

Brand New 1691

Chapter 1691: Preparations

The process of Spirit Core absorption was quite simple and rather relaxing. By grabbing a core, I simply closed my eyes and absorbed its energy, letting it flow through my hand and into my body. The Spirit Core would then turn colorless and break down into glass sand, which would simply disappear afterward.

I repeated this process over and over again, until I found a good way to do it en masse, by stretching my hand into a giant wooden hand and grabbing dozens of cores at once.

FLUOSH!

Like this, I could absorb dozens at a time, letting a lot of energy flow through me, and quite honestly, it felt really amazing.

Until finally, I felt I couldn't do it anymore, as one of the Spirit Cores simply would not turn gray no matter how hard I tried.

"Phew, I think I'm done for today~"

I felt a lot of Spirit Power flowing through my body. It had definitely increased a great deal, as I had absorbed almost a hundred Spirit Cores. I think I was the one who absorbed the most among everyone else.

[Your Spiritual Heart has absorbed 97 Spirit Cores.]

[You have successfully absorbed the Spiritual Energy and converted it into raw Spirit Power, strengthening your Spiritual Heart to a higher rank.]

[You gained +48,500 Spirit Power!]

[Your [Spiritual Heart]: [Tier 1: Rank 4: Heavenly Yggdragon of Time Spirit Heart] has Ranked Up to Tier 1: Rank 8!]

[You gained +20,000 Spirit Power!]

[Your Spiritual Heart has gained a large quantity of Spirit Power and Spirit Energy and cannot absorb any more for some time, unless you risk an overload of energy, which might cripple your Spiritual Heart.]

[Your [Spiritual Arts]: {Spiritual Armor Embodiment Art: Tier 1: Rank 1} has absorbed the energy and increased its Rank automatically, rising to Tier 1: Rank 3!]

[Your Spiritual Heart Beasts have also benefited from all the energy, absorbing it and increasing their Growth Rate exponentially!]

[Your {Spiritual Heart Beast: Golden Thunderbolt Lion (Spirit Larva Rank: 10%)} has increased its Growth to 20%!]

[Your {Spiritual Heart Beast: Volcanic Slime (Spirit Larva Rank: 10%)} has increased its Growth to 20%!]

[Your {Spiritual Heart Beast: White Sky Serpent (Spirit Larva Rank: 10%)} has increased its Growth to 20%!]

"Oh wow! Seems like it worked wonderfully! My Spiritual Heart Ranked up and even my Beasties got stronger..." I said with a smile. "What about everyone else?"

"I also got stronger, yeah," Mark nodded. "The Egg seems to have begun to move around, maybe it will hatch soon?"

"Mine too," Elena said. "I'm quite curious about the critter..."

"And mine!" Anna said. "I wonder what this beastie will look like?"

"Mine better be majestic!" Elisa said, crossing her arms. "Hmm~ Perhaps like a little golden dragon?"

"No way it would be that..." Katherine laughed. "Although Queen Khione gave you powerful Spirit Cores to absorb, none were of such high quality..."

"I just hope it's born healthy and is nice to me," Monica sighed. "Uh, this Spiritual Heart really resonates quite well with our Nature Soul, huh? I do feel much stronger now... more connected to my elements and nature as a whole."

"Me too, Monica," I nodded. "It's quite interesting how they all connect eventually, right? Even though they are supposed to be different and separate powers, it makes it all the more amazing."

"We should talk with Grandma Jannis later and ask her more about the past," Mark said. "I've been quite curious as well about the connection between the Nature Soul and the Spiritual Heart. Maybe she'll know something... after all, she even knew about stuff from the Neolithic."

"Hahah, yeah, I wonder how she even learns those things?" I wondered. "Maybe the Druids pass down these tales to their younger generations... for millions of years?!"

"I don't think it would be that long..." Gabriel said. "Hmm, I don't need that Spiritual Heart, it's not even compatible with me! But the Nature Soul was, weirdly enough..."

"I wonder how Angels grow stronger, Gabriel?" Mark asked him. "I've been looking at how you fight, and you rely a lot on magic, but where does it even come from?"

"Halos," Gabriel said. "They're the source of the majority of our power! Based on the good deeds we do, our Halos grow stronger and reward us. Also, slaying evil spirits, specters, ghosts, monsters, and especially demons that threaten humanity. All of that helps us grow."

"So angels are like the guardians of humanity in the end, huh?" Mark said. "That's really... I guess it makes sense."

"Well, but of course, we protect the Mortal Plane, it is our duty but... Um, well, I can't quite do it completely yet, I'm... smol," he sighed, feeling a little annoyed. "But I've been growing stronger through this journey! Slaying those evil magicians from the Demon King of Death helps!"

"Well, I'm glad for you," I nodded. "And as you said earlier, your Nature Soul did form and was compatible with you... I guess Nature Souls are a completely universal thing? Just, everyone can get one if they're strong enough or spiritually attuned enough."

"That must be the case," Mark nodded. "Ah, well, aren't we close? We should go check outside."

"Right, let's do that," I nodded.

The giant walking house stopped moving, as we stepped out of the comfortable and warm interior, finally reaching the snowy lands surrounding the other side of the mountain.

It didn't take long for the Ice Spirits wandering around to tell me where the Ice Troll Camp was, so I guided everyone toward that area, and then we glanced from afar, hiding behind huge pine trees.

The camp was rather massive, with more than two hundred Ice Trolls this time. They also had walls, many guards, ballistae, and even magic barriers around the entire camp's perimeter...

"It's much larger than the one from before, wow..." Elisa said.

"Mom, how do we do it? Shall we just charge in recklessly or surprise them?" Elena asked.

"Hmm, the element of surprise will do," I said. "Let's prepare a powerful spell, strong enough that even their puny magic barriers will not be able to protect them."

Chapter 1692: Spiritual Soul Weapon

Before I proceeded, I examined my inventory again, reviewing the items I had purchased from Kajithe.

And the cat, of course, was with us...

He had been napping the entire time inside the moving house, but now that he had awakened, he trailed closely behind us.

He appeared somewhat nervous, though, and explained that Daddy Sardine insisted he remain by my side at all times and participate in combat...

Anyway.

[Thunder Hare Fangs] USED

[Fire Lion Fur] USED

[White Salamander's Shed Skin] USED

[Spirit Emblem: Multi-Eyed Beholder] GIFTED

[Spirit Emblem: Golden Light Butterfly]

[Emerald Turtle Shell] GIFTED

[Black Goat's Horn] GIFTED

[White Drake Scale]

[Spirit Spring Gold] GIFTED

[Spiritual Soul Weapon Art Scroll]

[Golden Spiritual Art Scroll]

[Spirit Core Fragment of the Seven Rainbow-Tipped Starfish of the Starlight Sea]

[Rainbow Horn of the Iridescent Heaven Serpent, King of the White Sky Serpents]

Okay, I still possessed a considerable number of items... I had used or gifted half of them. Mark now wielded that powerful Emblem, while I retained the Butterfly one.

As for the Skills... I decided to use at least one immediately. I chose the Spiritual Soul Weapon Art Scroll without hesitation.

I retrieved it from my inventory and opened its contents. Dozens of colorful runes surged into my body, gradually integrating over time.

FLASH!

