

Brand New 1091

Chapter 1091: Choosing A Specialization

Ding!

[You have chosen the [Wild Beast Fighting Arts: Lv1/100 (Guardian Skill)] as the Skill Specialization Core!]

[Once your Skill Specialization Ranks Up in the future, you will be able to pick a second Skill for the Specialization Roots that will grow from it.]

After looking at the list for a minute or two, I made my decision.

[Initialization Skill Specialization Procedure, generating 5 random Titles.]

[Although randomly generated, these Titles are taken from a pool formed based on all your Actions, Titles, Relationships with NPC, Skills, Race, Evolutions, and Classes.]

FLAAASH!

The moment I chose the Skill, I saw a large, golden bubble fly off my body, it had the small, pixelated drawing of a half-human beast with sharp claws in a fighting stance, surrounded by many foes, and with bloodied claws and jaws. Quite the brutal design...

The Skill was Wild Beast Fighting Arts, I had inherited it from Acorn, and it seemed interesting, but I had prioritized other skills at the end, so I ended ignoring this for the moment. It didn't affect me to choose it, and it could become something really good too.

The marble floated in midair, displaying me five system windows, which were the options I had randomly rolled. They had their own Titles, based in what I chose, they would imbue themselves into the Wild Beast Fighting Arts Skill and transform it into my Second Specialization out of the three I can choose.

[Showcasing the Specialization Paths Titles...]

[Path of the Wild Beast Mother]

[Path of the Rampaging Draconic Beast]

[Path of the Wrathful Beastly Fighter]

[Path of the Nature's Beastly Warrior]

[Path of the Ice Druid Fairy]

Huh, these first five titles were interesting, they were my "free options" at the very least, I had not spent a single gold on these yet.

The only one that really interested me...

{Specialization}: [Path of the Rampaging Draconic Beast]

Unlocking Requirements:

You're a Dragon.

You're a warrioress that likes fighting physically.

You are considered a beast.

You have rampaged and killed hundreds.

Description: A Powerful rampaging, warrior-type draconic beast that will tear apart anything on their path but can't control their power too well. Transforming into a half-beast and half-dragon is possible, with unique powers and abilities.

It's ok at best, but I deserve something better right?

So let's roll the Gacha already!

Ding!

[You have spent 100.000.000 Gold to roll the Specialization Path Gacha!]

[Five new Specialization Paths have been randomly chosen!]

[Showcasing the Specialization Paths Titles...]

[Path of the Draconic Seductress]

[Path of the Frost Dragon Spirit]

[Path of the Mother Of Love]

[Path of the Ravaging Swordsman]

[Path of the Yggdrasil Warriores]

Eh, not really good, again.

Ding!

[You have spent 100.000.000 Gold to roll the Specialization Path Gacha!]

[Five new Specialization Paths have been randomly chosen!]

[Showcasing the Specialization Paths Titles...]

[Path of the Super Dragon Warrior]

[Path of the Spiritual Frost Bride]

[Path of the Wife Of Phoenixes]

[Path of the Rampaging Spirit Sword]

[Path of the Time Spirit Swordsman]

Huh, these look interesting, Wife of Phoenixes though? Is this because of my relationship with Mark?!

Ugh, I don't even want to ask, but it seems the System really keeps a registration of everything it sees, huh?

Honestly, I'm only interested in the last specialization showcased there.

{Specialization}: [Path of the Time Spirit Swordsman]

Unlocking Requirements:

You can control Time Magic.

You can control Spirits and Spiritual Energy.

You are a powerful master of the sword.

Description: A mighty and ancient swordsman that controls the very essence of Time Spirits to fight, skipping through time slightly to land powerful hits on foes, and even cut through them with ease as long as they can harness their time essence and mana. They are deadly fighters nobody would like to fight against.

Very interesting! I kind of like it a bit, but at the same time, it still feels slightly underwhelming compared to my current specialization at the end.

So, um, pass for now.

Let's try this a few more times, I can't give up, and I got a lot of Gold anyways.

I'm rolling the damn Gacha until I get what I want!

Ding!

[You have spent 100.000.000 Gold to roll the Specialization Path Gacha!]

[Five new Specialization Paths have been randomly chosen!]

[Showcasing the Specialization Paths Titles...]

[Path of the Sunshine Dragon Spearman]

[Path of the Spirit Dragon Axe Barbarian]

[Path of the Bride of Spirits]

[Path of the Sexy Succubus Knightess]

[Path of the Space Eating Beast]

These are all interesting but at the same time weird!

Also is that the Sexy Succubus again?!

It came back, but it's now a Knightess?

How could a succubus become a knight...

Nevermind, let's roll again, I don't want any of these anyways.

I need something to converge and supplement all my fighting abilities, until then, I'll just keep wasting my Gold.

Ding!

[You have spent 100.000.000 Gold to roll the Specialization Path Gacha!]

[Five new Specialization Paths have been randomly chosen!]

[Showcasing the Specialization Paths Titles...]

[Path of the Shadow Spirit Dragon]

[Path of the Demonic Spirit Warrior]

[Path of the Angelic Saint]

[Path of the God-Blessed Spirit Swordsman]

[Path of the Cooking Spirit Master]

Weird ones all around, none of them interesting or something... No, well there are some interesting ones, but I don't want to waste my time so much.

Next...

Ding!

[You have spent 100.000.000 Gold to roll the Specialization Path Gacha!]

[Five new Specialization Paths have been randomly chosen!]

[Showcasing the Specialization Paths Titles...]

[Path of the Sexy Dragon Bride]

[Path of the Blazing Frost Dragon Knight]

[Path of the Wild Beast of the Spirit Forest]

[...]

Next, next, next!

Ding!

[You have spent 100.000.000 Gold to roll the Specialization Path Gacha!]

[Five new Specialization Paths have been randomly chosen!]

[Showcasing the Specialization Paths Titles...]

[Path of the Wood-Loving Beast Guardian]

[Path of the Druid of Fire and Ruin]

[...]

Ding!

[You have spent 100.000.000 Gold to roll the Specialization Path Gacha!]

[Five new Specialization Paths have been randomly chosen!]

[Showcasing the Specialization Paths Titles...]

[...]

Ding!

[You have spent 100.000.000 Gold to roll the Specialization Path Gacha!]

[Five new Specialization Paths have been randomly chosen!]

[Showcasing the Specialization Paths Titles...]

[...]

I ended wasting over five billion gold this time around, more than I ever thought I would spend.

It was almost three times as much from the first time!

But at long last, the Gacha Gods finally blessed me with something, it was really good, and I think just what I needed.

Though, the description was a bit off putting.

{Specialization}: [Path of the Divine Asura Yggdragon Spirit of the Battlefield]

Unlocking Requirements:

You have more than eight arms.

You have more than three heads.

You have wielded multiple weapons and taken hundreds of lives with them.

You are the Yggdragon.

You are blessed by the Elemental Spirits.

You possess a Divine Power.

You are perceived as "Demonic" by your foes.

You are a rampaging berserk in the battlefield.

You have taken over one million lives.

Description: Asuras are feared multi-limbed demons that wield multiple weapons and are kings of war and the battlefield, and one that was an Yggdragon is even stronger, possessing the dragon's almighty powers, fused with the might of spirits and the power of nature and endlessly growing body, you can converge all your abilities together with your multitude of ever-growing limbs to create incredible combined abilities.

