

Brand New 1611

Chapter 1611: Eating Endemic Food

" pudding? Oh, the caramel is really unique! Tastes like fruit juice... Oh wow."

It seemed that this dessert was made out of milk, it was creamy and soft, and with the sweet caramel on top, it was simply wonderful.

"They call this dish Milky Flowerpot," explained Katherine. "It is made using the milk of Milk Fruit Trees, which is almost like the actual milk that animals have, but it's plant based."

"Oh, kind of like soy milk then?" I wondered. "But it truly tastes like cow milk though, that's amazing..."

I ended eating the whole thing instantly, it was simply delicious!

"I love it too!" Gabriel said, finishing his own. "I want another please!"

"Hmm, it's creamy, reminds me when I was a kid and I always used to buy pudding for my lunch," Mark smiled

"Yep, it's nice, but try this one too!" Jenny said, giving us a large apple covered with caramel.

"Apple?" I wondered, taking a bite. "Hm?! Wait, this isn't an apple!"

As I took a bite, I noticed a different flavor altogether, it was like melon, lemon, mango, and pineapple combined together, it was juicy and soft inside, not like apples were usually.

It also had a wonderful flavor! And this caramel they make using the flower dew was also really good with anything.

But well, they sure love eating sugar here, are the fairies fine with such a diet?

"What is this fruit? It's amazing," Mark said.

"Yeah!" Gabriel nodded.

"Hmm, this is called Scarlet Ambrosia," explained Katherine. "It is a rare fruit around here, usually cultivated, the seed are brought here from another far away land, beyond the mountains."

"It is really unique, isn't it?" Lily asked. "It has the flavor of all the fruits I love."

"Here, I saved this one for you all as well," Monica said, as she gave us another dish to try.

This time it was a pastry of some sort, it was long and shaped like a hot dog but had white whipped cream on top and tiny slices of yellow, purple, and pink strawberries.

"Hmm!"

I took a single bite and was greeted by a lot of delicious fruit jam inside, alongside more cream, the dough was nice and fluffy, not too sweet, the cream and the fruit was a nice, relaxing combination.

"I love this!" Mark said. "Is there any dish the fairies make that isn't good?"

"Hmm! Nam, nam! Sho good!" Gabriel licked his lips; his face was covered with cream because he ate so fast.

"Ah this is a classic pastry snack we have everywhere, not exclusively from here, it's called Whipped Fruit Dog, looks like a hot dog, right?" giggled Katherine. "We love to have those for lunch back home. Usually accompanied by some tea and little biscuits."

"Hmm~" I ended eating it all. "Delicious... Now what's else in store? Is there something salty?"

"I got this! Fish!" Elisa said, offering it to me.

They were small river fish, skewered and salted, and then covered on a sweet sauce made using the flower dew syrup.

"Oooh! Not bad! I needed something like this!"

The fish meat was tender and smoky, just enough salt to not be overwhelming as well as the sauces, it was all a great combination!

"I like it with some wine! I found there's a whole shop that sells it," Rita said, giving me a cup of red wine. "Try this!"

"Hm?" I drank some of it, as I realized its flavor was unique. "It has such a strong fruity smell, and the flavor is... like, really sweet! Oh wow. So many flavors... it's hard to describe, but it goes well with the fish!"

"Yeah, I'm not used to drink this sort of sophisticated wine," Mark said. "But I can say I'm enjoying it! Goes well with the fish."

"Here's some meat this time, it seems to be from a bird of some sort, tasted nice," Anna showed us some skewered chicken meat of some sort, covered with veggies and spices, and also sweet sauce.

The meat was tender, juicy, delicious... like a better chicken combined with a bit of turkey, smoked turkey at that... we ended eating everything happily too.

I also tried out small, fruit-shaped jellies made using fruit pulp and the flowers syrup, they were so nice and soft, and I couldn't stop eating them.

There were also a lot of hard candies, I tried some and ended crushing them with my teeth to eat them quickly, good thing my teeth as super tough now, so they wouldn't have broken easily.

After enjoying the food of the stalls, we were still hungry for something bigger, so we moved to a restaurant named "The Little Imp's Den", which specialized on cooking what you brought for them.

This way, they cooked the Owl Bear meat for us, and we accompanied it with flower petal and bud salad, fruit flower seed rice, noodles, and they even had a variety of potatoes from all shapes and sizes, so we ordered the "Potato Feast" which included every potato cut down into pieces and deep fried into fries.

The Owl Bear meat, once properly cooked, was also wonderful, the meat was strong flavored, like even stronger than beef, with a hint of chicken to it, but most probably tasting the same as an actual bear would taste like.

The meat went well with the seasonings they added, the sweet and spicy spices, and the sweet and savory sauces, making this an incredible lunch!

Once we ate all we could, we felt satisfied, deciding to finally stretch our legs and get to it with our job today.

"Thank you for everything! Please come back soon!"

As the owners waved their hands at as we walked away, I looked at how much we've spent... collectively, two coins had been spent completely.

Yeah, this restaurant wasn't cheap, it was probably the most expensive here. But it was all a wonderful new experience, so I didn't care about spending more money every now and then.

While walking away from the place, we decided to get moving towards the forest once more.

"So are we going to hunt right away?" wondered my daughter. "We can't take it easy until tomorrow?"

Chapter 1612: Going To Hunt

"So are we going to hunt right away?" wondered my daughter. "We can't take it easy until tomorrow?"

"I wish, but I am quite worried," I said. "I think there might be something wrong with that place... I just have this feeling. It just not normal that so many monsters have spawned there after all, right?"

"Yeah..." Mark nodded. "We should hurry then; this is a nice opportunity to make a lot of money here."

"Leave it to me, I'll take care of all of them!" Gabriel said proudly. "I'm much stronger than before now after all, I can handle just about anything, test me!"

"Just about anything, huh?" I wondered, giggling. "Calm down a little, young man, don't be too reckless either!"

"But those Owl Bears were super weak, right Elisa, Monica?" Gabriel asked. "I can handle them easily!"

"Well they weren't the strongest, but they weren't weak either," Elisa said. "They had very tough bodies, we had to hit them very strongly for them to be defeated, Monica's cursed chains helped weakening them... but Goldie was the MVP."

"Heheh, of course I was! I am the mightiest of Master's familiars," said Goldie pridefully. "Is it that not the case?"

"No you aren't, that's my cute Belle," I said with a smile, caressing her bearded chin.

"Meeheee!" Belle seemed to understand my words, looking at Goldie with a prideful smile.

"W-What?! I am not the strongest?! But I am!" Goldie complained. "I was before, and I surely am still the one with the highest stats and strongest skills..."