"Nyaagh?! You're using the scroll right now?! You should've done it earlier! You won't be able to get used to the Spiritual Art yet, it takes a while!" Kajithe complained.

"You think so?" I asked.

"Of course I think so! I am literally a Cath Sith who knows these things. I live in this Realm, and I've lived for almost a hundred years..." he rolled his eyes. "Just save it and then-"

FLUOSH!

"A little too late to say that..." I sighed, as the Scroll quickly disappeared, its powers flowing through me.

I felt its Runes coursing through every part of my body, reaching my Spiritual Heart and settling within.

"Oooh...!"

A surge of new spiritual power enveloped me, accompanied by knowledge flooding my mind, as if I instinctively understood how to wield this new technique.

Then, the World's Voice spoke.

[You have used the [Spiritual Soul Weapon Art Scroll] and have successfully absorbed its Spiritual Runes.]

[Your Spiritual Heart has absorbed the Spiritual Runes and created a new Spiritual Art.]

[You have learned the Spiritual Art: {Spiritual Soul Weapon Art: Tier 1: Rank 1}]

[You can now use Spirit Power and Mana to create a Spiritual Soul Weapon.]

[Your Spiritual Soul Weapon's form, appearance, and powers are unique to your own Soul and are based on your experiences, desires, heart, and personality.]

[Elemental Affinities may or may not apply...]

"Sweet! I can do this now..."

I focused intently, combining my Spiritual Power and Mana, shaping them into a Weapon.

Apparently, I couldn't choose the weapon's form. It was "born" from my soul, reflecting my experiences, desires, heart, and personality.

Even better, elemental affinities didn't necessarily influence it, so I could manifest something truly unique.

FLUOSH!

"T-There it is!"

It materialized quickly, leaving Kajithe stunned and Katherine visibly surprised.

"W-What is the meaning of this nyaaaa?! Y-You were able to conjure the Spiritual Art without any prior knowledge or experience nya?! That's not even possible nya! You're cheating nyaaagh!" he complained angrily.

"Hahaha! I suppose I am?" I wondered. "I have simply already accumulated a large quantity of power in the other world, so this is like... Hm, in game terms, you could say I'm in like New Game+!"

I didn't really like to act cocky, but... I couldn't help it. I was stronger than even old spirits from this Realm. I had to feel at least a little proud of myself, right?

And now...

"Oh, it's materializing! There it is!" I said.

The Spirit Power and Mana coiled together, then became compact, and from there, it took the form of something.

I bet it's a shovel, right?

Or perhaps a big sword?

Maybe a shield?

"Eh?"

No, it was none of those things, though.

"Hmm? Oh!"

It was still something connected to it...

Though I expected something a bit more legendary.

Does my heart really just... embody this?

"I already had a shovel... I guess this is fine? Irene, what do you think?"

"That's a Hoe?! Hey, with this, you may be able to do that technique you did before much better, right?"
Irene asked.

Indeed, it was a Hoe, a farming tool. A hoe is a simple hand tool used in farming and gardening, consisting of a blade attached to a long handle. It is primarily used for digging, weeding, shaping soil, and harvesting root crops. The handle allows the user to work upright, while the blade severs weeds at their roots, loosens soil, and creates furrows or trenches.

I used one back home when I was younger, alongside Irene, the old shovel. I think it was lost or used by someone else, unlike Irene, who had been old and abandoned for years until I found her and breathed life into her.

It was quite beautiful too, glowing with an ethereal golden and green light, not completely "solid" as I had imagined it would be.

[You have summoned your Spiritual Soul Weapon: [Ancient Soil-Shaping Hoe (Tier 1)]!]

[Your Spiritual Soul Weapon will grow stronger as the Spiritual Art connected to it does, which is also connected to your own growth.]

[The more you use your Spiritual Soul Weapon in its specific forms, the stronger it can grow, which will also boost the growth of your Spiritual Heart and even Spiritual Heart Beasts.]

[Additionally, Spiritual Weapons have their own Spirit Weapon Abilities, which they unlock over time.]

[Your Spiritual Soul Weapon: [Ancient Soil-Shaping Hoe (Tier 1)] has unlocked its Spirit Weapon Ability: [Soil Shaping (F)]!]

[Spiritual Soul Weapon Abilities come in different Ranks depending on their strength. These Ranks can increase once the Spiritual Soul Weapon increases its Tier or evolves.]

Chapter 1693 Attacking The Second Ice Troll Camp

[You have summoned your Spiritual Soul Weapon: [Ancient Soil-Shaping Hoe (Tier 1)]!]

[Your Spiritual Soul Weapon will grow stronger as its connected Spiritual Art progresses, which is tied to your own growth.]

[The more you use your Spiritual Soul Weapon in its specific forms, the stronger it becomes, boosting the growth of your Spiritual Heart and even your Spiritual Heart Beasts.]

[Additionally, Spiritual Weapons possess their own Spirit Weapon Abilities, which unlock over time.]

[Your Spiritual Soul Weapon: [Ancient Soil-Shaping Hoe (Tier 1)] has unlocked its Spirit Weapon Ability: [Soil Shaping (F)]!]

[Spiritual Soul Weapon Abilities are ranked based on their strength. These ranks increase as the Spiritual Soul Weapon advances in Tier or evolves.]

"It even comes with its own Abilities ranked by strength?" I wondered. "Well, that's pretty unique as well... Soil Shaping, huh? Might as well try that out later..."

With that done, it was time to move forward.

"This is crazy! How were you even able to do that?!" Kajithe screamed. "Nyaaagh...! I was never able to learn that Spiritual Art..."

"Hahaha, well, you said you could fight, right? So I'm sure you found your own way to battle," Mark said with a kind smile. "Don't sweat the small details. Elayne is just like that. She's built differently, Kajithe, you'll have to accept it. She's the most amazing woman I've ever known, after all! If anything, you should kneel and pray to her, she's a goddess too, did you know? Hehe."

"Nyagh?! What nonsense are you even talking about..." Kajithe groaned angrily.

"M-Mark, don't say such embarrassing things...!" I cried. "T-That's enough, anyway, I think we should proceed... Elena, are you ready?"

"Yeah, we are ready," Elena nodded. She and her friends were prepared, suppressing their Auras for now.

In the end, only Rita, Lily, and Jenny stayed behind... And, well, I left my Familiars there too. Belle, Silver, and Goldie are all very strong... and my clone is watching over everything, so I can command my Familiars if battle breaks out.

In the worst-case scenario, I can summon an army on the spot. With my current abilities, I could call forth Draconic Beasts, Dragon Spirits, Elemental Spirits, or even giant Plant Monsters.

"Alright, everyone, let's do this," I said. "We'll divide into three groups and ambush the Ice Trolls from three areas simultaneously for maximum surprise."

"Okay, how do we do it?" Elisa asked.

"The first team is Mark, Kajithe, and me," I said. "The second team will be Katherine, Gabriel, and Elisa. The last team is Elena, Anna, and Monica."

"Eh? Why do I get separated from the girls?" Elisa complained.

"Sorry, but they'll need backup," I explained. "Katherine, are you sure you want to fight?"

"I can fight on my own, don't worry, master!" Katherine nodded. "I feel more revitalized and stronger after absorbing a couple of those Spirit Cores, so I'm less rusty now."