As a War Demon, you can even resist magic much more easily, deal extra damage against weak spell casters, and defy the Demon Kings.

It was perfect... and terrific!

Ding!

[You have selected the [Path of the Divine Asura Yggdragon Spirit of the Battlefield] as your Secondary Specialization!]

Chapter 1092: [Path of the Divine Asura Yggdragon Spirit of the Battlefield]

After spending almost five billion Gold, I was able to finally find something fitting for what I wanted. The Title itself was very long, but that means that every keyword would further affect and evolve the Skill to a new length, so I take that as a plus, actually.

{Specialization}: [Path of the Divine Asura Yggdragon Spirit of the Battlefield]

Unlocking Requirements:

You have more than eight arms.

You have more than three heads.

You have wielded multiple weapons and taken hundreds of lives with them.

You are the Yggdragon.

You are blessed by the Elemental Spirits.

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You are perceived as "Demonic" by your foes.

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As a War Demon, you can even resist magic much more easily, deal extra damage against weak spell casters, and defy the Demon Kings.

Although I don't know if it was okay to become a "War Demon", but I am fairly sure it is figuratively, and I won't become an actual demon from hell, it would be too far-fetched for just a simple Skill Specialization, right?

Anyways, there was no point in waiting, I choose this because I didn't want to waste any more Gold.

Ding!

[You have selected the [Path of the Divine Asura Yggdragon Spirit of the Battlefield] as your Secondary Specialization!]

[The [Wild Beast Fighting Arts: Lv1/100 (Guardian Skill)] Skill has been absorbed, evolved, and transformed with the new Path!]

[You acquired your Secondary Specialization Path: {Path of the Divine Asura Yggdragon Spirit of the Battlefield: Tier 1}!]

[You acquired a Special Title for acquiring a Divine-Grade Specialization Path!]

[You acquired the Title: [Divine Yggdragon Demon of the Battlefield and Bloodshed]!]

That's quite the Title, Battlefield and Bloodshed?!

I-Is this okay?

I am beginning to have second thoughts about this choice now...

[Divine Yggdragon Demon of the Battlefield and Bloodshed]

Acquisition Conditions: Acquire the Specialization: {Path of the Divine Asura Yggdragon Spirit of the Battlefield}.

Equip Bonus: When fighting against a Foe stronger than you, or against more than 10 Foes, your Weapon and Offensive Magic Attack Power, and Attack Speed increases by 100%, and you can ignore 30% of their Physical or Magical Defenses. Divine War Essence Gain increases by 100%. Increases the Power and Effects of all Weapon Techniques Skills and Attack-type Magic Spells by 200%.

A Title only bestowed to the one that has chosen to walk through a special, warmongering Path of bloodshed and destruction. You take upon the name of the Asura, a legendary Demon Tribe that thrived in bloodshed and war, with many arms, legs, and heads, and with enormous size and muscles, the Asura were proficient in the art of battling and war, mastering all weapon techniques in existence.

Your battle powers will only increase as you fight, and for each foe you fight and defeat, you will be able to gain Divine War Essence, which you can use to unleash devastating Divine Asura Techniques, or Rank Up the Specialization, making it even stronger.

Aaahh, I don't really like that description, it makes me sound like I'm out for blood or something!

If it wasn't because my enemies are all psychopaths that would never stop to chat things out, I wouldn't really want to fight either...

Oh well, at least- Huh?

Ding!

[You acquired a Special Title for being the first to acquire a Secondary Specialization in the entire server!]

[You acquired the Title: [The First Secondary Specializer]!]

[The First Secondary Specializer]

Acquisition Conditions: Be the first one to acquire a Secondary Skill Specialization.

Equip Bonus: +500 To All Stats. Decreases the required Essence for your Secondary Specialization to Rank Up by -50%. From your Third Specialization onwards, you'll gain +30% More Bonus Stats.

A Title bestowed to the first ever wielder of a Secondary Skill Specialization. You're the one that has stepped even further into the Path of the Ascendants, Players whose Souls have begun to gain Divine Power.

A Secondary Specialization is more than just the first though, it will continuously grow and combine its essence and powers with the first one, eventually, creating Specialization Roots of converged power.

As the first ever person to acquire a Secondary Specialization, you're very special! Your growth will be accelerated compared to the rest, so make sure to keep yourself on the top.

This Title Effects remain even without equipping them, as long as you have the Secondary Specialization you chose.

[Congratulations! You gained +500 to all Stats, including Stats that cannot be normally increased through these methods.]

Another of these Titles! Well, I'll take the bonus stats any time of the year.

FLAAASH!

The moment everything was chosen, the Marble flew into my chest and was quickly absorbed by it, planting itself like a seed in the depths of my own soul once more, it had happened before already.

It slowly spread red colored roots through it all, which combined with the golden roots of the first specialization. Much like the first specialization, this probably means I can also use these abilities on Earth!

"Well, that's that... Oh?"

FLUOSH!

I looked into my own hands, noticing red flames surging from within, they seemed fiery and strong, oppressive to an extent. But they weren't true flames, but the appearance of this new Essence, Divine War Essence.

It seemed I already came with had some starting Essence from the get-go, just like it had happened with the first specialization. I closed my eyes and sensed my Soul, the marbles were still there, but now fused with it.

There was a lot of this fiery red liquid inside the marble, yep, at least one hundred thousand of that, enough to use some of its abilities right away.

Interesting, now time to see what the specialization is all about...

Chapter 1093: A Mighty Secondary Specialization

After sensing the power of Divine War Essence coursing through my Soul and body in conjunction with Divine Gourmet Essence and all other energies I controlled, I quickly checked the full description of the Secondary Specialization, I braced myself, it was going to be a long one.

[Secondary Specialization]: {Path of the Divine Asura Yggdragon Spirit of the Battlefield: Rank 1}

A Divine-Grade Specialization Path that has been born from the [Wild Beast Fighting Arts (Guardian Skill)] Skill.

Through the combination of your Abilities as an Yggdragon, your power as a Spirit, and your knowledge over many battles and weapon techniques, this Path was created.

You're the only Divine Asura Yggdragon Spirit, a powerful Demonic Yggdragon that rules over the battlefield, going against their nature as benevolent and peaceful nature guardians, you've fully embraced the bloodshed of battle and destruction.

Your main elemental power is one that is ever-present, but that not many have even comprehended, the power of Battles and War, to tear apart your foes, to fight them and find their weaknesses, all to bring their ultimate end. There is no foe that won't take damage against you, ever.

This Specialization will allow you to imbue your warmongering demonic powers into all your Weapon Techniques and even Offensive Spells, giving you the ability to unleash Divine Asura Techniques, that will tear through your foes in a myriad of ways, always being capable of finding their weaknesses and break through their defenses.

The more foes you fight, the stronger you will become, and when you battle someone stronger than you by far, you will also receive a boost to your own power to make the fight more "even".

And when fighting and defeating many foes or a very strong opponent, there's a chance for you to be able to extract a fragment of their Battle Spirit, which you can summon to serve you in battle, or absorb it to gain a part of your foe's powers and refine your personal Battle Spirit.

A queen of the battlefield has many subjects and soldiers as allies, those that are your friends, allies, and family will receive a smaller version of these buffs, becoming capable soldiers for you to command.

Whenever you defeat many foes or a very strong foe, you will gain Divine War Essence, the more you battle, the more your fighting abilities will develop. Once you gather enough Divine War Essence, you can Rank Up the Secondary Specialization, giving it stronger Abilities and upgrading any existing effect.

