

Brand New 1361

Chapter 1361 A Glimpse Of The Past 2

The Yggdragon, a Majestic, titanic dragon made of wood and metal. He was... nothing like my own draconic form, so much bigger majestic and divine, I could simply never compare to him. His very existence exuded the purest of divinities, Creation.

With golden scales and a beautiful crown of horns, with a wooden body encompassed in hundreds of layers of metallic scales, with enormous wings, colorful and vibrant, reflecting the sunlight of the skies itself...

He was indeed the Dragon God of Creation.

After having created the first three races by combining his divine powers with the gods, the Ancient Elves, the Divine Dragons, and the Majin, he set off to battle his brother.

Erebus.

"YOUUUU...! WHY...?! THEY MADE YOU TO BE... THE OPPOSITE OF ME! SO VIBRANT... SO BEAUTIFUL...! I HATE YOU! I WILL KILL YOU! I WILL TEAR YOU TO SHREDS FOR DARING TO BE BETTER THAN MEEEEEE! I'M TIRED OF EVERYONE BEING BETTER! I DESTROY EVERYTHING I TOUCH...! EVEN WHEN MOTHER... EVEN WHEN MOTHER IS SO UPSET! I CANNOT STOP THIS! IF I CAN'T... I WILL DESTROY IT ALL! DESTRUCTION! DEATH! DIE! DIE! DIE! I AM DEATH!!!"

He was going completely insane, consumed entirely by madness, Erebus was making no sense at all with his words. He charged forward, attacking the Yggdragon with hundreds of gigantic limbs.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

"Erebus, please stop this!"

However, the Yggdragon held his ground, his Aura encompassing him with an infinite amount of purify and divinity, his light consumed Erebus' darkness.

FLAAASH!

"UUUAARRGH!"

Erebus screamed in agony as the light flashed into his entire body, consuming him and making him boil, further increasing his endless fury and madness.

"I WON'T STOP... I CANNOT STOP! I WILL KILL... KEHAHAHA... HAHAHAHA! HAAAAH... HAAAAHHH!"

He was laughing while crying, experiencing countless contradicting emotions at the same time. It was very clear that there was a part of him that was crying, that was sad, that didn't want this.

Yet there was another part of him, eternally consumed on his own hatred and resentment, a curse implanted on him by the Gods, but now that I can clearly see, would have never blossomed into this without all the abuse he went through his life.

If they had been good with him, if they would had been tolerant, none of this would have happened, even the Curse could have been overcome easily.

It was a Curse that simply let out all the things Erebus held on...

"Brother..."

The Yggdragon seemed to be in pain as he watched Erebus monstrosity and agony, he only pitied him, there was no hatred within his eyes.

"DIEEEE!"

Erebus attacked him, swinging thousands of tentacles, flames of death, destruction, demonic powers, poison, contaminated water, miasma, and swarms of countless aberrant bugs constantly attacked the Yggdragon.

Yet the Yggdragon fought back with his gigantic golden claws, four arms of enormous size intercepting his brother's attacks, explosions of golden light and darkness erupting, warping space around them.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

The continent beneath their foot started shattering and breaking apart, the seas started to consume it, rapidly drowning it, and even then the two continued battling.

"RAAARRRGH!"

"HAAAAHH!"

The two brothers, born from Chaos and Creation, forced to fight one another, to save this world that the Gods made.

Their battle continued for days, weeks, perhaps even years, time was strange here, it was as if I was seeing the entire fight, but at the same time, time was going on incredibly fast.

This must be what it feels to be implanted memories, to see them instantly, no matter how long they could be.

As their battle continued, the entire planet trembled, these two behemoths, definitely, had the power to destroy the world...

"Uuurrgh... Uuuggh...!"

The Demon King groaned in agony, as his body was covered on large stakes, the stakes of sealing created by the Deus, the Chief of the Gods.

Despite having broken from the original seal, they were already still there, weakening him over time, the more the Yggdragon fought him, the more their original power activated.

"Erebus... I'm sorry."

The Yggdragon unleashed his technique in the very moment he found his brother at his weakest point, after years of battling nonstop,

"{Divine Primordial Seal and Division of Body and Soul}"

His entire body transformed into a massive mass of pure divine spiritual wood made of golden light, piercing through Erebus entirely.

Then, as Erebus screamed and battled back, his existence began to be rapidly divided, no longer as powerful, two, three, four, five, six, and seven pieces remained.

The Yggdragon continued sealing them even further, separating them from their own bodies and weakening them tremendously.

And ultimately, all fragments were sealed by his own body parts, his arms, legs, and tail all became separate Sealing Trees, different from Yggdrasil, but quite similar, albeit smaller.

Each tree spread across the world, deciding that the farther away they were from one another, the better.

One of them was sealed right there, becoming the Demon King Continent, full of Miasma.

Another was Sealed in the Underworld itself, amidst the Undead.

The third was Sealed in the Seas themselves, deep beneath the darkest depths.

Two of them were sealed at the opposite ends of Verdant.

Another was sealed in a completely different continent, which was half a desert and half a snow-snowing field.

And then the last one, the largest, strongest fragment, and the one that ended containing all the Hatred and Resentment, the purest embodiment of all "evil" within Erebus.

Was planted in the depths of the very dimension where they were, distorting space and time, and creating a separate Realm, Hell, where flames ran asunder infinitely.

"Haahhh... Hahhh..."

The Yggdragon gasped for air, his existence become smaller, fading away.

"My brother... Please... forgive me..."

The Yggdragon, instead of acting cocky or brave as I thought, cried on his last moments.

Asking Erebus for forgiveness...

And then, as he "died" in the middle of Verdant, his "corpse" came to life, becoming a gigantic tree, rapidly growing upwards into the skies.

And so he was reincarnated, becoming Yggdrasil.

Chapter 1362 Divine Primordial Seal and Division of Body and Soul

When I opened my eyes, I was already back to the interior of Yggdrasil's wooden body. Having seen such a legendary battle, and her own origins left me deeply shocked, and moved as well. I couldn't help it, so I ended up crying a bit.

"So you saw it," said Yggdrasil. "The struggle between two brothers that didn't want their lives to end like that. You saw my origins too, how I was born, and everything else that will come afterwards."

"Yeah..." I nodded. "Thank you for showing me this."

"It's fine," Yggdrasil said. "So, you've unlocked it now, I presume."

"Unlocked what?" I wondered. "I don't really feel any differe-"

FLAAASH!

"Uwaah?!"

I panicked a bit as I felt my very soul overflow, blossom like a flower out of my body, I saw a big, pink colored flower appear on his chest.

Its petals quickly fell, dancing around my body, before they merged back to me, infusing into me knowledge and a simple "instinct" to know what to do.

"Yes... there it is," I nodded. "There's no System Notification, nothing at all. But I can feel it within me, this power you used to seal him, and even divide his soul from his body."

The power of the {Divine Primordial Seal and Division of Body and Soul} seemed to be the real deal, and it sounded really strong too.

"Yes, that is the power of {Divine Primordial Seal and Division of Body and Soul}. A technique, ability, and magic that is contained within my very being," said Yggdrasil. "A proof of my own creation as the one that was fated and destined to stop Erebus... And now, as you carry my Legacy, you are also Fated to do the same."

