

Brand New 1311

Chapter 1311: The Next Morning

We spent several hours preparing for everything to the point it had gotten very late when we were mostly done... Well, not everyone, we were done for now, we needed to go to sleep IRL after all.

Meanwhile the other people of the Kingdom would most likely not rest, they had to set up everything for tomorrow's morning big battle, and it was going to be very big, without a doubt.

A lot of things could be wrong, and it was their job to think about every possibility that might happen, especially all the bad things, and prepare a countermeasure against a bad scenario.

Although, as long as I can get everyone away from the city, even if half the city is flattened or blown away, it would still be within the calculated losses by the two rulers.

The most important thing and what made a Kingdom what it was, was of course the citizens. If the citizens survive, then they can simply rebuild the city eventually.

Even if over half of it is left in ruins... I think.

Though I would gladly help rebuild it too, with Lily's help as well, we would merge our stone and wood manipulation abilities and rebuild new big houses combining these two elements.

Although we aren't the best architects though, so they might end up looking a bit weird...

Anyways, after everything, we simply logged out instantly and went to rest.

I wanted to check my items and use everything I had to get stronger, but I was already beginning to suffer a headache, it was too much, we needed to get out for now.

I was quite surprised though, the Queen hadn't logged out and she seemed as energetic as ever, despite being a Player, she didn't really act like one at all.

I always wondered why was that the case... Was she logged out whenever we didn't see her, or she was always logged into the game?

Like... forever?

Had I ever seen her log out at all through this entire time we've known her?

I kind of wanted to ask but I had already logged out, and I think it might come out as disrespectful anyways.

As we logged out, we ordered pizza for dinner because I had no energy to even summon a spirit to cook for us, and we enjoyed pizza while being very tired, resting over the couch while watching a movie as a big family.

There were a lot of things that were going to happen tomorrow, and I am sure it might be our greatest challenge so far... Maybe, I don't know if it'll be as big as the Demon King of Miasma's invasion.

But it'll be big...

However, that didn't mean these moments together shouldn't be enjoyed. In fact, if we enjoy them, then we can fight much better latter on, feeling stronger and more recovered.

Nonetheless, while leaving the pizza half-eaten, I ended going to sleep, and slept so much that I ended waking up when it was already 1 PM...

"Ahh... Ugh."

The sunlight coming from the window was pretty strong, annoyingly so, so it ended waking me up. It was weird, at this point sunlight should benefit me, but when it gets into my eyes its inevitably annoying.

"Well, look who's awake," Mark smiled. "Good morning sunshine."

"Ah..." I yawned. "Hey... Ugh, I slept a lot didn't I?"

"Yeah, I can't really blame you I woke up like an hour ago," Mark laughed, he seemed to have just taken a bath and was drying his hair.

"Have you eaten anything?" I wondered.

"Not yet, I'll go make breakfast now, go take a bath and take it easy," he said. "The whole event will be tonight, so for now just relax and let's take things slowly."

"Hmm, alright," I nodded, still feeling sleepy.

I walked to the bathroom, feeling like I was going to pee myself at any moment and did the deed.

"Hahh..."

I felt slightly nauseous for some reason, and kind of dizzy, even when I washed my face and drank a lot of water.

My body was pretty strong right now, so feeling like that was quite a rare experience nowadays.

So it kind of made me wonder...

Something.

"Umm..."

I quickly took out something from a small drawer in my bathroom, something I've always stored just in case for a few months now.

But this time for sure it might actually be... something I needed to use.

I unpacked it and looked at the small, long thing.

I placed it on... well, in the toilet where I had just peed and checked.

I waited a few minutes, feeling slightly nervous.

But then...

"Ah..."

Yep, two lines.

Oh my god...

"Oh... Oh my god..."

I was shaking a bit.

I mean, I knew this could eventually happen...

I-I've done it quite a lot with Mark, unprotected.

And he has... yes, he does the deed inside a lot, each night, for several... months.

I was just asking for it, wasn't I?

Well, we did talk about it before so... I think he'll be fine with it?

I've been through it once before, but even then, and when I was kind of, slightly looking forward to it...

I still felt quite nervous and a bit afraid, ugh.

I have to calm down for now...

I should take a warm bath before I tell him the news.

"Hahh..."

For some reason as I took a bath, I started crying.

I didn't know why.

Was it because I was pregnant?

It was strange, a bit of happiness mixed with fear and sorrow.

I'm so weird...

But after a while I calmed down, I washed my hair and then got ready.

"Okay, let's do this..."

After changing clothes to something more comfortable, I stepped out of my room, feeling a little tingle.

A tingle of something down there.

"Eh?"

It was very faint, but I felt it.

No, it wasn't the baby or something, it must be too small to even kick me yet.

But there was something there that had appeared.

Wait, was that a soul?

A soul was born...

Something I could have never felt before when I didn't have my powers.

I felt... the birth of my child's soul.

Oh my god...

It was so beautiful.

I couldn't help but smile, caressing my belly.

Chapter 1312: You Will Be A Father!

I was a bit nervous; this wasn't what I expected to happen right in the day of the big fight!

It was a bit too sudden, dammit. I would've preferred it to happen afterwards, maybe even after I'm done with the Demon King of Death.

But this is... well, it is what it is?

I walked out of the room feeling a bit braver, and I asked for Mark to come back to the room.

"Mark, can you please... Um, can you please come here?"

"Hm? What happened?"

He quickly walked back while looking a bit concerned, as he entered the room I closed the door and looked at him, still nervous.

"Aeh... Ah... Well, this..."

I sat down feeling a bit tired.

"W-What happened?"

He quickly walked to my side, hugging my shoulder, looking worried.

"Is something wrong? Just tell me."

"Um..."

I took out the little thing I had used and showed it to him.

"I just did a pregnancy test today... I was feeling really weird, usually I don't feel as dizzy, tired, or nauseous nowadays that I'm strong and all..."

"A-A pregnancy test?! W-Wait a second, did you...?"

"Yes I... it's positive, do you see? It's two lines, so... I-I'm pregnant. It's yours of course..."

"W-Wha...! Wait, really?!"

He looked completely shocked.

"Yeah... I am! I-I even just recently sensed their little soul..." I sighed.

"Seriously?" he gasped.

"Hm," I nodded. "Mark? What's wrong?"

"I-I..."

He looked so shocked I was a bit afraid he would get mad?

But he would never get mad, right?

He's...

"I'll be a father?"

He looked at me with teary eyes.

"Oh..."

I smiled.

"Yeah..."

I held his hand.

"You will!"

"E-Elayne..."

He started crying a bit, as he hugged me tightly.

And I hugged him tightly back.

He was such an emotional man, but it was cute, honestly.

But this means he's really happy, if he's even crying about it!

"I'm so happy... thank you..."

"Mark..."

"Thank you for loving me... and thank you for changing my life... Since the day I saw you that you were always in my heart... A-And I know this sounds corny as hell but... You're my entire life's purpose at this

point. I work for you, I fight for you, I go through all for you, I.... you're my sun, my moon, my world, my treasure... the love of my life, and I hope that for the rest of my life too..."

"Aww, Mark!"

