

## **Brand New 781**

Chapter 781 Angels And Demons

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"You're not getting away."

A dark and cruel voice echoed within the busy streets of the city, as darkness and crimson energy stretched across several meters, resembling an endless black shroud.

It continuously chased a little silhouette, not bigger than a child on their seven years of age, made completely out of golden light.

Normal people couldn't notice them, not even the Awakened.

BAAAM!

A giant claw made of this darkness quickly attempted to grab the small silhouette as it flew away with tiny, feathered wings, only to hit the ground, the impact alone leaving several cracks on the concrete.

"Eep!"

The little creature of light kept flying away, but they couldn't sustain their own power enough, there were several wounds spread across their body, malicious energies seeping within and weakening them, sealing their powers away.

"Urgh...! I'm too wounded...!"

As it flew and left a trail of golden light behind, their persecutor kept chasing them, drawing closer a sit moved amidst the shadows and the crimson energies.

The silhouette of a tall man emerged amidst the enshrouding darkness, his eyes shining with bright, malicious crimson light.

"You cannot keep escaping, my little prey." He spoke with a malicious voice. "Your soul and your divinity... I'll devour it all!"

He suddenly grew several times larger, the darkness reaching the little light even faster, countless claws and enormous wolf-like jaws emerged from within them!

CRAASH! CRAASH! CRAASH!

The little light was agile, quickly evading the attacks with whatever strength it had left, but its chaser only grew closer, their malicious intents set on devouring them!

"[B-Blinding Light]!"

Mustering the rest of their energy, a blinding shine of light emerged from their tiny hands. The light quickly blinded their chaser, forcing them to step back, their shadows disintegrating when touching the light.

FLAAASH!

"How dare you continue fighting back! You damn pathetic little...!"

The malefic being quickly resumed his chase once more, however, the little light was already quite far from him, moving across many streets, asking for help, but never getting an answer from any people.

"I-It's as my siblings warned me... Nobody can see us!" They cried, suddenly noticing something.

FLAAASH!

A powerful divine and spiritual aura surged a few meters away from them, overflowing with a familiar warmth, the warmth of their siblings.

"A-A sibling is there?! And a rather strong one!"

"FOUND YA!"

However, before the little light could begin flying away, several tentacles made of darkness and crimson energies emerged around them, grabbing one of their wings and tearing it apart!

Crack, crack...!

CRASH!

"Gyaaarrgh! No... I don't want to die!"

The little light screamed in agony, crying tears of fear and regret of having decided to run away from its siblings after their battle against their enemies seemed hopeless.

Those that they used to regulate and defeat easily were now becoming incredibly strong out of nowhere, easily overpowering the Celestial Soldiers.

"COME HERE!"

The darkness roared, its entire body suddenly splitting into dozens of black wolves, chasing the little light as it barely could float with a single wing, the wound left from their wing being torn apart was constantly bleeding a golden liquid.

"A-Almost there...! I'm almost there...!"

The little light kept flying, drawing closer to the house it had sensed one of their siblings living, a very strong one at that.

"Who is living here...?!"

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(Elayne's POV)

The Voice of the World resonated within my mind and well, even my entire body. It felt as if her words were absolute, my strength rose as it spoke.

[Your Physique has absorbed the Available Materials.]

[It has evolved from [Spirit Tree Maid] Physique to [Holy Dragon Tree Princess] Physique: Tier 2: Rank 3!]

[Your Physique has gained 300 Spirit Runes and 300 Angelic Runes]

[1 Angelic Rune = 10 Holy Light, Life, and Soul Runes]

[Your Physical Strength, Agility, Toughness, Movement Speed, Magical Capacity, and Maximum Mana have greatly increased.]

[Your [Connection] between your Body and your Avatar have strengthened. You can now harness a larger part of your Avatar's Stats and Skills.]

[You have developed a [Lesser Angelic Halo], you can now wield Celestial Energy.]

[By slaying demons and absorbing malice, alongside doing good deeds, the stronger your Angelic Halo will become, cultivating your strength as a Fledgling Angelic Being!]

[The higher the Rank of your Angelic Halo becomes, the more Angelic Runes and Celestial Energy you will gain.]

[You learned the following engraved Physique Techniques: [Angelic Blessing], [Heaven's Sword], [Heavenly Light Protection], [Holy Yggdragon Transformation]!]

The Runes across my body arranged into new Techniques, they were only four this time, but each one was incredibly strong. And it also felt like my previous, weaker techniques could be strengthened by fusing their effects with these new ones.

But well, a lot happened! So now I'm an Angelic being?! Are you kidding me? I didn't know Angelina's materials would cause such a change! Or maybe I was already compatible?

There's now Angelic Runes, which have strengthened my power a lot, and I can gain more by slaying... demons, absorbing malice, and doing good deeds.

Whew... That's something.

But also, because of this upgrade, the Stats and Skills of my Avatar can be harnessed to a greater extent! So that's a nice thing too.

"Congrats, you've truly become an Angel now, Elayne." Giggled the Great Spirit. "I always knew you were too good and nice for this world! Alright, time to go to the church."

"Eh?! No way..." I sighed, feeling disheartened.

"Hahaha, I'm joking! Praying will not make you stronger, don't worry. But blessing and helping others might." She nodded. "Your Halo is too weak right now, but it can grow stronger as it advances through different Angelic Ranks, you will also undergo Evolutions too. Well, isn't this unique compared to your Avatar?"

"I don't know if I should like this or not, to be honest..." I lamented. "But... let's see the positive side of things! New power! With this I can help my friends and protect my family better-"

KNOCK, KNOCK!

"Please... sister... brother! Help me!"

Suddenly, the voice of a little girl... or boy echoed outside the door.

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Chapter 782 The Child From Heaven

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I heard the screams of a child outside of my door, and immediately ran to see what was happening. With just a thought, an invisible hand made of Mana opened the door for me, as I stepped out of my house to find something beyond my expectations.

A little girl... or a boy, not older than seven years of age in appearance, with pale white skin, long blonde hair, and silver-colored eyes was above the floor, covered on tattered, torn apart white clothes.

There was a half-broken halo floating over their head, and one feathered wing over their back, while the other was missing, and only a huge and terrifying wound was there, bleeding something resembling liquid gold.

"P-Please.. help... me..."

Tears flowed from their silver-colored eyes, a faint aura of divinity surging from their tattered body. I didn't know who they were, or why they were here but...

I would never hesitate to help a child in need.

"That's...! It can't be!" The Great Spirit was surprised by the sight.

However, I didn't sit down to listen to her words, as I rushed towards the child, embracing her in a cradle of spirit wood that grew around her body.

I combined several healing spells and protection spells into a single, powerful combined spell, which I imbued with Angelic Blessing too.

"[Yggdrasil's Holy Cradle]"

FLAAASH!

The cradle encompassed the child, constantly covering them on a healing aura, while also dropping little droplets of my healing sap over their wounds.

"Ahhh..."

The child quickly opened their eyes in surprise, as their life was quickly being healed in mere seconds. They seemed more surprised than I imagined.

"Y-You can easily... heal the wounds of an Angel such as me?" They muttered. "But aren't you... you're not one of my sisters? Guh?"