"I see..." I nodded. "I... I understand."

"I know you pity them, and you know you have a great heart, Elayne," said Yggdrasil. "It is because of such beautiful heart that you must have been chosen to inherit my Legacy by the System. I doubt any other person would've chosen..."

"You're praising me too much; I am not all that great myself..." I sighed. "I have too many flaws to be honest. But thank you nonetheless."

"Yes, that's why," Yggdrasil said. "The flaws are what makes the person. Without them, you wouldn't have been chosen. Fragility, things we regret, people we miss, fears, insecurities. Even the worst things a human could imagine, these are traits that make you who you are. Perhaps alone they won't do much for you, but they are what created the you that is now here, improving, becoming better... helping."

"...Ah, thank you..." I said. "You're truly good with words, Lady Yggdrasil. I wouldn't had been able to notice that from our first meeting, it was quite scary."

"I'm sorry about that, it was more of a small trial of sorts, a test," she said. "But you're good. Now, with this technique you've learned, it should be possible for you to have a trump card against the Demon Kings. But be careful, using this technique just once could drain most of your power and could even leave you immobile for some time. You must be prepared for that moment."

"Yes, I understand, and I will," I nodded. "About the other Demon Kings though..."

I talked to her a bit more about the Demon King of Death, his past, or well, what I've learned of it, and also of the Demon King of the End, and what I've also understood of its existence, and speculations.

"They seem to have evolved and develop different minds than Erebus," she said. "Like reincarnations. But at the end, they're still a part of him. The Demon King of the End is the most mysterious. The power of Demons as a whole is devastatingly high. You did well in eliminating them. I believe they could be spawns born from his seeping Hatred and Resentment, given form by his own Demonic Miasma. It is as if your own sweat turned into living beings."

"Weird..." I said. "But the other..."

"Thanatos is a much more special case..." she said. "Reborn as a human, he went through a horrible experience, and upon his death as a human, he awakened his demon king powers, raising his entire kingdom as undead... Indeed, it is not something nice to hear. I can tell why he would become full of hatred and resentment against all the living. And this Fake Yggdrasil... Hmm."

"Do you have an idea who could that have been?" I asked.

"I have a few..." she said. "Remember what you saw in my memories? When the Yggdrasil used his body parts to seal every fragment of the God of Chaos? Each fragment became something similar to me, but much smaller, although just as powerful in certain things..."

"You mean that this Fake Yggdrasil and the Cult around it... That appeared in the past, it could have been one of these trees?!" I wondered.

"I... perhaps," said Yggdrasil. "They disappeared not long after the Demon Kings were sealed though. Turning completely into seals. But... that is an idea I had, a possibility. But why would they make an evil cult and use this cult to manipulate the other Kingdoms into destroying Thanatos' Kingdom? I have no idea. But whatever this scheme was, the original will of the Yggdragon might have completely faded away from this resulting Sealing Tree."

"Hmm..." I nodded. "If this happened in Verdant, then there's only two Sealing Trees that could've been the culprits, right?"

"Yes, the ones that sealed the weakest fragments, the Demon Kings that the Players of the future have already defeated," said Yggdrasil. "The Sealing Tree of the Demon King of Plagues and the Sealing Tree of the Demon King of Famine."

"This was in the past though, so even then, we can't really find any more answers than this..." I said. "Unless they're still there? But if their respective Demon Kings were slain, then there's no possibility, right?"

"..." Yggdrasil remained in silence. "There could always be a possibility, Planta. In the future, try to check on them even once. Maybe... just maybe, we could find an answer."

"Okay." I nodded. "I'll try doing that. Thank you for everything, Yggdrasil."

"So you're going..." she said. "Wait, take this as well."

"Huh?"

Chapter 1363 An Important Decision

Before I left, Yggdrasil called for me again, as she showed me something, a white colored pearl coming out of one of her roots which moved upwards.

"Before leaving, take this, Planta," said Yggdrasil. "This is a special crystallization of my own Divine Spiritual Energy, the same orb you touched before, but with a reduced size."

"Huh..." I said. "Amazing, this alone is an incredible material for Alchemy and-"

"Please don't use this pearl for that..." she sighed. "It is a special item you should infuse into a weapon or accessory. It will give you a connection with me, a permanent one. So in a moment of need, and perhaps only once or twice, I can come to help you through a Manifestation of my Divinity."

"Oh really?! This is perfect! I had actually come here for this," I said. "But I was happy with the technique, so I didn't really want to ask for more things..."

"It's alright, I knew you would say such a thing," Yggdrasil said. "Another thing, though, Planta..."

"Yes?" I asked.

"Although I don't know how to help you regarding the Demon King of The End, I think I could help you with Thanatos," said Yggdrasil.

"Really?" I wondered.

"Ultimately, despite the monster he has become, he's a wounded and sorrowful man that lost everything," said Yggdrasil. "Yet, despite all of that, despite the monster he believes he is... He still has the heart of a human. And humans, as you've experienced before, are Emotionally Driven beings. Once you say the correct things, sometimes they might react differently. Once you help them learn and realize the truth... they could even change their minds. I can't help you with Merlinus, but Thanatos... he's my brother as well. Let me talk with him, if the opportunity arises. I want to give it a chance."

"Yggdrasil..." I muttered, smiling a bit.

"Hah, you two are so similar it's rather hard to distinguish between the two sometimes," said Erebus. "I can tell why Planta could be the only one to get sister's Legacy... Though I wonder, if I had died, would my Legacy be given to a Player as well?"

"I don't know..." I said. "Maybe? Maybe not..."

"It's an interesting thought to have, brother," said Yggdrasil. "But it would be more dangerous than anything else, so I hope that's not the case."

"I agree," said Erebus. "Well, let's go, Planta. The time's coming."

"I know..." I nodded. "Thank you for everything, Yggdrasil."

"It's a pleasure, my successor," said Yggdrasil. "Take care. And I will be waiting the moment you call me. I will help you."

"That's reassuring coming from such a powerful being such as yourself... thanks a lot!" I ended hugging her hard, wooden body. "Bye!"

And then we finally walked away, meeting up with the rest of our group, and finally stepping back out of the Realm of the Past.

And right into the portal leading to the Forest of Beginnings.

Or well, the new Forest of Beginnings, which has now evolved into the Primordial Divine Garden of Life, or something like that was the name?

Anyways, it was born out of the {World Boss Authority Domain Expansion}: {Primordial Garden of Life} Technique I used once I had been completely powered up as a World Boss.

Then, using several abilities, I merged the Dimensional Bubble carrying this Domain, permanently fusing it with the Forest of Beginnings.

I used my own true body's roots as the anchor to keep it merged, and over time, it should become completely permanent until no anchoring is needed.

Pretty amazing, right?

Now, the Forest of Beginnings had expanded hundreds of times, becoming utterly gigantic and even a bit labyrinthian.

We arrived here and immediately felt a bit lost. If it wasn't for my natural ability to move through the forest and know always where to go and where things are, we would have definitely wandered for a while.

"So there they are..."

Acorn and Nieve were at the outskirts of Fairy Queendom, Titania was with them alongside Florie and various other warriors, the Mushroom Brigade was a notorious example. Most of these people were the ones that fought yesterday too.

"It seems you've gathered a big army..."