Make sure to devastate your foes!

Available Divine Gourmet Essence: 100.000

Until Next Rank Up: 0/500.000

Passive Effects:

Increases Physical and Magical Attack and Attack Speed when wielding Weapons and using Attack Spells, and increases their Attack Range by +300%

Enhanced recovery of Health, Ki, and Mana when fighting a foe stronger than you or ten or more foes at the same time by +150%.

Increases Weapon Techniques Attack Power and Offensive Spells Magic Power by +200%.

Weapon Abilities and all related Skills development and growth speed increases by +100%.

Increases Physical and Magical Damage Dealt after slaying a foe stronger than you or while fighting ten or more foes by +10% for 10 minutes, for a maximum stack of +200%.

Increases All Offensive Stats by +50% after killing a foe stronger than you or ten foes for 10 Minutes, cannot stack.

The loyalty of your soldiers increases by +100%, you can easily command them with a variety of strategies.

There's a 30% chance to gain a random buff when defeating a foe within previous established conditions, and a 20% chance for any of your attacks to inflict a random status effect on foes for 5 Minutes both.

Increases the Offensive Stats of all Familiars or Registered Allies and Family within a 200 meter radius of the user by 30% and increases their Weapon Technique Power and Offensive Magic Spell Power by 50% whenever you slay a foe for 30 minutes, cannot stack.

Active Effects:

When fighting and defeating a foe, you will gain Divine War Essence, and there's a small chance (10%) of your foe to drop a Battle Spirit Fragment, a piece that represents their own spirit of battle.

By using the Divine War Essence, you can unleash the power of the Divine Asura Techniques, combining all your previous weapon techniques and offensive spells into devastating, law-defying onslaughts of

pure and raw power with a variety of effects, which can be unlocked and learned as you develop your Specialization Rank.

Once you accumulate enough, you can combine the Battle Spirit Fragments of your foes and temporarily summon recreations of their battle power and abilities to assist you in battle. These Spirits will vary in appearance, shape, and size, and can be summoned by offering your Divine War Essence, Mana, and Ki. Based in the fragments used for their creation, the Summons appearances might be affected.

Any Divine Battle Spirit you summon will have their Stats boosted based on 10% of their original wielder's stats combined with each different fragment.

Additionally, you can either eat the Fragments of Battle Spirits to obtain some of their Stats and a chance to learn a Battle Spirit Skill or choose a Divine Battle Spirit to stay with you permanently, making them your Soul-Bound Divine Battle Spirit, which will gain the ability to grow even stronger by absorbing other Battle Spirit Fragments.

Divine Battle Spirits can combine with your Aura seamlessly to imbue all your battle-related abilities and techniques with tremendous new power.

Soul-Bound Divine Battle Spirit: 0/1

Available Divine Asura Techniques:

Rank 1: [Divine Asura's Infernal Weapon Onslaught] [Ferocious Infernal Demon's Magic Explosion Rain]
[Warmongering Queen of the Battlefield's Destructive Barrage] [World-Shattering Demonic Soul
Weapon Manifestation]

Lastly, by harnessing your energies and Divine War Essence, you can conjure the {Divine Asura's Battlefield Domain of Bloodshed and War} around you, which will enhance all Offensive Stats, Weapon Techniques Power and Offensive Spells Magic Power of you and any ally within 500 meters by 300%, while granting the ability to drain 10% of the damage dealt to a foe as Divine War Essence, including all your allies, which will transfer the Essence to you for 30 Minutes.

Cooldown: 12 Hours.

Yep, it was very long, oh my god!

But I think I kind of get everything that it can do.

And somehow, this War Essence inside of me is boiling for battle.

This is a weird sensation; I feel like I want to fight someone now and test my abilities!

Ugh, wait a second, this isn't like me at all though!

I have cursed myself with this Path... Can I calm this sensation down a bit?

FLASH!

Suddenly, my own Spirits imbued themselves into my body, I felt a refreshing, cold air wash over me.

It calmed me down, the sensation of needing to fight something dissipated.

"Phew, okay, I can overcome it..."

However, it was still there, slowly boiling, and it was now giving me a very strong sense of competition.

At least that's a bit more acceptable, right?

I kind of want to mop the floor with all these participants, I have the abilities to do it.

So I might as well humiliate everyone and brag about how amazing I am!

...

No, wait, this isn't like me either!

Ugh, calm down, cold air, cold air...

Chapter 1094: It's Finally About To Begin!

"Looks like all participants are here..." the young King of the Luminous Kingdom nodded with a smile, his youthful and handsome face admiring the view. "There's a lot of people here, looks like gathering funds doing this was a success! All seats are taken."

"Indeed, what did I tell you? you complained the tickets were too expensive, but Players are rich, so it doesn't matter," laughed the Queen sitting by his side.

"Mama! Papa! When is the competition starting? Are they going to fight yet?" their little son was complaining, sitting on his own small throne between both rulers.

The King and the Queen sighed.

"Dear, I already told you that there is no fighting, this is a competition between craftsmen!" said the Queen. "You will see them working hard to do their best and make the best equipment with what we provide of them. It's a complete battle of skill and mastery over crafting!"

"Eh? What?!" little Gustav gasped, incapable of believing this. "No way! That's boring!"

"It's not boring, its very interesting," said the King. "It's all about what they can come out with. BY providing the same even field, such as the same materials for everyone, the same blueprints and such, a craftsmen can show their true potential and talents. You'll see. Despite giving them all the same things, every single one of them will make something different."

"Huh..." the child was still bored. "Can I get popcorn?"

"Sure, I suppose," the Queen sighed. "Hey, you, bring the prince some popcorn, hurry."

A soldier quickly felt paralyzed the moment the Queen addressed him with her crimson eyes glaring at his very soul.

"Y-Yes!"

He ran off, and then quickly brought popcorn.

"Nom, thanks mama!"

The spoiled prince ate his fill, as the rulers watched the contestants. Aside from the Forgery Brothers, and Ambil's group, which included the famous Planta and her partner, Titan, there were several other groups.

The majority looked rather average, like just any blacksmith you'll find around, but amongst them, there were some old masters that looked like they could be more than just old men.

A dwarf with a red beard and long crimson hair, and fiery orange eyes, his Aura emanated the power of Fire Spirits.

A brownie woman with short blonde hair and sharp blue eyes, she seemed different than the rest, her eyes, her expression, and the golden hammer she held, it brought their attention.

And then there was a tall draconic man, with red scales over his body, sharp claws, horns, and wings, with long black hair and golden eyes, he surveyed the other participants.

And lastly, someone who they couldn't identify, some sort of alchemist or magician, wearing a black cloak and whose hands were wearing black gloves, their appearance couldn't be seen, but their Aura seemed strangely ominous.

"Is that black cloaked person safe?" the Queen wondered.

"Yes, they had already been checked by soldiers and even paladins, he's just a curse caster or something... I don't know how they managed to win, but apparently they are experts at making cursed items..." the King said.

"Interesting..." the Queen smiled.

As the people waited for things to begin, several soldiers quickly brought materials, blueprints, and everything else to every participant.

Once that was done, a referee walked into the arena, standing in the middle of all the participants, who were ready to start at any moment.

He was a tall young man, a human with short green hair, wearing sunglasses and a full black suit.