"Angel?"

Before I could get any other answers, a terrifying presence surged from the other side of the streets, my Spiritual Eyes glanced into the distance to notice a huge black cloud rushing here.

"You can't keep getting away...!"

FLUOOOSH!

The darkness came accompanied with a dozen dogs made of black and red energies, barking madly at us, and rushing here...

Amidst the enshrouding darkness, I noticed the silhouette of someone, a very tall and lanky man, with black hair and red eyes and unusually long arms and fingers!

All my senses were ringing that this being was dangerous, and that it had terribly ill intentions against the two of us!

"Hoh? Did you come all the way here to ask your sister for some help?" The entity laughed as it drew closer. "You foolish little angels, do you think that you stand a chance together? And what with you? Why are you possessing the body of a human? Are you perhaps even weaker than your little sibling here? GAHAHAHA!"

"What...?!" I still felt confused, but I stepped forwards, standing in front of the cradle of wood, protecting the child. "Who are you?! Leave this place at once! If you dare trespass my Territory... I will not be responsible for what happens to you."

"Now that's rich coming from you pathetic Angels, after you were almost slaughtered by us, you are trying to act brave?" Laughed the entity. "If I can manage to devour the two of you, ascending into a Demon Lord shouldn't be so hard!"

"A Demon?!" I asked. "You're a...?!"

"Yeah, I'm a demon, took you long enough to realize?" He asked, his entire aura growing larger. "I've already been snacking on that little one for a while... So just give it to me, maybe I'll spare your life... How about it?"

"You just said you were going to devour me beforehand... As if I would ever believe the words of a monster that eats children!" I roared angrily.

I quickly took out Irene from my inventory, the Staff I had crafted glowed with a bright aura of spiritual and holy light.

"Oh, you finally called me for some action, Master!"

Irene was rather happy to be brought outside of the Inventory for once, but I ignored her words, there were more important matters.

"Is that all you've got?!" Laughed the Demon. "Infernal Jackals, tear her down!"

"GROARR!"

The dozens of wolves made of his Demonic Energy leaped towards me in a mere instant, their entire bodies blazing with infernal flames.

The only time I fought a Demon was back with John, when he was possessed by Phantasmos. Their abilities are incredibly powerful, and their Demonic Energy is like a poison to most living beings.

However, they have a very exceptional weakness...

And that's literally the elements I wield most proficiently!

I grabbed the shovel-shaped staff that was Iren with a very tight grip and activated several spells and techniques at once. Auras of Spiritual, Draconic, and now Angelic Energies converging within my body.

"I told you to stay away from my territory!" I roared. "[Holy Light Spirit Smite]!"

With a mere swing of Irene, I activated her Abilities [Great Spiritual Explosion] and [Elemental Spirit Resonance] at once, combining them with one of my strongest holy light attribute spells.

CRAAAASSHH!!

The effect was instantaneous, as an enormous wave of pure holy light and spiritual energies exploded in front of the jackals leaping towards me.

Their bodies were immediately disintegrated, they weren't even able to scream before they disappeared.

FLAAAASH!

Only ashes started falling from the skies after that single attack, the Demon right behind them opened his eyes in utter disbelief.

"W-What the...?!" He screamed. "My Summons... destroyed in mere seconds?!"

"And you're next if you don't go away." I threatened him, pointing the shovel at him.

"Heh.. HAHahaha!"

He only laughed, however, his body suddenly growing larger, leaving behind his human-like appearance, which he probably used to camouflage within our society, until he became a five-meter-tall red-skinned and muscular demon, with two sharp black horns growing over his forehead.

"You dare threaten ME?!" He laughed. "FOOLISH ANGEL!"

His gigantic fists descended upon me in that moment, as explosions of infernal flames reached me, making the whole street tremble.

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!

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Chapter 783 Overwhelming A Demon

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Each of the demon's fists were like blazing meteors, exploding and spreading flames everywhere... Only for them to never hit anything, as there were several barriers made of blinding light above my house.

"What?!"

His eyes once were left with utter disbelief, as he noticed his hands were burning with golden flames, weakening him.

"I told you that you cannot enter my territory."

I had merged my Aura with my Territory, which I've spread through my roots, surrounding my whole house, and merged it with Celestial Energy and several spells.

The result? A brand-new spell that used the shield I was holding in my other arm as its core, combining the [Spiritual Scale Fortress (C)], [Hidden: Life Dragon's Shield (S+)], and [Hidden: Gaia's Divine Dragon Domain (S+)] Abilities!

It was like an invisible fortress made of holy light, in the shape of a gigantic golden Yggdragon, it was a beautiful Magical Array I had prepared in a hurry, but it worked just fine thanks to the preparations from beforehand.

"T-This is... Divine Flames?! UARRGH!"

The Demon started screaming in agony as his fists began to melt into the floor, leaving only burning magma behind. He quickly stepped back, completely afraid of me.

"W-Woah..."

And the little child behind me had already woken up, glancing at the scene with their silver eyes filled with new hope.

"S-So strong... You must be an Archangel then! No... A Throne?!"

I ignored their words for now, I had to focus on taking care of the demon in front of me. My daughter and Monica were playing BNLO right now, I wouldn't want to disturb them.

"GRRHHH...! GRAAAH!"

The Demon grew even more pissed off, his Aura erupting from his body as he became even more terrifying, he looked quite inconspicuous originally! Was he hiding his strength this much?

SPARK, SPARK!

Red lightning surged from his body, as I felt a strange fluctuation between space itself... It felt as if the Layers of our world were trying to prevent him from showcasing more of his powers.

"I am receiving a penalty from the World, but I don't give a fuck... I'll devour you no matter what! Because I, Agares, one of the 72 Demons of the Goetia, shall have a feast tonight!"

"I don't care where you belong to or what you are, if you dare come here with the intention of killing me, I won't have mercy."

"DIE! [Infernal Flames Authority]: [Soul Eating Inferno]!"

FLUOOOSH!

His hands had yet to regenerate, but he simply opened his jaws and gathered a gigantic sphere of flames, which he then fired towards them.

The pressure alone made the surroundings waver, space itself was being distorted!

FLAAASH!

My barrier resisted the gigantic sphere of flames, but it quickly started to gain countless cracks... Acting only defensively was going to be my demise.

Whatever this demon was, I'm not going to just sit down and watch as he does as he pleases!

"Get AWAY from my HOUSE!"

I leaped into midair, facing the flames as my body quickly transformed. I activated both the [Heavenly Light Protection] and [Holy Yggdragon Transformation] Physique Techniques!

FLAAASH!

My body swiftly transformed into the same appearance I had when I just evolved my Physique, as hyper charged my body with Spiritual Energy and Celestial Energy, using the Heavenly Light Protection Technique to cover my body with an armor of heavenly light.

"RAAAAH!"

With a furious roar, my Aura summoned two gigantic claws made of golden flames, slashing apart the infernal fire of the Demon and cutting it apart!

SLAAASH! SLAAASH! SLAAASH!

"W-What?!"

Agares stepped back in shock once more. This was the third time he was saying "what?!" like an idiot! Are all Demons like this?!

Oh well, he won't last much longer anyways.

