of course, sorry for spacing out a bit, I get very talkative when it comes to these things, but don't you? Haha!" the dorky magician readjusted his glasses.

"Ah yes, naturally," Hendrick nodded, smiling.

"We magicians control the world, hehe..." Maria giggled.

"Well, I don't like to put that way... But in a way, yes! Haha!" Tomas laughed.

Huh, what sort of doctrine are wizards teaching these young magicians?

Magicians are indeed strong, but there are all kinds of other people out there, strong too.

Just because they made an alliance doesn't mean they control the world.

Merlinus is already enough of a threat, I really hope the others aren't as foolish.

Well, let's hope Merlinus is actually not bad, maybe he isn't and it's all a misunderstanding.

I can hope...

"Now, just wait here for now. Ah, there's a cafeteria over there... Take this," Tomas gave us a golden card. "This is my Alliance Membership Card, you can use it to buy something to eat if you're hungry. I'll be back in half an hour to an hour, please have patience."

"Well! If it is like this, I suppose we can grab something to eat and wait, be on your wait dear Tomas," I smiled.

"I'll go then," he quickly took another floating platform and flew away with the documents.

"Should we go eat something?" wondered Erika. "I'm a bit hungry actually..."

"Fine, I guess it can't be helped..." I sighed.

"I want something sweet..." Maria said.

"Anything would do for me," Hendrick said with a plain and calm voice.

We quickly picked stuff to eat while keeping the act the whole time, it was a bit annoying, honestly. But we ate our fill. As we ate, we conversed through chat mostly, we talked about various things, although Rita was constantly laughing at me for acting like this.

[Hahaha! You're so desperate to gain his attention and trust! And I can't believe how well you do the well young lady talk! You're so natural!] she laughed.

[Ugh, spare me... I am doing my best. I'm actually just imitating Elisa, I've seen that girl long enough to know all her speech patterns at this point] I answered.

[Heheh, it's still funny. I've barely changed myself; I'm just being myself but a bit more talkative... It's really easy to be a "Genki" tomboy girl!] Lily seemed to be enjoying this.

[Same for me, I mean, I'm used to be like this in college and high school anyways...] Mark added.

[Ah, I'm just barely acting too, I just talk what's inside my head and just... like, don't add any more energy, I'm just lazy.] Rita commented.

[W-Wait a second so I'm the only one putting effort into this?!]

Seriously...

Chapter 1050: Meeting A Master Wizard

I chatted with my friends while we ate, by chatting, it was the only way we could be ourselves.

[Hahaha! You're so desperate to gain his attention and trust! And I can't believe how well you do the well young lady talk! You're so natural!] she laughed.

[Ugh, spare me... I am doing my best. I'm actually just imitating Elisa, I've seen that girl long enough to know all her speech patterns at this point] I answered.

[Heheh, it's still funny. I've barely changed myself; I'm just being myself but a bit more talkative... It's really easy to be a "Genki" tomboy girl!] Lily seemed to be enjoying this.

[Same for me, I mean, I'm used to be like this in college and high school anyways...] Mark added.

[Ah, I'm just barely acting too, I just talk what's inside my head and just... like, don't add any more energy, I'm just lazy.] Rita commented.

[W-Wait a second so I'm the only one putting effort into this?!]

Seriously, I'm the only one that's actually acting?! You're for real right now?

How is this possible? I thought it would be harder for them!

Oh well, I guess it's better this way, there's no way Rita or Lily would be able to properly act as someone completely different.

I am the only one that can do it without dying of cringe.

[Anyways, let's just finish eating and go sit down, I'm getting tired of these mannerism...] I added.

[It's amazing how committed you are.] Mark added.

[Almost like you're enjoying it!] Rita commented.

[I'm not enjoying anything!] I added that comment, before quickly leaving.

"It was a good meal I suppose, nothing compared to my house's cooking though, but not much can be expected of a place that nurtures magicians and not cooks," I sighed.

Certainly, we could have just eaten my Divine Dishes but if I took one that was sure to draw attention, after all, we're surrounded by hundreds of magic-sensitive people, and Divine Dishes are jam-packed with magic and even divine power.

"Yeah, it was ok," Hendrick nodded.

"Is Tomas here yet? I'm getting tired of just sitting around..." Erika sighed.

"Ah, he's there..." Maria pointed at the distance.

Tomas was slowly descending here, he came accompanied with someone much older than him, a magician with red and blue robes, and a pointy wizard hat of red color, with golden stars. He had a long white beard and brown skin, with sharp blue eyes.

Tomas looked rather nervous, actually.

"H-Hello everyone, I'm back! I've brought with me one of my superiors, he's-"

"I can introduce myself, Tomas," the old man spoke slightly rudely. "My name is Hestefelle Ashhand, representant of the Ashhand Wizard Family in the Solterra Continent. I am the one that oversaw and supervised the entire test that Tomas took, and I've come to... congratulate all of you, of course. You've passed all tests with excellent score, and you've also proven yourselves to be incredibly talented.

Please, take these."

For a moment, we all almost had a heart attack, an old wizard suddenly showing up and looking at us with suspicious eyes, but maybe he just has that sort of face.

"I-I see! Thank you so much, sir Ashhand! I am Elizabeth~ And this is my band of misfits- I mean, friends! Ohohoho!" I laughed like a young lady would.

"Hah, you are indeed quite the young lady with such a snarky personality, Tomas remarks weren't wrong," laughed the old wizard, as he handed over the silver necklaces. "These will be your necklaces, they're magic-bound to your names and IDs, and if someone attempts to rob them, they might be zapped, the necklace slowly absorbs mana for this function.

Once it has stored enough mana, it won't require it until it uses it. Also, if that still doesn't stop the robber, you can come here, and we will quickly track it down for you using the ID number."

"Wow, that's really useful, actually..." Mark nodded.

"Amazingly useful!" nodded Erika.

"It's good..." Maria agreed.

We all equipped our necklaces without issues, feeling rather happy about it. Our infiltration was a total success in this regard, and we got a cool magic necklace as an extra.

"I came here personally to greet you because you are exceptional new members, and wanted to offer you a scholarship," the wizard said. "Tomas here is still a rather unexperienced magician, he has been my pupil for the last three years, but he is still very rough around the edges. However, I am quite proud he managed to scout such brilliant geniuses such as all of you.

If we play our cards right, you all could guarantee yourselves high positions in our Organization in the future, my included."

It seems that was the catch, he had come here to personally oversee us and offer a scholarship so we could become his pupils! Probably Wizards here that are much older need to gain prestige by raising new generations.

Ashhand saw the opportunity to raise four geniuses such as all four of us, any merit we would gain would always be attributed to him, so he would win a lot from giving us this little in return.

Honestly, I don't really like it, but we are all supposed to be clueless young magicians, so if we smartly decline, it'll be suspicious, and we might end up making him our rival, or worse, an enemy.

And if we want to keep our new young magician personas as clean as possible we need to agree anyways.

I sent these messages to my friends as I nodded, they ended accepting the offer too, we didn't had any option.

"I see! D-Does that means we can become your disciples, Lord Ashhand?" I asked excitedly.

"Indeed! You are truly very smart, Elizabeth, I was going to ask you, but I suppose you were all quite eager, hahah!" laughed Ashhand. "I am a Magician that specializes in five elements, Fire, Light, Life, Earth, Wood, which all happen to be ones you do... Well, except Maria. But still, I would also gladly take her as my disciple.

There are still things I can teach her about Curses, I am quite good at them too."

He sure is pretending to be doing this out of goodwill, ahah.