"Welcome, ladies and gentlemen to the first ever Craftsmanship Competition of the Luminous Kingdom! Sponsored by nobody else than their majesties, our King and Queen Luminous!"

He spoke using a microphone-like artifact, imbued with magic stones to unleash very loud sounds.

The people quickly became excited as things were finally starting.

"It's finally starting!"

"Oh man, what's Planta going to make?"

"This is our perfect opportunity to see her secret techniques!"

"Yeah, her equipment is way too good, we'll finally see her secrets!"

Many crafter and alchemist Players had showed up too, they were at least one third of all Players present. They started filming everything already, especially Planta.

They wanted to see what made her equipment so special, and if they could copy her techniques and craft amazing things themselves too.

There were even some crafting and alchemist-only guilds present, and their guild masters were attentively looking at the arena.

Amongst them, the guild master of the greatest Blacksmith Guild, the Fiery Hammer Guild, a dwarf with black skin, long white hair and beard, and sharp golden eyes glanced at the scene. It was Jackinston, considered the best Blacksmith Player.

"Hmm, it's finally starting, I was getting bored of waiting..." the dwarf crossed his muscular arms. "Now, Planta. Show me what makes you so special as to make my sales drop for a whole month..."

Not so far away from him there was a tall, beautiful blue-haired elf, with fair white skin and sharp purple eyes, glancing at the scene while readjusting her amplifying glasses. Her cunning smile revealed she was not a brute like the blacksmiths. She was the guild master of the greatest Alchemist Guild, the Golden Cauldron Guild, Teresa.

"It's finally beginning! Oh my, Planta is cuter than I imagined," the elf woman gasped. "Ahh~ I wonder what secrets she has! I bet she combines alchemy with smithing, isn't it~?"

The two guild masters noticed each other's presences as they talked with their guild members, making disgusted expressions the moment their eyes met.

"Ugh, who called this witch here?" Jackinston sighed.

"Witch?! And who even invited a barbarian like YOU here, old man?!" Teressa barked.

"Hah, I have no time to talk with you..." Jackinston shrugged, ignoring her.

"Y-Youuu!" Teressa gritted her teeth. "You'll see! I'll surpass you on sales this month!"

Both were confident they could improve their own items once they finally understand what made Planta so special.

"Uwaah... So many people..." Planta looked around, feeling slightly nervous.

"Don't worry, we got this," Mark gave her a thumbs up.

"Yeah, don't worry about those folks, concentrate on the smithy!" Ambil nodded.

"Hahh... I'll do my best," nodded Planta, preparing herself.

"Now that all participants are ready, there's nothing else to wait! The contest shall now begin!"

The referee called, as all craftsmen immediately started working, the heat of their smithies quickly making the entire arena temperature rise.

"It has finally begun."

"Hm, I see."

"Let's watch for now."

"Interesting, how these humans do their things..."

A group of four cloaked figures stood hidden inside of the arena's passages, looking at the scene beneath shadows.

As the people cheered and the smithies flared with their flames and heated the arena, the craftsmen immediately started working.

The materials given and the blueprint was right in front of them. Elayne, Mark, and Ambil looked at the things.

"So the first thing we have to make is... A simple sword made of Bronze with a single Fire Spirit Stone?" wondered Ambil. "Pff, that's piss easy! What's with this competition?"

"It's easy because they leave the rest to the craftsmen," Planta said. "They most likely want us to surprise them with our own ideas after all!"

"Interesting, then let's begin right away! Planta, Ambil, I'll support you with everything I have," Mark said.

And so it began.

Chapter 1095: The Crafting Competition Has Begun!

All participants immediately started working, smelting the ingots provided, and beginning to sharpen their tools. Everyone only had an hour to get it done, and the contest would have a total of four items the contestant will need to craft.

As they worked, the referee quickly talked about the rules again, which had already been told to the participants, but which the audience had no idea about.

"Although this is a competition between craftsmen, there are still rules to them! The first rule is to not use any physical material that they brought themselves to the crafting. Everything must be done one hundred percent with what is given!"

"The second rule is that participants cannot bother each other, that includes directly attacking one another, belittling one another with insults, and more!"

"The third rule is that if a contestant somehow is knocked out or loses consciousness, they're immediately disqualified!"

"And the fourth and last rule, if the contestant cannot finish the desired item within the hour given, they also lose!"

These were the four rules, most people found they made a lot of sense and weren't anything extreme. Though, some more cunning people immediately realized that they were made this simple for a reason.

"If that's all the rules, then this is only going to get wilder..." Jackinston said, rubbing his white beard.

"Huh? Why is that sir guild master?" one of his guild members wondered.

"Don't you see, young man? The rules say to not DIRECTLY attack another participant, or belittle them... It doesn't say anything else. Also, it states that if they are knocked out they are instantly disqualified! If this was going to be a peaceful crafting competition, do you think they would have added such a rule?" the dwarf man smirked.

"T-That's..."

"Wait, does that means they can fight each other as long as not directly?"

"But how do you fight indirectly though?"

"Hah, that's easy, even more if you got magic... Although there's a bunch of newbies there that know no magic at all, there are also some old monsters. They are not going to play fair," laughed Jackinston. "This is going to get fun; you'll see."

The same thing was going on with Teressa and her guild members.

"Master Teressa! Are they going to cheat the contest? But I thought this was all about skill?"

"It is! But it's also a competition," laughed the elven alchemist. "At the end of the day, this world is still ruled by the strong. Even craftsmen need to be strong and be cunning if they want to get somewhere in this world... This even includes all of us."

Why do you think I keep enforcing the learning of spells and magic skills on all of you, alchemy alone is not going to save your lives when a monster shows up."

"Oh, is that way you sent Melisa to this? She's... I guess one of the few that can actually fight using Alchemy!" said a young alchemist girl at her side.

"Fufu, indeed... Now let's see what our cute curse caster will do~" the alchemist smiled. "I would expect nothing but excellency, from our most talented member so far."

As the audience glanced in silence as the participants started working on their smithies, the rulers seemed slightly worried.

Well, the King in specific.

"Honey, do you think it was a good idea to make these rules so loose?" the youthful king sighed, his shiny blonde hair shining beneath the sunlight. "Won't the participants... Just start attacking each other indirectly? There is a myriad of ways to cheat this!"

"That's why," the Queen smiled. "At the end of the day, we are in an Arena, right? People want entertainment, the participants will not only be doing their best working on their pieces of equipment, but they must also show how cunning they are."

"But I thought this was just to let Ambil show off... And Planta too," sighed the King. "What if...?"

"What if what? Do you think they're going to fall to some of the other participants cheap tricks?" laughed the Queen. "That would be interesting, actually! Let's see what they do! Look, someone's already preparing something."

"I can't believe it, it's them..." the King facepalmed.

The first ones to start cheating abusing these rules were, naturally, the obnoxious trio of crafters.

...

"We were given several ingots, so I don't think it would be wrong to make several swords, right?" wondered Ambil.

"I think so," Planta nodded. "But I believe they're only going to tell us to show one at the end... Let's make as many as we can and pick the best one blessed by RNG!"

"Err an gee? What?" Ambil raised an eyebrow.

"Hahah, don't mind it!" Planta giggled.

The ores were already smelting, rapidly being poured into the mold, and then cooling down with Ice Spirits that Planta summoned with her connection to Nieve.

FLUOSH!

She didn't just make one, but once it was cooled down and the metal hardened, they poured another, a third, and then a fourth.