"I'm ready for anything!" Gabriel smirked. "I'm a super strong angel knight, after all, so don't worry... Also, they probably can't see me."

Indeed, Angels are mostly invisible to most beings. Even Spirit Folk had difficulty seeing Gabriel, requiring a very high level to detect him. Most people couldn't perceive him at all.

I don't know why this is true only for Angels and Demons. It's as if they're not easily perceived... perhaps because they're somewhat "higher dimensional beings" or something?

Whatever the case, we're going in, and if Gabriel is in danger, my Spirits will support him.

In the worst-case scenario, I'll seize the entire area with my Domain and Terrain, and then we'll escape.

"Alright, let's get ready," I nodded. "Elisa, please behave. It doesn't matter much in the long run..."

"I-I know, okay..." Elisa rolled her eyes. "Fine! Let's just do it."

"Good girl," I nodded. "Now let's move. Mark and Kajithe, stay with me. Elena, move to the opposite side of the camp. Katherine's team, head to the west side."

"Sure," Elena nodded. "Let's go, girls." She quickly departed with Anna and Monica.

Meanwhile, Katherine, Gabriel, and Elisa rushed to the west side of the camp... or village. It was massive, perhaps an Ice Troll village? Though it seemed hastily constructed, not something long-established.

We waited for everyone to get into position, then moved, sliding down the snow as quietly as possible.

We used no concealment magic, simply descending.

Some Ice Trolls noticed something odd as we approached. Kajithe clutched a huge wooden staff tightly, its glow intensifying.

"Graaakk?"

Suddenly, as we reached the village's wooden walls, we heard the groans of Ice Trolls in the distance. We looked back, and there they were, about to spot us.

We hurried to the walls, and as I touched them while the trolls advanced, sniffing something odd in the air with their large noses...

B O O M !

The wooden walls sprang to life, sprouting hundreds of branches and spreading across the surroundings.

R U M B L E !

"Gryaak?!"

"Gakuha?!"

"Geekhe?!"

The Ice Trolls were startled, looking around in panic as giant branches and roots pierced their bodies, destroying their village, crumbling buildings, and tearing tents apart.

This was mostly improvisation, but it was fortunate their walls were made of spirit wood! I channeled my power into it and created chaos for them all!

"GRYAAK!"

The Ice Trolls charged toward us once they spotted us. Mark shielded me, swinging his blazing sword as two giant freezing hammers descended.

C R A A A S H !

"Don't dare take another step!"

He roared, his Aura surging with flames spreading everywhere. Each swing of his blazing sword sliced through the Ice Trolls' bodies, tearing their arms and legs to shreds, leaving their remains as blazing carcasses...

"GRAAUK!"

More came from the left and right, some even climbing through the wood I'd unleashed. Kajithe panicked, screaming as he pointed his staff at them.

"Ngyaaaah!"

As he cried out, he unleashed powerful magic. Giant magic circles manifested, releasing countless cat-shaped spirits, swinging their paws and slashing the Ice Trolls' faces one by one.

Chapter 1694: Kajithe's Cat Spirit Magic

"Don't get any closer to me, you damned beasts, nygyaaaahhh!" Kajithe roared angrily, continuously summoning his strange Cat Spirits, forming a massive swarm.

The swarm surged over the Ice Trolls, knocking down several and covering them with tiny scratches. Kajithe could summon a lot! There were already over forty of them.

Although regular cat-sized, these spirits were potent, and upon death, they erupted into elemental explosions.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Explosions of ice, wind, flame, and light engulfed the Ice Trolls' bodies, weakening them and even killing a few.

"Wow, Kajithe, you're not bad at all! What magic is that?!" I asked in surprise.

"This is cat magic, nya!" he said angrily. "What else could it be?! That's the magic all Cait Siths can conjure!"

He's impressive! I was genuinely surprised by his performance, and he even reminded me of Acorn, who was also small, fluffy, and cute but could unleash destructive attacks and a hellish onslaught on foes when he wanted to.

"{Infernal Sextuple Slash}!"

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

A rain of blazing slashes struck a group of Ice Trolls approaching us. Their waves of frost and ice were cut apart, as snow and ice shards exploded everywhere. The Ice Trolls groaned angrily and savagely, black auras enveloping their bodies as they tried to withstand Mark's flames, but their efforts were futile.

I quickly used wood to lift me and Kajithe out of danger, leaving that area to Mark. He seemed confident and was undeniably strong, so I trusted he would be fine.

I looked into the distance, quite worried about the others... but their ambush had succeeded. Katherine, Gabriel, and Elisa had already defeated several Ice Trolls on their own, and Gabriel was now raining blades of light over a wide area.

At the same time, Katherine deployed a Spiritual Domain around her, summoning nature and shaping it into large arms and hands of entangled wood and stone, punching Ice Trolls away and crushing them.

Meanwhile, Elisa used her draconic transformation and her gauntlets, unleashing explosive, thunderous punches, tail swipes, and dragon breath attacks from time to time, taking down several Ice Trolls as she advanced.

It seemed Ice Trolls were much weaker than us individually, but also not too weak either, especially in large groups. Nobody here might be able to take down a whole camp on their own without the support of the rest.

Although many died, a lot of them also resisted blows and continued fiercely fighting, their Auras growing stronger over time. It seemed that if they had time to prepare, they could fully power up, which is very dangerous!

I also checked on my daughter, of course. Elena was quite strong, as I expected, fighting fiercely against the Ice Trolls. Her long, upgraded katana deadly cut through her foes, her skin turning blue as she channeled her transformation spells, resembling her in-game avatar as a blue oni.

Phantasmal flames and shadows spread as she fought, helping her hide in plain sight and strike against her foes fiercely. Blades of shadow also impaled their bodies from behind, and she jumped from foe to foe, leaving trails of blood as she did...

Damn, my daughter is a total menace!

Monica and Anna were doing really well too. Monica was using her unique abilities, but this time in a unique and even more surprising way. She was possessing Ice Trolls in her complete ghostly form, which she had now mastered. She possessed Ice Trolls, made them fight each other, and then transferred to another and another, making these barbaric beings end up killing each other over misunderstandings. She also cursed those farther away, weakening them for Anna's team to rush through.

Anna's team... Well, I mean her familiars! Now all newly evolved, they were bigger and stronger than before. Her golem crushed foes and tanked blows, acting as the primary tank. Then the birds, her crow and her phoenix, spread shadow feather projectiles and fireballs everywhere, while her storm wolf helped these attacks become stronger and also helped Anna move around much better.

There was also her sea serpent and her holy scarab, which fought mostly with magic—water magic and light magic respectively—and were still learning how to fight properly, mostly staying close to Anna as her bodyguards while she fired elemental beams of magic.

"Now, let's do it! {Terrain Expansion}!"

I swiftly swung Irene, my Spiritual Soul Weapon, downward, as both Shovel and Hoe struck the ground, causing a tremor and spreading cracks through the snow.

The snow burst away, as greenery spread rapidly. Saplings, grass, flowers, and large trees sprouted from the ground in seconds, and Spirits emerged from the flowers and trees, flying everywhere.

At the same time, by merely being close to or inside this Terrain, a wave of relief washed over everyone, as their "Stats" suddenly increased, and they also started recovering health, mana, and even spiritual energy quickly.