He was indeed very corny!

But it was so cute, it hit me right in the heart.

He was so sweet.

I couldn't help but kiss his entire face and cleansed his tears.

Eventually I also started crying again.

"I love you too... You're also the love of my life," I looked at him in his teary eyes. "Will you raise the baby with me?"

"O-Of course! You don't even need to ask that, Elayne, we're already living together, right?" he giggled a bit. "I'll do my best to be a good father... But you're much more experienced than me, so I hope you can guide me along the way?"

"Yeah, of course honey," I giggled, mooching his lips. "I'll make an amazing father out of you, alright?"

"Thanks..." he hugged me again. "I love you... I'll always do and of course, our baby... I don't even know if it'll be a boy or a girl, but I already love them so much! I-I just can't wait to see them! I'm so excited..."

"Hahah! Calm down, that'll take a lot of months, so take it easy," I giggled. "It'll be okay though... Phew! I feel so relieved now..."

"Were you scared?" he wondered. "Why though? I-I would never get mad at you for something like this... To be honest I don't think I could ever get mad at you for anything..."

"Haha, well, I guess so..." I giggled. "I was just being dumb maybe."

"It's alright," he hugged me. "You're not dumb... I guess it's natural, you're the one carrying the child and everything. But I am not someone that would abandon you or anything. Never."

"Aww... Now I know for sure," I rubbed my face on his chest, it was big.

"So what name do we give him... or her?" he wondered. "We should prepare two names just in case, right? If it's either boy or girl, right?"

"Hmm, yeah!" I nodded. "But giving them a name right now? I think it'll take some time to decide that... Let's calm down and hold our horses for now, haha."

"Okay then... I'll be thinking about it though," he nodded. "Hm, should we tell your daughter about this? What about everyone else?"

"For now I would rather keep it between us," I said. "I don't want to give them more surprises, we've got a lot to do after all."

"Right... Yeah, you're not wrong," he nodded. "Anyways, if you're pregnant then I imagine you need a lot of nutrients and calories, carbohydrates and everything for the kid to grow big and strong! So let's go eat a big breakfast to start the day, alright? I'll cook you up anything you want."

"Really honey?" I wondered. "Okay, then I want some cereal to start... Also pancakes, I want a lot. Can you make waffles too? Bacon and eggs for sure... I also want toasts, with cheese, cream cheese, some salami too. I also want some tea maybe with creamy milk. Oh, French toasts too! Can you make some?"

"W-Woah, you're really hungry today, alright," he nodded. "Sure, leave it to me... Though, can you call a spirit to help me out? The order is quite hefty today."

"Okay, I'll call Gordon to help!" I said. "Gordon! Come!"

FLASH!

With a flash of bright golden light, a huge, three-headed dragon emerged, with several muscular arms and wearing chef clothes, he looked excited.

"I heard everything! Congratulations, master! I am so happy that my honored master will be the mother of a second child!"

"Oh you heard? Thanks! Alright, can you help Mark?"

"But of course! We shall prepare you a meal worthy of gods!"

"Also don't mention this for now, ok?"

"Ah? Well, if you insist, it shall be kept a secret."

Like that, I had a gigantic breakfast.

I was so damn hungry I actually ate everything I asked Mark to make for me...

Funnily enough, I could even feel how half my nutrients went to the kid.

And how... it was growing alarmingly quickly?!

Oh my god...

I-It might not take 8 months to be born, I'm afraid.

Chapter 1313: The World's Tree Little Sappling

As the morning came in the Forest of Beginnings, hundreds of different types of birds sang their beautiful melodies, making loud noise across the entire and bountiful domain of nature.

The squirrel-kin climbed trees and gathered fruits and nuts for their families, while the Myconid dug underground, finding delicious roots and mushrooms to eat.

The fairies attended their huge farms, while cleaning the sweat off their foreheads, while Brownies and Gnomes worked together mining magical and spirit ores in the new, bountiful mines found underground.

All the people of the forest were working diligently every day, taking from the bountiful harvest of the forest while also giving back everything they could.

Titania glanced at the windows, smiling as she saw the beauty of the new Forest, she glanced at Yggdrasil, sighing in relief.

"Mother, you've left behind an incredible legacy... I'm sure Elayne will honor it well- Oh?"

However, her thoughts were interrupted as she suddenly felt a tiny, yet incredibly powerful, divine spark.

It surged as fast as it disappeared.

However, she sensed something, being born from Yggdrasil.

A small fruit, falling from its branches.

The fruit was eaten by the soil itself, leaving behind a tiny seed.

And the seed, rapidly sprouted, revealing a beautiful, green colored leaf.

Yggdrasil acted naturally and on her own, her roots moved towards this little sprout, this small sapling.

Connecting her powerful, divine roots with it, she began to feed it nutrients and magical, divine, and spiritual energies.

"T-This is...?!"

Titania was utterly shocked by what she was seeing, a small soul, a divinity spark, and a little sprout appeared out of nowhere.

And that little soul within the small sapling, connected to a completely different world.

"I can't believe this..." she muttered, covering her face. "Planta, you...?!"

Titania shed a tear of happiness, as she glanced at the huge Yggdrasil feeding her beautiful, delicate, little sapling.

She could immediately see a bright future for this little tree.

"The world as we know it is only going to change even more..."

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(Elayne's POV)

The baby didn't grow that big too fast though, but I did feel its growth...

For example, it was a like a small seed before, but now it was a tiny sprout!

If I'm not wrong humans would take over a month to get from a cellular stage to a developing tiny fetus, right?

I think so, I am not so sure though. That I was a mother before doesn't mean I knew how exactly things happened inside.

I should research more.

Anyways, Elena wasn't born at eight months but at seven months, though there weren't any problems when she was born even if a bit earlier.

I guess this sometimes happens to people, I think one of Rita's kids were born at six months and a half!

Anyways, after eating everything, I had to quickly go to the bathroom anyways, my digestive system was working super-fast.

"Phew..."

After walking out of it and feeling mostly relieved, I decided to go to the garden with Mark and my daughter. Her friends were also here as well, hanging out with her as usual.

The Druids came to greet us just as we walked into the garden, bringing... offerings?

"Goddess Elayne, we've brought some offerings for you," said Judith in her crow form.

"We hunted down a lot of these annoying pests, so the crystals are all yours!" Rudras said also on his falcon form.

"The children were quite eager to hunt today, you see," giggled Jannis.

In front of me there was a pile of dozens of mana crystals, most likely from Hollows. It seems they had been hunting them whenever they appear.

"Oh wow, you didn't really have to..." I said, feeling surprised. "But thanks a lot! Are you feeling hungry? We left a lot of food from breakfast; would you like to eat as well?"

"Well, uhh..." Judith swallowed saliva as she turned back to her original human appearance.

"Hm..." Rudras did the same while looking tempted.

They looked at Jannis though, as if asking for her permission to enjoy the delicious, processed food of modern society.

I guess their disciple as Druids might be quite strict when it comes to eating processed food and stuff, right?

However, Jannis sighed.