The amount of ores was enough to make four swords! They were also given ten fire spirit stones, so they could play around with them a lot.

"Well, ain't that easy," Ambil laughed. "With Ice Spirit Magic, cooling down metals become a thing as easy as breathing. Okay, now let's bring them back to the flames. I'll start with mine. Planta, Titan, you do yours."

"Alright, got it!" Planta nodded, taking out her hammer and imbuing it with her Mana and Spiritual Essence.

"I've learned quite a lot from you, master Ambil, I'll do my best," Mark nodded, he was quite excited on using his own flames.

The trio quickly began working on the swords, the audience was fixated on Planta in specific, her movements were graceful and precise, yet carried a great amount of dexterity and strength.

CLANK! CLANK! CLANK!

And also, despite her frail-looking maiden appearance, she was mighty strong, and despite being a plant-like being, she controlled the flames of the smithy without even burning!

The sword beneath her hands was shining, giving out a rainbow aura already, and she had yet to even use any spirit stone on it.

Yet, some envious gazes were also present.

A certain trio of brothers were planning something devious.

"Let's see if you can work so gracefully after this, bitch..."

Chapter 1096: Those That Play Unfairly

A young brown-haired man continued working hard. He was quite young, but talented, he had come from a small village near the capital, and had been an aspiring blacksmith for many years, working his hardest to learn the necessary Skills.

Upon finally moving to the capital, he had faced intense competition from many other sellers, realizing how lucky he was to be one of the few blacksmiths of his village back then, which made him feel so important.

He truly realized he was nothing but a frog in a well, yet at the same time, it excited him, and only made Clark work even harder, every day, for the last three years.

His sales weren't the best, but newbie adventurers and players often bought his products due to being cheap and mildly good, slowly he was improving his skills, each new item he made became better than the previous one.

Steadily, just as his mother told him, he would progress and become a Master Blacksmith!

He had been excited, seeing all these amazing experts and masters around, he knew he stood no chance of winning, but he still was qualified, and had to do his absolute best, no matter what.

This was a tremendous opportunity, to show off his skills and talent, and see if any of these old masters could take him as their apprentice!

CLANK! CLANK! CLANK!

"Almost done...! I'll make the strongest fire sword!"

Distracted by the sound of his hammer and the aura of mana he imbued into the blade; he didn't notice something small lurking beneath his anvil.

"Phew, almost done! Let's- Huh?"

And when he realized that there was a small rat-shaped creature made of fire...

"What's that...?"

It was too late.

BOOOM!

The little rat exploded, his anvil was sent flying and so his sword, shattering into pieces while his face started burning.

"Uuaaaggh!"

He screamed in agony and confusion, completely unable to understand what happened to him!

The audience was shocked to see the scene.

But that didn't end there!

BOOM!

BOOM!

BOOM!

Three more contestants had their anvils blown up and their bodies set aflame!

And they were all the youngest blacksmiths participants.

Unable to fight back due to the rules, they had to be quickly taken care of by staff, who carried them away one after another.

Naturally, because they became unable to participate anymore, they were all disqualified!

"How awful, who is doing that?!"

"Hahah! Their faces burned!"

"Holy shit, who sent those rats?"

"Hey, is this getting more serious now?"

As the people reacted, the referee quickly stepped forward.

"It looks like participants Clark, Kent, Seth, and Camilo have been disqualified due to having taken unexpected damage! It seems they will be unable to participate for the rest of the competition! Four contestants have already been disqualified, but there's eight more! I wonder what will happen next?!"

Planta glared at the events with her eyes filled with anger.

"How are they being allowed to do that?"

She looked at the culprits, everyone here already knew who did that.

It was the trio of Forgery Brothers, who were laughing their asses off while giving the finishing touches to their three swords.

"Hahaha!"

"I can't believe they fell so easily for that!"

"Newbies like them shouldn't have even entered this contest to begin with!"

Planta was growing more irritated.

"Can't I just go smack their heads with this hammer for a second?"

"You'll be disqualified! Stop it!" Ambil said. "And because our entire group counts as a single participant, if you go, we all go too."

"Hah..." Planta sighed, feeling frustrated.

"They're attacking them indirectly, you can't even see what they did," said Mark. "But they're most likely using Magic, perhaps Fire and something mixed with that... Could they be mixing Fire Magic with Spirit Magic?"

"There's no way those bastards are blessed by any spirits though," said Ambil. "I believe I know what they're using though. It's called Shape Forge, its usually used for smithing, but when mixed with magic... You can do stuff like this."

FLUOSH!

Suddenly, Ambil conjured his own magic, his flames taking the form of a small bat, materializing and seemingly looking alive!

"Woah, I had no idea this could be done without spirits!" Planta gasped.

Since she started playing that she always thought spirits could do all these things.

But through the combination of many magic types, skills, and other abilities, that wasn't the case.

The world was vast, and there were endless types of magic, elements, skills, and abilities.

It was only natural that people would create imitations of spirits with their own abilities one day.

"Shape Forge... Can I do this too?" Planta wondered.

"Maybe, you'll have to try," Ambil said. "But why even bother? Do you want to make them pay for what they did to the poor newbies?"

"Yeah, I feel it's unfair to disqualify them like that before they even showed off their true abilities!" Planta sighed. "Picking on those that are still learning... It's really nasty."

"I agree," nodded Mark. "They have no dignity at all, cheap bastards."

"Well, I wouldn't bother with them. Let them do whatever they want, we are here for crafting, right? So get back to your work! Once the opportunity arises though... Don't hesitate," he said.

Planta and Titan understood what he meant, and also knew how prideful Ambil was.

He wouldn't want to win or disqualify someone through cheap tricks after all!

"Okay, then, let's continue."

Planta finished sharpening her blade, it was looking lustrous, and as sharp as she could possibly make this material, already enchanted with her many energies.

"I've made the sockets specifically for a stone, only one is enough. I'll crush another into dust, and then imbue some runes into it..." she nodded.

She was thankful she had learned the Runic Inscription Arts Skill, making it very easy to imbue equipment with magical properties, as long as she used a catalyzer to write the runes, such as the dust of spirit stones.

And as she was attentively working on her things...

"There they are..."

She noticed them, not one or two.

But ten little fiery rats, sneaking around towards her.

They were camouflaged with an illusion spell too, making them hard to see.

"Get fucked!"

The brothers laughed, as the fiery rats exploded.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Chapter 1097: Immune To Cheats

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Several explosions happened, engulfing Planta on deadly flames. The audience gasped, many of them shocked. Some of them laughing at her misfortune, while other seemed genuinely concerned.

"W-What?! Planta already got hit too?!"

"No way..."

"Hahaha! Happens because she lowered her guard and thinks she's smarter and better than others!"

"Dumb bitch, she thinks she's so special! Well deserved!"

"Yeah I hate her so much man, fuck her. She thinks she's special because she's a woman or something?"

"Bitches like her should go back to the kitchen!!! Hahahaha!""

"Yeah, right? Hahaha- UGH?!"

Some of the audience was going too far though, and they were unlucky to be all Players, because her daughter was lurking around, her blade slicing their throats before they could continue talking nonsense.

SLASH!

Their heads rolled, their entire bodies fell, and then their remains turned into pixels and disappeared. Elena sheathed her blade, looking around.

"Whoever makes fun of Planta again will have the same fate. Mind your words."

The Players were shocked, even the NPC too!