This was the power of Terrain, and well, of Domains too! The more Tiles I spread my Terrain, the more area we had to work with, and the stronger my Skills related to it became.

A unique game-like mechanic that doesn't seem like anybody except me has, even though there's no system here or stats, the power of buffs still applies to our bodies.

Our strength, the power of our magic, our reaction speed and agility, and even our dexterity receive a great bonus, increasing exponentially.

"G R Y K A A H H H !"

A roar echoed behind me, and I saw a group of much taller, more muscular Ice Trolls. These were not like the others, being thrice as bulky, built as giants of pure muscle. Their skin was a darker blue, with white horns growing from their shoulders and arms and longer white hair.

Indeed, these weren't normal Ice Trolls! More intriguing, they exuded stronger Auras of Darkness, a combination of Nether, Miasma, and perhaps a trace of Demonic Energy—the unholy trinity of destructive energies that mutate or kill anything they touch.

Chapter 1695: Against The Corrupted Frost Troll Barbarians

I examined these weird creatures using my phone, gathering valuable information.

[Frost Troll Barbarians (Corrupted)]

Classification: Spirit Race, Ogre, Ice, Magical Beast, Corruption

Danger Level: S

Information: Aggressive and barbaric giants inhabiting the frozen regions of the Realm of Avalon, these distant cousins of Goblins have grown to immense sizes over eons and become increasingly hostile. They possess extraordinary physical strength, durability, and remarkable regenerative abilities, capable of regrowing lost limbs over time.

Though aligned with the Ice Element, they are not particularly adept at Ice Magic and rely primarily on brute physical force. However, some among them, such as Shamans or Druids, are smarter and have embraced the power of Ice or Dark Spirits, becoming more attuned to Nature and Magic. These individuals are the most dangerous, leading groups to ravage villages of their own kind or their cousins, including Goblins, Mountain Trolls, Red Oni, Gnomes, Fairies, or Brownies. Widely regarded as enemies, they are typically hunted and killed on sight.

Their ruthless, cold, and monstrous nature drives them to use their intelligence solely for destruction and preying on the weak. These particular Frost Trolls have had their malevolent traits amplified, willingly embracing the Darkness of a mysterious crystal, becoming Corrupted and growing even more formidable.

It is strongly advised not to confront them alone, as their power rivals that of Elite Warriors of other Spirit Races. Their superiors, such as Ice Troll Shamans or Ice Troll Druids, can easily surpass these power levels. When gathered in large numbers, they should only be engaged with equally large armies.

These evolved variants are unique, formed by otherworldly Corruption Energies that have enabled Ice Trolls absorbing sufficient dark power to mutate into Frost Troll Barbarians, a stronger and more dangerous version of the Ice Trolls. Larger, fiercer, and more powerful, their thickened skin can deflect most magic spells. They boast exceptional physical and magical resistance, immense vitality, nearly tireless bodies, and mastery of Cursed Ice Magic. The only recommended course of action upon encountering one is to flee immediately.

For comparison, normal Ice Trolls are already A+ Rank in Danger Level, and we could handle them in groups, but these creatures are on another level, three full ranks above the Ice Trolls.

I'd better handle them myself...

"Kajithe, can you provide support? The terrain will amplify your magic as much as possible!" I said.

"Nyaagh?! You plan to fight those big ones?! You crazy or something, nyagh?!" he asked angrily.

"Maybe I am a little crazy, sorry about that," I giggled. "But this is what I have to do, and I can't back down now."

"Geez, you're hopeless, nyaaaa..." he shrugged. "Fine! I'll help! This is what Daddy Sardine wanted anyway, so I'd better do it!"

"Thanks!" I nodded. "Alright, let's go, Irene! Gardenia! Ignis!"

I swiftly summoned Gardenia and Ignis to my side, their spiritual power coursing through me as Flames and Nature Elements merged. My Aura blazed with energy as I combined all my armors at once, encasing my body in a super-powered, full-body armor.

"GRUOOOHHHH!"

The larger, fiercer Frost Troll Barbarians roared furiously. All three swung massive black hammers toward me, smashing the ground in succession, shattering the ice, and sending snow flying everywhere.

BAAM! BAAM! BAAM!

I unleashed magic first. Giant wooden spears erupted from the ground, vines with poisonous spikes pierced their legs and bound them tightly, swords of emerald crystallized nature energy rained down, attempting to impale them, beams and spheres of holy spiritual sunlight bombarded them,

accompanied by larger fireballs, icicle spears, dragon claws made of dream flames, nature, ice, and more.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

This was a relentless magic bombardment! I wanted to determine if I needed to get serious or if they were still minor threats I could defeat easily by spamming spells.

However...

"GRRRHHH!"

They emerged from the cloud of smoke, bearing only slight scratches, minor bleeding wounds, or burned sides. Their bodies regenerated swiftly, and they glared at me with feral, furious eyes, gritting their sharp teeth tightly.

"RAAAHHHH!"

The leader of the trio roared, leaping toward me. Giant hammers swung again, attempting to crush me. This time, I couldn't dodge, raising my shield to block blows from behind, above, and in front.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

Despite their relentless efforts, their attacks were ineffective. Although magic had little impact unless I used a super-powerful spell, which required time to conjure, my armor was incredibly resilient. My shield, combined with Irene and my Spiritual Soul Weapon, proved highly effective against them.

"I guess the description was right, you're almost immune to magic, huh?" I mused. "That skin of yours is really tough. It could make some incredible equipment."

"GRYAAAAHHH!"

They didn't take that well, roaring angrily as they pointed their hands at me. Shadows and red energies surged, spreading black and red ice around me, attempting to ensnare me in Cursed Ice. As the description noted, they were also skilled magicians, unlike normal Ice Trolls.

"Alright, let's test your ability, my new Spiritual Soul Weapon!" I roared, striking the ground beneath their feet with my Hoe.

According to Khione, the power of Spiritual Arts depended on my Spirit Power level. With my vast reserves, not only was my Spirit Armor exceptionally durable, as demonstrated, but my Spiritual Soul Weapon and its ability should far exceed their typical capabilities.

"{Soil Shaping}!"

RUMBLE!

A single activation sufficed. The ground beneath the Frost Trolls trembled and rose, hurling all three giants into the air, their eyes widening in disbelief as they were flung into the skies.

The soil didn't stop there, rushing upwards and hitting them with immense force, as if it had become a giant ocean wave.

BAAAM!

They flew down and smashed into the nearby tents, crushing them and even killing a few Ice Trolls too...

"GRRRR!"

They roared, standing up and running towards me, spreading Cursed Ice Magic around them as giant black and red ice crystals started growing everywhere constantly without letting me take a break, always trying to catch me and trap me within it.

Chapter 1696: The True Power Of A Farmer

When I unleashed my Spirit Soul Weapon Attack, it proved stronger than I had imagined. The soil didn't merely surge with the initial strike but rushed upward, striking them with immense force, as though it had transformed into a colossal ocean wave composed of hard dirt and stones.

BAAAM!

The impact nearly knocked them unconscious, as they crashed into nearby tents, destroying their homes and even killing a few Ice Trolls nearby. Not that they seemed to care, judging by their reactions.

"GRRRR!"