"Not really, they've already caught up to you," I laughed. "But you're strong, yes."

"I am a dragon and she's a goat; this doesn't make any sense! How come a goat is stronger than- Ugh!"

I patted his head and let him know that he had to stop being so annoyed with a single, gentle smile.

"..."

He looked elsewhere after that, finally shutting up, he sure was annoying sometimes. If he had acted properly as a Lake Guardian in the Forest of Beginnings and fought alongside us in the battles that happened before I found him, things would've been much different.

But he had to be lazy and conceited, and not do anything, and then when I found him, I decided that I had to punish him because he had so much strength and didn't do a single thing! If he helped, instead of hiding under the mud, things would've been much better.

...

But anyway, enough with these rants, Goldie is now an active helper, and I'll make sure he continues to help us through this forest adventure... yes, he'll be an excellent bait. A giant, juicy, meaty fish floating around, which predator, even more bears, would be able to just ignore such an easy meal?

"So, uh, where are the Owl Bears at, any nests they gather on?" Jenny wondered, looking at the sky while walking by our side.

"I brought this with me," I said, as I showed them a map of the Giant Tree Forest. "This is a map of the forest, it was recently edited by someone that went to explore it and ran away as quickly as he could, he marked whatever big nests he spotted... here, here, and there."

There were three large nests, but mostly in the exterior, perhaps there were even more in the interior...

"They also said that as you go deeper into the Owl Bear territory, the air becomes heavier and the atmosphere colder..." I explained. "What do you think about that?"

"Hmm, there might be something really bad in there," Lily said. "But how bad? We won't really know until we go there and see for ourselves."

"Indeed," I nodded. "And what do you think that could be though? Hm, Rita?"

"Eh, well, this is just my theory but maybe there's something in there making the Owl Bears multiply," Rita said. "But this is also all just new to us, so we don't really know what it could even be to begin with, no?"

"It could be... wait, maybe the Black Hand is working on this?" Elena asked. "It is a big possibility, right mom?"

"I don't know if they were trying to get here to begin with..." I said. "But it's sus, yeah. We'll have to go as deep as humanly possible and see for ourselves what awaits at the depths of this forest."

We stopped in front of the Giant Tree Forest, its shadows so big they covered most of our sight. This was a truly dark forest, and I can only imagine it even darker and scarier at night!

"Alright! Let's make some sweet money," Rita smiled. "I want to sleep in that fancy hotel they got! They said there were even some massage service and good wine~"

"Rita, is wine all you think about?" Mark sighed.

"I don't think about wine all the time; it is just a byproduct of wanting something fancy and nice!" Rita said. "You know, I've been living a pretty damn boring life as a housewife... so all these things are always nice."

"Right... sorry I guess," Mark nodded.

"Hmmm~ I guess this is a nice time to test our strength, endurance, and stamina!" Jenny said with a smile, holding her halberd weapon, formerly a metallic bat. "And also use our weapons even more this time! The Nightmareborns sure were tough, but I crave more challenges."

"Looks like you've got the hang of it now," Anna said to Jenny. "Are you enjoying the battles now, Jenny?"

"M-Maybe..." Jenny muttered. "I mean, what else can we do anyway, right? Heh... It's nice to come here with everyone! And I'm really grateful Elayne even included me... I feel like this is the first time my life has something worth my fucking attention. It was always so damn dull and boring... playing that BNLO game was so fun, and now we're even experiencing crazy shit IRL. Isn't that insane? Pretty hardcore if you ask me."

"I agree with Jenny there~ Life has always been pretty dull sometimes... but since Elayne appeared and she showed me so many fun things, I've been enjoying my life like never before! Despite the dangers, it feels like it's all worth it sometimes," Lily smiled at me.

"Aw you guys started having cute speeches already..." I said, feeling moved. "But this isn't like we're fighting some powerful final boss; it's just Owl Bears. Let's get this over with!"

Chapter 1613: You're The Bait!

As they agreed with me, we stepped forward without wasting another second. The dark woods greeted us with their eerie atmosphere, the place's entirety was all-encompassing in a way. Last time, we had passed through a large road separate from the trees, we were only surrounded by them.

This time we were stepping directly into the dangerous nest of Owl Bears, we could get gored the moment we reach their nests, or even before that...

Of course, if we were actual weaklings.

But that is not the case with us, nope.

"Goldie, please shine very brightly."

"Eh?"

He looked at me with a face filled with shock and disbelief. Yes, this is the thing I asked him to do for me the moment we stepped into this place.

"Please?"

"Wait, what? You want me to shine very brightly?!"

"Yep, please shine the brightest for me."

"..."

"..."

We stared at one another for a good ten seconds; he wasn't doing it...

I see.

"Do it now."

"Don't think I don't know your intentions already, master! And I don't want to be freaking bait! Please spare me the agony! I don't want to get eaten by Owl bears!"

"You won't! Weren't you saying you were so strong before? Why are you so scared now? Please just help out Goldie!"

"I-I have helped enough!"

"No you haven't! You spent the whole time inside mud without helping, and now that you can finally do something of significance, you're going to just cry and act like a coward?"

"B-But...!"

"Aren't you a dragon, Goldie?! This is what dragons do, they're brave and strong, and aren't afraid of stuff like this! You have to be strong like a dragon, get it?"

"I-I understand but even then this is a bit too much!"

"No it's not too much Goldie, we got your back and you're super strong, right?"

"...Am I?"

"...Of course you are! Jesus Christ, I think I finally figured out why you never fought, it's not that you're a coward... you don't trust yourself, you don't even believe in your own strength, why are you like this, Goldie?"

"..."

Goldie looked down for a moment, as if he recalled something...

Huh, maybe I was too harsh there, now I feel bad.

"...Okay, sorry, you don't have to do it if you don't want to. Maybe I was too harsh on you."

"Eh?"

"Don't worry, I'll be bait instead, it doesn't really matter."

I stepped forward, channeling light.

"Wait, what? Elayne you can't be the bait!" Mark said. "You're pregnant!"

"It's fine, the Owl Bears are super weak either way, we just have to make a big fuss here and they'll come running to defend their territory," I smiled. "Goldie, stand behind me. I got this."

"..."

As I told him to just stand behind me and as I prepared for this...

"No, wait, okay, I will do it."

"Oh? Really...?"

He ended still offering his help? But I was sure he would just stare there in silence or something.

Was showing him kindness what worked at the end? But every time I did it before he acted all cocky.

"You know, I once had a mom and a dad..." Goldie sighed. "When the Forest of Beginnings was big, when the lake was enormous, back then, when the entire continent was our land. We were the Golden Koi Dragons, powerful guardians of Spirit Lakes and Rivers. We were revered as gods sometimes... mom and dad were so strong back then."