I stepped in as I saw them preparing for a big battle, at the end, it seemed they were truly planning to join our battle in the Luminous Kingdom.

"Lady Planta! You're finally here!" Acorn ran to my side. "Yes, yes, we've prepared a big army! Everyone wants to battle by your side and defeat Merlinus!"

"We've gathered a big army of our strongest warriors and soldiers," said Nieve. "Thanks to you, they've been healed and are as strong as ever."

"I will also join the fight!" said Florie.

"Everyone..." I sighed. "No."

"Eh?!"

"Huh?"

"B-But!"

I looked at Titania, she smiled a bit, nodding.

"Everyone, you will protect the forest instead," Titania said.

"Wait, what? But my queen!"

"How is this...?!"

"But we planned to..."

"Ugh... if it's the queen's words..."

"Even then, I must ask why!"

The soldiers were causing quite the ruckus.

"It's simple," I explained. "You will not risk your lives and go all the way to another kingdom to fight for a place that is not yours."

"But..." Acorn muttered. "We prepared so well and all!"

"I know," I nodded. "That's why, stay in the forest on standby for the moment. I don't know if it'll happen, but it would be a golden opportunity to attack the forest while we are here so... You'll stay here and protect it."

"Even us?" Acorn wondered.

"We can't go with you, milady?" Nieve wondered.

"I would prefer if you stayed here in the safety of the forest," I said. "Only Players... and Erebus will engage against Merlinus directly. Merlinus is a monster beyond monsters, I don't want you to risk your lives like it has happened already so many times! Just yesterday you almost all die! I don't want that to repeat itself, you will remain here in the safety of the new forest, and fight to defend it... alongside the forest itself, understood? And I won't take a "no" for an answer!"

I had to be strict here, I couldn't let them risk themselves.

Chapter 1364 Strange Little Spirits

I was surprised they were prepared so well for this battle, but I already knew it would be pointless for them to go and die against Merlinus and his army of demonic sorcerers.

It wasn't something the people of the forest could handle by leaving the forest, they were inhabitants of this place, so I wanted them to stay here and protect it instead.

"But..." Acorn muttered. "We prepared so well and everything! You can't just say that... please let us help!"

"I know," I nodded. "That's why, stay in the forest on standby for the moment. I don't know if it'll happen, but it would be a golden opportunity to attack the forest while we are here so... You'll stay here and protect it. I don't want you to risk your lives pointlessly."

"Even us?" Acorn wondered. "But we've been fighting by your side this entire time, Lady Planta!"

"We can't go with you, milady?" Nieve wondered. "I have grown so much stronger..."

"I would prefer if you stayed here in the safety of the forest," I said. "Only Players... and Erebus will engage against Merlinus directly. Merlinus is a monster beyond monsters, I don't want you to risk your lives like it has happened already so many times! Just yesterday you almost all died! I don't want that to repeat itself, you will remain here in the safety of the new forest, and fight to defend it... And rest if possible. Alongside the forest itself, understood? And I won't take a "no" for an answer!"

I had to be strict here, I couldn't let them risk themselves. I didn't want them to push themselves even harder when they had such a large battle yesterday.

"This is something that we discussed with the Luminous Kingdom already, everyone," Mark suddenly stepped forward to voice his opinion. "Just yesterday we had a massive large-scale invasion from the Undead Army, and the same could happen even now as we battle Merlinus. We are not looking down on you all or something, if that's what you thought."

"If anything, we really need some strong people in here, you know?" said Rita. "Acorn, Nieve, Florie, Titania, all of you are mighty strong, so I would say you should stay here and defend the forest meanwhile. Those damn demonic bastards are all well known for attacking our bases while they are at their weakest when we are busy fighting a big bad."

"We Players are going to be okey dokey even if we die!" Lily smiled, nodding. "So please don't worry about us. If anything, this is a battle that was made for us. The people of this world is precious, appreciate your lives some more!"

"As they said, it doesn't mean I'm looking down on you guys..." I said. "Come here."

I quickly walked towards Acorn and Nieve, hugging them both tightly.

"You're my precious friends and my family," I said. "And I just don't want to push you even further, yesterday you did more than you should, rest, and then you can fight and help out another day."

"O-Okay... I get it..." Acorn sighed. "I guess you're not wrong, Lady Planta, I've been very stressed lately and I really want to rest. It just that it makes me even more stressed I cannot be of any help."

"Me too..." Nieve nodded. "It's frustrating, even though your words make sense... But we'll accept them, you're not wrong."

"That's right!" I nodded. "So please don't be stubborn this time! If anything, you could still help a bit through your Spiritual Souls, now that you've become Vessels of the Great Spirit of Harvest and of even Titania, it should be possible for me to summon your Spiritual Souls as helping Spirits. In that time, I'll ask for your help, if that's what you want."

"Yeah, we want to!" nodded Acorn.

"Me too," said Nieve. "If possible, Florie and Queen Titania could also be of help."

"And all of us of course!"

"Yeah, please don't forget about our efforts so far..."

"We want to be of any help!"

"We'll give you everything we've got even from far away!"

"Thank you everyone," I nodded.

Thanks to my evolved Spiritual Magic and other Skills, it is completely possible to summon Spiritual Souls of people, NPC in specific.

These Spiritual Souls are like their Avatars that they can use to help me from far away without having to leave their place.

They can use their unique magic through these Avatars, and the Avatars can help me fight, enhance my skills, abilities, and even boost my stats.

Or even help me conjure unique magic, so it is not useless at all.

I've used it plenty of times with Titania, summoning her manifestation out there whenever I can, as it is not really possible for her to step out of her nation.

"Well then, we came here just to check," I said. "So we'll probably get back. I know you can handle everything else. If an invasion at the scale as yesterday appears, I'll also fight back through the tree over there. The forest too, has become very big, much bigger and gigantic as well, so it shouldn't be as easy anymore. It contains concentrated divine spirit energy as well, so I believe it can work."

As I was about to leave, I suddenly felt something touching my leg.

"Huh?"

"Fweehh! Pygyuhh!"

"Gaoowu? Bubu!"

"Pigiii!"

They were... Spirits?

"Oh my, you want to come along?" I wondered.

"Ah, right, I almost forgot!" Titania rushed back to me. "Can you spare a minute, Planta? I want you to know a bit about these little guys over here."

"The Spirits?" I asked.

"Yes, these Elemental Spirits aren't normal ones," said Titania. "They're a race of Spirits I thought were extinct... and they were, until you transformed the Forest by merging it with your World Boss Domain as you told us before."

"S-Special race of extinct spirits?" I wondered. "Wow, really?"

"Yeah, they're Ancient Divine Spirits," said Titania. "Perhaps the most prehistoric form of a spirit with a shape and not just spiritual energy moving around the world. They're the ancestors to mostly all other spirits except a few different ones. They're called Higgledingles!"

"H-Higgledingles?" I looked at the little guy on Titania's hand, whose little face made a cute smile, giggling.

"Piiigiiuuuu!"

Chapter 1365 The Mysterious Ancient Spirits, Higgledingles! 1

Before I could leave, Titania stopped me the moment I noticed these little, colorful guys touching my leg curiously.

I could feel within them that there was absolutely no malice or anything, like most spirits, they were adorably innocent and playful, like children or toddlers.

But these guys were perhaps even more playful than most other spirits!

