

Brand New 1671

Chapter 1671: Awakening A New Power

As I touched the Spiritual Heart Device and closed my eyes, I felt my consciousness pulled elsewhere, traveling across stars and the cosmos of my own soul. It was a shocking experience.

Indeed, it was far more than I had imagined. Constellations shimmered, a vast planet loomed, stars floated everywhere, and an immense cosmos stretched seamlessly and endlessly.

I believed my Specializations were present there, along with my Soul-Bound Skills, which I imagined as the stars.

It was as if every power I had woven into my Soul, every connection, had become part of something greater.

My Soul was like a universe of its own.

However, I knew there was no time to waste. I had come here to "Open my Spiritual Gates" or something, and I needed to do it.

"Now, where is it? What should I even do here...?" I wondered, scanning the cosmos until I spotted a small gate glowing with rainbow colors. "Wait, is that the place?"

Moving through the cosmos, I reached the rainbow gate, which was sealed shut. However, I noticed a flow of energy moving in and out of it.

I believed I could push it open.

"Should I give it a go then?"

I was slightly nervous. I had never dealt with my own soul in such a strange, convoluted way, but I might as well do it now and get it done.

I couldn't stay here forever, so I had to hurry.

"Alright... let's go!"

I pressed my hand against the gate, feeling energies wrap around my arms and hands. I grew dizzy as the powerful energy coursed through me.

"Uwaaah?!"

Although I panicked a little, I didn't completely lose my composure. I pushed harder, with all my strength.

Come to think of it, what was I right now?

If I was inside my own soul, then what was this body I was using?

This form, this strength...

Could it be some sort of astral projection within my soul?

Or rather, my own soul observing itself?

Then...

RUMBLE!

I harnessed the power of everything. The stars and cosmos responded to my call, their energy boosting my strength further. I pushed once more.

This time, with all my might, I forced the door open completely.

FLAAASH!

A radiant rainbow light burst from the gate, shining everywhere and swiftly consuming everything around it, including me.

The stars, planets, nebulas, and even the calm darkness of space were swallowed by this light.

The energies swirled together, and I saw them rapidly crystallizing into a large, heart-shaped green and golden crystal.

"Is this a Spirit Heart?!"

When I opened my eyes, I found myself back in Khione's room, the Ice Fairy Queen. She stared at me in surprise, as did everyone else.

Right, I was doing this.

Exploring my own soul had distracted me briefly, but I recalled that everyone else had already forged their Spirit Hearts. It was my turn.

"Yes, yes, I remember now."

"Alright, I think I'm done, Khione!" I said. "Woah?!"

FLUOSH!

I noticed I was floating in midair, though I had been sitting cross-legged before. My Aura continued to overflow with vibrant color, light, and power.

It was so potent it lifted me off the ground, like some sort of psychic force.

"Eh? What's going on right now? Why am I floating in midair? Can someone... Khione?"

"Aaaahh...!"

Khione gasped, her mouth wide open.

"M-Miss Elayne... your Spirit Power is immense?! It's higher than mine...!"

"What?!"

"H-How can this be...! You...! You're not a human...! Dragon? No, Spirit Tree? What? Eh?!"

Khione was so confused her eyes seemed to spin, and she collapsed onto her bed.

"This is incredible! You're a genius among geniuses, a talent among talents... a spirit among spirits... you're like a goddess?!"

"C-Calm down... It's not that much, right?"

"Not that much? Just how much... how much spirit energy have you even accumulated? The more you accumulate, the greater your Spirit Power surges when you forge a Spirit Heart! Didn't you know?"

"...I didn't know, no."

"Maybe we should have explained everything to Miss Elayne beforehand, young lady, instead of rushing it..." Chloe said at her side.

"Right..." Khione sighed. "Sorry about that... it's just that... well, your friends, everyone had exceptional Spirit Hearts too, but yours... it's the largest I've ever seen, the strongest, and the one with the vastest Spirit Power ever..."

I felt quite strange. Had I become incredibly strong out of nowhere?

So when I saw all those things merging into my Spirit Heart, it wasn't just a metaphor. Did that really happen?

[The Effects of the [Sacred Enlightenment] Unique Ability have been activated, granting you the power to see the truth of your Soul.]

[Congratulations, you have successfully combined all your Accumulated Spirit Energy and Soul Power to forge your [Spiritual Heart]: [Tier 1: Rank 1: Heavenly Yggdragon of Time Spirit Heart]!

[By absorbing Spirit Cores and refining Spiritual Energy, you can further strengthen your Spiritual Heart, which will enhance your Spirit Power, Physical Parameters, Magical Power, and Mana Density over time.]

[Spirit Power will make all your Spirit-related Skills, Spells, Abilities, and Summons exponentially stronger. You can now learn and strengthen {Spiritual Arts}, which, unlike Spells or Physique Abilities, have Tiers and Ranks of their own and can grow alongside you.]

The Voice of the World echoed in my mind, and I realized my Spiritual Heart had quite a name.

It concentrated my power as the Yggdragon, and also... Heavenly from Angels? And Time too. No wonder it was so strong.

It felt similar to Soul Traits, a fusion of various elements that created something new. With so much in me, what formed was extraordinary.

Also, the Sacred Enlightenment Ability had activated! So that's why I could see my Soul like that? It was all part of that unique Ability. How fascinating.

But anyway...

"Chloe, bring the Spirit Power assessment device. I need to see this myself," Khione said.

"Is it really necessary, young lady? We don't need to go that far for..." Chloe muttered, but Khione's glare silenced her. "Immediately, young lady."

Chapter 1672: Unparalleled Talent

Chloe rushed out and returned, carrying a spherical device made of purple crystals. I descended to the floor and faced my family and friends.

"I guess you might as well check it?" Mark shrugged.

"Yeah," Elena said. "Let's see how strong you are, mom."

"Uuh, okay," I nodded, stepping forward as Khione watched me.

"Okay, so touch this sphere..." she said. "Please."

I extended my hand, gently touching the sphere and feeling a surge of immense power from within, coursing through my body, amplifying my strength even further.

"Woah?!"

FLUOSH!

The power was overwhelming. I swiftly infused my energy into the sphere through the device's unique ability, and then...

Crack...

A crack appeared.

Then, runes emerged, displaying numbers that kept rising and rising...

And rising...

And rising?!

"Um, Khione, what's your Spirit Power then?" I asked nervously.

"Mine... the last time I assessed it?" she asked. "It was around 120,000 or so... top four strongest in the entire Realm... I'm only beaten by my Merlin, my aunt, and father."

"Is that so?" I wondered. "Uh, when will the number stop?"

"Once the assessment is complete... and you've already surpassed my number... twice... thrice... four times?!" Khione's eyes widened. "T-This is...!"

The number finally halted, revealing an astonishing figure.