"Goldie..." I muttered, realizing he was actually open up.

"But... I... I couldn't help..." he sighed, his big eyes shedding a few tears. "Back then when the Yggdrasil tree was infected by the Demon King of Miasma, I could only stare as the world around us began falling apart... my parents told me to run, to dig deep into the lake's mud and never walk out of there until they returned... they went there and fought that monster, his army..."

I stared at his eyes, almost as if I could imagine what he was thinking, his memories almost manifesting in my own mind.

Was this our bond as master and familiar?

"But mom and dad never returned... I was left there, in the mud, and I was so afraid, I slept for hundreds of years..." Goldie sighed. "Until I realized everything had already happened, mom and dad were nowhere to be seen, and even the Queen of Fairies, although she survived, was already an adult..."

"She was the one that told me what happened to my parents... they were... they were killed... And I couldn't do anything but hide! You know?! It's... after that I felt like life was pointless, the only good thing I was for was hiding inside my mud and never walk out of the lake... I didn't want to do anything else either way anyway!"

"I was afraid... of the world... of how it all could change so quickly, while I couldn't do anything... I ended becoming the last Golden Koi Dragon, and even then, it felt... pointless, I had never a purpose. I grew into an adult, I had power as a dragon, but never used it for anything, even when the forest was in peril again, and even against the same foe that took my parents... I didn't fight; I was too afraid to face him... I-I..."

I walked to his side, hugging this big, sad fish.

"It's alright Goldie... you don't have to continue... Maybe as your master, I was able to see through it," I nodded with a smile. "Your past... it is painful, maybe I just didn't know that, and I ended judging you wrong... its usually not like me to do that, so I'm sorry."

"Master..." he cried. "Despite being a big fish-like dragon, you hug me? Am I do not weird or disgusting to you?"

"Of course not! You're adorable if anything, haha," I giggled, petting his head. "I just sometimes wished you were braver, but that's not something that can change from one day to another, right? It's something we develop on our own through many experiences and so on..."

Chapter 1614: Clash

"..." Goldie remained in silence while listening to my words. I could feel that his Aura was growing stronger, he furrowed his scaled eyebrows. "You're not wrong... but maybe that what I needed... I never talked to anybody about this before... not even Titania..."

"Really?" I wondered.

"Master, you're indeed pregnant... it would be terrible of me to let you act as bait..." he sighed. "I could never allow that... you've got a young baby there, you should step back, and leave this to your powerful familiar, I got this."

His face turned serious, looking almost funny, but I could see his powerful new resolve blazing through his eyes.

"Leave it to me!"

Wow, he changed quickly! Maybe I should've always treated him nicely instead of forcing him to do things... I did wrong, he just needed some love.

"Alright Goldie, thank you!"

He stepped forward, his light glowing the brightest, his entire body exuding pure light everywhere!

FLAAASH!

"If a show is what you want, damn Owl Bears, then come and see it! It's free of charge! All you can see, all you can eat! If you can even bite me!"

With a mighty draconic roar, Goldie's light shone the brightest.

And then, I could feel it, the rumbling sound of hundreds of footsteps running towards us.

RUMBLE!

The entire forest trembled tremendously, shaking constantly, the ground opened, cracking open as several trees trembled as well, their branches falling rapidly one by one.

"GRUOOOHHHH!"

The roars of the Owl Bears echoed around us, until we could finally see them, they weren't just a dozen, they were over a hundred for sure.

Same appearance as the others from before, with their own Auras of Spirit Power...

These weren't normal Arcadian monsters, no, these were Beast Spirits, a whole higher level of beast compared to the monsters from BNLO.

They were tougher, mightier, smarter, and had strong spirit magic to boot, with powerful physiques.

These Owl Bears were the wildest type, specializing in physical power and toughness, their magic probably boosted this in specific.

"You did it Goldie, you brought them all in!" I said happily.

"O-Of course! I did it... H-Hahahaha! Ugh...! T-There's...! A lot! A-A-A-A lot of them!!!" He looked panicking his eyes widening, if he could sweat, he would definitely be sweating bullets right now. "S-Surely we can handle it...!"

"Yeah, just fire your lasers everywhere Goldie!" I said. "Come, Clone Spirit!"

FLUOSH!

I summoned my Clone Spirit as well, manifesting out of my aura, which I controlled remotely like a puppet as well, and with that, Belle, and Silver, they made a powerful front line to greet the Owl Bears at full power.

Meanwhile, I tapped the ground with my bare feet, touching the grass floor nicely, and spreading plants and a powerful domain everywhere. Spirits started manifesting, and all while I held Irene tightly.

"Alright everyone, this is our first wave, get ready! In one... two...!"

They got ready, quickly making a circle around me while getting their weapons ready, their magic, summoned creatures, everything.

At the same time, I quickly encompassed their bodies with my Aura, creating powerful armors of angelic light on top of their bodies, and boosting their attack power with the Halos of the Spring and Summer Guardian Spirits, which were summoned alongside the Palace Domain.

"Morpheus, get ready to protect everyone with your dream powers, mess these Owl Bears really nice if you need to!" I said angrily. "You're allowed to use any dirty trick."

"Thank you, master, I shall go all-out then," Morpheus floated in midair, his dark nightmares rapidly manifested into a form holding his own body. "And also, let me show you something new I can do after my latest evolution."

"Huh?"

I noticed a powerful, black, nightmarish specter manifested out of his aura, grabbing his own body like a deadly scythe, as if he were a reaper, the humanoid specter was covered on a cloak of black and red color, with a red skull face-like mask.

"{Nightmare Spirit Avatar Manifestation}"

Aside from the reforge that Morpheus went through, he had evolved once more after absorbing a lot of Nightmareborn Cores, yeah, I hadn't had the time to check his complete growth yet.

But he had already reached another level entirely...

"Let me open this battle with some delightful first attack!"

While swinging the scythe with his spectral hands, Morpheus unleashed a slicing, half-moon-like attack, reaching the dozens of Owl Bears coming at us from almost every direction.

"{Soul-Draining Crescent Half-Moon Dream Slash}!"

SLAAASH!

The attack quickly incapacitated half our foes, their minds consumed by dreams entirely, perhaps only for a couple of seconds, but incredibly useful.

The other Owl Bears were confused, glaring at their kin as if they had a stroke or something...

Bad choice.

"Now, charge!"

I moved through my second body, the aura spirit clone, and quickly manifested a pair of swords made of light, using my dual sword arts against the incoming Owl Bears, while quickly taking down those that had fallen unconscious for a moment.

"{Divine Dragon Goddess' Heroic Dual Sword Arts}: [Holy Dual Blade Goddess Dance]! [Myriad Dashing Strikes]!"