"You might be children to me, but you're considered adults everywhere else, so you're responsible for your own actions... I do believe that many of the... disciplines of old druids might feel quite restrictive, especially when our Goddess seems to embrace the modern society so much. So you are free to do as you please... I won't punish you or something."

"T-Thanks grandma!" Judith said.

"I want pancakes!" Rudras cried.

The two ran inside the house and happily served themselves breakfast. Gordon was there so he mostly did anything they wanted too.

Jannis slowly walked towards the house as well.

"Thank you for inviting us to your sacred shrine every day, Goddess Elayne, we are eternally grateful for your generosity."

"It's alright, please eat whatever you want, Jannis."

"T-Then I might have a helping of tea with creamy milk, oh, and maybe some muffins... Hoho!"

Despite everything she seemed to also enjoy these things.

"Haha, looks like they did want to eat too, huh?" Mark giggled. "Anyways, what are we doing today? Should we attend the plants?"

"Yeah I was planning on giving them more fertilizer, injecting them some more energy..." I said. "Perhaps plant more seeds as well, there's a lot of more free space now that the Domain evolved. Oh right, these crystals... Can you crush them for me honey? Until they're fine dust. Let's mix it with fertilizer so the plants get a lot of nutrients."

"Ah, sure! Leave it to me!" he nodded. "You just stay there, and rest." He patted my head.

"Geez, it's not like I feel bad or something..." I sighed. "I'm still super strong you know?"

"A-Ahahah, but still, take it easy," he smiled, quickly getting to work.

As I sat down over the grass, I saw my daughter playing around the forest with her friends, they were kind of practicing magic and also just playing.

Despite their age they still feel like little kids sometimes, huh?

Gabriel was with Katherine too, the two of them playing with spirits.

Everything was so peaceful.

I closed my eyes, feeling the waves of nature.

The spark of my baby's soul seemed to resonate as I meditated using my Nature Soul.

FLASH!

Wow, there it is! Another spark...

Is it trying to communicate, or maybe it's just a natural reaction?

I felt... a connection with my baby, so strong... so beautiful.

And this connection seemed to... Hm?

Wait a moment...

There's no way right?

Hm, it still so faint, I can't tell.

Well, I'll one day find out.

"It seems you're carrying a child, congratulations, Elayne."

"Eh?!"

I was suddenly spooked by a gentle, soothing female voice.

I glanced behind me, noticing Kaguya standing behind me.

So she can move away from her tree too!

Kaguya was the Cherry Blossom Dryad, or Kodama, a new little helper I summoned inside my Domain, directly from the Spiritual Realm, I think?

"You were able to tell so easily..." I muttered.

"Why yes, it's rather obvious," she giggled. "There's a strong little soul down there. Congratulations!"

"T-Thanks..." I sighed. "Don't scare me like that while I'm meditating, alright?"

"Hahaha! Gomen, gomen!" she giggled, apologizing in Japanese.

Katherine was right, Japanese Spirits are kind of weird!

Chapter 1314: Soul Orb

While sitting down, I glanced at Mark preparing the fertilizer by mixing several bags of it with the dust created from crushing the purified hollow cores, which are often times also called magic or mana crystals. They were the same in the end, although of different qualities.

Monster cores will usually, and naturally, have much higher quality to them compared to what Hollows drop, of course.

"It seems you're having difficulties meditating," Kaguya commented.

"Maybe if someone didn't interrupt me?" I sighed.

"Ah, my bad, well, it felt like even if I didn't, you were having troubles," she giggled. "Tell me, Elayne, what is troubling you? As a Spirit you summoned, it is my duty to help you if I can."

"Ah... well..." I muttered. "I'm about to have a big fight, and I am thinking what to concentrate on and how to grow my powers."

"A big fight? Here?" she wondered.

"Not here, you may not know, but it's another world," I explained. "Whenever we connect to that device you see us inside our rooms, it connects to another world. That world is called Arcadia, and it is the origin of my magic powers, and perhaps also the origin of why the First Contact even happened."

"Oh, so that's what it was..." Kaguya wasn't even that surprised; I suppose she had already guessed most of it. "And who are you exactly battling?"

"Someone too strong, an old Archwizard that is a master of the Space Element..." I said. "He has also created contracts with God, knows how many demons, and knows demonic magic as a warlock. Probably has lived for hundreds of years too."

"Oh my, why did you even pick up a fight against such a monster?" Kaguya wondered.

"I didn't have a choice either way..." I sighed. "He's the master of a cult that was constantly aiming to destroy my Forest and also the Kingdom I've allied. It's not like I am weak either... Maybe in this world I am still developing, but in that world, my Avatar is very powerful. But even then, it feels like it's still not enough."

"Hmm..." she nodded. "So you want to develop abilities or spells to counter that magician?"

"Yes, and also... to facilitate the escape of the citizens of that big city," I explained. "I have a whole plan for it, but I am not 100% sure it will work as I want. I need something that could help me... both move a large amount of people and also to put them asleep, so they won't make a fuss. All while not being detected by the arch wizard."

"That is a tall task to ask for!" she said. "However... you are indeed equipped with a big quantity of Spells and Abilities already, master Elayne. I would say... Don't you have some special magical items? You should definitely try to see what you can get through them!"

"Magical items?" I wondered. "Ah right..."

I quickly opened my Inventory, taking out the various items I had obtained from the Domain Quests and the Domain Shop.

So far, I had this...

[Spirit Crystal Coins] x50

[Mystery Seed] x3

[Nature Soul Elixir] x3

[Spell Evolution Crystal] x2

[Physique Ability Evolution Crystal] x1

[Spell and Physique Ability Fusion Crystal] x1

Aside from the Spirit Crystal Coins which have no real use other than for the Domain Shop, the other items were quite interesting.

I had not thought about them at all actually; I imagined that whatever they could do, they wouldn't really help me out that much.

But maybe I was wrong or overthinking things. Kaguya was a sharp woman; she seemed to be guiding me towards something.

"I see, quite a fine assortment of items," she nodded. "Hmm... Mystery Seeds, aren't they? Quite pretty and full of vitality and spirit energy. How do you usually use these?"

"I plant them, and they then create Faes," I explained. "The Faes then protect the Domain... I think that's how I used them before."

"I see, well, Mystery Seeds aren't just for Fae creation though," she nodded. "They contain the Element of Mystery within them and are precious materials for alchemy that magicians use to improve and strengthen their foundations, did you know?"

"Eh?! I had no idea!" I said. "How so?"

"Well, consuming it alone will already make you a bit stronger," she said. "Magically and Spiritually. But... There can be other ways, such as Alchemy, as I said before. Are you quite acquainted with the Art of Alchemy, master?"

"Yes, I do have some Skills for Alchemy, but it's in the other world... I have not used them here," I said. "So I fear they might be rather underdeveloped."

"Hmm, as long as you know the basics, then it should work..." she nodded. "Very well, let me help you then. I have an idea that might give you what you want... or perhaps an approximation of it!"

"A-Are you serious?" I wondered. "Kaguya..."