Also they were particularly different than the spirits I'm used to, perhaps born from this new forest.

They had little, elongated bodies, not taller than thirty centimeters.

With tiny legs and arms, without fingers, but with spheres as "hands".

Their faces were cute and funny to look at, as they two black eyes, resembling mere dots, and also a cute smile, it was as if their faces were scribbled by some child with a crayon.

They varied in colors, there were gray-white ones, whose heads were shaped like droplets, the black ones whose heads were like half-moons, the green ones who resembled spiraling winds as heads, the fire ones with fiery heads, blue ones with flowing-water like heads, and lastly the golden, to yellow colored ones, whose heads resembled tiny suns with rays and everything.

They were quite endearing to see!

"Can you spare a minute, Planta? I want you to know a bit about these little guys over here." Titania said, as I was looking at the spirits with some curiosity, but never thinking a bit too deep about what they truly were.

"The Spirits?" I asked. "These little guys?"

"Yes, these Elemental Spirits aren't normal ones. And it seems they already like you quite a lot too! That'll make things easier," said Titania. "They're a race of Spirits I thought were extinct... and they were, until you transformed the Forest by merging it with your World Boss Domain as you told us before."

Wait, Spirits can go extinct?! I had no idea that was even a thing!

So this means Spirits have various races and might be more like conventional living creatures in some cases.

"S-Special race of extinct spirits?" I wondered. "Wow, really? I didn't know that was a thing..."

"Yeah, they're Ancient Divine Spirits," said Titania.

Ancient Divine Spirits? I thought Divine Spirits, or the Great Spirit was as high as they could go...

Wait a moment, these silly little guys touching my leg are Ancient Divine Spirits?

They sure don't look that way...

"Perhaps the most prehistoric form of a spirit with a shape and not just spiritual energy moving around the world. They're the ancestors to mostly all other spirits except a few different ones. They're called Higgedingles!" Titania said very happily. "Even their name is very amazing."

"H-Higgedingles?" I looked at the little guy on Titania's hand, whose little face made a cute smile, giggling.

"Piiigiiuuuu!"

"I don't know if that's an amazing name..." I said. "But they're indeed a peculiar bunch..."

"Yes, they're very special," said Titania. "Unlike other Spirits that disappear once you use their power or go away, Higgledingles are solid spiritual matter! Meaning they work similar to Familiars. They remain forever with you."

"Wait, really?!" I wondered.

"Yes, they're also thousands of times stronger than the normal Elemental Spirits," she said. "And maybe a hundred times stronger than the normal Divine Elemental Spirits. Their power doesn't leave their bodies, and they remain close to you. The stronger your Bond becomes with them, the stronger they can become themselves. They also seem to be able to Level Up and gain Unique Higgleding Abilities."

"T-The hell? Really?" I was shocked. "I never heard of such a strong Spirit before... They don't disappear, that's really good."

If they don't disappear that means I can keep using spells continuously without having to spend Mana constantly to summon more Spirits?

"What are these special Abilities?" Mark wondered curiously.

"They're unique to them, super powerful spells and magics," said Titania. "I've already contracted a couple of them, so I could show you if you want."

"Eh? Sure, you've made me interested now..." I said. "If everyone else could get some that would be nice as well."

"It depends, you can't force them to help you and even if you ask, they may ignore you too. Higgledingles are like that, they will only help you and make a contract with you when they like you... Even if you're the most talented and spiritually attuned person in the world, they might not be all that amused."

"It makes sense I guess," said Mark. "If they're truly so strong and ancient... they must have very high standards."

"A-Ah, no it's not about standards its more about just whatever they feel like... they're a bit silly like that," Titania giggled. "So far, only two have liked me enough to make a contract."

"Only two?!" Rita asked. "Damn they're really picky! You're literally the fairy queen..."

"Yeah, they don't care about that title though," said Titania. "Anyways, let's go to a clear area where I can show you."

As we walked there, I noticed the little Higgledingles that had touched my leg following me around.

They were only three that seemed the most attached, two others looked very absent minded, looking around, eyeing my friends instead.

"Each Higgleding has a name too," said Titania, leading us there. "For example, these two are the ones I've made my friends. Contracts with them are also different, they're called Higgleding Friend Bond, remember that!"

"O-Okay..."

I was honestly shocked there were such type of spirits to begin with, they were very... well, how should I say? Specific in how they worked.

I suppose this might also be a new game mechanic, but that is also part of the world originally.

Maybe the system has absorbed them and adapted them into this new mechanic.

"Anyways, this is an Ember Higgleding, their Element is Fire," said Titania. "They're the most common and among the ones with the best attack power. His name is Emby the Fiery. And this is a Shine Higgleding, she's cute isn't she? Her name is Carisa the Bright."

"T-They got titles and all..." Mark muttered. "That's kind of cute."

"Sometimes they wear clothes and masks, or wield tiny weapons to differentiate from one another too, they got a whole identity!" Titania was fascinated, explaining the intricacy of such little silly guys.

Chapter 1366 The Mysterious Ancient Spirits, Higgledingles! 2

Higgledingles, creatures with a very peculiar, long, and funny-sounding name, were actually Ancient Divine Spirits, ancestors to most other spirits ever!

They had personalities, liked wearing accessories, and were also physical and ethereal at the same time, they wouldn't dissipate and rejoin the flow of spirit essence upon helping in a spell.

They're permanent, and a single Higgleding was equivalent to one thousand normal elemental spirits, and a hundred divine elemental spirits!

Yes, they were that insanely strong!

You could never guess when you look at these guys though, they look so carefree and absent minded, with their tiny little black dot eyes and their silly smiles.

They also make the most adorable little sounds ever, so the only thing that they make me want to do is just petting their heads and giving them snacks instead.

Titania had two Higgledingles.

"Anyways, this is an Ember Higgleding, their Element is Fire," said Titania. "They're the most common and among the ones with the best attack power. His name is Emby the Fiery. And this is a Shine Higgleding, she's cute isn't she? Her name is Carisa the Bright."

"T-They got titles and all..." Mark muttered. "That's kind of cute."

"Sometimes they wear clothes and masks, or wield tiny weapons to differentiate from one another too, they got a whole identity!" Titania was fascinated, explaining the intricacy of such little silly guys. "Anyways, Emby, can you help me show them what I meant?"

"Higgleediiii!"

Emby jumped off Titania's head, he was sitting over her head as if nothing, with a complete lack of respect for the queen of fairies, direct daughter of Yggdrasil by the way, and reached the floor cutely.

"Higgleee! Higgleegeeee!"

And in that moment, his Aura exploded, forming a big red and golden circle where spiritual energies rushed out constantly, resembling flames.

Then, from the circle, new Higgledingles appeared!

They were a total of five of them, which were exactly the same as Emby, but without accessories, like copies of him.

"This is their primary function, they can call upon other Higgledingles of their pack," said Titania. "Then, once they're together, they can unleash powerful Abilities. Emby, use Fiery Higgle!"

"Fiiieerrrrryyy!"

Emby nodded, as he jumped up, the aura flashed, Titania stepped into the circle, activating the ability, as an explosion of flames manifested everywhere, a gigantic fireball of over twenty meters of height.

FLUOOOSH!

The fireball was instantly shot into the skies, as it exploded, resembling a small atomic bomb...