I stepped forward, using my draconic strength and the projected magic swords created using the [Light Blade] Spell and the [Heaven Sword] Physique Ability.

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

My second spiritual body moved freely, spinning around and cutting through all, the swords of light grew in size as they were made of pure magic and spirit energy, becoming amazingly handy as I cut through dozens of Owl Bears at once.

This was the perfect way to clear through them while I stayed behind, buffing or healing my friends. I was feeling lazy myself, so it fit me to stay behind while spreading my domain and such.

Everyone else was also working hard, taking this opportunity to improve their abilities and develop them even further.

After all, only through great challenges that push us to our limits can we grow stronger, to exhaust ourselves and use everything we can until there's nothing else for our bodies...

In that moment is when we can move forward, and step into higher realms.

...

"Come on! Move!"

Rita roared, as she pointed her gun at our foes, firing dozens of powerful elemental bullets of darkness and void against them, bombarding them with consecutive explosions.

"{Divine Elemental Spiritual Bullet: Void Ammo}!"

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

Chapter 1615: Against Hundreds Of Foes

"{Divine Elemental Spiritual Bullet: Void Ammo}!"

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

Rita's projectiles were precise and destructive, each bullet that pierced one of these beasts exploded into a small black hole, dealing even more damage and outright killing anything it touched.

It was a super strong, evolved version of both her gun abilities and her own magic, compacted and combined into bullets for easy to aim attacks from super long distances, more efficient than even normal magic as well due to how little Mana each bullet consumed in comparison to big spells.

"Alright! I'm going all in too!"

Mark's body blazed with flames, quickly growing black metallic wood around him until he was completely encompassed by this powerful wooden and metallic armor, covered by crimson flames and with a pair of blazing wings behind him.

Using this powerful transformation that channeled the powers of his Soul-Bound Divine Skill, he charged forward, wielding only Ignias as his sole weapon, unleashing her devastating power as she transformed into a larger blazing sword.

"{Demonic Dragon Spirit Flame Sword Form: Ignias}!"

FLUOSH!

The small dagger transformed into a giant sword, blazing with deadly flames, and also forged out with the very flames of his soul, becoming extremely potent and powerful, and as he faced the Owl Bears, he broke loose.

"{Infernal Sextuple Slash}!"

And with this single ability, a single one of his slashes turned into six blazing attacks, and when he swung his sword multiple times, then a rain of slashing, blazing attacks bombarded his foes without any time for them to prepare!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Each slash generated a deadly blazing explosion, not only carrying phoenix flames, but also draconic and demonic flames, all of them deadly to living beings, making them even more lethal against the mighty Owl Bears.

Perhaps to most inhabitants of this Realm, these mighty Spirit Beasts were formidable beings, but for those here, they were nothing but easy to hunt monsters. Maybe if they had come earlier, things would have been more difficult, but right now, they were at the top of their game.

"I'll eliminate as many as I can within the least amount of time... I need to keep practicing and growing stronger."

Elena stepped forward, channeling more of her Soul-Bound Skill and even her Specialization. Through the constant usage of Spells and Physique Abilities, intense battle and exercise, and pushing one's limit

by emptying all of their Mana, it was possible to grow stronger without having to necessarily absorb Mana Crystals or the Cores of Hollows too.

And as Elena had seen with her mother, the more she mastered and absorbed the power of her Soul-Bound Skills and Specializations, the stronger they could grow as they link more with their Avatars!

"GRUOOOHHH!"

As the Owl Bears reached her and dozens of giant claws rushed towards Elena, the girl's skin suddenly turned blue, as her black hair became white, as she activated her Spells and Physique Abilities in conjunction with her Soul Bound Skills.

"{Spectral Demonic Shikigami Katana Transformation}!"

FLUOSH!

And then her knife turned into a long black katana, overflowing with spectral shadows and phantasmal energies, constantly blazing with the power of death and darkness within them, and even void.

Thanks to her mother's reforging, the evil katana that had tried possessing her before was now gone, transformed into an obedient knife once more, the Shikigami inside having been used as a "material" for the weapon's evolution.

And now...

"{Abyssal Graveyard Of Swords Domain}"

FLUOSH!

The world around her transformed, turning into a dark graveyard of countless old, rusted swords appearing around her. This was Elena's powerful domain, tied to her even more powerful weapon.

As the Owl Bears drew closer, black swords quickly pierced, stabbed, and sliced their bodies, as Elena rushed forward, swinging her blade while channeling the power of Stances and her other Techniques.

The Samurai Stances were the main reason of their "annoying gameplay" and what made this Class not as preferred by most players, who would choose a Warrior or a Swordsman instead, which were easier to use, tankier, and stronger... generally.

The strength of a Samurai lay within their destructive, precise, and cutting techniques, fused with their own Stances, magical techniques that allow them to channel different elements through the regulation of their breathing, the flow of their internal Ki and Mana, and their body's position.

Elena had chosen such a class at the beginning because she plainly thought Samurai were cooler than knights, and she wanted to be a cool oni samurai... there wasn't any other thought put into it.

But as she fought, played, and learned to love the class and her fighting style improved, she started to learn more about the path of the blade, the stances, and everything, growing to love her class and also that she was a Blue Oni, who are usually good with Shadow and Phantom Magic, perfect combination with a Samurai to become a true Grim Reaper!

"{Water Stance}: {Sea Dragon's Rage}!"

Elena's aura transformed, while her domain took down foes, she charged forward in between all the Owl Bears, her Water Stance channeling the Water Element, as her katana moved, rapidly generating a constantly flowing wave of azure water shaped like a ferocious dragon, roaring mightily.

"ROOOAAARRR!"

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

As the dragon passed through her foes, the Owl Bears were cut down one by one, dropping into the ground, dead on the spot. The cutting wounds were deep and deadly, while the water consumed the blood, slowly becoming red.

"This is...?!"

Elena's eyes widened, as she felt her body's energies flowing more rapidly as her stance began to evolve, the dragon consumed her victims' blood, further boosting her own stance's buff...

"I see...!"

Her eyes glowed bright red, as she found herself surrounded by even more Owl Bears, among them, there were finally some new mutations, some were twice as large, with mostly white and gray feathers, and long white feathered crests over their heads, with big yellow eyes.

These Owl Bears didn't charge recklessly despite being larger, as their Spiritual Auras manifested Magic Power through the flow of Spiritual Energies and Mana.

Chapter 1616: Blood Stance

"CRAAAHHH!"

With ferocious roars, the Mage Owl Bears conjured magic against Elena, powerful, spiraling and slicing winds reached her, while wooden spears surged from the ground, attempting to impale her from beneath.