[Spirit Power Assessment (99.9% Accuracy)]

[Calculated Spiritual Energy Reserves]: [10,230,770]

[Calculated Spiritual Particles]: [1,223,806]

[Calculated Total Spirit Power]: [940,600]

[Complete Assessment]: [Unparalleled Talent, with potential to raise their Spirit Power even higher through basic training. Their Spiritual Energy replenishes automatically. Calculated Talent suited to a Spirit Goddess of Nature, Time, and Life, with strong affinity for other Elements such as Ice, Thunder, Holy Light, and Fire. Exceptional Capability to sustain and nurture a wide variety of Spiritual Heart Beasts.]

"Wow, lots of big numbers," I said, nodding. "Um, what are Spirit Particles?"

"T-They're the concentration of Spiritual Energy that forms your Spirit Power..." Khione muttered, her eyebrows twitching. "W-Wow... you're... you're really incredible... I knew you were strong... but this is beyond... I think my father is the only one stronger than you."

"King Oberon?!" Katherine gasped. "Oh my goodness, my master is so strong! I'm so happy, master!"

"Eh?" I felt flustered as Katherine hugged me and kissed my cheek. "Um, that's nice, I guess... And I do feel stronger. Did I get stronger?"

"Yes, a bit... but not in the way you're used to," Khione explained. "You didn't gain new power. You've refined and shaped your existing power into a form you can wield to fight... or for many other purposes."

"Like floating? I mean, I could already float before..." I said.

"Yes, but that was through a Wind Spell or Wind Spirit Assistance, right?" Khione asked.

"Yeah..." I nodded.

"Then what you've gained is more. Spirit Power combines Magical Energy, Spiritual Energy, and the Essence of your Soul. It's a potent Ether, a metaphysical energy that can manifest physically with a mere thought, and it's also linked to Psychic Power," Khione explained. "Espers are rare beings, born both here and on Earth, with the innate ability to control this energy. Did you know?"

"Wait, so Psychic Energy and Spirit Power are the same thing?!" I asked.

"Kind of... but not entirely. There's a distinction, but they're connected enough that Spirit Power allows you to perform many feats someone with Psychic Powers could," she explained. "And it could pave the way for you to develop true Psychic Power!"

"I kind of already have some of it, but it's..." I muttered.

Well, it's tied to a Skill, and I think it's still not a Soul-Bound Skill, is it?

I need to find a way to bind it to my Soul, but this new Spirit Power works just fine for now.

"With Spirit Power, you can move objects with your mind, float effortlessly, shape touched elements, and even grab people," Khione said, raising her hand as an ethereal hand surged, grasping Chloe.

"I could already do all of that..." I said, rubbing my chin. "But even so, it feels like a more refined energy I can wield..."

Also, since this World and its Realms seem unaware of Magic Circle, Physique Creation, and Cultivation from Arcadia, this power is all they rely on, at least for Spiritual Beings.

The strength of our Spiritual Hearts likely stems from our prior Cultivation of Magic Circle and Physique... plus all the Soul-Bound Skills or Specializations we could have acquired.

"That's just the beginning..." Khione said. "Wow... I never imagined I'd find a genius like you here, Elayne... you're not just a Druid, you're much more. C-Could you tell me your secret?"

"Hehe, no," I giggled, refusing to reveal a single thing.

"...Okay," Khione sighed, giving up quickly. "Anyway, I wish I could explain more and introduce you properly, but we're in a race against time, and we've spent enough already. You said you'd help us protect the city, right? I'll be forever grateful..."

"Of course, it was a promise," I nodded.

"I'll ensure you're all rewarded, so please do your best. I'll be fighting on the frontlines too, so don't think I'm a weakling or something..." Khione sighed. "You may have more Spirit Power, but I possess a proper Divine Ability and at least a hundred times more Mana and Magic Power than you. Your potential is great, but my experience and power, built over eons, are vast."

"Heheh, that's right, that's the spirit!" I nodded, cheering her on.

She was mostly reassuring herself, trying not to feel overshadowed by my Spirit Power... And honestly, she wasn't wrong in what she said.

I simply have greater potential in this one area, which happens to be incredibly strong...

"Anyway, your plan was to go to the mountain's foot, destroy the Ice Troll camp down there, and then come back here, and we move to the interior of the mountain, right?" Khione asked. "You'll divide your group to always keep this area well protected too... I will also let you bring along my Soldiers, the Frost Paladins, Ice Priests, and Winter Wizards Squadrons are all going to go with you. Or well, part of them."

Chapter 1673: Spirit Crystals

"Anyway, your plan was to go to the mountain's foot, destroy the Ice Troll camp down there, and then come back here, and we move to the interior of the mountain, right?" Khione asked. "You'll divide your

group to always keep this area well protected too... I will also let you bring along my Soldiers, the Frost Paladins, Ice Priests, and Winter Wizards Squadrons are all going to go with you. Or well, part of them."

"Sounds like a great plan," I nodded. "We have to register in that Hunter Guild first, then move to the Market Center and see what we can get from there and probably have a meal before going."

"That is... reasonable," Khione nodded. "Ah right, these... please don't forget about them, they're very valuable. And a big reward for what you've helped with so far, you will receive even more and other things if we can successfully protect the city."

The Ice Fairy Queen floated towards the table we were ignoring, right, the very reason why we got Spiritual Hearts Awakened was all for this, the Spirit Core she was gifting to us!

They all came in different shapes, releasing powerful and unique auras of their own, embodying the fierceness of the Spirit Beasts they belonged to.

"There's enough for each one of you here," she said. "But maybe one of you may not want theirs? In which case you can just gift it to someone else... How you decide which one is for which, let the Spirit Crystals decide."

"Wait, how so?" I wondered.

"They possess the Spiritual Souls of the Spirit beasts," she explained. "Unlike low-grade Spirit Cores, these of higher ranks are much stronger and developed, their very essence, and a part of their souls still live within their cores. Although you could force your way to them, you can also let them choose you, it will be easier this way."

As Khione explained, we looked at one another.

"I mean, why not right? Let's just let the things decide, whatever," Rita shrugged.

"Yeah, sounds fun!" Lily said.

"Are we going to get another powerup with these?" Jenny asked.

"If that's the case I'm in too!" Elisa nodded.

And like that, we walked forward, by Khione's instructions, we released our Auras and then let the Spirit Crystals react...

It didn't take long before various crystals reacted one by one, all of them... wanted me.

"Huh?!"

FLUOSH!

Every single Spirit Crystal only wanted me, reacting to me and me alone, their Auras wrapping around my body, as I heard the roars and shrieks of countless beasts among them.

However, that wasn't going to work, everyone here needed their own reward, so I stepped back and let everyone pick their one crystal one by one.

The only ones that rejected the offer were Katherine and Gabriel, saying they didn't need these Spirit Crystals.

"I'm an Archangel, I don't really need to absorb these things..." Gabriel said while yawning. "If anything, its better if you keep the extra one, big sis!"

"I agree, I am fully devoted to you, master, so please keep whichever crystal would have chosen me," Katherine nodded.

"Hmmm..." I nodded. "Alright then! Thank you!"