However, they proved remarkably resilient, roaring with fury, rising to their feet, and charging towards me. They wielded magic once more, spreading Cursed Ice everywhere, as giant black and red ice crystals grew relentlessly across the snowfields, constantly seeking to ensnare me without granting a moment's respite.

And as this unfolded, I witnessed something extraordinary—a massive wave of...

"Meow!"

"Nyaaaa!"

"Meow meow!"

Cat Spirits! Hundreds of colorful Cat Spirits rained down from the skies, swarming the Frost Trolls' bodies, scratching their super-hard skin, and exploding across them, creating a distraction.

"Combine!"

Then I heard Kajithe's voice in the distance. The Cat Spirits swiftly fused into a gigantic, rainbow-hued house cat—not a lion or a tiger, but a house cat... but, like, enormous.

"MEREOW!"

It roared mightily, twice the size of the Frost Trolls, and charged against them. The giants, too foolish to locate me, attacked the glowing feline. The cat's scratches proved formidable, leaving marks on their skin, though their wounds quickly regenerated.

Their regeneration was top-notch, as the description had indicated, so we had to approach these foes differently, employing a supremely powerful attack or a series of rapid strikes that accumulated damage, culminating in a devastating final blow...

And I had precisely what I needed for it!

Gripping my shovel and hoe together, I leaped forward, channeling the powers of my Farmer Class, which I had now mastered to an exceptional degree.

The scent of fresh soil, the warmth of the sun on my skin in the fields, the vibrant greenery—these vivid images of my farms filled my mind, and the terrain trembled as Spiritual Farm Tiles spread across the battlefield.

While Kajithe's magic kept them distracted, I targeted one Frost Troll, striking its back!

"{Aeternitas Divine Time Spirit Farming Tool Arts}!"

My Terrain unleashed a wave of Nature and Spiritual Energies, Life Force coursing through my entire being as I steadied my breathing.

And then...

"{First Form: Sowing The Field}!"

RUMBLE!

I struck the Frost Troll's back with both my shovel and hoe, spreading countless cracks through its stone-hard skin, shattering it as spirit seeds embedded themselves within, while a massive barrage of boulders rained upon them.

CRAAASH!

"GRAAAAGGH?!"

The Frost Troll screamed in agony, its back tore open as it bled in pain. I swiftly followed with a second technique, giving the creature no chance to recover.

"{Second Form: Nature's Growth}!"

I raised my weapons skyward, soaring upward and then descending, striking the Frost Troll's back and shoulders. From its wounds, dozens of plants sprouted.

Vines, trees, flowers—all tore through its flesh, splattering blood everywhere... I never imagined I could apply these techniques directly to a foe if they were large enough.

"AGRAAAHHH!"

The Frost Troll roared, swinging its hammer at me and knocking me to the ground. Several more blows struck me as the monster bled profusely.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

Yet my Spirit Armor proved exceptional, combining all my Armor Spells and Dragon Scales, further enhanced by my Spirit Power to bolster endurance and defenses, preparing me for my next move.

"{Third Form: Rapid Watermill}!"

I swiftly unleashed the third technique while enduring the blows with my fortified armor. My aura spun in midair as a sudden downpour of water materialized, spiraling forcefully, enabling me to pierce the Frost Troll's chest, leaving a gaping hole where its heart once was.

BOOOM!

"Gruuuuaaggh!"

The monster screamed as the water surged outward, striking the other two Frost Trolls, which were poised to destroy the fused spirit beast Kajithe had summoned. The high-pressure water slammed them fiercely, causing them to stumble to the ground once more.

I maintained my momentum, using Kajithe's spirit as a platform, leaping into midair, and rushing downward again, my weapons brimming with my combined Spiritual and Draconic Aura.

The pure heart of the Farmer surged within my Soul, the Class I had embraced long ago now defining my fighting style.

I swiftly unleashed the fourth form, my Aura erupting as my breathing grew heavier, my energies colliding and releasing with full force.

"{Fourth Form: Consecutive Plowing}!"

I struck both Frost Trolls in the face with my shovel and hoe, shattering their long noses and teeth, as my technique activated in tandem with the previous three forms. The ground beneath them quaked, and dozens of massive boulders relentlessly struck their bodies, accompanied by a profusion of vines and trees that pierced and ensnared them as I attacked without relent!

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

"GRAAAGH!"

"GRYAAAH!"

Neither could fight back as the relentless barrage of attacks continued unabated. The act of plowing shook the earth, shattering it, with boulders erupting from the ground and striking them repeatedly.

And that wasn't all...

I knew I could do it now.

Yes...

The fifth form!

While the beasts were overwhelmed, they had not yet perished. I needed a more powerful piercing strike.

And this was my chance to push forward!

"{Fifth Form: Divine Harvest}!"

RUMBLE!

The world around us trembled as divine spiritual power poured ceaselessly from my weapons, and the Domain around us transformed.

I struck the ground beneath them, and the plants and boulders all turned into radiant golden and green light. Then, something colossal emerged.

BOOOM!

A massive spirit tree surged from the earth, hoisting both Frost Trolls, who were shocked, terrified, and bewildered by what was happening.

"HYAAAAH!"

I swung my shovel and my hoe against them, striking their heads with all my power as giant branches of the spirit tree pierced their bodies and heads.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Chapter 1697: Sixth Form: Great Harvest of the Gods

"HYAAAAH!"

I swung my shovel and hoe against the Frost Trolls, striking their heads with all my power as giant branches of the spirit tree pierced their bodies and heads.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Countless explosions erupted as I struck with maximum force. The combination of the ground, plants, and my attacks was sufficient to breach their defenses.

"There!"

I channeled several elemental spirits into my Farming Tools and swung both in a cross-shaped attack, unleashing the full divine spiritual power of Divine Harvest.

"{Sixth Form: Great Harvest of the Gods}!"

A barrage of giant vegetables and fruits, formed from divine spirit energy, bombarded the Frost Trolls, synchronizing with each of my strikes.

BOOOMMM!

The energy converged at a single point and then exploded outward, as plants and vegetables sprouted across hundreds of meters around us.

Both Frost Trolls collapsed to the ground, dead, and so were the remaining Ice Trolls, it seemed. I had killed several dozen with my attacks.

Above all, most of the village lay in shambles. The snow had vanished, replaced by lush grasslands, forests, and farms with enormous fruits and vegetables growing everywhere.

"Wheew... I did it," I sighed in relief. "It seems they're all gone now? Are there more somewhere? Maybe in a cave?"

"I don't think there are any more anywhere, Mom. You killed them all," Elena said. "Wow, your technique was insane. It was like magic? But also weapon techniques? And your domain? How did you even manage to do that? The closest thing I can do is the graveyard of swords, and even then, that's just a weak domain..."

"Haha, well, I simply combined their powers with the Skills I have soul-bound," I explained. "Ah, damn... I forgot to test my Spiritual Heart Beasts' abilities! I guess we can do that later then... There's still the group inside the mountain left."

"Yeah, that was amazing though," Mark said. "You've grown even stronger since we arrived in this Realm. It has helped you develop a lot... Well, everyone has been growing too, but you've progressed the most, to be honest."

"Yep!" Gabriel said. "Big sis is super strong! She could be comparable to the great archangels. It's a pity she's not allowed in Heaven yet... I wish we could go visit it! I could show you all my favorite spots above the clouds and floating islands..."