"Why yes, I told you that I am quite an old spirit myself," she said. "In Japan, I've lived through many Eras. I've witnessed both Shrine Maidens, Onmyōji, and Cursed Sorcerers use their magic in various ways. I once had a master that was an Onmyōji, and they're Masters of Alchemy, Feng Shui, and Transmutation. Although nowadays they're mostly recognized for being exorcists, they were very wise."

"Hmm... So what are you intending to tell me though?" I wondered. "What do you want me to do?"

"Something called a Soul Orb," she explained. "It is a concentration of Spirit Energy and Mana that has absorbed the essence of Heaven and Earth. It can be imbued with specific powers through an inscription and then absorbed, helping someone quickly grow or develop already existing abilities towards what they want. It is hard to make, and it usually cannot create things that don't exist within a magician. But seeing how you possess a wide variety of engraved spells, I believe you'll be fine, master."

"Soul Orb..." I muttered. "I had no idea such an item existed; is this from Japan?"

"Eh, it wasn't created in my homeland," she said. "I don't know how it was created though, but its recipe is well known across most Sorcerers and Alchemists of Asia."

"I see... Okay, alright, show me how it's done," I nodded.

Chapter 1315: Feng Shui Formation

Soul Orbs, apparently, a type of powerful magic item that Alchemists and Sorcerers of Asia have been making for thousands of years by now. It is also considered a very precious, high-level item that cannot be easily made. Kaguya told me that sorcerers and alchemists work their entire lives to just obtain one, and once they make it, they're considered masters of their field.

"And you know how to make such an incredible item?" I wondered, as I saw her assessing all my items while nodding.

"Yes, more or less," she nodded. "Now, I wonder, do you happen to have a big cauldron? One of high quality if possible... I'm sorry for not asking this first, but it's very necessary."

"Don't worry, I happen to have an Alchemy Cauldron," I nodded. "It's a high quality one that Ambil made for me."

"Ambil?" she wondered.

"A blacksmith from Arcadia," I smiled.

CLANK!

The huge Cauldron dropped into the ground, as Kaguya's eyes opened wide.

"Oh my, is this an object from that other world?! It is infused with so much magic... It's perfect!" she said. "Very well, I can work on this, I'll make a formation first though. We don't want to use real fire for this but heat the cauldron using pure magic. Can you help me out? I need you to place these Runes in the form of Spirit Charms on the floor, creating a circle..."

She gave me a leaf with several runes, they looked a bit complicated, probably either Chinese or Japanese letters I didn't quite understand, but I nodded, nonetheless.

With the help of the Great Spirit and then Mark, who I explained what we were doing, we finished the preparations within thirty minutes.

Once we were done, the clear floor, which I had turned into a slim wooden floor using my wood magic, was covered by several charms and runes nicely arranged into a huge circle with five divisions. Each division was a different element, wood, fire, earth, metal and water

In the middle of these five elements there was also a "formation core" that was divided into two more elements, Yin and Yang, which were the base for all these types of sorcery or alchemy from Asia.

"It's done, it was quite complicated to do though..." Mark said. "So you're going to make this Soul Orb for Elayne, Kaguya?"

"Yes, yes, we got everything I believe," she nodded. "Elayne, you don't mind me using all the materials?"

"All of them?!" I wondered. "But I was hoping to use some of them..."

"Don't worry, the Soul Orb will bring the best effects they possess," Kaguya smiled. "Well, if you trust me though... You can also just not trust me, and we don't do it. It's up to you."

"Ah, it's very tempting..." I sighed. "Okay... Let's make it. But do we really need all of these materials? They're all super amazing items..."

"Well, the Soul Orb is a very special, powerful magical item," she said. "It requires tremendous Spirit Energy quantities, contained within these three Mystery Seeds, it also requires the Essence of Heaven and Earth, which the Nature Soul Elixirs have. And it also requires Magical Power capable of binding with a soul and transforming it, so the Spell Evolution Crystal, the Physique Ability Evolution Crystal, and the Spell and Physique Ability Fusion Crystal are all required."

"Hmm..." I nodded. "You say its effects will be much better?"

"Yes it will, can assure you of that. I helped my previous master make one," she said. "So I have experience. I later made another for a second master... So I've made it twice."

"I see..." I nodded, rubbing my chin. "What do you think?"

"Ah, I am not so sure honestly..." Mark said. "But if Kaguya is truly your summon and soul bound to you, then she shouldn't be able to lie to you, right?"

"Ah yeah, you're not wrong..." I nodded.

"I say... let's risk it for the biscuit," he smiled.

"Haha, that's so corny," I giggled. "But okay... Can it truly be better than the combination of all these items?"

"Yes, at least... fifty times better, approximately," she calculated.

"Do you guarantee me it'll work?" I asked again.

"It should work as long as we provide the creation with enough energies," she nodded. "Hm, I would recommend summoning as many spirits as you can, if we add them to the creation, its chances for successful creation should rise greatly!"

"So it's not a hundred percent..." I sighed.

"Well! What's life without a bit of a risk here and there..." she giggled.

"Ahhh... okay, okay, fine! Let's do it!" I said. "You're a really good scammer, Kaguya. You convinced me of going through your scheme!"

"Hahaha! Master, you're so funny, it is no scam," she laughed, waving a fan made of wood and pink metals. "Worry not! I shall make you the best Soul Orb there is!"

After this conversation, I ended summoning hundreds of Spirits, all I could muster within my Domain, until everything looked like it had become rainbow-colored.

"Ohoo! The atmosphere is so thick with spirit energy, an ideal place!" she nodded. "Let's begin!"

Kaguya pointed down her hands towards the cauldron as it began bubbling, and then activate the whole formation with a few words.

"{Feng Shui Formation Arts}: {Five-Pointed Yin Yang Star}!"

FLAAASH!

The star-shaped interior of the formation activated as it glowed with several different colors representing every element.

Then, in the middle of all, where the cauldron was, the colors converged, swirling together into a Yin and Yang circle, spinning slowly.

At the same time, the Spirits turned into particles of light, beginning to be rapidly merged with the Yin and Yang circle as they were turned into pure essence infused into the cauldron.

Rapidly, the cauldron was filled with a magical, rainbow-colored liquid.

Kaguya grabbed all my precious items right afterwards, throwing them inside and beginning to synthesize them together.

I saw the Mystery Seeds melt away and the Crystals slowly dissolving into dust, mixing together and rapidly forming something resembling a pearl.

FLUOSH!

Crack, crack...!

It was huge, so big that it suddenly gained a crack...

Wait, a crack?!

Chapter 1316: Abe no Seimei

As I saw the materials merging together, I felt slightly scared the moment I saw them beginning to slowly crack, yes, they were gaining cracks!

My precious Soul Orb was about to break, and everything would be for naught!

FLUOSH!

Crack, crack...!

"Kaguya!"

"I-I know! It has unexpectedly ended up being much bigger! Soul Orbs can't be too big, or they explode-
But let me fix it!"

She licked her lips as her eyebrows furrowed, her eyes glowed brightly as she manipulated the Essence of Heaven and Earth within the formation.

Crack, crack...!

CRASH!

And then the Soul Orb shattered almost completely into two!

I was about to scream...

"There!"

She waved her hands, as a huge hand made of energy grabbed the orb and then began to tightly press it with her power.