"W-Woah, that's strong alright..." I nodded.

"It's the weakest form I could contain the ability," said Titania. "Higgledingles can connect with you so you can use them, and also the usual Spirit Spells of their Elements. They have their own personal Mana and Spirit Energy pools, but they benefit from it if you give them some as well. As you fight or hunt, there's this Bond Energy you'll gather, with it, you can unleash the strongest abilities. I can't show them to you as I don't want to fight right now, but you get the point, right?"

"Yeah, they're quite impressive," I nodded. "So when you get one, you get several more?"

"Yes, they can call their friends from their packs, but if the friends get hurt too much, they go back where they came from and need to be summoned again, which usually happens when you also accumulate Bond Energy," Titania explained.

"That's really interesting..." I was quite interested. "Alright, I wonder if any of you would want to become my friend?"

I looked at the five Higgledingles that were accompanying us, three of them immediately began jumping and raising their little arms.

It was a Golden One, a Gray and White One, and then a Black and Purple One. They seemed very playful and curious about me.

"It looks like you've already been chosen by three, no less! Congrats!" Said Titania. "Now, you simply have to give them something they want to create the Bond."

"S-Something they want?" I asked. "Like what?"

"They'll tell you!" said Titania.

"Uh..."

I kneeled to get closer to them and asked them what they wanted.

"Puuuugiiiiii! Fruit... green... big! Round!"

The first to talk about what they wanted was the Gray and White colored Higgleding, he seemed to want some fruit to eat?

"You want a green and round fruit?" I asked. "Then... Hmm, maybe this melon?"

I took out a melon from my inventory, offering it to him.

He immediately grabbed it, making a happy sound.

"Giiiuuhhh!"

A little Heart appeared above his head, floating towards me and...

FLASH!

It created a Bond!

Wow, that was easy! He just wanted a melon?!

"Okay, who's next?" I asked the other two. "What do you guys want?"

The Golden Higgleding glanced at me with its absent-minded looking face.

"Orange... pointy... thing! Piggyyyeeh!"

"Orange and pointy thing?" I wondered. "Ah! A carrot!"

I took it out and gave it to her... or him.

"Shiiiiih!"

The Higgleding instantly grabbed the carrot and started eating it bite by bite.

"Woah you sure seem hungry... C-Calm down a bit!"

I saw the two devour their treats, and a new Heart hit me.

FLASH!

"Okay, done! A-And the third... you! What do you want?"

"Ummm..."

It was still thinking what it wanted, it seemed.

"Aaahhh! Waahh... Umm..."

Did it just have an idea but then forgot about it?

Wow these guys are indeed a bit... too relaxed.

"Aahh! Wuuwah!" the half-moon headed Higgleding said. "Yellow... creamy... pastry...?"

"A yellow creamy pastry?" I wondered. "Well, there's lots of those... Luckily I always got saved a lot of pre-made stuff in my inventory, let me see..."

I opened my inventory and quickly grabbed what I thought might be liked by them.

I gave them several pastries with yellow cream inside.

Eventually, after eating four of them of different shapes, it was satisfied.

It didn't even want one thing in specific, this guy!

FLASH!

And the last heart hit my body, generating a connection, a Friend Bond or whatever it was called.

Ding!

[Congratulations! You have successfully created a Friendship Spirit Bond with three Higgledingles!]

Despite all the fuss, that was really easy...

Chapter 1367 The Mysterious Ancient Spirits, Higgledingles! 3

Ding!

[Congratulations! You have successfully created a Friendship Spirit Bond with three Higgledingles!]

[You have become the Friend of the Higgleding: [Tonto the Smiley (Colorless Higgleding): Lv1/10]!]

[You have become the Friend of the Higgleding: [Sabro the Gloomy (Darkness Higgleding): Lv1/10]!]

[You have become the Friend of the Higgleding: [Luz the Shiny (Light Higgleding): Lv1/10]!]

[You have acquired the Title: [Friend of All Higgledingles]!]

[Friend of All Higgledingles]

Acquisition Conditions: Create a Friend Bond with two or more Higgledingles.

Equip Bonus: All Higgledingles Stats +50. All Higgledingles that are your Friends will receive a Boost to their Abilities Power and Effects, and also their Spirit Magic Attack Power of 100%. Your Higgledingles will have a Level Growth 50% faster than normal. You are more likely to be noticed by Higgledingles (but does not guarantee them liking you).

Description: A Title bestowed towards those with a good hear that have not only been noticed by the Higgledingles but become beloved friends of them, with their power, you can do about anything related with their Element, as long as you've got the snacks and the energy to keep them happy. This Title Effects are always active even if not equipped.

"This is quite the amazing title!" I said. "So you're Tonto, Sabro, and Luz! Okay, I'll try to remember your names from now on. You remember mine, alright? I'm Planta!"

"Pwaaaahh!"

"Pigyyyy!"

"Higgleeeehh!"

They made cute sounds, so I petted their heads as I analyzed their little status.

Yes they had status of their own!

<Higgleding Encyclopedia>

[Name]: [Tonto the Smiley]

[Type]: [Colorless Element]

[Likes]: [Melon] [Fruits]

[Followers]: [6/6]

[Level]: [1/10]

[EXP]: [0/1.000]

[Attack]: [111] (+50)

[Defense]: [73] (+50)

[Spirit]: [132] (+50)

[Higgleding Abilities]: [Wham Cannon!: Lv1/5] [Follow Me!: Lv1/5] [Have A Little Heal!: Lv1/5] [Super Void Attack!: Lv1/5]

"Oh wow! They got attack, defense, and spirit only? Where's their HP or Mana?" I wondered. "I-I guess it is not specified?"

"It must be boundless I guess," said Titania. "The System has probably only quantified their surface level abilities."

"I-I see... and his little abilities, what do they do?" I wondered.

"Some must be passives, but I have no idea what they do," said Titania.

"O-Okay... Colorless Element is strange, but it seems to have a Void Attack?! So they are void elemental... I could have never guessed Void Spirits existed." I muttered.

"They do! Every element has spirits," said Titania. "Some are just rarer than the rest... See how important and ancient they are? The Colorless must be related with Time, Space, or Void most likely."

"Oh wow, Tonto, you're quite special!"

"Uwaaawaahh!"

Tonto began bouncing around my head as it celebrated.

"Now let's see the other two..."

<Higgleiding Encyclopedia>

[Name]: [Sabro the Gloomy]

[Type]: [Darkness Element]

[Likes]: [Creamy Pastries]

[Followers]: [4/4]

[Level]: [1/10]

[EXP]: [0/1.000]

[Attack]: [131] (+50)

[Defense]: [83] (+50)

[Spirit]: [122] (+50)

[Higgleding Abilities]: [Gravity Gaggle!: Lv1/5] [I Can Do It Alone!: Lv1/5] [Darkness Protection!: Lv1/5]
[Hurry Up!: Lv1/5]

"Oh he got better attack and defense than Tonto..." I said. "Sabro you're quite something. But what's this I can do it alone skill? You don't want friends?"

"Guuuhhh..." he looked elsewhere, feeling embarrassed.

"Heheh, don't worry," I patted him. "Now Luz?"