It was all well known that PVP couldn't be forcefully triggered like this, both parties had to agree.

But Elena was different, her Special Title granted her the ability to start a PVP battle with anybody, nobody was protected, not even NPC.

But that also made her non-protected either, the thing is, nobody would ever dare attack her anyways.

"S-She killed them without a request for PVP?!"

"N-No way..."

"So the rumors were true, DarkReaper has a title that let's her start PVP without requests?!"

"Shit..."

Many of the audience remained in silence. The NPC did nothing because Players getting killed all the time was common. They could revive after a couple of hours, so it was not a problem, and they often did not interfere on affairs between Players.

"You think she fell for that? Look closely."

Elena walked back to her seat as she said those words, Arthur by her side smiled, looking at the Arena. The rest of her group, including her friends and also Acorn and Nieve nodded as well.

"There's no way Lady Planta would fall for that!" Acorn said.

"Indeed, my liege is strong. Foolish tricks do not work." Nieve nodded.

As the smoke spread around the arena, the people watched in silence, waiting to see what was of Planta. Some cocky people still dared to defy Elena's words.

"Hah! As if! I recognize she had some skill, but she got blasted with ten bombs in the face, she's done for," Jackinston said.

"Hmm, indeed. Isn't this good news though? Now Melisa has some chance!" smiled Teresa, clapping.

"Do you want your heads sliced too?" Elena groaned.

Before she stepped out, Anna grabbed her and pulled her back into her seat.

"Calm down! You can't just go around killing people like this, sit down and relax," Anna sighed. "Let your mom prove them wrong."

"Hahh... Okay," Elena calmed down, glancing down. "Mom..."

As the people watched attentively, the trio of Forgery Brothers laughed.

"Hahaha! Well deserved!"

"That plant woman was too cocky after all."

"She needed to be put on her place."

Ambil was furious, glaring at them while tightening his hammer.

"You damn fu-"

However, before he could say anything, Mark's large, wooden hands covered his mouth.

"Don't insult them, it's against the rules."

"Hm?! Hmm..."

Ambil calmed down and sighed.

Mark seemed oddly confident.

"But she got-"

"She's fine."

"Huh?"

The smoke dissipated, showing Elayne completely unscathed, her equipment, everything was completely fine. She was smiling, continuing her work, the flames covered something else though, a near-transparent green and gold barrier, glistening with rainbow sparkles.

The announcer was going insane.

"W-What is this?! I just can't believe it! Planta is fine after being blasted by ten bombs out of nowhere! Is this the true power of this rising star?!"

And it wasn't a weak barrier either, it was a combination of her Spirit Magic Barrier, combined with her Telekinesis Barriers, and further enhanced by her Barrier Master Title Effects.

It was always conjured around her, and it would let only those she allowed to get closer to her.

Naturally, attacks like these would never harm her.

"W-Wha...?!"

"How strong is that barrier?"

"No, that's impossible... The spell used was-"

"Hmm? Would you mind telling the audience what you're discussing right now, young men?" the referee quickly walked towards them.

Admitting an indirect attack would also count as a direct attack, and if enough evidence of the culprit was showed to the public, they could also be disqualified!

"N-Nothing!"

The Forgery Brothers quickly went back to work.

And about Planta?

She had just finished her sword.

"And done! Heheh, it looks pretty nice, I am quite proud of it."

The sword's design was quite simple, it was a bronze sword with a bronze color, imbued with a red stone in the hilt and several runic inscriptions of red color.

It emanated a powerful Elemental and Spiritual Aura that made even the other old masters participating put their eyes into that weapon.

"Interesting..."

The black cloaked person smiled, their hands overflowing with dark powers, as even their smithy's fire was blackened. Their sword was also finished, the metal had gained a black color, and the red stones were all merged into a single eye-shaped jewel, giving the sword a macabre appearance.

"Not bad, huh... Spirit Power into Smithing, and those techniques... She knows of the old master's ways."

A dwarf with a red beard and long crimson hair, and fiery orange eyes, with a fiery, spiritual aura smiled. His sword was also similar to Planta but imbued with even more firepower.

"My oh my! Isn't that interesting, you guys?"

A brownie woman with short blonde hair and sharp blue eyes giggled. Her golden hammer emanated an aura that created many little golden creatures, which helped her finish her sword, that had become completely gold-colored, and regal in appearance.

"Not bad..."

And then there was a tall draconic man, with red scales over his body, sharp claws, horns, and wings, with long black hair and golden eyes, he glanced at Planta's sword with a smirk.

His blade was decorated with draconic appearance, and he even had used his own blood and scales, which weren't against the rules.

Ambil and Mark quickly continued working after seeing Planta finish, and after some time, there was only 60 seconds before the hour of the test were to end.

"The first trial time is about to come to an end! All participants please bring the sword that represents you or your group to the testers!"

Ambil, Titan, and Planta were looking at the four swords they made.

"Definitely Planta, her sword is the best! I went too much for aesthetics with mine, haha. But I think it looks cool."

Mark's sword was much larger than the mold provided, and it was made for heavy fighting warriors, with a large blade.

"Hmm, mine is pretty close, but hers... I suppose the apprentice has finally surpassed the master, eh? And very quickly at that! Yeah, Planta should show her sword."

Ambil's sword looked incredibly good yet simply, barely not as good as Planta, as his had no spirit power.

The fourth sword was another that Ambil made, almost identical, but he added more fire stones.

"Well, why don't we do this then? {Synthesis}"

"Huh?!"

"Wha...?!"

Ambil and Titan gasped, as Planta combined all swords together!

FLAAASH!

Chapter 1098: First Challenge Results

With less than a minute left before the first test ended, Planta did something that was not against the rules at all, fusing four swords into one. Indeed, this was actually her plan this whole time! With the power of her Spiritual Flames from Ignis, and her Alchemy Skill, she unleashed a powerful Synthesis, by spending tens of thousands of Mana, something that no blacksmith could ever accomplish.

After all, between craftsmen, alchemist, and blacksmiths, only pure alchemy specializers could have big mana pools, but even those could never compare to a druid-class magician such as Planta, even less with all her bonuses from Skills and equipment, giving her a ridiculous pool of Mana that dwarfed everyone present here, even if their pools combined at that!

FLUOSH!

All four weapons merged, becoming liquid metal for a moment as they fused with Planta's Mana and other energies. She even added Divine War Essence, experimenting with her new creation.

Slowly, the sword was formed, slightly longer than the mold, but still beautiful and not too far on its design. It still had that bronze color but had gained many black and slightly golden colorations.

All of the gems it had merged into a crimson ring around the hilt, the sword looked ideal, and it was the perfect in between a one-handed and a two-handed sword, fitting any style.

It overflowed with a blazing, rainbow-colored aura.

The spectators gasped in surprise over the aura of the weapon, and the other participants, which recognized Planta was just "not too bad" almost dropped their jaws into the floor.

"Is that even allowed?!" the red-bearded dwarf complained to the referee. "They merged weapons! How is that allowed?! That's not allowed, right?!"

"T-There's no rules stating they can't combine weapons made using the materials provided, sir...!" said the referee. "As long as it's done within the given time and using the materials, and also in the shape of a sword... It's fine."

"WHAT?!" the dwarf had grown really shocked. "I could have done the same! Dammit!"

He wasn't the only complaining, the blonde brownie smiled with disbelief.

"T-This can't be true, I never thought about that myself..."