"Well, who knows? Maybe one day we'll visit that place too," I smiled. "Alright then! Is everyone else fine? Katherine? Kajithe? Monica? Elisa? Anna?"

"Yeah, I'm alright~" Anna nodded. "My Familiars evolved and got super strong. They can do most of the job for me while I sit down and relax, haha. Being a Summoner is the best."

"I-I'm okay... I think I'm getting used to my ghostly form now. I'm discovering new abilities, like that possession spell I created," Monica explained, smiling.

"I'm fine... The Ice Trolls are still quite formidable. We cannot underestimate them..." Elisa sighed. She looked exhausted. "And those three evolved ones... If it took you this much to beat them, Lady Elayne, I don't know what we would do if we fought more."

"They're evolved forms of Ice Trolls called Frost Troll Barbarians, really strong," I said. "Their skin is especially tough, with incredible self-regeneration and mastery over Cursed Ice Magic, which I thankfully avoided. Did you see when I fought them? I started with a rain of spells. Most of my offensive spells went there, even the last ones, and none affected them enough, only leaving scratches or slightly burnt skin that healed in seconds. The spells we've been learning may not suffice, so we must merge them with our Spirit Power and, if possible, use Soul-Bound Skills and Spiritual Arts. They seem more effective at dealing greater damage."

"True, we should do that then," my daughter nodded. "That Spirit Weapon you got is really strong, Mom. If it's connected to your Spirit Power... I wish I had one. The Spirit Palm Technique is pretty good, yeah, but a whole weapon sounds amazing."

"Hmm, Kajithe, where did you get that scroll?" I asked him. "I wish we could get more for everyone..."

"A Spiritual Soul Weapon Scroll? They're incredibly rare, nyeeeh... Only a few Guilds produce them, and none are near here," he said. "Your best bet is to find them in the capital, but they aren't cheap, you know? So don't expect to get as many as you want without paying a hefty sum, nyahah!"

"Alright," I nodded. "We'll make more money by selling these Ice Trolls. I'll try to sell the Frost Trolls for a higher price, but... wait a second, I wanted to do something first."

"Hm?" Mark looked at me as I used my sword to cut off the leather-like skin of the Frost Trolls, some of their horns, and their claws, and placed them in my inventory.

"Oooh, it's back to full, interesting..." I nodded. "And yet I still have these materials I harvested. Can't I duplicate materials this way?!"

"Wait, what?!" Mark was surprised. "Can you?! Let's try!"

In BNLO, you usually cannot do this, but this is IRL, so this mechanic seemed to have a faulty setting... However, infinite materials were impossible.

We tried it again a second time, but the items extracted from the corpse didn't reappear in the inventory.

"Ah, so it's a one-time thing. It only 'fixes' the carcass to its complete form once," I nodded. "Once I extract pieces manually and put them back, it doesn't change, but there's a risk of decreasing quality, so let's not do it."

"Wait a second Master, this... Doesn't this mean we can potentially harvest double the resources though?" Katherine wondered.

"Yes, I believe so, in theory... no, I think I can prove it here as well," Elayne nodded while rubbing her chin.

"Incredible! Your abilities are truly wondrous, Master Elayne!" Katherine said happily, flying around Elayne.

"It's not that complicated, I think that if I overdo it, it might not be fixed. We're relying heavily on logic and physics from the System and the Arcadia though. Alright, for now let's experiment a little with the Ice Trolls over there," I said. "Mark help me out with your knife please."

"Sure," he nodded.

Chapter 1698 Growing Stronger

"Doesn't this mean we can potentially harvest double the resources, though?" Katherine wondered. "Incredible! Your abilities are truly wondrous, Master Elayne!"

"Maybe. It's not that complicated. I think if I overdo it, the carcasses might not regenerate. Okay, let's experiment a little with the Ice Trolls over there," I said. "Mark, help me out with your knife!"

"Sure," he nodded.

We quickly conducted some gruesome experiments. It appeared that extracting too much wouldn't allow the carcass to regenerate, but removing smaller parts, such as internal organs, skin, horns, fangs, and claws, worked perfectly.

We also tested it with the Spirit Cores and... lo and behold, they regenerated completely upon being placed inside the Inventory, as long as a tiny fragment of the Spirit Core remained.

This meant we could harvest double the Spirit Cores!

This is an incredible exploit... I suppose the Gods of Arcadia never imagined I'd discover such a "glitch," haha.

Or perhaps it was fully intended to aid me in my journey?

Whatever the case, processing every single corpse was a bit tiring, though, so I quickly instructed the Spirits and Plant Monsters to assist.

They replicated my movements seamlessly after I instilled the technique into their spirit souls. In just ten minutes, they finished extracting everything valuable. Then I stored the carcasses and the extracted materials.

And... boom, double the materials!

With over a hundred Ice Trolls, this yielded a substantial haul, including two hundred Spirit Cores.

The Spirit Cores of the Frost Troll Barbarians were thrice as large as the others, with a corrupted red and black hue.

I obtained six of them instead of three, along with their skin, horns, claws, hearts, intestines, lungs, stomachs, and eyes. These were all valuable materials and doubling them was fantastic.

Now, how valuable were they, and how would I use them? I definitely wasn't going to eat the organs or eyes. The fangs, bones, horns, claws, and skin were ideal for upgrading equipment.

The smaller materials were for feeding our Spiritual Heart Beasts. It turned out most of everyone's Spirit Eggs reacted. When they held the materials, the Eggs consumed them instantly, causing cracks to form. Most of their Spiritual Heart Beasts would hatch soon.

My own Spiritual Heart Beasts devoured the materials eagerly too! They gained far more growth than I expected, especially from the Frost Troll Barbarian materials.

[Your Spiritual Heart Beasts have feasted heartily by consuming the Eyes, Hearts, Intestines, Stomachs, Meat, and Blood of Frost Troll Barbarians and Ice Trolls.]

[Your {Spiritual Heart Beast: Golden Thunderbolt Lion (Spirit Larva Rank: 20%)} Growth has increased to 30%!]

[Your {Spiritual Heart Beast: Volcanic Slime (Spirit Larva Rank: 20%)} Growth has increased to 30%!]

[Your {Spiritual Heart Beast: White Sky Serpent (Spirit Larva Rank: 20%)} Growth has increased to 30%!]

[Your [Spiritual Arts]: {Spiritual Armor Embodiment Art: Tier 1: Rank 3} has Ranked Up to Tier 1: Rank 4!]

[Your [Spiritual Arts]: {Spiritual Armor Embodiment Art: Tier 1: Rank 4} has Ranked Up to Tier 1: Rank 5!]

[Your Spiritual Armor has grown tougher and stronger, channeling more of your Spirit Power, Mana, Spiritual Energy, and Spirit Particles.]

[Your [Spiritual Arts]: {Spiritual Soul Weapon Art: Tier 1: Rank 1} has Ranked Up to Tier 1: Rank 2!]

[Your [Spiritual Arts]: {Spiritual Soul Weapon Art: Tier 1: Rank 2} has Ranked Up to Tier 1: Rank 3!]

[Your Spiritual Soul Weapon has become significantly stronger and more solid! You can now channel greater amounts of Spiritual Power and Mana into your Spiritual Soul Weapon, unleashing its Ability with enhanced strength.]