I saw my friends and family grab one Spirit Crystal each... Mark touched one that belonged to some sort of giant burning bat, Rita took her core that chose her, which materialized as a giant mass of centipedes around her, and more... each one got their unique beastly, and once they were done, I took the three ones that remained, this way I would get to have what would have chosen me either way.

"These three seem suitable for you either way, Elayne," Khione said. "Come on, grab them... once you do, their power will be naturally absorbed by your Spiritual Heart."

"That easy?" I asked.

"Yeah, it's nothing too hard," she nodded.

"Okay then..." I said, as I quickly glanced at them and then moved to grab the first.

They had their own different shapes, the first one was golden, with sharp edges and a yellow aura, the second was red, almost as round as a ball, with a weird, fiery aura, and lastly the third one was pure white, with a cube shape, exuding no aura at all.

I grabbed the golden spirit core, feeling its sharp spikes piercing my skin a little, and then its energy embraced my arm, and then the rest of my body...

"Wow, this is...?!"

FLUOSH!

The energy suddenly took shape; it wasn't of any beast I imagined it could belong to... I had thought it could be some sort of dragon monster, a reptile, or perhaps a plant creature or something.

But what stared me down as its aura manifested fully was...

"GGRRRH..."

A beautiful Golden Lion with a sharp, spiky mane letting out electricity.

"Indeed, this was the Core of a Golde Thunderbolt Lion, a powerful Spirit Beast!" Khione said. "Cool right?"

"Very," I nodded. "Then, if you don't mind...!"

"ROOAARR!"

The Golden Thunderbolt Lion roared, leaping towards me and infusing itself into my body, soul, and my Spiritual Heart.

The Spirit Core I was holding quickly turned gray and then broke down into white ashes, disappearing...

It was electrifying, for a lack of a better word!

And I had two more as well.

"Oh wow, let's go for the second one...!"

I touched it, feeling a fiery flame emerge amidst the Aura the crystal core exuded, taking the shape of... a long, boiling mass of burning red slime.

"Wait, what is this thing?" I wondered.

"It's a Volcanic Slime, a powerful Spirit Beast from these lands, that's their core, which is also a spirit core by the way," Khione explained things. "It's quite hot though, right?"

"Very!" I nodded, as I touched the core and lifted it up, absorbing its essence and closing my eyes.

I felt like the Spiritual Aura of the crystal fused into my body, flames took over my entire body, but I wasn't burning, I was flaring up with the Volcanic Slime's Spiritual Power.

It felt refreshing to an extent...

"And lastly, this... what's this one?"

I grabbed the white Spirit Core, feeling a gray essence coming from within it. It felt shapeless at first, but slowly swirled into the form of a long, white serpent with white feathers and golden eyes.

Chapter 1674: Spiritual Heart Beasts?

"That's a very rare Spirit Core I've offered you," said Khione. "Perhaps the rarest of the bunch. It's a White Sky Serpent, a powerful Spirit Beast that isn't bigger than what you're seeing right now... despite its size, it has incredible speed, its venom can cause hallucinations and paralyze, and its scales can reflect most magic."

"Really?!" I gasped. "And it's all for me..."

I was shocked as I saw the serpent infuse itself into my body, its Spiritual Power becoming one with me. All three of these Spirit Cores were absorbed, their colors fading as they turned into tiny pieces, fully drained.

FLUOSH!

I felt a surge of new Spirit Power, the essence of these Beasts now coursing through my body. It felt incredible as they reached the depths of my Spiritual Heart, fusing with it and remaining there. Their presence and essence were so strong they seemed to inhabit it now.

"W-What's this? It is as if they're living inside?" I wondered. "Is it similar to Contracted Spirits?"

"No, Spiritual Beasts that are bound to your Spiritual Heart are special beings that grant benefits, effects, or powers," explained Khione. "Not all of them are generally used for fighting. Some can grant benefits in exchange for being fed with Spiritual Energy or other things every now and then... If you don't feed them enough, they either enter slumber or assimilate fully and disappear within your Spiritual Heart, but don't worry, if that happens you shouldn't feel bad."

"Ohh..."

[You have absorbed the {Spirit Core of the Golden Thunderbolt Lion}!]

[You have absorbed the Spirit Power fully, gaining +10,000 Spirit Power!]

[The {Spiritual Heart Beast: Golden Thunderbolt Lion (Spirit Larva Rank)} has manifested within your Spiritual Heart.]

[You have absorbed the {Spirit Core of the Volcanic Slime}!]

[You have absorbed the Spirit Power fully, gaining +9,000 Spirit Power!]

[The {Spiritual Heart Beast: Volcanic Slime (Spirit Larva Rank)} has manifested within your Spiritual Heart.]

[You have absorbed the {Spirit Core of the White Sky Serpent}!]

[You have absorbed the Spirit Power fully, gaining +12,000 Spirit Power!]

[The {Spiritual Heart Beast: White Sky Serpent (Spirit Larva Rank)} has manifested within your Spiritual Heart.]

[Your [Spiritual Heart]: [Tier 1: Rank 1: Heavenly Yggdragon of Time Spirit Heart] has Ranked Up to Tier 1: Rank 4!]

[Your Spirit Power has further increased by +9,000!]

[Your Spirit-type Spells, Techniques, Skills, and Contracted Spirits or Spiritual Heart Beasts have become stronger.]

[Total Spirit Power]: [980,600]

At that moment, I heard the World's Voice once more, confirming that I had successfully absorbed everything properly and that I now had three little creatures living inside my Spiritual Heart.

Well, is it any different from the Dragon Soul Spirits living inside my Avatar's Dragon Heart? Or perhaps it is? I can summon those Dragon Souls as powerful Spirits usually, empowering them with my abilities, but this might be a little different.

"Looks like I gained a lot of Spirit Power... is it normal to gain forty thousand?" I asked Khione, who gasped.

"No it's not normal...!" she muttered desperately. "Usually you can earn only a few hundred... even with the strongest Spirit Cores! I usually don't absorb that many anymore because I'm so strong but... you can earn so much in comparison?"

"So she's really strange, huh?" Rita wondered. "What's up with her? Do you know something, queen?"

"It's just that her own reserves of Spiritual Energy are so high, combined with her Spiritual Particles... that, well, whenever she gains additional Spirit Power, it will always be a large amount," Khione said. "I think..."

As they talked, I was curious, bringing forth the power of these strange Spiritual Heart Beasts. Suddenly, all three appeared in the palm of my hand, much smaller than I imagined, no bigger than a newborn kitten.

They also looked younger. The Golden Thunderbolt Lion was a small lion cub without a mane, the Volcanic Slime looked like a little red blob, and the White Sky Serpent was a small white noodle, its wings too little and without feathers.

"So these are the Spiritual Heart Beasts, huh? I saw they had Ranks? It said they were Spiritual Larva Rank," I said. "Do you know of higher Ranks?"