"[Life and Light Chains of Restraint]!"

I conjured chains made of light around his body, forcing him to kneel down before he could react in time. His body was burning down by merely touching the chains.

FLAAASH!

"URGH...! H-Holy Chains?!" He muttered in utter disbelief. "How come you can conjure such magic, you're not a mere Lesser Angel inside a human's body?!"

"I told you already that I wasn't that! [Piercing Tree Kick]!" I roared back, my leg suddenly growing into the gigantic leg of a dragon and kicking his face.

BAAAAMMM!!!

The kick came accompanied with countless wooden spears piercing his blazing body. He quickly attempted to free himself from the chains, the restraint quickly gaining countless cracks.

"FREE ME AT ONCE!" He roared, trying to free himself as he struggled. "RAAAH!"

He continued firing fireballs from his mouth, each one which I intercepted with my shield and blocked easily, before I quickly enhanced my body even further and then slammed his head with as much strength as I could.

"[Spiritual Battle Aura]! [Spiritual Muscle Enhancement]! [Holy Light Spirit Smite]!"

With two new enhancements to my physical prowess, combined with Irene absorbing Holy Light Spirits and turning into a giant hammer, I slammed his head countless times, without stopping.

BAAAM! BAAAM! BAAAM! BAAAM! BAAAM!

"GRAAGHH...!"

He was already bleeding all over, his fangs falling down one after another. His Demonic Aura was being suppressed, and his form was slowly going back to his smaller form.

"URGH..! STOP!"

With his sheer muscular strength, he freed himself from my chains, suddenly regrowing two new hands and moving them towards my neck.

"I'LL STRANGLE YOU TO DEATH- Ah...!"

However, before he could reach me, a gigantic sphere of light surged from my entire body, falling towards him and consuming him into an explosion of light.

"[Celestial Heavenly Sun]!"

I combined several of my Spells together while I was smacking his head, combined with the Celestial Energy I now possessed, it created a devastating spell, completely harmless to most people aside from these types of monsters.

FLAAAAASSSHH!!!

"UUAARRGGHH...!"

The light was terribly bright, enough for the Demon's entire vessel to burn and turn into smoke, his flesh and bones becoming ashes, as he tried to grab me with whatever strength he had left.

"W-What the hell are you?! How... DARE you...!"

"Just give it up already."

I summoned a Celestial Blade from my body, as I pierced his chest, and his Demonic Soul, quickly slicing it into dozens of pieces.

"I won't even let you go back to Hell!"

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLAAASH!

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Author's Note: changed the description of the Luminous Kingdom's King, he has no blue skin, it was supposed to be his eyes that were blue! I hope you haven't been imagining him as a smurf or something.

Chapter 784 Slaying A Demon!

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SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLAAASH!

Utilizing the new Celestial Sword Physique Technique, the materialization of my Physique's Strength emerged in the form of a huge sword of light, which I used to cut down Agares soul into countless pieces.

He might have stood a better chance against other people or beings, but he just had to fight someone with a terrible elemental superiority such as me... And unlike other people, I make sure he can't even return to Hell!

"M-MY SOUL...! I-I CAN DIE?!" He continued to scream as I cut down his soul. "W-Wait...! This void...! NO! NOOOOO!!!"

"That's enough crying, this is what you should have expected if you were terrorizing others!" I roared. "The same thing would have eventually happened to you! This is what's named Karma!"

The blade quickly absorbed the last of my Mana I had left, and quickly grew even larger, fusing with Irene and turning into a spiraling spear of light.

"AAARRGGHHH...!"

CLAAAAASSHH!!!

Using it, I pierced his broken soul and destroyed it completely, nothing remaining other than a few pieces of the crystalized demonic energy he possessed.

"Phew..."

I quickly fell on my own butt over the pavement, feeling exhausted. I had used all my Mana in that, and because I was so in a hurry, I ended not expanding any Domain, so there was little Mana for me to get back.

[You have defeated a [High Ranking Demon: Agares], one of the [72 Demons of the Goetia]!]

[You have completely destroyed Agares Soul, he can no longer revive in Hell.]

[You have accomplished an incredible feat; your Halo is resonating!]

FLAAASH!

Suddenly, my Halo gained power out of nowhere, becoming twice as big, and releasing starlight-like sparkles. I felt a sudden surge of Celestial Energy coursing through my entire body. My exhaustion disappeared in a single second.

[Your [Lesser Angelic Halo (Rank 1)] has Ranked Up to [Spiritual Angelic Halo (Rank 3)]!]

[Your Angelic Halo has gained +600 Angelic Runes. Your maximum Celestial Energy has increased exponentially.]

[Heaven recognizes you as one of their Guardians, you've become a [Guardian Angel]!]

[Title: [Guardian Angel]: Increases Total Celestial Energy by +100%, adds +1000 Angelic Runes to your Angelic Halo, and grants the ability to create [Divine Wards].]

[Heaven is looking forward to your future feats.]

E-Eh? Guardian Angel? Me?! But that's...

And did just Heaven speak to me?

Is it some sort of sentient being too?!

I thought it was just a dimension.

This is so weird...

"A-Amazing..."

And the voice of the child I had just saved echoed behind me, as I slowly took a better glance at her... or him, or they.

"Huh? Hahh... Are you alright?" I asked them. "Where did you come from?"

I checked their wounds, and they seemed to have recovered, except for the missing wing and the damaged Halo... Wait, Halo? So they're really an Angel.

Woah, did I just become capable of seeing them and demons now that I kind of became something like that? This is a bit too fast though!

I never thought there would be a battle between an angel and a demon so close by... This world is full of surprises.

"I'm fine, thank you so much, my dear big sister." They quickly bowed their head before me. "I really thought those malevolent ruffians would have had me! I was in so much pain! Yet you healed so gracefully, I can see the light of god in your eyes! Are you a high-ranking angel- Ah, you're an Archangel, right?!"

They were really excited, if they would have had a tail, they would be wagging it around happily... I didn't know what to even tell them, I was just as confused as they were.

"Just pretend you are one, after all if Heaven, whatever that is, has recognized you, might as well!" Said the Great Spirit into my mind.

"Y-Yes, I am an Angel... I'm a Guardian Angel." I explained. "A-And you, dear? Where did you come from? It's a relief I was able to defeat that mean demon, but what about you?"

"A-A Guardian Angel! I see!" They said while nodding adorably. "You're so cool! A-Ah, about me? Err... The name our Father gave me is Gabriel, and... I've been demoted quite a lot... A-And I almost got eaten by that abominable fiend..." They quickly sighed, looking down. "Ugh..."

"I guess Angels exist..." I thought to myself. "I feel like I should be more surprised about this!"

"I ended separating from my own battalion a few moons ago, when we were fighting against a Demon Invasion on a nearby town." They sighed. "I apologize for coming to you like this, you must be very busy dealing with some secret mission, right?"

"Uuuh, yeah..." I said while rolling my eyes. "My name is... Elayne, I guess you can call me like that."

"Elayne! What a unique name for an amazing Angel! You must make our Father proud!" The little angel said, jumping over the floor like a little rabbit.

They were so adorable! Honestly, I wouldn't mind adopting them...