And yet, Elena's powers absorbed her foe's blood, transforming, her Aura of Azure Color changed, her stance becoming more aggressive with her sword pointed at her foe.

"{Blood Stance}: {Scarlet Fury Frenzy}!"

Channeling a new evolved stance of blood, Elena leaped towards her foes, avoiding the magic with her dexterous and agile movements, sometimes cutting the wind and the wood with her new technique, Scarlet Fury Frenzy, which released an explosion of blood ki against her foes.

"HAAAAH!"

Until she finally reached the Owl Bears, moving her hands so fast while running that she resembled an endlessly cutting storm of pain, each slash stronger than the previous one, while slicing all her foes constantly.

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

As she moved, the Owl Bears could simply not keep up, Elena was a literal killing machine, each slash grew stronger as their blood fueled her Blood Stance, sending her into a frenzy.

She moved around, resembling a crimson blur that cut through all, not even the trees were safe, being cut apart instantly as her domain combined with her stance, further evolving her technique into something utterly dangerous!

The Mage Owl Bears couldn't keep up, their magic useless against her, as they were cut down to pieces one after another. Elayne's daughter continued her massacre, as her mother glanced from afar, amazed, albeit worried about her.

"Elena's growing so strong so quickly...! I'm happy, but at the same time, I can't help but feel worried... Blood Stance, huh? It does sound interesting and strong, but it feels like she's entering into a frenzy or berserk state... I better do something to keep her head cool."

Elayne waved her hand towards her daughter, as a bright light encompassed Elena, a bright Summer Spirit Guardian Halo appeared above her head, the spiritual energies of the light element kept her mind cool, helping her regain her consciousness.

"Ah...!"

As she stopped fighting, she realized she had singlehandedly slaughtered over a hundred Owl Bears, and also a large part of the forest... the giant, ancient trees were all cut down, the fairies weren't going to be happy about this.

"Ugh... My body..."

She groaned in pain, falling onto her knees as she felt every inch of her body aching to hell, overusing the Blood Stance must have put a deadly strain on her physique. This new Stance was perhaps her strongest aside from the Heaven Stance, as it accelerated her Blood Flow, enhancing her senses, strengthening her muscles and reflexes, and making her super-fast and strong.

However, to keep it up, she had to have a lot of blood from her victims available, and she couldn't activate it right away either, as she had to feed her blade with blood, starting with the Water Stance first. However, in scenarios such as these, it was a perfect stance... the only thing was that the immense amount of stimuli through her entire body accelerated her thought process and made her mind burn out, turning her berserk.

"Are you alright, dear?"

Once the Owl Bears were dealt with, Elayne walked towards her daughter, touching her shoulders as she rapidly healed her strained body.

"Y-Yeah mom, I just... I might've gone a bit too far."

"I can tell... let's take a small break before we continue. I bet you're hungry, you must have spent a lot of your energy. Eat these."

Elayne offered her daughter some of her Yggdryad fruits, which Elena hesitated to eat at first, but ended eating nonetheless, the hunger and thirst she felt after overusing the Blood Stance were really bad.

The group regrouped at long last and took a small break while talking about what they learned or how they were able to grow, although it was just the beginning, some of them had managed to tap into new strengths.

"Alright, we've hunted two hundred and thirty seven Owl Bears, but there's even more everywhere," Elayne said after storing all their hunt. "Let's keep going, this isn't ending any time soon!"

The group rapidly picked up their pace, moving through the forest and rapidly beginning to encounter larger groups of Owl Bears, with more variants. There weren't just Mages anymore, but Warriors, Berserkers, and even smaller, agiler Rogues.

What's weirder, they were imbued with a strange power, which Elena had detected seemed to have dark origins... and which seemed to originate from the center of these woods, which nobody had ever explored yet.

Elayne, while slaying hundreds of Owl Bears with her team, made their way to the center of the woods in time record, the strange and bizarre energy only becoming more intense with each step.

Until...

"What's... that?"

Elayne's eyes widened, as she witnessed what must have been the "culprit" behind the Owl Bear's reproduction and their frenzy.

Glowing with crimson and purple light, it was a large, ten-meter-big crystal, which was encompassed by black wooden branches as eye-shaped fruits hung from them.

The strange tree absorbed this energy and spread it through the depths of the forest through their roots, further worsening the entire situation.

As this happened, the Owl Bears constantly devoured these fruits and also were affected by the irradiated, strange energy, becoming larger and more hyperactive, reproducing and growing faster too.

"I don't know what that is, but we have to quickly destroy it! It is what's causing all of this mess!"

Elayne and her party rushed towards the crystal, but Owl Bears rapidly started chasing them and surrounding them, attacking fiercely, trying to protect their strange crystal.

As they fought desperately, Elayne launched her shovel towards the crystal, aiming to destroy it while fighting the Owl Bears!

CLAAASH!

And yet, when her shovel hit the crystal, it ended being reflected by something else... Her eyes widened, realizing a powerful barrier protected the crystal.

"I don't know how you even got here, but I won't let you touch my master's creation!"

And it seemed that, behind the crystal, there was someone protecting it.

Chapter 1617: An Unexpected Foe

As the group slaughtered all the Owl Bears they possibly could and advanced forward, they reached the depths of the forest, finding something quite bizarre, a large, red and purple colored crystal growing out of a black, distorted tree, which spread its roots everywhere.

The crystal was constantly releasing a miasmic energy everywhere, constantly causing the Owl Bears to enter crazed frenzies, and also pushing them to evolve into the stronger forms they had battled through this entire ordeal.

Elayne had wasted no time, throwing her shovel at the crystal, fully realizing that this was the cause of this entire mess, and aiming to shatter it with a single blow of her flying weapon.

However, to her surprise, that didn't happen, the shovel ended hitting an invisible, powerful spiritual barrier, absorbing the impact and the energy within it, including the spirit energy and the mana, and making the shovel simply bounce off and fall to the floor, Irene, the shovel herself, was left surprised, as she floated in midair, glancing at the scene with her master and everyone else.

"I don't know how you even got here, but I won't let you touch my master's creation!"

And from behind the crystal, someone stepped out, wearing black robes and releasing a powerful dark aura, a mysterious figure emerged. Their eyes glowed bright red beneath their black hood, obscuring their appearance. Their voice was tenebrous and manly, although strangely dry too. And their robes didn't seem to originate from the Black Hand, as Elayne and her group analyzed.

"And who the fuck are you dude?!" Rita asked angrily, manifesting a giant dragon claw made of darkness and grabbing a bunch of Owl Bears, who screamed in agony as they were crushed to death. "Are you the fucker behind this? Oh man we're going to beat your shit!"