<Higgleding Encyclopedia>

[Name]: [Luz The Shiny]

[Type]: [Light Element]

[Likes]: [Carrots]

[Followers]: [5/5]

[Level]: [1/10]

[EXP]: [0/1.000]

[Attack]: [101] (+50)

[Defense]: [123] (+50)

[Spirit]: [132] (+50)

[Higgleding Abilities]: [Light Guardian!: Lv1/5] [Higgleding Paladin!: Lv1/5] [Follow Me!: Lv1/5] [Have A Lot Of Heal!: Lv1/5]

"Luz got some interesting Abilities! Light Guardian and Higgleding... Paladin?!" I wondered. "What does that even do? He also got the Follow Me! Skill, hmm."

"Piggyy..." Luz was acting all innocent and cute, rubbing their head on my leg. "Pigyeehh!"

"Awww..." I couldn't resist them, so I grabbed all three of them and hugged.

Oh, and about their accessories...

Tonto had a red bandana wrapped around his neck.

Sabro had two false black horns on top of his head to look intimidating.

And Luz had crown of white feathers!

They were very stylish; I have to be honest.

Ding!

[Higgledingles Section has been added to your System Status.]

[You can review how many Higgledingles you've created a Bond with through this area of your Status.]

"Nice, even the status changed to accommodate them..." I said. "Anyways, how many of them can I have as friends?"

"As many as you want! As long as they choose you," said Titania. "So it's a bit tricky to even recruit more. But maybe they'll notice you more."

"I see... Well, what about the other guys-"

I quickly realized the other two were very clingy with Mark and Elena!

A fire one had been rubbing their head on Mark's face for a while.

And another Colorless one had been balancing around Elena's arm, she was calmly glancing the little guy.

"I think they like us..." Mark said.

"Yeah..." Elena agreed.

"Alright then, let me help you out in recruiting them, ask them what they want... Haha."

Like that, after helping them feed these new friends, Mark and Elena got themselves a Higgleding each. With this done, we were finally ready to depart.

"Alright, ready to go then," I nodded. "Finally, let's go and prepare the last things in the city, and wait for the time to come."

Everyone agreed, as we made our way back to the Luminous Kingdom.

"Please take care, Lady Planta!" said Acorn.

"We'll protect the forest in here," said Nieve.

"Ah yes, there's a chance I might teleport some people here, maybe. I will try to send them to the time realm instead, but I don't know if Yggdrasil's interior could fit them all and leaving them out in the wild will only make them the prey of monsters," I said.

"Yeah, don't worry," nodded Titania. "We've prepared a large area in the middle of our city for any person you send there, the portal happens to be nearby."

"Okay, perfect then," I nodded. "Thank you... I'll come back! Don't worry."

We walked back to the Luminous Kingdom, joining up with the King and the Queen, and also their Paladin.

Chapter 1368 The King And The Queen's Speech

We moved back to the Luminous Kingdom's Castle after recruiting five little new friends. It's a pity I won't be able to test their powers in a normal battle and it'll have to be in a very intense one, but let's do our best!

"So you're finally back, all prepared?" asked the Queen. "Then let's discuss what'll happen and how we'll move with the plan."

"Understood," I nodded. "I would like to address who are going to directly engage with Merlinus first."

"Ah yes, we've been discussing that for a while," said the Queen. "Of course, I'll join you."

"R-Really?" Rita asked.

"But aren't you the Queen? You're important!" Lily said.

"Yes I might be the Queen of this Kingdom and everything else, but I am also one of the strongest Players... I used to be the first rank, but I think Planta has surpassed me by now," she giggled.

"Nonetheless! I am fairly confident I'm really strong. So please don't look down on me. I'll be just fine. My survivability, if anything, is my greatest asset."

"I-I really tried to stop her this whole time, you know, but she wouldn't change her mind and was very adamant about it..." the King seemed very sad. "Just please, Camilla, don't do anything reckless. I don't want you to leave me alone with little Gustav!"

"Listen dear, I will not leave you alone," said Camilla. "I am a Player too, even if I die I will revive in like twelve or twenty-four hours."

"I-I know but even if you can die I don't like how you put it like that..." the King was very sensitive when it came to his wife. "Planta! Please, please protect her!"

"Okay, calm down your majesty, I will do my best to do so," I nodded. "I promise."

"T-Thank you... At least I can trust on your word," the King sighed in relief.

"Dear, do you trust Planta more than me now?!" the Queen got a bit grumpy, crossing her arms and glaring at him while furrowing her eyebrows.

"I-It's not like that! I just know your recklessness, Camilla..." the King said. "Hah... W-Well, let's go back to business, shall we? I think we've had enough of that."

"Yeah, I guess so," I nodded.

"Come with us, the rest of the army is here so we must discuss the last minute things," the Queen led us to the area where the army was.

Unlike the people of the forest which I decided to leave in the forest, the warriors here, the knights, soldiers, mercenaries, and so on, who were also all inhabitants of this world, would go to battle with whatever Merlinus throws at us.

Many could die as well... My Domain and my Territory Expansion will do their best to keep everyone buffed and healed, but even then, there's a limit to how much healing it can do before someone just dies at the end.

They are protecting their Kingdom, so I cannot really tell them to leave it all to us, it would be like an insult to them, they're here because they're willing to give up their lives to protect their home and also the homes of the people they love.

I noticed David was also here, he seemed to have just recently arrived, having gone somewhere else.

"Alright, now that everyone is present here, we shall discuss the formations and what we have planned," the Queen said. "First of all, we will wait until midnight to begin. Planta will use her abilities to safely make sleep and evacuate every person inside our Kingdom except those that will fight with us. Players won't be included though, so if they didn't want to join us, they'll have to run away, they aren't true citizens and will not be protected due to their ability to revive, as harsh as that might sound."

The soldiers understood, nodding. It wasn't that they hated Players, but they understood that it was just a waste of effort to also bring them along, especially when Players were so strong and could easily resist my sleeping ability with a myriad of skills they could possess.

And to be honest, those that don't want to help out can escape, though I would rather have them be forced to help or fight whatever monster Merlinus spread through the city it would be beneficial!

Ah, well, I do still feel kind of bad...

"Once that's done with, Planta will immediately attack," said the Queen. "She will make a group of her strongest fighters. Including Titan, Achlys, Lily, DarkReaper, and me. There will be also several other fighters by her side. The rest of her group will scatter among our troops and become generals that will lead the battle."

"Once Merlinus appears after the provocation and they engage in a battle," said the King. "He will, definitely and most likely, bring his own forces to destroy the Kingdom. That is where we will fight, all of you will form several different squadrons led by Planta's friends and also other generals that are trustworthy and proven to not be brainwashed or demonic humans. Meanwhile, the traitors we've all identified might finally show their true colors, our Elite Knights will fight them and defeat them, this includes David, who will fight his stepfather..."

"..." David remained in silence, gripping his fists and nodding. "Leave it to me, your majesty."

"There might be great destruction. The entire castle and even the city could end up completely devastated... But as long as the people of the Luminous Kingdom remains alive, we can rebuild our home. We must defeat this threat no matter the cost, whatever Merlinus is planning, he must be stopped before things escalate out of proportions where not even our friends here can't handle," the

King said. "My soldiers, are you willing to put your lives on the line to protect our Kingdom and our legacy? To defeat this ancient evil that has been spreading its roots on the very core of our home?"