"But aren't you too young to be fighting like this? Shouldn't you be in... Heaven or something?" I wondered, as I checked my surroundings and began to reinforce my Territory.

"I-I may look young, but I am several thousand year old! I've just been... demoted for lazing around." They sighed; little Gabriel began fidgeting around without knowing what to say.

"Alright, you can stay at my house for a bit." I sighed.

Gabriel's silver-colored eyes immediately lighted up, as if they were expecting and waiting for me to say that...

"Really?! Thank you so much! Then I'll help myself! Hehehe!"

The little angel quickly entered my house like nothing, just passing through the solid walls with ease and sitting over the couch.

"Phew... I'm so exhausted..."

"You seem quite carefree for someone that just escaped their death!" I said, crossing my arms.

"Zzzz..."

However, Gabriel had just fallen asleep... Looks like they were just pretending to be alright, they were very exhausted.

"Poor thing." I sighed, caressing their little blonde head. "Rest well for now."

"Nice! Now that you've got an Angel as your friend, might as well make a contract with them later!" The Great Spirit laughed evilly. "Your power will rise a lot if you do that!"

"Are you only considering gains, you greedy old spirit?!"

Chapter 785 Angel Gabriel

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I was worried about Gabriel, and about what just happened. I'm sure killing one of the 72 Demons of Goetia is no small feat... So I decided to just call two friends to my house while I was thinking about it, and also told Mark about what happened, he quickly decided to come early, and arrived at the same time as my two other friends.

"I'm here... What just happened?" Mark wondered, worried, as I hugged him. "A-Are you alright?"

"I'm fine... I just need some time to process what just happened." I sighed. "Give me a hug for a while..."

"O-Okay." He nodded, sighing as he caressed my hair. "Oh wow, new Halo, huh?"

"Don't address it for now please..." I lamented.

"Alright..." He quickly nodded.

Aside from Mark, Rose and Albert stepped into my house, and quickly sat down with us around the table. I explained to them in more detail what had happened, and they seemed to know something too.

"S-So you were attacked by a Demon after you protected a wounded Angel?" Rose asked. "Oh my god, Elayne, you're so unlucky. I wonder if next time you're going to find a Vampire and a Werewolf or something- Wait I'm a vamp..."

"Y-You killed a Demon?" Albert was the only one that was incredibly shocked. "For most of us, it's only possible to seal them or send them back to Hell... But you... destroyed their soul? So you killed one for good?!"

"Yeah... Is it bad?" I wondered. "He was an asshole and wanted to eat a little child!"

"Angels are not children..." Albert sighed. "They're older than you by like thousands of years! You had no obligation to protect them... Dammit, you should had let them kill each other."

"Why is he angry?" I asked Rose.

"He just hates angels in general..." Said Rose. "Demons too, they're the reason his family was destroyed..."

"Eh?!" I was taken aback by this little revelation.

"Rose, don't go saying things without even asking me permission to." Albert said with a pissed off stare.

"Hey, I told you to not be so rude while being around Elayne, right?" Mark asked him angrily.

"Ah... Right, okay." Sighed Albert, calming himself down. "Anyways, I did sense something, but they were hiding their presences really well- Ah, where is the angel? Did it run away ungratefully after you helped it?"

"No? They're sleeping right there." I pointed at the couch. "You can't see them?"

"I- AH! I can see it now! What in the world?!" Albert was shocked. "That Aura... Hey Hellberos...!"

"Y-Yeah..." Hellberos appeared out of his Aura. "That bastard is without a doubt an Ancient Angel!"

"Ancient Angel?" I asked. "And do you have to be so rude, Hellberos? Do you want to get the same fate as Agares?"

"Eh?! You killed Agares? But that's impossible- Ah, well, if it's you..." Hellberos was surprised. "The other 71 Demons are not going to keep quiet after learning one of them died though..."

"First of all, Ancient Angels are Angels that have lived for at least ten thousand years." Rose explained. "And second, the Goetia are the biggest Congregation of Demons in Hell, they are the 72 strongest, and rule over Hell and the aligned territories within Earth. They're a dangerous bunch, but I don't see them all that brotherly to want to avenge one of their fallen ones, the rank will get filled again soon enough by a new recruit."

"Agares is a weakling that likes to pretend he's stronger though..." Hellberos laughed. "I was ranked 65 before I was sealed in that book back then! But he was always a sucker that stayed between 69 to 72, hahahaha!"

"I guess that's why he was so desperate to eat Gabriel." I sighed.

"Gabriel?!" Albert and Rose asked at the same time.

"Elayne, is that the Angel's name?!" Albert asked. "I never thought Gabriel would look like a child..."

"They're important?" I wondered. "I remember the cried and complained they were demoted until they looked like a child."

"Gabriel from all Angels was demoted..." Rose was confused as well. "Look, Gabriel is one of the strongest Angels, a Seraph Archangel that is said to be one of the right hands of God in the Bible..."

"They wield the power of the Heavenly Virtue of Chastity and are of equal if not higher power than the Seven Kings of Hell, the ones that wield the Infernal Sins." Albert info dumped me. "It is also said... That they're a Fragment of the Original Holy Spirit. Strange, why is someone so important here from all places? With a missing wing, and weakened to the sate of having reverted into a younger form?"

"They said they escaped from a battle..." I muttered. "I-Is he that strong? They look so little and innocent though..."

"Innocent? Hah..." Hellberos laughed at my words. "That bastard has killed millions of demons... In the last Battle that happened thousands of years ago between Heaven and Hell, Gabriel was one of the most ruthless monsters in the battlefield."

"You know? It doesn't sound so bad to me, so far, all of you demons have been quite the assholes for me to feel bad about you." I shrugged.

"Y-You...!" Hellberos was going to say something but quickly fell silent. "I guess you're not wrong..."

"So what is going to happen to her now?" Mark asked. "Should we tell them to go away? Or are you planning on making Elanyne adopt this Angel?"

"Mark, calm down, I wouldn't mind if they stayed if they really want to... I am also intrigued about them." I explained him.

"Hmm... I'm just worried, if you keep them around, then the other Goetia Demons might target you, wanting to have a nice and easy meal out of him." Mark explained. "Also what is their gender? I'm getting confused..."

"Angels have no gender, nor sex, they're agender beings that take the appearance of both a female and a male..." Albert explained us. "It doesn't matter if you refer to them as females, males, or something else, they don't care."

"O-Oh well... I guess I'll call him a boy, the name Gabriel does sound a bit masculine to me." I said. "Anyways, what should I do?" I asked Rose.

"Hmmm... We've never faced such a challenge before." Rose was thinking about it. "But... until they recover enough to get their second wing and go back to Heaven, it would be better to shelter them. Although what Mark said might be true, we won't easily let a Goetia Demon get inside this city."

"Yeah, I suppose..." Albert nodded. "It's better if you have a good relationship with someone like Gabriel, they will return the favor eventually, and having an angel owe you a favor is great, especially if it's the Right Hand of God."

"Hmm..." I sighed, feeling a bit exhausted with all these things. "I-I guess I'll keep him for a little while. Oh, can you guys see him? Let me allow you."

I waved my hands, Celestial Energy making Gabriel visible to all.