"Spiritual Heart Beasts have three major stages that are known..." Khione said, bringing forth a large book she started reading and flipping through its pages. "There's the Stage Zero, which is them as eggs, but you got them as Larva already, so you skipped it."

"Oh, usually you get an egg then?" I wondered.

"Yes, all of you here, if you were talented enough, you may find an egg inside your Spiritual Heart. Keep it well and safe, and it might hatch," Khione explained as everyone checked.

It turned out everyone had an egg, without exception! Absorbing these powerful Spirit Cores was really the right call, as absorbing smaller ones wouldn't have given as much power or the opportunity to get a Spiritual Heart Beast at all.

"You all have a Spiritual Heart Beast Egg?! That's incredible... you're all so very talented... but I suppose that Elayne takes the prize as being the most I've ever seen," Khione sighed. "Anyway, the Spiritual Larva Rank is the first and weakest form. If you can feed them enough Spiritual Energy and Resources compatible with them, they can eventually evolve into Spiritual Beast Adult Rank. In this stage, their powers fully mature, and they can unleash special abilities, effects, spells, or even temporarily summon themselves to assist you in battle, either through their whole form or as extensions of your own body."

"Interesting... I never knew of any of these systems to grow stronger. Spiritual Beings really have it easy, huh?" I wondered, giggling a little.

"Hey, it's not like many of us got those. They're a hassle to take care of," Katherine said. "I once tried raising an Owl Bear Spiritual Heart Beast, but it was so tiring that I ended up neglecting it, and then it just disappeared... They do give a lot of power though. I suppose those who more actively fight, and hunt could keep them well fed, but I just decided to polish my Magic instead."

Chapter 1675: What Are Spiritual Heart Beasts?

"I see. Well, at least things turned out fine for you, Katherine," I nodded. "Ah, right, do you have some, Khione?" I asked her.

"Spiritual Heart Beasts? Yes, here," Khione said. Her Aura erupted, suddenly changing and revealing three creatures emerging from it. "They're always within my Spiritual Heart, protecting me and giving me their powerful strength. They're part of me at this point."

One resembled a giant white polar bear, another an enormous moth made of snow, and the third was an amalgamation of various ice crystals surrounding a blue flame.

"These are my Spiritual Heart Beasts," she explained. "As you can see, they usually have to be of the Element you've mastered. Mine are all Ice Attribute: the Glacial Bear King, the Winter Moth Princess, and the High Frost Elemental."

"Isn't the last one a Spirit?" Gardenia asked, appearing by my side.

"No, Elementals are Elementals. They're living, breathing embodiments of Elements," Khione explained. "Think of naturally occurring golems, but instead of having their bodies made of stone, they are made of other elements. They can be created artificially, but the one I have was born naturally in this Mountain. I keep them well fed with the Spiritual Treasures I farm in this Mountain. I happen to have my own Spiritual Divine Domain we could visit later. I was planning on gifting you a few things from there, Elayne. You also have your own Domain, right?"

"Y-Yeah, though I bet mine cannot compare to yours, Queen Khione," I giggled, feeling slightly humbled. "I wonder if I can keep these three well fed? Oh, right, is there another rank beyond Adults?"

"Yes..." Khione nodded. "It is the Rank that only my Glacial Bear King has achieved. It is the Spiritual Beast Elder Rank. This is when their power reaches the highest level, and they become capable of fully manifesting for some time, physically. You can even do other things with them, such as undergoing Spiritual Heart Beast Fusion, but for that, you need a special Spiritual Art Scroll to learn the technique. Right! Scrolls! I guess you can now practice Spiritual Arts. We might as well give them an Initiate Scroll, right, Chloe?"

"Indeed! I am sure that would be enough reward," Chloe nodded. "I'll bring them right away."

Chloe walked away as I looked at my Spiritual Heart Beasts in silence. They were truly different from Spirits. They were connected to my own lifeforce completely, unlike Spirits, who only make contracts but are ultimately independent at the end of the day.

If I died, these little guys would also die, and it is impossible to release them like Spirits, as they would simply disappear and die.

"These Spiritual Heart Beasts really remind me of something..." Elena suddenly said. Everyone looked at her, making her feel slightly flustered.

"What is it, dear?" I asked.

"These beasties remind me of those things I've seen sometimes in Xianxia stuff, about Gu Cultivation," my daughter explained. "Where Cultivators create bonds with special Magical Insects named Gu and place them inside their bodies or certain parts to enhance certain areas or gain new abilities. Though I guess it's not completely the same. You need to feed them, and they can evolve and all, and they are life-bound to you, so if you die, they die too and stuff."

"Huh, like the Gu Cauldron Legend about placing a lot of bugs inside a cauldron, and the one who survives is the mightiest?" Mark wondered.

"Ah, I guess that's where it comes from? But it's also kind of different..." my daughter said. "Now that we've seen so many things from legends and myths being real, I wonder if all that Chinese Fantasy about Immortals is real? Maybe in China?"

"Could it be? I mean, we sadly don't know much about what's out there," I said. "Perhaps if we could ask someone from SWORD, we might find out some information. Though isn't Japan pretty close to China? Once we travel there, we will probably find out."

"I only got a red-colored egg with me," Mark said. "I wonder when the little guy will hatch? I'm kind of excited. It's like having a small virtual pet, like those Tamagotchi, but inside your Spiritual Heart, haha."

"Right? It's kind of fun in retrospect," I giggled.

"...Woah, humans are so lucky," Khione muttered.

"Khione?" I wondered, looking at her.

"It's just that... thinking about the things you can find out there, the countries you can visit and more... despite how wonderful this Realm is, it's still... mostly wilderness," Khione sighed. "My father likes that, but... I've always been fascinated with how humans have populated every corner of their world and all the cultures, mythology, and legends you have... visiting countries like Japan and so on, to me, is just a dream, but to you, it's just something you plan to do."

"Ah, well, that's just how things are..." I said. "I'm really sorry for you, Queen Khione. I wonder, if you really want to come to Earth, could there be a way?"

"A way?! No... I have to take care of my city..." she sighed. "And, well, please don't mind me. I was just spouting some nonsense. We have many things to take care of first, right?"

"Yes, you're right..." I nodded. "And you've gotten better at talking too! I guess all that timidness is gone, huh?"

"A-Ah? Is it?!" she gasped. "I guess... being with you people has helped me relax..."

As Khione smiled sweetly, I looked at my beasties once more. They were playing with one another in the palm of my hand... this was their whole size, and it seemed I couldn't really increase their size however I wished, so they were pretty useless in combat.

But what else can they do? Don't tell me they have no abilities at all? I do feel a little spark of something... wait, maybe my phone could tell me more...

Using it, I pointed the camera at them and took photos. As I did, I gained valuable information.

Chapter 1676: Golden Thunderbolt Lion, Volcanic Slime, and White Sky Serpent

Using my Magic Phone's Analyzing Abilities, I quickly used the camera to take photos of my Spiritual Heart Beasts, checking their details.