And the black cloaked figure only remained in silence.

Though they seemed slightly annoyed, tightly gripping their fists.

"..."

And lastly, the dragon-kin man smiled.

"Impressive."

As this happened, all contestants or the groups brought over their weapons to the judges, nobody else than the King and the Queen, of course.

"Your majesty, we offer to you their creations," the referee said.

"One by one, bring them over," the King stated.

Like that, each participant walked towards him and showed the King what they had made. The Queen was also looking in silence.

Once all the swords were placed on the table, the King and the Queen continued analyzing them, they wielded them with mastery, imbued mana into them, and even tested them against beasts they brought.

Yes! It was not only the participants, but the King and Queen were entertaining the audience, and showcasing how truly powerful they were, so they wouldn't be looked down by evil cultists trying to sneak on them like before.

The beasts weren't weak either, and the King and the Queen fiercely tried each weapon in battle, where it most mattered.

Any blacksmith that thought that they needed just a pretty weapon to impress them quickly realized how wrong they were.

"GRYYARGH!"

A level 200 Earth Drake collapsed on the ground as the Queen slashed its throat with her swords, three of them had already broken into pieces through the battle, and the only two that survived were made by the dragon-kin and Planta.

"Hmm, good swords!" she nodded with a smile.

The audience went insane, their devotion for their Queen only growing, everyone was clapping, celebrating her victory against the ravenous beast, strong enough to destroy half the city if left alone.

"GRUOOHH...!"

A level 200 Corrupted Treant collapsed into pieces against the King's rapid, lightning speed attacks, his swords didn't break as he mostly used long-ranged wave-type sword attacks, but he threw away the swords which were unable to channel his powerful Sword Aura or his Mana.

Eventually, he ended wielding the golden sword from the brownie and the cursed sword from the black cloaked mysterious person.

"Interesting, a holy sword and a cursed sword, these two complement each other well, and are perfect for magic swordsmen."

Once the show was over, both King and Queen declared the winners of the first of the four tests, and also those that would be disqualified!

"The first place goes to..." the Queen said. "Ambil's group!"

"OOOHHHH!"

The people celebrated, raising their hands. Although several others complained, saying it was unfair. But the Queen had to admit, their sword was superb.

"Incredible and excellent sword made with very simple materials. Its durability is incredibly high, damage output is magnificent, and it can even ignore a dragon-type monster's scale defenses to an extent!" she said. "Congratulations!"

"T-Thank you so much!" Planta got a bit nervous, thanking everyone.

"W-We won the first round already?!" Ambil gasped.

"Hahaha! Hell yeah!" Titan raised his bulky arms.

"Now, for the second, third, fourth, and fifth places..." the King said.

"Second Place, Melisa!"

"Third Place, Erdragon!"

"Fourth Place, Goldanaba!"

"And Fifth Place, Horshen!"

The sorcerer won second place, the dragon-kin third, the brownie fourth, and the complaining dwarf got the short end of the stick at fifth place!

"..."

"Hah, of course."

"Fourth place?! No way!"

"What?! Fifth place?!"

They had all sorts of reactions, though the sorcerer remained in silence, Planta was able to learn her name was Melisa. The dragon-kin were Erdragon, the brownie was Goldanaba, and the dwarf Horshen.

"W-What about us?" the Forgery Brothers trio wondered.

"Your sword broke too easily, you're disqualified, please leave," said the Queen.

"EH?!" the trio gasped.

"Wait a second!"

"We can't be disqualified so suddenly!"

"Aren't there three more rounds left?!"

They complained to the King and Queen, naturally, the audience immediately hated them.

"BOOH! Just go away, losers!"

"You dare question the decision of her majesty?!"

"Get off the stage, suckers!"

People even started throwing rotten tomatoes and fruits at them.

And Planta, Ambil, and Titan couldn't stop laughing.

Ambil was right, this sort of triumph felt much better than using any trick!

Chapter 1099: The Hateful Trio Is Kicked Out!

The Forgery brothers were still trying to argue.

"You can't do this to us... we worked so hard on that blade!"

"Yeah...! Please, your majesty!"

"Can't we at least show you our talents in the next test? We will not disappoint you!"

As they spoke, they were still being rained by rotten tomatoes, barely managing to evade them, until one of them landed right on their faces.

"Boom! Headshot!"

And it was Anna who was celebrating in the audience seats, laughing.

"Uugh..."

As they groaned and acted all weak and meek, the other masters glared at them with disgust, something they had not even done to the other newbies.

"You are nothing but a farse, get off the stage!" said the Horshen. "Do you think we didn't know who did all of that damage before?"

"Pathetic... Scum... leave..." even Melisa, who had not talked this entire time, spoke.

"You're dishonoring the great Legacy of Blacksmiths! Leave this very instant, or I shall make you leave!" Erdragon roared, flames coming from his mouth.

"Hah, pathetic..." Goldanaba laughed at them, giggling like a little goblin.

"Y-YOU DARE?!"

The brothers grew more furious.

"Your majesty, they insulted us!"

"That is against the rules, right?!"

"D-Disqualify them too!"

The King sighed.

"That only applies within the test's time, participants can say whatever they want to each other once they're over," the King said. "Now leave, or I will make you leave personally."

The King was still holding both swords.

The trio quickly felt they had been played this entire time.

Well, mostly because they didn't want to admit how terrible they were.

But from the very beginning, the King knew they would lose!

And it wasn't because he was going to disqualify them no matter what, but because he knew their creations would be utter garbage.

Compared to Ambil, Planta, and Titan's sword, they were nothing. And even more, when compared to these four other experts, even less!

"Hyeeeh!"

The trio screamed like little girls, crying while running away, completely humiliated.

"Y-You're not going to get away with this, Ambil!"

"Bastard!"

"You'll see!"

As the trio ran away from the stage, the people only laughed at their pathetic cries.

"Hahaha!"

"They left, they left!"

"Good! Finally!"

The King and the Queen then looked at the other remaining participants.

"Every participant whose sword broke is immediately disqualified. There are two other swords that didn't break. Young blacksmiths, step forward," the Queen said.

Then, two humans stepped forward, one was a young woman in her early twenties, with freckles, messy red hair, and beautiful emerald eyes.

The second was a teenager boy with short black hair and red eyes, he had half-elf ears.

The first was an NPC, the second was a Player.

"Congratulations, you get the sixth and seventh place, and get to continue on this contest!"

The Queen smiled, recognizing the young Blacksmiths.

"Well done, we are expecting great things from you two, new blacksmiths. Work hard!"

The King said, cheering them on.

"Y-Yes, thank you so much, your majesty!" the girl cried, lowering her head in respect.

"T-Thanks..." the boy muttered.

Planta and the rest could tell they were newbies that had just started working on this entire thing and were rising stars. As masters, they had to make sure to protect them and incentivize their growth and competitiveness.

"Well done brats, but I plan to not lose my fifth place, hahaha! So you better step up your game!" Horshen teased them.

"Your swords are good," Erdragon said. "But there's always a better way of making them, keep improving."

"Not bad for just some brats! You got some potential, maybe!" Goldanaba nodded.

"..." Melisa remained in silence.

"Yeah, have to admit they're pretty fine, can be better," Ambil nodded.

"Well done! You're brimming with talent!" Planta was much more condescending and motherly than the rest. "Do your best!"

"Y-Yes...!" the two nodded, even more nervous than before.