"Woah, it's really there...!" Rose said. "S-So cute..."

"So this is Gabriel..." Mark said. "It looks like a little girl. I was expecting a handsome and androgynous being..."

"Haha, everyone has their own projection of how an Angel really looks like I guess." I laughed a bit.

"Now..." Suddenly, Rose interrupted my laughter. "Are you going to address why you can see Angels to begin with?"

"And what with the Halo?" Albert followed.

"Uhh..."

Chapter 786 The Annoying Three Brothers

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"No, never mind." Rose suddenly said. "Let's not try to get too personal here. We also have many secrets ourselves... Although we are wondering what just happened, it wouldn't be fair to ask you for that."

"Yeah, you've said enough with what you've revealed us." Albert sighed. "In this job, we always make sure not to pry too much on each other's secrets, there's always hundreds of them in each person's past."

"Phew, thank you. I don't really feel like explaining, but don't worry." I said. "It's nothing... too bad? If anything, it's a big plus!"

"I'm not too sure about that, but... I guess it makes sense, seeing how you were able to seal Hellberos." Said Albert. "I won't ask anything, but I'm already guessing what you might be."

"Then we're going, we need to report this to HQ. We'll tell them you're taking care of Gabriel." Rose said. "Hopefully we can use that excuse to enhance the security within the city, especially around your house's streets."

"Thank you, I really appreciate it." I nodded, feeling relieved.

"No worries, take care friend." Rose suddenly gave me a hug, giving me a kiss in my cheek, and then whispering to my ear. "If you want to tell me something more in private, let's chat in the phone."

"O-Okay." I nodded, giving her a head pat. "You're so cute~"

Rose was so small, and her cute little head was close, I couldn't resist patting it a bit, she was definitely a huggable vampire.

"I-I'm not cute!" She got angry and quickly walked out of the house. "Hey Albert! Hurry!"

"A-Ah, right." Albert nodded. "Call us if that Angel gets weird or murderous, we'll take care of it..."

"I-I don't know if I will, but I'll keep that in mind." I smiled a bit forcefully, as Albert walked out of the house to.

"PHEW..."

Both Mark and I ended sighing like that after everything, it was indeed a long and tiring day today as well! Why the hell so many things happened! I can't... Well, whatever.

Let's just see things positively. I am even stronger now, and I've got a potential... friend? That could help us survive even better, so that's alright.

"They're still sleeping, huh?" Mark wondered, glancing at Gabriel. "Do you trust them enough to leave them the house while we log-in?"

"Don't worry, they're good hearted. I can easily tell through my Magic." I smiled. "They're a sweet child, despite what they said about Gabriel. I think this Gabriel is different..."

"Maybe amnesia?" Wondered Mark.

"I think so. They didn't act like someone so old and with so much experience." I agreed. "Maybe... When it was demoted or something, it lost their memories to an extent?"

"We'll only be able to tell once they wake up though! Hey, Gabriel, enough sleeping." Mark boldly attempted to wake up an Angel.

"Hmm... Potato chips... Spicy please... Barbeque flavor... Soda... aahhh~" Gabriel suddenly flipped over and started drooling while sleeping carefreely, dreaming about junk food.

"W-What is he even talking about?" Mark was left speechless.

"Let's leave him be, let's go log-in, we need to do a lot of things." I said.

"Right... Hey Falco, Blackie, watch over Gabriel for now." Said Mark.

Animals seemed capable of innately seeing supernatural beings, both of our Familiars nodded, knowing that they could see them.

"CRAH!"

"Meow!"

"Good kids."

Like that, we logged-in after calming Mark's concerns, and opened our eyes within Arcadia, in the middle of the busy Adventurer Guild Hall.

"And we're here." I nodded. "Anyways..."

Before I could even say another word, a ringing sound echoed in my head, as I checked the System, showing me I had several unread messages from Acorn.

"Ah, Acorn is messaging me?" I wondered. "Ah, he's saying we should all meet at Ambil's place. Looks like he already paid the debt!"

"He did?!" Mark wondered.

"Yep! But there's a little problem..." I said. "Those annoying blacksmiths are constantly harassing him... They're threatening him and telling him to sell the place to them."

"What? We have to get there immediately... Let's stop those bastards." Mark said.

"Well said." I nodded.

We walked out of the Adventurer Guild and immediately flew using Wind Spirits towards Ambil's Smithy, landing right in front of the dispute going on.

Rita, Lily, and Jenny had already logged-in, and it seemed that Angelina and her friends were busy somewhere else in the city, they told me they went to quickly complete some Class Quests.

Acorn, Brisingra, and Nieve were there too, so I thought they would be able to deal with everything, but it seemed they had done very little, most likely because Ambil didn't want them to intervene.

And as for Rita, Lily, and Jenny... Well, I suppose they cannot really hurt the NPCs.

"I already told you I paid the debt! The paper is right here!" Ambil said angrily, confronting the three brothers, Adman, Cassim, and Helpes. "Get the fuck away from my place right now!"

"That you've already paid the debt including interests doesn't mean anything." Adman said with a furious and frustrated expression. "We've already talked with the Blacksmith Guild Association, and they already agree that you've not been working for them for years, if we simply say the word, your Blacksmith License will be revoked, and you will no longer be allowed to sell your products!"

"Also, you will lose your Shop License too, because the Merchant Guild is also cooperating with us." Cassim smiled with a cocky smirk.

"So quickly sell us your Smithy and leave it to us, old man... Unless you want even more problems?" Asked Helpes, laughing.

"Y-You...! I can't believe you would go so far! Is the reason of your lives to just ruin mine, you stupid brats?!" Ambil screamed. "I'll never give up my smithy! Now get away from here or I'll beat the shit out of you!" He threatened them with his hammer.

"Are you sure that threatening us will make the situation better?!" Adman asked threateningly. "You will lose more than just your forge, you'll lose your licenses, you will lose whatever prestige you have left! Everything!"

"What's going on in here?!"

I quickly stepped forwards, putting myself in front of Ambil.

"Is your job to harass elderly people, you bunch of thugs?!"

"You?!"

The three brothers glared at me angrily.

Chapter 787 A Deal

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"It's you again, huh? Why is a demi-human like you interfering? Also, if you're a Player, then you can't even touch us! Do you think you have the right to threaten us?!" Asked Adman angrily, pointing his finger at me.

"I can't touch you?" I asked, grabbing his finger and twisting it up.

CRACK!

"Huh?"

Adman glanced at his broken finger before he realized what had just happened.

"GRYAAAAHH!"

And then he screamed in agony, making an even bigger commotion around the entire area. Ambil glanced at me in shock.

"P-Planta! Why did you...?!" Ambil muttered. "They might not be nobles, but they have a lot of connections with them!"

"And you think I would let you hurt them instead? Your reputation can't get any lower, leave this to me." I gave him a confident smile.

"Leave this to you?! What will I EVEN leave to you?!" Ambil complained, as the siblings cried.

"Y-You...! You monster! How dare you hurt our brother?!" Cassim cried.

"You aberration!" Helpes cried.

"Don't worry." I smiled, waving my hand, an aura of light covered the pathetic Adman, his finger quickly recovering. "He's fine, see?"