"If it's too big, then we'll simply... Heh, we'll simply make two instead of one!"

Wait, two?!

FLUOOOSH!

The crystals continued growing and then dividing, but instead of breaking, it divided, like a cell multiplying, it generated two, beautiful, perfectly equal orbs.

"And... we are done."

The spiritual energies concentrated into the two orbs, as they glowed brightly, rotating against one another constantly.

They slowly emerged from the cauldron, overflowing with soul, spirit, magical, and even divine light.

"They are... perhaps the best I've ever made!" she said. "The ingredients you supplied, the spirits, and also the thick atmosphere of spirit energy made this possible! Here's your reward, master."

The two orbs floated towards me, resting in each of my hands.

"Ooh..."

They glowed so brightly and emanated such bright light and such a strong soul, it felt like they were alive.

"A-Are they alive or something? I can feel they're so warm."

"Technically, they're a magic item, but they contain soul energy inside, so it is as if they were kind of alive? Don't worry, it is not in the same sense as other living beings."

"Huh..." I nodded. "Well! Thank you Kaguya, I'm glad it worked... Phew! Now how do I use this?"

"You simply have to place it in your chest, and it should slowly merge with you," she said. "Once it's fully merged, your mind will be taken to a small mindscape where you must choose the aspects of yourself you wish to combine and evolve together."

"I-I see... That already sounds interesting," I nodded. "Do I have to use Spells or Abilities for this?"

"Yes," she nodded. "You might lose them as they will be used as the ingredients to create a greater power you desire. It will then shape based on your desires and what you want to accomplish. Because you have two, I would recommend you use them both at the same time."

"Hmm, okay," I nodded. "Alright, then I'm doing it!"

I quickly sat over the grass again, with both Soul Orbs in my hands.

I concentrated, as I began to absorb both of them.

By simply placing them on my chest, I saw how they slowly merged with me.

Wow, it was as if they were made of air...

I didn't even feel any pain, if anything, it was more like a warmth that constantly accumulated within my chest.

As they were about to be absorbed completely, I felt like my mind was slowly going somewhere else.

Ahh, so this is how I go to the mindscape?

Alright...

"Ah, I forgot to mention something..." Kaguya said. "You may end up-"

"Eh?"

FLASH!

But before I could hear her words completely, I ended being dragged somewhere else.

I felt like my mind drifted through an endless tunnel of many rainbow colors.

FLUOSH!

Until out of nowhere, I found myself somewhere else.

I was resting over a wooden floor, and as I looked around, I noticed I was inside some sort of building.

A palace of sorts, Japanese, or maybe Chinese?

The walls were painted of clear pink with red, there were large white pillars, and as I stood up, I realized something else.

"Huh?"

My clothes had changed, as I was now wearing a beautiful floral kimono of white color with a pink Sakura tree decorating it.

My hair was also tied into a ponytail, and also covered with golden and shiny ornaments like those Kaguya used, making me resemble her a Japanese princess of old times.

"Why did my clothes...?"

I looked around the room, noticing it was full of fancy looking furniture made of wood of various colors.

There were also beautiful paintings resembling those of Chinese or Japanese old painting styles.

Dragons, phoenixes, fair maidens, men with swords clashing, mountains, and so on.

As I walked outside the room, I saw a long corridor with many rooms like these.

Some had small fountains inside decorated with white stones around them and small, miniature temples.

I was left speechless, was this the mindscape where I get to choose my abilities and spells and combine them?!

"Um... Hello?"

I walked around looking a bit nervous, the sound of my footsteps echoing across the entire palace.

Until suddenly... I felt another presence at the end of a corridor.

I walked inside, finding that it led to the "outside" a beautiful Japanese garden with a pond full of colorful koi fish, and with many little trees around, plus a lot of Sakura trees.

And there was a person there...

Yep, this is definitely not my damn mindscape!

Kaguya, where the hell did you sent me?!

"My, oh my, to think I would have visitors today..." the person giggled, as they gently feed the koi fish with rice. "Has my little spirit sent you to me, my beautiful cherry blossom?"

It was a handsome young, Asian man, with long black hair, beautiful golden eyes, wearing Japanese clothes with long sleeves of red and white color.

His chest could be seen, he had a muscular frame, covered with strange, magical tattoos.

There were golden ornaments over his head, making him look very regal.

And was he using red lipstick too? And a bit of makeup on the eyes too!

He sure looked extravagantly handsome!

"U-Uhh... Hi..." I muttered. "Um, I had no idea I would end here, I just made two Soul Orbs and I-"

"Wait, two?!" he gasped, covering his mouth. "Aren't you quite the genius! Hmm, and about me? Well, I am Kaguya's previous master. Some call me a Legend by now. I am Abe no Seimei, one of the leading figures of the Onmyōji in Ancient Japan. I am introducing myself because you're a foreigner, so I won't expect you to know me, despite how famous I might be in my homeland."

"Abe no Seimei..." I muttered. "Yes, that does ring some bells. I've heard that name in anime sometimes! Indeed, you're like a very famous figure of the Onmyōji..."

"A-Anime? Hahaha!" he laughed. "I guess that's what our legacy has become now. I suppose that is fine, as long as it remains... Now tell me your name."

"I am Elayne..." I said. "I am a Druid from Canada, in North America."

"American, I see..." he nodded.

"I wouldn't call myself American because that's usually used for those from the United States of North America! Canadians are Canadians." I said.

"Hah, alright," he nodded. "I do know why you came here, and I'll help you out with that in just a moment. But first, would you care to share a cup of green tea and some mochi with me? I haven't had visits in ages, and someone from another country... I am very curious to know more about the world overseas."

"Ah... Well, if you insist," I said. "I shall take that offer, thank you."

I better not waste this opportunity.

Chapter 1317: The Strongest Sorcerer Of The Heian Era

This was all an opportunity I couldn't waste, to be honest. Even though it was very surprising and out of nowhere, I think Kaguya was trying to tell me that this might happen. But I can't help but wonder, how did this happen though?

As I sat down over a small cushion in front of a little wooden table, Abe no Seimei simply moved his fingers around, as several little spirits resembling ghostly white foxes appeared, carrying everything for us.

"Oh wow..."

They served us green tea, then brought mochis of various colors and fillings, and lastly rice crackers, all typical Japanese snacks, how delightful!

Can I even eat in this mindscape though?

"Feel free to eat as much as you want," he said with a charming smile. "Oh, were you wondering what these little guys are?"

He giggled as the little fox spirits flew towards his hands, licking him.

"They are White Fox Shikigami, extensions of my familiar, my cute Tamamo-chan," said Abe no Seimei with a giggle. "Aren't they cute?"

"T-They kind of are, yes..." I nodded. "I thought they were Spirits."

"Shikigami are something similar to Spirits," he said. "But are also quite different, a mix between Spirits and Yokai. I would say an in-between maybe. They are usually created and don't occur naturally in the wild most of the time. They are perfect for familiars for us Onmyōji."

"I see..." I nodded. "So, um... I wanted to ask something first? If it's not too much of a bother..."

"Go ahead," he nodded drinking some tea.