After that, the referee announced a break time.

"Now it's time for some break time! Thirty minutes are given to all participants to rest, eat, and prepare for what's coming!" said the referee. "We'll also prepare their next batch of materials and such! Remember that there will be many snack sellers around the audience stalls, so if you're hungry, don't spare a coin and buy some of our Kingdom's delicacies!

We've heard that Planta worked on some of them!"

It was break time, thirty minutes were given to all, and it was a good enough timeframe to rest and have a quick meal. And yes, Planta had indeed worked on that food, a bit, she had given recipes for them, but the royal chefs were the ones that prepared them at the end.

After that, the audience went insane, buying the snacks one after another, everyone wanted to taste Planta's delicacies.

At the same time, Planta, Ambil, and Titan moved back to the resting area of the arena, a large place for all participants, where there were several servants, bathrooms, and a kitchen. Friends were allowed to pay them a visit.

"Well done mom!" Elena ran towards her mother, hugging her. "You all did so well!"

"Elena! Haha, yeah, I guess we really won the first round!" Planta giggled.

"It was all thanks to her, that genius idea she had won everyone over," Mark laughed.

"Indeed, and she's the only one that could fuse four weapons nonchalantly, her mana pool is just out of this world!" Ambil laughed.

"Well done lady planta!" Acorn said.

"To be expected of my liege, she won without even sweating," Nieve smiled.

"Nah, it was thanks to everyone that cheered for me!" Planta was too nice and honest to accept compliments.

"Auntie, are we eating something before the second test then?" wondered Anna.

"Sure! I will prepare something with my spirits!" Planta nodded. "Do you guys want to join us on a meal?"

"A meal?" the other participants noticed her words, quickly moving towards her.

"Well, color me surprised, aren't you quite nice to your rivals?" laughed Horshen.

"Hmm, a meal from you, who is so famous nowadays... I cannot refuse," Erdragon nodded.

"...Ok," Melisa agreed.

"Eeh, sure?" Goldanaba giggled. "But I ain't paying for it~!"

"Sure, it's on the house!" Planta just wanted to get along with everyone. "You two, come too!"

Of course, she called the two other timid newbies.

Chapter 1100: Healing The Victims

The infirmary of the arena was full of the participants that ended being burned by the trio's tricks and magic. The people were suffering, the healers were doing their best, but it wasn't working, not even the potions available healed their large burnt wounds.

They had called a High Priest to heal them thanks to the help of the King and the Queen, but all of them were currently busy in their respective jobs at the hospital, and wouldn't arrive in hours...

"Hahh... Ugh..."

Clark was resting over the bed, groaning in pain. He had woken up after having fallen unconscious due to the pain, and he was in utter agony due to the pain he felt.

The wounds caused by those explosions weren't normal, those brothers had used magic loaded with curses that made burnt wounds last for several days, making them very hard to heal back to normal.

It was usually used against monsters, not people due to how cruel such spells were, but those bastards knew nothing about basic human decency at the end of the day. Tears were falling from his only eye, the other having burned and melted off, his entire handsome face disfigured.

"Mom... dad..." he kept thinking. "W-Why did this happen to me... this world... why is it so cruel?"

He had been working so hard this entire time, only to have his entire life ruined in what he thought would be a peaceful competition. He couldn't help but continue crying, he felt his entire world falling apart.

His hands were burned so much he couldn't even move them anymore, and the explosion caused the anvil to crush one of his legs, breaking it on impact...

"Why did I choose to come here... Why..."

As he and the rest of the people lamented, suddenly, a woman stepped inside. Her aura of light and spiritual energy shone brightly, illuminating her surroundings.

Her appearance, he could barely discern her with his last eye, long silver hair, beautiful silver and golden scales, and rainbow-colored eyes.

Wearing a white and silver dress, she looked like a goddess.

"S-She's that... woman?"

It was nobody else than Planta.

Or well, one of her many bodies.

"Huh?! C-Contestant Planta?!" one of the healers in the infirmary gasped. "Why are you here? Excuse me but this place is off-limits and-"

"I've come to heal the people; will you stop me from helping them?" she asked.

"T-That's... but we already called a-"

"You're lying, you haven't called a single high priest yet," said Planta, her sharp rainbow eyes looking at the three healers present. "The spirits see everything, and they told me what happened here. I came running once I learned you were paid by that trio to delay the healing of these people.

Yes, you can't heal their curses, but high priests would have run here if the king or the queen called for them. However, you said... one, two, or even three hours? By that time these people will all die!"

"W-Wha...?!" Clark was shocked to learn the truth.

The healers were shocked to learn that someone had somehow learned the truth! They stepped back in surprise but quickly composed themselves, thinking that there was no way she could prove that.

"T-There's no way you can prove such a thing!"

"Yeah, you're talking nonsense!"

"Please leave or we'll be forced to call the soldiers, and then you'll be disqualified for-"

"Oh? You think you can just mess around with innocent people's lives just because you were paid some money?" Planta sighed, facepalming. "I know you must have been desperate for money, but please, have some sincerity and heart."

Suddenly, Planta threw a bag of gold into the floor.

"That's ten million gold," she said.

The healer's eyes widened, full of greed at the bag.

"You want it? Confess your sins, I won't tell anybody." She smiled.

The healers felt slightly surprised, but smirked.

They thought Planta was a stupid dumbass bitch, that would hand over money for free like this!

"Yeah sure, we did, they only paid us like ten thousand though."

"A-Are you really giving us ten million?!"

"We're rich!"

As they walked towards the sack of money, however, several soldiers suddenly walked out of the corridor, hiding right at Planta's side.

"They have confessed their crime, please take care of them," she smiled.

"Huh?!"

"W-What?!"

"Hey! What is the meaning of this?!"

Planta retrieved the bag of coins and saw the healers being taken away by soldiers, Paladin David was there, nodding.

"Thank you Planta, I never thought such a method was even possible!" he laughed. "Not only they will be interrogated now, but those three brothers... I'll make sure they pay for what they did."

"Thank you David," Planta smiled. "Now, if you excuse me..."

With a single wave of her hands, a shockwave of gold and rainbow light washed over everyone in the infirmary. The curse festering their burned wounds disappeared instantly, and their wounds were immediately healed.

What's better, even lost body parts such as eyes, or even broken limbs healed immediately, and it caused no pain at all, only a washing sensation of relief, something rare as healing magic often caused a lot of pain, at least to NPC.

Players mostly had their pain receptors usually lowered, but healing magic usually dealt with the restoration of cells, this caused a "phantom pain" sensation as the nerves realigned themselves around where wounds were.

Yet Planta's heal caused no such pain.

"I-I'm healed?!"

"My eye... My eye is back!"

"My arms... they're healed..."

"T-Thank you..."

"I thought I wouldn't be able to ever recover...!"

All the burned participants were in tears, thanking Planta while covering their faces in embarrassment.

Planta then walked towards them, giving each one a bag of ten million gold.

"Take this, it is the least I could do to make up for all the things you went through," she sighed.

"A-Are you sure?!"

"S-So much money..."

"This is something I would make in like three years?!"

"Yes, it's fine, take it," she nodded. "And if you ever feel like you need guidance, visit my smithy later. I am looking for more workers."

As Planta walked away, all the blacksmiths were left shocked.

And completely conquered!

"P-Planta... She's such a wonderful woman..." Clark sighed. "Can I really become the disciple of someone like her?"