"E-Eh? My finger has recovered...?!"

Adman and the other two siblings were left absolutely speechless. He quickly stood back up, glaring at me with a pissed off stare.

"T-This...! Are you implying you're going to take the blunt of what Ambil has done now, woman?!" Adman asked. "What do you think you can even do? You don't even live in this country! He has no choice now, either he gives us the place and sell it to us, or we'll take away everything he has anyways! We're simply trying to be merciful of him by buying it off."

"He simply can't sell his property." I answered. "And if the problem has to do with the Merchant and Blacksmith Guilds Licenses, then we'll resolve it ourselves, you don't have to put your noses where they don't belong!"

"Heheh, don't you understand? Even if you go to the guilds personally, they already know what has happened!" Laughed Adman. "They will immediately terminate his licenses!"

"Is that true?" I asked Ambil, the man sighed, looking down.

"Tch, they're not wrong." Ambil said. "To be a Blacksmith, sell your products, own a Smithy, and also a Shop to sell the products, needs two Licenses, the Merchant Guild and the Blacksmith Guild... However, to keep the licenses, I need to pay a monthly fee and also complete their requests, which I've not done in years. My Rank, which was originally as high as S Rank, went down all the way to G-, the lowest Rank... The debt I paid was for the fees I owed, but it seems that their Guild masters have colluded with them and have decided to terminate me no matter what using that as an excuse. I cannot fight, they're the law..."

"But isn't there someone even higher in this hierarchy?" I wondered. "Someone that asked you yesterday to bring him products?"

"T-The King? But why would he want to help me?!" Ambil asked in disbelief.

"He might want to help you if we show him what you're capable of!" I smiled. "So?"

"You're saying the King would help you?" Laughed the three brothers.

"You're being delusional!"

"Why would his majesty even do that!"

"You'll see." I glared at them with a calm anger, quickly sending shivers down their spine. "You're coming with us too, bring your best products. So you can show the King you're much better than Ambil! How about it?"

"What?"

"Is she serious?"

"...Very well."

Adman, their leader, nodded, quickly realizing that he would be greatly benefited if he left Ambil ridiculed in front of the King. Like this, I managed to involve these idiots into my little scheme.

"Planta, what are you planning to do?" Asked Ambil, confused.

"Nothing too much. Simply bring the best you've made so far." I gave him a wink. "An armor, an accessory, and a weapon should do. Both a staff and a physical weapon."

"O-Okay..." Ambil ended agreeing at the end, perhaps my high Charisma Stat made my words much more convincing too.

"So we're going with the King right away?" Mark wondered, as Ambil packed things.

"Yep. That's the plan." I nodded. "Angelina is coming here right away, and David just reported me through a telepathic message that he's coming."

"He can send telepathic messages?" Mark wondered, rising an eyebrow.

"Ahaha, no, that's the Queen, she told David after I sent her one. She created like a "telepathic channel" where we can send messages to one another." I said.

"S-She's really overpowered." Mark said. "She kind of reminds me of someone, but I can't quite remember who."

"Ah well, yeah... I wonder who it could be..." I said.

I wanted to tell Mark too, but she told me to keep this a secret even from them for now, maybe because it would be complicated to explain.

"I guess you'll tell me when you feel ready." He crossed his arms, immediately realizing I knew!

"Y-You're quite sharp..." I laughed a bit nervously.

"Haha, I just know your face expressions." Mark giggled. "Anyways, what are you doing?"

I was touching the ground right in front of the Smithy while channeling my Mana, Spirit Energy, and my new power, Celestial Energy.

FLAAASH!

The Halo in my real body suddenly emerged above my head temporarily, as I activated the special ability imbued into it thanks to the Title that Heaven gifted me.

"[Divine Ward]: [Holy Fortress]!"

FLUOOOOSH!

A massive wave of golden and white light surged from my hands, for a moment, my aura shaped into two big, feathered wings, as the Angelic Runes materialized into the Magic Array I created.

Or well, the Divine War, a special type of Magic Array that Guardian Angels can create, which allows them for the ability to create and customize Wards, Barriers, and similar things with ease.

An invisible fortress made of light emerged around Ambil's Smithy, leaving it safe and secure from any bastard that might try breaking in without permission.

Ding!

[You've used an otherworldly power to create a new Magic Array!]

[You've created the [Divine Ward]: [Holy Fortress]!]

[For the next 24 Hours, uninvited guests won't be allowed to enter the Holy Fortress.]

[By having created an infallible and mighty Barrier, you've acquired the [Beginner Barrier Creator] [Intermediate Barrier Maker] and [Barrier Master] Titles!]

Chapter 788 Barrier Master

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It seems that these Angelic Powers were coming in handy right away... if this was truly a game, then it would really feel like I'm cheating, but it's another world so it's fine to cheat as much as I want with powers I got in Earth!

Ding!

[You've used an otherworldly power to create a new Magic Array!]

[You've created the [Divine Ward]: [Holy Fortress]!]

[For the next 24 Hours, uninvited guests won't be allowed to enter the Holy Fortress.]

[The Holy Fortress Durability can be restored automatically with Celestial Power and Mana, as long as you have energy to supply it, it will not easily go down.]

[By having created an infallible and mighty Barrier, you've acquired the [Beginner Barrier Creator] [Intermediate Barrier Maker] and [Barrier Master] Titles!]

Looks like the Holy Fortress I made ended being much better than I imagined... Divine Ward is sure a useful ability, but it can't be easily used in battle because it only set ups barriers in a solid area.

It can't encompass my body nor move around with me for now, though I have no idea if I could combine its effects with my Spiritual Sacred Sanctuary Barriers.

But anyways, looks like doing a barrier like this was a big achievement, enough to give me three whole Titles?! What in heavens!

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[Beginner Barrier Creator]

Acquisition Conditions: Create a Barrier with at least 1000 Durability using Barrier Magic or Techniques within a range of 10 meters that can last for at least 1 Hour.

Equip Bonus: +150 MP and INT, +15% Barrier Durability, -5% Barrier Mana Cost.

A Special Title given to those who have dedicated themselves to the creation of all sorts of Barriers.

This is only your beginning stage, but you're destined to create even mightier Barriers as you advance!

Title Effects active at all times while there is a Barrier Conjured.

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[You gained +150 MP and INT!]

-----

[Intermediate Barrier Maker]

Acquisition Conditions: Create a Barrier with at least 8000 Durability using Barrier Magic or Techniques within a range of 30 meters that can last for at least 8 Hours.

Equip Bonus: +300 MP and INT, +30% Barrier Durability, -15% Barrier Mana Cost.

A Special Title given to those who have dedicated themselves to the creation of all sorts of Barriers.

You've already reached the intermediate stage and your barriers have become incredibly tough, especially useful to protect certain territories, areas, or even teammates.

Title Effects active at all times while there is a Barrier Conjured.

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[You gained +300 MP and INT!]

-----

[Barrier Master]

Acquisition Conditions: Create a Barrier with at least 10000 Durability using Barrier Magic or Techniques within a range of 50 meters that can last for at least 24 Hours or more.

Equip Bonus: +600 MP and INT, +60% Barrier Durability, -30% Barrier Mana Cost, Can Enhance and Enchant Barriers through Runic Inscription and Materials.