{Spiritual Heart Beast: Golden Thunderbolt Lion (Spirit Larva Rank)}

[Description]: [A small Larva of the Golden Thunderbolt Lion Spiritual Heart Beast. It has the appearance of a young lion cub and cannot fight on its own yet.]

[Food]: [The small Larva of the Golden Thunderbolt Lion favors any Thunder-Attribute Spiritual Treasure, with Thunderstorm Goat Milk and Thunder Spirit Stones being its favorites.]

[Spiritual Ability]: {Thunderous Senses}: [By activating the power of the Spiritual Heart Beast, enhances the master's Eyesight and Hearing through a thunderous aura of electricity that courses through the body by 100%. Increases Thunder-Attribute Spell and Technique Damage by 150%. Also increases Movement Speed, Dexterity, and Agility by 100%.]

Milk? Wait, maybe Belle could produce that milk? I should try to milk her and then perhaps feed the milk to this cub.

This ability seems quite useful too. I might use it soon with all these Ice Trolls, since we have to act sneakily and fast.

{Spiritual Heart Beast: Volcanic Slime (Spirit Larva Rank)}

[Description]: [A small Larva of the Volcanic Slime Spiritual Heart Beast. It has the appearance of a little red blob of lava and fire, still incapable of maturing into its larger form as an Adult.]

[Food]: [The small Larva of the Volcanic Slime loves any Fire-Attribute Spiritual Treasure, with Volcanic Treant Ashes and Fire Spirit Stones being its favorites.]

[Spiritual Ability]: {Volcanic Eruption}: [By activating the power of the Spiritual Heart Beast, the master's Aura erupts like a volcano, producing fiery volcanic projectiles that fall around their opponents, dealing damage based on Spirit Power. Also increases Physical Strength, Vitality, Durability, and Attack Speed by 150%.]

This one doesn't even look that bad either! And these are just Larval Stages? I can't even begin to imagine how powerful these abilities could become once they reach the Spirit Beast Elder Rank.

If Khione has the power of one, she must be truly terrifying in battle!

{Spiritual Heart Beast: White Sky Serpent (Spirit Larva Rank)}

[Description]: [A small Larva of the White Sky Serpent Spiritual Heart Beast. It has the appearance of a small baby serpent with underdeveloped wings, similar to a worm or a noodle. However, it still contains the great power of this Spirit Beast.]

[Food]: [The small Larva of the White Sky Serpent likes to eat any Light-Attribute Spiritual Treasure, with Holy Light Gold and Light Spirit Stones being its favorites.]

[Spiritual Ability]: {Lightspeed Serpent Whip}: [By activating the power of the Spiritual Heart Beast, the White Sky Serpent manifests in your right hand, emerging as a long white serpent whip that can attack foes at incredibly fast speeds, releasing shockwaves of light. The whip appears to automatically protect you from attacks and defend you until it wears down and has to rest. Power and Durability based on Stage and Spirit Power.]

Interesting. Does this one protect me? I didn't expect that from it, but it seems each one has its own unique ability. The Lion enhances senses, the Slime gives me a short boost of power and an area-of-effect attack, and this one fights on its own and defends me, which is quite intriguing.

I want to see their power in action, though. I might consider keeping all three of them, as my Spiritual Heart doesn't feel exhausted at all, like Khione said could happen. I might truly be rather special.

Because their power is largely based on Spirit Power, and with my incredibly high amount, even Larval Stage Spiritual Heart Beasts can be super strong. Hehe.

Well, aside from them, there are the Higgledingles, but those are much stronger Ancient Spirits. I guess they're only in a contract with me because they like me.

It's not the same as these little guys who live inside my Spiritual Heart and cannot survive otherwise.

I feel more connected to them than to the Higgledingles, who aren't even here. I think I could summon them, but I'm sure they're having fun back in Arcadia, so why would I do that?

I should probably help these Spiritual Heart Beasts level up once I return to BNLO.

Anyway, aside from the Higgledingles, these little Spiritual Heart Beasts seem quite endearing, and their abilities directly become mine, unlike Higgledingles, Tamed Beasts, or even Summons.

"Oh, that phone of yours is quite interesting. What were you watching?" Khione asked, peeking at the phone's screen. "Information?! Oh, you can see information about your Spiritual Heart Beasts! How amusing."

"Y-Yeah, these are specially modified phones using the Potential Cubes we talked about earlier, the ones I sold to you," I said.

"Interesting, very interesting..." Khione nodded. "And you can... access the internet?"

"Yes! I modified them to do a lot of that..." I nodded.

"..." She looked at me with surprise. "D-Do you happen to have a spare phone? I am willing to pay a hefty sum just for one! If you can enchant it with a Potential Cube, then it would be even better...!"

"Hmm, I'll think about it," I said. "I don't know if I should give away human technology so easily. Maybe we would have to ask your father first before we do more than what we've done. I think giving you all those Potential Cubes and enhancing your calculator was enough, Khione..."

"R-Right... it's better to not interfere too much if possible, right... I'm sorry," Khione sighed, looking down.

I felt slightly bad for her. I wish I could give her a new phone, but I really don't have any spares. I would have to buy one first, and then...

Well, with my money, that's no problem at all, actually, so maybe I could. But for now, I would rather finish what I came here to do before I intervene in any other way.

"I'm back, young lady. Sorry for being late. It took a while, but I've found the Spirit Art Scrolls," Chloe said, stepping forward and placing a series of scrolls made of old paper imbued with strange spiritual runes.

She was finally back, bringing the last reward Khione had offered us.

Chapter 1677: Learning Spirit Arts

"I'm back, young lady. Sorry for being late. It took a while, but I've found the Spirit Art Scrolls," Chloe said, stepping forward and placing a series of scrolls made of old paper imbued with strange spiritual runes on the table.

"Well done, Chloe..." Khione nodded, hovering behind the table and gesturing to the scrolls. "Listen, everyone. These are Spirit Art Scrolls. Once you use them, you can learn a Spirit Art."

"W-What are Spirit Arts to begin with?" Jenny asked, raising an eyebrow.

"They're expressions of your Spiritual Heart's power," Khione explained. "They can help you fight, protect yourself, grow stronger, and further cultivate your Spirit Power, Mana, or Lifestone. The best thing is that, unlike Spells, these Spiritual Arts will become embedded in your Spiritual Heart and gain the ability to grow stronger over time as you master their powers and evolve with them."

"Really?! Sounds really great!" Lily said. "So what are these?"

"There are two types of scrolls here for two different Spirit Arts, which are usually taught to my soldiers, knights, and so on," Khione explained. "However, for now, you can only choose one of the two. I've prepared scrolls for everyone here, and giving scrolls to others is not allowed this time."

"Why?" Gabriel asked. "It's not like I'll need them! Can't I give mine to big sis?"

"I knew you would say that, so we didn't bring any for you, little angel," Chloe giggled.

"Eh?! Ah..." Gabriel sighed.

"As for Katherine, you would probably do better by learning one of the two," Khione said.