"YES, YOUR MAJESTY!"

The soldiers all roared in unison, inspired by his words.

"Thank you... Thank you for everything."

The battle will begin soon.

Merlinus, whatever you're planning, you'll die before you can even accomplish it!

Chapter 1369 Its Finally Time

As they prepared and trained, as I explained my abilities to the soldiers and how they would benefit from them, and also where to stand to receive its powers, while also telling them about the Spirits and other powers that will help them, so they don't panic once they appear or help them, the sun slowly descended from the blue sky.

And then, the night arrived, it was still early in the night, but everyone was preparing themselves for the battle, one last supper I prepared using my abilities for every soldier was being made, everyone was eating to their heart's contents to be full of Satiation and also many buffs, Mana, Stamina.

My family and friends were also eating, after logging out once to go to the bathroom and eat some early dinner, which was pizza, we immediately logged back in after telling the Druids, Spirits, and Gabriel about what we were going to do, and for them to keep the Domain well protected IRL.

David seemed silent as he ate, he didn't even want to talk, he worried me a bit though, after learning that his stepfather was a traitor that had sold his soul to the Demons and become part of Merlinus cult, at first he simply was unable to accept the truth.

"David, how are you feeling so far? You've barely touched your food. Are you alright?"

I asked him directly, I decided to simply do this instead of leaving him on his own.

Although he had gained new confidence later and everything, he seemed still tired and a bit doubtful.

I guess I can't blame them, he had to fight a lot when the Demons invaded the competition area and ruined everything.

"A-Ah? Uh... Lady Planta..." he muttered. "I am alright, please, you don't have to worry about me."

"Are you sure about that?" I wondered, raising an eyebrow. "I know you've gone through a lot, right? After all a lot happened too. And now you have to fight your stepfather... It must be hard to even fathom. I'm really sorry."

"..." He fell silent, hearing my words, and then he smiled a bit. Despite how strong he was, David was a very emotional young man, I could tell he was holding back his tears. "T-Thank you..."

"I know I am nobody to get involved in this personal issue with your family but..." I muttered. "Has your mother learned the truth?"

"No..." said David. "She doesn't have a clue herself. And once it finally ends, my stepfather will probably be dead, it'll be shocking news to her, I won't even know how to explain things to her..."

"I see..." I nodded. "I think you shouldn't do it alone. With the King and the Queen, maybe us? I'm willing to help you tell her about this."

"Lady Planta... you don't have to go so far," he said. "I'm fine... really."

"But you don't look that fine, David. So I wanted to at least talk with you so you won't just concentrate on these dark thoughts you might be having inside your head," I said. "I want you to know that I am here for you- Ah, that everyone is. We are all your friends, right? We've gone through a lot together now that I think about it! Since the first time we got in this Kingdom, you've been a friend that has helped us a lot."

"Ah... Friends, huh..." David remained in silence for a bit, smiling melancholy. "T-That's... very nice of you all. Thank you for considering me a friend... I never thought about it too much, but yes. We've gone through a lot together."

"Also your disciples over there too!" I said, pointing at his little group just a few seats away from him, who were all eating and talking. The young magic knights that had helped us back then, and that were also present in the demon invasion. "They really love you, if they see you like this they're going to end up losing all hope. I know it'll be harsh, but this is reality. Isn't it... well, this might sound harsh, but isn't it better to accept it quickly and think about the things you're going to protect? Once you confront him, you can talk to him, ask him why he did these things, and then perhaps also regain your resolve."

"...Yeah, I understand," David smiled lightly. "Thank you for everything so far, Lady Planta. We don't really deserve someone like you in here. Before you and your group arrived, the Luminous Kingdom wasn't as good as it is, you and your people have slowly improved things, making the entire place much better, and well, much nicer too. People have become more tolerant to non-human races, and they consider you a hero, a hero of the people. I think that has improved the morality quite a lot."

"Oh well, it wasn't really my intention to do all of this, but I'm thankful you consider my actions as something that has helped make the city a better place," I smiled, feeling flattered. "Very well then, finish your meal, you're going to need all that energy, alright? For the future and the people we love, David, let's do this."

"Yes, Lady Planta, for the future and the people we love," David nodded, smiling a bit better, as he began eating the stew with meat, potatoes, carrots, a bit of onion and tomato, it was a big nutritional meal that had everything needed. "It's delicious... thanks you for this meal."

"It's nothing," I said, patting his shoulders. "And... Huh?"

"Pigiii?"

Suddenly, I noticed a Higgleling there, out of nowhere.

It was right in front of David, looking at the stew he was eating.

"David..."

"Huh?"

He seemed to not notice it; he couldn't see the spirit.

I waved my hand, making the little creature visible.

"Huh?! What's that?!"

He was shocked and a bit scared, and the Higgleding reacted similarly, jumping.

It was a Light Higgleding too.

"It's an Ancient Divine Spirit," I explained. "Looks like it wants some stew, if you give him some, he might help you later."

"Ohh..." David swallowed saliva, nervous. "W-Well, do you want some? Eat all you want."

"Pigyyyyy! Gyaah!"

The Higgleding ate it all in just a few bites...

"Burp~"

"Y-You sure eat more than your own body size, huh?"

After that, I noticed a little heart flying towards David.

FLASH!

To think he would make a bond with an Higgleding out of nowhere...

Maybe this was fate.

"W-What happened now?" he wondered. "I somehow feel connected to this little fellow."

"He's now your friend, he'll help you out when you fight," I explained. "So don't doubt on relying on him if you need to."

"A-A spirit... I never thought I could ever contract one, wow," he said. "This must've been thanks to you, Lady Planta! Thank you so much..."

"I-I didn't do anything actually..." I giggled a bit.

"Anyway, I'll go tell my mother. I feel like I have to before everything begins, I'll be right back in a minute," David said. "Thank you for your kind words, Lady Planta."

"O-Oh, alright... I suppose that is for the best," I nodded.

As the "last supper" ended and everyone got ready to finally fight, we moved forwards towards our positions.

I stood above the terrace of a random house, glancing at the Magician Guild Tower from afar.

After a couple of minutes, I noticed David was back, his eyes were full of a stronger willpower, of a greater determination.

Alright then.

"It's midnight, let's begin," Mark said.

"Alright..." I nodded. "I'm sorry, everyone, but you'll have to go to sleep."

I closed my eyes, concentrating without leaking any Mana at all.

I reached the deepest part of my Soul, where the Soul Traits were located.

And then...

"[Mystic Bellflower Tree Dreamscape]"

FLAAASH!

I activated it.

Chapter 1370 The Final Battle Against Merlinus Finally Begins!

"[Mystic Bellflower Tree Dreamscape]"

I activated the Soul Trait I created just for this moment, using large quantities of Mana and Spirit Energy, while being completely unseen outside.

To any other person, even the sharpest of magicians with the best senses, they could only see a normal woman spreading her arms, nothing else.

And indeed, to the world itself, it seemed as if nothing had happened at all, there was no flashy effect, nothing.

Yet, the power existed, and it worked.

I could see it, part of my mind was within another world entirely, a world of Dreams.

There, condensing pink and purple energies constantly moved and swirled around, and a giant, purple-colored bellflower tree rested above me.