"How did I get here?!" I asked. "I mean, I was going to go to my mindscape and get done with this but now I'm here... Is this some sort of divine realm? Spirit realm? Domain? What is this place?!"

"Pppffff...!" he ended laughing. "Hahaha! That was quite the change of demeanor... I can see you're very lost. I'm sorry for not telling you before. You are not trapped either. But this place is... well, we could say it is not exactly a Domain but it's also a Mindscape, and at the same time a Realm that lies beyond the boundaries of the Mortal World."

"Mortal World?!" I asked. "W-What? I'm confused..."

"To explain things better, imagine there world as we know it is like a sandwich and..."

"Oh yes I've been told that example before..." I said. "The Mortal World is like a dimension of its own right? And its in the middle, then above is the Heavenly Realm and below the Hell Realm, or something?"

"You got it!" he nodded. "Indeed, they're more like layers of a dimension than anything. So even if you go to the skies and then space you're never going to find heaven, yet it still above us. This Realm, which is both of the Mind and Soul, is in between the Mortal World and the Heavenly World. Kind of like in between the two, get it? It was created upon my death."

"So you died...?" I asked. "I thought that you might've remained alive."

"Oh no, I died as an old grandpa. This youthful appearance is how I've looked after dying, this is my appearance when I was at my pinnacle," he said.

"So you're a ghost?" I wondered.

"Oh my, of course not," he laughed. "That would be so creepy, right? I am not a ghost, my dear flower. I am something like... Hmm, like a Kami! No? Yeah."

"Kami... You mean a god?!" I asked.

"Oh yes, "God" is what you call in the west to the Kamis?" he wondered. "Hmm, that doesn't mean I am all powerful or something though! But yes I have become a Kami. Kamis aren't just deities though, spirits that have attained divine power too, can be called Kami. But at the same time it seems we are quite unique? The word Kami has gained a certain weight within the Mortal World due to the belief of Japanese people and their desire of separation from the Western World. What could have once been very similar meanings, now create completely different beings altogether."

"So Kami and Gods... are different now?" I asked.

"We could work the same, but yes, there's big differences," he said. "For example, Kami can only be born in Japan."

"I see..." I nodded. "Wait a minute! Weren't you a normal human once? How did you..."

"Hmm, normal human? I wouldn't say that's the correct way to talk about me..." he giggled. "I was definitely not your average human. Since birth that I was blessed by Heaven and Earth. Magic and Sorcery, Alchemy, Feng Shui, Astrology, I mastered all these fields seamlessly. My family, who were already a big, famous family of Onmyōji, taught me all as I was born as a great genius! Well, my father married his Kitsune companion, so having a Kitsune mother helped too, perhaps, hahaha!"

Did he say his mother was a Kitsune?!

Suddenly, I noticed that there was a big, fluffy tail dangling behind him.

And beneath his Onmyōji hat, there was some fluffy... white fluff.

So he has ears and tail...

"A-Ahah..." I muttered. "If that were the case though, wouldn't you have grown to be a very petty and egocentric person, sir? But you're very humble and nice."

"Oh my, you're so harsh, but yes I try to be humble and nice, hospitality has always been part of my culture," he giggled. "I've gone through... many challenges as well. Some that had made me shed a few tears, dare I say. Life was not easy, genius or not... Having to hide my identity as a Half-Kitsune while trying to survive and protect the people from the most dangerous Era of Japan, the Heian Era, was tough indeed."

"Okay, okay, I understand..."

He really loves talking about himself, doesn't he? Maybe he has felt so lonely he really just wanted to talk with someone.

I kind of feel bad about him now...

"Um, so how did I end here?" I asked again. "Please answer my question now..."

"A-Ah! My bad, I kind of got myself too distracted talking about my sad past, sniff!" he said. "Now, um... Ah right, of course, it's because of Kaguya! She made those Soul Orbs for you, no? Her Essence must still be mixed with mine, so the Soul Orbs possessed part of my leftover power she had within her. Hence, you ended here! Haha! Congrats!" he clapped.

"E-Eh?!"

Chapter 1318: The Soul Mirror

"It has been over a thousand years since the last time I saw my cute Kaguya-chan! How is she doing so far?" Ame no Seimei continued yapping nonstop. "Ah, I'm sorry about this though. It was my fault that you ended here. You see, the magical contract I created with her was very strong so even after I died its trace remained as leftover magic... She must have not realized this when she made the Soul Orbs for you!"

"I-I see... So that happened," I nodded. "Well, she's fine I think. She's doing alright. She seems healthy and well... she's quite cunning as well. And knows what to do... she's quite smart."

"Interesting, so she had become more cunning then?" nodded Abe no Seimei. "I remember her when she was just a little sapling, she was the cutest little thing! I grew her up myself, did you know? She always called me when I came back home from the garden."

"So she was a little sapling back then..." I nodded. "That's interesting... And cute. So I ended coming her because of your residual magic?"

"Yes, it most likely created a connection between your mind and my realm," he said. "Well, you could call this a Divine Realm, perhaps? As I've ascended into a Kami thanks to the Legends created after my death, and also because of being a half-kitsune, I was able to create this little world of mine."

"Well that's quite... Interesting," I muttered. "Hm, ah! This is really good..."

I ended tasting the tea, then eating the mochi and the rice crackers. Everything was surprisingly delicious and more flavorful than I imagined.

"I can't believe these two snacks were made using rice," I said, looking at them. "They're so different."

"Yes, that's right. Rice is the most important food in Japan," he said. "It is said to even have sacred powers! Did you know that there are multiple Kamis of Harvest, Rice, and Vegetables? It is a very holy food that had fed Japan since its very beginning, when it was introduced by China. All the way back in the Jomon Era, or perhaps even earlier."

"Is that so..." I nodded.

"When you eat this rice, you're also tasting Japan's history," he smiled. "Isn't it wonderful?"

"I-I guess?" I wondered. "It is nice..."

I guess he was indeed Japanese if he loved everything about it and talked in such a way about the country, damn.

Anyways, I can't distract myself for too long in here, I need to get things done.

"So anyways, I'm afraid I can't really stay here for too long, Abe," I said. "So I was wondering if you could help me get things done?"

"Oh, of course, I'm sorry for keeping you around for too long," he nodded. "I'm really grateful you've listened to me for this time. So I'll happily help you. First, let's see... where did I place that thing?"

Abe no Seimei stood up and started looking around the room, until he finally found something, it was like a moon-shaped mirror finely decorated with gold and letters around it.

"Here it is! The Soul Mirror," he said. "Here, please hold this."

"Eh?"

I held the mirror and suddenly, instead of my reflection, I saw a list of... Spells, and my Physique Abilities?!