"Okay... I guess I'll give them a try. I've always mostly specialized in Spirit Magic," Katherine said. "But perhaps putting my Spiritual Heart to some use wouldn't be bad. I was born with it, after all..."

As Katherine nodded, Khione presented the two choices.

The two scrolls were distinct: one had red runes, and the other had blue runes.

"The first scroll is the Spiritual Armor Embodiment Art. It transforms your Spirit Power into a hard armor around your body, essential for taking blows from powerful foes and surviving," Khione explained.

"Based on how you use it, you can learn to combine it with Spells and other Techniques you might have already created. It also reinforces any Magic Armor you wear beneath it, further strengthening your defenses. This was a vital Spirit Art for us fairies, who are usually small and frail."

"Interesting..." I nodded. "And the other?"

"The second scroll is the Five Elemental Spirit Palms Art," Khione said. "This one is made for attacking and fighting. It can be combined with weapons, even though it says 'Palms,' and it lets you channel your Spirit Power offensively, infusing it as Elemental Power into your hands or weapons, further increasing the power and explosiveness of your attacks, allowing your Weapon Techniques to evolve to the next level. Using this scroll turns an ordinary fairy into an Initiate Fairy Soldier, allowing their attacks to pierce through the hard hide, skin, or scales of Spirit Beasts."

"Oho, that's interesting..." I nodded. "I guess... Hmm."

I wasn't desperate to obtain either of the two, but offense or defense? What should I prioritize? Perhaps defense, as I'm pregnant, but the second technique also sounds so great!

"Khione, why are you limiting how many we can learn?" I asked her.

"Ah, it's not that I'm being mean. You cannot usually learn both because their Spiritual Powers fluctuate oppositely to one another, so they may clash and create a Spirit Power Deviation inside your Spiritual Heart, causing cracks that would take months to heal," she said. "Or worse... cripple your Spiritual Heart entirely."

"So these techniques clash with one another, meaning that your soldiers either specialize in defense or offense?" I asked.

"Not everyone, but they start as teams, usually in pairs to complement each other..." Khione said.

"Oh, so that's why Snowflake and Frosty were together?" Lily asked.

"Yes, it's rare to see soldiers that aren't in pairs," Khione nodded. "However, it doesn't mean they cannot learn the other technique. Once you achieve Tier 2 of either of the two, the energies no longer clash, and you can choose the other to complement yourself. But the path to reach Tier 2 of those techniques is the first trial and challenge for these pairs, as they must work together to overcome obstacles and train to become stronger."

"I see..." I nodded. "Okay then, I suppose... what are you guys choosing?"

"Hmm..." Lily rubbed her chin. "I don't think I need more defense, so this!"

"I'll go for offense as well," Rita nodded.

"I would like some more defense..." Jenny said. "I'm like the frailest around..."

"I'll go with defense too," my daughter said. "It's not like in BNLO, after all, so prioritizing our lives should always be on our minds."

Anna, Monica, and Elisa all chose the defensive technique too, and Mark ended up going for offense.

I looked at them and ultimately agreed with my daughter, choosing defense, which was also backed by Katherine, who did the same.

"Alright, so how do we use this?" I wondered.

"Simply hold the scroll, open it, and try to read the runes," Chloe explained.

"Sure..."

I nodded, opening the scroll... the runes inside began glowing with blue light, then green, and yellow... for a moment, I could understand what was written there. The runes flowed into my hands and arms, rushing through my entire body.

FLUOSH!

I felt their knowledge, their power, everything flowing through me... I opened my eyes wide as I felt these Spiritual Runes engraving themselves into the depths of my Spiritual Heart.

And it was done...

[You have absorbed the Runes of the [Spiritual Art Scroll], learning the Spiritual Art: {Spiritual Armor Embodiment Art: Tier 1: Rank 1}!]

[You can now manipulate your Spirit Power to create a protective armor around your entire body, protecting you from all damage. The stronger and higher your Spirit Power, the tougher the armor becomes.]

[This armor can regenerate using Spiritual Energy, and if it runs out of energy, it will shatter and disappear, requiring you to activate the technique again.]

Chapter 1678: Spiritual Armor Embodiment

I opened the scroll, deciding to use it right away. The first thing I saw was the scroll's runes glowing brightly. Their light shifted from blue to green, then yellow... For a second, I could understand what was written there. The runes flowed into my hands and arms, rushing through my entire body.

I could feel the knowledge and power of this scroll. I felt everything flowing through me. Once this new energy surged strongly through my body and reinforced it, I opened my eyes wide as the Spiritual Runes engraved themselves into the depths of my Spiritual Heart.

So that's how it was done. The Scroll worked similarly to how Magic Items work in Arcadia, or BNLO, I mean. They are one-time-use items that engrave power into your body or soul, and once they fulfill their purpose, they usually disappear.

This is amazing, and it makes it all the more worth it that I came to Avalon! Who would have thought I could gain such great new power? The Demonic Weapons were already a great asset, but now this? It was incredible!

[You have absorbed the Runes of the [Spiritual Art Scroll], learning the Spiritual Art: {Spiritual Armor Embodiment Art: Tier 1: Rank 1}!]

[You can now manipulate your Spirit Power to create protective Armor around your entire body, protecting you from all damage. The stronger and higher your Spirit Power, the tougher the armor becomes.]

[This Armor can regenerate using Spiritual Energy, and if it runs out of Energy, it will shatter and disappear, requiring you to activate the technique again.]

And there it was. I heard the World's Voice whispering to my mind, to my soul itself. I felt not just another Armor, but the Ultimate Armor "Spell," or rather, "Spiritual Art" I could attain right now.

Why? Because I could use it to perfectly combine all other Armor Spells, Techniques, and even Skills or Transformations.

Yes, that meant my Yggdrasil Armor, my Yggdragon Scale Armor, my Dragon Scales on their own, my clothes that also count as armor, my shield, and other special spells, such as the Bellflower Wood Tree Armor.

This was an incredible new ability to use IRL, especially because, like BNLO Skills, it can continue growing stronger over time, and rapidly at that!

I could even see my own "Spirit Information" by closing my eyes and seeing it engraved inside my Spiritual Heart, which I could somehow visualize with my "Soul Eyes" or something.

[Spiritual Heart]: [Tier 1: Rank 4: Heavenly Yggdragon of Time Spirit Heart]

[Spiritual Energy Reserves]: [10,230,770]

[Spiritual Particles]: [1,223,806]

[Spirit Power]: [980,600]

[Spiritual Arts]: {Spiritual Armor Embodiment Art: Tier 1: Rank 1}

[Spiritual Heart Beasts]: {Spiritual Heart Beast: Golden Thunderbolt Lion (Spirit Larva Rank)} {Spiritual Heart Beast: Volcanic Slime (Spirit Larva Rank)} {Spiritual Heart Beast: White Sky Serpent (Spirit Larva Rank)}

"Alright, everyone used the Scrolls now," said Khione. "How strong do you feel?"