Its flowers also sounded like bells, ringing down as the ability was fully activated.

The sound resonated within people's minds, as the Domain that nobody could see expanded across the World of Dreams.

FLAAASH!

"Huh? What's that?"

"Did you hear something?"

"Like a bell?"

The people began talking with one another, noticing something, getting sleepier. They slowly walked towards fences or their houses nearby, some even just sat down on the floor.

And then, slowly, everyone fell asleep, yes, everyone within the city.

The city, all of its bustling noise...

Fell completely silent, eerily so.

The taverns full of music and people laughing and drinking, the bards singing in the plaza, and more.

Yeah, even at midnight, there was a lot of noise in such a big city.

And even then, all gone now.

I saw through the Dream World, that people's minds began manifesting around, wondering what was happening, they were confused.

"A great battle is about to begin."

I spoke through the tree, startling thousands of people as they appeared one after another.

Everyone could hear my voice at the same time.

"One that could destroy even your entire city..."

I looked at their eyes.

"I'm sorry, but you must be evacuated to safety. Your minds and your bodies will be moved away momentarily."

As I continued speaking, the bellflower tree emerged from portals within the dreams of every person, grabbing their bodies and pulling them into the Dream World.

The people and their bodies merged automatically, as they instantly fell asleep again within the Dream World itself now.

Silence fell once more.

"Now..."

I quickly moved to the next step, I considered everything and calculated the amount of people in the city.

There's at least almost a million people.

Yeah, the Yggdrasil's interior can't handle so much.

Let's move them all to the forest, it's below my control and even the wilderness that isn't inhabited is safe as nature protects whoever I tell it to.

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

Through the portal I had previously created inside the Dream World, something I had tested before, the people were instantly teleported within the gigantic plaza of the Fairy Queendom.

The fairies glanced as countless people appeared one after another, resting over the floor... it was a sight to behold.

Yes, it was very rough and all, but this was the best option we could have.

Everything took roughly three minutes to complete.

By now, Merlinus should've realized what was happening, but he wasn't appearing or something, probably simply observing or trying to figure out what had exactly happened.

I won't give him the time to even react.

"It's done."

I sent the telepathic message to the King and the rest of the Generals.

"Begin the attack."

Camilla gave her command, and I obeyed her majesty.

"Merlinus!"

I roared to the skies, as I manifested a massive Yggdrasil Cannon from my own body, pointing at his damned tower.

I activated the [Divine Yggdrasil Cannon Of Destruction] Skill at the same time as I instantly spread my Domain and my Territory Tiles to its very extreme.

I activated dozens of Skills at the same time, summoning thousands of spirits, draconic beasts, draconic farm spirits, divine elemental spirits, summer and spring guardian spirits, everything!

The soldiers around the city gasped as they saw the massive army I summoned, five thousand strong.

"There's nowhere to run away. There are no more hostages for you... And the only thing you have left is to fight!"

I confronted him even though he had yet to appear.

I knew he was there.

I knew he was looking at me!

"COME OUT AND FIGHT TO THE DEATH WITH ME!"

And I fired the cannon after loading it with one thousand spirits and all my Mana at once.

TRUUUM!

A massive colorful cannon was fired, massive and capable of destroying a whole city itself!

It reached the tower, instantly generating a titanic explosion.

BOOOMMM!!!

I noticed a gigantic, and powerful invisible barrier around the entire tower, as the tower began to tremble.

The barriers made of space started to tremble, gaining cracks and shattering apart one after another.

"It's not going to work! I'll split that tower of yours in half!"

RUMBLE!

The entire tower suddenly received the cannon attack, as its half was pierced.

There was now a massive hole through the entire damned tower.

The menace that has been looming before everyone...

It was pierced with my full power.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Countless explosions followed across the entire tower as whatever was inside began to rapidly be destroyed from the damage dealt inside.

The upper half of the tower collapsed, falling down into the ground, shattering into countless pieces and sending a massive shockwave through the city.

CRAAASH!

The lower half that remained standing, was now covered on spiritual flames, beginning to slowly collapse on itself.

"Y-You really cut the whole tower in half?!" The Queen gasped. "This is-"

"Be on your guards! He's here!"

I immediately noticed his presence.

He was looking at us above the skies already!

"YOU UNGRATEFUL... YOU DAMNED...!"

He was raging furiously!

And he resembled just what I imagined.

An old man, with a normal-sized body, a very long white beard, and a face full of wrinkles.

But his long hair, beard, and eyebrows waved by the wind, and the shockwaves produced by his tremendous magical aura.

"YOU DARE DESTROY MY TOWER, YOU LOWLY PATHETIC ANTS?!"

RUMBLE!

His voice alone sent ripples across space, spreading countless cracks through the fabric of space.

"You... the King, the Queen! Is this treason?! Are you betraying the Magician Guild?!"

He roared furiously, his eyes growing red.

"After everything we've done to help this Kingdom raise where it is now?!"

As he kept roaring angrily, he summoned a staff made of black steel, with a demonic skull on top.

"Merlinus Arcanus Defiagra, you are hereby sentenced to death after betraying the royal family and for multiple assassination and kidnaping attempts towards the King, the Queen, the Prince, and all their allies and associated soldiers, knights, paladins, and also for the constant murder and experimentation of civilians!"

The Queen immediately declared his punishment.

Death!

Her aura expanded, as a sea of blood manifested around her, lifting her up in the skies with all of us!

We met with him eye to eye.

"Y-You...! You have any proof of-"

"Stop with your bullshit," I said. "We know everything, and we're going to kill you right now, Merlinus."

"Hah..." Merlinus smiled, laughing. "Hahaha... HAHAHAHAAAA!"

He completely lost his mind, unable to even refute our words anymore.

His Aura expanded, it was so grand it resembled a tower of pure Mana reaching the skies above, several kilometers big.

"You truly believe you can kill me?!" he kept laughing. "I wanted to keep this city for a bit longer it had all the resources I needed! But so be it! If you want death, I shall bring you death! I'll scatter your guts around the city and paint this damned kingdom with the blood of the royal family and all their braindead servants! Especially you... YGGDRASIL!"

RUMBLE!

As he stated what he would do, he immediately pointed his hand at us.

"{High Spacetime Magic}: {Spatial Compression}!"

TRUUUM!

Space around us compressed to an immense degree, as it aimed to completely crush us to death.

So this is true power.

Mostly anybody else would be just unable to even respond to this.

The worst part was that the space being distorted became unstable, no teleportation or flashy movements could get us out of here.

"DIEEE!"

And yet...

Crack, crack...!

CRASH!

His eyes widened when his Spell was destroyed by my bare hands.

The power of the Demon Prince's Skill dwelling within me.

"You stopped it...?!"

I smiled back at him.

"Don't think we have not prepared for this moment, Merlinus!"

I charged forward, everyone else right behind me.

"If you think that just because you stopped my spell you're strong, you're sorely mistaken."

He smiled, waving his staff as hundreds of black and red portals opened around him.

From there, hundreds of magicians emerged, with demonic appearances, alongside many aberrations and mutated, patchwork creatures they had created in their laboratories.

"Destroy this city! Kill everyone! Devour everyone! Splatter their blood across the streets and bathe in their guts! Spare nobody!" he roared. "Today, the Luminous Royal Family will pay for their treason!"