A Special Title given to those who have dedicated themselves to the creation of all sorts of Barriers.

You have mastered the Art of Barrier Creation, your Barriers are the toughest and strongest, and now it is even possible to imbue them with Special Effects through Runic Inscription!

You're a Barrier Master.

Title Effects active at all times while there is a Barrier Conjured.

-----

[You gained +600 MP and INT!]

Eh?! No way! I gained over 1000 MP and INT out of just making a Barrier with the Divine Ward Ability I got from my Guardian Angel Title?

I guess it is really an amazing feat! Though, if Titles show up this easily, where's my Angel Title, seeing I showed a Halo then? Huh?

...

Nothing, I guess there's no such Title, or maybe I require more conditions than that to get it... Anyways, these three Titles are amazing already, and I feel like I skipped a whole Barrier Master's career with this.

The third and last Title gave me an amazing ability, to imbue created barriers with Runic Inscriptions and Materials to enchant them and enhance them, giving them several distinct effects!

Now only that, now they're +105% tougher, and cost half the MP too! I ended getting very benefited for slaying that Demon, even in this World...

"Hm? What the hell did you do?" Ambil walked out of his house as he noticed a near transparent fortress of light covering it.

"It's a barrier to protect this place once we're gone." I said. "Wouldn't want them to get inside or something, right?"

"Hmm, right." He sighed, carrying his things. "I think I'm done choosing things. I've picked some stuff, and also a thing I made just recently with the inspiration you got me."

"Inspiration?" I wondered. "Oh? Let me see what it is!"

"No! It's a surprise! You'll see it once I show it to the King." Ambil said. "Are you bringing yer stuff too?"

"Yep, I'm bringing some armor, shields, weapons, and so on." I nodded. "I could make even stronger things with better materials, but don't have the time to waste."

"I guess you're not wrong in that." He nodded. "Anyways, looks like the brat's already here."

We noticed a carriage approaching at a rapid speed, as it slowly stopped in front of the Smithy, David walked out of there, greeting us.

"I'm here! Are you all ready for the meeting- Oh, right, the rivals of Uncle Ambil! You too, come with us." David said, his cheerful face changing into an angered one as he stared daggers into the trio of stupid siblings.

"Hmph, this is an opportunity we would never miss anyways!" Smiled Adman.

"We've brought our best weapons and armor too!"

"I also brought some accessories of my own making, heheh!"

The other two siblings also were just as scheming and annoying, walking inside the carriage. We had to bear with their annoying faces as we moved through the city inside of the carriage, until we arrived inside of the castle's walls.

I suddenly felt several powerful presences as we entered though, it felt as if there were almost a hundred crimson auras hidden beneath the castle! I panicked for a bit, thinking they could be the Cultists planning something. But then I realized they had no hostility, and were seemingly protecting this place?

Chapter 789 Meeting The King

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The Auras I felt were strangely similar to the Vampire Powers of Rose or Camilla, were they Vampires then?! But why were they down- Ah, I think I can guess what's going on.

My senses never fail me, I think these are Camilla's "backup plan" as she told me beforehand... I don't know if they're NPC or Players, but maybe these Vampires are like her servants, or friends, and are here to protect the castle.

I never thought she would have a whole second organization aside from her Guild, which is one of the strongest Guilds in the entire Server... She's sure filled with secrets.

Not only living a double life as the Queen of a Human Kingdom, having a child with an inhabitant of this world, being the Guild Master of the strongest guild while pretending to be a man in there, all while she is probably some sort of Underworld Vampire Queen with a large following of bloodthirsty servants...

And that's all just my assumptions, I have a lot of imagination. Maybe it could be something even crazier, who knows?

I will simply ask her directly once the opportunity arises, for now, we better concentrate in what we needed to do.

Although the debt was paid, I need to most likely complete the quest by restoring Ambil's reputation to an extent, and most likely going back to the Divine Forge to talk with the Divine Forge Spirit.

But we can do this once we're done with this subject. I want to kill three birds with one stone, restoring Ambil's reputation, stopping this trio of villains, and convincing the King he's valuable enough.

"Welcome back."

The King greeted us with a rather exhausted-looking face, it seemed he had been up since yesterday, and had been assessing things to heighten the security of their castle.

Little Gustav was there too, sitting on his mother's lap while Camilla greeted us with a smile and a wave of her hand.

"King Luminous, I've brought back Ambil and also... this trio of ruffians." Said David.

"Ruffians?! Watch your mouth, knight!" Adman said.

"We're not ruffians, we are prestigious blacksmiths!"

"We're the forgery brothers, your majesty!"

The King analyzed them while squinting his eyes, rubbing his beardless chin.

"I see, I have heard quite a lot from you. I have also heard you sell a lot and are contributing quite well to other guilds, especially the Magician Guild..." Said the King. "Well done for that..."

He praised them, making the trio even prouder of themselves. I had to admit it, they were hard workers I guess.

However, that didn't mean that they had to bully Ambil and annoy him so much!

"Your majesty, as promised, I've brought my products for you to see... And also, they have brought theirs." Ambil said politely, bringing forth a huge wooden crate with items I had brought inside my inventory.

"My wife did inform me that you wanted me to appraise who had better craftsmanship, yes." The King nodded. "It seems to have been Planta's idea?"

"Indeed, your majesty." I nodded. "I'm sorry if it was a bit rash, but they were constantly abusing and bullying my friend Ambil here. They said they were going to use their money and reputation to make the Merchant and Blacksmith Guilds revoke his licenses to forcefully buy his property. I couldn't stand such villainy."

"What? Is that the truth?!" The King quickly got angrier. "You...!"

"Eep! S-She lies, your majesty!"

"It wasn't... completely like that."

"You see, Ambil's license was already going to be revoked, he had been lazing around for years!"

"Hmph..." The King then gave Ambil a sharp gaze. "Is this true, Ambil?"

"Is it, your majesty. However Planta is also not wrong, they were using this as an excuse to extort me out of my property." Ambil sighed.

"I see... Let us decide this with this little contest then! I will see both of your equipment and decide which one is better, whoever has the better equipment will be favored by me." The King said. "And will be rewarded, meanwhile, the other will be punished. Are you ready for this?"

"We are!" The trio of brothers were ready.

"I am." Ambil nodded without doubting himself anymore.

"Very well, bring me the weapons."

The King called David, as he brought him everything they brought with themselves, they were placed over a wide table in front of the King, the Queen, and the young Prince.

"S-So many items, papa!" Little Gustav was amazed.

"Well, you can choose one once we're done here." His father seemed to love spoiling his son.

"Oway!" Gustav smiled happily, as Camilla caressed his blonde hair.

"How about you start, dear? We can spoil our son once we're done." Camilla seemed to be hurrying him up.

"A-Ah, yes."

The King nodded, quickly beginning to analyze every item. Ambil and the trio of siblings remained in silence as the King simply took a glance at the items, then held them, and even temporarily wielded them to try their abilities.

"Hmm, I see."

Once he was finally done, he left the equipment over the table once more, nodding.

"Do you know what is funny about this?" He suddenly asked.