[Your Spiritual Soul Weapon Ability: [Soil Shaping (F)] has Ranked Up to F+!]

[Your Spiritual Soul Weapon Ability: [Soil Shaping (F+)] has Ranked Up to F++!]

[You can now extend the Soil Shaping Spiritual Soul Weapon Ability's power farther, with a wider range and greater impact when applied to your surroundings.]

Sweet! That's incredible growth!

It seems that not only feeding my Spiritual Heart Beasts but also this battle itself boosted my proficiency in my Spiritual Arts significantly.

I hadn't expected the Soil Shaping Ability to advance so quickly... Hmm, perhaps because I'm already quite strong? Maybe the more Spirit Power I possess, the faster my Spiritual Arts develop.

"Let's absorb some Spirit Cores while we head back, everyone," I said.

"Are there no Corruption Crystals around?" Elena asked.

"No, I've checked everywhere," Katherine replied. "Maybe one was there and was destroyed... but I believe, as Lady Khione said, this was just another camp to distract us. We should return to the Kingdom immediately..."

"Agreed," I nodded. "Let's go!"

We hurried inside the walking wooden cabin after storing all valuable items, including the three giant Black Corruption Hammers wielded by the Frost Trolls. These were similar to Demonic Weapons but lacked a Demon Soul, being imbued solely with Demonic Energy. Then we departed.

As we gazed at the snow through the window, I checked my inventory. The three hammers were formidable equipment, imbued with the Cursed Ice Element.

I thought I could wield one myself, but it would need an upgrade, perhaps to become a Spiritual Weapon first...

"Mark, do you want one of the hammers?" I asked.

"Hmm, I could definitely wield one, but I'm fairly certain Lily would appreciate them more," Mark said. "I prefer my swords."

"Alright then~" I nodded. "Let's upgrade them after I absorb more Spirit Cores. Everyone else should do the same."

I decided to absorb as many Spirit Cores as possible, just in case I needed the power boost. It's a bit addictive once you start, and it feels... somewhat more pleasant than absorbing Monster Cores or Mana Crystals from Monsters or Hollows.

Unfortunately, I cannot obtain Monster Cores or Mana Crystals here, so I'm left relying solely on growing my Spiritual Heart through the absorption of Spirit Cores from these Spirit Beasts... and for some reason, the Ice Trolls drop them too, even though they shouldn't, since they're Ice Trolls.

I absorbed these Spirit Cores by the dozens, especially the larger ones we extracted from the Ice Trolls without completely destroying the core inside them, allowing it to regenerate fully. These were significantly larger and contained more spiritual energy for some reason.

FLUOSH!

Chapter 1699 Absorbing Many Spirit Cores

I decided to absorb more Spirit Cores once again, as many as I could, just in case I needed the power boost. It's a bit addictive once you get going, and it's actually somewhat more... I don't know, it feels "nicer" than when I absorb Monster Cores or Mana Crystals from Monsters or Hollows.

Unfortunately, I cannot get those Monster Cores or Mana Crystals here, so I'm left relying solely on growing my Spiritual Heart through the absorption of Spirit Cores from these Spirit Beasts. For some reason, the Ice Trolls drop them too, even though they shouldn't, because they're Ice Trolls.

I absorbed these Spirit Cores by the dozens, especially the big ones we extracted from the Ice Trolls without completely destroying the thing inside them, so it could fully regenerate. These were much bigger and packed more spirit energy for some reason.

I don't know what it was, whether they were "artificially made" using the power of the System from BNLO that I'm connected to through my [Inventory] Ability or something else entirely. Whatever the case, I felt overflowing with Spirit Power pretty quickly.

Each Spirit Core transformed into particles of green and golden light, some with blue light from the Ice Trolls too, and each particle fused into my body, flowing into my Spiritual Heart.

The Spiritual Heart Beasts inside it also benefited, bathing in this sacred light and enjoying its benefits, which helped them become a little larger and stronger.

"Phew... I'm done."

Once I was done, I felt "bloated," like I couldn't absorb any more. My Spiritual Heart needed some rest, probably meaning I should fight and use a lot of my Spirit Power.

[Your Spiritual Heart has absorbed 61 Spirit Cores.]

[You have successfully absorbed the Spiritual Energy and converted it into raw Spirit Power, strengthening your Spiritual Heart to a higher rank.]

[You gained +30,000 Spirit Power!]

[Your [Spiritual Heart]: [Tier 1: Rank 8: Heavenly Yggdragon of Time Spirit Heart] has Ranked Up to Tier 1: Rank 10!]

[You gained +10,000 Spirit Power!]

[Your Spiritual Heart has gained a large quantity of Spirit Power and Spirit Energy and cannot absorb any more for some time, unless you risk an overload of energy, which might cripple your Spiritual Heart.]

[Your [Spiritual Arts]: {Spiritual Armor Embodiment Art: Tier 1: Rank 5} has absorbed the energy and increased its Rank automatically, rising to Tier 1: Rank 6!]

[Your [Spiritual Arts]: {Spiritual Soul Weapon Art: Tier 1: Rank 3} has absorbed the energy and increased its Rank automatically, rising to Tier 1: Rank 4!]

[Your Spiritual Heart Beasts have also benefited from all the energy, absorbing it and increasing their Growth Rate exponentially!]

[Your {Spiritual Heart Beast: Golden Thunderbolt Lion (Spirit Larva Rank: 30%)} has increased its Growth to 35%!]

[Your {Spiritual Heart Beast: Volcanic Slime (Spirit Larva Rank: 30%)} has increased its Growth to 35%!]

[Your {Spiritual Heart Beast: White Sky Serpent (Spirit Larva Rank: 30%)} has increased its Growth to 35%!]

Ooh, alright! I think I've grown even stronger now.

Let's check the information using my Runes.

[Spiritual Heart]: [Tier 1: Rank 10: Heavenly Yggdragon of Time Spirit Heart]

[Spiritual Energy Reserves]: [10,830,770]

[Spiritual Particles]: [1,433,806]

[Spirit Power]: [1,089,100]

[Spiritual Arts]: {Spiritual Armor Embodiment Art: Tier 1: Rank 6} {Spiritual Soul Weapon Art: Tier 1: Rank 4}

[Spiritual Soul Weapon]: [Ancient Soil-Shaping Hoe: Tier 1] {Abilities}: [Soil Shaping (F++)]

[Spiritual Heart Beasts]: {Spiritual Heart Beast: Golden Thunderbolt Lion (Spirit Larva Rank: 40%)}
{Spiritual Heart Beast: Volcanic Slime (Spirit Larva Rank: 40%)} {Spiritual Heart Beast: White Sky Serpent
(Spirit Larva Rank: 40%)}

Huh, interesting. My Spiritual Heart Beasts grew by ten percent again, so they grow pretty fast as long as my Spiritual Heart does? It seems the Spiritual Arts do the same too.

Is this because they're all deeply and intrinsically connected to my Spiritual Heart, to the point that any small change can boost their growth too?

What's bothering me, though, is another thing. I'm at max level, and yet... nothing? There's not even the sound of someone clapping or anything.

How do I go further? Do I need specific materials? Should I ask around?