"Calm down Rita," Elayne said, stepping forward as her barrier stopped any Owl Bears from even touching her, her magic manifested giant beams of sunlight from large sunflowers popping out of the ground, sending them flying one after another as she recovered Irene. "Let's first talk... why are you doing this? Are you from the Black Hand? Depending how you ask... We might spare you."

"Spare him?! I bet he's some evil bastard anyway!" Jenny said angrily, her halberd digging and cleaving through the Owl Bears close to her, as her Weapon's Aura and her own Magic combined, summoning giant serpentine dragon jaws, biting her foes ravenously.

"Heh... Hahahahaha! Who am I?! Does that even matter?! I am merely one of many! I am my master's servant, his pawn! And I'll gladly give up my very soul for our cause! We all serve him, our King! Even after our deaths, till the bitter end!"

The man wearing a black robe laughed, as he suddenly manifested a giant black scythe, and then pointed the weapon at Elayne, his voice becoming even louder.

"My King has become stronger, and he is impatient! He desires Souls, and the Souls of this strange Realm we discovered are perfect! You thought that Gates could only be created on your Mortal Plane? Foolish humans! Even if you've come to stop me, it is futile! I will slay you and offer your souls to him!"

As he roared, his robe lifted as a black skeleton was revealed, with eyes made of rubies and covered with red runes all over his black skeleton body, which seemed to be covered with a hard black steel. He raised a scythe, overflowing with phantasmal flames.

"He's from the Demon King of Death?!" Rita gasped. "So those fuckers are here as well?! No freaking way! Can't you bastards give us a break?!"

"So you know his majesty! Well, no matter, my King urges me to bring him more death, more souls, more nether! And I shall oblige! This entire Realm is ripe for the taking! And I am only one of many!"

The skeleton unleashed a powerful shockwave of darkness and nether from his body, shaking his surroundings, before he swung his scythe against Elayne, unleashing a powerful shockwave of darkness.

BOOOM!

An explosion of darkness and phantasmal flames engulfed her, and yet her Angelic Barrier remained powerful, almost unscathed, with barely a few cracks.

"What?!"

The skeleton was left speechless, he didn't expect that she would have a barrier so strong she could even take a direct attack from his powerful Relic.

"So you're not even one of his Generals? Then you're not even going to last a single minute against me."

Elayne stepped forward as she breathed life into her surroundings, the miasma corroding the forest from the crystal started being pushed back by her endlessly expanding domain and terrain.

"T-The power of Life and Nature... just by walking?! D-Don't tell me! What is my luck?! Have I truly met the Vessel of Yggdrasil?! W-Why are you even here?! This Realm is supposed to be separated from the places she usually roams! This makes no sense!"

"Fate truly works on mysterious ways, don't you think? I just happened to come here for a friend, and I ended meeting you and this whole little scheme that Skeletor is planning... Might as well thwart his plan while at it, right?"

"Grrr! Don't underestimate me! I am a powerful Lich in command of a legion of ten thousand! Although I cannot bring them here right now, I can do this!"

A shockwave of phantasmal energy encompassed the surroundings, as the corpses of the Owl Bears and even their ghostly spirits emerged as zombies and specters, suddenly making the foes they hunted into new monsters, overwhelming everyone in a second.

"ROOAARR!"

"GRUOOHH!"

"SHAAAAH!"

The Owl Bear Zombies were also much stronger and reckless than the others, and the ghosts unleashed phantasmal flames, aiming to burn the souls of their victims. Everyone desperately retaliated, fighting back together as a large group, while trying not to separate from one another.

"Hahahaha! Face my army of death! What can you even do against this, Vessel of Yggdrasil?! You're completely done for now!"

"Certainly, it isn't looking too good..."

Or is it?

Chapter 1618: Go Back Where You Came From!

Elayne glanced back at her family, as they clashed against the foes one after another. Mark unleashed explosive waves of flames, engulfing the Owl Bear Zombies and burning them to ashes, his magic bombarded the rest with deadly explosive feathers, flames spreading everywhere and yet not burning the forest or causing a terrible disaster, the flames were alive, made of tiny Fire Spirits.

Elena unleashed her newest stance, using the blood of her foes to boost her fighting style and go into a frenzy of destructive blows and slashing techniques, tearing apart the zombies and even killing the ghosts with her own phantom flames, which ghosts weren't actually immune to, and which was a way even other wielders of this element could confront ghosts and undead.

Rita summoned draconic claws out of shadows, and also jaws made of darkness, firing beams of void that pulverized her surroundings, the hordes of Undead Owl Bears swarmed her, but her powerful magic, and her gun, which allowed her to shoot dozens of bullets at once PLUS her magic, made her the ultimate long-range attacker!

Her little rat, Whitey, also helped, with its power of Holy Light, the white rat was able to enchant her gun and bullets with said element, each of her bullets released an explosion of Holy Light, burning through the Undead, both Zombies and Ghosts, with ease, turning them into ashes.

Lily swung her pickaxe around, crushing the floor and lifting giant spears of hard stone or launching massive boulders at her foes, and if they got close enough, hammers made of crystals would smash them to pieces, while the ground beneath her gained cracks and shattered, manifesting giant palms made of stone to further pulverize foes.

Jenny used her halberd dexterously, the more she used it the more she knew how to use it for some reason, perhaps the divine blessing in the weapon made by Elayne helped her learn how to use it rapidly! Her Magic, mostly of Poison, helped her poison the living Owl Bear with ease, and turned into a deadly, corrosive acid for the Undead, while her aura divided into Viper Dragon Jaws or even a multitude of snakes.

Unlike in BNLO where she was a slime though, IRL Jenny had cultivated a physique using the materials of the Viper Drake Queen, giving her purple scales and deadly poison produced by her dragon claws, she wasn't as flexible and invulnerable as her slime form, but this sufficed enough for her to become a strong member of the party.

Anna kept her summoned familiars strong, infusing her own magical aura into them and using her specialized Summoner Spells to make them stronger, while keeping them close as a mini team within the team! Her Green Wolf unleashed powerful slicing winds and mini tornadoes, her Shadow Crow turned into darkness and fired explosive feathers, while also sneaking behind the shadows and doing surprise attacks on various enemies from below, her Young Phoenix set everything she could ablaze, her Mithril Golem endured hits and provoked foes, smashing them as they came with his massive metallic fists, the Sea Serpent unleashed powerful torrents of water and frost, slowing down and freezing foes, and her Holy Scarab floated above her, healing her familiars while unleashing bright light that weakened or killed the undead, while also protecting Anna with Holy Barriers.