"Plenty strong," nodded Rita, smirking. "It's not like something we can easily find out right away. We'll need to do some fighting first."

"Yeah, but I think I felt something," Mark said. "Didn't you, Elayne?"

"Yep!" I nodded. "In fact, I think I can now combine all my armor and scales into a singular Spirit Armor to harness all their power... a Super Spirit Armor or something."

"Really?" Khione wondered. "Huh, weird, the... the Spiritual Art shouldn't usually have such an extensive and powerful effect at first. It's only Tier 1 after all..."

"Remember that she has a million Spirit Power, master," Chloe said. "It's completely possible that her own Spiritual Art is much different from the one that common folk can use..."

"Right... she's a monster," Khione nodded. "Can you show that off, Elayne?"

"I think so..." I nodded. "Let me see..."

I closed my eyes, channeling the power of all Armor-related Spells, Techniques, Skills, Abilities, and even my shield and clothes.

{Yggdrasil Armor}

{Holy Radiant Draconic Angel Armor}

{Mystic Bellflower Tree Dream Armor}

{Yggdragon's Scale Skin}

{Dragon Princess' Spirit-Repelling Scales}

{Divine Three-Colored Orichalcum Scales}

And more...

Then I combined them all into the Spiritual Art, fusing them into a singular power flowing out of my body.

Until...

"{Spiritual Armor Embodiment}!"

FLAAASH!

I felt it emerging from my body, like blinding light that covered everything. Then I found myself wearing this super-powered armor, glowing with rainbow, gold, and silver colors, looking as if it was forged from beautiful spiritual divine scales, wrapped in wood, dream, and spiritual elemental energies.

It came with gloves, greaves, a helmet, and even a pair of metallic wings, a long metallic tail, horns, and a draconic jaw-like decoration on the helmet, alongside glowing dragon eyes made of crystallized spirit energy.

I could feel the power of all my Armor and Scale Abilities, Spells, Techniques, and Skills within it... or rather, of the Skills I could use right now that were Soul-Bound.

But yeah, this power was amazing!

"Incredible, is it a Divine Level Armor?!" wondered Khione.

"I-I cannot properly tell, young lady..." Chloe said. "But the amount of Spirit Power and Mana that lady Elayne has is so much and so highly condensed that it feels like... the divinity of your father."

"Not even I have managed to get this far in the Spiritual Armor Embodiment, and that's when it is already Tier 7!" Khione said. "Elayne, you're truly one of a kind..."

"Uh? Well, I'm sure yours is also strong..." I giggled nervously. "I kind of want to test the durability... Ahh, it feels awkward though. My clothes fused with the armor, so it feels like... like I'm completely naked beneath the armor."

"Oh?!" Mark's eyes widened for a moment as he suddenly grew redder. "It's an incredible armor."

"Hahah..." I quickly decided to deactivate it, and thankfully, my clothes returned to normal.

It was weird to have super cold steel against my naked body... but at the same time, it wasn't painful. So I'm sure this will protect me well.

I was a bit annoyed when I couldn't bring my best equipment from BNLO due to their very high quality, but this new Spiritual Armor Embodiment Spiritual Art might be what I needed to protect myself and the baby much better.

Chapter 1679: Exploring The City

"Alright, now that we're done, shall we depart?" I asked. "Once we've registered and shopped, we'll come back to do everything, Khione. We won't take too long, maybe two hours at most."

"Seems reasonable. Don't worry, there's still plenty of time before what I saw becomes reality... I hope," Khione said. "Take your time and rest. You'll need as much energy for the battles to come."

"Understood," I nodded. "Let's go, everyone! I'm kind of hungry already. Let's enjoy some local food."

"About time!" Rita said. "We ate everything here, but I'm still hungry... I guess having a strong body really makes you hungrier, huh?"

"Yeah, it's all about calories and needing to maintain your stronger body with them," Lily nodded. "But we simply need to taste whatever delicacies they have in this city to feel refilled with energy, I'm sure."

"I wonder what local food they have~?" Elisa wondered. "I've grown rather fond of the food in this little Realm, if I say so myself."

"They probably have a lot of ice cream and sweets," Elena said. "Judging by what Khione ate..."

We walked out of the castle and started moving through the busy streets of the Ice Fairy City. The streets and houses were all made of ice bricks, which were harder than stone.

There were mostly Ice Fairies, but also some Forest Fairies, Goblins, and Gnomes here and there. On the way to the big Market Center, which was pretty much just a mall, we saw a pair of recognizable fairy friends.

"Ah, there you are!"

"Oh? To think we would find them like this..."

It was Frosty and Snowflake. Both fairy guards flew to our side, glaring at us with rather serious expressions. They seemed tired, as if they had been searching for us.

"Ah, hello! Are you heading to the Market Center too? We were going to register at the Hunter Guild later," I said.

"So that's what you're doing... What was your conversation with Queen Khione?" Frosty asked. "Y-You were a lot of time with her! I hope there was nothing suspicious going on..."

"Suspicious?!" I wondered. "Frosty, what idea of me do you have...?"

"Please forgive her, she's such a dork~" Snowflake said. "She doesn't know how to start conversations properly, so she always begins speaking like this instead. It's her bad habit..."

"What are you talking about, Snowflake?!" Frosty cried, growing redder. "T-That's definitely... not the case!"

"It's fine if she's shy," I giggled. "Anyway, the Queen rewarded us for taking down the Ice Troll camp."

"We got a lot of rewards!" Rita said. "She even let us eat doughnuts and drink hot cocoa... which I had no idea they had here in Avalon."

"It was nice of her. She even gave us scrolls to learn Spiritual Arts," Mark said.

"S-Spiritual Arts? Wait, but you're humans! How could you ever learn such powers? You need to have a Spiritual Heart for that, and only Spiritual Beings like us are born with them..." Frosty muttered.

"She had a special device that let us create our own," I said. "Turns out, as Druids, we were more than capable of getting them. Then she let us absorb some high-quality Spirit Beast Cores, and we ended up getting Spiritual Heart Beasts... well, only me. The rest are still developing them as eggs."

I showed her my three beasts right away. They flew around Frosty, only making her more shocked, to the point she almost fainted.

"T-This is crazy...! Not even I have one of these yet!" she muttered. "W-Woah... Okay... I yield... Maybe you are... strong."

"Haha, come on now, don't be like that," Snowflake giggled, patting her head. "Um, I noticed you were looking for this place? Shall we act as your guides~? It's the least we could do~ What do you think?"

Snowflake was much friendlier and more relaxed than her partner. We quickly agreed to her offer, and she led us inside the Market Center, a literal mall that the ice fairies had created, where merchants from all places gathered, setting up their own shops or selling at smaller stalls.

"Wow, this place sure is huge...!" Gabriel said, flying around. "Hahaha, so many people everywhere too! W o o o a a h h !"

As we walked through the first floor and saw several shops and stalls, we noticed there were more than just Fairies, Gnomes, Brownies, and Goblins.