Unique Abilities: [Inventory Transfer] [Pathway: Divinity] [Soul Devour] [Ruler of the Sky]

Engraved Spells: Mana Sense, Mana Empowerment, Nature's Protection, Plant Manipulation, Healing Sap, Danger Detection, Spirit Call, Spiritual Gaze, Earth Spirit Call, Wind Spirit Call, Fire Spirit Call, Spirit Fusion, Spirit Infusion, Wooden Shield, Wooden Barrier, Thorny Vines, Seed Creation, Nature Spirit's Rage, Greater Spirit Summon, Otherworldly Familiar Summon, Nature Assimilation, Yggdrasil's Armor, Soil Domain, Soil Manipulation, Terrain Takeover, Light Ball, Light Bullets, Light Shield, Healing Light, Spiritual Domain, Spirit Creation, Wide-Area Exorcism, Light Blade, Light Arrow, Sunshine Veil, Light Spirit Call, Nature's Domain, Terrain Dominion, Heavenly Light Flash, Life and Light Chains of Restraint, Spirit Tree Checkpoint, Nature's Teleportation, Mass Charm Production, Spiritual Battle Aura, Spiritual Muscle Enhancement, Holy Light Spirit Smite, Yggdragon's Spirit Breath, Draconic Aura, Spirit Tempest, Dream Spirit Call, Dream Piercing Nightmare Spears, Heavenly Spirit Summon, Yggdrasil Spirit Wood Spear, Dream Dragon Spirit Domain, Holy Dream Dragon Flames, Spiritual Domain Soul Connection, Spiritual Domain Beast Spirit Summon, Spiritual Domain Guardian Fusion, Spear of Fragmented Time, Time-Eating Spirit Flames, Holy Radiant Draconic Angel Armor, Time Spirit Summon, Divine Demon Sealing Ward Cube, Frost Dragon of Time Breath, Fire Dragon of Dreams Claws, Wind Dragon of Celestial Light Tail, 1 Spell Slot.

Fusion Spells: Celestial Heavenly Sun, Exorcizing Heavenly Purifying Light, Spiritual Sense, Heavenly Yggdragon's Spiritual Breath, Demon-Sealing Chains of Heavenly Celestial Light.

Engraved Physique Ability: Spirit Fist, Piercing Tree Kick, Yggdrasil's Endurance, Rapid Self-Regeneration, Rapid Reflexes, Graceful Body, Yggdragon's Scale Skin, Lesser All Element Resistance, Physical Damage Reduction, Angelic Blessing, Heaven's Sword, Heavenly Light Protection, Holy Yggdragon Transformation, Angelic Spirit Fusion, Holy Dream Dragon Spirit Aura, Four Angelic Wings of Silver and Gold, High Demon Resistance, High Curses Resistance, Holy Fist of Time, Heaven-Splitting Soul Blade, Holy Draconic Nephalem Transformation, Time Ward Creation, Angelic Dragon Spirit Summon, Plant Monster Queen Crown, Plant Monster Storage, 1 Physique Ability Slot.

Abe no Seimei took a peek as he nodded, gasping.

"Oh wow! What is this! You have so many Spells and Abilities, Elayne-san! This is incredible."

He seemed amazed, as he checked them all one by one.

I felt a bit embarrassed he was looking at such important information that I don't like revealing to anybody.

"So why did you give me this?" I asked.

"Why? Well, it is so I can see what you have so we can think what's the best thing you need," he smiled. "The two Soul Orbs you absorbed will let you combine five Spells or these Abilities together into something completely new based in their power and also on your greatest desire and what you want this new power to fulfill! When I obtained my first Soul Orb is when I awakened my true power as an Onmyōji, did you know? It's very important."

"So that's how it works..." I nodded. "Okay then."

"Now tell me, Elayne, what do you want the most right now?" he asked. "What do you think will help you in your current predicaments?"

"I want..."

Chapter 1319: Creating A Soul Trait

Abe no Seimei said he would guide me through the creation of what I desired the most. As he took a look at my spells and so on within the Soul Mirror, he nodded.

"So what I want..." I said. "Well, I need a way to rescue people, many people, a whole city full of perhaps millions of them. I want them to get out of that city quickly, so they won't fall prey of the destruction that'll come afterwards, once I confront a powerful demon threatening all these people."

"Ooh! I see, such a tall task to ask for..." he nodded. "But with these ingredients and your power, it shouldn't be impossible to achieve once we get to merging! Hmm, but you'll need my guidance, perhaps... Well, you've been so nice with me, hearing me talking for almost an hour, I could even sprinkle a bit of my divinity there, for you."

"E-Eh? Really, Kami-sama?!" I gasped.

"Hahah, first time someone calls me like that!" he laughed. "Yes, it is nothing too much for me anyways, I am brimming with divine power. So much from all the Faith. For some reason I ended becoming such a popular figure all across Japan... I might be more famous than a lot of other Kami that came before me..."

"Okay, so how do we begin?" I wondered.

"It has already begun, this Soul Mirror will facilitate the process," he said. "So we should probably check once more the Spells and Abilities here..."

He quickly began checking them into more detail. That Mirror was just completely insane, it even let him see the information that each Spell did.

"This is quite incredible, to have so many strong spells engraved into your body, and you say you're doing alright?" he wondered. "Usually people with this many spells engraved into their bodies might sometimes turn into monsters, did you know?"

"Monsters?!" I gasped. "I... Well, they aren't engraved into my body. It's in my... Magic Circle."

"Magic Circle?" he wondered. "Oh, this? I can sense it... Hm, is this some sort of Western Magic? That's quite interesting. So you create this arrangement of runes inside of your body? No wait, it is technically there but not at the same time. It's inside your soul! I see..."

He was figuring it all very quickly.

"I never imagined this could be possible, this magic circle is similar to a Formation, but it has been compacted to an incredibly small size!" he said. "Then it was placed between the heart and the soul... How does it develop?"

"Uhm, ah... Well, I absorb Magic Stones to gain mana, then I use it to refine the magic circle and give it more Runes which create new Spells!" I said.

"Ooohh! Such a thing is possible?! If we could have had that back then in the Heian Era, wouldn't it had been possible for anybody to become a magician?! If this technique spreads further, the entire world could change..." he said.

"Well, hasn't it changed enough since the First Contact?" I wondered.

"O-Oh, that?" wondered Abe no Seimei. "I suppose that's also something impactful yes... Hm, the world is moving towards an unprecedented new Era of Magic and the Supernatural... Mystery cannot be hidden from people's eyes anymore. It seems that this could potentially catapult to a new Era of the Gods... A very dangerous one."

"That's bad..." I said.

"But it's exciting!" he smiled. "Anyways, I think I've figured out what you should combine... Hmm, yes. Would you follow my recommendation?"

"Okay, sure, let's give it a try," I said. "What do I combine?"

"Here, I'll guide you."

Eventually, once all the Spells were chosen, I heard a voice, the voice of the world once more.

[You have used your first [Soul Orb] to embody a small concept within your Soul.]

[You have chosen the following Spells to combine]: [Wooden Barrier] [Terrain Takeover] [Spiritual Domain] [Dream Spirit Call] [Heavenly Light Flash]

[Do you wish to combine these Spells through the power of your [Soul Orb]?]

[Once done, the Spell Runes will merge, and they will disappear from your Magic Circle.]

"What do you think of these?" Abe wondered. "I know some of them are quite important, but I think you should be able to use them without the need for Runes, with simple Magic Casting the good ol' fashioned way, right?"