[Congratulations, your [Spiritual Heart]: [Tier 1: Rank 10: Heavenly Yggdragon of Time Spirit Heart] has reached Max Rank, and it is now possible to Tier Up your Spiritual Heart.]

[Your Spiritual Heart can reach the Next Tier by securing these materials.]

[High Quality Spirit Cores]: [10/10]

[Rainbow Spirit Crystal Fragment]: [1/1]

[Strong Spirit Beast's Leather/Skin Piece]: [10/10]

"Aha! There it is! Let's just begin right away and—"

[WARNING: Your Spiritual Heart is in the process of recovering. Trying to Tier Up may cause severe damage to the Spiritual Heart, to the point of even crippling it.]

"Ahhh, right, okay then, let's leave it at that for now..."

I quickly looked at the three Cursed Hammers I had taken from those Frost Trolls. Each one was overflowing with Corrupted and Cursed energies.

They were really strong equipment too, made of Cursed Ice. I had decided to keep them and use them, as they were similar to the Demonic Weapons I had already taken but, at the same time, somewhat weaker, as they lacked a Demon Soul.

"I should save one for Lily to wield... Ah, alright, for now I'll just work on one," I nodded. "This one."

I chose it and quickly summoned a Domain of Forging in the chimney of the moving cabin, summoning Ignis to help me out.

"I see, so you want to 'fix' this and give it some positive energy, master?" he wondered. "Seems easy enough... I think we can use my unique power if you have any ingots left from having sacrificed a weapon or armor before..."

"Hmm, yes, I have a couple!" I nodded.

Ignis's special ability allowed him to fully convert equipment into special ingots imbued with the equipment's materials and special powers, to be inherited by existing equipment or even to create unique equipment by mixing various ingots generated from the sacrifice of these weapons and armor, creating completely unique and powerful combinations.

"For now, let's go with that, master," Ignis said. "Can you give me the ingot?"

"Here," I said, handing it to him.

Chapter 1700: Spirit Weapon Forging Art

"Can you give me the ingot, master?" Ignis asked.

"Here," I said, giving it to him.

It was a golden and silver colored ingot imbued with a shiny rainbow light. I had created this by sacrificing one of the hundreds of weapons I had to create to grind all the way to where I am now, obtaining Ignis' favor by completing his tasks and everything.

The weapon used in particular was... Hm, I believe it was a Spirit Sword, a special weapon imbued with spiritual power I was selling like pancakes back there. And damn, I really need to get back to BNLO. I'm already missing the place quite a lot.

"Very well!" Ignis nodded. "Then let's begin, master, this shouldn't be anything too hard. Can you use your Blacksmith Skills here?"

"I don't think I can, none of them are Soul Bound," I explained. "But I do remember their rhythm and everything."

I quickly grabbed a forging hammer from my inventory and nodded.

"Let's give it a shot, anyway, shall we?"

"Heh, alright then, this time it won't be too easy, master, the Skills won't be there to correct all your mistakes."

"It's fine, let's see what we can get out of that hammer."

I nodded confidently, as Ignis agreed, and the two of us then began to work on the hammer rapidly.

I used my hammer and Ignis his flames to shape and transform the cursed hammer.

CLANK! CLANK! CLANK!

Turns out Cursed Ice is a lot more like crystal than actual ice, it simply would not melt no matter what.

But that worked in my favor, as I was able to shape and forge it better and imbue it with the golden and silver alloy of this ingot.

Ignis helped me melt and meld materials together, and for the finishing touch, I added dust made out of the crushed Spirit Cores of the Ice Trolls and a bit of the Frost Troll.

FLUOOOSH!

The hammer blazed with power, as I felt amazed I had obtained a new and wonderful weapon.

I was on my weapon collecting spree in this Realm, and I couldn't stop getting more awesome weapons, quite honestly.

I'm definitely going to use them on BNLO or let other people borrow them as well.

"It's done, master!" Ignis said proudly. "It might be a little rough around the edges without a proper forge in here, but I believe we made a decent job."

"You're not wrong," I nodded. "It looks a lot less dark and intimidating than before."

"Wow, good job!" Mark said. "I didn't think you would work in this house, but you did. That hammer looks really different now too. It got all the gold and silver on top, the crystals seem to have melded nicely with them, resembling pointy, large decorations in the back."

"Yeah, right? Looks like a completely different thing," I nodded.

[Through the powers of your Magic and the Abilities of your Contracted Forging Spirit, Ignis, you have successfully reforged the [Abyssal Hammer of Cursed Ice] into the [Mercurial Silver Hammer of Dark Spirit Ice]!]

[The hammer's Corrupted Energy, a combination of Nether, Miasma, and Demonic Energy, has been merged with the purity of Spiritual Energy and the materials used for its reforging, reaching a state of balance between various elements, becoming stronger.]

[Because you have ingrained the ability of forging and how to use the very spirits to create such wonderful weapons, your Spiritual Heart reacts!]

[You have learned the [Spiritual Arts]: {Spirit Weapon Forging Art: Tier 1: Rank 1}!]

"W-What the...?" I was shocked when I heard the Voice of the World once more telling me what had just transpired.

What I thought was going to be just flavor text turned into a new ability altogether. So using that forging technique and Ignis' help triggered the ability to learn a new Spiritual Art right away?

That's really impressive.

"Seems like I even learned a new Skill!" I said happily. "I mean, a new Spiritual Art. Unlike Spells or Physique Abilities, Spiritual Arts can be learned on their own through accumulated experience and actions using spiritual energies and engraving them deeply into the Spiritual Heart, which is apparently done automatically. I would have assumed I should have done this for a while, but I somehow obtained the Spiritual Art right away."

"Must be because of how great you were already, and well, the weapon you made too," Mark pointed out. "What else? Well, Ignis is a very strong, high-ranked spirit too, right? His existence gave you enough of a boost, I'm sure."

"Oh, well, that's good to know," I nodded. "This hammer didn't have any specific abilities, or something told by the Voice of the World, though. But that's mostly because I didn't make it into a Living Weapon nor any of those things. Though the living weapons were born out of receiving blessings directly from the Gods, I believe. Morpheus was a special case, but his ingredients were already very talkative skeletons anyway."

"Yeah, I know about them," Mark nodded, rubbing his chin. "I wonder if I could learn that Spiritual Art too? After all, I helped you a lot back in the forge in BNLO."

"It's worth giving it a try," I nodded. "Here, why don't you try reforging this hammer on your own? I'll lend you my little forging hammer and also another ingot, this one is from a knife."

"Alright, leave it to me," he nodded happily, beginning to work.

Ignis helped him out quite a lot, and Mark then used his own powerful spirit flames to forge, shape, melt, and transform the weapon and ingredients given to him.

He was a little clumsy, though, committing a lot of mistakes and then making Ignis really mad, reprimanding him.

However, in the end, he was done, his hammer had its own shine to it, with a redder silver steel covering it.

"Aaaand... Oh!" his eyes widened, glowing green and gold for a second. "I think I got it...? Yeah, it worked!"

"Well, that's nice!" I said, nodding. "Now we could use that Spiritual Art for a lot of things. Just think about the possibilities."

"Yeah, we'll definitely be using it," nodded Mark.

"Nice," I nodded. "I think we're already getting closer... Hm?"