"Is that a talking cat?" Elisa wondered.

"It is!" Monica nodded.

"Wait, is it a person?" Elena asked.

"Nyah?! I'm not a talking cat, disrespectful humans!" the merchant reacted angrily.

He looked like a fat cat the size of a gnome, with orange and white fur and angry emerald eyes, wearing a blue coat and a hat with colorful feathers.

"I'm sorry, sir... they're stupid," Frosty apologized. "They've never been here before, tourists."

"Ah... hmph! For your information, I am a Cat Sith! We are Spirit Folk just like any other Fairy, Gnome, and so on, nya!" the cat said. "My name is Kajithe, and if you have no interest in my wares, then get lost! Hiss!"

He really took it personally. We quickly walked away. We had to be less disrespectful with the people of this place, as not everyone would be tolerant of our ignorance.

"I'm sorry, it was my fault," Elisa sighed. "I was just amazed... there are also dog people, huh?"

We also noticed some dog people talking. They were small, only slightly taller than the Cat Sith.

"Those are Cu Sith. They're the canine equivalent of Cat Sith~ They're much nicer than the cats, though, so don't worry," Snowflake smiled.

"Oh, wow..." I nodded. "So there are that many Spirit Folk? I really thought there were only three or four races at most..."

"Haha, of course not. Avalon is enormous. There are people of all kinds everywhere. It's just that near our King's Capital, its mostly fairies," Snowflake giggled, eating some cotton candy she had purchased earlier.

Chapter 1680: Enjoying The Local Food

"So what should we buy?" Mark wondered. "It's nice to know there's a lot of people out there, but we shouldn't waste time..."

"True," I nodded. "Let's just buy whatever we think is nice. We've got lots of money now!"

We quickly started walking around again, this time with Snowflake and Frost telling us about any new folk we saw and to not be rude to them.

We saw a small stall managed by three little white kitten Cat Siths, who were too adorable to ignore.

"Meoow, hellooo!"

"Do you want to buy something?"

"We make grilled meat!"

They were so cute! But aren't they too young?

"Yes, let's buy some meat. It looks tasty," I nodded. "What is it?"

"Snow Deer meat... Ice Pork meat... and fish, mereow!"

"Awww..."

We all had our hearts melted as the cute little babies pointed at the food they were cooking. It made me wonder if they had any parents or if they were a group of siblings traveling alone.

"Thank you meow!"

"Woow... you bought so much meow..."

"We're rich meow!"

We ended up buying one of each of their meat skewers for most of us, which we enjoyed while also drinking some fresh fruit juice that another race we had not met before was selling.

"This is the freshest juice you could ever find anywhere! It's at a great price, fruity and sweet!"

"The best, the best yes!"

It was a pair of Dryads. They were quite different from how I was. They had green skin, and their legs were made of roots from the knees down. They also wore dresses of leaves and had big colorful flowers on their heads, with hair made of green vines and more smaller flowers.

They had glowing golden eyes and were beautiful. They were definitely the tallest around, slightly bigger than the Cu Sith.

"It's delicious!"

The juice they sold was quite cheap, so we purchased a glass for everyone. It was sweet and refreshing, and we could taste a lot of fruits: strawberry, orange, watermelon, pineapple, and even a hint of coconut.

"So where did you come from, little ones?" I asked, glancing at the kittens while everyone else was taking their glasses of juice from the Dryads.

"We come from the far north!"

"Far north meow!"

"Meow, meow... our village was a small Cat Sith village, no opportunity."

"That so?" I wondered.

"Mom and dad gone... we had to work together."

"We traveled, meow!"

"We can buy meat for cheap in the hunter center... then we grill it, and we sell it meow!"

"I'm glad your business is booming!" I nodded. "Are you saving money for your future?"

"House..."

"We want house in the capital meow!"

"Live there, so cool meow!"

"Heheh, I'm sure you'll achieve it!" I nodded, giving them an extra tip of a few more coins. "You're lovely, and I wish you the best."

"Meooowow!"

"Meow, meow!"

"Thank you meow!"

As I saw them happily celebrating, I looked back at Mark grabbing a glass of juice and drinking it, loving it as well.

"Hmm, that's really good," he nodded.

"Right? It's pretty good," I said. "I wonder what fruits they use?"

"I bet orange and apple? Maybe coconut," he said.

"Apple, huh? I guess you're not wrong..." I suddenly stopped talking.

I saw the two Dryads notice their large wooden barrel where they stored their juice was empty, so they started making more.

They concentrated, closing their eyes, as colorful purple, red, yellow, and orange mango-like fruits popped out of their heads and roots. They crushed and squeezed them for all the juice.

They added some water and sugar.

"We got more juice if anybody wants~!"

So it was the juice of their own fruits?!

I mean, I guess it's fine? We do drink the milk from cows, so if we think it's the same, then it's okay.

"I hope nobody saw that. They always overreact when I try to feed them my own fruits..." I sighed.

"Hm? What?" Mark raised an eyebrow, drinking the juice.

"Uuh, nothing honey~" I giggled nervously. "A-Anyway, shall we get going? I wanted to see if there's any materials for the baby spiritual beasts."

"Ah, sure!" he nodded. "Let's go."

In the end, because there were so many of us, we split into three groups. They were all connected to me, so I knew where everyone was going.

Once we were done, we would regroup at the Market Center Entrance.

Snowflake went to take care of Rita's group with Lily and Jenny, while Katherine took care of the girls and Gabriel.

As for us? Mark and I went with Frosty.

"So what are you looking for?" Frosty asked, trying to act nicely.

"We want materials for these three," I said. "Also anything rare or interesting..."

"I see..." she nodded. "That Cat Sith you disrespected earlier was selling a lot of interesting stuff. Go check him out, and apologize first."

"Yeah, I guess we should," Mark nodded.

"Ah, there he is!" I said. "Hello, excuse me... I know we started on the wrong foot, but we didn't intend to offend you, good sir."

"Nya?" The angered Cat Sith glared back at us while raising a furry eyebrow. "Hmph, if you're sorry then buy something, druids!"

"Okay, what do you have?" I wondered, glancing.

"Hah? You're actually buying?" he asked.

"Of course, why wouldn't we?" Mark wondered. "It seems you've got some interesting wares, sir Kajithe."

"Hmph? What are you interested in?" he asked. "I have Spirit Stones of high quality here! Some rare spirit beast materials, such as Thunder Hare Fangs, Fire Lion Fur, Shadow Bat Wings, and there's this rare one! White Salamander's Shed Skin! It's usually used to make medicine of high quality, you know nya?"

"Interesting... very interesting, sir Kajithe!" I nodded. "Okay, we don't need Spirit Stones, we've got plenty, but these Spirit Beast materials... Um, wait a bit."

I quickly summoned my Spiritual Heart Beasts, making Kajithe shocked.

"Nya?! Y-You have Spiritual Heart Beasts?! How... you're a human!"