Monica constantly shifted between a spectral abyssal shadow form and a more phantasmal and spiritual ghostly form, switching between both forms to optimize either magical attacks, cursed claws, or powerful magic, while also passing through foes and grasping their souls, destroying them. She was especially good against Undead, easily overwhelming them with her superior abilities or outright destroying their souls, which were more vulnerable than living beings' souls. Her cursed chains easily created a domain around her where nothing could get through them, becoming easy prey for her.

Elisa's golden dragon form flew around, using her scaled hands and her gauntlet weapons, she punched her way through, as explosions of lightning and golden flames engulfed her foes. The Zombie Owl Bears burned into a crisp while even the ghosts dissipated, purified by the intensity of her Holy Element, which could manifest into Lightning, Flames, and pure Light! Elisa also was developing Healing Spells, helping her friends and herself to keep fighting, both magic and physical combat had become her unified specialty.

Gabriel was an angel, and his power against Undead was simply unparalleled, with a single swipe of his hand, a shockwave of Celestial Energy erupted, engulfing dozens of Undead and purifying them into salt, yes, not ashes, but salt. He spread out his feathered wings, using them to attack as if they were blades, shockwaves of light emerging from them as he swung them around. He was becoming more proficient when fighting, and also more serious, as if his experience from before his "reset" was resurfacing to a small extent.

Katherine invoked the power of the Land and Nature to battle, wielding the trees nearby into deadly weapons, spears of wood, giant wooden hands, destructive wooden blades, and explosive fruits attacked her foes, she wasn't just a mere Fairy after all, but a member of the Spirit Tree Guard, and a rather powerful and proficient magician at that. She rarely had moments to show off like this, so she greatly appreciated them.

And lastly, Silver, Goldie, and Belle rampaged as powerful Divine Beasts, their roars and magic bombarding their foes with destructive divine elemental spells, while their physical bodies were big and heavy enough to stomp on everything else...

The Lich glanced at this scene in disbelief, realizing that Elayne's team was, without a doubt, powerful enough to handle even this!

"But as you can see, turns out my team is more than capable of taking care of this little problem," Elayne said, a second later, her body was encompassed by draconian golden and silver armor, and a powerful floating crown above her head, glowing with rainbow crystals and loaded with various elements at once.

FLASH!

And with a single step, she infused her very movements with her Thunderbolt Ability, moving quickly through the forest and appearing behind the Lich, above him, with her shovel transformed into her axe form, further evolving by absorbing Light Spirits, turning into its celestial axe form.

"And now it's time for you to join your soldiers! Go back where you came from, pile of old bones!"

CLAAASH!

Chapter 1619: Demonic Weapon

"And now it's time for you to join your soldiers! Go back where you came from, pile of old bones!"

She swung Irene against him, as the Lich barely reacted in time, using his powerful Scythe to intercept her blow, as a shockwave of darkness, phantasmal flames, holy light, and lightning erupted!

CLAAASH!

"Heh! You're sorely mistaken if you think you can easily sneak on me like that-"

"{Fire Dragon of Dreams Claws}"

FLUOSH!

In a split second, a giant claw manifested out of pink dream flames, rushing towards the Lich and clawing him down into the floor, several of his bones breaking and flying everywhere.

"GRAAAACK?!"

As the lich screamed in pain, Elayne glared down at him with a face filled with disappointment, as if she had expected a little more.

"And you're sorely mistaken if you think I give a single damn."

She had definitely grown ruder and grittier than before, she didn't use to be this way, but through all these battles and experiences, Elayne had grown a little tired of everything...

"Don't underestimate me."

Her spell manifested over and over again, as the Lich desperately tried to avoid the claws, only for them to catch him from midair, hitting him from left and right, constantly pushing him down!

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

"AAAAAGGHH! Y-YOU'RE TOYING WITH ME?!"

"No, rather, I'm trying to not go too far, or I fear this entire forest might be gone if I do."

Her words reverberated through the Lich's mind, making him completely frustrated with this entire ordeal! This wasn't even supposed to happen, he was just minding his own business here, relaxing as the plans of his King were going smoothly, but this woman appeared out of nowhere and ruined it all with her mere presence! He could completely understand now why his King hated her to the bone.

"Y-YOU ARROGANT BITCH!"

The Lich, as he lost bones, roared angrily, the red runes on his entire skeleton body glowed brightly, his scythe unleashing red flames as he swung them against Elayne several times, unleashing a devastating storm of slashing attacks made of crimson flames.

These flames, Elayne knew exactly what they were! They were not from phantasmal or undead origin, but from a much deeper, more dangerous Realm where Demons roamed.

"Demonic Flames, huh? That scythe of yours is interesting..."

Elayne, however, summoned Morpheus by her side, using him to unleash a similar attack with her combined spells, pink flames of dreams and black flames of nightmares clashing against the demonic flames, generating several explosions through the skies.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Then, as this happened, Elayne appeared behind the struggling lich, Irene's blazing axe form rushing down as she unleashed her techniques. The Lich retaliated with magic, conjuring dozens of magic circles that summoned phantasmal weapons and spectral hands, trying to stop her.

But it was futile.

"{Consecutive Spiritual Explosion Attacks}"

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

In that second, the Lich was engulfed by dozens of attacks at once, each part of his body felt utter agony as he was quickly torn to shreds, each consecutive explosion releasing spiritual energies, dealing constant damage to the point he...

"Y-YOUR MAJESTYYY...!"

BOOOM!

Exploded into pieces.

As shed did that, Elayne grabbed the Lich's scythe, which tried to fight back instantly, there was a Demon Soul inside, emerging as a demonic specter!

FLUOSH!

"BURN, VESSEL OF YGGDRASIL! I'LL DEVOUR YOUR SOUL!"

His flames engulfed Elayne in that moment, as she tried to take the weapon for herself, she was punished from her greed by this surprise!

And yet...

Her body was unscathed, her powerful golden armor glowing with celestial, angelic power, and the spirit energy of her clone spirit infused into her, using the Angelic Ward of Protection Spell on her.

"Was I supposed to be hurt by that?"

"A-AAHH...! H-HOW...! YOU'RE TOO STRONG!"

The monstrous red colored, horned specter groaned angrily, as his fists punched Elayne but there was nothing else, no result.

"That's enough, what a feisty child."

"Ugh?!"

TRUUUM!

A powerful pressure pushed the demon back inside the scythe, as Elayne manifested golden chains made of light, wrapping them around the scythe and sealing the demon inside, without actually weakening the weapon or its powers...

This simply meant the demon was now below her control!

"Look Morpheus, I got a second scythe!" She said happily, as if she had not just humiliated a demon like nothing.

"Y-Yes, I saw that, master... it was truly impressive," Morpheus said. "I didn't actually expect you to keep this second scythe though, what drove you to make this decision?"