Everyone remained in silence, not knowing what he meant.

"F-Funny?" Asked Ambil.

"Yes! The funny thing about that trio of rascals walking right into my castle, thinking they could benefit from a connection you made on your own." Said the King. "It is really funny how much they boasted about their mediocre equipment."

"M-Mediocre?!"

The trio of brothers were left speechless after they screamed in unison, almost connected as a single entity...

"But your majesty, how can our work be mediocre compared to that lazy man?!"

"T-There must be some sort of error..."

"Your majesty!"

"Are you saying the King is wrong?" Asked Camilla with an angered expression. "You dare talk back to your ruler? To my husband? Do you want me to execute you right here?!"

The Queen mercilessly unleashed her Aura of Magic, three needles made of blood appeared above the trio's heads...

"Eeep!"

"W-We are sorry!"

"We didn't mean to disrespect you!"

The brothers quickly kneeled down, begging for their lives.

"That's enough, dear. Although it would be swifter to just kick you out, I will explain myself."

Chapter 790 The Better Smith

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The King proceeded to explain the key differences between the items with amazing detail, each of his words was well said and the trio of brothers could simply not refute him.

Not just because he was the King, but because he made sense.

"To resume things up, I would say that while your equipment is alright, it is mediocre when compared to what a warrior will end in the long term." Said the King. "Your armor has mid durability and okay abilities, but it feels to have been made with cheap materials, not good to last for more than a couple battles. Feels like you purposely made them this way so they could keep buying equipment out of you more quickly."

"W-What...?! That's..."

"Ugh..."

"W-We would never... hahah..."

The trio was already caught. It seemed they weren't just mass-producing things, they were purposely making them weaker while still making them look sturdy, just to trick the buyers.

"I possess the ability to Appraise all things." The King said. "Your tricks will never slip pass my eyes! And above all else, even your best works such as this sword and this staff are mediocre. Their abilities barely do much, and their magic conductivity is bad despite using expensive materials. You are talented at making things look fancy and expensive though, you are good artists... However, in the practical use and efficiency, Ambil is superior to you, the difference is like heaven and earth!"

"EH?!"

The trio was even more speechless after hearing that, as the King continued.

"M-My king..." Ambil felt moved by his words.

"Where do I even start?" Laughed the King. "First of all, while your equipment uses rather expensive materials mixed with cheap ones, Ambil only uses the cheapest materials, yet his items manage to achieve not only incredible durability, but also swiftness, weightlessness, and amazing magic conductivity. His Blacksmith Skills and above all, Runic Engravement, are simply in another level completely."

"R-Runic Engravement?! He knows how to do that?!"

The brothers glanced at Ambil in utter disbelief, it seemed they had no idea how to engrave runes or magic effects on equipment yet...

"And this one... Above all else, I think this his best creation, and he only used cheap materials mined in the nearby dungeons." The King said, taking out a pair of gauntlets.

"T-Those are just some gauntlets!"

"There's no way that can be better than what we can make, our majesty!"

"You're being tricked! Those items must have been enchanted with the magic of those disgusting demi-humans!"

The trio started talking nonsense, the King sighed as he continued speaking, he had a lot of patience.

Camilla didn't have that much though, she was gritting her teeth and making them sound very loudly as she saw their insolent behavior in front of her beloved husband.

Little Gustav must be used to his mother's Aura because he didn't even feel scared about it.

"As I said earlier, these gauntlets are finely grafted and imbued with fine Runic Carvings. They also possess Monster's Magic Crystal Dust that enhanced the runic engravings, and even fragments of them fused into the metal. Can you even do that yourselves?" The King asked. "Lastly, it has been imbued with his very soul and mana, giving it a special ability. I see, these gauntlets give a good boost to defense and attack power and could serve as top-tier items, but are specifically made for a friend, someone Ambil appreciates their friendship. They're specifically made to protect her delicate hands while she forges her creations."

The King then smiled back at me.

"Planta, I assume these are for you."

"E-Eh? Me?" I think you should take a look at

I looked back at Ambil, as the old man blushed a bit as he stroked his beard.

"It's nothing, really! It is just so you don't have to burn yourself as much, you're so reckless when forging!" Ambil angrily said, trying to pretend he wasn't embarrassed.

"Hahah! Ambil! Thank you so much!" I smiled, giving him a hug.

"Hmm..." Ambil simply groaned, as he tried to free himself from my embrace and finally escaped.

"Ahem! Anyways, your majesty. What is your final verdict?"

"Isn't it obvious? You win this match without a doubt, Ambil. Your creations are humble yet filled with expertise and majesty to them! I don't know why you've been so depressed this entire time, if you worked harder, you might be already within the position of a Royal Blacksmith." The King admitted.

"Meanwhile, this trio... I do admit they're smart and hardworking, but ill-intentioned and scheming. I do not like them, but I will not punish you, out of mercy. Go away now, before my wife loses her patience."

"Eep!"

The needles were still floating in midair, as the trio ran outside of the castle while being guided by a few knights.

I thought he would at least reveal their little scheme with the equipment they made with low durability, but I guess that's not necessarily illegal, simply very scummy.

"I've already contacted the guild masters of the Merchant and the Blacksmith Guild." The King spoke after that. "I've told them to drop their little scheme altogether, if they didn't want my forces to close their guilds permanently."

"You did that already?!" I asked.

"My wife is not the only one with Telepathy." The King suddenly spoke to my mind, while nodding. "Now, Ambil, you're free of any allegiances, and I've made sure to get a deal with them. They said that as long as you participate and win at the very least third place in the Crafting Contest that is coming this weekend, they'll let you keep your licenses without any issue. I could had forced them to do it but... Do you want a challenge?"

"Ohh..." Ambil suddenly got excited. "I see, a contest of that magnitude, where many people appear at once... With that, a lot of people will see what I am capable of! And I can gain my reputation again even more than before."

"You've earned some among the adventurers." Said the King. "You've been selling a lot lately, haven't you? However, this reputation you'll get will get you once more in better terms with the two guilds that you were having problems with, and it'll be the perfect opportunity for your disciple to make her official debut among the populace."

"Disciple?" I asked. "Wait, me?!"

"Of course, aren't you Ambil's disciple at the end of the day? He has taught you many things, right?" The King wondered.

"I-I guess he is kind of my Blacksmith Teacher, yeah..." I nodded. "He did teach me several techniques, and how to use my skills."

"Hmph, did you thought you were just someone hanging around my shop?!" Ambil got a bit offended. "You're my disciple, Planta! You're joining that contest, and you better get first place!"

"Y-Yes, teacher!" I nodded, feeling a bit of pressure, but also looking forward to that too. "Ah, your Majesty, you can also check my equipment."

I showed him what I had, as he nodded after appraising it...

"There are some things you still lack, but Ambil has taught you well. However, your biggest strength is your unique methods, items imbued with spiritual energy is something incredibly unique! Especially the abilities they possess... Excellently done. May I buy these too?"

"S-Sure! They're yours, your majesty!" I said happily. "That rapier I made, and the armor pieces are small enough for your son too."

"Oho, I see! Thank you!" The King seemed happy. "Gustav, I've got you your first knight armor!"

"Yaaay!"