"I guess I could do that, yes," I nodded. "Wooden Barrier is no issue, Terrain Takeover either... Spiritual Domain I can also use easily too. Dream Spirit Call might be a bit hard, but I do have a Familiar that is a Dream Spirit, so I can use him as a conductor, I also got that Dream Dragon Domain. And then Heavenly Light Flash? Easy to replicate."

Most of these Spell Effects could now be done easily using the Soul-Bound Skills I had anyways, so I had no issues losing them permanently.

"Very well, let's begin! You want a Spell or Power that can let you move a lot of people, right? Undetected, and to a safe place of your designation, across a wide area within an enormous city. Yes?"

"Yeah..." I nodded. "Hopefully it can also be used for other things later..."

"Of course it will! I am not simply making something for this occasion in specific, all Abilities tied to Soul Orbs are called Soul Traits, and you'll be able to grow and develop them indefinitely," he said. "As long as you continue growing."

"I see... So they're like the Awakened Abilities I have?" I wondered.

"They can grow? I'm fairly sure they're stuck as what they are," he said. "Hmm, but perhaps not completely?"

"A-Ah... Yeah, you reminded me of that," I nodded.

I ended confusing them for Skills, never mind.

"Let's begin then." I said.

"Very well!" Abe nodded, waving his fan at me. "Then... Soul Trait Inscription!"

FLAAASH!

As he did that, I also agreed to the question of the world's voice.

And then I felt as the runes of these spells flew out of my Magic Circle, leaving empty spaces that couldn't be filled.

They spun around one another, merging rapidly within my Soul Orb implanted inside my Soul.

FLUOSH!

Chapter 1320: Mystic Bellflower Tree Dreamscape

[You have used your first [Soul Orb] to embody a small concept within your Soul.]

[You have chosen the following Spells to combine]: [Wooden Barrier] [Terrain Takeover] [Spiritual Domain] [Dream Spirit Call] [Heavenly Light Flash]

[Do you wish to combine these Spells through the power of your [Soul Orb]??]

[Once done, the Spell Runes will merge, and they will disappear from your Magic Circle.]

[You have merged the Spells into the {Soul Orb} to create a fragment of a concept and inscribe it into your soul as a [Soul Trait] based on your motivations and desires.]

FLUOSH!

I saw the runes converge with the Soul Orb, and then I saw Abe no Seimei imbue a tiny bit of his divine power, modifying the creation so it becomes even better than it could have been.

Then when everything fully merged, I saw a bright explosion of light, rapidly becoming a sphere of light that slowly melted into my soul, leaving behind an inscription, a series of runes combined together.

[A [Soul Trait] has been successfully engraved and merged with your Soul.]

[You have permanently lost the Spells]: [Wooden Barrier] [Terrain Takeover] [Spiritual Domain] [Dream Spirit Call] [Heavenly Light Flash]

[The {Divine Essence} of a Mysterious Kami has merged with your Soul Trait, improving and modifying its structure and powers.]

[You have created the [Soul Trait]: [Mystic Bellflower Tree Dreamscape]!]

"It's done!" I said. "I wonder if I can see the information though?"

"You can through this mirror," he nodded. "What do you think? Did I do a good job?"

I glanced at the Soul Trait information through the Soul Mirror.

[Soul Trait]: [Mystic Bellflower Tree Dreamscape]

By consuming large quantities of Mana and Spirit Energy, summon a giant Mystic Bellflower Tree within the Realm of Dreams directly connected to you. While the tree is summoned, nobody expect you can detect it, see it, feel its presence, or even discern its essence or calculate you're using it.

When summoned, the Mystic Bellflower Tree will unleash a {Dreamscape} at your command, which will encompass an area as large as the Mana supplied. This Dreamscape only exists within Minds and the Dream Realm and can only target those you desire to target within a certain area.

Whenever someone capable of having dreams is in the range of this Dreamscape, you can choose to make them fall asleep, in which their minds will find themselves in the Dream Realm, protected by the Mystic Bellflower Tree from any harm.

You can make anybody that is weaker than you fall asleep, or as long as you supply sufficient Mana and Spirit Energy to overwhelm their resistance and forcefully make them fall asleep.

Once asleep, the bodies of those that are Dreaming will be encompassed by the {Mystic Bellflower Tree's Roots} and carried away to safety or wherever you desire, becoming Dreams themselves temporarily, and so, invisible to plain sight.

The Mystic Bellflower Tree can also be used to create special {Mystic Bellflower Barriers} when summoned, increasing the Magic Power of you and your allies within its range by twice as much, while protecting them from most Magic Damage as long as enough Mana is supplied.

"W-Woah, this sounds incredible!" I said. "And this is just the first Soul Trait?!"

"I am sure Kaguya has already told you, but Soul Traits are indeed very powerful by default! They're the embodiment of a small concept we're talking about! So of course they're going to make you very strong no matter what," he said. "With this Bellflower Tree Dreamscape, making these people fall asleep and then dragging them to safety while being unseen and undetected should be an easy time!"

"Thank you, I feel so much more relieved with this!" I sighed in relief. "Of course, I bet the Mana cost must be huge, but I can afford it."

"If you can then it shall work," he nodded. "Now, there's another Soul Orb we have yet to tap into. What else do you want from it to be?"

Now that I've got the security of the people secured, should I concentrate on the offense?

But I already have plenty of strength so what could...

Wait, I know.

I need a way to deal with Merlinus incredibly powerful Spatial Magic.

I told that to Abe, and he seemed to nod.

"Indeed, Spatial Magic is incredibly troublesome," he said. "I was only able to master it when I was very old, mostly Formation and Territory Creation with Domain Expansion sort of... But something like pure Space Manipulation without any of such set-ups? It seems utterly incredible to even accomplish! Whoever you're fighting, he must be an incredibly accomplished magician, right?"

"Yes, but he sold everything he was, his legacy, his own identity, the kingdom he swore to protect, all for more power, ending up sacrificing innocents and making a pact with demons," I explained. "He has become a despicable monster that doesn't see human lives as anything but materials and tools for his growth or wicked experimentation..."

"Ah yes, I've battled such monsters before," he nodded. "Monsters that hide with the skin of a human, that pretend to be humans like you, but that ultimately are worse than Yokai or Oni, hahah... Oh dear, I've indeed fought quite a few."

He suddenly changed, although he giggled, Abe no Seimei looked incredibly sorrowful.

Whatever he recalled that person, that monster he battled.

It might have been a good friend of him that betrayed him, maybe.

Or perhaps someone he loved.

Or maybe someone that took someone he loved...

"When you see and met people like this... You often wonder if all these bonds you create as a person, even are valuable at all," he muttered. "If everything at all matters anymore, when you put so much effort into them, only to be betrayed... To such cruel people, the world by itself, is fake. They don't believe in anything or anybody anymore. And only them, only their own lives, is the thing that matters over everything else. Family? Friends? Their own children? Grandchildren? Nothing matters. They lose their humanity- Hah, even monsters love and take care of their children though. So they ultimately become worse than monsters."

"Worse than monsters..." I muttered.

"For such beings... the only thing you can do is slay them for good," said Abe no Seimei. "Because to them, their very existence is suffering. You'll be giving him a favor, if anything."