"Well, I thought I might one day need a Demonic Weapon, and the more the merrier, right?" Elayne said with a gentle smile. "I've also been thinking I need to employ any strength I can use... even if it has to be demonic. And perhaps I was being merciful too..."

"I don't know what makes you think I'll ever cooperate, but you're mistaken, you damned witch! We'll destroy you! The Demon King of Death will kill you and everyone you love, and we'll feast on their agonizing souls as they-"

"Oh my, saying such terrible things like that aren't going to help you, you know? Please be nicer."

"UGH?! Y-YOU DA- Ugh?! I can't...?!"

The demon inside the scythe quickly realized a couple of things.

One, Elayne had total control over his being.

Second, she gave him an order and he unwillingly did it.

And third, she asked him to be nicer, and he was unable to insult her anymore.

"Now tell me, is the Demon King of Death aiming for this entire Realm? Do you know how many more like that Lich there are?"

"Like hell I could know! I and the other demons simply made a contract with him, he offered us souls and we imbued our souls into weapons for his army... W-Wait, why am I even talking?! This isn't... good! It's not good at all...!"

"I see, so at least there will be more Demonic Weapons... that's nice, I'll collect them all~" Elayne seemed satisfied with that answer.

Chapter 1620: You're Mine Now

"I see, so at least there will be more Demonic Weapons... that's nice, I'll collect them all~" Elayne said with a cute, motherly smile, although the demon detected a certain cruelty behind her words as well. "I won't even give you the sweet release of death, you're going to work for me now."

"T-This is ridiculous...! T-This cannot be happening...! T-This is impossible...! It cannot be happening! I AM A DEMON! NOOOO!"

The Demon kept screaming in disbelief, although to no avail, he could do nothing but watch as Elayne swung the scythe and shattered the barrier and the crystal protected by it with a single swing.

CRAAASH!

As she thought, the barrier could repel Life, Light, and Nature elements, and most other elements too, but it was weak against what made it, Demonic Power or Nether.

The crystal exploded into countless tiny pieces, containing intense quantities of crystalized nether and demonic energy, highly dangerous even in this state, so she rapidly stored it all inside her inventory. This was some interesting loot, materials like these were both dangerous but powerful.

Meanwhile, the rest of the Owl Bears had been mostly dealt by the rest of the team, who resulted to be much stronger than the Lich ever imagined... who was a nameless Lich that never introduced himself or something, which to Elayne was quite the pity.

"Now tell me, Demon, what is your true name?"

"I am Querlax, the 73rd Demon of the Goetia... Warrior of Bloodshed!"

"I see, your appearance did look like a scarred, red-skinned demon warrior with muscular arms and horns and all of that, but you're quite plain compared to the bigger shots we've fought before, huh? I suppose you're similar to that guy, Hellberos."

"Y-You know Hellberos?! I am nothing compared to that bastard! He used to be among the top ten! But he mysteriously vanished from Hell long ago... some say he was sealed by a Warlock inside a Grimoire."

"Yeah, something like that."

As Elayne nodded, she imbued spirit power into the scythe and used her Synthesis to rapidly transform the weapon into something even more crazy.

FLAAASH!

"W-What are you- AAAGGGH!"

Querlax screamed in agony as his entire weapon vessel transformed, not only absorbing a lot of Element-less Spirits, but also Multi-Color Yggdranium alloy, and Rainbow Spirit Stones.

His new form resembled almost the same as before, a black scythe with a horned skull at the tip, but it now had several jewels embedded into it, mostly red or purple, despite the materials having been others.

"And done, I've given you a little upgrade, and now you're similar to Morpheus here, but of course much weaker, but this is a start!"

Elayne smiled happily and cutely, as the scythe floated in midair, realizing that he could now float at will! The demon tried to escape but naturally, he couldn't even do that, only think about it. The chains had only become stronger now, as if fusing with his soul.

"T-This can't be...! I've become your contracted... spirit?! But I'm a demon!"

"Yeah, yeah, irrelevant details," Elayne shrugged. "You see, demons are very special beings, you're not completely physical, right? You're more like ethereal or something, your souls are also your physical bodies. You always need vessels to exert power in the mortal world, or in the physical plane, even in here you need one and this is a very spiritual realm. So I thought, aren't they technically spirits? So I imbued spirit materials into your vessel and gave you enough spirituality to create a contract with you, a forced, permanent contract, forever. You're mine now, forever. Understood? I'll repeat it a third time, forever."

"Y-YOU MONSTER!!!"

As the demon complained and cried like a baby, Elayne heard the World's Voice resonating within her very being.

[You have successfully evolved and contracted the Demonic Spirit Weapon: [Demonic Phantasmal Spirit Scythe of Bloodshed: Querlax (Tier 4)]!]

[The Demonic Spirit Weapon [Demonic Phantasmal Spirit Scythe of Bloodshed: Querlax (Tier 4)] has developed the following Abilities: [Spiritual Demonic Specter] [Soul-Eating Demonic Flames] [Minor Demonic Authority of Bloodshed] [Demonic Frenzy] [Infernal Explosion]!]

[These Abilities have been linked with you, and you can now freely use them, giving you power over the Element of Demons without being one.]

[An unprecedented event! The {Laws of Hell} have noticed you have contracted a Demon, granting you the automatic Title of [Demonic Warlock]!]

[Title: {Demonic Warlock}: Can speak, contract, and summon demons as long as you have a Demonic Grimoire and Offerings. Contracted Demons become 25% stronger.]

Elayne was surprised by what she heard, her eyes widening as she realized this was nothing ordinary at all!

Although all the demonic abilities were sweet and all of that, she couldn't help but wonder what that "Demonic Warlock" Title event meant, and even more...

What the hell was the "Laws of Hell", it somewhat felt similar to the "Will of Heaven", but they were clearly still very different, only confusing her further.

While the "Will of Heaven" certainly had a personality, the "Laws of Hell" seem like some sort of, well, laws, impartial and that simply trigger automatically after doing something in specific.

"Okay, we're pretty much done here then..." Elayne nodded, storing the bones of the Lich, which were made of a hard black nether steel of some sort, and also its big core, which she planned to absorb to grow stronger, something she had done with other cores from other undead, especially the generals, she can instantly purify them, so no nether or miasma could harm her. "We should get back with everyone else for now. Querlax, remain silent until I ask you to speak, okay?"

"..." Querlax didn't respond to her, but the red eyes in the scythe glared at her slightly angrily... it seemed that the simplest of requests worked just fine. He was now completely to her mercy.

Elayne walked back to her family and friends, who greeted her with relieved smiles, it seemed the job here was finally done, and it was already getting dark too, so it was time to go back to the nearby village.
